

SEPT.
1-15,
2010

VOL. 18
#14

\$1.50

people's VOICE

**Stop the racist
attacks on refugees!**

See page 12

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

LABOUR DAY



*Time to build
a mass, coordinated resistance: Page 7*



The Common Front settlement in Quebec: what happened, and what's next?

- see page 3 -

3 Defend education!

Ontario voters go to the polls on Oct. 25 to elect municipal councils and school boards. In Toronto's Ward 5, candidate Howard Kaplan is campaigning to defend public education.

INSIDE

5 Pension grab

In their constant search for higher profits, corporations like U.S. Steel are promoting "Defined Contribution Pension" plans to gouge workers.

9 Cuban 5 campaign

The struggle to free the Cuban Five heroes got a welcome boost in August, as several major unions launched a new campaign calling on President Obama to free the anti-terrorist fighters from U.S. jails.

Ontario unions organize against wage freeze

By Stuart Ryan, Ottawa

The Ontario Liberal government is trying to make its workers pay for the economic crisis by ensuring that employees of the public and para-public sectors take a wage freeze for two years whenever their collective agreements expire in the next five years.

In his March 2010 budget, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan introduced legislation to freeze the salaries of non-unionized employees in sectors like health care, education, and social services. Unionized workers were warned to take a similar wage freeze. Employers and unions were told that the government would not increase the funding to their respective sectors to cover any compensation increases negotiated in new collective agreements.

To justify the freeze, the Liberals cite the \$35 billion dollar deficit, caused by the economic crisis of 2008 and the subsequent stimulus package. But at the same time, they are giving corporations \$4.5 billion in tax cuts, making Ontario the cheapest place for business in North America.

While some negotiations did produce the wage freeze, evidence was that this pattern would not continue. For example, 28 unions in the university sector were openly trying to co-ordinate their bargaining to get decent wage increases, pensions for workers who do not have them because of



August 19: union members rally at a Dalton McGuinty fundraiser at the Gray Hawk Golf Club in Ottawa (OPSEU photo)

the precarious nature of their employment, and better working conditions.

On July 20, the government called on the representatives of the various para-public sectors to enter into "consultation sessions" for the next nine weeks. At these sessions, it would try to get employers and unions to accept the compensation freeze. A suspension of collective bargaining has been called while the "consultations" take place.

"To suggest that the provincial deficit should be borne by public sector workers is tremendously

short-sighted and unfair," said CAW President Ken Lewenza. "Ontario can only get out of a deficit position by growing the economy, not by making it even more precarious. This will in no way protect services as the province is claiming."

While the government claims that it does not want to go down the routes of the Social Contract legislation the NDP government imposed in the 1990s recession, nor the drastic cuts to public service the Mike Harris Conservative governments made in the late 1990s, the unions are not

buying this argument.

They see this as the first step in a process to bring in legislation to intervene in the free collective bargaining process, which was recognized as a Charter Right by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2007. BC's Hospital Employees Union had taken the Campbell Liberal government to court, after it ripped up existing collective agreements and signed sweetheart deals with the Teamsters at half the workers' salaries. The ruling in that case said that a government must consult with the affected unions and explain its reasoning before it can table legislation that would violate the Charter Right.

On August 9, the Canadian Auto Workers walked out of the first of three consultations, because the government's representatives were not prepared. Lewenza said the whole process was a sham because it lacked transparency.

The Ontario Public Services Employees Union (OPSEU) has also withdrawn from the "consultations", seeing them as a set-up for government legislation. OPSEU has called for an all-Presidents meeting in Toronto on September 13. It has set up information pickets at Liberal Party fundraisers to tell McGuinty and his supporters that they have their priorities "upside-down."

CUPE Ontario has taken steps to resist the government's plans. While participating in the

"consultations", it is calling on the leadership of each CUPE local to participate in the building of an alternative vision for the Ontario economy. The first step in this process occurred August 4, when representatives of the Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee locals drafted their alternative vision for Post-Secondary Education in Ontario.

