

JUNE  
16-30,  
2015

VOL. 23  
#11

\$1.50

# people's VOICE

On-to-Ottawa  
80th anniversary  
Page 2

Printed in Canada by union labour  
on recycled paper  118-44  
Publications Mail Agreement #40011632

## The growing threat of secret corporate profit deals



TTIP/CETA - page 12

TTP - page 5

TISA - page 3



## Truth and Reconciliation report on cultural genocide

... but PM Harper gives chilly response  
to call for action: See pages 4, 6, 7



Image from [www.itk.ca/media](http://www.itk.ca/media)

**5**

### No joy in job numbers

StatsCan reports the creation of 59,000 jobs during May, but almost half were part-time. Compared to April, temporary employment increased twice as fast as permanent jobs. The CLC is "not impressed".

## INSIDE

**9**

### Corruption scandals

Right-wing governments installed with U.S. backing in Guatemala and Honduras face growing mass resistance after new scandals.

**10**

### Calgary to Donetsk

For her anti-war views, world-famous pianist Valentina Lisitsa was barred from appearing with the Toronto Symphony this spring, but she continues to perform at venues from Calgary to Paris to Donetsk.

# The labour struggle that changed Canadian history

During the "Great Depression" of the 1930s, Canada's ruling circles sought to meet the growing demands for jobs, unemployment insurance and adequate relief by herding the unemployed into "relief" camps. British Columbia's relief camps were typical of those in other provinces. The camps were usually located away from settled areas. Camp workers received the insulting sum of two dollars a day minus 85 cents for room and board for performing artificial, often unproductive jobs. In 1933, the camps came under the control of a joint federal-provincial commission which subsequently reduced the wages. Later in the year, the camps were completely taken over by the Department of National Defense, which proceeded to reduce the workers' wages even further, to 20 cents a day and board.

The takeover by the Department of National Defense and the subsequent militarization of camp life earned the relief camps the reputation of being slave compounds. The *Relief Camp Worker*, newspaper of the Workers' Unity League-affiliated Relief Camp Workers' Union (RCWU), carried numerous reports of deteriorating conditions in the camps and the efforts of the workers to improve their lot. For them, there was only one real solution to the steady erosion of their meagre wages and severely limited rights - to organize into the RCWU. The union campaigned for better conditions, unemployment insurance, social insurance, adequate old age pensions and compensation for

disability and sickness. It also organized conferences and conducted a number of strikes in support of these demands.

The Conservative government of R.B. "Iron Heel" Bennett

## 80th Anniversary of the On to Ottawa Trek

remained adamant in its refusal to meet the just demands of the relief camp workers. Government callousness led to a great deal of frustration. In early 1935, the WUL decided to assign Arthur H. Evans the task of leading the RCWU and organizing its struggles. A Communist with a great deal of experience in the IWW in the United States and the OBU in Canada, Evans had already shown himself to be a highly capable and effective organizer. So effective was he, that his organizing activities had landed him in prison on three separate occasions.

With Arthur Evans now its leader, the RCWU organized a conference of all relief camp workers to take place in Vancouver in April. Thousands converged on Vancouver; the camps were emptied in what amounted to a general strike of British Columbia relief camp workers. Over the next few days, a series of mass public meetings and demonstrations were held, enjoying wide public sympathy and support. On April 19, the RCWU organized a mass meeting attended by more than 10,000 people, two-thirds of whom were Vancouver citizens. Working for the local reactionaries, the police attacked a peaceful

demonstration a few days later. On May Day, 15,000 demonstrators marched to Stanley Park, where they were joined by 20,000 sympathizers. For another month, actions of this kind continued despite reactionary attempts to frustrate them.

In late May, Evans proposed the organization of an On to Ottawa Trek as a means of forcing the Bennett government to act seriously on the demands of the relief camp strikers. Elected as leader of the Strike (On to Ottawa) Committee, he believed that although the Tories might be able to ignore a province-wide strike, they could hardly ignore a Canada-wide strike of relief camp workers. In early June, the main body of relief camp workers began their trek to Ottawa.

As the trek progressed eastward and the number of participants swelled, Bennett became increasingly alarmed. He had no desire to give his working class opponents another opportunity to strike a blow at his flagging popularity, but at the same time, he persisted in his refusal to make any concessions to the strikers. Going over the head of the Saskatchewan government, Bennett ordered the RCMP to halt the Trek in Regina. Many interpreted the federal government's move as an attempt to intimidate the trekkers into abandoning their plans. The trekkers, however, remained undaunted as they realized that to turn back, when public opinion was solidly on their side, would mean certain defeat. On June 14, the trekkers arrived in Regina where they were greeted by 6,000 enthusiastic citizens.

Handbill distributed in Regina by the Trekkers, whose departure to Ottawa was blocked on July 1, 1935, by police violence.

The Tory government then appeared to take a conciliatory approach. Two cabinet ministers negotiated an agreement with the Strike Committee whereby a delegation of eight trekkers headed by Arthur Evans would proceed to Ottawa at government expense to take up the demands of the trekkers. The main body of trekkers were to stay in Regina where they would be supplied with meals and shelter by the government.

The eight delegates of the trek met with the cabinet on June 22. But rather than listen to Evans' presentation, the Prime Minister launched into a vicious personal attack on the trek leader.

Meanwhile, the Bennett government continued its preparations for an assault on the trekkers in Regina. The bourgeois press tried to whip up anti-communist hysteria in order to create an atmosphere in which violent police action could be justified. About 600 policemen, many bearing machine guns, were posted in and around the city. Meanwhile, a concentration camp for trekkers was being set up near Lumsden.

The trekkers' delegation returned to Regina on June 26. On the following day, the trekkers were denied food relief. The city was then cordoned off by the police and anyone who attempted to leave was subject to arrest. On June 29, the RCWU was declared an unlawful association under Section 98. On July 1, Canada's 68th anniversary, the government celebrated the occasion by ordering the police to break up a mass meeting of 3,000 people, of whom no more than four or five hundred were trekkers, which was being held at Market Square. RCMP officers and the city police charged into the peaceful crowd, clubbing unarmed men, women and children. A four-hour battle in the streets of Regina ensued in

which about 100 people were hurt, a number of them shot by police. Over a hundred, including Arthur Evans, were arrested. One plainclothes city detective was beaten to death by his own fellow police officers.

A wave of popular indignation and protest against the government's actions swept the country. Thousands joined in mass meetings and demonstrations.

In Winnipeg, unemployed who were to have joined the main trek set off for Ottawa on buses. Stopped at the Ontario border, the Winnipeg trekkers continued on foot to Kenora, where the presence of hundreds of RCMP officers signalled a potential violent confrontation. Not wanting a repeat of the Regina events, the trekkers negotiated with the Ontario government to ensure their peaceful return to Winnipeg. Some days later, 300 unemployed left Toronto for the capital. After walking the entire 250 miles to Ottawa, trekkers were finally able to present their demands to the Bennett government. The response was as usual negative.

In Ottawa, the parliamentary opposition vigorously condemned the Bennett government for its part in provoking the violence. Former Prime Minister King criticized the government for its excesses in its handling of the situation. J.S. Woodsworth, leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), accused the police of precipitating the riot. In Regina, a Citizens' Defense Committee was set up to counter the efforts of the government and the bourgeois press to slander the trekkers and blame them for the riot. Many prominent personalities, including Saskatchewan CCF leader M.J. Coldwell and two Saskatchewan MLAs, participated in this

see TREK, page 11

## Summertime events to help wrap up PV Fund Drive

It's been a hectic couple of weeks at our People's Voice offices in Vancouver and Toronto, leaving very little time to complete up-to-date reports on the state of our annual Fund Drive. We'll have the latest figures in our next issue. But in the meantime, PV supporters have been busy in several parts of the country, and we are closing in on 75% of our \$50,000 target.

That's still ahead of last year's pace, but we must finish before the federal election campaign takes all our attention, so keep sending

your donations!

In Vancouver, the Sergio Montivero Club is hosting a dinner to finish their target for the Fund Drive, on Saturday, June 20, starting 6 pm at the Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive. Tickets are \$20, call 604-255-2041 for details.

Next will be a special fundraiser in Toronto during the CPC (Ontario) 28th Convention, where readers can meet the delegates and raise a Glass at a "Saturday Night Jazz BBQ", 6:30 pm, Saturday,

July 4. The BBQ will be at 526 Main Street (Main Station); in the event of rain, go to the GCDO Hall, 290 Danforth Ave. (Chester Station). Tickets are \$20 or pay what you can - everyone welcome, proceeds to the PV Fund Drive.

Emily Murphy Park in the beautiful North Saskatchewan River Valley will be the scene of a PV picnic organized by our Edmonton supporters, from 2:30 to 5 pm, Saturday, July 4. The picnic will include hot dogs and other goodies, live music, and entertainment for the kids. It's all free, but they will be asking for donations! PV Editor Kimball Cariou will be there to meet readers, not far from the University of Alberta campus where he wrote his first articles for the *Canadian Tribune* way back in 1972.

As noted last issue, our biggest summer fundraiser, the annual PV Walk-A-Thon organized by the Lower Fraser Club, will be on Sunday, August 9, at Bear Creek Park in Surrey, BC. Gather at 11 am at the picnic area by 140 St. and 88 Ave. for the walk through the park, followed at noon by the wonderful international buffet lunch, and then a cultural/political program. For information, call Harjit at 604-543-7179.

### Here's my contribution to the PV Fund Drive!

Enclosed please find my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the 2015 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

# Secret TISA pact to rob from the poor, and give to global transport firms

Classified documents published on June 6 by Wikileaks on the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) foresee consolidated power for big transport industry players – and threaten the public interest, jobs and a voice for workers, says the International Transport Workers' Federation.

The documents are available at <https://wikileaks.org/tisa/>

ITF president Paddy Crumlin said: "This text would supercharge the most powerful companies in the transport industry, giving them preferential treatment. What's missing from this equation is any value at all for workers and citizens. It creates serious barriers for any state wanting to invest in, manage and operate its national infrastructure or - crucially - to defend decent work and decent terms and conditions across transport."

The ITF is concerned that in the three areas covered - maritime transport, air transport and express delivery - deregulation aims to:

- \* Enhance the bargaining power of major shipping lines over port services, and give global port operators further consolidated power;

- \* Open up offshore energy services raising potential sustainability and environmental concerns;

- \* Allow multimodal transport operators unfettered access to and rights to supply road, rail or inland waterways transport services, generally public infrastructure - and enable them to fast-track their goods through ports;

- \* Undermine the social and safety standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), by failing to recognise these as minimum standards subject to continuous improvement;

- \* Create an aviation industry dominated by global giants whilst

allowing flags of convenience to become an established practice in the global aviation market;

- \* Shift the aviation system onto a fully liberalised multilateral system in one go, in a way that's unmanageable for many countries and aviation workforces;

- \* See the worst employment conditions at airports and in ground handling mirrored by similar trends in aircraft repair and maintenance;

- \* Remove the economic regulation

of international air transport from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), leaving aviation policy to be determined by international market forces and by decisions made in boardrooms serving shareholder interests;

- \* Increase potential safety risks, by separating the safety regulation and economic regulation of international air transport and undermining their close interaction under the same regime;

- \* Protect the position of the major, private global courier companies against the growth of those national or regional operators that are secured through historical or current monopolies in national postal services;

- \* Break open the relationships between the State, post, and the unions especially in the developing world, because the mature world markets do not offer significant longer-term growth opportunities;

- \* Break the unions that exercise power in the sector and maintain the social and economic floor.

