

# Appeal for Justice

## To the Leadership of the Salvation Army

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Dear leaders of The Salvation Army,

We are leaders in our community and individuals who care about many of the same things that you do. In some cases we have supported your work with our donations. Like you, we clearly believe in the need to “treat people with dignity” and in the importance of “breaking down barriers that promote us/them perceptions.” We also support your core value related to integrity which states that “actions will be transparent and hold up to scrutiny.” Cooperation “which encourages and fosters teamwork and partnerships” is extremely important to all of us.

Our deepest level of agreement may be with respect to the issues of poverty in our communities and economic justice. *“It is estimated that many North Americans are just two pay cheques away from poverty... an alarming reality.”* (Mt. Arrowsmith Community Ministries website) Indeed we are appealing to you urgently to investigate the current situation at your Sunset Lodge in Victoria for this very reason. All of the 64 permanent employees, who are mainly women, stand to lose their jobs August 10<sup>th</sup> unless you intervene.

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*An urgent appeal for justice from the Practice What You Preach Campaign*

Some of these employees have been banned from the facility and forbidden to speak to residents. Despite a willingness to accept reduced pay by some workers, long time employees of over 20 years (in some cases) will lose their jobs. These dedicated Sunset Lodge workers families will be at risk. The care of the frail and elderly residents may also be at risk.

We urge you to immediately investigate this decision. Don't take the needed dollars away from mothers and their families and put money into the bloated bank accounts of huge international private companies. *"The financial statements of the Canada-Bermuda Division of the Salvation Army for 2003 reported assets of 1.13 billion dollars including 400 million dollars in the stock market. Revenue exceeded spending by \$18 million."* (Monday Magazine - June 29/03)

**Please act now. Your dedication to the elimination of poverty demands nothing less.**

Name: (please print)
Title/organization:
Contact Information:
Name: (please print)
Title/organization:
Contact Information:
Name: (please print)
Title/organization:
Contact Information:

**We urgently ask you to investigate so that we can be assured that:**

- the residents quality of care and their safety will be guaranteed through any changes in staffing.
- the residents will receive food that is nutritious, fresh, of a high standard and prepared daily on site.
- the care providers and employees will be treated with respect and will be fully involved in any changes at Sunset Lodge.