

WE ARE PARKDALE!

THIS STRIKE IS FOR PARKDALE.

MetCap tenants going on rent strike is a powerful act. It shows strength and gives strength not just to MetCap tenants but to Parkdale as a whole. It strengthens our neighbourhood. It's about tenants taking more control over what does and doesn't happen in Parkdale. No matter what job you have or don't have, no matter what country you're from or what language you speak, no matter what landlord you have. If you're a tenant in Parkdale, this strike is for you.

If you rent from MetCap: organize and join the rent strike. If you rent from some other landlord in the neighbourhood: support the rent strikers. There's plenty to do. There will be protests. There will be news stories. There will be conversations all over about what our neighbours are doing. While all of this is going on we need to make it crystal clear that Parkdale stands together. This strike is for Parkdale.

JOIN THE RENT STRIKE.

PARKDALE STANDS WITH THE RENT STRIKERS!
RENT STRIKE: MAY 1ST

PARKDALE: ORGANIZE! FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD POWER. READY TO ORGANIZE?
GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD ORGANIZATION: 647-874-8793



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ORGANIZE!**

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This is

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PARKDALE

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METCAP TENANTS ON RENT STRIKE: MAY 1ST



Tenants in multiple MetCap buildings have been organizing for the last few months to fight rent increases and get repairs done in their units. MetCap has spent this time trying to ignore those tenants. It hasn't been easy for MetCap to ignore the organizing going on in Parkdale and come May 1st it will be impossible.

At the end of March, tenants from across the neighbourhood showed up at MetCap's head office downtown to demand that MetCap withdraw the rent increases and do the repairs in people's units. MetCap hid in their offices for hours while our neighbours made the message loud and clear that tenants in Parkdale

will no longer be ignored. MetCap refused to meet with their tenants. MetCap refused to take people's repair requests. MetCap just hid in their offices and hoped Parkdale would leave them alone. In the lobby of the MetCap office tenants from Parkdale held a meeting and talked about what they should do to get MetCap to pay attention.

At a meeting back in Parkdale tenants decided what they would do: MetCap tenants in Parkdale would organize for a rent strike. MetCap only cares about money. We'll see how much they care about losing a whole bunch of money. A large, well-organized rent strike sends a

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message to MetCap that Parkdale won't be ignored or pushed around anymore. Playing nice with MetCap hasn't worked; MetCap doesn't play nice. The more people that join the rent strike, the louder the message will be. This isn't just about a few repairs or a few rent increases. This about Parkdale coming together and saying enough is enough. We won't be priced out of our neighbourhood. We won't be mistreated by money-grubbing landlords. We will fight back. We will support each other. We will defend Parkdale.

For weeks now MetCap tenants have been knocking on doors, handing out flyers, talking in their lobbies, and meeting to plan for this rent strike. If you live in a MetCap building and care about

the future of this neighbourhood you should join the rent strike. You should do that organizing too. Come together with your neighbours and make the decisions that really matter for this neighbourhood. Are you going to let MetCap keep pushing your neighbours out of Parkdale? No? Good, let's get organized. Join the rent strike.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The most important thing to do is **organize with your neighbours in your building**. That's where things get going. It's where neighbours can make decisions together about the important things that affect them. Everyone that wants to fight for this neighbourhood should have an equal say in how they do that. We need as many people as we can to take part in this. And taking part is more than just not paying rent.

Taking part means taking control. Having control means having your say and listening to what others have to say about how to fight for this neighbourhood. There's no easy answers and no one has all the answers. That's an important thing to remember: we need each other. If we go it alone, we lose. Maybe

quickly or maybe slowly. But in the end – on our own, we'll lose. So we organize.

We come together and make decisions in our buildings. **Our buildings then make decisions with other buildings where organizing is happening.** What gets done, when it gets done, and how it gets done are all decisions we make together. That's what organizing means. It's more than just a protest, more than a rent strike. It's people coming together and taking control. Together.

There's no point in carrying the rent strike on longer than it needs to. The decision for when the rent strike ends should be made together by those who are on strike. While the rent strike is going there will be lots to do to turn up the heat on MetCap. All the more reason for people to stay together, stay communicating, and stay organized.

HOW A RENT STRIKE WORKS

On May 1 tenants in MetCap buildings will hold back their rent. Tenants who pay by post-dated cheque or pre-authorized payment will need to call their bank to cancel it before May 1. Tenants whose rent is paid directly from OW or ODSP will need to call their caseworkers to cancel the payment. The more tenants that join the rent strike, the stronger it will be.

Tenants have arranged it so that they can pay their May rent in trust. What this means is that neighbours that participate in the rent strike can take their May rent to Parkdale Community Legal Services.

Why would this be useful? There are risks involved in a rent strike. The biggest and most obvious risk is getting evicted. When the rent strike ends we need to make sure the money is still there to pay the rent. Having a third party hold that rent makes sure it doesn't get spent while the strike is going on.

No one wants anyone getting evicted behind the rent strike. MetCap will try to scare people with threats of eviction. But Metcap's threats aren't as dangerous as they want people to think. They will send out eviction notices a few days after the first of the month saying "pay your rent in 14 days or move out". This is just a notice. You don't have to move out. In response to the eviction notices tenants can organize a protest at the MetCap office, return the eviction notices, and continue to press for their demands to be met.



If MetCap decides to take everyone to eviction hearings at the Tribunal you will receive a letter from the Tribunal with your hearing date. Only the Tribunal can order an eviction. Again, tenants and their supporters can organize a response like occupying the Tribunal to shut down the eviction hearings. At the end of the day, tenants can avoid eviction by paying the rent at the hearing. The main risk here is that tenants may have to pay the landlord's filing fee - \$190 – on top of the rent.

The most important thing is that decisions about when we end the rent strike are made by tenants in the buildings. There will be rent strikers in each building who talk to tenants in the other buildings. This way we can make decisions together between the buildings. There will be regular meetings at the Library where the decisions made by tenants in the buildings are communicated and discussed.