Crumlin continued: "Such ideologically-driven deregulation is not about increasing efficiency. The charade of moving to more open competition offers various ways to give the global majors more clout over newer global entrants. But global economic regulators cannot afford to treat citizens - transport workers, public sector workers - or any of the end-consumers of services simply as another component in the value chain. TISA must incorporate an enforceable and binding labour and sustainability chapter. It must not be used as an instrument to further deregulate transport sectors in a race to the bottom on terms and conditions of employment."

"The ITF is working with its sister organisations in the global union movement and will be working with civil society and other allies to oppose the harmful effects of the TISA," he concluded.

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) [www.itfglobal.org](http://www.itfglobal.org) unites around 700 unions, representing more than 4.5 million transport workers from 150 countries. ●



## UFCW urges Senate to pass Bill C-279

UFCW Canada is calling for immediate passage of Bill C-279 - as originally passed by the House of Commons - to protect transgendered people against hate crimes and discrimination.

Introduced by MP Randall Garrison (NDP, Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca) Bill C-279 would legally recognize and protect the human

rights of trans people, and require courts to recognize and penalize hate crimes against trans people, just as they do for hate crimes motivated by religion, race, and sexual orientation. The Bill does not add any special protections to trans people; it ensures that the same protections that other people in Canada already enjoy are

applied equally to trans people.

A June 4 statement from UFCW Canada National President Paul R. Meinema points out that "While the House of Commons passed the bill two years ago (the "Gender Identity" Act), an amendment passed by a Senate committee would weaken its protection, and would actually allow federal agencies discretionary power and impunity to discriminate against transgendered Canadians.

"The 'bathroom amendment', introduced by Conservative Senator Donald Plett not only goes against the spirit of the bill as originally passed by the House of Commons, but threatens the bill from ever receiving Royal Assent; for if the amendment stands, the bill would have to return to the House and be voted on again - a notion that is increasingly unrealistic given the short time before parliament breaks before the fall election. Essentially, under this scenario, without Royal Assent, Bill C-279 would die on the Order Paper and four years of legislative struggle would have to begin all over again.

"And if it did pass, as amended, 'this amendment will have the effect of permitting discrimination with respect to services, facilities, accommodation or premises that are "restricted to one sex only", as noted by the Canadian Civil Liberties in recent correspondence to the Senate.

"Statistics show a high incidence of abuse, discrimination and criminally hateful behaviour as it relates to transgender individuals. Transgender Ontarians face three times the national unemployment rate as individuals not identifying



as transgender. The addition of gender identity as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act would strengthen equality in the hiring process. The addition of Criminal Code sanctions would also make it criminal to discriminate or propagate hate against an individual as a result of their gender identity.

"In March 2013, the House of Commons stood up to protect the equality, safety and dignity of transgender people when they passed Bill C-279. What Senator Plett has proposed in his amendment is contrary to the equality rights under section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Human Rights, and is an underhanded attempt to diminish the bill, or to destroy the bill's passage altogether. The stalling should stop, the amendment should be rescinded, and the Senate should pass C-279 in its original form, and return it to the House of Commons, as quickly as possible, for Royal Assent."

UFCW Canada urges members to go to [www.transequality-canada.com](http://www.transequality-canada.com) and spread the word with hashtag #SupportBillC279. ●

## Cuban anti-terrorist hero Fernando Gonzalez visits Canada

The Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) hosted a very special Cuban guest, anti-terrorist hero, Fernando González Lloret, at its 7th Biennial Convention held over the May 30-31 weekend at Toronto City Hall.

Known internationally as one of the "Cuban Five", Fernando served more than 15 years unjustly in a U.S. prison and was released on February 27, 2014. He returned to Cuba and is now Vice-president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship

with the Peoples (ICAP). In President Obama's historic announcement of changes in US policy toward Cuba, the last three of the Cuban Five were released on December 17, 2014.

Delegates from 20 CNC member organizations from Halifax to Vancouver attended the convention, celebrating the world-wide campaign to free the Cuban Five, and recognizing 70 years of Canada-Cuba diplomatic relations.

Fernando González was the

featured speaker at a public meeting on May 30th at the Toronto Steelworkers' Hall. He was joined on the platform by Dr. José de Jesús Portilla García, a participant of numerous Cuban medical international missions, making the last stop of his two-week speaking tour across Canada.

A detailed report on the CNC convention will appear in our next issue. For more information on the CNC and its activities, visit [www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca](http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca).



During his trip to Toronto, Fernando Gonzalez visited the offices of the Communist Party of Canada, where he was welcomed by a number of party activists.

# EDITORIALS

## PM rejects truth and reconciliation

Whenever one thinks the Harper Conservatives have set a new record for insensitivity to human needs, they manage to sink even lower. This is the government that tells seniors to enjoy their walk on treacherous icy sidewalks to the new Canada Post supermailboxes, and regards disabled military veterans as noisy troublemakers - and that's how they treat their "political base"!

The PM frequently points out that in 2008, his government delivered an apology to survivors of the Indian residential school system. But that statement in the House of Commons was not voluntary - it was ordered by the courts as part of the settlement of a lawsuit by residential school survivors. Mr. Harper did not consult with indigenous peoples about the content of his "apology", nor about the policy measures necessary to make it genuine.

Only a year later, Mr. Harper told a G20 summit that Canada has "no history of colonialism." He and his cabinet ministers regularly shrug off the growing chorus of voices calling for a public inquiry into the deaths and disappearances of more than 1200 Aboriginal women and girls over the last three decades. Not least, the Canadian government stands virtually alone in refusing to fully accept the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Given this shameful, racist, misogynist record, few were surprised at Mr. Harper's chilly contempt for the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by Justice Murray Sinclair. Clearly, under Harper's watch, the real truth about the genocidal record of the Canadian state will never be admitted, and any reconciliation process will meet with bitter resistance and stubborn denials. The majority of people in Canada do understand the need for truth and reconciliation, but the Prime Minister must first be driven out of office to make this possible.

## Broad unity can force C-51 repeal

By early June, four months after it was introduced in the House of Commons, Bill C-51 was nearing adoption by the Conservative-dominated (and completely undemocratic) Senate. Support for this police state legislation plummeted dramatically, as millions of people became aware of its threat to our Charter rights to free speech, dissent, and privacy. Several major days of action, organized with very limited time, drew thousands to protests in dozens of cities and towns. A wide range of organizations spoke out strongly against C-51, representing Aboriginal peoples, unions, environmentalists, civil liberties groups, and even the editorial boards of corporate daily newspapers. Yet this opposition was brushed aside by the Tories, who made only a few minor amendments to the bill.

But the fight to defend free speech will continue, into the federal election and beyond. After all, the War Measures Act, which was unleashed repeatedly against minority groups and radicals starting with the First World War, was repealed only in 1989 after decades of protests. The RCMP's PROFUNC program, launched during the Cold War era to track tens of thousands of Communists and other so-called "subversives", was finally scrapped under pressure of public opinion during the early 1980s. Bill C-51 will ultimately meet the same fate - if and when enough mass opposition can be mobilized to force Parliament to repeal this sweeping omnibus attack on democratic freedoms.

The key phrase is "mass pressure." Tactics based on "clicktivism," legal challenges, or lobbying of politicians can be important, but the crucial test will be our collective ability to bring major people's movements into action. This coalition-building strategy must include the main targets of the corporate austerity agenda, especially the trade unions, which represent millions of members. Broad popular unity has begun to emerge around the demand to repeal Bill C-51 - let's build on this momentum!



## Cautious optimism, but a mass movement for disarmament is needed

The Communist Party of Canada welcomes the interim nuclear deal, the Joint Plan of Action (JPA,) between Iran and the P5+1 countries (US, Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany), noting that it is a small step in a positive direction on the issue of peace in the Middle East. However, the CPC also warns that the deal avoids many of the underlying issues that have contributed to insecurity, conflict and war in the region.

The negotiations and deal have sparked an increase in international attention on the issue of nuclear disarmament. The Communist Party calls on all peace-supporting groups in Canada to reinvigorate the global disarmament movement, as the most important factor that will force governments to pursue genuine and lasting peace in the Middle East and throughout the world. It is critical, however, that peace activists maintain a focus on the provocations, interference and interventions by the imperialist countries - in particular the United States and its NATO allies - as the primary factors leading to aggression, nuclear weapons proliferation and war.

The Communist Party condemns the right wing political forces, particularly in the United States and Israel, who have denounced the deal as a capitulation to Iran. Comments such as these are not based on an assessment of the real terms of the JPA, but are instead part of a campaign of fear mongering and the drive to war.

The Joint Plan of Action has already helped to reduce tensions in the region, which have been sustained at dangerous levels for decades. The deal also promises to eliminate many of the harsh,

decade-long economic sanctions that have contributed to so much suffering for the Iranian people.

At the same time, however, it is important to note that within a month of concluding the JPA, the United States announced a Missile Defence Strategy for the Gulf Cooperation Council. This accord will deliver US missile defence (MD) technology to the Gulf monarchies, along with increased weapons sales and increased joint military exercises. The Communist Party condemns this provocative action, which immediately undermines the JPA and raises the risks of war.

The JPA is scheduled to last for six months, while the parties negotiate a "comprehensive agreement." The likelihood of such an agreement emerging is very small, given that the JPA avoids many key issues that drive instability, militarization and nuclear proliferation in the region. For example, there is no discussion of the role of Israel, a nuclear weapons state who has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, or the matter of military buildup in the region by the US and its allies. Similarly, the JPA does not discuss foreign interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states, a recurring tactic of imperialism as it drives to overthrow legitimate governments in countries such as Syria.

The plan is further weakened by the absence of either a clear timeline for eliminating sanctions, or a common agreement on which sanctions will be lifted. This question is perhaps most immediate in the minds of the Iranian people. Officials from Iran and the US have circulated different versions of the agreement, which suggests there remains a lot of disagreement about key elements of the deal.

Rather than setting the tone for a comprehensive agreement for peace and disarmament, the Joint Plan of Action's narrow approach allows the key issues to continue to build and become a greater threat to Iran and the entire region.

To survive, humanity needs comprehensive disarmament - of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons. Agreements such as the Joint Plan of Action need to be understood for what they are - fleeting, one-off deals that are rooted in a particular context. They have some merit, but they cannot take the place of comprehensive agreements that include strict international controls and which apply to all states, principally to those who have nuclear arsenals.

The Communist Party of Canada demands that the Canadian government:

- immediately normalize relations with Iran and end all sanctions;
- reject its current foreign policy of provocation, interference, aggression and war, and adopt an independent foreign policy based on peace and disarmament;
- withdraw from NATO and stop all military trade with the United States and NATO countries;
- promote comprehensive disarmament at the United Nations and in all international forums.

Communist Party of Canada,  
Central Executive Committee,  
May 19, 2015 •



PV file photo: Ed Bil

## 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, Ed Bil, Johan Boyden, Wally Brooker,  
Drew Garvie, Liz Hill, Roberto Moraga,  
Liz Rowley, and our mailers in Vancouver & Toronto.

Editor: Kimball Cariou Business Manager: Hassan Azimikor

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.

## Renew today!

### Check your label

Please check the address label on the front page to see if it's time to renew. Subscribers who find "2015/06/02" on their label, for example, will have their subscriptions expire with this issue, June 16-30, 2015

Don't miss a single copy -  
renew today!

