

MAY
1-15,
2010

VOL. 18
#8

\$1.50

people's VOICE

**Campbell Liberals
in deep trouble**

See page 3

Printed in Canada by union labour
on recycled paper  118-M
Publications Mail Agreement #40011632

MAY DAY 2010



Whose "recovery" is this? - page 7
The obscene face of capitalism - page 8
Workers on the march - page 8, 9
Policies for a People's Recovery - page 10

5
Young workers

Profits are up nearly everywhere, but 2010 is just another year of crisis for young workers around the world facing exploitation, high unemployment, mounting debt loads, and poverty.

INSIDE

11

U.S. double standard

While the killers of Italian-Canadian Fabio de Celmo are free to walk the streets of Miami, five heroic Cuban anti-terrorists languish in US jails.

12
Global labour news

A round-up of labour news from across the planet: mass arrests in India, labour gains in Turkey, Rio Tinto lockout in California, hotel workers on hunger strike in Polynesia, and more.

Ontario Budget - Open for Business

By Liz Rowley, CPC
(Ontario) leader

The Ontario budget delivers on the government's promise to open the province up to (foreign) business. It includes a \$4.6 billion corporate tax cut, another \$4.5 billion cut effective July 1 with the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax, elimination of the capital tax, and a small business tax reduction. Other items: a two-year public sector wage freeze, cuts to health and education, and a review of provincial assets for sale. For the poor, the budget eliminates the Special Diet Allowance, which allowed those with serious health problems a little extra for food on top of the pittance paid by welfare.

The government tried to play down the horrible news by declaring that somewhere in the future its policies would generate new jobs and surpluses to fund social programs.

In other words, pie in the sky when you die. Of course it's a lie, but most people don't know what to do about it. It's also a lie that "we're all in this together" as the Budget speech asserts.

The news that corporate profits have recovered, and that CEOs and executives have had performance bonuses reinstated, has generated deep public anger.

Some take comfort in the Liberals' decision to fund the 8,500 child spots that the federal government just abandoned, and in the funding of full day junior and senior kindergarten for 4 and 5 year olds. But the province won't cover the other \$1 billion in federal spending on transit, housing, and health care that Harper has also abandoned.

In fact, our self-styled education premier, Dalton McGuinty, continues to underfund school boards, universities and colleges, and allows tuition to keep rising. Accessibility? If students have money, they have access, says McGuinty. The budget anticipates plenty of money from international students, whom it plans to exploit generously. Apparently, that's the new funding formula for public education.

Health care? The budget uses scare tactics, citing the rise in expenditures over the past 20 years, projected into the future. The idea is that Ontario can't sustain current levels of service. Figures don't lie, but liars do figure, as these numbers show.

Data prepared by the Ontario Health Coalition shows that hospital spending as a percentage of health care has declined from a high of 52% in 1981 to a low of 37% in 2008. In other words,

hospitals can't provide services because they're underfunded. Ontario spends less per capita than any other province on hospital service.

Another round of hospital closures is upon us. The last one was directed by the Harris Tories, this one by the Liberals, both under the premise of "efficiencies". Both have eroded health care and caused deaths in overloaded emergency rooms, hospitals and clinics.

These are "made-in-Queen's Park" crises. Both the Liberals and Tories are geared up to sell the idea of a spending crisis, and the conclusion that spending must be reigned in. But this is a crisis of inadequate revenue, not over-spending. Instead of more than \$9 billion in corporate tax breaks, and the HST - a regressive flat tax that will hit working people the hardest - the government should increase corporate taxes. It should keep the capital tax, and expand it to cover all industries and business including underground mining. It should eliminate the HST, and introduce a progressive tax system that would put the load on the corporations, not working people and the unemployed.

Progressive tax reform would generate the funds needed for universal health care, for quality, public child care, and for public

and post-secondary education. Progressive tax reform would enable the delivery of public transit and affordable housing, while cutting property taxes in half.

Instead, McGuinty's tax reform "of a generation" is a Big Business tax grab, and it's going to hurt a lot of people, as OPSEU President Smokey Thomas pointed out.

The Liberals intend to pay for the corporate tax cuts with a public sector wage cut of at least 4% - about the rate of inflation over the

next two years. That's equivalent to a week's pay, says Thomas, and that's a wage cut, not a freeze.

OPSEU will be organizing demonstrations at Liberal fundraisers, and will vigorously oppose Bill 16. They should be joined by the whole labour movement. There are stirrings in Toronto to mount a fightback that will focus on defence of social programs and services. This is welcome news.

see ONTARIO, page 6

PV Fund Drive: \$50,000 in 2010
\$20,703 raised: 41.4%

We have now reached 41.4% of our target for 2010! As of April 22, we have received \$20,703, with our supporters in Saskatchewan now out in front. Saskatchewan has sent in \$550 towards their \$800 target, or 68.7% of their provincial goal, much to the delight of our Saskatoon-born editor.

After that it's too close to call, with four provinces around the forty percent mark. These include Ontario (\$8750 out of \$21,600, or 40.5%), Quebec (\$200 out of \$500, exactly 40%), British Columbia (\$7980 out of \$20,000, or 39.9%), and Alberta (\$1350 out of \$3400, or 39.7%). Not far behind the pack is Manitoba (\$820 out of \$2400, 34.2%), followed by Newfoundland & Labrador (20% of their \$400 goal), and the Maritimes (\$100, or 8.3% of their \$1200 target). Another \$900 has been

raised by miscellaneous and overseas friends.

The May Day issue is always special to our readers. We are the only newspaper in Canada to devote an entire issue each year to celebrating the international day of the working class, reporting on our triumphs, our struggles of the past and present, and our fight for a socialist future. In this issue we print greetings from trade unions, progressive ethnic groups, anti-war organizations, Communist Party clubs, and others, all sharing the desire for a world in which people's needs replace corporate greed as the motive force for decision-making. Your support every year makes it possible to continue this revolutionary tradition, and we thank all our readers and supporters for your

generous solidarity!

We have several fundraising events coming up this month, starting with the May Day social sponsored by People's Voice at the Greek Canadian Democratic Organization in Toronto - see the ad at right for details!

Remember to mark Sunday, May 9 on your calendars. That's the Burnaby Club's annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, starting 10 am, at 5435 Kincaid Street. It's just \$10 (or \$8 for readers under 12) for all the fabulous food you can eat. For details, call Anna at 604-294-6775.

Greetings to Clarté, our sister newspaper in Quebec, which will host Montreal readers at the opening of their new office space on Sunday, May 9, starting 1 pm. Clarté is now located at the Association des Travailleurs Grec Hall, 5359 Ave. de Parc, Suite C. There will be refreshments, live music, and political reports on the Common Front union fightback in Quebec.

As a mark of appreciation for your generosity, we are once again offering supporters complimentary gifts. For each \$100 in donations, you can choose one of these black and white portraits, mounted on card, matted and ready for framing: Che Guevara, Clara Zetkin, Augusto Cesar Sandino, Bhagat Singh, Gall (Sioux), Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Louis Riel, Jeanne Corbin, or Gladys Marin. Other choices include music CDs or a copy of our 2010 Women's Socialist Calendar. ●

Here's my contribution to the PV Fund Drive!

Enclosed please find my donation of \$ _____ to the 2010 People's Voice Press Fund Drive.

Name _____

Address _____

City/town _____

Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Send your contribution to:

People's Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

Warmest May Day greetings from...

Hamilton Committee CPC

for peace, jobs, and a living wage!



Happy May Day 2010!

Vancouver & District Labour Council



Greetings of Solidarity
May Day 2010
International Day of the Worker



A day of unity for workers of all countries.

Many small differences may divide us but our common interests as workers unite us!

May Day 2010

Workers Didn't Cause the Crisis
They Won't Pay for It

Saturday May 1 - 7:00 pm
GCDO Hall - 290 Danforth Ave

Speakers · Live Music · Food · Cash Bar

- Support Striking Sudbury Workers!
- Defeat the McGuinty wage freeze!
- Stop privatization and plant closures!
- Raise wages and living standards!
- Stop the war in Afghanistan - Get Out Now!



People's Needs Not Corporate Greed
Solidarity with Workers in Struggle
At Home and Around the World!

Plan to Attend! Everyone Welcome!
416-469-2481 for Info
Auspices: People's Voice

Campbell Liberals circling the drain?

By Kimball Cariou

The next B.C. election is three years off, but if a vote was held this spring, the Campbell Liberals would probably be reduced to a handful of MLAs in Victoria.

The latest survey of voters showed the Liberals at just 29%, a startling 18% behind the NDP led by Carole James. The Greens are at 14%, and the provincial Conservatives - suddenly considered an attractive alternative by some business forces - are at 5%.

The survey showed deep disenchantment with the current options. An overwhelming majority viewed the Liberals as arrogant and dishonest, but the results also found that if a new "centre-left" party was formed, it could have the support of 34% of voters, compared to 28% for the NDP and 23% for the Liberals.

The news is particularly bad for Gordon Campbell, who is increasingly detested by voters.

Probably the main factor is the "Harmonised Sales Tax", scheduled to take effect on July 1. Over 80% of voters oppose the HST, and a province-wide campaign to force a referendum on the issue may well succeed. This would require collecting the signatures of at least 10% of voters in every single constituency by early July, a task previously considered impossible. But the campaign is well on the way to completion with two months left to gather names. This could create a complicated legal situation, since the HST legislation is actually federal rather than provincial. But the exercise is widely seen as a *de facto* referendum on the Premier's moral and political authority to remain in office.

Other issues are also dogging the Liberals, such as their announcement that the long-delayed Site C dam in northern B.C. will take the next step towards reality. This has further alienated many British Columbians, since the dam would flood valuable farmland solely to produce electricity for export. (More in an upcoming issue.)

More immediately, underfunding of public education has further weakened the government. In an effort to divert attention from their policies, the Liberals recently appointed a "special advisor" to review the operations of the Vancouver School Board, one of dozens facing huge budget shortfalls. The move is seen as an attempt to crack the whip over school trustees, by attacking the Board with the most consistent record of criticism of underfunding.

While the tactic may have confused the issue for some, it appears the government has already lost this public relations battle. Another survey, conducted in early April by the BC Society for Public Education, found that 80% of British Columbians want the government to increase support for the public school system. About 65% agreed that the government should end its ever-growing financial support for private schools, turning those funds over to the public system. The government did its best to cover up the findings; the pro-Liberal *Vancouver Sun* tried to muzzle its own education beat reporter, but the story was eventually reported.

The survey may have prodded B.C. school trustees to shift gears during their recent AGM in Victoria. Historically, many trustees were reluctant to be associated with criticism of underfunding, but that changed dramatically at the April 23-25 meeting, marking a huge victory for the fightback movement in B.C.

In one key vote, trustees resolved

to "request the Ministry of Education to redirect to the public education system the public money spent on independent schools, other than band schools".

