

*We did it! With your help our Easter Match surpassed the \$50,000 goal by over \$3000  
We are so incredibly blessed to be part of a community that cares, thank you Victoria.*



## Social Justice

I have always struggled with social justice versus charity throughout my life. When I was young just 16 or 17 years old I volunteered my time to an order of Franciscan priests. They were a silent order and would go out at night in the city of Ottawa during the winter gathering up the alcoholics who were on the street at that time. They would bring them into their gymnasium let them sleep on a mat and give them a juice in the morning and send them off. They would do this night, after night, after night without fail. I was so young I thought surely they could do something in the areas of social justice rather than charity, challenging our government and the churches alike.

I have actively led in social justice movements over my 69 years. I have spoken out, led demonstrations, written letters to the government and the church, talked to politicians, met with premiers, addressed University classes and taught many students. Now I am running the Dandelion Society, going out in the morning and giving a coffee a pair of new socks, a sleeping bag or blanket. My criticism of the Franciscan priests comes back to haunt me.

There was something I missed about the charity the Franciscan priests hand out every morning. I was just too young to see it at that point but now my old eyes see. The Dandelion Society's charity, you see flows into an encounter with the homeless, a presence in their life. The Dandelion Society does so much more than Charity. It is more than just about telling our story. It moves us into a friendship with the other and the friendship grow into a shared commitment with the homeless and in time we become family, brother and sister and when that happens social justice takes place.

*There are many things that can only be seen through eyes that have cried.*



## Tent City Verdict

The tent city on the lawn of the Victoria courthouse isn't going anywhere any time soon. B.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson has refused a request from the province to issue an injunction ordering the encampment, which began to grow last November, to be dismantled. "If I were to issue the injunction at this point, I am concerned that the problems would simply migrate to other areas in the City of Victoria," Hinkson said in his 58-page decision, released Tuesday. "An injunction at this juncture may well cause greater disruption to the public and greater expense to the City of Victoria than the disruption and expense presently endured by the province. "Ultimately, in determining whether or not to grant an interim injunction at this time, I find that the balance of convenience is overwhelmingly in favour of the defendants, who simply have nowhere to move to." Hinkson said he's not convinced that many of the problems alleged by the province "are the unique result of the existence of the encampment, and are not simply part of the reality of homelessness." Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps said with the court ruling that the tent city can stay, it's up to the province to manage the site. "It's the province's land. The province has lots of experience managing campsites," Helps said.

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**Day-long seminar:  
Tuesday, April 19, 11:30am - 3:30pm  
Sands Funeral Home.**

### Agenda

- 11:30am - 12:00pm... Introduction and meet and greet.
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm. Ben Johnson.... Presentation on Frontiers fundraising
- 1:00pm - 1:15pm..... Coffee break and Q&A
- 1:30pm - 2:30pm Rev Al. History of the Dandelion Society and how VDS works alongside other homeless organizations in Victoria
- 2:30pm - 2:45pm. coffee break and Q&A
- 2:45pm - 3:45pm Victoria Dandelion Board matters.... including a presentation by Marcus on Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 3:45pm - 4:00pm. Q&A and wrap up.