



230 FIGHTBACK

This Fence Must be Brought Down!

If you wanted to find a symbol of the destructive greed that underlies the rampant commodification of housing that has taken place in Toronto, the barbed wire fence that the developer KingSett Capital has put up at 214-230 Sherbourne Street would be the perfect choice.

This property has sat vacant for eighteen years in a hard-pressed community in desperate need of housing. KingSett is the current owner and it is sitting on the site until the collapsed condo market picks up. It then hopes to build a luxury housing development in the heart of a neighbourhood mainly comprised of low-income tenants and unhoused people.

When the community challenged KingSett, it responded by erecting a second fence to protect its 'investment' from people in need of housing. This callous and arrogant behaviour was deeply offensive and the community organized a response.

On Wednesday, October 14, 230 Fightback and the Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union (TUHU) put up a line of photos along this insulting fence that showed local people and quoted them on the need for housing in the community.

It seems that KingSett won't even tolerate this form of legitimate community expression. Two days later, the photos were removed and the compelling message they conveyed have been disregarded.

KingSett and its enablers at City Hall are making a very big mistake if they imagine that their high-handed conduct is going to be passively endured. This fence must be brought down and social housing must be built at 214-230 Sherbourne.

