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people's VOICE

Mount Polley:
one year later
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LABOUR DAY 2015

Dump Harper!
*Workers unite
against the
corporate agenda*

See pages 5 & 12



On August 13, thousands of trade unionists gathered in front of the Parliament building in Athens, to call for a "no" vote on the latest austerity plan proposed by the Syriza government.

EARLY ELECTIONS IN GREECE
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*No election debate on
gender inequality...*
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Ontario teachers

People's Voice looks at the tentative collective agreements reached by teachers' unions in Ontario, where public education has been under constant attack by provincial governments for many years.

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Two-tier citizenship

Civil rights groups launch a major legal challenge against Bill C-24, legislation which turns a million people into second-class citizens.

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The real Nina Simone

New documentaries are being released in tribute to the late Nina Simone, but much of the focus is about her turbulent personal life, rather than the revolutionary political impact of her music.

Tentative agreements won by Ontario teacher unions

People's Voice Ontario Bureau

Ontario's Secondary and Catholic Teachers' unions were seeking ratification of tentative agreements achieved with the Liberal provincial government as *People's Voice* was going to press.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation announced that it had achieved the 'net zero' agreement demanded by the province while also winning a small wage increase including a lump sum payment in the first year and a 1.3% increase in the second year. Young teachers, who have been frozen on the grid since Bill 115 was imposed, will now be able to move up. Most important, the no-concessions agreement means teachers prevented the government from stripping the contract under its public sector wage freeze. Among other things, government negotiators were keen to increase class sizes—a move opposed by the public and rejected by the union.

The tentative agreement reached by OECTA representing Catholic Teachers is said to be similar to the OSSTF agreement. The next hurdle is getting local agreements with School Boards, many of which took a hard line after the government announced its wage freeze and 'net zero' bargaining strategy. Strikes are still possible if School Boards don't change their demands for contract strips, or if teachers decide not to ratify the tentative agreements. Ratification meeting and votes are scheduled in Districts across the province in September.

Five unions representing teachers and educational workers have been without collective agreements since August 2014, when all the old contracts expired. This left the unions in a strong position to coordinate strategies in new provincial bargaining with the Ontario government, and in local bargaining with School Boards. The new two-tiered bargaining was introduced by the Liberals after Bill 115 suspended free collective bargaining and imposed contracts in 2012.

With tentative settlements by two of the bigger unions, the pattern may have been set for the Elementary Teachers, who are in still in negotiations and considering work to rule actions through the fall. CUPE, representing support staff, is still negotiating, as are teachers in the French public and French Catholic Boards.

There is speculation that the government toned down its aggressive approach to bargaining after the federal election was

called, in an effort to head off a province-wide showdown with teacher and education unions. Premier Wynne's Liberals are campaigning for Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberals in Ontario, where the federal election could be won or lost. Liberal governments undermining free collective bargaining while driving down workers' wages and living standards won't win many votes.

The Communist Party in Ontario is calling for a massive public investment in education, and a new funding formula for School Boards to meet student needs. "The Liberals are all about austerity, privatization, cutting jobs and reducing wages" said CPC (Ontario) leader Liz Rowley who is also a candidate for the federal party in Sudbury. "The Liberals are no good for Ontario, federally or provincially. We need new policies and new left voices—including Communists—to fight for those policies in the Legislature and in Parliament". •



PV file photo by Ed Bil

Anti-labour bill seeks to eliminate unions, not enforce transparency

By Nora Loreto, editor of Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM)

On June 30, Canada's Senators voted on one final piece of legislation; so important that it didn't matter that they might waste that precious extra second in the Red Chamber. They voted in favour of passing Bill C-377 into law.

The amendments contained in C-377 to the Income Tax Act are sweeping, broad and idiotic. If Canadians need any example that the Harper Conservatives care more about personal vendettas than good governance, the proof is wrapped up in C-377.

C-377 requires a ridiculous level of compliance from labour organizations and trusts. It forces unions, labour organizations, labour federations, organizations comprised of different unions, labour trusts and professional associations to publically report all expenditures of over \$5000 and itemize exactly what that the money was dedicated to.

Everyone's salaries, everyone's timesheets and all contracts will be made public. This places an enormous burden on the bureaucratic structures of the labour movement.

Perhaps the most incredible

part of the vote is the irony. The Senate is a house of patronage, financial mismanagement and corruption. With a spending scandal that has landed 30 senators in hot water, including nine under RCMP scrutiny (not including Duffy, Brazeau, Harb or Wallin), it's high comedy that they think they can impose

labour voices...

financial transparency on labour organizations.

If you read through the text of the legislation, it's clear that this is an exercise in political harassment rather than an attempt at transparency. And, it was passed by people who either don't understand or don't care how burdensome it will be to implement; not just for labour organizations but also for the government.

Because of this, and because of the many challenges likely to be made based on the constitutionality of this legislation, C-377 doesn't deserve to be treated as if it will be enforced. Labour organizations

should not comply. Instead, C-377 should be seen as a measure of the massive attack being waged on our freedoms of assembly and association.

C-377 is meant to stop unions from engaging in political action despite the fact that unions only exist to engage in political action. Fighting for fair and decent working conditions is a political struggle. Prohibiting them from taking political action is to stop unions from doing what they exist to do.

The reality is that it's much easier to involve oneself in the affairs of one's union than to change the course of one's government and the dispensation of one's taxes. Union leadership present financial documents and members debate them. They aren't the ones with a transparency problem.

It's not as if the leadership of the CLC presented their budget in 500 pages with dozens of other significant amendments to non-budget policies and procedures. It's not as if the budget was passed with the approval of just 136 people. That's the kind of democracy that exists on Parliament Hill, not on a union's convention floor.

see BILL C-377, page 11

In the face of the early elections in Greece

News release from the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), August 24, 2015

The SYRIZA-ANEL government recently resigned, resulting in new early parliamentary elections (most likely on the 20/9).

As is well known, SYRIZA won the elections in January 2015, deceiving the workers, promising the abolition of the anti-people laws, which had been previously passed by the governments of PASOK and ND, after the agreements (memoranda) with the imperialist organizations (EU, IMF, ECB).

The KKE had warned in a timely fashion that SYRIZA, a "left", an opportunist party which mutated into a social-democratic party, was chosen by the bourgeoisie to manage the crisis and can not implement a political line in favour of the people.

Our party had formulated its position that there can be no way out in favour of the working class and the other popular strata inside the capitalist development path, the EU and NATO.

As was demonstrated in a few months of managing capitalism, the "left" SYRIZA, which governed together with "right" nationalist party ANEL, not only did not abolish the 2 previous memoranda and most of the 400 anti-people application laws of the previous governments, but implemented them and passed through Parliament a third even more painful agreement (memorandum) with the imperialist powers. This agreement had the support of the other bourgeois parties and was voted for in Parliament by them: "rightwing" ND, "Social-democratic" PASOK, the "centre" party "POTAMI". This new agreement massacres any rights that have remained,



imposes new reductions in wages and pensions, abolishes social-security rights, imposes even more intense taxation of the popular strata, promotes the policy of privatizations etc. In addition, the "Left-patriotic" government consistently operated during these months inside the framework of our

country's participation in the imperialist unions of NATO and the EU, of the "strategic alliance" with the USA. It participated in every NATO mission and exercise, it organized military exercises even with Israel, it promised a new base for the USA and NATO (on the island of Karpathos), it voted in the EU for the extension and reinforcement of the trade war against Russia etc.

So, in practice it has been demonstrated that the SYRIZA-ANEL government is another anti-people government, which with "left" slogans served in an equally faithful way the bourgeoisie, the EU and NATO as the previous governments had done. Today, the governing SYRIZA-ANEL parties, using the same arguments that ND and PASOK had used in the past, defends the new anti-people agreement as the only way of keeping the country in the Eurozone and EU, something that it presents as the people's salvation. SYRIZA, just as all the other bourgeois parties, sows the illusion amongst the working class and people that the EU and capitalism can be humanized, as long as the workers continue to endure the anti-people measures.

At the same time, the bourgeois political system in order to curb and control any radical changes in the people's consciousness that could be brought about by the exposure of SYRIZA's role continues to manufacture new parties. One such party, with the title "Laiki Enotita" (People's Unity), was formed by MPs and former ministers from SYRIZA. These forces, which were active as a "left platform" inside SYRIZA, bear grave responsibilities as regards the deception of the people. They participated, even as ministers, in the implementation of the previous anti-people laws. They actively participated in the attempt during the previous period to trick the people that there is an alternative proposal for them inside the walls of the EU and agreed with the anti-people agreement that was signed by the SYRIZA-ANEL government with the Troika on the 20th of February, with the anti-people proposal of 47 pages submitted by SYRIZA to the EU etc. Now that the illusions fostered by SYRIZA have been dented, these forces promote the return to the national currency as a solution for the people, along with other measures for the management of the system. They act as a "barrier" to the radicalization of the people, seeking to trap the people inside the capitalist development path.

Over this entire period, the KKE consistently exposed the role of SYRIZA and the other bourgeois parties, struggled for the abolition of the memoranda and all the anti-people measures, to prevent new measures, to develop the workers'-people's struggle for the recovery of their losses and the satisfaction of their needs in combination with the only alternative solution that is in the interests of the working class and other popular strata: the regroupment of the labour movement and the construction social-people's alliance between the working class, the poor farmers, the urban self-employed, the youth and women from the families of the popular strata in order to strengthen the antimonopoly-anticapitalist struggle for the real overthrow, the socialization of the monopolies, the disengagement from the EU and NATO and the unilateral cancellation of the debt, with workers'-people's power.

We are waging the struggle with this line in order to strengthen the KKE in the labour-people's movement and in Parliament, unwaveringly continuing the struggle for the interests of the working class and its liberation from the shackles of capitalist exploitation. •

Mount Polley toxic spill: looking back one year

PV Vancouver Bureau

Environmentalists and indigenous rights activists gathered outside the Vancouver head office of Imperial Metals on August 4, the first anniversary of one of the largest toxic spills in world history.

On that date in 2014, the Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC, owned by Imperial) disaster began in the Cariboo region of central British Columbia, with a breach of MPMC's copper and gold mine tailings pond. The breach released 10 million cubic metres of water and 4.5 million cubic metres of mining slurry waste. The spill raised Polley Lake 1.5 metres, and transformed Hazelton Creek from a 2-metre-wide stream to a 50-metre-across "wasteland". From there, the water and mud continued into Quesnel Lake, the cleanest deep water lake in the world. By August 8, the four square kilometres sized tailings pond was empty. Water tests showed elevated levels of selenium, arsenic and other metals compared to historical tests.

A berm to prevent further spread of tailings was nearing completion by September 2014, and the company and some of its 300 employees began seeking to reopen the mine.

Meanwhile, it was revealed that the company had a history of operating the pond beyond capacity since at least 2011. An official investigation led to a final report on January 31, 2015, covering many factors including whether piezometers (devices to measure water pressure on the dam walls) had been located correctly. The investigating panel blamed the dam collapse on its construction on underlying earth containing a



Rally on August 4, 2015 outside Imperial Metals office on Howe Street in Vancouver.

layer of glacial till that had been unaccounted for by the company's original engineering plan.

But area residents who depend on tourism for their livelihoods still fear that the negative impact on this aspect of the local economy could be devastating. First Nations in the Cariboo area and along the entire Fraser River area stress the potential for long-term effects on the crucial salmon runs and other fisheries. Experts warn that the extent of the damage may remain unknown for years or even decades, as toxicants accumulate in the environment from grass to moose, or from fish, and then to people who depend on these sources for much of their food consumption.