# The implications of a fast-tracked Trans-Pacific Partnership

By Scott Sinclair, director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Trade and Investment Research Project, and Stuart Trew, editor of the CCPA Monitor

June 4, 2015 - As the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations slouch toward an agreement, supporters have cranked the volume on their praise for what is sometimes called the "NAFTA of the Pacific." Critics, of which there are a growing number, prefer "NAFTA on steroids" – a sign the 12-country pact can only lead to more of the same deregulation, offshoring and rising inequality that are the legacy of 20 years of North American free trade.

A key vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, which could come within weeks, will decide if the TPP is soon sealed or the talks linger on. President Obama has inexplicably teamed up with his otherwise implacable Republican foes to champion trade promotion authority (aka fast-track), or the power to sideline Congress by forcing a yes or no vote on trade agreements in their entirety. With only five of the TPP's 30-plus chapters directly relating to trade, you can understand the reluctance of Democrats to give up their ability to review the deal and make changes.

Because of overwhelming opposition from the Democratic caucus and a handful of libertarian Republicans, the vote is still too close to call. But one thing is certain: if the fast-track bill passes, Canada will be mercilessly arm-twisted to make economically and socially harmful concessions.

Remember that Canada only

joined the TPP talks in 2012. The federal government made the decision somewhat reluctantly and there were strings attached. One of them was that Canadian negotiators could not reopen any closed text. Canada's bigger business lobbies even called it a defensive move to "secure" NAFTA supply chains rather than offering any meaningful market access elsewhere.

Predictably, the Canadian corporate community is now urging the government to do whatever is needed to make the TPP happen. Most Canadians have almost no idea what's going on. But people are starting to ask the obvious questions: what's in it for us, and what will we have to give up to get it. The answers are equally obvious if you look past the hype: not much, and quite a lot.

To begin with, Canada already has free trade deals in place with four TPP countries (the U.S., Mexico, Chile, and Peru). Tariffs on trade with the others (representing 3% of imports and 5% of exports) are very low. Canada has a trade deficit with these non-FTA countries of \$5-8 billion annually; 80% of Canada's top exports to these countries are raw or semi-processed goods (e.g., beef, coal, lumber), while 85% of imports are of higher value-added goods (e.g., autos, machinery, computer and electrical components). We can therefore expect tariff removal through the TPP to worsen the erosion of the Canadian manufacturing sector and its well-paying jobs that has been underway since NAFTA.

Even pro-TPP studies actually predict almost no measurable change in GDP for the United

States or Canada if the agreement is implemented. As many prominent economists, including Nobel prize winners Joseph Stiglitz and Paul Krugman, have argued, the trade impacts of TPP are far less



important than the serious concerns it raises about excessive intellectual property rights, regulatory harmonization, and the perpetuation of a discredited investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) regime. The impacts in Canada would be significant.

The TPP's intellectual property rights chapter, for example, could be a minefield for efforts to control drug costs. To cement a pending free trade deal with the European Union (CETA), Canada has already agreed to patent term extensions that will add at least \$800 million annually to Canadian drug costs, already the second highest in the world. Now, the TPP threatens to lock in patent linkage, looser patentability requirements (e.g., recognition of "me-too" drugs) and longer periods of data protection in ways that will further interfere with cost-saving reforms.

In the area of copyright, the

TPP would require far longer terms of protection than what Canadians agreed to in a parliamentary copyright law review that only wrapped up recently. To smooth the way for the TPP, the federal

insisting on rules to prohibit countries from requiring that personal information be stored on national databases. The allure of cloud computing aside, there are good reasons why a country might require tax, health care or financial data to be stored locally. Treating all information as a kind of private commodity that companies could move when and where they like has considerable implications for privacy.

Leaked text confirms the TPP includes an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism modelled on NAFTA chapter 11. The process allows foreign investors to take their disputes with government decisions (policies, legislation, even the final rulings of the courts) to private arbitration. Canada is already the most sued developed country in the world, absorbing more investor-state lawsuits under NAFTA's ISDS process than even Mexico. We've lost seven cases and paid out damages of \$190 million, as well as untold amounts in legal fees. There are eight active claims

see TPP, page 11

government has already agreed, in the latest omnibus budget bill, to extend copyright terms for audio recordings from 50 to 70 years. The TPP could also require protection for controversial "digital locks," which allow copyright holders to encrypt software in computerized devices and criminalize its circumvention.

The U.S. is also reportedly

## CLC not impressed by May job numbers

The Statistics Canada employment figures for May 2015 were hailed in the corporate media as evidence of huge job creation and economic growth, but the labour movement was less optimistic.

According to the Canadian Labour Congress, "May's job numbers show little promise that Canada's epidemic of inadequate job growth and predominantly precarious employment will change without a change in direction."

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey reported the creation of 59,000s May saw the creation of 59,000 jobs, but almost half were part-time. Compared to April, temporary employment increased twice as fast as permanent employment.

"We aren't seeing a meaningful reduction in unemployment – instead we have very weak job growth that is barely keeping up with the number of people entering the workforce," said CLC president Hassan Yussuff.

The weak job creation barely keeps up with the number of people entering the workforce, leaving the unemployment rate at 6.8 per cent, up from 6.6 per cent last October.

Yussuff says the trend does not point to the recovery being promised by government, especially given the contraction of US and Canadian economies in the first quarter of 2015.

"The government needs to change course or we'll just keep seeing more of the same – the weak and patchy creation of insecure and precarious jobs," he said, adding, "We need the government to invest in ways that create quality, full-time and secure jobs – jobs that can fuel the economy."

Nearly three quarters of the jobs created in Canada over the past six years have been precarious – part-time, temporary or in the self-employed sector. Nearly a million Canadians have to work multiple jobs just to make ends meet.

The impact is most apparent among younger Canadians, who continue to struggle with double the national unemployment rate. Employment growth for 15-24 year olds in May remained very weak and well behind job growth for core-age workers. At 13.2 per cent, the unemployment rate for youth is stuck at levels seen in the summer of 2013.

May's job growth was concentrated in Ontario while other regions saw no job growth or losses in employment.

"Instead of banking on the price of oil, and relying on tax cuts to drive economic activity, let's find a better choice," said Yussuff.

The CLC has called on the government to create the quality, full-time and secure jobs Canadians need, for example:

- \* investing in jobs and training for health care professionals, to better prepare for our aging population and the demands that will place on the health care system
- \* investing in rapid transit for municipalities and create thousands of local jobs in manufacturing and construction, while also boosting ridership.
- \* reinvesting in infrastructure and in public services, such as new waste water systems for our cities, or much-needed federal services for our veterans and seniors.

"Investment in people and the communities they live in – not just resource extraction – is a better choice for Canadians and the economy," said Yussuff. ●

## Survey of Ukrainians shows deep distrust of government

Abridged from Sputnik News, May 27, 2015, as reported at the newcoldwar.org website

According to the results of a recent study, Ukrainians distrust the politicians leading their country and feel that the state is not developing properly. The study was conducted in March by several international companies and the Ukrainian sociological group 'Rating'.

The survey was commissioned by the Canadian government only in regional centers, and the city of Donbass was not included in the sample.

Petro Poroshenko, inaugurated as President of Ukraine, in June 2014, following a snap election held on May 25, gained a majority "trust" rating only in three cities – Lviv (57%), Khmelnytsky (53%) and Chernihiv (48%).

In other regional centers the distrust was higher than the trust percentage. The highest level of distrust towards Poroshenko was seen in the cities of the southeast. In the cities of Odessa, Nikolaev, Zhitomir and Kharkov, Poroshenko's confidence rating did not rise above 29%. In Kiev, the president is trusted by only 47% of its citizens, and not trusted by 50%.

The Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, has a negative image in the entire country.

Confidence in Yatsenyuk was recorded at 49% in Lviv, with lower levels in Chernigov and Khmelnytsky. The "distrust" levels for Yatsenyuk stand at 79% in Kharkiv, 77% in Mykolaiv, 75% in Odessa, and 61% in Kiev.

In most of the regional centers Ukrainians believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction. Even in Lviv, 51% of the population believes that Ukraine is not developing properly. A similar opinion is shared by 47% of the population in Kiev. The most pessimistic citizens are residents of Lutsk (75%), Kharkiv (72%) and Mykolaiv (73%).

According to the publication, the language of common use in cities across Ukraine is different from what was previously said in official statements.

In cities in the west part of the country, Ukrainian is the most commonly used, but in the central regions Russian is used by 32% in Kiev, 41% in Chernigov, 26% in Kirovograd and 27% in Sumy.

In the east of Ukraine, Russian is the most commonly spoken language. Apart from Donetsk and Lugansk, where the majority of population speak Russian, 84% of the residents in Kharkiv also speak Russian. ●



CPC (Ontario) 28th Convention  
Meet the Delegates! Raise a Glass!  
at the Saturday Night Jazz BBQ

6:30 pm, Sat., July 4

526 Main Street, Toronto (Main Station)

(or in the event of rain, at the GCDO Hall, 290 Danforth Ave.)

\$20 or pay what you can - Everyone welcome!

Proceeds to People's Voice

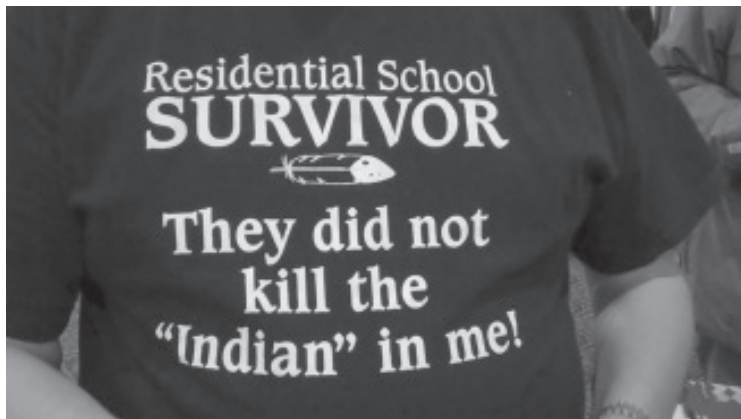
# "Residential schools can best be described as cultural genocide"

For over a century, the central goals of Canada's Aboriginal policy were to eliminate Aboriginal governments; ignore Aboriginal rights; terminate the Treaties; and, through a process of assimilation, cause Aboriginal peoples to cease to exist as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities in Canada. The establishment and operation of residential schools were a central element of this policy, which can best be described as "cultural genocide."

Physical genocide is the mass killing of the members of a targeted group, and biological genocide is the destruction of the group's reproductive capacity.

Cultural genocide is the destruction of those structures and practices that allow the group to continue as a group.

States that engage in cultural genocide set out to destroy the political and social institutions of the targeted group. Land is seized, and populations are forcibly transferred and their movement is restricted. Languages are banned. Spiritual leaders are persecuted, spiritual practices are forbidden, and objects of spiritual value are confiscated and destroyed. And, most significantly to the issue at hand, families are disrupted to prevent the transmission of cultural values and identity from one generation to the next.



In its dealing with Aboriginal people, Canada did all these things. Canada asserted control over Aboriginal land. In some locations, Canada negotiated Treaties with First Nations; in others, the land was simply occupied or seized. The negotiation of Treaties, while seemingly honourable and legal, was often marked by fraud and coercion, and Canada was, and remains, slow to implement their provisions and intent. On occasion, Canada forced First Nations to relocate their reserves from agriculturally valuable or resource-rich land onto remote and economically marginal reserves.

Without legal authority or foundation, in the 1880s Canada instituted a "pass system" that was intended to confine First Nations people to their reserves.

Canada replaced existing forms of Aboriginal government with relatively powerless band councils whose decisions it could override and whose leaders it could depose.