The AGM backed school boards that are calling for more funding for public education, and passed another motion urging the province to "provide adequate, predictable and sustainable funding that includes additional financial support for newly mandated initiatives and existing unfunded liabilities".

The trustees also called on Minister of Education Margaret MacDiarmid to release the report of the special advisor as soon as it lands on her desk. The Advisor, B.C. comptroller general

Cheryl Wenezeki-Yolland, has already admitted that her report cannot help with the VSB's underfunding crisis, since it will be submitted a month after the Board's April 29 budget vote.

At press time, the outcome of that vote remained hard to predict. Parent, teacher and student groups have been sharply critical of the cuts in the budget, but put the blame squarely on the province. No group has called for the defeat of the budget, since this is widely seen as an invitation for the province to remove the popular Board. But the trustees face the very real dilemma of trying to protect education without adequate funding. ●

G8 & G20 public rally and march

The G8 and G20 Summits taking place in Ontario from June 25-27 will offer Canadians a rare opportunity to speak out on priorities that the world's most wealthy and powerful nations should adopt on economic recovery, environment, human rights, decent jobs, and social justice. Decisions taken by the G8 and G20 governments impact on millions of lives in Canada and around the world.

Several major organizations - Oxfam, Greenpeace, the Council of Canadians, Ontario Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress - are playing a key role in mobilizing protests around the Summits. Their aim is to "show the world that Canadians still share the dream of a better world for everyone." The movements are inviting supporters to take part in a rally and march on Saturday, June 26, starting 1:00 pm at Queen's Park in Toronto. The march ends at Trinity Bellwoods Park (Queen Street West at Trinity Drive).

Watch upcoming issues for more details on the G8/G20 actions, or call 416-441-3710. ●

ASSOCIATION OF UNITED UKRAINIAN CANADIANS



May Day greetings
to the working people of Canada

595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R2W 2K4
Phone: 1-800-856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404
Email: auuckobzar@mts.net

May Day Greetings! from the Communist Party clubs in Alberta

For a world in which society is organized by the principle: From each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs.

UNITE!

**Defend public education!
Full funding for schools!**

JANE BOUEY
Vancouver School Trustee



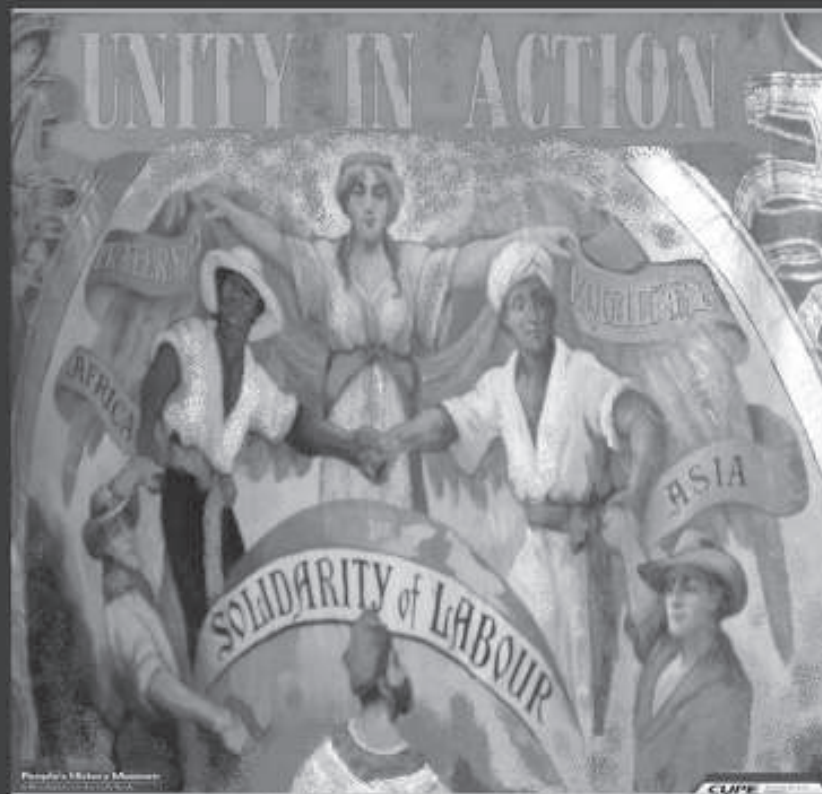
The OSSTF/FEESO Educational Team;
a vital part of your community

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Fédération des enseignantes-enseignants
des écoles secondaires de l'Ontario
50 Moodle Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2P3

TEL 416.751.8300
TEL 1.800.257.7867
FAX 416.751.3304
www.osstf.on.ca



MAYDAY



cupeToronto.ca

EDITORIALS

The crisis and May Day

The after-shocks of the great meltdown still reverberate eighteen months later, as workers across the planet rally on May Day 2010. The events of September 2008 proved again that the Marxist understanding remains valid: capitalism inevitably generates crises which shake the system to its foundations. The question arises: how can this latest crisis be resolved?

The ruling class answer is simple. From their perspective, the crisis has already been overcome, by the return to previous levels of corporate profits and economic activity. How did this miracle happen? Equally simple: by the massive looting of public funds, i.e. the taxes paid by working people. Even better for the bosses, the crisis supplied the excuse for a savage attack on wages, pensions, social programs, collective bargaining rights, and every gain won by workers in recent decades. In essence, the initial outcome of the crisis has been to enormously widen the gap between boss and worker, between rich and poor, on a global scale.

But for the working class, May Day 2010 is an occasion to fight for a different strategy. The assault has sparked a world-wide upsurge in resistance, in the workplaces and in the streets. The most inspiring fightback has been in Greece, where the communist-led All-Workers Militant Front (PAME) has initiated general strikes and huge protests against the drive to impose the entire cost of the crisis on the working class.

But militant labour action is growing in Canada as well. The Common Front of Quebec public sector workers continues preparations for a possible mass walkout. Labour-led fightback coalitions are stirring into action in British Columbia and now Ontario.

This May Day, People's Voice and the Communist Party send greetings to all workers in action, including our sisters and brothers in the Common Front, those on the picket lines against Vale Inco, and those battling the Campbell Liberals in British Columbia. And we take this occasion to urge the labour movement to take the next step, by calling a summit of labour and its allies, to help build a powerful, united campaign to fight for genuine "People's Recovery" policies.

Chilling revelations

The story behind the March 2009 decision to ban British MP George Galloway from Canada has been revealed, and the facts are chilling. After Immigration Minister Jason Kenney's communications director sent an email flagging Galloway's speaking tour, it took just 102 minutes for an official in the National Security section of the Canadian Border Services Agency to rule Galloway inadmissible as "a member of a terrorist organization."

In reality, George Galloway was helping to ship desperately needed medical aid to Gaza, where Palestinian civilians live under a deadly blockade by Israeli authorities. The Palestinians, of course, had democratically elected a government led by the Hamas movement. For this "crime," they were punished by the Harper Tories, who immediately cut off all aid programs, making them accomplices in mass murder of the Palestinians.

Mr. Galloway was targeted, not for "membership" in Hamas, but for his pro-Palestinian views. This action was part of the Tory drive to criminalize criticism of Israel, on the absurd claim that such criticism constitutes "anti-Semitic hate crimes."

Jason Kenney lied to Parliament and to Canadians to cover up the truth: his office used political strong-arm tactics to force the CBSA to act on the whims of the Tory government. For this Mr. Kenney should immediately resign. And consider the broader implications. If the federal government can treat a British member of Parliament this way, how safe are the rights of ordinary Canadians? The record shows that for the Harper Tories, democracy and civil liberties are dirty words, not freedoms to be defended.

PEOPLE'S VOICE

ISSN number 1198-8657 Published by New Labour Press Ltd.
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40011632

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Circulation Dept.,
People's Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1
Tel: 604.255.2041 Email: pvoice@telus.net

Volunteers and contributors for this issue:

Dave Arland, Arnold August, Ed Bil, Johan Boyden,
Wally Brooker, Sean Burton, Miguel Figueroa,
Sam Hammond, B. Prasant, Liz Rowley, and our
mailers in Vancouver & Toronto.

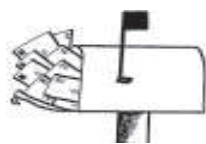
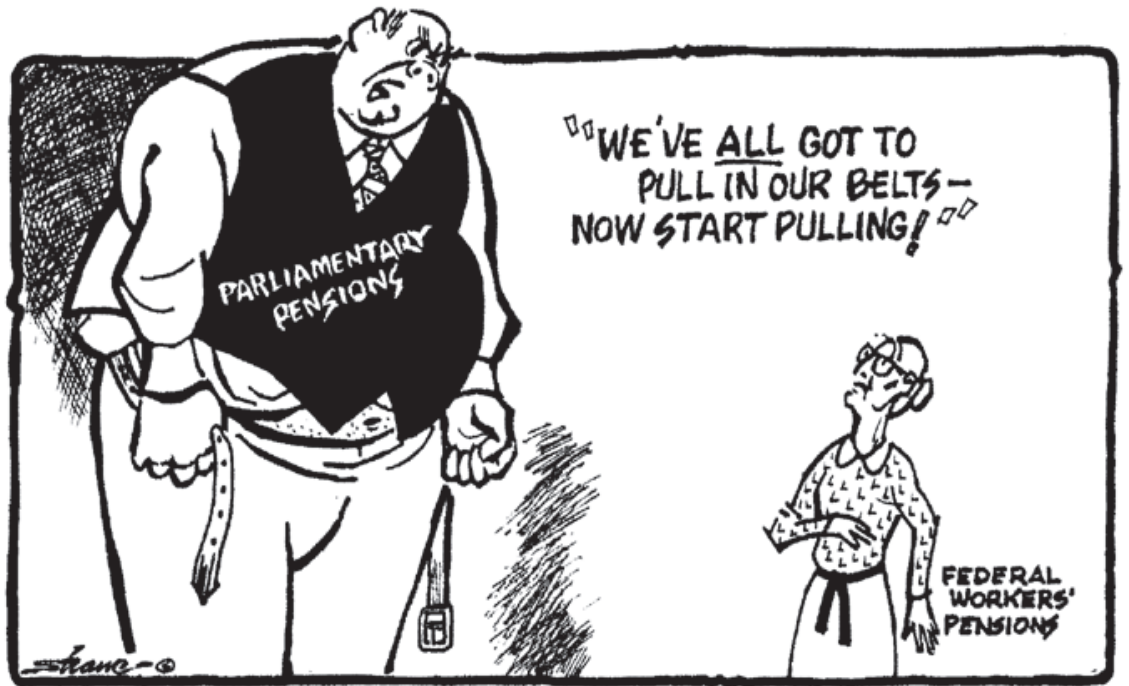
Editor: Kimball Cariou Business Manager: Sam Hammond

Editorial Board: Kimball Cariou, Miguel Figueroa,
Doug Meggison, Naomi Rankin, Liz Rowley, Jim Sacouman

LETTERS

People's Voice welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity, and to refuse to print letters which may be libellous or which contain personal attacks. Send your views to: "Letters to the Editor" 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1 or pvoice@telus.net

People's Voice articles may be reprinted without permission provided the source is credited.