Some former employees accused Imperial Metals of insufficient attention to safety concerns. In 2010, MPMC's engineering firm found a 10 metre crack in the earthen dam while working to raise it. The firm also

found that piezometers were broken, which MPMC later fixed. But questions over the devices still remain, and some workers say the company found it simpler to keep raising the height of the tailings pond beyond safe limits, enormously increasing water pressure levels.

There are also issues around provincial inspection and monitoring of tailings ponds and other mining operations. Former BC premier Gordon Campbell had cut funding for seven ministries responsible for resource management, which were reorganized into a "single team" approach. Inspections across the province decreased from 22 in 2009 to 3 in 2010, two in 2011, and none in 2012. Mount Polley was inspected in 2013, but not 2011 or 2012. Yet Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines, said "there is no evidence that the government's missed inspections were related to the failure of the dam this year".

Since the spill, Alaskan mine opponents including environmentalists, aboriginal peoples, and the fishing industry have raised alarms over several proposed B.C. mining projects involving major salmon-producing river systems that run downstream into Southeast Alaska. The large Red Chris gold and copper mine, owned by Imperial Metals, is nearing completion in the headwaters of the Iskut River, a major tributary of the Stikine River. The KSM project owned by Seabridge Gold Inc. has been approved by B.C. and awaits federal approval; this project is located near the Unuk River system which flows into Alaska and supports a large

Chinook salmon population, although its tailings facility would be located in B.C.'s Nass River watershed emptying into the Pacific. A third mine is slated to reopen and expand in the Taku River near Juneau.

And there are serious questions about connections between the company and the provincial Liberals. The controlling shareholder of Imperial Metals is billionaire Murray Edwards, who has donated half a million dollars to the B.C. Liberal party since 2005. Edwards helped organize a \$1-million fundraiser for Premier Christy Clark's re-election campaign in 2013. Has the relaxation of provincial mining inspections simply been a coincidence? Many find this hard to believe.

This disaster has lessons for the entire province, not just for First Nations in the Cariboo region who have kept the issue in the news. The Mount Polley breach made it clear that the BC Liberals have no interest in effective environmental protection regulation or inspections. Nor will Premier Clark's Liberals enact meaningful restrictions to stop the influence of corporate money in provincial or civic elections. For all the Premier's pretensions to speak for working people, Mount Polley showed again that she is simply a puppet for corporations in the resource sector.

(Adapted from an earlier article in Radical Desi magazine.) ●

Federal party leaders not up for debating gender equality

August 12, 2015 - One week into Canada's federal election campaign, leaders of the major parties in Parliament have failed to put women's rights and gender equality issues up for debate.

The Up for Debate campaign, led by a broad coalition of 175 organizations, has collected over 50,000 signatures from people across Canada calling for a nationally broadcast leader's debate on women's rights and gender equality issues. But lack of a clear commitment from all political party leaders to participate in such a debate has put this plan on ice.

"During last week's Maclean's debate, the word 'woman' was only mentioned four times, and there was no discussion of women's rights or gender equality," said Kelly Bowden of Oxfam, a spokesperson for the campaign. "Without commitment to a standalone debate, and in the absence of discussion in other debates, life and death issues impacting women and girls in Canada are invisible in the federal election campaign."

Indigenous women and girls in Canada experience staggeringly high levels of violence. Overall rates of violence against women and girls in Canada remain stubbornly high. Too many families continue to flee violence and seek refuge in shelters daily. And women continue to be paid less than men for the same work.

"We are part of the economy. Our security matters too. The ways in which we are affected by economic and security policy, for example, are different than the ways in which men are impacted," said Jackie Hansen of Amnesty International. "We need to have these discussions, not just in small groups but at the national level. We need all our federal party leaders to all be up for debating the issues that impact women and girls in Canada."

Party leaders have not yet discussed women's rights and gender equality in debates, public events, or in the media since the election campaign started. Supporters of the Up for Debate campaign are engaging candidates and the general public across the country to make sure that issues impacting women and girls are part of the national discussion in the lead-up to the election. Should all party leaders make a clear commitment to publicly debating women's rights and gender equality, the Alliance for Women's Rights is committed to ensuring this discussion reaches millions of Canadians.

The Up for Debate campaign (see upfordebate.ca) is led by the Alliance for Women's Rights, a non-partisan network of over 175 women's rights, Indigenous, human rights, and international development organizations, faith-based and community groups, unions, and business associations. ●

Bill C-24 "two-tier citizenship" unconstitutional, says lawsuit

August 20, 2015 — The BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL) have launched a constitutional challenge to the new Citizenship Act, a federal law relegating over one million Canadians to second-class status.

The lawsuit argues that the new Citizenship Act, in force since the passage of Bill C-24, creates a two-tier citizenship regime that discriminates against dual nationals, whether born abroad or in Canada, and naturalized citizens. These Canadians will now have more limited citizenship rights compared to other Canadians, simply because they or their parents or ancestors were born in another country.

Under the new law, these Canadians could see their citizenship taken away if convicted of certain serious crimes in Canada or abroad (including in a country that does not have due process or rule of law). New Canadians who became citizens after the passage of Bill C-24 could also lose their citizenship if they move abroad for work, school, or family reasons. Other Canadians would not be vulnerable to losing their citizenship.

"All Canadian citizens used to

have the same citizenship rights, no matter what their origins. We were all equal under the law," said Josh Paterson, Executive Director of the BCCLA. "Now this new law has divided us into classes of citizens—those who can lose their citizenship, and those who can't. Bill C-24 is anti-immigrant, anti-Canadian, and anti-democratic. It undermines—quite literally—what it means to be Canadian."

Despite the public outcry, the citizenship-stripping provisions of the Citizenship Act became law, and the federal government has already quietly begun proceedings to revoke citizenship from some individuals.

Lorne Waldman, a member of the team of lawyers litigating the case and an executive member of CARL, added: "This citizenship-stripping law is unjust, legally unsound, and violates the core values of equality enshrined in the

Charter of Rights and Freedoms. With this law, the federal government shows a flagrant disregard for these values, and for the basic rights of all Canadians. We are asking the court to strike the law down."

The lawsuit further alleges that the two-tier regime is unconstitutional because it allows citizenship to be revoked by government bureaucrats, not by a court of law.

"Instead of welcoming new Canadians, the new Citizenship Act discriminates against them," said Mitch Goldberg, President of CARL. "Bureaucrats in Ottawa will have the power to take away citizenship, and tell people that they don't belong in this country. This weakens citizenship for all Canadians. This lawsuit will remind the government that a Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian. Period." ●



EDITORIALS

Make peace an election issue

One of the most frustrating aspects of the federal election campaign is the absence of debate on foreign policy issues, reflecting the consensus among the major Parliamentary parties and the corporate media in support of the agenda of U.S. imperialism.

This was not always the case. The 1963 election saw a sharp clash over Washington's pressure to station nuclear weapons on Canadian soil (with Conservative PM Diefenbaker opposed, and the Liberals in favour). During the Vietnam War era and the global disarmament campaigns of the 1980s, there issues were prominently debated during elections. And as recently as 2004, the NDP was still aligned with the anti-war movements which opposed the US-led war in Iraq.

But today, the story is quite different. Every key foreign policy of the pro-war Harper Tories is backed by the Liberals and the NDP (with occasional minor differences from the Greens). These parties all support the fascist-backed Kiev government attacking its own population, and the Israeli regime which imposes apartheid policies in occupied Palestine. All the parties stand for increased military spending and continued membership in the NATO alliance, which is engaged in a dangerous game to encircle Russia and China. They all back the bombing of Iraq and Syria, a strategy designed to secure U.S. domination over the entire Middle East/Central Asia region. In varying degrees, these parties are hostile to the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, and support so-called "trade deals" which undermine democracy and national sovereignty, and expand the powers of transnational corporations.

Wherever Communists are on the ballot, voters have a strong anti-war candidate to support. In most ridings, however, grassroots pressure is needed to challenge the pro-war positions of the big parties at every opportunity. We urge our readers to help make peace a real issue in this campaign!

Grappling with tough questions

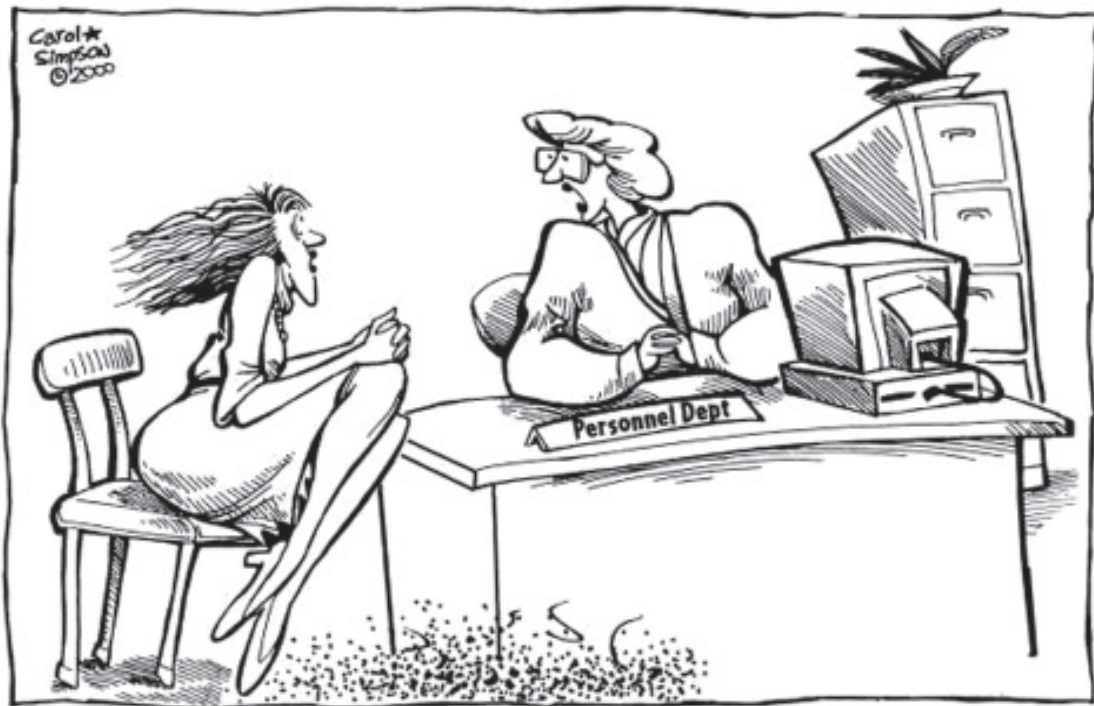
By raising new barriers to many potential voters, the Harper Conservatives have helped to spark an interesting debate around electoral participation by indigenous and Aboriginal peoples.

The (Un)Fair Elections Act passed in 2014 made it more difficult for thousands of people to prove their identity when trying to cast a ballot, especially those who are low-income, elderly, living in rural areas and on reserves, etc. The Assembly of First Nations is working with Elections Canada to remove some of these barriers, with details on the AFN website.

AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde calls this election "an opportunity for all Canadians to help close the gap in the quality of life between First Nations people and the rest of Canada." As he notes, Canada ranks between 6th and 8th on the UN Human Development Index while First Nations fall between 63rd and 78th. First Nations people face poorer health, a shorter life span, housing shortages, boil water advisories, high incarceration rates, and appalling numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The AFN is asking First Nations and Canadian voters to support "leaders and candidates who commit to a brighter future, one that includes First Nations as true partners in Canada."