An emergency meeting of all CUPE locals in Ontario is being held in Toronto August 25-26 to decide collectively how to resist the government's interference in the collective bargaining process. CUPE Ontario is using the consultation process to argue that freezing salaries will jeopardize the economic recovery, because workers will put off major purchases such as homes, cars and appliances. It will argue that public services provide the social and physical infrastructure needed to produce an economic recovery and build a more equitable society. The union will counter the myth that "wealthy" public sector workers do little more than collect their pay cheques.

CUPE argues that the Ontario government is cutting corporate taxes by \$4.5 billion, while demanding wage freezes and implementing the Harmonized Sales tax, which will hit the living standards of workers. It is requesting that other public sector unions mobilize so that the labour movement as a whole can resist the government's attack. ●

Nuclear disarmament - Principles, practices and prospects: Part 2

(The first part of this article by Darrell Rankin appeared in our Aug, 1-31 issue)

The neo-conservative drive to war, under Bush and today, has been intimately tied to the most openly reactionary and racist measures in U.S. and Canadian domestic politics. The war drive in the Middle East and Asia, which is heating up in Iran and North Korea, could easily involve the use of nuclear weapons by the U.S. or Israel.

The spread of neocon wars or imperialism's use of nuclear weapons would have important political fallout. Not least this could include dictatorial rule in some or all imperialist countries and the deepening of serious inter-imperialist rivalries. These wars need close examination.

The neo-conservative forces who rose to prominence in U.S. ruling circles under Bush still hold powerful positions in that country. The most reactionary sections of the U.S. ruling circles (the military-industrial-media complex, oil, finance) are the most important source of the war danger. These sections or circles give the neocons their authority.

President Obama is in power. But on several issues such as Iran and North Korea he is being influenced by the most dangerous sections of U.S. imperialism. It is important to recognize the split in the U.S. ruling circles between those who oppose and support the neocon drive to war.

The U.S. is not unique as an imperialist country. A similar split exists in the ruling circles of almost every imperialist country. The pro-peace forces must take full advantage of this split. Today blocking imperialism's military agenda involves both building awareness about the source of the war danger, imperialism as a whole, and rejecting the appeasement of neocon forces in imperialist countries. The neocons must be isolated and made powerless.

The neocon strategy was and is to use a fascist foreign policy to crush democracy in the U.S. and its allies. Their most important agenda is to divide the world's working class, using the war to deepen anti-Arab and anti-Asian racism. The Nazis used anti-Semitism to divide the working class and all other democratic movements.

Bush's first neocon war in Afghanistan actually coincided with a historic meeting of the world's two main trade union movements, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The September 2001 meeting was the first to take place since the historic split in the global trade union movement in 1945. The two movements agreed on a common day of action against the World Trade Organization's policies.

There is also an important underlying economic push behind the neocons' political agenda for these wars. For U.S. corporations, it is increasingly hard to resist

plundering the oil and other resources of the Middle East and Central Asia. This is the most commonly understood reason for the wars of George Bush. U.S. imperialism is pursuing the so-



called Washington consensus on global free trade adopted in 1991 by other, violent means.

An aspect of the economic push is the deepening rivalry between blocs of imperialist states for the re-division of the world. The U.S. pursued these wars as a way to shore up its declining positions in the imperialist division of the world.

These are all serious sources of imperialism's war drive that have led us to where we are today.

The world's trade unions are

closer to united action against imperialism, despite neocon war and racism and a slowing of progress since 2001. The economic problems of the imperialist countries continue to deepen. These countries are failing to cooperate on adequate solutions and are more ready to loot poorly defended resources.

Some important questions flow from the new realities. Can imperialism's drive to war be stopped? Can imperialism increase its respect for international law, especially the United Nations Charter, and can it reverse the new, dangerous military doctrines that prevail throughout the NATO military alliance? Can imperialism be pressured to reduce military spending and abolish nuclear weapons?