Letters to the Editor

NATO war crimes in Afghanistan

How many war crimes will NATO forces have to commit in Afghanistan and Pakistan before the good people of Canada demand that this misadventure be terminated and our troops brought home?

On September 4, 2009 two fuel trucks were disabled by Taliban fighters in Kunar Province. When local people arrived in large numbers to take some of the fuel, German forces called for a US air strike. 142 people were incinerated. Video tapes from the US F15 jet showed

most of the people were unarmed civilians filling their containers with fuel.

On Dec 27, 2009, American led troops raided a home in Kunar Province, dragged eight school children from their beds and gunned them down execution style. Their ages were 11 to 18.

On February 12, 2010 American and Afghan forces raided a home during a party and killed five people including a local police commander, a district attorney, two pregnant mothers and a teen-aged girl.

A report by the New American Foundation speculates that US drone strikes in Pakistan have killed between 700 and 1000 people, one-third of them civilians.

Surely, anyone with a heart to rend and a few viable brain cells to reason with, will have to conclude that all of these killings are crimes against humanity.

We can't wait twenty more months before leaving Afghanistan. We must demand that our troops be brought home now.

Bev Currie, Swift Current, SK

May Day 2010

Workers of the world, unite!

Organizing from the ground up

We don't just represent post office workers.
We have organized couriers, drivers, warehouse workers,
mail house workers and bicycle couriers.
We won't stop until the entire postal sector is united.

Canadian Union of Postal Workers...
...Your union in the postal sector

www.cupw-sttp.org CUPE 1979

May Day Greetings!

*Peace,
Equality,
Socialism!*

**Mathew
Popowich
Club**

**Winnipeg,
Manitoba**

Renew today!

Check your label

Please check the address label on the front page to see if it's time to renew. Readers who find "2010/05/01" on their label, for example, will have their subscriptions expire with this issue, May 1-15, 2010. Don't miss a single copy - renew today!

No "recovery" in sight for young workers

The 25th Central Convention of the Young Communist League-Ligue de la jeunesse communiste (YCL-LJC) will be held May 21-23 in Toronto. We reprint here some excerpts from Part 2 of the Call to the 25th Convention, the section on the situation of young workers during the present global economic crisis.

The economic crisis is rooted in the systemic crises of the capitalist system. It has come about at the same time as crises in environmental problems and food supply that have related but distinct origins.

As we've said, while neo-liberalism has intensified the

outcomes of the current crisis, the crisis "is not the result of the implementation of neoliberal policies such as free trade, deregulation, privatization, and anti-labour employment policies, etc.; rather, it is the inevitable outcome of the systemic crisis of capitalism itself."

Now the crisis has matured. There is a major campaign to convince us that we have experienced a "jobless recovery." In fact there is no such thing...

Internationally, the young workers have seen a major spike in unemployment. No other age group has been hit as hard. 1 in 5 youth are unemployed in the United Kingdom. The United States AFL-CIO labour union central calls this the "lost decade"

for young workers. For third-world and global South's unemployed, youth are the majority.

Young workers [especially from the "second" and "third" worlds] are the first victims of labour market deregulation, produced by imperialist globalization, with alarming results. Millions of young workers are unemployed, sub-employed or working in slavery-like conditions without health or social security. They are homeless and persecuted emigrants, as well as child labour. A whole generation of young workers are in material and spiritual ruin, with no promising future.

The capitalists are claiming that the debt and deficits incurred to "fix" the crisis must be resolved by anti-people and anti-youth measures, like:

- reduced accessibility and privatization of education, transit, housing, dental care, and childcare;
- even lower rates of youth unionization, ageist two-tier collective agreements, poorer wages;
- and even more debt.

The consolidation of these plans by imperialism are found on the state budget-level, and special trade agreements. Those hit hardest include Indigenous youth; youth from racialized communities; young women; youth in sub-Saharan Africa; youth in countries subject to imperialist wars, occupations and blockades.

The intense ideological offensive designed (a) to divide the working class, including scapegoating, racism, anti-communism, etc, and (b) convince people that a recovery is in full-swing.

Efforts to convince the youth through the corporate media and culture that "the crisis has ended" have broadened to include campaigning for the hearts and minds of the youth, for their vision of a better future. etc. The methods are sophisticated although the basic message is sometimes very crude, found in all media.

...On the other hand, genuine anti-imperialist efforts have been seen globally:

- outpouring of support by the youth for the revolutions of Latin America, both on that continent and internationally;
- the resistance of the youth in Honduras;
- international youth support for

- the Cuban Five;
- strikes and actions of the Greek youth and workers;
- resistance of the German, Austrian and French students;
- sharp criticism by the ANC Youth and Young Communist League of South Africa of neo-liberalism;
- rejection by young Americans of Bush and the war in Iraq;
- rise in youth support of the Japanese Communist Party;
- global outrage by the youth about climate change, seen at militant protests in Copenhagen.


These fight backs on the surface have a strong spontaneous

dynamic, but in fact are part of organized struggle. Often they are connected with the specific work of youth organizations.

The most advanced global expression of anti-imperialist resistance is the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY). We also express our hope for strengthening the International Union of Students. The continuation of the World Festival of Youth and Students movement is a terrific step forward. It should be greeted with the greatest energy and enthusiasm by our YCL-LJC. ●


MAY DAY GREETINGS

to all
Youth &
Students



The Young Communist League of Canada - Ligue de la jeunesse communiste du Canada invites you to join us for our 25th Central Convention this month. **War, misery, exploitation, apathy and poverty cannot be our future. Young people cannot and should not remain indifferent. Now is the time to unite and organize!**

May 21-23, University of Toronto Register: www.ycl-ljc.ca



Warm internationalist greetings to all workers on the 1st of May, 2010



*Theodore Adamidis
Montréal*


MAY DAY GREETINGS!

Defend the rights of immigrant workers!

**Lower Fraser Club,
Communist Party of Canada**

Greetings on May 1st — the original international workers' day

Growing union power by organizing the unorganized



**THE SOCIETY OF ENERGY PROFESSIONALS
IFPTE LOCAL 160**

The Society of Energy Professionals/IFPTE Local 160 represents more than 8,000 professional employees—engineers, scientists, middle managers, information technology specialists, etc.—in Ontario's electricity industry.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!!

MAY DAY 2010

In Memory of our fallen Comrades
Rod Doran and Gary Campbell

Committed, caring Communists to the end

DON'T MOURN — ORGANIZE!!

Burnaby Club, CPC

Edmonton Peace Council

May Day 2010



Canada Out of Afghanistan | Canada Out of NATO-NORAD-NORTHCOM
Taxes for Peace Not US-NATO Wars | Jobs for Youth Not Military Service
No to the Militarization of the Arctic | Abolish All Nuclear Weapons

On May Day the Edmonton Peace Council demands the immediate return of Canadian occupying forces from Afghanistan and Haiti and condemns Canada's participation in the imperialist military interventions, occupations and wars of aggression led by the U.S. and NATO.



On May Day the Edmonton Peace Council joins with labour to oppose the militarization of the Canadian economy and increased military spending for wars of aggression and occupation.

www.CanadianPeaceCongress.ca

LEARNING CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

Happy May Day

The Intellectual Workers' International Holiday

CUPE 3912

Part-time Faculty & Teaching Assistants at Halifax Universities

Ontario "open for business"...

continued from page 2

But it's disturbing that some unions are 'holding back', thinking they can clear the two-year wage freeze before the next set of negotiations, or because they think they can hold their noses and live with the Liberals, but not with the Hudak Tories as the 2011 provincial elections approach.

After NDP leader Andrea Horwath told the media she refused to be boxed in on the wage freeze issue, a lot of workers wonder if they can live with any of the parties currently in the Legislature.

The attack on wages, pensions, and benefits started last year in the private sector with the autoworkers, municipal workers, and miners. Now it encompasses all workers, public and private sector, across Canada and globally. The austerity programs in Ontario are paralleled in BC, Quebec, Europe and around the world. So are the corporate tax cuts, the sale of public assets, the elimination of social programs, and the attack on free collective bargaining and the right to strike, organize and picket.

"Open for Business" is the second shoe after the 2008 economic crisis, and it's just beginning. The right-wing is very active in Ontario in a way we

haven't seen before, attempting to turn worker against worker, private against public, employed against unemployed, Canadian born against migrants and new Canadians, young against old.

That's why the fightback of 75,000 protesters in Montreal was never publicized in English-speaking Canada, and why the heroic ten-month strike of 3,300 miners and smelterworkers in Sudbury, Port Colborne and Voisey's Bay is virtually unknown outside those communities. Heroic struggles like these could be lost without the whole labour

movement actively intervening. Organized labour cannot leave this matter to a Legislature that is indifferent or hostile to working people. Nor can labour wait it out.

The CPC (Ontario) is calling for a mass extra-parliamentary struggle for policies that put people's needs ahead of corporate greed.

The OFL must pick up the challenge, flex its muscles, and show its power. Organized labour must lead a province wide struggle to block the right, defeat this corporate budget, and campaign for policies and government to bring in a recovery for working people. •

**Happy May Day to All!
from the Parkdale Club,
Toronto**

**Let's keep up the fight for
equality, peace and social justice!**

May Day 2010

**Greetings from the
Finnish Organization
of Canada**

**May Day Greetings to
all those struggling for
peace and social
progress!**

**Plant closure & anti-scab legislation now!
Not another day longer without it!**

**Communist Party of Canada
(Ontario)**



**Capitalism
isn't working...
Socialism is
the future!**

**Vancouver East Club, CPC
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, ph. 604-255-2041**

**MAY DAY GREETINGS
to working people in British Columbia**

**Unite to stop the Campbell Liberal attacks on health care
and public education!**

No to the HST! Raise the minimum wage!

B.C. Provincial Committee, Communist Party of Canada

**706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, V5L 3J1
604-254-9836 cpsc@telus.net**

May Day 2010

**Greetings from the
Finnish Organization
of Canada**

**Revolutionary
Greetings From the
East Toronto Club of
the Communist Party**



**Onward to A United Struggle for a
World Free of Exploitation and Greed**

**A United Struggle in defense of
humanity and the planet**

A United Struggle for Socialism

**"In Solidarity with
Striking Workers at
Vale Inco"**



**Charlie McClure Club,
CPC, Sudbury**

UNITE to demand a People's Recovery!

Tax the corporations! Slash military spending!

A message from the Communist Party of Canada



Round 2 of the crisis: whose 'recovery'?

The corporate-owned mass media greet us daily with upbeat economic reports about how the global economic crisis is over and that 'recovery is now well underway'. This is all very comforting, but it's also a gross perversion of the truth.

In reality, there is no recovery for most working people. Unemployment and job insecurity remain high, with over 1.5 million (8.2%) out of work according to official statistics; real unemployment is closer to 12%. Since 2003, more than 500,000 well-paying manufacturing jobs have been wiped out, 290,000 in the past two years alone. Soon EI benefits will be running out for hundreds of thousands of these unemployed workers.