Others within the indigenous movements have a different outlook. Grassroots Idle No More activist Pamela Palmater, for example, argues that "we should rest our hope on a federal election any more than we should an Assembly of First Nations election." She believes that "the whole point of sovereignty is that Indigenous Nations must assert, live, and defend our sovereignty, jurisdiction, and right of self-determination – not vote for federal politicians to do that for us."

But there is wide agreement that the status quo of mass poverty and inequality is not acceptable. Despite debates over tactics, the struggle to reverse the genocidal legacy of colonialism and racism must become a key demand in this election campaign.



"We pay a non-living wage.
If you're dead, it should just about cover your expenses."

NDP purges candidates over pro-Palestine positions

By Marion Kawas, *Mondo-weiss.net*, August 24, 2015

Canadian governments have a long history of complicity in Palestinian dispossession. As early as 1947, Lester B. Pearson, then Under Secretary of State for External Affairs and future Canadian Prime Minister, played a key role in drafting and passing the United Nations Partition Plan, so much so that Zionist groups dubbed him the "Balfour of Canada".

Successive governments have carried on this tradition of one-sided support, although often under the pretense of "peacekeeping" and being a "honest broker". Fast forward to the last decade, which has brought the Conservative government into power under PM Stephen Harper, famous for such comments as "Through Fire and Water, Canada will Stand with You" made during his speech to the Israeli Knesset in January, 2014. Harper has crafted a policy of zero tolerance for everything Palestinian, from BDS to funding for UNRWA, and also upped the ante by trying to make any criticism of Israeli policies "illegal".

Recent examples are the January 18, 2015 Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and Israel that committed to develop "a coordinated, public diplomacy initiative both bilaterally and in international and multilateral fora to oppose boycotts of Israel, its institutions, and its people within three to six months" and the announcement just last month of the "expansion and modernization" of the Canada Israel Free Trade Agreement. Unfortunately, the other two main national parties, the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Liberals, are in a frantic race to see who can reach the bottom line first. All three major parties are currently on record as denouncing BDS, condemning Israeli Apartheid week on university campuses and attempting to stifle debate on this issue.

And now, enter the Canadian federal election campaign. Although certainly short by U.S. standards, it still has another 2 months to go and is becoming

increasingly nasty. Palestinian activists are either bullied and targeted by our known adversaries or betrayed by our "friends" and told we're not even allowed to raise our voices. And the pervasive and bludgeoning reach of the Zionist lobby seems to have reached new heights (or lows). The latest round of the brouhaha was instigated by the NDP leadership (who might form the next government) with the purge of several candidates mildly sympathetic to Palestinian rights. The resulting dissent put them in damage control mode, especially since many supporters of the Palestinian people have also historically been involved in some way with the NDP which paints itself as the "party of change".

other voices...

(Several people were even deleted from various Facebook groups, including Rabble, for refusing to drop the challenges on this issue.) In the past, some high profile veteran MPs from the NDP had a proud history of supporting Palestinian rights; sadly, no longer.

But the issues of censorship and the need to hear the Palestinian voice have refused to go away. On August 20, the Ontario Civil Liberties Association issued a strongly-worded letter defending the freedom of speech of two of the ex-candidates and noting that what one of them said was common parlance in Israel's mainstream media and included some terminology even used by former Israeli PM Ben-Gurion. The letter went on to state – "The NDP's stance in barring any criticism of Israel is undemocratic and wrong. Morgan Wheelton and Jerry Natanine were not breaking confidence with a democratically-determined party policy platform, or engaged in any such mutiny. They have uttered words critical of Israel, in contexts of democratic discourse. Your actions are incompatible with your claim of seeking a balanced approach. A balanced, informed,

and tested approach cannot be found by suppressing free expression among potential and actual law makers."

Of course Palestine is not the only issue in this national election, and Palestinian and Arab Canadians (contrary to some perceptions) are just like everyone else – parents, workers, seniors, disabled etc. with a myriad of concerns. But for supporters of Palestinian rights, the dilemma here is huge. The Zionist lobby are allowed to be "one issue" and have unlimited resources and time to check candidates' social media accounts going back many years, making any support for Palestine a "red line" issue. And to ask Palestinian-Canadians and their supporters to vote for any party that is clearly complicit in the trampling of human rights, with the faint hope that after the election things will improve, simply will not cut it. Especially not with the current NDP leader, Thomas Mulcair, who proudly pronounced himself an "ardent supporter of Israel", even before being elected party leader. Does criticizing the NDP (or considering voting for another party, say the Greens) mean you're supporting Stephen Harper or you don't want change? Of course not! And frankly, it is arrogant and insulting to everyone's intelligence to use such fear-mongering tactics.

Palestinians will not be silenced and after 67 years of dispossession they no longer believe in hollow promises. So if the NDP leadership wants to own up and say they've thrown the Palestinians under the bus as have the other two major Canadian political parties, then be honest and do so. And engage in that debate as to why Palestinian rights (and even any discussion of them) are expendable and be judged accordingly. All three major federal parties in Canada need to be sent a loud and clear message that Palestinians and their supporters will not be censored and Palestinian rights will not be trampled on so easily. We must all show that there is zero tolerance for hypocrisy and complicity with Israeli war crimes! ●

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On October 19: DUMP HARPER

An election message from the Communist Party of Canada

Put the needs of working people and the environment first, before corporate profit!



The Communist Party of Canada's election platform includes: full employment and higher wages; tax the "one percent", not the needy; expand social programs; a massive housing program; protect labour rights; nationalize energy, natural resources, and the banks; withdraw from NATO; cut carbon emissions; scrap "security state" laws; justice for Aboriginal peoples; full gender equality.

Winning this progressive alternative starts with dumping the Conservatives. Stephen Harper's pro-war, pro-corporate austerity agenda has been a disaster for Canada's sovereignty, and especially for workers, Aboriginal peoples, women, youth and students, pensioners, new immigrants and temporary migrant workers, and for racialized communities.

The Tories have chopped and privatized vital social programs and services, slashed real wages, and gutted labour's right to free collective bargaining. Their drive to export raw materials – while highly profitable for the oil and resource giants – is destroying our environment and trampling on Aboriginal sovereignty. They have attacked civil rights, democracy and equality. And they have driven

Canada's foreign policy to militarism, aggression and war.

At the same time, the annual profits of the big banks and largest corporations have ballooned up to \$250 billion. This is a direct result of a vicious corporate offensive, designed to drive down wages and living standards and transfer social and natural wealth to the super-rich.

Working people want real change. The Liberals say they

offer 'change', but on key issues like economic policy, militarism, health care and social programs, they support the same pro-war, big business agenda. Voting Liberal would be like hopping from the fire back into the frying pan.

Mulcair's NDP has abandoned many policies supported by the labour and people's movements. Instead, the NDP presents itself as better administrators of capitalism

'with a human face', including continued participation in NATO aggression, support for corporate "free trade" deals like NAFTA and CETA, and acceptance of the primacy of 'market forces' – the continued domination of the large national and transnational corporations.

While the Greens have raised some useful ideas around the environment and democracy, they too refuse to discuss any serious alternative to global capitalism. For voters in Quebec, the Bloc Québécois is not a better alternative. Because it cannot and does not seek to take power at the federal level, it has been historically an objective ally of the Conservatives. The Bloc's real program is that of the Parti Québécois and, in reality, it is the PQ's federal wing. Working people have suffered from PQ policies including strong support of free trade agreements, exploitation of oil and shale gas, and neoliberal austerity programmes.

This election takes place in a period of deepening recession, wars, climate change, rising fascist threats, mass unemployment, attacks on civil and democratic rights, and austerity. It's time for real, fundamental change, time to

elect Communists!

We need truly left and progressive voices in Parliament to defend the interests of working people, the cause of peace and social justice, and the protection of our environment.

As a wealthy country, Canada can support such an ambitious alternative, by nationalizing energy, natural resources, and the banks and insurance companies, by cutting military spending, and with progressive taxation to make the corporations and the wealthy pay.

The Communist Party fights for such a genuinely new course, and we invite you to consider our Peoples' Alternative Platform.

This election alone cannot solve the huge challenges facing our country. A longer-term fight is required, especially mass social mobilizations which can begin to build a powerful and broad People's Coalition of the working class and its allies outside of Parliament. Such a Coalition could have a huge electoral impact and begin to achieve real gains. This is the way to shift power to working people, and start moving Canada in a new direction! ●

Authorised by Chief Agent, CPC

For fundamental change....

VOTE COMMUNIST

For Socialism

Everywhere, the income/wealth gap between the vast majority of working people and a handful of the super-rich continues to widen. Today, the top 1% own and control 50% of the entire wealth of our planet, while billions go hungry. Racism and intolerance are spreading, and the threat of fascism is rearing its ugly head.

This global crisis is not only about government policies – it is about capitalism itself. It is time that capitalism and exploitation was replaced with a new system – socialism, a society based on full democracy, human equality, and environmental sustainability, in which the resources and economic wealth are owned and controlled by the working people, not by corporate bosses.

Such a change is possible.

Voting Communist sends a clear message that another Canada – and a better world – is necessary, urgent and worth fighting for. The aim of the Communist Party is a socialist Canada. We welcome everyone who shares our vision. Vote Communist, and join us in the struggle for a better future!



CREATE JOBS AND RAISE WAGES

Create Jobs and Increase Wages!

Make full employment and full-time jobs a top priority.

Develop and implement a comprehensive “Jobs First” strategy based on massive public investments to increase value-added jobs in manufacturing and secondary industry, to rebuild & upgrade Canada’s public and municipal infrastructure, to strengthen social programs and environmental protection, and to build affordable housing.

Raise the wages of workers.

The real value of wages have stagnated or fallen over the past 25 years while labour productivity has grown almost 40%.

- Raise minimum wage to \$20/hour; ban “two-tier wages” for new hires.
- Legislate a 32-hour work week with no loss in take-home pay and no loss in service to the public.
- Ban compulsory overtime, and legislate minimum four weeks annual paid vacations.

Guarantee decent benefits for all

- Guarantee decent benefits for all, including part-time, home-based and contract workers.
- Dedicate the entire EI fund to jobless workers – set EI benefits at 90% of previous earnings for all workers through periods of unemployment, and include coverage for first-time job seekers.
- Enact a fair wage policy and full pay and employment equity for women workers.

Expand Universal Social Programs – End Poverty

- Act to combat poverty, especially among Aboriginal peoples, new immigrants, women, youth, seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Ban “workfare” and introduce a liveable guaranteed, annual income.
- Protect and expand the universal public pension system, including substantially higher CPP benefits.
- Enact early voluntary retirement at the age of 60.
- Re-establish and expand funding to provinces earmarked for health, education, social housing and welfare, and enhance all-Canada standards, while ensuring that Quebec retains control and administration of its own programs.
- Establish a publicly financed and administered system of universal, quality, affordable childcare with Canada-wide standards.