In the process, it disempowered Aboriginal women, who had held significant influence and powerful roles in many First Nations, including the Mohawks, the Carrier, and Tlingit. Canada denied

the right to participate fully in Canadian political, economic, and social life to those Aboriginal people who refused to abandon their Aboriginal identity.

Canada outlawed Aboriginal spiritual practices, jailed Aboriginal spiritual leaders, and confiscated sacred objects. And, Canada separated children from their parents, sending them to residential schools. This was done not to educate them, but primarily to break their link to their culture and identity. In justifying the government's residential school policy, Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, told the House of Commons in 1883:

When the school is on the reserve the child lives with its parents, who are savages; and though he may learn to read and

write his habits, and training and mode of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can read and write. It has been strongly pressed on myself, as the head of the Department, that Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men.

These measures were part of a coherent policy to eliminate Aboriginal people as distinct peoples and to assimilate them into the Canadian mainstream against their will. Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs Duncan Campbell Scott outlined the goals of that policy in 1920, when he told a parliamentary committee that "our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic."

These goals were reiterated in 1969 in the federal government's Statement on Indian Policy (more often referred to as the "White Paper"), which sought to end Indian status and terminate the Treaties that the federal

government had negotiated with First Nations.

The Canadian government pursued this policy of cultural genocide because it wished to divest itself of its legal and financial obligations to Aboriginal people and gain control over their land and resources. If every Aboriginal person had been "absorbed into the body politic," there would be no reserves, no Treaties, and no Aboriginal rights.

Residential schooling quickly became a central element in the federal government's Aboriginal policy. When Canada was created as a country in 1867, Canadian churches were already operating a small number of boarding schools for Aboriginal people. As settlement moved westward in the 1870s, Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries established missions and small boarding schools across the Prairies, in the North, and in BC. Most of these schools received small, per-student grants from the federal government. In 1883, the federal government moved to establish three, large, residential schools for First Nation children in western Canada. In the following years, the system grew dramatically. According to the Indian Affairs annual report for 1930, there were eighty residential schools in operation across the country.

The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement provided compensation to students who attended 139 residential schools and residences. The federal government has estimated that at least 150,000 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students passed through the system. Roman Catholic, Anglican, United, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches were the major denominations involved in the administration of the residential school system. The government's partnership with the churches remained in place until 1969, and, although most had closed by the 1980s, the last federally supported residential schools remained in operation until the late 1990s.

For children, life in these schools was lonely and alien. Buildings were poorly located, poorly built, and poorly maintained. The staff was limited in numbers, often poorly trained, and not adequately supervised. Many schools were poorly heated and poorly ventilated, and the diet was meagre and of poor quality. Discipline was harsh, and daily life was highly regimented. Aboriginal languages and cultures were denigrated and suppressed. The educational goals of the schools were limited and confused, and usually reflected a

low regard for the intellectual capabilities of Aboriginal people. For the students, education and technical training too often gave way to the drudgery of doing the chores necessary to make the schools self-sustaining. Child neglect was institutionalized, and the lack of supervision created situations where students were prey to sexual and physical abusers.



**Truth and Reconciliation**  
Commission of Canada

In establishing residential schools, the Canadian government essentially declared Aboriginal people to be unfit parents. Aboriginal parents were labelled as being indifferent to the future of their children - a judgment contradicted by the fact that parents often kept their children out of schools because they saw those schools, quite accurately, as dangerous and harsh institutions that sought to raise their children in alien ways. Once in the schools, brothers and sisters were kept apart, and the government and churches even arranged marriages for students after they finished their education.

The residential school system was based on an assumption that European civilization and Christian religions were superior to Aboriginal culture, which was seen as being savage and brutal. Government officials also were insistent that children be discouraged - often prohibited - from speaking their own languages. The missionaries who ran the schools played prominent roles in the church-led campaigns to ban Aboriginal spiritual practices such as the Potlatch and the Sun Dance (more properly called the "Thirst Dance"), and to end traditional Aboriginal marriage practices. Although, in most of their official pronouncements, government and church officials took the position that Aboriginal people could be civilized, it is clear that many believed that Aboriginal culture was inherently inferior.

This hostility to Aboriginal cultural and spiritual practice continued well into the twentieth century. In 1942, John House, the principal of the Anglican school in Gleichen, Alberta, became involved in a campaign to have two Blackfoot chiefs deposed, in part because of their support for traditional dance ceremonies.

In 1947, Roman Catholic official J.O. Plourde told a federal parliamentary committee that since Canada was a Christian nation that was committed to having "all its citizens belonging to one or other of the Christian churches," he could see no reason why the residential schools "should foster aboriginal beliefs." United Church official George Dorey told the same committee that he questioned whether there was such a thing as "native religion."

Into the 1950s and 1960s, the prime mission of residential schools was the cultural transformation of Aboriginal children. In 1953, J. E. Andrews, the principal of the Presbyterian school in Kenora, Ontario, wrote that "we must face realistically the fact that the only hope for the Canadian Indian is eventual assimilation into the white race."...

In a 1958 article on residential schools, senior Oblate Andre

Renaud echoed the words of John A. Macdonald, arguing that when students at day schools went back to their "homes at the end of the school day and for the weekend, the pupils are re-exposed to their native culture, however diluted, from which the school is trying to separate them." A residential school, on the other hand, could "surround its pupils almost 24 hours a day with non-Indian Canadian culture through radio, television, public address system, movies, books, newspapers, group activities, etc."

Despite the coercive measures that the government adopted, it failed to achieve its policy goals. Although Aboriginal peoples and cultures have been badly damaged, they continue to exist. Aboriginal people have refused to surrender their identity. It was the former students, the Survivors of Canada's residential schools, who placed the residential school issue on the public agenda. Their efforts led to the negotiation of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement that mandated the establishment of a residential school Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (trc).

The Survivors acted with courage and determination. We should do no less. It is time to commit to a process of reconciliation. By establishing a new and respectful relationship, we restore what must be restored, repair what must be repaired, and return what must be returned...

To the Commission, reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour... ●

## "We want transformative change," says AFN Chief Bellegarde

### Response of Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde to the Findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, June 2, 2015, Ottawa, ON

Motivated by courage, the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools sought justice and recognition from Canada through court cases that set us on a course toward truth and reconciliation. To the former students – the survivors – I honour you and I thank you. I am humbled to be

before you. On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations, one of the parties to the Settlement Agreement, we thank the Commissioners for your strength, courage and heartfelt approach to the important work of truth and reconciliation.

The Assembly of First Nations commitment to reconciliation remains strong. Reconciliation means so many things as we move through the aftermath of the Indian Residential School system, one that we know was designed to rid Canada of 'Indians'. In its after-

math, we are left with the gap – a persistent, wide and unacceptable gap in the quality of life between First Nations and other Canadians. We commit to doing the necessary work to close the gap.

The calls to action describe and remind us of the work that lies before us – our children must grow up safe and comfortable in their own homes and home communities, so addressing the over representation of First Nations

children in the child welfare system is essential. We know that if we do not act, we will lose our Indigenous languages, the jewels of this land. Only three Indigenous languages are predicted to survive, the two First Nations ones being Cree and Ojibwe, so revitalizing and preserving our 58 remaining languages is an imperative as they are the heart of who we are. Committing to implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation is an essential first step to guide reconciliation in all areas of our lives affected by colonization and the attempt at cultural genocide launched by the Indian Residential School System.

We welcome the Commissioners' call to the parties of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement for a new Covenant on Reconciliation to ensure that the ongoing work of reconciliation continues. For the

past number of years, we have met many challenges and made progress. We thank you for your willingness to face the truth and work together. Continuing in that spirit will create the reality that we want for all peoples in the future: healing, peace, justice and the quality of life that we all deserve.

Education and awareness leads to understanding which in turn leads to action and ultimately reconciliation. The call to teach the history of the residential schools in schools in Canada is one that I will continue to support.

As a leader, I see myself as a helper - in Cree, 'oskapewis' - and I promise to honour the faith that has been placed in me. We shall further review the Calls to Action and dialogue with the other Parties, Indigenous leaders and Canadians alike to bring about the transformative change that we all want for all of our peoples. And you, the former students and your families deserve nothing less than that. ●



AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde

### Key TRC recommendations

**HEALTH:** Acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health is a direct result of previous government policies, and implement health-care rights for Aboriginal people.

**EDUCATION:** New Aboriginal education legislation and funding, to protect languages and cultures and close the education gap.

**JUSTICE:** A commitment to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal people in custody, and collection and publication of data on criminal victimization of Aboriginal people.

**PUBLIC INQUIRY:** Creation of a public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

**MONITORING:** A national council for reconciliation, to monitor and report on reconciliation progress, and an annual State of Aboriginal Peoples report delivered by the prime minister.

**LANGUAGE:** Implement an Aboriginal Languages Act and appoint a language commissioner.

**TRC CENTRE:** \$10 million over seven years from the federal government for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

**COMMEMORATION:** Create a statutory holiday to honour survivors, their families and communities.

**MEMORIALS:** Funding for memorials, community events and museums, in time for Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.

## Pam Palmater: this was not just a crime - it was genocide

*Transcript of a CBC New Brunswick interview with Pam Palmater, a Mi'kmaq lawyer from Eel River Bar, New Brunswick, and Indigenous Governance chair at Ryerson University in Toronto. Her blog is at [indigenousnationhood.blogspot.ca](http://indigenousnationhood.blogspot.ca).*

*This has been an emotional and long process, six years for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. What stands out for you now at this end point?*

I think what really stands out to me is that this process started out with what was described as a historic apology and some kind of indication to make amends, yet we've had this long drawn out process of even having difficulty getting documents, getting at what is supposed to be the truth. It's hard to get to the reconciliation part if the government, although apologizing, is still not at the table 100% on accessing everything we need to know.

*Justice Sinclair made the point that this is not just a message to government, it's a message to Canadian society.*

That message is really strong and clear. We can't put any soft words on this. This wasn't just benign neglect or a really good education policy gone wrong. This was not just a crime, it was genocide. Raping, torturing, murdering, assaulting and starving children is wrong, it's wrong under the Criminal Code, it's wrong under any of our morals and values, and it's definitely wrong internationally.

*So how do we begin the process of repairing that relationship between First Nations and Canada itself?*

Part of the issue in terms of going forward is that we have to get at the whole truth. Remember this is just part of a litigation settlement for a certain number of named schools. It doesn't address

the day schools, the '60s scoop, the over-representation in prison, the thousands of murdered and missing Indigenous women. It's important to understand this isn't just a part of our history. This is a part of our present and what continues to happen to our children.

For Canadians, that's the most important message, how do we stop what's happening today, and not just hear about the history and apologize and move forward.

The most important part of the apology is how do you make amends. If you have targeted a specific people and their culture and languages to eradicate them, how do we now restore and revitalize them? If we broke up families and gave them generations

heading that way soon unless we incorporate that in our education system. Also educating all New Brunswickers about what happened so that we can change the relationship...

New Brunswickers are going to have to understand that reconciliation means implementation of treaties. It means restoring the stolen lands and resources to First Nations. And it means actually sharing, and that's going to require a transfer of land and resources. This isn't just about making nice and saying sorry and getting along. The relationship context is also based securely and legally in the treaty relationship, and that means sharing and restoration.