Nor is there any recovery for young people trying to find work or to complete their education. Or for Aboriginal peoples who continue to suffer systemic joblessness and grinding poverty. Or for new immigrants and their families trying to build a better life. Or for pensioners and others on fixed income.

So what kind of recovery is this? It's a recovery for the profits of the biggest banks and corporations, and for those who own and control them.

Think back. For more than two decades, the largest banks and monopolies had been phenomenally successful in amassing wealth. Stock markets soared and net profits went through the roof. They achieved this through "restructuring" their activities - by laying off many of their workers, while making the rest work longer hours; by holding

down real wages and benefits while increasing labour productivity; and by gouging consumers through inflated prices.

And they were aided and abetted by right-wing, pro-corporate governments (whether 'liberal' or

Working people need to respond in unity - "Enough is ENOUGH! We will not be forced to pay for your crisis!"

'conservative') which brought in 'business-friendly' policies like privatization and de-regulation, which weakened labour standards making it more difficult for workers to organize and defend their rights, and which cut corporate tax levels, shifting the tax burden more and more onto working people.

But this set the stage for inevitable crisis. In due course, more goods and services were being produced than working people could afford to consume. To maintain high consumption levels to keep the super-profits rolling in, big business cajoled and forced working people to sink deeper and deeper into debt. And they went on an orgy of speculation to artificially drive the value of their assets even higher.

Eventually, the debt bubble had to burst, and ever since the 'meltdown' of September 2008, the largest transnationals and banks have been manoeuvring to protect their wealth and maintain profit levels by getting working people to pay for the crisis which their

greed had created.

Big business accomplished this by using their control of the media, their 'think tanks', and their friends in government to convince everyone that the "sky was falling" and that governments had to come to their rescue in order to save the system of capitalism. As a result, over the past 18 months governments around the world poured trillions upon trillions (more than \$10 trillion in the U.S. alone) into massive corporate bail-outs and buy-outs of 'toxic' loans, while relatively little was spent on short-term infrastructural and other job creation projects. In fact the real purpose of these bail-outs was to protect the unsecured wealth of finance capitalists, rather than to stimulate new economic growth.

And it worked out all rather well for monopoly, as shown by the spectacular rebound in their profit margins. Canadian corporations reported \$60.1 billion in operating profits for the last quarter of 2009. The banks alone raked in some \$15.2 billion during

those three months, including \$1.5 billion for the Royal Bank and \$1.29 billion for TD Bank. The oil & energy giants made another \$7 billion in profit over the same period. During 2010, corporate profits will likely top \$250 billion.

This 'golden parachute' for monopoly - the largest single 'theft' of public wealth in history - came at a heavy cost. The corporate bail-outs and subsidies, along with generous corporate tax cuts, are largely responsible for the massive government deficits and increases in accumulated public debt we witness today.

One of the biggest gifts to monopoly has been the steady cuts to corporate and capital gains taxes, down from 28% a decade ago, to only 17% today. The Harper Tories plan to further reduce corporate taxes (to 15%) by 2012. In 2009/10, Canadians paid \$108 billion in personal income taxes, while the corporations paid just \$22.3 billion. The 2010 federal budget alone included \$6 billion in corporate tax cuts. Right-wing provincial governments have also been guilty

of cutting business taxes, to the point that Canada now has virtually the lowest corporate tax structure in any of the advanced capitalist countries around the world.

And now we're entering Round Two of the crisis. The dominant sections of capital - the same ones who were so quick to urge state intervention when it served their interests - are now clamouring for governments to rein in their 'free-wheeling' spending, eliminate operating deficits and control the public debt.

That's what is behind the recent Harper federal and the provincial "austerity" budgets. Right across the country, pro-business governments are launching an attack on the public sector and on the wages and benefits of its workers. The ruling corporate and financial circles know full well that by driving down the wages and conditions of public sector workers, this will put more downward pressure on the wages of all workers in both the public and private sectors.

This is the real strategy of the monopoly capitalists and their willing servants in governments, especially the Harper Conservatives. They want to further erode public services, gain greater access through another devastating round of privatizations into lucrative sectors like healthcare, education, and pensions. And they want to weaken and destroy the resistance of organized labour by attacking one of its main pillars - the public sector unions.

Working people simply cannot afford to take this lying down. We need to respond in unity - "Enough is ENOUGH! We will not be forced to pay for your crisis!"





GREECE: members of PAME union hit the streets against the government's economic attack.

European workers strike to defend their jobs and pensions

Using tactics from general strikes to road blockades, millions of workers across Europe have mounted strong resistance against the drive to make working people shoulder the burden of restoring corporate profits.

This epic struggle has been particularly sharp in Greece, where the recently-elected social democratic PASOK party quickly caved in to big business demands to slash spending. The people of Greece are being ordered by the European Union and transnational capital to accept wage freezes, tax hikes, mass layoffs, social spending cuts, and a higher pension age.

But the militant sections of the Greek labour movement have fought back, inspiring their sisters and brothers facing similar right-wing policies in Canada and many other countries. Starting last year, the communist-led PAME labour organization, which brings together trade unionists, unemployed workers and others, took the initiative to launch several powerful general strikes. Even trade unions led by PASOK itself have been forced by their own members to join these strikes, shutting down schools, government offices, docks, transportation, and other sectors.

In yet another action, public sector



IRELAND: angry protests against pro-corporate policies

workers walked off the job on April 22 to press the Greek government to reject further cuts as part of a so-called "aid package" with the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Doctors, nurses, teachers, tax officials and dockers stopped work, paralyzing public services. Tens of thousands marched to the parliament buildings in Athens, where

politicians were meeting to discuss the terms of a financial bailout.

"These bloodthirsty measures won't help Greece exit the crisis," said one union leader.

"We won't tolerate any more measures because we cannot make ends meet. I have a mortgage, two children, I have cut down on every luxury," said 38-year old civil servant Pavlina Parteniou. "Why don't they catch those who stole the money? Is my salary or my mother's pension of 300 euros going to save the country?"

Anger against the corporate agenda has erupted in other European countries.

British Airways cabin crew walked off their jobs for seven days during March, causing hundreds of flight cancellations in another battle over pay and staffing issues. Similarly, employees at German-based Lufthansa airlines struck in April to demand that the company stop violating their collective agreement by replacing crews with lower-paid workers.

In France, train drivers recently launched their third strike this year to demand better pay and working conditions. The railway workers are fighting attempts to impose layoffs and new schedules which would undermine safety.

French unions are heading for a showdown with the Sarkozy government over plans to raise the retirement age by two or three years. The government also wants to increase the number of years that workers must contribute to qualify for a full pension.

Italy's largest trade union held a one-day strike against the government's economic and immigration policies on March 12, disrupting schools, hospitals, transport and other public services. The left-wing CGIL union federation, which has some six million members, called a nationwide stoppage across all sectors, saying the Berlusconi administration was failing to respond to the economic crisis. Hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered in central Rome to march through the capital, carrying anti-government banners and letting off balloons.



Massive labour demonstration in Dublin, Ireland.

The obscene face of global Capitalism



We are... expansion... all boats'... because... helps rais... This is a... capitalism... ever few... increases... Consider...

* During 2009, the number of billionaires soared to 1,011. Their total fortunes rose from \$2.4 trillion to \$3.4 trillion.

* Almost half the world - over three billion people - lives on less than \$2 a day. 80% of humanity lives on less than \$1 a day.

* Over the past two decades, income differentials are widening. Under neoliberal economic policies such as 'free trade' privatization, the wealthiest 20% of the world accounted for 76.6% of total private wealth, just 1.5% for the poorest fifth.

* The richest one percent of the planet's population control over 80% of assets, while the poorest fifty-percent control just one percent.

* Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to clean water. 1 billion lack basic sanitation; 1.8 million children die each year from preventable diseases.

* The United Nations estimates that to provide and maintain universal access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation would cost \$72 billion annually - less than the annual global military spending of \$1.2 trillion.

* To reach all of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals would require \$1.2 trillion in development aid to between \$135 and \$195 billion a year by 2015 - by redirecting less than 20% of global military spending.



FRANCE: Unions are heading for a showdown with President Sarkozy and the government is increasingly unpopular with wide sections of the population.



often told that capitalist is "a rising tide that lifts all boats" and that profits are good for everyone. Increasing global wealth is used to lift everyone out of poverty. This is a self-serving myth - under capitalism, wealth is concentrated in fewer hands while misery increases for most working people. The following:

... up from 793 a year earlier. ... 3.6 trillion (US).

... less than \$2.50 a day. At least ... 0 a day.

... almost everywhere, thanks to ... and de-regulation. By 2005, the ... private consumption, compared to ...

... over 40% of the world's financial ... percent of global wealth.

... equate access to water, and 2.6 ... year as a result of diarrhoea.

... maintain universal access to safe ... on per year - less than 7% of ... \$1 trillion.

... would require increasing global ... y 2015. This could be achieved ... ary spending.



... over plans to raise the retirement age, ... e population.

The only way to win: Resistance, not retreat!

Faced with a long-term "jobless recovery" and the continued destruction of social safety nets, working people have two basic options: retreat or resistance.

Big business and their minions in government constantly urge us to keep our heads down, give concessions to the bosses, and wait for "better days."

This retreat strategy didn't work in the Dirty Thirties during the last "Great Depression," and it won't work today. The economic crisis has not hurt the wealthy, but they are using it as a club to drive working people deeper into poverty and debt. The same corporations which demand lower wages and pensions are reporting profits in the billions.

To survive this attack, working people must fight back. Our sisters and brothers in Greece, Portugal and other European countries are showing the way, organizing mass demonstrations and general strikes to resist the corporate offensive.

But there are many similar struggles right here in Canada. Most of this resistance goes unreported in the corporate media, but workers across the country are standing up for their rights, despite intensive pressure to surrender.

The most powerful example is in Quebec, where the Common Front of public sector workers is



battling the Charest Liberal government to win better wages and working conditions. On March 20, 75,000 public sector workers and supporters marched through the streets of Montreal. More huge rallies have followed, as the Québécois show opposition to the Charest government's pro-corporate budget. This massive struggle may well escalate into a Quebec-wide general strike.

In British Columbia, the Campbell Liberal government is also in deep trouble with working people. A province-wide campaign is underway to force a referendum on the "harmonised sales tax" (HST) which would shift nearly 2 billion dollars each year from working people to the business sector. Angry protests have erupted across the province against brutal cuts to public education. The "Coalition to Build a Better B.C.", initiated by the trade union



75,000 supporters of Québec's Common Front rallied on March 20 in Montreal.

movement, has been joined by Aboriginal peoples, arts groups, seniors, students and many others, to build a strong, united struggle against the government's anti-people policies.

Opposition is beginning to grow in Ontario as well in response to the McGuinty government's imposition of a wage freeze on provincial workers, to cutbacks in services, and plans for privatization.