Peace and Disarmament

- Adopt an independent Canadian foreign policy of peace and disarmament, and for environmental sustainability.
- Immediately end Canadian participation in the war in Iraq and Syria, and the internal conflict in Ukraine, and oppose any new military aggression.
- Respect international law, including the sovereignty of all states; reject imperialist policies of “regime change” and nuclear first-strike.
- Oppose the weaponization of space and militarization of the Arctic.
- Support the global abolition of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.
- Get out of the NATO and Norad alliances. Scrap the planned purchase of fighters and warships, and reduce the military budget by 75%.
- Convert military to civilian jobs, end military exports from Canada.
- Oppose Israeli apartheid – support a just peace in the Middle East based on total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the formation of an independent, viable Palestinian state.
- Cancel Third World debts.



Tax the Greedy, Not the Needy

- Enact progressive tax reform based on ability to pay!
- Double the corporate tax rate, and impose taxes on 100% of capital gains.
- End tax loopholes and shelters; collect deferred corporate taxes and jail corporate tax evaders.
- Eliminate taxes on incomes under \$35,000/yr.
- Abolish the regressive HST and provincial sales taxes.
- Impose wealth and inheritance taxes on estates over \$1 Million.
- Scrap the Tories’ income-splitting plan, which primarily benefits the wealthy, and pressures women to stay at home.

Public Ownership & Democratic Control

- Keep public assets and services out of the hands of profiteers.
- Reverse the privatization and contracting-out of public programs, services and energy utilities.
- Stop P3s (Public-Private Partnerships).
- Put the banking and insurance system under public ownership and democratic control.
- Halt attempts to privatize Canada Post – restore home mail delivery services.
- Reverse the privatization of Air Canada, PetroCanada and CN Rail.
- Ban exports of fresh water.
- Restore funding for the CBC, and increase public support for the arts and Canadian culture.

End “Security State” Laws

- Stop the drive to a ‘police state’ in Canada – repeal C-51 and all other undemocratic and repressive “anti-terrorism” legislation.
- Abolish secret detention without trial, “national security” certificates and the no-fly list.
- Rescind the “border security declaration” which allows U.S. troops to enter Canada during “emergencies.” No to “preventive arrest” laws.
- Ban racial profiling by the RCMP, provincial and local police.
- Defend the right to free speech and dissent. Stop government spying, police violence and agents provocateurs, and the use of the courts to repress civil and democratic rights.
- Strengthen parliamentary oversight of the armed forces and civilian control of the RCMP.
- Disband CSIS and the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC).
- Defend and expand on-line privacy rights. Strengthen and enforce punishments for police wrong-doing. Ban the use of tasers.

Keep Industrial Jobs in Canada

- End the sell-out of manufacturing and secondary industry and strengthen the value-added manufacturing sector.
- Expand employment in industry by nationalizing the steel and auto industries, building a Canadian car, and expanding rapid transit production.
- Promote stronger machine tool, ship-building, agricultural implement and household appliance industries.
- Use tariff, currency exchange and other trade controls, plus plant closure legislation with teeth (including fines or public takeover), to protect jobs.
- Legislate a two-year notice of layoffs.
- Increase employer-paid severance pay and retraining, and strengthen bankruptcy laws to guarantee protection for wages and pensions.

Global Environmental Justice – Act to Halt Climate Change

- Adopt emergency legislation to slash greenhouse gas emissions, and support reparations to countries affected by capitalist-driven climate change.
- Invest heavily to create jobs through renewable energy and conservation programs, and phase out coal-fired plants and terminate reliance on nuclear energy.
- Substantially expand urban mass transit, and eliminate bus and transit fares.
- Legislate stringent vehicle emission controls.
- Fund high-speed rail as a better alternative to highways and airlines.
- Ban “biofuels” derived from feed grains.
- Impose heavy fines and jail terms against polluters and destructive corporate practices, such as clear-cutting, in-ocean fish farming, and deep-sea draggers.
- Ban industrial development in parks.

Nationalize Energy & Natural Resources

- Adopt a People’s Energy Plan, including public ownership and democratic control of all energy and natural resource extraction, production and distribution.
- Freeze and reduce energy exports.
- Expand shared power flows among provinces through an East-West power and energy grid.
- Block new development of the Alberta tar sands, and close these operations within five years, with jobs guaranteed for workers in more sustainable industries at equivalent wages.
- Compensate the Aboriginal peoples and communities affected by the tar sands.
- No to the Enbridge, Kinder Morgan, Keystone XL, Line 9 and Energy East pipelines, and to oil and gas exploration and shipping on the west coast.
- Put a moratorium on the exploration and development of shale gas resources.

2015 federal election platform of the Communist Party of Canada



Expand Public Healthcare

- Stop and reverse the sharpening attack on Medicare.
- Uphold the Canada Health Act, and close loopholes.
- Expand the public Medicare system to include long-term care, home and continuing care, and long-term care, home and continuing care.
- Nationalize the pharmaceutical industry.



Fair Trade and Sovereignty – “Globalization”

- Get out of NAFTA and other pro-corporate trade agreements.
- Withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CETA), the Trade, Investment and Consular Services Agreement (TISA) and other capitalist investment pacts which strip government policies and powers.
- Stop and reverse the expansion of U.S. and other foreign influence over the domestic economy.

S - NO TO AUSTERITY AND WAR!

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ip (TPP), the Canada-European Union Trade
and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)
upersede and undermine locally-determined
other transnational control over key sectors

Justice for Aboriginal peoples and Québec

- Recognize the national rights of Aboriginal peoples and Québec to self-determination, up to and including secession. Draft and adopt a new, democratic constitution based on an equal and voluntary partnership of the Aboriginal peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit), Québec, the Acadian people, and English-speaking Canada.
- Rescind the "Clarity" Act. Abolish the Senate. Remove vestiges of colonialism from all federal legislation; act now for just settlement of land claims, including natural resource-sharing agreements, without extinguishment of inherent Aboriginal title.
- Implement the recommendations of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission.
- Take emergency action to improve living conditions, employment, health and housing of Aboriginal peoples, and immediately end the racist and discriminatory cap on educational and health funding for treaty First Nations.
- Support the demand by Aboriginal peoples for a full Public Inquiry into the tragedy of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls across Canada.

Full Gender Equality NOW

- Reverse the Harper attacks on women's equality programs.
- Close the wage gap: legislate full pay and employment equity.
- Guarantee accessible and publicly funded abortion and reproductive rights services in every province and territory.
- Establish a publicly financed and administered system of universal, quality, affordable childcare with Canada-wide standards.
- Increase wages for child care workers.
- Protect women's right to EI maternity coverage; expand parental benefits to 52 weeks.
- Fund equality-seeking women's groups.
- End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate funding for crisis centres and transition houses.
- Repeal Harper's new prostitution law (Bill C-36).

Fight Racism, Sexism & Homophobia

- Oppose all forms of racism and discrimination.
- Strengthen and enforce affirmative action and employment equity programs for Aboriginal peoples, racialized communities and persons with disabilities.
- Ban all discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
- Guarantee the rights of Aboriginal peoples and people with disabilities for equal access to social, medical and educational facilities and services.
- Strengthen laws and enforcement against hate crimes and neo-fascist groups, and prosecute war criminals living in Canada.

A Democratic Immigration Policy

- No one is illegal; stop deportations of immigrants and refugees, and reverse cuts to legal aid.
- End Harper's two-tier citizenship policy.
- Repeal the racist quota system which discriminates against immigrants from developing countries.
- Stop criminalizing refugees entering Canada.
- Full redress for Chinese head-tax payers and their families.
- Scrap the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and the "Live-in Caregiver" Program, and provide a clear and accessible path to permanent residency and citizenship for all foreign and migrant workers in Canada.

A Future for Youth – Education for All

- Increase federal support for universal, quality public education at all levels.
- Rollback and eliminate tuition fees for post-secondary education.
- Stop the drive to 'corporatize' education, and protect free speech on campuses.
- Shift from loans to grants for student assistance.
- Significantly increase funding and access to training and apprenticeship programs.
- Build better schools and colleges, not more prisons and "boot camps."
- Reject attempts to criminalize youth; reduce age of consent to 14.

For more information:
www.communist-party.ca
416-469-2446



A Bill of Rights for Labour

- Enshrine in the constitution the right of workers to organize, strike and bargain collectively, and to take collective political action.
- Ban strike-breaking and scabbing.
- Strengthen labour standards; block anti-labour "right-to-work" laws.
- Place farm workers, domestic workers, and migrant workers under federal jurisdiction with full labour standards and the right to organize and bargain collectively.
- Legislate a minimum of four weeks annual paid vacations.
- Guarantee benefits for part-time, home-based and contract workers.

Make Every Vote Count

- Enact mixed-member proportional representation and the right to recall MPs.
- Guarantee equal treatment for all registered political parties.
- Scrap Harper's (Un)Fair Elections Act. Amend the Broadcast Act to give equal time to all parties, so that voters can make informed choices.
- Lower the voting age to 16.
- Conduct comprehensive enumeration before every election, and strengthen legal action against all forms of voter suppression.
- Dramatically cut spending limits for political parties.
- Remove restrictions on the right of unions to donate to political parties; enforce the ban on corporate donations.
- Members of Parliament to receive the average workers' wages and benefits.

Support Family Farms – Defend Canada's Food Sovereignty

- Ensure Canada's food sovereignty through policies that benefit family farms and fishers, including income supports – no more bankruptcies!
- Restore the Canadian Wheat Board elected by prairie farmers, and re-establish single-desk grain sales.
- Reduce rail freight rates.
- Curb the power of agro-industrial monopolies; set price controls to reduce the cost of farm inputs.
- Increase food safety inspections. Set price controls on staple foods for Northern communities.
- Support organic farming; reduce the use of antibiotics, fertilizers, pesticides, and other potentially harmful farm inputs, and ban "terminator" seeds in Canada.
- Require labelling of genetically-modified food products, and reduce the scale of the GMO food system.

Housing is a Basic Human Right

- Take emergency action to build 1 million units of affordable social housing over next 4 years!
- Create direct and spin off jobs, while building new social, cooperative and non-profit housing for sale or rent.
- Establish federal-provincial-municipal land banks.
- Ban evictions, mortgage foreclosures and utility cut offs due to unemployment.
- Support demands for meaningful rent controls.

A New Deal for Cities

- Give constitutional status and wealth taxing powers to municipalities.
- Return 50% of gas and road user taxes to cities.
- Increase core funding for capital and operating costs of expanded mass urban transit.
- Rebuild crumbling municipal and provincial infrastructure.
- Reverse "downloading" which forces cities to pay for social programs.
- Re-establish low-interest loans to cities and towns.

Communist Party nominates candidates across Canada

The Communist Party of Canada will field 28 candidates in selected ridings across the country, from the Avalon Peninsula to Vancouver Island. For the first time in many years, Communists will be on the ballot in northern British Columbia, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia, and in Ontario cities such as Sudbury and London.

Party leader Miguel Figueroa says the party's comprehensive platform covers such matters as defence and foreign policy issues, and the fate of the global environment, to the state of the domestic economy, the need for quality, full-time jobs, and the future of Canada's public health, the CPP and other social programs and services.

The Communist platform sharply opposes the Conservative attacks against civil, labour and democratic rights, and against women's equality. The platform advocates fundamental constitutional change in Canada to recognize the full equality of Aboriginal peoples and Quebec in a new, equal and voluntary partnership.

"One unifying theme runs through all of our platform positions and demands," states the CP leader. "And that is the need for fundamental – not cosmetic – change; one which will take our country in a new, progressive direction, based on putting people's needs before corporate greed. We are also very enthusiastic about the team of candidates which we're representing in this campaign, including a number of Aboriginal workers, youth and student activists and trade union militants."

