

Hired Hand

Ohmydays presents *Hired Hand*, a solo exhibition by Toronto-based artist Brad Tinmouth.

February 6, 2014: Kevin Vickers, the Canadian Sergeant-at-Arms, informs Canadian members of Parliament that all potted plants housed in House of Commons buildings will be removed and sold—"a discretionary expense"—in accordance with budget cuts under Stephen Harper's Conservative government. The memo remarks: "Since the plants are Crown assets, employees are not permitted to keep them."

Tenet 1. Care for the Earth. Without a healthy Earth, nothing can live successfully. Provisional continuation and multiplication of established life systems, ie. plant propagation (offering clean air, medicinal + edible plant life), solar energy.

February 8, 2014: Thousands of plants are auctioned off on GCSurplus, a federally organized auction website for excess Canadian government goods. Digital images of the plants showcase the dim, 1970s-inspired interiors and cubicle culture of the House of Commons.

Tenet 2. Care for the People. Provisional access for people to the resources necessary for living, ie. community, trading, permaculture systems education.

February 10, 2014: an anonymous member of Canada's left-wing elected party, the New Democratic Party (NDP), bids on a lot of 100 plants, most of which were housed in a Conservative building. Speaking with the press, the anonymous member offered: "The war on plants is another example of the failed Conservative policies that we are fighting on a daily basis. If the Conservatives want to keep the plants in their offices, we are contemplating the possibility of leasing them, watering not included."

Tenet 3. Return/share of the Surplus. Reinvestment of surpluses to provide for the aforementioned tenets, ie. carbon cycle, composting, recycling.

February 12, 2014: Speaking with the Canadian Broadcast Corporation, a senior NDP staffer mentioned a quote by Ned Rorem as a metaphoric encapsulation of the event: "Plants do not wish to rule the world like us — they have higher concerns."

No tenet can function without the others.

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