Solidarity is growing with the heroic struggle of the miners fighting Vale Inco in Sudbury, Port Colborne and Voisey's Bay, and with the *Journal de Montreal* journalists and clerical workers at one of Quebec's largest daily papers. These lengthy battles against highly profitable employers prove the determination of workers to stand up against attempts by the bosses to slash wages and wipe out gains achieved through decades of collective bargaining.

In fact, there are many recent cases of working people across Canada who refuse to surrender to corporate blackmail. These are crucial struggles for our jobs, our families, our communities. This is a fight for our hard-won healthcare, education and other social programs, and indeed for the future of Canada.

But none of these valiant struggles can be won in isolation.

Our watchword must be "an injury to one is an injury to all." We can't succeed by fighting one battle at a time, against bosses and governments expert in divide-and-rule tactics. Today there is an urgent need to build a united, labour-led fightback at every level, including the grassroots. But we also need a Canada-wide response to the crisis. The leadership of the trade union movement can and

must take the initiative, by convening a cross-Canada People's Summit of the entire labour movement and its many allies - Aboriginal peoples, youth and students, women, farmers, seniors and all democratic forces engaged in the struggle for peace, the environment and for labour, democratic and equality rights - to map out a united, coordinated and militant counter-offensive.



British Columbia: underfunding of health and education, and the July 1 imposition of the "Harmonised Sales Tax" have driven public opposition to the Campbell Liberals to record levels.



Thousands rallied in Sudbury to back striking miners, including Brazilian Vale workers.

There are Alternatives!

A People's Recovery plan

Stephen Harper and the big corporations want to make working people pay for the "economic recovery", through lower wages, higher unemployment, and huge cuts in social spending. **We say: those who reap billions in profits must pay!** Unite and fight for an emergency program to put Canada back to work and protect social programs.

A genuine "People's Recovery" plan should include the following:

- * **expand EI** to cover all workers for the full duration of unemployment, with benefits at 90% of former earnings;
- * **protect and expand manufacturing industries** on the basis of a comprehensive value-added industrial policy, and introduce plant closure legislation with teeth;
- * **stop evictions**, mortgage foreclosures and utility cut-offs due to unemployment;
- * **raise the minimum wage to \$16/hr.**, and raise social assistance rates; increase pensions through the Canada Pension Plan to ensure a living pension for all retired workers;
- * **take emergency action** to improve the social and economic conditions of Aboriginal peoples;
- * invest in a massive public construction program to build **affordable social housing**, rebuild Canada's infrastructure, and protect the environment;
- * **expand Medicare**, invest in education and cut tuition,

introduce a universally accessible affordable system of quality public child care.

Some would argue that we "can't afford" such radical changes. **Here's how it can be done, without adding to the burden on working people:**

These immediate "people's recovery" measures should be strengthened by more transformative steps:

- * **nationalize the big banks**, insurance and other financial institutions and place them under public, democratic control;

- Canadian car;
- * **immediately withdraw from NAFTA**, and adopt a diversified, multilateral trade policy based on mutual benefit;
- * introduce a liveable, **guaranteed annual income (GAI)**, and a **shorter work week** with no loss in take-home pay.

foreign policy based on peace and disarmament, and reversing the erosion of our sovereignty. And our efforts to forge unity around such a People's Recovery plan can give rise to a powerful People's Coalition of labour and democratic forces which can press for even more substantial social and economic transformation.

The Communist Party of Canada, the party that led crucial working class struggles which won unemployment insurance and other gains, pledges to do everything in our power to help build and win such struggles.

We urge you to take up these issues in your unions, your workplaces and schools, your communities. If you agree with our proposals, contact us today. Join and build the party that **combines today's urgent fightback with the vision of a socialist future**, one in which unemployment, hunger, exploitation, racism and oppression, are ended forever!



- * **shift the tax burden** from working people onto the corporations and the wealthy;
- * **restore the federal corporate income tax to 28%** which would bring in over \$30 billion annual revenue;
- * **immediately withdraw** from the disastrous war of occupation in Afghanistan and **cut military spending by 50%**, saving another \$10 billion every year.

- * **nationalize the energy industry** to guarantee domestic supply and to provide the material basis to rebuild Canadian industry and create hundreds of thousands of jobs, especially in renewable energy and mass transit;
- * **place the "Big Three" automakers under public ownership and democratic control**, and build a small, fuel-efficient, affordable and environmentally sustainable

Such a plan would move our country in a fundamentally new direction, by placing the needs of working people and our environment before corporate greed, establishing a

Communist Party of Canada
290A Danforth Ave.,
Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6
www.communist-party.ca
info@cpc-pcc.ca

**hate capitalism?
looking for alternatives?**

www.communist-party.ca



Clarté

20 \$ pour 8 numeros
Faites votre chèque au nom
de: People's Voice
5359 av. du Parc, Suite "C"
Montréal, QC H2V 4G9

Prolétaires de tous les pays, peuples et nations opprimés, unissez-vous!

people's VOICE 75,000 march in Montreal See page 7

Global wealth ... and mass poverty

640 million children live without adequate shelter, 400 million have no access to clean water and sanitation, and 270 million lack health services. But in 2009, the number of billionaires world-wide soared from 793 to 1,011. - See report on page 6 -

INSIDE

- 2 Free Speech
- 3 Coalition for BC
- 7 Winning in Sudbury

People's Voice

Every issue of People's Voice gives you the latest on the fightback from coast to coast. Whether it's the struggle for jobs or peace, resistance to social cuts, solidarity with Cuba or workers' struggles around the world, we've got the news the corporate media won't print.

\$30 for one year, \$50 for 2 years
low income - \$15/one year
\$50/yr. for U.S. and overseas

**People's Voice, 706 Clark Drive,
Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3J1**

rebel youth
now is the time to organize!

inside
Young workers & the 'jobless recovery'
LE CHÔMAGE MONDIAL
Ritiré la omédie...
CLIMATE CHANGE
In love with Moore's Capitalism?
PLUS: Palestinian hip hop; 2010 Olympics; & way more!
Issue #9 | \$2.50

**\$12 for 3 issues: Rebel Youth, 290A Danforth Ave
Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1N6**

Washington's Double Standards

The Cuban Five and the Assassination of Fabio di Celmo

By Arnold August, April 18, 2010

The alternative media in countries such as the USA and Canada are trying to further break the silence regarding the Cuban Five. One such media is Radio-Montréal in Quebec. The host of the weekly program in French, *Le Monde, cette semaine* (the World this Week), André Pesant, invited me once again to exchange views with him about this case.

The five Cubans were sent to south Florida in the 1990s to infiltrate terrorist organisations operating for decades with impunity against Cuba. Over 3,000 Cubans were killed and 2,000 seriously maimed by terrorist activities in Cuba since the revolution of January 1, 1959. The Cuban authorities have continuously pressed Washington

prevented them from properly preparing for their defence.

The result:

Gerardo Hernandez: two life sentences and the continued refusal for over 11 years to receive the visit of his wife Adriana Perez.

Rene Gonzales: 15 years and the continued refusal for over 10 years to receive the visit of his wife Olga Salanueva.

Antonio Guerrero: Life sentence plus 10 years, subsequently reduced in the fall of 2009 to 22 years.

Ramon Labanino: Life sentence later reduced to 30 years.

Fernando Gonzalez: 19 years subsequently reduced to 17 years and 9 months.

The families of Antonio, Ramon and Fernando have to overcome one obstacle after another to visit the prisoners. All five have been kept in the worst conditions in an obvious attempt to break their spirit: Gerardo, Antonio and Ramon are kept in high security prisons, while Fernando and Rene are in FDC (Federal Detention Facilities).

The original trial, coupled with the double punishment which consists of refusing appropriate family visits, violates US laws, jurisprudence and penitentiary rules. Regarding the holding of the jury trial in Miami, international law consists, amongst others, of article 14 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states in part that "all persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law."

Those who have taken a stand from around the globe include parliamentarians (such as 56 members of the Canadian Parliament from Quebec and Canada), heads of states, trade unions (such as the most of the main unions in Canada and Quebec), student associations such as the Canadian Federation of Students, ten Nobel Prize laureates, human rights organizations and innumerable personalities.

On May 27, 2005 the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention also took a stand in favour of the Five. A record number of 12 prestigious "Friends



Montreal demonstrators demand to free the five Cuban prisoners.

of the Court" petitioned the US Supreme Court to revise the case which was brought to this highest court in the land by the Cuban 5 lawyers. However, despite the world-wide condemnation, the US Supreme Court refused to review the case in 2009. To add insult to injury, the Supreme Court did not give any reason for its denial.

The Cuban Five committee in Quebec is called the *Comité Fabio di Celmo pour les 5*. Fabio di Celmo was one of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Cuba, the very type of activity that the Cuban Five were trying to halt.

In 1997 the Miami-based terrorists organized a program to disrupt the tourist industry on the island. Fabio was in a Havana hotel when a bomb placed in the lobby exploded and killed him. Fabio di Celmo was a young Italian, living at the time in Italy as well as in Montreal. He had been granted residence status in Canada. At the time of his assassination he was awaiting Canadian citizenship. And so the Table de concertation de solidarite Québec-Cuba (the Concertation Table of Quebec-Cuba Solidarity) decided to name its special committee in honour of Fabio di Celmo. Some of his family live in Montreal, notably his brother Livio di Celmo.

The self-admitted assassin of Fabio di Celmo and author of other actions such as the blowing up the Cubana de Aviacion airline flight in 1976 which killed 73 Cuban civilians is Luis Posada Carriles. André read out portions of a New York Times interview with Carriles in which he actually takes credit for these activities. Carriles and others like him presently walk the streets in Miami, free as a bird. He even actively takes part at this time in the current media campaign against Cuba.

How is it that five Cubans are in prison for opposing terrorism, while avowed terrorists such as Carriles are in liberty? This and other similar examples show the double standard and hypocritical policy of the USA. The family of Fabio di Celmo is understandably outraged by this double standard on terrorism and human rights, demanding that justice be carried out: Carriles should be tried for his crimes.

This frustrating lack of justice is all the more reason to support the work of Committees such as

the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five which have organized a massive postcard campaign. Tens of thousands of cards are being sent from all continents in dozens of languages directly to Obama. In Québec, the Fabio di Celmo committee organizes monthly pickets in front of the US consulate in Montreal and is circulating a petition. These actions and similar ones in Canada such as in Vancouver and Toronto all have one main goal: to force president Obama to use his constitutional right to grant pardon and free the

Cuban Five. With the stroke of a pen Obama can do so. In the meantime, committees, organizations and personalities around the world are demanding the granting of visas on a humanitarian basis to Adriana Perez and Olga Salanueva so that they can visit their respective husbands imprisoned in the USA.