Figueroa says this reflects the regeneration and growth of the Communist Party in recent years, as

capitalism in Canada and internationally goes into a deepening crisis and more people are searching for a systemic alternative.

"Everywhere, the income/wealth gap between the vast majority of working people and a handful of the super-rich continues to widen. Today, the top 1% own and control 50% of the entire wealth of our planet, while billions go hungry. Racism and intolerance are spreading, and the threat of fascism is rearing its ugly head. This global crisis is not only about government policies – it is about capitalism itself."

Communist candidates face an uphill battle to win public attention and garner votes in the campaign, because of the massive resources of the Conservatives and the 'mainstream opposition' parties, the marginalization of the Communists and other smaller parties by the corporate media, and the 'first-past-the-post' electoral system which herds voters to cast their ballots for the lesser of two evils, rather than what they really want.

"But we are confident that our policies and our candidates will have a bigger impact on the campaign this time around," the Communist leader says, "because more and more people are now dismissing old-style anti-communism and are seriously considering the socialist alternative."

"Voting Communist sends a clear and unmistakable message that another Canada – and a better world – is necessary, urgent and worth fighting for. We invite all those convinced of the need for fundamental change to join us in the struggle for a better future – on October 19th and afterward!" ●

**Visit the Communist Party website at www.communist-party.ca
Contact the CPC's main office at 290A Danforth Ave.,
Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6; 416-469-2446; info@cpc-pcc.ca**

British Columbia

BURNABY NORTH-SEYMOUR - Brent Jantzen
CARIBOO-PRINCE GEORGE - Darcy Robinson
ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE - Tyson Strandlund
SURREY CENTRE - Iqbal Kahlon
VANCOUVER EAST - Peter Marcus
VANCOUVER KINGSWAY - Kimball Cariou

Alberta

CALGARY EAST - Jason Devine
EDMONTON-MILL WOODS - Naomi Rankin

Manitoba

WINNIPEG CENTRE - Darrell Rankin
WINNIPEG NORTH - Frank Komarniski

Ontario

BRAMPTON NORTH - Harinderpal Hundal
DAVENPORT - Miguel Figueroa
DON VALLEY WEST - Elizabeth Hill
GUELPH - Tristan Dineen
HAMILTON EAST-STONEY CREEK - Bob Mann
LONDON WEST - Michael Lewis
OTTAWA CENTRE - Stuart Ryan
OTTAWA SOUTH - Larry Wasslen
ST. CATHARINES - Saleh Waziruddin
SUDBURY - Elizabeth Rowley
TORONTO CENTRE - Mariam Ahmad
UNIVERSITY ROSEDALE - Drew Garvie

Quebec

HOCHELAGA - Marianne Breton Fontaine
LAURIER-SAINTE MARIE - Pierre Fontaine
OUTREMONT - Adrien Welsh
VILLE-MARIE-LE SUD-OUEST-ILE-DES-SOEURS - William Sloan

Nova Scotia

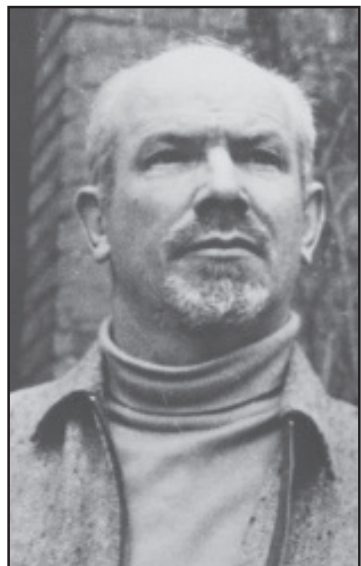
SOUTH SHORE-ST. MARGARETS - Barry Ryan
Newfoundland & Labrador
ST. JOHN'S EAST - Sean Burton

Authorised by Chief Agent CPC

For a new Federal-Provincial Health Accord

The Communist Party of Canada supports the call for a new Federal-Provincial Health Accord. Broad health coalitions, the labour movement, health care workers, doctors and patients, are all sounding the alarm that health care is under renewed and dangerous attack by the Harper Conservative who have rejected a future health accord.

Until the previous accord expired in 2014, Medicare in Canada received federal funding through a 10-year, legally binding accord negotiated by the provinces and the federal government, providing them with a six per cent increase every year. Now, the funding is greatly reduced and the principles of the Canada Health Act are being shredded. The fight for a new Health Accord is an important battleground in the struggle to defend and expand medicare and public health care across the country.



Dr. Norman Bethune, the Communist physician who initiated the first campaign for public health care in Canada

Capitalist globalization has had a devastating impact on the health sector, as transnational corporations have raided the most profitable aspects in health care to reap even bigger profits. The 2004 Health accord was born of public pressure which arose against the aggressive neo-liberal reforms to health care that took place in the 1990s under successive Chretien Liberal governments.

Public opposition helped force a Royal Commission into healthcare. The labour and people's movements never accepted the 2002 Romanow Commission's concession that privatization be allowed to occur in ancillary services. However, the extensive report rightly concluded that health care was a social right, deeply cherished by the people, and not a business opportunity.

Romanow also contradicted the claim the public health care was unsustainable. It pointed to the deep changes caused by cuts in public funding and privatization as the root cause of the serious challenges faced by the health care system. Hospital care used to be for the very sick. Home care was for the frail. But the closure of thousands of hospital beds forces the burden of serious care onto the backs of working class families. It greatly intensifies gender inequalities. At that time no less than one in five women were involved in home care. Of those women, half were trying to hold down a job at the same time. This process of privatization of care has accelerated since that time.

The Commission proposed that Medicare and public health care include more services, and address the crisis of Aboriginal health. While the subsequent 2004 Health Accord ultimately only paid lip service to protecting the Canada Health Act and excluded Aboriginal people

from the table, it did provide some stop-gap measures – such as important increased federal funds, stabilizing health funding and leading to some initial reductions in wait times for diagnostic tests and surgeries. It opened discussions about expanded public services.

Public sentiment strongly supports the principles of the Canada Health Act: public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility. Having again clearly lost the public debate, however, big business and their reactionary political parties have resorted to the tactic of stealth to implement the corporate agenda. The New Democratic Party, abandoning its heritage as a fighter for socialized medicine, has also willingly embraced the dangerous mantras of the market in provincial health reform. Public health care faces further de-listing of services and privatization including two-tier private clinics and P3 hospitals. Court challenges like the Chaoulli ruling in Quebec and the case by Dr. Brian Day in BC seek to negate the principles of the Canada Health Act behind the misleading slogans of "patient choice."

In fact, many of the gains of the 2004 Health Accord have now been negated by further cuts. Plans to create a pan-Canadian home and continuing care strategy have been abandoned, leaving huge numbers of people with heavy expenses for post-hospital prescriptions and rehabilitation. The Accord's welcome National Pharmaceutical Strategy, aimed at cutting overall drug costs through bulk buying and better coordination, was likewise effectively killed by the Harper government. Instead, the CETA agreement with Europe opens the door to more profiteering by big pharma including blocking generic

drugs. The Tories have also extended patent protection on drugs.

Harper's abandonment of the longstanding formulas of equalization payments will cut \$36 billion from health care over ten years – and empower future governments to make further unilateral cuts to health funding which previously would have been illegal. The Conservatives have even scrapped the Canada Health Council, which oversaw the Health Accord. They are seeking to deliberately accentuate the existing crisis in public health care, furthering the juggernaut of privatization.

The Communist Party calls for the immediate negotiations between the provinces and the federal government for a Health Accord. Such negotiations must include Aboriginal peoples as equal and voluntary partners, with meaningful participation at the First Ministers table. Likewise negotiations must respect the right to access and administration of health programmes by Quebec.

Such negotiations must include:

- * Full federal protection of the principles of the Canada Health Act, including recognition of the right to prompt service;
- * Laws and penalties on private health care which violate the Act and create a parallel private system;
- * Eliminate privatization and profiteering in health care, including two-tier private P3 Hospitals, as the complete opposition to the principles of the Canada Health Act;
- * Restore and expand federal funding to Health Care to a minimum of 25 per cent and more;
- * Principle of funding based on need, binding as well as equalization;
- * Address the crisis of health and northern health

re-opening closed hospitals and health facilities;

- * Protect health care for refugees including dropping the current federal court challenge against these rights;
- * Reverse the de-listing of medical procedures at the provincial level;
- * Eliminate all health care premiums, and direct and 'indirect' user fees such as bed and ambulance charges;
- * Eliminate the 'fee-for-service' system, and its replacement with a mandatory wage and salary structure for all doctors, including specialists;
- * Scrap the Drug Patent Act, withdrawal from all trade-related clauses protecting monopoly pricing by pharmaceuticals, and the development of a publicly-owned generic drug sector in Canada by nationalizing the pharmaceutical industry under democratic control;
- * Switch from the current fee-for-service system to a system of salaries for doctors, adopt faster recognition

- * Recognize the qualifications of foreign-trained nurses and other health professionals, and expand the number of medical school positions;
- * Universal eye-, pharmaceutical- and dental care;
- * A public home care, long-term care, and respite care, and a continuing care strategy as well as a mental health strategy;
- * Quality, well paid working conditions and labour rights for all health care workers as an essential

years ago, Dr. Norman Bethune, a member of the Communist Party, led Canada's first campaign for free, universal health care. Today, the battle is far from over. The Communist Party urges all Canadians to stand up for our rights and demand that governments to preserve and expand the public health care system. We demand a new Canada Health Accord! ●

The anti-Communist origins of IS

By Rob Gowland, from *The Guardian*, weekly newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia

The Palestinian journalist Ramzy Baroud, the author of *The Second Palestinian Intifada: A Chronicle of a People's Struggle* and *My Father Was a Freedom Fighter: Gaza's Untold Story* (both Pluto Press, London), wrote at the end of July on the Common Dreams website "As much of the Middle East sinks deeper into division between competing political camps, the so-called 'Islamic State' (IS) continues its unhindered march towards a twisted version of a Muslim caliphate. Many thousands have lost their lives, some in the most torturous ways, so that 'IS' may realise its nightmarish dream."

Curiously, Baroud regards IS as "hardly an anomaly, considering that the group was spawned in a predominantly violent environment". What he fails to identify satisfactorily is just who is responsible for creating this violent environment and – more importantly – who benefits from it.

Western intelligence agencies have been arming and financing extremely reactionary Muslim groups since before the Russian Revolution, when such groups were seen as a potential weapon with which to disrupt what was perceived in London to be Russian threat to British possessions in India. After the Revolution, these destabilising intrigues continued with the target now the disruption and hopefully the overthrow of Soviet power in central Asia.

Western agents encouraged the most reactionary beys and emirs to take up banditry, to attack convoys of Soviet cotton and murder anyone supporting the new collective farms that were being formed as the groundwork for socialism. Lawrence of Arabia was even hauled out of retirement and sent to Afghanistan to stir up anti-Russian feeling on the border of the Soviet Union.

Prior to the Second World War, in preparation for Germany's invasion of the USSR, Nazi agents sought out these same groups as a fifth column. When Hitler invaded, anti-Soviet Muslims in Chechnya, for example, declared their allegiance to the Reich, a mistake that cost them dearly when the war did not work out as planned. After the War, the US as the most powerful capitalist country, took over the mantle of chief instigator of anti-Soviet intrigue, chief proponent of what soon became known as "the Cold War". The US also took over all of the Nazis' intelligence apparatus in Russia. They have continued to stir up anti-Communist and anti-Russian sentiments wherever they see an opening ever since.