*How should non-Aboriginals view this process? It can be perceived by non-Aboriginals as threatening.*

Well, it can be. People have to understand that was never the intention of this process. It was really about highlighting the abuses of people in power, primarily the Canadian government and successive ministers of Indian affairs. We're not looking at our neighbours, saying look at what you did or what your father did. What we are saying is that because you benefitted from our dispossession, now it's time to make amends and make sure that our lands and resources are restored, and that we are sharing it as we always intended under the treaties. This isn't about New Brunswickers, you've done something wrong, you need to go away. It's always been about getting back to this treaty relationship. It's significant, given that everything that has been done to us, that we are not saying anything negative about Canadians. We are saying that we still want to work with you in partnership, and inter-marry, work together and protect one another. That's what was always intended. New Brunswickers should take that away from this process. ●



Pam Palmater, who has been a prominent figure in the Idle No More movement

of trauma and poor health and poverty, how do we undo all of that? I think that just as much money time and effort that went into trying to destroy us also needs to be put into trying to restore us, and we have to be the ones who lead the way.

*Justice Sinclair said that Canada must move from apology to action. What would that action look like in this province?*

...There has got to be funding and supports at all levels for language and culture. We have got to restore those. The Maliseet language is at risk of extinction, the Mi'kmaq language will be

## Métis National Council "disappointed" by TRC

In a June 2 statement, the Métis National Council said the report released by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) "fails to address the need for the government of Canada to deal with the survivors of Métis residential schools."

"Other than a few of the recommendations that include Métis in proposed actions, we are treated as an afterthought", said Métis National Council President Clément Chartier. "Little thought was given or advice provided to deal with the exclusion of Métis residential schools from federal settlements agreements."

The TRC report comes at a time when the Métis Nation and the government of Canada are beginning discussions on a reconciliation process to support the exercise of Métis section 35(1) rights and to reconcile their interests.

"The horrific experiences of Métis survivors of these excluded schools will not be forgotten as

we pursue self-determination and self-government through reconciliation" said Chartier. "The Métis residential schools represent the most glaring moral and legal failure of the former Liberal government and the current Harper government to do justice in our time with Métis people."

The MNC also pointed out that "the Canadian media has become part of the cone of silence surrounding the exclusion of Métis residential schools from the reconciliation ceremonies and recommendations in Ottawa over the past four days."

The media has ignored the plight of the Métis who attended residential or boarding schools where similar abuses were inflicted upon Métis children by religious orders operating under the sanction of the Canadian State. CBC-TV did reach out to the MNC seeking an interview, only to cancel on the morning of the TRC release.

"It's extremely disappointing that the Canadian media would totally ignore the two press statements issued by the Métis Nation... even more so APTN which was approached by MNC communications as well as being sent the press release directly," stated President Chartier, a former student of the Ile a la Crosse boarding school in northwest Saskatchewan where former students suffered the same form of abuse as those attending Indian residential schools.

"The Métis Nation and the former Métis residential schools should not be treated in such a shameful manner where our voices are not heard. This does not bode well for reconciliation between the Métis and the rest of Canada" stated Chartier. ●





# GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

## Algeria hires foreign workers

Algeria's Ministry of Labour and Employment has granted temporary work permits to 31,315 foreigners in various sectors, especially in building industry and public works. In response to a question at the Council of the Nation (Upper House), Labour Minister Mohamed El Ghazi disclosed the 28,276 foreigners are employed in construction and public works, 2,267 in industry, 731 in tertiary sector and 11 in agriculture. The permits are granted in sectors lacking sufficient labour force in Algeria, under Article 03 of the 1981 law which defines the terms for recruitment of foreign workers. El Ghazi said new articles have been added to the law to improve the management of foreign workers.

## Irish retail store labour dispute

Dublin's city centre was brought to a standstill on June 6 as thousands of Dunnes Store workers and supporters marched through the capital for better working conditions. Organised by the Mandate trade union, which represents a number of employees at the Irish retailer, the protesters made their way from Merrion Square to a stage outside Dunnes Stores HQ on Georges Street. The march, part of the 'Decency for Dunnes Workers' campaign, centred on low-hour contracts at Dunnes, which Mandate claims gives no security to its members in terms of income and working hours.

Some 5,000 people took part in the protest, which followed up on a one-day strike by Dunnes workers in April. Speakers at the rally strongly criticised the company for failing to meet the union's demands on contracted employment and union recognition. Almost three quarters of employees at Dunnes Stores are on part-time contracts.

Pledging to continue the campaign to secure better contracts and conditions of employment for workers at Dunnes, General Secretary of Mandate John Douglas told the crowd that: "The Irish working class will not stand by while workers conditions are destroyed."

"Thousands of workers in Dunnes do not know what hours they'll have on a week-to-week basis and consequently their income can fluctuate from approximately 144 euros per week to 400 euros," said Gerry Light, Mandate Assistant General Secretary. "It is totally unacceptable that a local manager in Dunnes Stores can pick and choose which individual members of staff will be able to provide for their families at the end of a week. Today is about decency and respect in the workplace. Every worker in Ireland, whether a retail worker, restaurant worker, cleaner, teacher or nurse – whether in the private or public sector – they should all have secure hours and earn a living wage."

Dunnes Stores employs more than 9,000 workers in 114 stores

across Ireland. Last month, it announced a 3 percent pay rise for its staff, but, so far, has refused to negotiate directly with union representatives. The company has been unavailable for comment throughout the dispute, which has now lasted several months.

## Peru dockers strike ends

The dockworkers union at Peru's biggest port, Callao, has reached a contract agreement to end a three-week strike, with provisions that include improved benefits and modifications to a



system for scheduling shifts, union officials said on June 5. Members of the SUTRAMPORPC union have voted to back the deal, general secretary Geraldo Honores said.

The stoppage since May 13 held up imports. The union represents 650 workers at Callao's northern terminal, which is operated by APM Terminals. APM, owned by A.P. Moller-Maersk. The workers went on strike to press for better working conditions and to protest a new system for selecting shifts.

APM Terminals had started using a computer program to schedule shifts after police claimed some dockworkers were helping smuggle drugs out of Peru by hiding packets in export containers.

Union spokesperson Juan Carlos Vargas said APM Terminals agreed to improve benefits for workers and make adjustments to the computerized shift-selecting system. The northern terminal handles 75 percent of Callao's capacity, especially shipments of foods and basic goods.

## Mid-day break rule broken in Oman

The three-hour midday break rule imposed by Oman's Ministry of Manpower for outdoor workers is being blatantly violated, reports the Muscat Daily. Visiting several worksites, reporters found workers toiling in the sun either because project deadlines were close or they were not informed by contractors about the rule mandating that all outdoor workers at all firms should be given a break from 12:30 to 3:30 pm during the months of June, July and August.

A crane operator at a construction site in Wattayah said he gets only an hour off. "Our company has told us that the rule is only for big firms and not small or medium sized ones."

A worker painting a building

during the break period said, "Our boss has told us we can't spend many days on this project and need to finish before Ramadan starts. Our company has rented a crane from a third party to get the job completed. There is pressure on us to finish the project and return the crane as early as possible."

A blue collar worker at another site told reporters: "Our contractor has said that we need to finish this portion (of the project) by the end of this week." With no place to rest except in the shade of nearby trees, he works during the rest period, taking only a brief time off for lunch.

An official from the Ministry of Manpower said that its inspectors have caught several companies flouting the rule.

"We have set up a hotline, and we follow up on reports of violations from the public. Several companies have already been investigated, and in the near future, we will let the public know how many violations have been recorded," he said.

Even if workers get their three-hour break, there are no shelters at most sites, forcing workers to rest either under trees or find other shaded spots.

One group was resting under a flyover. A worker from the group said, "We are given the break but not provided an air-conditioned room or shaded spot. So, we have to look for shade ourselves. Our construction site is about 20 minutes from the flyover under which we rest."

## Deutsche Post workers may strike again

Workers at Deutsche Post may go on strike again soon, depending on the mail and logistics group's response to labour union Verdi's demands in a dispute over pay and conditions. "Preparations for open-ended strikes are in full swing," a spokesperson for Verdi said on June 5.

Staff at Deutsche Post have staged a series of strikes since the company announced plans in January to create 10,000 new jobs at its parcel business by 2020 that would come with lower wages than those of other group employees. Verdi has said such a move breaches an agreement limiting how much business Deutsche Post can outsource. The union said it would only accept it if the company shortened the working hours of 140,000 employees and raised wages by 5.5 per cent.

In early June, Verdi offered to scrap its demand for the wage increase as long as workers at the new parcel units were paid the same as employees at the rest of the group. Deutsche Post provisionally rejected the offer.

## Mexican teacher protests erupt

Mexican teachers ended their occupation of two offices of the National Electoral Institute on June 6, and ceased their blockade of the fuel storage and distribution installations of state-owned oil

company Petroleos Mexicanos in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas state. However, less than 24 hours before voters headed to the polls on June 7 for mid-term elections, the militant CNTE teachers union led students and their parents, labour unions and peasant and indigenous organizations in a march to the Chiapas state government palace.

Two CNTE sections have taken action over the lack of a concrete response by the federal government to their demands, which include a salary hike, repeal of a sweeping 2013 education overhaul and the elimination of student fees at public schools. On June 5, thousands of teachers in Tuxtla Gutierrez trashed the state offices of nine political parties, burning furniture and campaign literature. Thousands of teachers are maintaining a protest camp in the city's historic main square despite opposition from store owners.

Though teachers have mounted large rallies in Mexico City, their mobilization has had its largest impact in the states of Michoacan, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Chiapas and Veracruz, which span southern Mexico from the Pacific to the Gulf. At least 15 people were injured on June 5 when protesters led by contingents of teachers and students clashed with police in Guerrero.

CNTE leaders remained committed to disrupting the mid-term elections despite progress in talks with the government. While the ongoing negotiations have led to tentative accords on some points, the teachers still view the electoral process as a farce. More than 83 million Mexicans were eligible to choose 500 federal legislators, nine state governors

and hundreds of regional and local officeholders. The campaign, which officially ended on June 3, was marred by a score of killings, and a number of candidates withdrew after receiving death threats.

## Uzbek labour activist detained

Uzbekistan's police detained a human rights activist on May 31, and subjected her to cruel and degrading treatment during an 18-hour interrogation about her work on forced labour, according to Human Rights Watch. Police and doctors forcibly sedated Elena Urlaeva and then subjected her to a body cavity search, x-rays, and other abuse.

"This vicious assault on one of the country's bravest human rights defenders can't by any stretch of the imagination be construed as legitimate law enforcement and needs immediate, unequivocal condemnation," said Steve Swerdlow, Central Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch. "The attack on Elena Urlaeva shows how far the government is willing to go to cover up evidence of forced labour and to retaliate against those who expose it."

Police in Chinaz, a city in the Tashkent region, detained Urlaeva on May 31 in a cotton field as she was photographing and interviewing forced laborers in the cotton fields.

Urlaeva photographed approximately 60 doctors from Chinaz whom local officials had forced to work in the fields. She also interviewed kindergarten teachers who said the mayor ordered them to weed cotton.

Many items in our "Global Class Struggle" column are from the Labour Start website, [www.labourstart.org](http://www.labourstart.org)

## Join 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, ON, M4K 1N6  
416-469-2446 <info@cpc-pcc.ca> [www.comunist-party.ca](http://www.comunist-party.ca)

**Parti Communiste du Quebec** (section du Parti communiste du Canada)  
5359 Ave Du Parc, Suite "C"  
Montreal, QC, H2V 4G9  
Email: [pcqcc@gmail.com](mailto:pcqcc@gmail.com) Tél: 438-338-8890

**B.C. Committee CPC**  
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1  
604-254-9836 <[cpinfo.bc@gmail.com](mailto:cpinfo.bc@gmail.com)>

**Edmonton CPC**  
Box 68112, 70 Bonnie Doon PO  
Edmonton, AB, T6C 4N6  
Tel: 780-934-7893

**Calgary CPC**  
5421 - 8th Ave. SE  
Calgary, AB, T2A 4L7 Tel: 403-248-6489

**Saskatchewan CPC**  
Email: <[email@communist-party-sk.ca](mailto:email@communist-party-sk.ca)>

**Ottawa CPC**  
Tel: 613-232-7108

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

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

**Hamilton Ctee. CPC**  
265 Melvin Ave., Apt. 815  
Hamilton, ON, L8H 2K3  
Tel: 905-548-9586

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



# Corruption scandals in Guatemala and Honduras

By Emile Schepers, *People's World*

Massive corruption scandals in two key allies of the United States in Central America, Guatemala and Honduras, are producing large demonstrations calling for the resignations of the presidents of both countries.

