

ACORN releases new report: “Paint Poisoned Homes”

April 10th, 2007 - ACORN Canada released a new report, “Paint poisoned Homes: An action plan to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2020”. We release the report as part of our ongoing campaign to force paint companies that knowingly sold lead based paints for years to work with government to establish remediation programs to prevent childhood lead poisoning. The report details the extent of the problem, and lays out a framework for how government and business can work to end lead poisoning through paint that has been linked attention deficit disorder (ADD), developmental disorders, and estimates that 5% of all urban children have above average blood lead levels as a result of environmental exposure. ACORN members in Ottawa released the report in the Parliamentary Press Gallery, while members in Toronto released it at the Federal Ministry of Health Building.



ACORN members release new report at the Ministry of Health.

Ontario ACORN force demands at Queens Park

March 28th, 2007 - 30 ACORN members met at Queens Park to pressure MPPs to support all of Ontario ACORN’s provincial campaigns. The talk was about winning licensing landlords, winning a \$10 minimum wage, making our communities lead paint free, and reigning in payday lenders. ACORN members collected commitment sheets on all issues, and made it clear that they come back as many times as necessary to win!

TD Bank: Divest from predatory lenders now!

March 15th, 2007 - Members from every ACORN chapter across Toronto held an action at the TD Towers on Bay st. They passed out flyers demanding that TD and RBC divest from predatory lenders like Money Mart that remain an unregulated industry in Canada. As a result ACORN leaders won a meeting with the VP of Public Relations for TD in early April. In Ottawa, ACORN members rallied at a local TD branch to commemorate the release of a new report, “Conflict of Interest: How Canada’s biggest banks support predatory lending”. (Available at www.canada.acorn.org)



Payday loan legislation introduced in BC

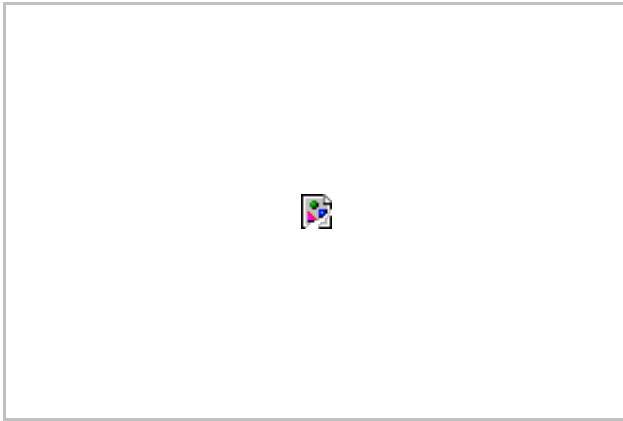
March 26th, 2007 – ACORN members traveled to Victoria, BC to support the introduction of Rob Fleming's (MLA, NDP) bill to regulate payday lenders in BC. ACORN has been widely recognized in BC as spearheading the campaign to regulate payday lenders and was introduced to the house as a membership-based organization dedicated to protecting the interests of low- and moderate-income families. Main points of the bill include calling for the licensing of payday lenders, forbidding "roll-over" loans, and demanding that the interest be clearly explained to the borrower. If the bill passes, BC will follow Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia in taking steps to rein in this criminal industry.

Surrey city-wide campaign big meeting

ACORN chapters in Surrey are currently organizing a city-wide meeting with all three levels of government to present their platform on safety, development and affordable housing. Key points of the platform include the need to address the displacement of affordable housing resulting from massive development and the need for community-specific policing. The meeting will occur April 27th, please call the office for more detail at 604-522-8706.

Ottawa ACORN takes action for a safe Vanier

ACORN members from the Vanier chapter in Ottawa took action last month against the Prestige Hotel, a known hub of criminal activity in the neighborhood. With the attention of local press, ACORN members went in to negotiations with the Hotel owners to reform their policies and procedures that contributed to drug and crime issues in the neighborhood. They agreed to stop renting hourly rooms to known drug addicts, johns, and sex workers, but also signed on with ACORN to support our campaigns around the bigger issues that contribute to these problems. Hotel owners will be working with ACORN to win more money for the troubled neighborhood, especially for drug rehabilitation. They also agreed to begin working with the police to help curb criminal activity in the neighborhood. All part of our work to build stronger, safer communities!



Vanier chapter members speaking to the press

Support ACORN Canada's work

With over 6000 members and four offices nationally, ACORN is growing, and winning new victories every week. Our efforts to champion the interests of Canada's low and moderate income neighbourhoods can't be done without support from our friends and allies. We are building a national membership organization capable of winning structural changes to the most pressing issues that face Canada's poor and working families, and we strongly encourage all our friends and allies enough to consider making a contribution online at www.canada.acorn.org or in person at one of our offices. We can't do it without you!

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