(Arnold August is a member of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five and the Comité Fabio di Celmo pour les Cinq of the Table de concertation de solidarite Québec-Cuba.) ●



to stop this action emanating from their territory, but to no avail. The only choice open to Cuba was to gather the information and provide it to the US authorities so that action is taken against those responsible. This is what the five Cuban citizens did. However, when all the evidence was presented to the FBI representatives in Havana, instead of arresting the perpetrators of these crimes, they arrested the five Cubans.

The kangaroo court proceedings were held in Miami, despite the objections of their lawyer to the impossibility of having a free, fair and impartial trial in that city. Miami is the hotbed for violent anti-Cuban action. The Five were also held in solitary confinement (the "hole") for 17 months after their arrest on September 12, 1998, unable to communicate with each other or their families. Their confinement



MAY DAY Greetings

A Celebration of people's victories
for basic human rights

Canadian-Cuban Friendship Assn. Toronto
P.O. Box 743, Station F, Toronto ON M4Y 2N6
Tel: (416)410-8254 Fax: (905)951-7629
Email: info@ccfatoronto.ca www.ccfatoronto.ca

Cuban women to speak at Vancouver May Day celebration

Two representatives of the Federacion de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC - the Cuban Women's Federation) will tour B.C. from April 27 to May 7, at the invitation of the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association-Vancouver. As one of the highlights of their tour, the women will be keynote speakers at the annual May Day celebration held at the Maritime Labour Centre (1880 Triumph Street, three blocks north of Hastings & Victoria Drive). The event begins at 6:30 pm, Sat., May 1.

The delegation includes Yanira Kuper Herrera, a member of the National Committee of the FMC and an official in its Foreign

Relations Department; and Maritzel Gonzalez-Quevedo Alpizar, the FMC's Foreign Relations Department official in charge of North America.

Founded in 1961, the CCFA-Vancouver is the oldest North American group working on friendship and solidarity with Cuba. The CCFA's AGM will take place on Sunday, May 2, 1:30 pm, at the ChileanCo-op, 3390 School Ave. (south of Kingsway & Tyne) in east Vancouver. The FMC guests will bring their greetings to the meeting.

For more information, contact CCFA-Vancouver president Ray Viaud, 604-254-1350. ●

May Day Greetings!
Donald Davidson, Vancouver



**CUBAN-CANADIAN
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
(Vancouver)**

Greets all workers on MAY DAY, and ratifies its solidarity with the Cuban workers in their struggle against the US blockade. Special greetings to the five Cuban workers who are unjustly held prisoners in the US.

**Box 1063 - 2480 E. Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC, V5K 1Z1
Ph. (604)940-0420, Fax (604)254-9803**



GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

Mass arrests in India price protest

Over 2,200 activists of the Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India (Marxist), including 550 women, were arrested at over 15 places in Coimbatore district on April 8, during picket demonstrations against the central and state governments for their "flawed economic policies and failure to combat the price rise".

In a joint news release, the Communist parties condemned the steep increase in prices of essential commodities, and the governments for failing to protect ordinary people.

Those arrested include current and former members of parliament, party functionaries, elected representatives and trade union leaders.

As many as 4,447 members of CPI(M) and CPI, including 1,169 women, courted arrest by blocking 12 roads in the Coimbatore district to press their charter of 'pro-people' demands. The Left parties want the Central Government to increase the quantities of rice, wheat, pulses, sugar and edible oil supplied to consumers through India's Public Distribution System. They also demand a ban on futures trading of essential commodities, arguing that this practice encourages higher prices.

Another focus of the protests is to press the central government to widen the purview of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), so that it can also provide employment to poor located in urban areas, and to increase the minimum days of employment and wage scales under MGNREGS.

The protests also condemned the attacks unleashed by Maoists and Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, where hundreds of Communists have been killed or wounded in a campaign to overthrow the state's Left Front government and force early elections.

Polynesia Hilton hotel workers on hunger strike

In French Polynesia, 60 workers who lost their jobs when the Tahiti Hilton Hotel closed its doors in March say they will continue their hunger strike until they are given a better redundancy package. The group is represented by the O Oe O Te Rima trade union, and have been camping outside the hotel since losing their jobs.

The hunger strike began in mid-April, when the group demanded a meeting with the hotel's owner, Louis Wane, to renegotiate the terms of their layoffs. Management has refused to react to the strike action, saying the redundancy negotiations have already been completed. Louis Wane is currently in Singapore, but trade union leaders say he is considering meeting them on his return. French Polynesia has experienced a significant drop in tourist numbers,

which was one of the reasons the Hotel was forced to close.

Rio Tinto lockout at Boron

More than 1,000 union and community activists, joined by about 200 locked-out miners and their families, marched outside the British consulate in Los Angeles on April 16 to protest British-owned Rio Tinto's lockout of 600 miners at its Boron, California, borax mine. The march and rally was one of several in the U.S. and Canada to support the members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 30, who have been locked out since



Jan. 31. The group chose the consulate target because Rio Tinto is a British-based global mining giant which is hurting an entire town.

The miners and their families drove from Boron, about 150 km northeast of Los Angeles, and joined a convoy of cars and big rigs that circled the consulate before setting up a picket line. Speaking from the bed of a pickup truck, Maria Elena Durazo, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, urged the British government to use its influence with Rio Tinto to "End the lock out now... You're the British government. We expect you to do the right thing."

In San Francisco, some 200 activists and locked-out miners marched and chanted outside the building that houses the consulate. After discussions with police on the scene, locked-out ILWU Local

30 member Tom Owen was allowed to go upstairs to the consulate offices and meet with consular officials. He delivered a declaration signed by the demonstrators urging an end to the lock out.

Supporters also rallied in Salt Lake City and Vancouver, B.C.

Rio Tinto has a history of human rights abuse around the globe. In Boron, the company locked out the workers after they voted down a giveback-packed contract from Rio Tinto. According to the ILWU, Rio Tinto in 2009 made nearly \$5 billion in profits, despite a worldwide recession. The London-based company operates mines on five continents and has a long record of union-busting actions.

Spain's largest union expects labour accords

Spain's largest union will likely sign an agreement with employers about labour reforms in the first half of May, the head of labour union CCOO told Reuters recently. The agreement will focus on a reduction in working hours, an overhaul of hiring incentives and measures to incorporate youth workers and the long-term unemployed into the workforce, Ignacio Fernandez Toxo said.

"In the first half of May there should be an agreement," said Toxo, who hopes such a deal can reduce Spain's unemployment rate, which at nearly 20 percent is the highest in Europe. "We have more than 4 million people unemployed in Spain and at least some of them could have been spared if some measures such as a reduction of the working day had been introduced earlier."

Spain's economy is locked into its worst recession in half a century. The country could become the only leading European economy that fails to return to growth this year as it struggles to recover from the bursting of a housing bubble.

In another development, Spanish unions have dropped a possible general strike after the government backed down from plans to raise the retirement age to 67 from 65. Spanish workers staged several protests against the proposed rise

in the retirement age in March.

"We did not like the government's proposal on pensions and we reacted... I think the warning was enough and this idea of raising the retirement age to 67 has disappeared and I hope nothing will bring it back," Toxo said.

Turkish workers back constitutional amendments

Turkish workers, civil servants and retirees unions have welcomed articles 5, 6 and 7 of the government's constitutional amendment package, which strengthen their rights by loosening prohibitions on strikes and empower public employees and retirees to engage in collective bargaining.

Article 5 of the package would enact changes in the right to establish and enroll in unions. The amendment makes it possible for a person to be a member of more than one union at one time. Article 6 allows collective bargaining for civil servants and retirees, while making an Arbitration Board's decisions on final wages binding if the sides cannot reach an

agreement. With this change, the government loses its chance to always have the last word in bargaining with public employees. It also means that the wages public sector workers and retirees will rise, given that the Arbitration Board has always offered an amount higher than what the government proposed. In Turkey, there are 2.5 million public sector workers and 9 million retirees. At present, retirees get pension increases every year equal to the annual rate of inflation.

Article 7 curtails some restrictions on strikes; unions will not be held responsible for material damage caused to companies during strikes, even if this damage was a result of purposeful acts of workers and unions. Additionally, rules that ban calling a strike for political reasons or to demonstrate solidarity with other workers will be removed from the Constitution.

Commenting on the changes, one trade union leader said that the package finally rendered the negotiating table meaningful. "We had announced before that we wouldn't sit at the table with the government, but the amendment closed a big gap. We have become a partner instead of a supplicant. This is a very significant change."

May Day Greetings from the Solidarity House

MAY DAY 2010



Workers of the world, unite!

779 Barton St East, Hamilton, On.
Solidarityhouse@gmail.com

Many items in our "Global Class Struggle" column are from the Labour Start website, www.labourstart.org

Send me information on the Communist Party of Canada

The Communist Party of Canada, formed in 1921, has a proud history of fighting for jobs, equality, peace, Canadian independence, and socialism. The CPC does much more than run candidates in elections. We think the fight against big business and its parties is a year-round job, so our members are active across the country, to build our party and to help strengthen people's movements on a wide range of issues. All our policies and leadership are set democratically by our members. To find out more about Canada's party of socialism, contact the nearest CPC office.

Central Committee CPC

290A Danforth Ave, Toronto, Ont., M4K 1N6
Ph. (416)469-2446 Fax (416)469-4063 E-mail <info@cpc-pcc.ca>

Parti Communiste du Quebec (section du Parti communiste du Canada)
5359 Ave Du Parc, Suite "C"
Montreal, Quebec H2V 4G9
Email: pcq@cpc-pcc.ca

Ottawa CPC
Tel: 613-232-7108

Manitoba Committee CPC
387 Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg, R2W 2M3
Tel/fax: 204-586-7824

B.C. Committee CPC
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, V5L 3J1
Tel: 604-254-9836 E-mail: cpbc@telus.net

Ontario Ctee. CPC
290A Danforth Ave., Toronto, M4K 1N6
Tel: 416-469-2446

Edmonton CPC
Box 68112, 70 Bonnie Doon PO
Edmonton, AB, T6C 4N6
Tel: 780-465-7893 Fax: 780-463-0209

Hamilton Ctee. CPC
265 Melvin Ave., Apt. 815
Hamilton, ON,
Tel: 905-548-9586


Calgary CPC
Unit #1, 19 Radcliffe Close SE,
Calgary, T2A 6B2 Tel: 403-248-6489

Atlantic Region CPC
Box 70, Grand Pré, NS, B0P 1M0
Tel/fax: 902-542-7981

Saskatchewan CPC
Email: <mail@communist-party-sk.ca>

For Freedom, Democracy and Social Justice in Iran

May Day Greetings from the Tudeh Party of Iran in Canada



Demand the unconditional release of union leader Mansour Osanloo and other political prisoners from the Iranian Prisons

South Korea's struggle for democratic rights

By Sean Burton

Organized Korean workers do not beat around the bush when it comes to their working conditions and rights, and there have been numerous successes in their fight against South Korea's reactionary ruling circles in the past sixty years. Though present-day South Korea is hardly a beacon of social progress, conditions are considerably better than twenty or thirty years ago.