In Honduras, a major scandal erupted when it was revealed that officials close to right-wing President Juan Orlando Hernandez had stolen money from the social welfare and health care budget and had surreptitiously given it to Hernandez's political party, the National Party, for the purposes of winning the 2013 presidential elections.

At that time supporters of the runner-up, leftist Xiomara Castro de Zelaya of the LIBRE party, had denounced the elections as fraudulent, and this new information supports that claim. Adding to the indignation is a decision by the Supreme Court, packed with Hernandez supporters, that Hernandez can run for re-election, which invalidates the Honduran constitution's prohibition on second terms. When former President Manuel Zelaya, Xiomara Castro's husband, was overthrown in a military coup in June 2009, the pretext was that he was secretly planning to run for re-election. So large scale demonstrations are being carried out by LIBRE and its broad mass support base, demanding that Hernandez resign.

In Guatemala, the main scandal, called "La Linea", has to do with

bribery of officials by wealthy people and companies wishing to evade taxes and customs duties, as well as crooked subcontracting and other issues. High ranking members of the government of the right wing president, General Otto Perez Molina, of the Patriotic Party, are facing prosecution. The vice president, Roxanna Baldetti,



LIBRE party protest in Honduras

was forced to resign on May 8, and people in the president's own office are also implicated. Perez Molina increased public alienation by appointing as the new Vice President a judge who had helped the former dictator, Efraim Rios Montt, evade punishment for genocide.

The networks that carried out the illegal acts go back decades and involve several former presidents (including Rios Montt), army officers, judges and many others. Many, including Baldetti's personal secretary, are being

prosecuted, but only because of independent investigations by the UN sponsored International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG).

Honduras (population 8 million) and Guatemala (15 million) are two of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Both governments have imposed on their

peoples neo-liberal policies of austerity, privatisation and free trade, and have steered clear of the Bolivarian movement which has swept the region. In both countries, poverty has been rising and personal security has become increasingly shaky. Both presidents managed to get elected by promising a "hard hand" (mano dura) against criminals and especially drug traffickers. A particularly galling dimension of the scandal in Guatemala is that President Perez Molina had announced more budget cuts and

austerity because tax collections were not bringing in enough money, and now it is revealed that a huge percentage of taxes on the rich were evaded in exchange for bribes paid to people in his government. And Perez Molina's son is being prosecuted in the United States for drug trafficking.

Some of the bribery appears to have involved foreign mining companies wishing to open operations in Guatemala, an especially touchy issue for rural Indigenous populations which have been battling against polluting and exploitative extractive industries.

The developments in Honduras are likely to help the left, though there won't be a general election there until 2017. One of the pretexts for Zelaya's overthrow was a false claim that he planned to try to run for an illegal second term. What really frightened the Honduran elites and the United States government was that Zelaya was bringing Honduras into alignment with the Bolivarian group of left and left-centre ruled countries, and specifically Cuba and Venezuela. When Zelaya was overthrown the other Latin American countries pushed to restore constitutional order and return Zelaya to power, but the United States created pressure to go ahead with a dubious election, which brought in right-wing president Porfirio Lobo. Under Lobo and Hernandez, Honduras has become a hyper violent state in which women, gay-lesbian-transgendered activists, ethnic minorities, peasant and labour leaders and political oppositionists are especially targeted for murder attacks.

The left-wing LIBRE Party has been playing a major role in the

anti-Hernandez demonstrations, and seems likely to gain traction from the disgrace of the Hernandez administration.

In Guatemala, which has general elections on September 6, the prospects for the left are murkier. In the last elections, in 2011, the Indigenous rights activist Rigoberta Menchú, as the candidate of the leftist URNG-Maiz party, got only 3.27 percent of the vote. The outgoing centrist president, Alvaro Colom, tried to run his wife, Sandra Torres, for president, under the banner of the National Unity of Hope Party. However, the Guatemalan constitution forbids spouses of incumbent presidents from qualifying as candidates. Colom and Torres tried to get around this by getting a divorce widely seen as fake. The courts disqualified Torres, and the Unity of Hope party ended up with no presidential candidate.

Whether any of the parties on the left or left-centre can get enough traction by the time of the elections remains to be seen. At least 41% of the Guatemalan population is Indigenous. This has led to discussion of a possible presidential candidacy of Congressman Amilcar Pop of the leftist Winaq Party. Pop is a Q'eqchi Maya lawyer and defender of Indigenous rights. However, it is not clear that such a candidacy would be viable with three months to go and with the Indigenous electorate marginalised, by poverty and repression, from the process.

Meanwhile, demonstrations continue in both countries, advancing the demands for constituent assemblies to completely restructure the thoroughly compromised existing political institution. ●

## David Cameron's EU charade

Morning Star (UK)

Prime Minister David Cameron appreciates the fragility of his party's parliamentary majority, so he is setting out his manifesto pledges in order to maximise success.

Had he played up to his backbenchers by leading off with legislation to abandon the European Court of Human Rights, he could have stirred up a hornets' nest, confronting both opposition parties and civil libertarians in the Tory ranks. Far easier to prioritise his EU referendum charade, putting the boot into trade unions, extending right-to-buy legislation to housing associations and cutting in-work benefits.

These issues all command overwhelming backing on the Tory benches and the PM can expect some support from opponents. Cameron's "renegotiation" rigmarole is a sop to his anti-EU backbenchers, but anything he achieves in talks with the other 28 states will be marginal.

His backbenchers want Britain to exclude other EU citizens seeking work or benefits, but this contradicts the very core of EU economic and social policy - namely, the free movement of goods, capital, services and people throughout the bloc. Eastern European states targeted by Tory bigots have already insisted that they will not accept designation of their nationals as EU second-class citizens.

However, Cameron may have more luck in winning allies to the cause of undermining EU social

provisions since member states and the EU as a body are united in imposing anti-worker austerity across the entire bloc.

In any case, the Tory leader will back a Yes vote for Britain to stay in the EU, irrespective of what happens in his negotiations. After all, he knows exactly what the banks and his City paymasters prefer.

Any Tory backbencher voting to leave the EU can be discounted because all major opposition parties will back staying in, hooked on their mirage of a neo-liberal capitalist superstate as an enlightened democratic force for peace, progress and environmental concerns.

Trade unionists in Britain who conned themselves and others into viewing the EU as a guarantor of workplace rights will have difficulty explaining how the Tories can exploit a small parliamentary majority to make it more difficult for workers to take lawful strike action against tight-fisted and bullying employers.

The demand for a 50 percent mandatory threshold for strike ballots from a government installed by less than quarter of the electorate indicates bias against working people's rights to improve their lives.

However, the Tories should remember the 2009 wave of unofficial strikes by mechanical contractors who opposed the undermining of their pay and conditions through employers' manipulation of the EU 1996 Posted Workers Directive. Official union structures may be hamstrung by legal red tape, but workers'

anger, if deeply held, will find a way to express itself.

Cameron's obsession with the niceties of strike ballots is a diversion from the real voting scandal - first past the post - where a Tory parliamentary majority can be achieved with 37 percent of the popular vote and a 50 percent share, as in Scotland, can deliver 95 percent of seats to the SNP.

The Electoral Reform Society call for a constitutional convention to discuss devolution, which could look at federalism, proportional representation, voting age and other democratic improvements, merits support.

The Tories are intent on carrying through a vicious anti-working class program with no real democratic mandate to do so. Whinging about it or appealing to Cameron's better nature is pointless. Only mobilisation and resistance can hold back and defeat the Tory onslaught. ●



## Workers accuse Venezuela's largest food company of intimidation

From venezuelanalysis.com & Telesur

Workers have accused Venezuelan food giant Polar of trying to suppress unions and intimidating employees.

Octavio Solorzano, the vice president of the trade union federation CST said on June 2, "We want to make it known to the public ... (Polar head Lorenzo) Mendoza acts in a fascist, arbitrary way, ignoring the rule of law, ignoring what the majority of Polar workers want."

Solorzano continued by accusing management at Polar of excluding union representatives from contract negotiations, and of subcontracting - a practice banned in Venezuela.

"Mr. Mendoza, from here we are making a call ... that elected worker (representatives) are invited to discuss the contract collectively, and that you respect them," Solorzano said.

Solorzano's comments came during a press conference with worker representatives, who vowed to continue a long-running labour struggle with Polar over pay and conditions.

Since late 2013, unions have been urging Polar to increase wages, accusing the company of paying out salaries that aren't keeping up with inflation. The dispute flared up late last year, when workers threatened nationwide strikes. The company claims it has tried to negotiate with the union, but says worker demands are unreasonable. Polar is the country's largest private food producer, and dominates the domestic cornflour market - a staple in Venezuela.

This isn't the first time Polar has been accused of intimidation. In December 2014, union representatives in the states of Sucre and Anzoategui alleged the company was trying to gag workers who had accused the company of trying to create artificial food shortages.

The workers said the company had almost halved production of pre-cooked cornflour, amid shortages of the product in some parts of the country. Along with battling its own workers, the company has also been at loggerheads with the Venezuelan government for years. President Nicolas Maduro accuses it of being part of an "economic war" aimed at destabilizing the country with food shortages, but repeatedly stated he is willing to work with Polar management to overcome their political differences. ●

# Valentina Lisitsa to perform in Donetsk

From *New Cold War.org*,  
June 3, 2015

Sputnik News is reporting that the renowned, international pianist Valentina Lisitsa will hold a concert in the rebel region of eastern Ukraine later this month.

Speaking to Radio Sputnik on June 2, Lisitsa said her performance will be held in Donetsk, the capital of the Donetsk People's Republic. It will likely take place on June 22, the symbolic 74th anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War.

Her concert will feature the works of Sergei Prokofiev, the famous Russian composer whose home city is Donetsk. The Donetsk airport that was destroyed last year by the shelling of the Ukrainian army is named the Sergei Prokofiev International Airport. It was entirely renovated and modernized in 2012.

Valentina Lisitsa is a Ukrainian-born classical pianist who moved to the United States during her teenage years. She has made international headlines for her successful professional career. She made additional headlines when the Toronto Symphony Orchestra cancelled two concerts she was to perform on April 8 and 9. The

Symphony took that drastic decision after it learned she has been outspoken against the war that the government of Ukraine has been waging against the people of eastern Ukraine since April of 2014.

The right-wing, pro-war segment of the Ukrainian-Canadian population was known to be very influential among Canada's elected politicians and its newspaper editors. Lisitsa's shabby treatment at the hands of the TSO showed that it also has influence in some mainstream cultural institutions.

But after examining the controversy, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra decided to

stick with its planned recitals featuring her on June 5 and 6.

And the right wing is not at all dominant among the Canadian population. The TSO decision to cancel her performances in Toronto provoked a torrent of outrage and protest, including among readers of Canada's mainstream press.