The Saur revolution of April 1978 in Afghanistan provoked an immediate hostile response from the US intelligence community, determined as it was to "roll back Communism". They chose to back the reactionary feudal elite who opposed the revolution with the aid of the most backward section of the Muslim clergy. Now, however, these modern champions of intolerance and ignorance were very well funded and armed with

US-supplied Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Afghanistan, where hope and confidence in the future had briefly flourished after the revolution overthrew its royal family, became instead a failed state, wracked by constant warfare, a place for imperialist governments to try out new weapons and tactics. Meanwhile, the US and its main Middle Eastern allies – Israel and Saudi Arabia – sought to use their creation of a Muslim terrorist force as a weapon against numerous governments in the region, some progressive, some merely inclined to be independent especially with regard to trade in oil.

Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia as well as Russia and Ukraine have all found themselves under attack from

armed terrorist bands claiming allegiance to the Muslim faith. For a while they claimed to be part of "Al-Qaeda" but now they have metamorphosed into IS, supposedly building "a new caliphate".

George W Bush, when he was US President, enunciated the doctrine of "continuous war" and the eagerness with which the US launches wars against poor countries in particular has alienated young people all over the world. As Ramzy Baroud notes, "IS" thrives on conflicts and calamities that are rooted in poor, fragmented Arab societies, where youth are disenchanted with their governments and where they have little or no hope for the future due to corruption and the protracted violence. Such embitterment is a

perfect recruiting ground for 'IS', which enjoys multiple revenue streams and a self-sufficient economy."

Those "multiple revenue streams" are the key: they come in the first instance from the oil-rich Saudis and their patrons, the US. The latter country is determined to gain control over the world's key resources, especially oil. No matter how much wars may play havoc with a country's economy, infrastructure, and social system, as long as its resources can still be accessed, US imperialism will be content. And so it is happily instigating wars all over the region and beyond.

As Baroud says, "With access to massive funds, IS is able to latch on to local militant groups which were formed as a result of

real grievances, buying leverage and loyalty, as they have done in Libya, Syria and Sinai." However, he also notes that "the ferocity and ruthlessness of the many conflicts currently under way in the region have achieved little, aside from setting the stage for extreme polarization in political, ideological and sectarian discourses. [Which is precisely what those conflicts were meant to achieve.]

"Mauritanian journalist, Sidi Ahmed Tfeil... lists countries where IS is moving in full force, flushing out Al-Qaeda influence and competing with local actors there. They include Yemen and Libya, but also Algeria, Mali, Somalia and others. Aside from Algeria, the same malaise of

see ORIGINS, p. 11

After land, it's labour on Modi's chopping block

By Baldev Padam

Even as opposition over a Bill enabling corporate houses to easily acquire farmers' land continues, PM Narendra Modi has fired yet another salvo against Indian working people. Inaugurating the 46th Indian Labour Conference on July 20 in Delhi, he talked about overhauling labour laws as there were too many, some of them too old and needed reappraisal.

Those who heard his speech (available online), found that it didn't specify the changes he intended to incorporate in the body of existing laws. What he sidetracked in his address was later brought to light by labour ministry bureaucrats.

During his speech, Modi expressed anxiety over the increasing number of unemployed youth, and appealed to big business to provide them with apprenticeship opportunities. He didn't promise them a job thereafter in the public or private sector, nor job security to workers at their present workplace. Employers were also told to acknowledge and reward innovative capabilities of their workers.

Modi referred to general discontent prevailing among workers without going into the causes. Evidently if an unskilled worker is paid a minimum wage linked to the cost of living index, or if a skilled one gets the living or fair wage even if the need-based wage isn't possible right now, they would be a happier lot. But in fact many qualified young people are either without jobs, or are forced to work for paltry wages. The PM didn't explain why the benefits of India's fast developing economy don't percolate down to the common people, and why the income disparity between the rich and the poor has widened so much in India.

However, the PM assured, "Changes in the labour laws will be made with the concurrence of the unions... It is my effort to simplify the laws so that even the poorest are able to understand their rights and avail them." To wipe away their tears, he assured an online facility for workers to know about their health and other records instantly on their cell-phones.

The sheen of Modi's rhetoric vanished into thin air soon after



The Communist-led Centre of Indian Trade Unions is one of the country's major labour groups.

the show ended, as ministry officials clarified to reporters that the heart of the overhaul was to relax strict hire-and-fire rules and to make it tougher for workers to form unions. The layoff restrictions on employers however, would be relaxed further.

Indian trade unions are sharply divided on the basis of Left, Right or centrist political ideologies, which goes well with the ruling classes. The unions now must thank Modi for affording them a chance to stand united (maybe for a limited purpose) against the BJP government's imminent onslaught.

India's top 11 unions, irrespective of their ideological mooring, have decided to observe a one day strike on September 2 against this tampering with the labour laws. On one hand the participants include the BMS (Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh), linked to Modi's rightist ruling party, on the other are communist-led unions like CITU or AITUC, besides INTUC, led by the centrist Congress party. Many more independent associations and federations of workers in the public and private sector will join the action against attacks on workers' rights being made in the name of development.

The BMS has warned the government that rapid economic growth should not be allowed at the cost of the workers. Airing similar views, the AITUC General Secretary said, "The government does not consult the unions while bringing amendments to labour laws. We are not against growth or investment but it cannot be at the cost of workers, underpayments and lawlessness."

Last year, after the federal labour minister announced proposals to amend labour laws,

leaders of the CPI(M) warned that "the government thinks it can bulldoze labour laws as it has majority in Lok Sabha (Lower House)" but it will face protests in the streets if it goes ahead with these amendments. It appears that labour will meet Modi's challenge in the streets even if he succeeds in Parliament because of his party's majority there.

The trade union movement says that the labour laws weren't offered

to them on a platter by any government or by the factory owners. They were achieved through immense sacrifices in protracted struggles against all regimes, colonial and thereafter. The present dilution of laws is being undertaken by Modi under pressure of various national and transnational corporations, whom he has promised the green pastures of Indian industry. To his dismay, the clouds of resistance are gathering faster than expected.

The PM has been placed in a tricky situation. Rajiv Biswas, a well-known economist, has opined, "Modi had little option but to push ahead with the measures... You cannot make political opposition an excuse for not taking tough decisions... without these reforms, the economy would stagnate, and frustrated investors would look elsewhere."

Evidently India's PM has been caught between the devil and the deep blue sea! It is interesting to watch where he goes from here. ●

Germany gained 100 billion euros from Greece crisis

According to an Agence France Press (AFP) report, Germany, which has taken a tough line on Greece, has profited from the country's crisis to the tune of 100 billion euros (\$109 billion).

A new study released on Aug. 10 says that sum represents money Germany saved through lower interest payments on funds the government borrowed amid investor "flights to safety."

"These savings exceed the costs of the crisis - even if Greece were to default on its entire debt," said the private, non-profit Leibniz Institute of Economic Research in its paper. "Germany has clearly benefited from the Greek crisis."

The study notes that investors faced with turmoil typically seek a safe haven for their money, and export champion Germany "disproportionately benefited" from that during the debt crisis.

"Every time financial markets faced negative news on Greece in recent years, interest rates on German government bonds fell, and every time there was good news, they rose."

Germany, the eurozone's effective paymaster, has demanded "fiscal discipline" and so-called "economic reforms" in Greece in return for consenting to new aid from international creditors. Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble has opposed a Greek debt write-down while pointing to his own government's balanced budget.

The institute, however, argued that Schaeuble's balanced budget was possible in large part only because of Germany's interest savings amid the Greek debt crisis. The estimated 100 billion euros Germany had saved since 2010 accounted for over three percent of GDP. The bonds of other countries - including the United States, France and the Netherlands - also benefited, but "to a much smaller extent".

Germany's share of the international rescue packages for Greece, including a new loan being negotiated now, came to around 90 billion euros, said the institute.

"Even if Greece doesn't pay back a single cent, the German public purse has benefited financially from the crisis," said the paper. ●

Remembering Nina Simone

By Zoltan Zigedy, <http://zszs-blg.blogspot.ca/>

I remember the first time that I heard Nina Simone's voice and piano. My older sister bought the Bethlehem 45 rpm recording of *I Loves You, Porgy* in 1958. I was fascinated with the B-side recording of *Love Me or Leave Me* because of the intriguing piano bridge resembling a Bach fugue - it was both strange, yet oddly appropriate. I still have the record over fifty years later - worn, but still very playable.

I recall, some years later, anxiously stripping away the cellophane from a new arrival from the Record Club of America, the latest LP from Nina Simone. If you wanted to hear interesting music in a small town in the Midwest in the 1960s, that would be the way to do it. I fit the disc carefully on the spindle of the console in our living room and cranked up the volume. The recording, *Nina Simone in Concert* proved to be a milestone in the journey of Nina Simone, the political commentator and agitator. The last cut begins with Nina Simone stating emphatically, "The name of this tune is Mississippi Goddam. And I mean every word of it..." My aunt, who was working in the kitchen and seldom listened to, and never commented on, my unconventional interests in music, drifted into the room and announced "she MEANS every word of it."

That reflected the depth and intensity of Nina Simone's commitment to social justice. *Mississippi Goddam* rang with indignation, anger and righteousness. It made no accommodation to the audience's delicate sensibilities or comfort. It shouted demands in a way that few artists' works before or since could match. And most importantly, it came at a time when the Civil Rights movement needed an anthem reaching beyond liberal pieties and calls for patience.

But my own favorite from the album was the brilliant adaptation of the Bertolt Brecht-Kurt Weill collaboration, *Pirate Jenny*. Brecht typically imbued the song with a vengeful settling of accounts between the haughty elites and the common folk. But in Simone's interpretation, "Pirate Jenny" is transformed into an uncompromising act of anti-racism as well. Jenny is changed into a segregation-era Black cleaning woman fantasizing:

*You people can watch while I'm scrubbing these floors
And I'm scrubbin' the floors while you're gawking
Maybe once ya tip me and it makes ya feel swell
In this crummy Southern town
In this crummy old hotel
But you'll never guess to who you're talkin'.
No. You couldn't ever guess to who you're talkin'.*

Jenny's fantasy envisions a pirate ship invading the town and destroying all but the hotel. The survivors puzzle over why the hotel is spared. The pirates round up the citizenry and, to their surprise, Jenny steps forth:

*And you see me stepping out in the morning
Looking nice with a ribbon in my hair...*

*And they're chainin' up people
And they're bringin' em to me
Askin' me,
"Kill them NOW, or LATER?"
Askin' ME!*

*"Kill them now, or later?"
Noon by the clock
And so still by the dock
You can hear a foghorn miles away
And in that quiet of death
I'll say, "Right now. Right now!"
Then they'll pile up the bodies
And I'll say,
"That'll learn ya!"*

Somehow Simone draws on a well of righteous anger exceeding even the bitter wrath of Brecht's lyrics. While it is unpopular to speak this way in an era of hypocritical civility, her version displays a purity of violence, a chillingly brutal exacting of justice. You can hear it here.

Surely, since her death in 2003, Nina Simone is deserving of an homage, a tribute to her intense musical commitment to social justice. Unfortunately, the recently released documentary on Netflix *What Happened, Miss Simone?* is not that tribute. Instead, it is a vehicle for placing Simone's activism in the midst of a troubled life, sandwiched between a conflicted childhood and a psychological breakdown. Apart from archival footage, the principle commentators on her life are her

Hansberry was the inspiration for *To be Young, Gifted, and Black*.