The answer to all of these questions is yes, but it will require unity and action. It is becoming increasingly important to halt imperialism's smaller wars of occupation and to achieve meaningful disarmament. It is through such struggles that a new, truly devastating inter-imperialist war may be prevented.

Perhaps more of the most reactionary circles are concluding imperialism cannot continue to rule in the same way. They have started a few wars and stoked tensions. They have succeeded in creating the new, dangerous military doctrines in NATO and in most NATO countries, changes that

have wedded imperialism to nuclear weapons even more firmly. So far this side of imperialism is prevailing.

These changes are happening not just because socialism has been overthrown in the Soviet Union. Imperialist countries are very arrogant, but growing militarism and the threat of nuclear annihilation are intimately connected to the great problems that have arisen under capitalism and which it is incapable of resolving.

Humanity must address the impoverishment and starvation of hundreds of millions of people, the uncontrolled climate crisis and the huge burden of the arms race and the wars of occupation. As long as imperialism has nuclear weapons, the threat of nuclear annihilation by imperialism will be the most dangerous obstacle blocking the resolution of these problems.

Before it is overthrown, imperialism is unlikely to resolve any of the big problems confronting humanity, including the abolition of nuclear weapons. Humanity cannot allow a worsening of impoverishment, racism, national oppression, and the massive dislocations of people, refugees from wars and economic and climate catastrophes - not only in our continent but through out the world. Identifying and blocking imperialism as the main source of the war danger is crucial if the world's peoples are to prevail and resolve all these great problems ●

Tentative agreement in Québec public sector: Common Front leaders accept package

By Robert Luxley

On June 25, representatives of Québec's Common Front public sector unions reached an agreement in principle with the Charest government. The move put an abrupt end to negotiations, weakening the response of the working class to measures to address the crisis of big capital.

The agreement covers issues such as wages and pensions, for which the unions had made common demands. It followed a series of other agreements reached the previous day on working conditions in each specific sector (health, education, public service, etc.). Union members will vote by mid-September on all the agreements.

Last year, to negotiate collective agreements for their public sector members and to confront the government and its program of fiscal austerity, the main trade unions formed the greatest common front in the history of Québec, with nearly half a million workers.

That strength in numbers was a serious threat to a government weakened by scandals and allegations of corruption and patronage. Already engaged in a frontal attack against the entire population by imposing new taxes and budget cuts (health taxes, user fees for health services, increased tuition fees, rising Hydro-Québec rates, reduced welfare benefits for single mothers and the elderly, a law requiring all governments to cut at least 10% of clerical staff), the government was completely isolated and

sinking in the polls.

A coalition of several unions, popular movements and students was established to fight these austerity measures. Tens of thousands of people hit the streets to demonstrate against the budget. Last March 20, 75,000 members of the Common Front demonstrated in Montreal. Polls showed that the majority of the population considered the union demands reasonable and well founded. There were increasing discussions of a "social strike" by all forces against the budget.

No doubt this helped prompt the government to suddenly soften its position at the negotiating table, particularly in the health sector where things were at their worst. Charest began to seek a negotiated settlement (without it being "too expensive") before the summer, to defuse the risk that the trade union movement and the working class might join against him in the fall. The union leaders seized this "window of opportunity" to rush to a "negotiated settlement".

First, the government had to remove almost all the major concessions it had initially demanded in the working conditions of employees. The government said it had provided some leeway for this tactic while staying within its budget. Some minor concessions were made, for example in the pension plan. In the Education sector, the agreement would create hundreds of jobs. In most sectors, some measures were offered to address staff shortages.

In the rush to conclude negotiations, several important

issues, such as privatization and outsourcing, were referred to various joint committees. But the government is not obliged to accept the results, keeping for itself the last word.

In the Health sector, attempts to reclaim 26 issues for local rather than national (Québec-wide) bargaining were abandoned, despite a Superior Court ruling against a 2003 law which had arbitrarily imposed this division.