Lisitsa performed in Ottawa on June 2 at an invitation-only concert at the Russian Embassy. The evening featured works by Russian composers. The concert provoked a spiteful article in the *Globe and Mail* on the same date. The article featured the views of the president of the right-wing, extremist Ukrainian Canadian Congress...



Valentina Lisitsa

## Freedom Flotilla III: the Ship to Gaza sails again

Compiled from reports at  
<https://freedomflotilla.org/>

On May 9, the trawler Marianne of Gothenburg departed from its home port heading for the Medi-terranean and Gaza. Ship to Gaza Sweden and Norway have joined forces with the international Freedom Flotilla to again attempt to peacefully break the blockade of the besieged Palestinian population on that narrow coastal strip between Israel and Egypt.

Just like in Ship to Gaza's action with Estelle in 2012, Marianne will stop at ports during its voyage, holding events to build public opinion. After Gothenburg, and Malmo/Copenhagen we are now continuing down the European coast. Marianne will join other ships in the Freedom Flotilla in the Eastern Mediterranean and then sail together toward Gaza City. In order to enable a just peace and for the Palestinian state, Ship to Gaza demands that:

1. the siege is lifted immediately;
2. the port in Gaza City is opened and made functional; and
3. safe transportation routes between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are secured

When Gaza's Ark was destroyed during last year's attack on Gaza by Israel, we all lost a boat intended to break the blockade "from the inside out". But our goal of helping to build a sovereign Palestinian economy based on freedom of movement has not changed. Palestinian products from both Gaza and the West Bank were to be exported not only as a symbolic stimulus to the Palestinian economy but to show the world the industrious work of craftspeople and farmers who continue to struggle against

the overwhelming odds of occupation, economic strangulation and war.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition is now on its way to once again challenge the blockade of Gaza. The remaining goods that were to be exported by Gaza's Ark are now to form part of the export cargo of the Freedom Flotilla when it reaches Gaza. To showcase these goods and highlight exactly what Israel was trying to stop by destroying Gaza's Ark, Palestinian producers organizations are participating in an exhibition of export goods at the Red Crescent Hall (near Al Azhar University) in Gaza City, from June 6-8th.

Sameera Qarmout, from one of the producer organizations at the exhibit, says: "Before it was attacked, we had the hope that our embroideries would be exported aboard Gaza's Ark. The coming Freedom Flotilla III has given us a light of new hope that our products

will still be made available to world markets."

The exhibit includes goods from Palestinian producers in Gaza as well as goods from West Bank producers that reached Gaza in spite of the Israeli Occupier's restrictions: embroidery, wood carvings and olive oil.

Organizations and individuals in Australia, USA, Canada and Europe purchased over \$24 000 USD worth of Palestinian export goods via Gaza's Ark, and new orders are still being placed, showing the confidence people have in the need for a Palestinian economy.

Peter Downey (Chair, Bethlehem B&NES Links Ltd., Bath, England) adds: "We have bought goods from West Bank artisans as samples for a potential distributor of their products in the UK and Europe. This new sea route will be far less expensive than the courier system to which we are subject currently." ●



<https://freedomflotilla.org/> and <https://shiptogaza.se/en>

Twitter: @CanadaBoatGaza @GazaFFlotilla  
@ShiptoGazaSE and @GazaArk

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1417964708527164/>

Lisitsa took part in a commemoration ceremony in Paris on May 2 for the victims of the massacre one year earlier in Odessa of antiwar and anti-fascist protesters.

She told an interviewer in Paris, "[In Ukraine], people are being groomed to hate. And that's the biggest humanitarian disaster of all, because ... all those people being killed, eventually this creates deep wounds of hate. That's the biggest war crime, a crime against humanity. That is what the current government of Ukraine is perpetrating, unfortunately with the help,

or at least with the ignorance, of Western governments."

Referring to the civil war being waged by the government in Kyiv, she said, "It takes time [to win freedom]. I'm holding my flag, for freedom. For the freedom of all of us, independent of the language we speak, for what we believe - what government we want, what form of government we want. We have the right to live in peace. We have the right to enjoy our peace, and we have the right not to be told to kill our families." ●

## CLC urges full support for TRC recommendations

*Canadianlabour.ca*, June 2, 2015

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has released its report on the residential school system that Aboriginal children – including Metis and Inuit children – were forced to attend. The program started in the 1870's and continued until the last schools were closed in the 1990's.

All findings point to "cultural genocide". Evidence shows that the government tried to eliminate the culture and language of Canada's indigenous people for well over a hundred years. They did so by forcibly removing children from their families and placing them in institutions that the Commission has characterized as cultural indoctrination centres.

The Canadian Labour Congress stands in solidarity with the victims of the residential school system and calls on all levels of government to adopt and implement every one of the Commission's recommendations.

Justice Murray Sinclair, who was Manitoba's first aboriginal judge, said one estimate made in the early part of the 20th century was that 24 to 42 per cent of Aboriginal children who attended the residential schools died at school or shortly after leaving school. The findings point to a "cultural genocide" of Aboriginal peoples.

"The Commission's research into the abuse, deaths and mental degradation of Aboriginal children must be taken seriously by all levels of government, as well as the Canadian public," said CLC president Hassan Yussuff. "Now Canada, and all Canadians, have a responsibility to ensure that all the recommendations are implemented and everything possible is done to ensure meaningful reconciliation."

On May 31, in anticipation of the report, CLC officers, Barb Byers and Donald Lafleur marched with 10,000 staff, affiliates, union retirees and other Canadians in the Walk for Reconciliation in Ottawa.

The CLC has a strong relationship with the Aboriginal community and will continue to work with labour's Aboriginal committees and working groups to ensure all levels of government implement the report's recommendations. In addition... the CLC will incorporate the Commission's findings into our educational and other resources. ●

## CUPE commits to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

<http://cupe.ca>, June 3, 2015

Reaffirming the Canadian Union of Public Employees' commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, Canada's largest union is welcoming the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"As workers, we must acknowledge the attempted cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples. This is a dark part of our history shared amongst all Canadians," says Paul Moist, national president of CUPE. "We stand strong as an ally with Indigenous Peoples, and we are committed to working together with First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples on the journey towards true reconciliation."

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued a series of recommendations and a summary of its final report, to be released in the Fall. The 94 recommendations seek to reduce and repair the damage inflicted on First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples by the Indian Residential School System.

"This report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission isn't an end but a beginning to reconciliation. It is a call to action for all Canadians to build and re-build trust," says Charles Fleury, national secretary-treasurer of CUPE. "CUPE will be advocating for Canadian governments to implement these recommendations, and we are committed to applying them to the work we do every day as a trade union."

The Commission's recommendations range from increased funding for post-secondary education, improvements to the child welfare systems, improved education systems for Aboriginal communities, and calls for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. The complete report, including testimony from over 6,000 residential school Survivors, will be released later in 2015. ●

## Trek changed Canadian history...

continued from page 2

committee's efforts to have Arthur Evans and other political prisoners freed from detention. Within days after the Regina police riot, charges against half of those accused were dropped due to widespread public indignation. Trekkers were allowed to receive food relief and return home. The mass campaign in Regina laid the groundwork for the election later in the year of a pro-labour city council.

However, the Bennett government intended to pursue charges against Evans and some others with a vengeance. Of the 117 who were arrested, 30 were committed for trial on a variety of charges ranging from vagrancy and assaulting police to membership in an unlawful association. Evans and six others were charged with being members of the RCWU.

This action sparked a campaign to have all charges dropped and imprisoned trekkers released. Mass public unity soon brought about Arthur Evans' release on bail. In the fall, he conducted an exhausting tour across the country with the aim of exposing the Bennett government and obtaining the release of those still in jail.

The Hunger Marches of the early '30s, the On to Ottawa Trek, the activities of the WUL, the Farmers' Unity League and the Canadian Labour Defense League, were vivid expressions of popular rejection of Bennett's program of economic

stagnation, sharply reduced living standards, and political repression. Such rejection assumed massive proportions as workers, unemployed and farmers sought alternative policies based on work and wages and guaranteed farm income. This sentiment helped bring about the resounding defeat of the Bennett government in the 1935 general election. The Liberals under W.L.M. King gained 132 more seats than the Conservatives.

During the campaign, King had been forced to respond to the massive working class pressure by promising to repeal Section 98 and abolish the relief camps. In June 1936, almost a year later, the relief camps were closed and Section 98 repealed. With this victory the RCWU was dissolved. The seemingly all-powerful

"Iron Heel" Bennett was finally removed from the political scene. The militant policies and work of the WUL, the FUL and the Communist Party had shown that working people were capable of not only defending but also advancing their vital interests. Provided the working class was united in its struggle against exploitation and oppression, it could make real gains even under the harshest conditions.

The Communist Party, meanwhile, emerged from this period firmly established in the minds of Canadian workers as an unshakable champion of the rights and interests of the working class, the farmers and the unemployed.

(From Chapter 5 of "Canada's Party of Socialism," Progress Books, 1976) •

**EDMONTON**

## People's Voice Picnic



**Sat., July 4, 2:30-5 pm**

**At Emily Murphy Park in the river valley - FREE.**

**Hot dogs, music, entertainment for children.**

**Guest speaker: PV Editor Kimball Cariou**

## What's Left

### Vancouver, BC

**Celebrate the 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Communist Party of Canada**, 6 pm, Sat., June 20, dinner and music at the Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive, tickets \$20, sponsored by Montivero Club CPC, ph. 604-254-9836.

**La Trova Nuestra**, monthly social evening of Latin American music and food, 8 pm, Friday, June 26, admission \$10, at the CSE, 706 Clark Drive.

**Left Film Night**, 5 pm, Sat., June 27 at the CSE, 706 Clark Drive. Double feature: a documentary on the missing Mexican students, plus "PRIDE", the inspiring film about "Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners" during the historic 1984-85 coal strike.

### Surrey, BC

**People's Voice Walk-A-Thon**, Sunday, August 9, Bear Creek Park (picnic area at 140 St. & 88 Ave.). Walk through the park at 11 am, followed by delicious international lunch and cultural program. Organized by Lower Fraser Club CPC, for info, call Harjit, 604-543-7179.

### Edmonton, AB

**People's Voice Picnic**, Sat., July 4, 2:30-5 pm at Emily Murphy Park. Hot dogs, music, entertainment for children, guest speaker Kimball Cariou, editor of PV. For info call Naomi, 780-465-7893.

### Toronto, ON

**CCFA Toronto Annual General Meeting**, with guest speaker Jean Augustine, former Etobicoke-Lakeshore MP, and guests from Cuban Consulate. Saturday, June 13, 7:30 p.m., 519 Church St., Grand Ballroom 2nd floor (N. of Wellesley, East of Yonge). Reports on past year's work, election of next Executive Committee, free admission.

**Labour Pride-Toronto**, Monday, June 22, 7 pm, 25 Cecil St., CLC & OFL Pride Committees present the film "Pride", the UK film on queer solidarity during the 1984-85 mineworkers strike. Meet Junic Wambya - Sexual Minorities Uganda, winner of the 2015 OFL Award for Excellence for Outstanding Workers' Rights Advances. FREE!

**LGBTIQ Pride Parade**, Sunday June 28, 1 pm, Church & Wellesley, NE Corner at the parkette. Join the Communist Party & YCL contingent to celebrate Pride!

**CPC (Ontario) 28th Convention social**, meet the delegates, raise a Glass at the Saturday Night Jazz BBQ, 6:30 pm, Sat., July 4, 526 Main Street (Main Station); in the event of rain, at the GCDO Hall, 290 Danforth Ave. \$20 or pay what you can - everyone welcome. Proceeds to the People's Voice Fund Drive.