Yes, Nina Simone was a revolutionary. She described her years as a movement's musical conductor as the best years of her life. And she attributed her subsequent expatriation to the death, exile, and pacification of other leaders of that generation. Much of the psycho-therapeutic speculation obsessing current commentaries of Ms. Simone's life misses the point (or evades the point). Simone's depression and sometimes erratic behavior was an understandable reaction for a serious, passionate woman experiencing both defeat and betrayal. Those who have not made commitments and sacrifices will struggle to understand.

It is painful to see the trivialization and sensationalizing of Simone's life that accompanies the current "revival" (A biopic, and another documentary are coming).

As with Paul Robeson, ML King Jr, and so many others, there is a veritable industry of parasitic writers devoted - borrowing from the spiritual popularized by Robeson - to "scandalizing her name." A recent *Rolling Stone* article by Christina Lee (6-29-15) typifies the banalities served up as pertinent to the Simone revival. Out of the many important ele-



vulgar, materialistic, and artless ex-husband and an estranged daughter. They too easily dismiss her activism to fault her for their own unvarnished complaints. In an earlier documentary, Simone's brother, Sam Waymon, who often performed with her, uncharacteristically called the ex-husband "a sonofabitch." Thus, the new documentary is tainted by post-mortem grievances, an all-too-common opportunity for settling scores or self-aggrandizement.

Also, the film maker, Liz Garbus, shows a shallow grasp of the historical moment and the political gravity of Simone's profound synthesis of commitment and music - in her interpretation, it is simply a product of Simone's demons. She fails to explore the deep and indelible influences of her political mentors: Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, her neighbor, Malcolm X, and most of all the formidable Lorraine Hansberry. She described their discussions in her autobiography: "It was always Marx, Lenin and revolution - real girls' talk."

ments in Nina Simone's life, author Lee is drawn to her sexual appetite, her lonely childhood, her emotional issues, and other irrelevancies, including her once performing on a Playboy-mansion location television show. Ms. Simone did not suffer fools.

Nina Simone was a unique voice, a great artist, an artist who drew strength from the deepest emotions of love and hate: love for the people and hatred of bigotry and exploitation. She was a beacon in her time, a messenger of revolutionary sentiment.

Those unfamiliar with her work and life might watch the earlier documentary, *Nina Simone, The Legend*, a competent European production from 1992. Also, there are numerous performances on YouTube, including this mix. And certainly the Netflix documentary is worth a look despite its flaws. One can only hope that the forthcoming documentary, *The Amazing Nina Simone*, created with the assistance of Simone's brother, Sam Waymon, will better represent her enduring legacy. ●



MUSIC NOTES

By Wally Brooker

BLM activists adopt Lamar's anthem

After police arrested and roughed up a black youth, activists at a Black Lives Matter (BLM) conference in Cleveland took to the streets on July 28th, chanting the refrain from hip-hop star Kendrick Lamar's hit song "Alright". Singing "we goin' be alright", they attempted to prevent the police cruiser from leaving (and were pepper-sprayed for their efforts). Lamar's acclaimed album, *To Pimp a Butterfly* is riding high in the charts. While the commercial success the 28-year-old Compton native is experiencing is helped by his distribution deal with Universal Music - the largest musical corporation in the world - it is clear that *To Pimp a Butterfly* is a potent and timely protest against discrimination, racism and hypocrisy. The "Alright" video depicts Lamar raging and soaring above a violent urban landscape. At its end he is symbolically shot by a white cop, but he smiles in the last frame, suggesting the triumph of hope. Writer R.L. Stephens II, in an article in *Orchestrated Pulse* (www.orchestratedpulse.com) argues that the mainstream media's focus on BLM spokespersons disguises a bid to co-opt a "leadership class" before the fledgling network has had the time to democratically debate its goals and strategy (and thereby produce an organic grassroots leadership). Here's hoping that Kendrick Lamar and other BLM activists are listening.

Eco symphony contests eminent domain

Eminent domain is a much abused legal doctrine whereby contemporary governments can allow corporations to expropriate private land for the supposed "public good". Last February, a group of New York State residents threatened by such abuse engaged the environmental artist and electronic music composer Aviva Rahmani to help them take action against a pipeline. The Spectra AIM gas pipeline would transit to within 100 feet of the Indian Point nuclear station on the Hudson River. Rahmani's response was *Blued Trees Symphony*, an installation on private land along the path of the proposed pipeline. The trees are marked with a sine wave musical note in non-toxic, semi-permanent blue paint, in a definite order which, taken together, forms a symphony, which is copyrighted. The *Blued Trees Symphony* pits the Visual Artists Rights Act for the "moral rights" of art against the "right" of corporations to expropriate private land, thereby forcing a debate about what is the "public good". Local residents and members of the artists activist group *Earth Guardians* painted the notation on the trees over several days in June. Sympathetic "Greek Choruses" of blued trees are underway in Seattle and Lisbon. Watch the video and hear musical samples at www.saneenergyproject.org.

Victor Jara's killers indicted

Another step has been taken in the long campaign to bring the killers of Victor Jara to justice. On July 23rd, forty-two years after the U.S.-sponsored military coup that overthrew the democratically-elected socialist government of Salvador Allende, a Chilean judge announced charges against 10 former army officers. Victor Jara, legendary singer-songwriter, theatre director, and Communist Party member, was arrested immediately following the September 11, 1973 coup. He was detained with thousands of others in a Santiago stadium, brutally tortured, and then executed in a hail of bullets on September 16. The trials of the accused officers are expected to begin later this year. "We're pushing forward in demanding justice for Victor," Jara's widow, Joan, said after the announcement, "with the hope that justice will follow for everyone." One other suspected killer remains at large in the United States. Former Chilean army lieutenant Pedro Barrientos Nunez will face a civil lawsuit in a District Court in Florida. The suit was brought by the US-based Center for Justice and Accountability on behalf of Joan Jara and her daughters. Chile has filed an extradition request for Barrientos, who fled to the US in 1986, but he's been protected by his US citizenship, obtained through marriage.

Rise Again songbook now available

Community choirs and sing-along aficionados will be happy to learn that the much-loved songbook *Rise Up Singing*, first published in 1988, now has a companion volume. *Rise Again* was published last month by Hal Leonard Books. Like its predecessor, *Rise Again* was compiled by Annie Patterson and Peter Blood and it bears the imprint of *Sing Out!* magazine and Pete Seeger, who penned an introduction shortly before his death in 2014. *Rise Again* features words and lyrics to another 1200 songs, grouped thematically by genre or subject matter. There are new chapters for genres previously ignored or under-represented including blues, country, jazz standards, and early rock & roll. Also included is a selection of popular and indie songs released since 1995 that have caught on with the group-singing community. Singers and musicians will appreciate the spiral binding, and the hand-drawn illustrations add a down-home feel. Visually-challenged users will appreciate the optional large-print edition. The price is \$25 USD. For more information visit www.riseupandsing.org.

Stop Hydro Privatization in Ontario!

By Liz Rowley, Toronto

The Ontario government won re-election a year ago on a platform of massive investment in public transit and provincial and municipal infrastructure renewal in cities and towns across the province, creating tens of thousands of jobs.

What Premier Wynne didn't say was that the price would be covered by an across the board public sector wage freeze, and massive privatization of public assets and services. What she didn't say was that Hydro One – Ontario's publicly owned energy supplier – was on the auction block.

The sale of Hydro One will cost Ontario residents and businesses "big time", with sky-rocketing rate increases for all users, and the loss of \$2 billion a year in profits that go straight into the provincial treasury to pay for public services and social programs.

The steady, certain supply of cheap energy that has been available to Ontario residents and industries for 100 years is about to finally end. The Liberals will finish off the privatization of Ontario Hydro that the Tories started 15 years ago under Mike Harris.

Premier Wynne is trying to "sell" the sell-off by arguing that the government will retain the largest single share in the business, but she's kidding no-one with this simplistic argument. The new private owners will work together to maximize their profits on investment and overwhelm the "public interest" – represented by more government appointed bankers and businessmen. In fact, the proposal to privatize Hydro One came from a banker, Ed Clark, who is Special Advisor to the Premier on what she calls "unlocking the value in public

assets" – a euphemism for the largest sell-off of a public asset in North America.

The sale of Hydro One is the cornerstone of the massive asset sale now underway in Ontario. Not even the Tories were able to pull off a privatization of this magnitude.

But it can be – and must be stopped! This is the view of Keep Hydro Public, the broad coalition of public interest groups, unions and parties, mobilizing the public and leading this fight. The Communist Party in Ontario is also campaigning against the sale, declaring that energy belongs to the public, to serve people's needs, not corporate greed.

While the government contends that the provincial budget contained the enabling legislation needed to proceed with Hydro privatization, the CPC (Ontario),

the Ontario NDP, the unions, and the coalition opposing the sale say it was hidden in the budget, and that a public consultation debate is required before the government can proceed further. A mass campaign has opened up across the province that could yet spill into the federal election, and has every chance of stopping the government in its tracks. Over 80% of Ontarians are opposed to the sale, according to Keep Hydro Public.

Privatization means sky-high electricity rates. All in favour?

Only the new owners of Hydro One will benefit from that. And they're the ones who will determine the price every year, going forward.

PV readers can get in touch with the Keep Hydro Public coalition at keephydropublic.ca, or the Communist Party at www.communistpartyontario.ca.

Rallies for a New Canada on Sept. 12

By Darrell Rankin, Winnipeg

People will be putting their feet on the streets for a New Canada on September 12. Activists in several cities are mobilizing people with the idea that people need to influence the federal election, not money.

Cities are taking different approaches, but they are all inviting different movements to unite, especially communities targeted by Bill C-51 which is turning Canada into a police state. People can bring ideas about what kind of country they want. Organizers of the Winnipeg rally have compiled a list of ideas backed by major movements how to create jobs, support Aboriginal rights, curb the

secret police and so on.

So far, rallies are taking place from Alberta to Ontario (Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Sudbury and Toronto).

The last two times Canadians defeated majority Tory governments, labour and other activists rallied 100,000 people on Parliament Hill (1993) and organized the On to Ottawa Trek (1935).

It's going to take more than a confident (or perhaps over confident) approach in front of a computer to defeat a majority Conservative government planning to spend \$50 million on ads and robocalls, aided by obsequious media coverage.

It is feet on the streets time! It is time to unite everyone targeted by the police state Bill C-51. It is time to bring people, communities, groups and movements together.

A cross-Canada coordination page is set up at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1693943417492184/> or email rnknfile@mts.net.

Bill C-377: not about transparency at all...

continued from page 2

Which is why C377 isn't about transparency at all.

It's easy to see why the Harper Conservatives hate unions. Unions are the final major roadblock in their campaign to fully transform Canada. Unions demand rights for working people, decent wages and benefits, all which constitute barriers towards full-scale and unregulated resource extraction and international trade deals.

Unionization and labour rights are fundamental within a free and democratic society. The ability of working people to gather, elect their own leadership and direct their own political campaigns is a tenet of democracy. It is the membership who has the right to make demands of the leadership; no one else.

And if there exists problems within the organization of the union, it is the membership who has the right and the responsibility to fight for change internally; no one else.

Which is why C-377 must be

What's Left

Victoria, BC

Labour Day Celebration, Monday, Sept. 7, 11-2, fun and solidarity on the lawn of the BC Legislature, hosted by Victoria Labour Council.