Mass resistance to the detested military dictatorships flared up on a number of occasions. One of the most notable events was the Gwangju Democratization Movement of May 1980. Following the assassination of General Park Chung Hee the previous year, South Korea's long suppressed democratic movement began to mobilize again.

The new military government instituted martial law, and on May 15, 1980, over 100,000 people protested in Seoul. In response, the government expanded martial law and shut down universities and banned political activities. Troops were also sent around the country, including to university campuses. Fighting broke out in the southern city of Gwangju on May 18, and numerous civilians were killed. Instead of being cowed into submission, many people banded together and raided armouries and police stations to obtain weapons and form militias. The South Korean army eventually attacked the city in force and defeated the militias on the 27th, resulting in over two thousand casualties. The legitimacy of the regime was severely undermined, and the Gwangju Massacre became a rallying cry during the 1980s to end military rule.

There have also been many attempts to improve labour conditions. It is hardly surprising that labour rights during the military dictatorship were quite limited. Labour activists put themselves at great risk, since



Mangwol-dong cemetery in Gwangju, where victims of the May 1980 military attack were buried.

complaining could be labelled as "unpatriotic", and perhaps "pro-communist". After Park Chung Hee's coup in 1961, there was only the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU), and this was under the control of the government.

The self immolation of Jeon Tae-il in 1970 was a notable catalyst for organizing independent labour unions in South Korea. Jeon, a tailor, had been particularly appalled by conditions at the Seoul Peace Market. These included many cases of tuberculosis due to poor ventilation, and forced injections of amphetamines to keep workers awake. Jeon's protests were dismissed by the government, and the exasperated 22-year old set himself on fire in downtown Seoul to demand enforcement of the labour code.

Though various labour

organizations sprang up afterwards, the FKTU remained the only legal federation of unions until 1999. Military rule ended by the early 1990s, but there were still many struggles afterwards. There was another self-immolation in the late 1990s as the government of Kim Yong Sam attempted to introduce a widely disliked labour policy. There was a strike led by the then-illegal Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), and clashes with the police.

Where do things stand now? Few will forget the massive beef-import protests of 2008, and the nation's unions, particularly the KCTU, are in regular conflict with the staunchly conservative Lee Myung Bak government. And now Samsung, one of the south's most powerful corporations, is facing criticism for the working conditions in its plants. Late in March, a worker at one of

Samsung's semiconductor factories died from leukemia. She began working there in 2004. According to the *Hankyoreh* newspaper, her job involved using "tweezers to place the semiconductors in a hot lead solution and other chemicals, remove them and use an x-ray machine to inspect them". She first fell ill in 2007 and briefly recovered after a bone-marrow transplant. A human rights group at the plant has stated that about twenty workers at two semiconductor plants have been diagnosed with blood-related cancers, of who eight have died. Samsung has also denied any responsibility.

However, a former maintenance

engineer recently came forward and stated that the company is lying about working conditions; that accidents were commonplace and dangerous materials were being improperly handled. In some cases, warning alarms were ignored and deactivated and managers kept silent. There have since been demonstrations demanding action from the company. Samsung did open up one of its plants for media coverage. However, the company only allowed access to two of the newer production lines, and for just thirty minutes. It is unclear what will develop from this and subsequent investigations, but the working people of South Korea still have a long battle ahead of them. ●

May Day Greetings: The Good Fight Continues

Mackenzie-Papineau Memorial Fund
and the Association of Vets & Friends of the
Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion
International Brigades in Spain 1936-1939



The first Canadians who volunteered
to fight against the fascists and
nazis of World War II

56 Riverwood Ter., Bolton, ON L7E 1S4
Tel: 905-951-8499 Fax: 905-951-7629
Email: info@macpapbattalion.ca
www.macpapbattalion.ca Charitable org.

MAY DAY GREETINGS!

**Greek-Canadian
Democratic Organization**

**Taras H. Shevchenko Museum &
Memorial Park Foundation**

May Day greetings and firm
solidarity to all working
people in struggle for a better
future in a peaceful world!



Visit our web site at
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum



**Association of Greek-Canadian
Veterans of the
National Resistance
(1941-1945)**

290 Danforth Avenue,
Toronto, Ont., M4K 1N6
Tel. 416-466-2336

We send Greetings to all progressive
people on this May Day 2010



May Day greetings
in solidarity
with Canada's
working people
in our struggle
for a better life!

AUUC Toronto Branch

MAY DAY GREETINGS!

To People's Voice readers and
to working people everywhere!

Belogiannis Club CPC

GTA West Club, CPC
Extends its Solidarity
to Working People
On May Day

**Salute to
workers
on May
Day
2010!**

**Nanaimo
Club
CPC**

Ecuador challenges oil giants

The Ecuadorean government has threatened to take over foreign oil concessions if the companies resist growing state control of the industry. The government has been pressing the companies to give up concessions that give them a share of oil field profits and accept service contracts instead.

President Correa said during a televised address on April 17: "Every day that passes there are millions of dollars going to these companies that should be going to the Ecuadorean state. I'm out of patience. We are sending a bill to Congress that would allow for the expropriation of oil fields should the companies not want to

sign the new contracts. The oil companies are playing with us. In the coming weeks there are going to be very considerable actions. I have no regard for these companies, which have abused our country."

Foreign oil companies operating in Ecuador currently include Brazil's oil giant Petrobras, Repsol-YPF, dominated by Spanish and Argentine capital, and Chinese-owned Andes Petroleum.

In 2008, Ecuador defaulted on \$3.2 billion of foreign debt which Correa described as "illegitimate", calling the international lenders "monsters".

Ecuador is Latin America's fifth-biggest oil producer but World Bank estimates show that some 56% of the country's 13.4 million people live in poverty. That figure rises to more than 80% for indigenous Ecuadoreans, who are mainly small farmers in mountainous highlands. ●

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO THE READERS OF THE WORLD!

People's Co-op Bookstore

1391 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3K5
Ph. (604)253-6442 or toll-free: 1-888-511-5556

Have you donated to the People's Voice 2010 Fund Drive yet?



In Loving Memory Sam Randall

Cummins Northwest Parts Striker

Died April 28, 1999
Vancouver, Washington

Sam, brother-in-law to Roy L. Piepenburg, Edmonton, took his own life after being replaced by scabs, locked out and fired. Sam had been with Cummins for 27 years.

Local 1005, Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Canadians for Peace & Socialism

May Day 2010



★ Jobs and a Living Wage for All! ★ Taxes for Peace Not US-NATO Wars!
★ Make Parliament Act for People's Needs! ★ Put Monopoly Under Control!

May Day 2010 takes place at a moment when another global failure of the capitalist system continues to wreak economic havoc on the lives of millions of workers and their families. The working people have been abandoned by their governments. Senior governments collaborate with big business, diverting state resources from social needs of the people to a profit recovery for the banks, stock markets, private investors and a small parasitical class of wealth and privilege.

On this May Day join with organized labour, the militant rank and file, all oppressed and disadvantaged people and take up the struggle for a new direction for Canada in the interests of all those who labour to live.

Left Turn Canada!

VI Lenin



140 Years!

For a Working Class Solution to a Capitalist Crisis on May Day Unite with Labour!

For Peace, Jobs, Income and Housing for All
Defeat the Corporate Attack on Workers' Wages,
Pensions, Public Healthcare and Social Programs

Capitalism is the Problem
Socialism is the Answer!

www.FocusOnSocialism.ca



MUSIC NOTES

By Wally Brooker

Oscar Peterson statue in Ottawa

One of Canada's greatest musicians, jazz pianist Oscar Peterson (1925-2007) will be honoured with a statue in Ottawa. The bronze work by sculptor Ruth Abernethy will be unveiled June 30 at the National Arts Centre. Oscar Peterson was born and raised in a working-class district of Montreal. Because his railway worker father, an immigrant from the Virgin Islands, was a union member (Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters), he was able to provide a musical education for Oscar and his pianist sister Daisy. The NAC Foundation has launched a public appeal to raise \$210,000 for the statue, but it would be more fitting if parliament simply voted the funds. Why not restore those slashed corporate taxes and put some of the extra cash into cultural spending, including honouring great artists?

Gloria Estefan's anti-Cuba campaign

Singer Gloria Estefan headlined a March 28 rally in Miami in support of the so-called Ladies in White. While Estefan held aloft a photo of this dubious Cuban group (which to date has never been arrested or harmed), convicted terrorist Luis Posada Carriles grinned and waved to the crowd. Posada Carriles was the mastermind of the 1976 bombing of Cubana Flight 455 which killed 73 people. U.S. courts have refused to extradite him to Venezuela to face justice. Estefan is the daughter of a bodyguard of former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista.

O'Connor urges "full confession"

Irish singer Sinead O'Connor's fight against the sexual abuse of children in the Roman Catholic church goes back a long time. She tore up a photograph of Pope John Paul II before millions of viewers on *Saturday Night Live* in 1992, after adding a verse about child abuse to the Bob Marley song *War*. Now 43 and a mother of four, O'Connor continues to speak out. In response to the latest revelations and the role of Pope Benedict XVI (then Cardinal Ratzinger) in the coverup, O'Connor is calling for Irish Catholics to boycott mass until the pope makes "a full confession" and agrees to "a full criminal investigation." Her stunning *Saturday Night Live* performance can be found on YouTube.

Lilith Fair removes anti-choice groups

Lilith Fair organizers have backed off from their decision to allow "crisis pregnancy centres" to contest for donations to local women's groups. The travelling music festival, founded by Canadian singer Sarah McLachlan, raised millions of dollars for women's charities and promoted local artists as well as big-name acts. While most recipients have been women's shelters and health clinics, the decision this year to allow fans to "choose their charity" from a pre-selected Facebook menu resulted in anti-choice groups being added in some U.S. cities. In response to protest, Lilith Fair has removed these groups and promised to release a set of criteria that will "resolve most of the issues." Crisis pregnancy centres seek to persuade women to give birth but do not offer advice on the available options.

Did China really ban Dylan?

Taiwanese concert promoter Broker Brothers Herald told the *South China Morning Post* on April 3 that the Chinese government did not give permission to stage Bob Dylan concerts in Beijing and Shanghai. *The Guardian* and other western media quickly picked up on the story, giving it a censorship spin. Doubts emerged a few days later when journalists with *The Atlantic* and *Wall Street Journal* published online stories that dug deeper. It turned out that no tickets had been sold, no venues confirmed and Dylan's official website listed no China dates. Bloggers on the Chinese music scene wrote that the Taipei promoter was trying to flip the rights to a mainland promoter and was asking for too much money. Follow-up calls by journalists to the promoter were stonewalled, and China's Ministry of Culture has stated that it never received an application for a Dylan performance.

On Ricky Martin "coming out"

Puerto Rican superstar Ricky Martin, 38, whose sexualized dance videos over the past two decades have never featured same-sex couples, ended years of speculation last month when he posted a message on his website stating that he is "a fortunate homosexual man." It's easy to call this a publicity stunt or say "we knew it all along," but that would miss the point. Even in supposedly enlightened North America, LGBT people are still subject to legal discrimination and violence. When someone like Martin comes out of the closet, it sends a positive message to countless LGBT people throughout the world.