Although the public sector deal has weakened the labour movement, the response is not extinguished. The 55,000 nurses and FIQ members who rejected the Health agreement could go on strike in the fall. The fight to save public services and oppose privatization remains. The student movement may yet go into action... All is not lost.

In terms of wages, the main demand of the Common Front, the result is certainly the most disappointing, especially for less well-off employees, whose incomes have declined in recent years. For the first three years, the tentative agreement accepts the government's initial offer, a total wage increase of 2.25%. This offer had been attacked as contemptuous and unacceptable by the Common Front leaders a few days before the conclusion of the agreement.

The Common Front demand had

been for an 11.25% total increase over three years, calculated on the average wage in the public sector, to give a larger increase for wages below the average, plus an escalator clause if inflation exceeds 2% per year. A wage catch-up was necessary because according to the Statistical Institute of Québec, the wages of public sector employees had fallen 9% behind the private sector.

They will remain far short. Considering the inflation rate (6.3%) predicted by economists, workers could see their purchasing power decline a further 4% over these three years.

The Common Front also bowed to the will of the government for a 5-year agreement. The government offered a wage increase of 1.75% and 2% respectively for a fourth and a fifth year, with a possible adjustment of 1% more in 2015 if total inflation exceeds 6% during the five years.

In addition, the agreement provides that if GDP growth in 2010 and 2011 exceeds 8.3%, the government will increase salaries by 0.5% in 2012. If the sum of GDP growth from 2010 to 2012 exceeds 12.7%, salaries will go up by 1.5% more in 2013, and if GDP growth from 2010 to 2013 exceeds 17%, salaries will increase another 1.5% in 2014.

This "economic growth" clause is unlikely to apply, since it would require a relatively high average GDP growth of 4.25% per year, which rarely happens in Québec. Indeed, from 2004 to 2008, the period of "prosperity", the average growth rate was only 3.5%. Still, it allows union leaders to claim they have obtained a wage settlement of 10.5%, or close to the goal of 11.25%. Anyway, if by chance the GDP experiences strong growth, it must be remembered that this also implies, in general, a high rate of inflation.

Government, employers and editors expressed enthusiasm for this "historical precedent". It ensures not only that workers will bear the brunt of the economic crisis, but it also introduces a principle of class collaboration, since the purchasing power of workers will be conditional on the prior enrichment of capitalists.

Why did the trade union leaders accept this agreement?

The Common Front leadership had adopted from the start a strategic framework providing for a speedy resolution. They sought to negotiate a new agreement before the expiry of the previous contracts, coinciding with the government's March 30 budget.

In practice, this would have meant that the unions settled before acquiring the right to strike. Knowing the Charest government and the economic context, it was difficult to imagine a way to win a "satisfactory" agreement without a fight, or by just bluffing. But as long as no illusions were spread, this position could still be understood as a tactic to show good faith bargaining by the unions.

But far from being intimidated by this tactic, and despite the demonstration of 75,000, the government responded five days before the expiry of the collective agreements, bringing to the Health Sector table a package of 42 major concessions in working conditions, and rejecting all union

demands.

Disappointed, the Common Front leaders decided to seek mediation. In Health, it was decided to submit the employer's offer to the members, and to establish an action plan to hold votes to seek strike mandates in early autumn. According to union leaflets distributed to members, rejection of the employer's offer was solid and the action plan was "adopted without hesitation."

However, at a meeting of CSN health sector delegates to discuss the agreement, the state of strike preparations was said to be rather low. Union leaders feared that the government would reply to a strike by passing a special law to crush any resistance.

But even assuming that the mobilization was not yet sufficient, why not continue the negotiations while working to create the conditions required to win a satisfactory agreement? After all, it was still early. The old contract had just expired, and the unions were not yet in a legal strike position, forced to wait out the mediation process.

Since a satisfactory collective agreement within the government's budget was impossible, it was necessary to inflict a defeat on the government through a strike. Such a strike would have been highly political. The confrontation would have been major, class against class. Obviously, this high-stakes option was not without risk. It would have taken a lot of will and courage.