## Cowardice over TTIP...

continued from page 5

this sleight of hand are either naive in the extreme or happy to do their bit for business by providing a fig leaf for big business. If the public sector and ISDS are excluded from TTIP, what is the point of it?

When the TUC annual conference formulated policy on TTIP, it warned against a rounding down to US levels of standards relating to workplace rights, pay and conditions, environmental standards, food safety and control of dangerous chemicals. It drew attention to the disparity between

pre-implementation claims about job creation and prosperity to be gained from free trade deals and the reality once they are imposed.

The most obnoxious aspect of TTIP negotiations is the veil of secrecy under which they take place. What confidence can there be in the unelected and unaccountable European Commission which represents the EU and its member states and provides no details or updates on its manoeuvring?

Trade commissioner Malmstroem, who nobbled the aforementioned trade committee

chairman Lange, takes her brief from the secretive commission, which is as open to corporate lobbyists as it is closed to ordinary citizens, trade unions and community groups.

The deal concocted by Lange's committee is likely to be backed overwhelmingly by the European Parliament in June, without the population of the EU member states being aware of what's in store for them.

MEPs should be told by individuals and representative bodies that they have no mandate for this treacherous act. •

## TPP details hidden from public....

continued from page 5

against Canada, with one of the most notorious involving a challenge to a ban on oil and gas fracking in the province of Quebec.

The TPP will significantly increase the number of foreign investors eligible to sue Canada. A recent Canadian NAFTA ISDS loss reflects the unfairness of the process. The arbitration tribunal ruled 2-1 that an independent environmental assessment process, which resulted in a U.S. investor (Bilcon) being denied a permit to dig a massive quarry in an ecologically sensitive region of Nova Scotia, violated NAFTA's chapter 11 investor protections. The dissenting member on the NAFTA tribunal called this finding "a remarkable step backwards" for environmental protection. Bilcon is now seeking over \$300 million in damages from the federal

government.

One of the most difficult and high-profile issues for Canada in the TPP negotiations concerns the fate of its supply-managed agricultural sectors. Supply management matches domestic supply to domestic demand and in the process offers a fair return to farmers and a reasonably priced supply of fresh milk, eggs and poultry to consumers. Farmers and consumers in countries and sectors without supply management systems are subject to wild swings in commodity prices, and producers have little ability to negotiate reasonable returns or prices with giant global agribusinesses. Dairy farmers estimate their industry contributes more than \$18 billion annually to the Canadian economy.

The Canadian government has been holding back on making an offer on market access for dairy

until the last possible minute. But U.S. negotiators, as well those of Australia and New Zealand, have made it clear that they expect substantial access for all dairy products as well as for poultry, and reports from the recent TPP negotiations in Guam suggest Canada is willing to move in that direction. These inroads could spell the demise of the supply management system, destroying the livelihood of thousands of family farms, including in vote-rich Ontario and Quebec.

When we take an honest look at the TPP, it becomes clear there is little up side for Canada in these negotiations. And yet here we are at the end game, with Canada's own take-it-or-leave-it decision on the horizon. In a fairly recent, but poorly reported speech, Prime Minister Stephen Harper stressed that Canada could not "hold up the TPP on its own," even if it is

## People's Voice deadlines

July 1-31 issue: Thursday, June 18

August 1-31 issue: Thursday, July 16

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

## 94 Years of Struggle!

Dinner and music to celebrate the birthday of the Communist Party of Canada



**Saturday, June 20, 6 pm**  
**Centre for Socialist Education,**  
**706 Clark Drive, Vancouver**

Tickets \$20 at the door.  
Organized by Sergio Montivero  
Club CPC, 604-254-9836 for info



unhappy with the results, and that Canadians must prepare themselves for some "difficult choices."

It is uncertain how the Canadian public would respond to such a poor bargain at the polls. To date, the government has been tight-lipped about any aspect of the TPP negotiations, and traditionally the public plays no role in the passage of free trade deals. The federal government is probably as reluctant to have to make that

decision in an election year as it was to enter into the TPP negotiations to begin with.

Despite the secrecy enveloping the TPP text, the Congressional fast-track bill is at least provoking a meaningful debate in the U.S. about this sweeping, yet economically dubious treaty. Canadians, who possibly have even more at stake, deserve no less.

Read more at <https://www.policyalternatives.ca> •

# TTIP: Now it gets political

By John Hilary, *New Internationalist*

Debate is hotting up over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the notorious trade deal cooked up in secret between the EU and the United States. With the official talks already in trouble, TTIP is now coming under renewed scrutiny from parliamentarians on both sides of the Atlantic.

In a series of forthcoming votes, the European Parliament and US Congress are turning their attention to an agreement that is becoming more toxic with every passing day.

The TTIP negotiations were launched in 2013, and there are several years before any deal could come up for final ratification. Yet the new European Parliament elected last year is now set to hold its first plenary vote on an interim TTIP resolution during the week of June 8.

The schedule could still slip, given the level of controversy surrounding the resolution; the timetable has been set back once already by the blizzard of 898 amendments that were entered by other parliamentary committees in protest at the first draft.

As is now widely recognised, TTIP is not a traditional trade agreement aimed at reducing border tariffs, which are already at minimal levels between the EU and USA. Instead, TTIP focuses on dismantling the “barriers” to corporate profit that exist behind the border, namely the social standards, labour rights and environmental regulations that we hold most dear.

The impacts will be socially

and ecologically disastrous: official estimates predict TTIP will cost at least one million jobs in the EU and US combined, while the resulting surge in US shale gas exports to Europe will lock us in to fossil fuel dependency for decades.

**The European Union intends to sign two far-reaching trade agreements: one with Canada (CETA = Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) and one with the USA (TTIP = Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). The official line is that this will create jobs and increase economic growth. However, the beneficiaries of these deals are big corporations, not working people.**

Most outrageously, TTIP is set to grant US corporations the new power to bypass domestic courts and sue European governments for potential loss of profits in a parallel judicial system available to them alone. This so-called “investor-state dispute settlement” mechanism (ISDS) would allow US companies the opportunity to demand compensation wherever they felt that their “legitimate expectations” had been upset by the passage of new laws or regulations.

According to the official British government’s assessment commissioned from the London School of Economics at the beginning of the TTIP negotiations, taxpayers will be forced to pay billions if the new power is approved.

For these and many other reasons, popular opposition to TTIP is running at unprecedented levels. The European Citizens’ Initiative against TTIP has secured close to two million signatures

from across Europe in just eight months. The EU’s own public consultation on ISDS saw a record 150,000 responses, all but a tiny handful rejecting the idea of granting transnational corporations this new power. The

message from the European people is loud and clear. Yet the unelected bureaucrats of the European Commission are oblivious. Imet with Cecilia Malmstroem, the EU Trade Commissioner responsible for TTIP, in her private office earlier this year and asked her whether she was bothered that the people of Europe were up in arms against her.

Her response came back icily: “I do not take my mandate from the European people.”

Malmstroem’s handling of the ISDS question reveals all too clearly her contempt for democratic legitimacy. Rather than respect the public’s rejection of her plans, the Trade Commissioner is determined to press ahead with a “new and improved” version of ISDS, which singularly fails to address the fundamental issue raised in the consultation: why would we wish to give US corporations something that Malmstroem herself has characterised as a “VIP line to justice”?

As one MEP remarked caustically on being shown the new proposal: put lipstick on a pig, it’s still a pig. Yet some parliamentarians are all too happy to go along with the fiction that Malmstroem’s reforms have answered the critics. For most liberal and conservative MEPs, support for TTIP seems to transcend any belief in democracy or national sovereignty.

For many social democratic MEPs, including Labour parties from across the continent, the

desire to be seen as trusted allies in the neo-liberal capitalist program overrides any commitment to the European social model they might once have held. Small wonder that they find themselves increasingly out of favour with European electorates.

If the European Parliament passes a resolution that is supportive of TTIP in the face of such unprecedented public opposition, it will open up a new phase in our understanding of the institutions of the EU.

While the Commission has long been known to be unaccountable, and the Council of Ministers is too remote to influence, the Parliament is at some level supposed to represent the will of the European people. That argument will dissolve into thin air if MEPs vote against the public mood on TTIP. As Britain prepares for its forthcoming referendum on EU membership, people are unlikely to forget or forgive such a momentous betrayal.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, Congress is going through its own TTIP contractions. The US debate centres on the special “fast track” powers that President Obama needs to secure if he is to be allowed to negotiate TTIP to its conclusion without referring every line to Congress for approval.

## Cowardice over TTIP

*Editorial from the Morning Star, May 29, 2015*

British Labour MEP David Martin hails as a victory the deal cooked up in the European Parliament by the Socialists and Democrats group and the conservative European People’s Party. He claims that the decision by the “parliament’s” trade committee, backing a proposal by trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem, removes public services from the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and US.

Martin also insists that new wording, proposed by trade committee chairman Bernd Lange, would dispense with an “investor-state dispute settlement” (ISDS) at the heart of the system.

ISDS provisions have been integral to free trade deals concluded between the US, EU and other countries. They enable transnational corporations to sue sovereign governments over the alleged effect on their profits by state policy, effectively undermining democratic accountability.

French transnational corporation Veolia was able, for instance, to sue Egypt for threatening its profits by introducing a minimum wage. Argentina faced legal attack

The bill preparing this Trade Promotion Authority has just managed to stutter its way through the Senate, but there are doubts that it will pass the House of Representatives—not least because the same power would also apply to the parallel Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that the USA is negotiating with Asian and Latin American nations, which is seen as an even greater threat than TTIP.

Obama will not risk a vote that he might lose, and the clock is ticking on his presidency. Time is not on his side.

Popular resistance is making the passage of such legislation increasingly implausible, on both sides of the Atlantic. The global day of action held on April 18 this year saw 750 actions in protest at the new wave of free trade deals that threaten to give transnational corporations new powers over society throughout the world.

Just as previous attempts to bring in such powers were successfully defeated in the 1990s and 2000s, TTIP is sure to be defeated too. The only question for EU and US parliamentarians is how many of them will go down with it.

*John Hilary is Executive Director of War on Want. His introductory guide to TTIP can be freely downloaded from [www.waronwant.org/ttip](http://www.waronwant.org/ttip).*

on similar grounds for its temerity in introducing an energy price freeze. Australia and Uruguay are being sued by US tobacco giant Philip Morris over the effect new laws on plain packaging for cigarettes will have on its bottom line.

The basic idea of ISDS is to let big business seek recompense for actual or potential profits that government action may have put in jeopardy. It puts private-sector profits on a pedestal, to be defended from such considerations as public interest or the views of elected representatives.

Replacement of ISDS by new machinery that includes public hearings and appeals processes under EU jurisdiction is nothing more than ISDS with a smiley face. It would still allow transnational corporations to sue national governments for carrying out policies passed by the electorate.

Why should anyone assume that court processes overseen by the European Commission, European Court of Justice or any other EU body would back the will of voters over the interests of a corporate conglomerate?

MEPs who give credence to

see COWARDICE, p. 11



Rally in Germany, where TTIP and CETA are deeply unpopular.

## 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 Harper Tories, 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

380-15/11

## REDS ON THE WEB

[www.comunist-party.ca](http://www.comunist-party.ca)

[www.peoplesvoice.ca](http://www.peoplesvoice.ca)

[www.ycl-ljc.ca](http://www.ycl-ljc.ca)

[rebelyouth-magazine.blogspot.com](http://rebelyouth-magazine.blogspot.com)

<http://solidnet.org>