Capitalism cannot withstand one moment without workers. Hold high the honoured red flag of our class!



Les amis du KKE, Montréal



The Montréal Veterans Association of the Greek National Resistance, 1941-45 wishes all progressive people a happy May 1st



FOR A UNITED, MILITANT & MASS STRUGGLE

Cellule Beloyannis, Montréal

MAY DAY GREETINGS to the Peoples Voice from the Eric Blair Club of the Communist Party in St. Catharines/Niagara, Ontario

FIGHT BUDGET CUTS AT BROCK UI!
KEEP CANADIAN WINE 100% CANADIAN!
HUMAN RIGHTS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS!
STOP THE P3s, KEEP HOSPITALS 100% PUBLIC!
CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN AND NATO!
STOP THE P3s, KEEP HOSPITALS 100% PUBLIC!
PROTECT PENSIONS AND EXTEND EI BENEFITS FOR THE FULL DURATION!
SUPPORT STRIKING INCO WORKERS!
KEEP OUR EMERGENCY ROOMS OPEN AND LOCAL!



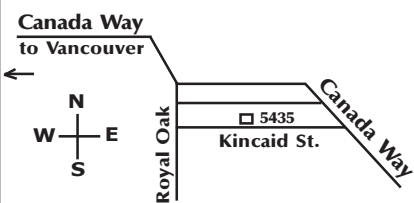
ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

10 am, Sunday, May 9
(last call for pancakes - noon)

\$10.00 (kids under 12 \$8.00)

5435 Kincaid St. Burnaby



Proceeds to People's Voice

What's Left

Victoria, BC

May Day celebration, May 1, at BCGEU office, 2994 Douglas St., 5 pm potluck, 7-9 forum, organized by Communities Solidarity Coalition and Victoria Coalition Against Poverty.

Burnaby, BC

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, May 9, 10 am-1 pm, (last call for pancakes at 12 noon). All you can eat, \$10/person (\$8 under 12), 5435 Kincaid St. Proceeds to People's Voice, auspices Burnaby Club CPC. Info: Anna 604-294-6775.

Vancouver, BC

May Day activities, Sat., May 1, march starting 12 noon, from Clark Park (14th & Commercial), evening celebration at Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph St. For info, call VDLC, 604-254-0703.

Canadian-Cuban Friendship Assoc. AGM, Sun., May 2, 1:30 pm, Chilean Co-op, 3390 School Ave. (south of Kingsway & Tyne), with guests from the Federation of Cuban Women. Info: Ray, 604-254-1350.

Spring Bazaar, Sat., May 8, 11 am-4 pm, Russian Hall, 600 Campbell Ave.

Communist Party of Canada 89th anniversary, forum and celebration, 7:30 pm, Thursday, May 27, 706 Clark Drive. Sponsor: Vancouver East Club CPC, 604-255-2041.

Stop Harper's War Now, anti-war rally, 1 pm, Sat., May 29, Vancouver Art Gallery, organized by StopWar peace coalition, www.stopwar.ca.

Revolutionary May Day

Greetings from the Shafik Handal Club (Guelph-Kitchener)

Left Film Night, Sunday, May 30, 7 pm, "From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks," on ILWU leader Harry Bridges. Free admission, donations welcome, Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive. For info, call 604-255-2041.

Edmonton, AB

May Day Cabaret, Sat., May 1, 7 pm, Ukrainian Centre, 11018-97 St., featuring Notre Dame des Bananes choir and Maria Dunn, tickets \$15 (\$8 low-income), call Naomi, 465-7893.

Winnipeg, MB

Mayworks events: *Club Native*, May 4-5, 7 pm, film on exclusion and attitudes that confront First Nations people, at Cinematheque, 100 Arthur. *The Best of the Left: 1994 to 2009*, Sat, May 8, 7 pm, with Winnipeg Labour Choir, at Gas Station Theatre, 445 River, call 774-8573. *General Strike Bus Tour*, May 9, 1-4 pm, from Union Centre, 275 Broadway. \$10 (limited seating), 947-2220.

Toronto, ON

March for Status for All!, 1 pm, Sat., May 1, from Wellesley St. and Ontario St., annual march for workers' rights organized by No One Is Illegal and other groups.

May Day 2010 celebration, solidarity with workers around the world, Sat., May 1, 7 pm, Greek Hall, 290 Danforth Ave. (Chester subway). Speakers,

live music, food, ausp. People's Voice, call 416-469-2481.

People's Summit fundraiser, Mon., May 10, Steelworker's Hall, 25 Cecil, including dinner, entertainment, speech by OFL president Sid Ryan. Tickets \$25, proceeds to 2010 People's Summit in Toronto, for details call Marya, 647.702.7914.

Bazaar & White Elephant Sale, Sat., May 29, 11-4, AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor West (between Dundas and Keele). Arts & crafts, bake table, bingo, raffle, bargains galore, lunch and refreshments. Tables for rent \$15. For info, contact Patricia, 416-604-8724.

G8/G20 rally and march, Sat., June 26, 1 pm, from Queen's Park to Trinity Bellwoods Park, for info see page 3, or call 416-441-3710.

Montreal, QC

May Day, rally at Metro Lionel Groulx, noon, May 1, march to Park St. Gabriel in Pointe St. Charles, food and entertainment. South Shore rally, gather 10 am at 30 Park St. Charles, march at 11 pm to Le Moyne Park. Evening event at Association des Travailleurs Grecs, 5359 Ave du Parc. For information: 514-279-3526.

Parti Communiste du Québec and Clarté Office launch, 1 pm, Sunday, May 9, at Association des Travailleurs Grecs Hall, 5359 Ave du Parc. Live music, refreshments, political discussion on the Common Front and the fightback.

May Day Greetings to the working class of Canada

National Executive Committee of the Parti Communiste du Québec

Proletaires de tous les pays, peuples et nations opprimés, Unissez-vous!



Gary Campbell; Lauri Honkala

We are saddened to hear that two longstanding supporters of People's Voice and members of the Communist Party passed away recently in British Columbia: Gary Campbell, a New Westminster civic worker and CUPE activist, and Lauri Honkala, who played a key role in building People's Voice circulation in the Kelowna region over the past two decades. Watch our next issue for obituaries.

People's Voice deadlines:

MAY 16-31 issue: Thursday, May 6

JUNE 1-15 issue: Thursday, May 20

Send submissions to PV Editorial Office, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, V5L 3J1, <pvoice@telus.net>

Revolutionary May Day greetings to our comrades and friends at People's Voice and Rebel Youth.

For a socialist Canada!

Editorial Board, Marxism-Leninism Today

www.MLToday.com



ASSOCIATION DES TRAVAILLEURS GRECS DE MONTRÉAL
(514) 279-3526

May 1: International Workers' Day

By Randy Banderob and David Roberts/Update/OSSTF/CALM

May 1, International Workers' Day, is commemorated as Labour Day in most countries.

In the early 1800s, the six-day work week, with each day being 12 hours long, was common. Although some owners allowed employees to work shorter hours on Saturdays, other businesses required much more. Some bakers reported working 20-hours a day, seven days a week.

Workers' demands for 10-hour days were heard in both Europe and North America. By the middle of the century some gains were made. In 1837, U.S. president Martin Van Buren announced that all government employees would work 10 hours a day. Other workers used this to negotiate similar conditions.

Workers in Australia, however,

were ahead of their time. They demanded an eight-hour work day using the slogan, "eight hours work, eight hours recreation, eight hours rest," and they successfully secured this demand in 1856.

In 1884 in Chicago, Illinois, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (which later became the American Federation of Labor) at its national convention proclaimed that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labour from and after May 1, 1886." In the spring of 1886, hundreds of thousands of workers across the nation organized strikes in support.

In Chicago, 40,000 workers prepared for the strikes and distributed leaflets that said, "Make your demand for eight hours with weapons in your hands to meet the capitalistic bloodhounds, police, and militia in the proper manner." As the days passed the number of

striking workers swelled to 100,000. Even scabs, who had been brought in as replacement workers, began joining the protest. Warnings of possible bloodshed proved true and scores of protesting workers were beaten with clubs and shot by police.

In response to police violence, labour leaders arranged for a rally at Chicago's Haymarket. The rally was not terribly well attended and the mood of the crowd was peaceful enough so that even the mayor stopped to listen. However, at 10:30 pm, just as the rally's last speaker was finishing, a group of policemen moved in to disperse the group. As the police line advanced, someone threw a bomb into their ranks. The resulting explosion killed one police officer on the spot and sent the rest into a panic. They fired indiscriminately, killing workers, wounding civilians, and even shooting each other. Seven police

officers died later of their injuries.

Soon afterwards, the protest organizers were arrested, tried and summarily sentenced to death. The four went to the gallows singing "La Marseillaise," and one shouted, "The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today!" Today, their trial is considered to have been one of the most egregious miscarriages of justice in U.S. history.

The Haymarket rally leaders'

deaths only strengthened the resolve of the labour movement. Two years later, the American Federation of Labor wrote to its European counterpart, the Second International, requesting that they join in the fight for the eight-hour day, and that this new international effort use the date of May 1st to recognize the tragedy of the Haymarket affair. Since that time, May 1 has been known as International Workers' Day. ●

End the occupation of Afghanistan!

**Jacob Penner
Norman Bethune
Club**

**Winnipeg,
Manitoba**

Greetings to the workers of the world!

For jobs, peace and socialism!

**Jacob Penner-Norman Bethune Club
Mathew Popowich Club
Club Fightback (Brandon)**

**Manitoba Committee,
Communist Party of Canada**

**For Peace
and Justice Between
Israelis and Palestinians**

**United Jewish
People's Order**



MAY DAY 2010

**Eliminate Tuition!
Grants Not Loans!
No Criminalization
of Dissent!
No Flat Fees!**

University of Toronto Club, CPC

**Fight for peace, jobs, equality and democracy!
Unite to demand a People's Recovery!**

MAY DAY GREETINGS



**Central Committee,
Communist Party of Canada**

www.communist-party.ca

**NEWS FOR PEOPLE,
NOT FOR PROFITS!**

Every issue of PEOPLE'S VOICE gives you the latest on the fightback from coast to coast. Whether it's the struggle to defeat the HarperTories, resistance to social cuts, solidarity with Cuba or workers' struggles around the world, we've got the news the corporate media won't print.

And we do more than that—we report and analyze events from a revolutionary perspective, helping to build the movements for justice and equality, and eventually for a socialist Canada. Read the paper that fights for working people—on every page—in every issue!

people's
VOICE

- \$30 for 1 year \$50 for 2 years
- Low income special rate: \$15 for 1 year
- Outside Canada: \$45 US or \$50 Cnd for 1 year

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Send to: People's Voice,
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

10/07



Solidarity this Mayday
Public sector workers club Toronto