

Olympics Bring CCTV, Not Solutions for the Homeless

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Wednesday, April 08, 2009

<http://politicsrespun.org/2009/04/olympics-bring-cctv-not-solutions-for-the-homeless/>

David Eby, from BC Civil Liberties, told the COPE AGM on Sunday of his concerns about the Olympics not so much being a lever for solving homelessness, but an excuse for a reduction in civil rights.

It seems he got it right.

When the provincial government floats examples like the Bard on the Beach as being a place for CCTV, to the surprise of the Bard organizers' reflection that theirs has never been an event worthy of surveillance, we know this is just spin.

Despite written assurance, several councillors including COPE Coun. Ellen Woodsworth--the lone dissenting vote on council--raised concerns about the "temporary" nature of the CCTV plan and the potential erosion of civil liberties.

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But last Friday's provincial government press release told a starkly different tale.

Vancouver, it read, will receive \$400,000 for a "re-deployable CCTV unit for special events and emergencies."

via [City admits surveillance cameras here to stay](#).