Vancouver, BC

Anti-Austerity Picnic, 6 pm, Monday, Aug. 31, at Grandview Park, 1200 block Commercial Drive, speakers include Harjap Grewal, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, and Jean Swanson.

Ayotzinapa: Chronicle of a State Crime, documentary on the disappeared Mexican students, Monday, Sept. 14, 8:30 pm, Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour St.

Burnaby, BC

Labour Day celebration, Monday, Sept. 7, 11 am-3 pm, Swangard Stadium (Kingsway & Boundary), hosted by BC Federation of Labour and New Westminister and Vancouver labour councils, featuring music by Chilliwack. Drop by the People's Voice display booth!

Surrey, BC

Stop Harper rally, Sat., Sept. 5, 4 pm, at Holland Park, across from King George Skytrain. Organized by Fraser Valley Peace Council, speakers from Indigenous, South Asian, Latino, Palestinian, anti-war and other groups, ph. 604-500-4711.

Toronto, ON

20th Annual Toronto-Cuba Friendship Day, celebrating 70 years of Canada-Cuba diplomatic relations, Sat., Aug. 29, 7 pm, Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St. Free admission, featuring live band: Pablo Terry & Sol de Cuba, plus salsa lessons, display tables, cash bar, Cuban food. Sponsored by the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto, www.ccfatoronto.ca.

Election campaign speaking tour

For details of election campaign tour starting mid-September by Communist Party leader Miguel Figueroa, visit the CPC website, www.communist-party.ca, or ph. 416-469-2446.

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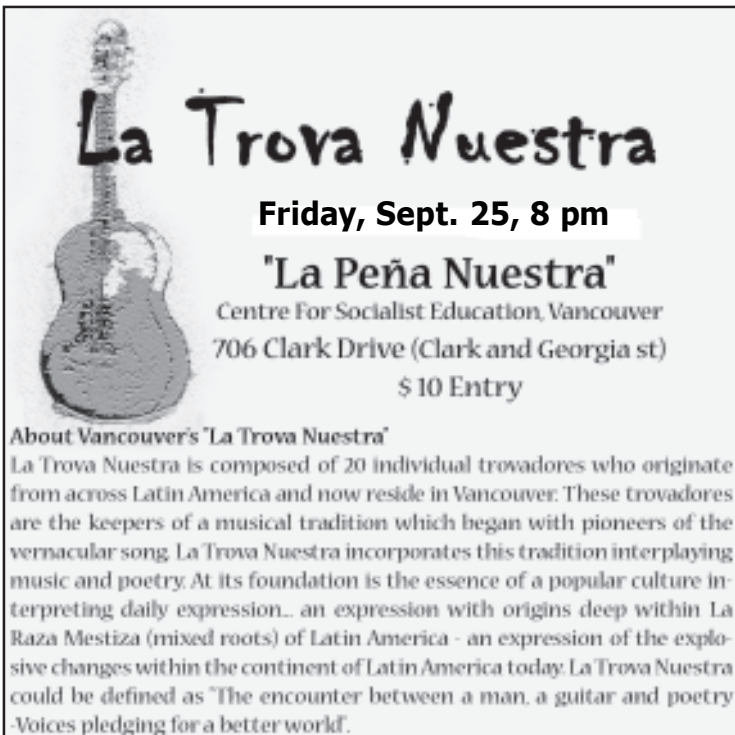
Origins of IS...

continued from page 9

internal conflict, external meddling and intervention seems to unite the rest, which have either become – or teeter at the edge of being – failed states. [Libya of course was nothing like a failed state until NATO attacked the country and destroyed its economy and infrastructure.]

"It is the lack of political prospects, and the smothering of any attempt at freedom and fair economic opportunity, that lead to extremist violence in the first place. As long as this reality remains intact, IS will tragically find new recruits, latch on to local militant groups, and continue to expand into new borders – and even darker horizons."

And as long as imperialism's attempts to control the world's resources are not combated, that reality will remain intact. ●



La Trova Nuestra
Friday, Sept. 25, 8 pm
"La Peña Nuestra"
Centre For Socialist Education, Vancouver
706 Clark Drive (Clark and Georgia st)
\$10 Entry

About Vancouver's "La Trova Nuestra"
La Trova Nuestra is composed of 20 individual trovadores who originate from across Latin America and now reside in Vancouver. These trovadores are the keepers of a musical tradition which began with pioneers of the vernacular song. La Trova Nuestra incorporates this tradition interplaying music and poetry. At its foundation is the essence of a popular culture interpreting daily expression... an expression with origins deep within La Raza Mestiza (mixed roots) of Latin America - an expression of the explosive changes within the continent of Latin America today. La Trova Nuestra could be defined as "The encounter between a man, a guitar and poetry - Voices pledging for a better world."

Workers unite against the corporate agenda!

Labour Day 2015 statement from the Communist Party of Canada

On Labour Day 2015, the Communist Party of Canada sends its warmest greetings of solidarity to working people across the country, especially to all those engaged in struggles against attacks by employers and right-wing governments.

This year, Labour Day takes place during a crucial election campaign, in the context of an economic crisis that creates deep hardships for working people in Canada and across the capitalist world. The challenge faced by the organized labour movement is to play a major role in defeating the Harper Conservatives, to reverse the austerity agenda imposed by big business, and to work beyond the election to build a mass movement that can reverse the austerity agenda imposed by big business."

The anti-people impact of neoliberal policies continues to unfold. Even before the 2008 meltdown, the largest corporations and banks were consolidating to downsize production and raise

service and retail sectors. Youth unemployment remains two to three times the general rate of unemployment, and even higher among those from racialized and indigenous communities. Housing is increasingly unaffordable for millions of families, and the pay gap between men and women for

Free speech and civil liberties are being restricted by so-called "security" measures, such as Bill C-51, which threatens all those who undermine "the economic or fiscal stability of Canada" - a clear reference to trade unionists, environmentalists, and indigenous land defenders.

This year, Labour Day takes place during a crucial election campaign, in the context of an economic crisis for working people in Canada and across the capitalist world. The challenge faced by the organized labour movement is to play a major role in defeating the Harper Conservatives, and to reverse the austerity agenda imposed by big business.

work of equal value is again widening.

The true aim of PM Harper's "economic action plan" is to enhance corporate profitability and the concentration of capital through a wholesale transfer of wealth from the working class, small farmers and primary producers, Aboriginal peoples, women, new immigrant communities and migrant workers, youth and the elderly. And it's succeeding: the top 1% of Canadian pre-tax income earners now capture 37% of overall income growth, and swallow up 12.2% of the country's income pie.

The austerity strategy includes undermining the universal public healthcare system, EI, and pensions; cuts to social transfers for education and social welfare; new attacks on labour laws, equity programs, and environmental protections; and more wars, more covert surveillance, and more police and prisons. The rights of labour to organize, to free collective bargaining and to strike are being steadily curtailed through restrictive legislation and back-to-work orders. New pro-corporate trade deals are being finalized, like the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the EU, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal, which target sovereignty, democracy, the environment, and working people.

There is a growing militant opposition among workers and the broader democratic movements. This is reflected in workplaces, around the negotiating table and on picket lines, and also on the streets - among Aboriginal Peoples struggling for their just national rights; around opposition to tar sands extraction and fracking; among youth and students, especially in Québec, against tuition increases, police violence and austerity; in the opposition to the end of urban home postal deliveries; and the mass mobilizations against C-51. It includes the "Fight for \$15" labour/community battle to raise the minimum wage; the battle against Bill 1 in Nova Scotia; the militant struggles by CUPE locals at York and the University of Toronto; job actions by teachers in B.C. and Ontario; and the recent negotiations in Ontario involving UFCW (Loblaws stores) and Unifor (Metro stores), where these unions worked hard to achieve improvements for part-time workers, including closing the wage gap.

These examples show that the trade union movement has the numbers, the experience and the organizational strength to play a leading role in building a far broader and more coordinated fightback.

A new mood of resistance has emerged in the Canadian Labour Congress, where President Hassan

Yussuff was elected after endorsing the action program of the "Take Back the CLC" movement calling for labour unity and militant action. In Ontario, the OFL under President Sid Ryan has played an important role in building labour coordination and solidarity around major trade union battles, and in forging the Ontario Common Front with social allies in the communities.

In Québec, three main labour centrals (FTQ, CSN and CSQ) have formed a 'front commun' to negotiate collective agreements for 450,000 provincial employees. There is wide support in Québec for the concept of a broader coalition of trade unions, feminists, popular and environmental groups and student associations, using escalating tactics such as a political strike against the austerity program of the Couillard government.

But there remains a sharp divide over tactics and strategies. Activist and militant "social union" forces support independent labour political action, while collaborationist, business union leaders favour "contracting out" labour's political role to the NDP, hoping to resurrect the so-called 'social contract' between labour, business and government. Underlying these choices is a more fundamental question: "Which way forward for labour - class struggle or class collaboration?"

The answer requires an understanding that as the systemic crisis of capitalism deepens and matures, there is no other way forward except to 'unite and fight' against the offensive waged by monopoly capital and its governments, and to advance a real alternative and line of struggle to achieve this goal. The next stage in the fightback begins with defeating the Conservative government, which has been a disaster for workers, Aboriginal peoples, women, youth and students, pensioners, immigrants and racialized communities. But working

people don't need a new Liberal version of the Tory pro-war, big business agenda. And unfortunately, despite raising some useful measures such as a \$15/hour federal minimum wage and a pan-Canadian child care program, the NDP refuses to reject the capitalist "free trade" deals, or to demand an end to participation in U.S.-led wars.

As shown by the recent example of Greece, where the "radical" Syriza government has imposed pro-corporate policies demanded by European finance capital, fundamental change requires mass working class action to break with the entire system of neoliberal economics, capitalist trade deals and imperialist military alliances.

In this election, only the Communist Party of Canada has raised a true People's Alternative: jobs and higher wages, defence of labour rights, expanded social programs, one million new housing units, nationalization of resources and the banks, cuts to carbon emissions, scrapping "security state" laws, justice for Aboriginal peoples, full gender equality, military spending cuts, and higher taxes on the corporations and the wealthy. A vote for the Communist candidates is a powerful demand for such fundamental changes. Ultimately, to win a genuine People's Alternative, we need a longer-term fight, and a powerful People's Coalition of the working class and its allies outside of Parliament. The organized labour movement must become the core of such a coalition, which could break the power of the big corporations and open the path towards a socialist Canada.

On Labour Day 2015, the Communist Party of Canada urges all workers - organized and unorganized, employed and unemployed, of all national origins and genders - to unite against the corporate agenda, and to fight for a world free from exploitation, oppression and war!



labour productivity, and to attack the wages, benefits and living standards of workers. Real incomes for working people have been declining for decades. While official jobless figures remain at about 6.8%, employment patterns are shifting dramatically. Part-time jobs now account for 80% of net job creation, and nearly 20% of workers hold part-time positions, up from 12.5% in 1976. There are now 1.1 million workers in precarious, temporary contract positions, earning lower pay and few benefits. Mass layoffs have hit tens of thousands of workers this year in the manufacturing,

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Statistics Canada reports that the top 20% of families saw their average net worth rise from \$721,900 in 1999 to \$1.3 million in 2012, adjusted for inflation. The bottom 20% of families saw their average net worth rise at less than half that rate, to \$109,300 from \$79,500 over the same period.

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