But there were very favourable factors. It probably would have been possible to combine the tremendous strengths of the Common Front with the broad coalition opposed to the privatization of public services, with students who are likely to protest against rising tuition fees this fall, and possibly even with the 140,000 construction workers who may strike at the end of August. There was a huge potential.

Unfortunately, throughout the negotiations, the union leaders strictly limited the objective of the Common Front to achieve a collective agreement, refusing to fight directly against the austerity budget. Although they took advantage of popular discontent against the government, the trade union leaders refused to participate in the coalition opposed to the privatization of public services.

What are the prospects?

In the construction sector negotiations, the employers' association has already based its offers on the public sector wage settlement. The workers have refused and threaten to go on strike, eloquently demonstrating the value of this settlement.

Although the public sector deal has weakened the labour movement, the response is not extinguished. The 55,000 nurses and FIQ members who rejected the Health agreement could go on strike in the fall. The fight to save public services and oppose privatization remains. The student movement may yet go into action.

Although it is very difficult, many union activists in the public sector are still trying to defeat the agreement in principle. An interesting idea has been launched to organize a more coherent left within the trade unions.

In short, all is not lost. ●

Howard Kaplan launches Toronto Ward 5 school trustee campaign

Long time advocate for universal quality public education, Howard Kaplan, has launched his campaign for Public School Trustee in Ward 5 (York Centre) of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

Ontario voters go to the polls on Oct. 25 to elect municipal council and school boards across the province. With 270,000 students and over 500 schools, the TDSB is the fourth-largest school district in North America.

"Too many students are falling between the cracks while others are unable to reach their full potential because of inadequate funding and short-sighted decisions", says Kaplan. "It's time to focus on students' needs, and implement the supports necessary for every student to succeed in the public system."

Howard Kaplan, a systems analyst with a Bachelor of Education degree (U of T) as well as a BA (York) and a Bachelor of Business Administration (Ryerson), and has studied education policy in Canada and Europe.

Former TDSB Vice-chair Stan Nemiroff says Kaplan is well qualified to be a Trustee. "Howard knows what quality education looks like, and, most importantly, he knows how to work closely with parents, students, staff and communities to get it. He believes every child has a right to a quality public education and the School

Board and the province must do what is necessary to provide it," says Nemiroff.

Kaplan's campaign manager is Elizabeth Hill, herself an 18-year former Trustee on the TDSB and York Board of Education.

"Howard is rooted in the community, he's accountable," says Hill. "The things he advocates, such as opening schools to the community on weekends, evenings and through the summer at minimal or no cost, make good sense to the community. He calls for a freeze on school closures and for the Board really to listen to the community about the future of our schools and the needs of students and communities. He's an excellent choice for Trustee."

Kaplan will also campaign to

expand early learning programs, reduce class size, support special education services and accommodations, eliminate user fees and restore adult education. A strong advocate of equity in education, Kaplan also supports a single, quality public school system open to all.

Kaplan is a volunteer at the Winchevsky Centre, a director of the Morris Winchevsky Schools, and sings in the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir. He is the father of two, both of whom are graduates of Toronto public schools: Faywood Public School and Earl Haig Collegiate.

To volunteer for Kaplan's campaign, or to receive further information, call Elizabeth Hill at 416-654-7105. ●

Kickoff Campaign Social to Elect Howard Kaplan
Sat., Sept. 11, 2-4 pm

Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave.
(E. of Bathurst, N. of Lawrence)

Refreshments, Entertainment, Bold Ideas!

Admission \$10

For more information, phone:

Elizabeth Hill, Campaign Manager, 416-654-7105

EDITORIALS

Public inquiry needed now

Terrified that too many racist skeletons might fall out of the closet, the B.C. government stubbornly refuses to yield to pressures for a full, independent public inquiry into the murders of women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Such demands have been growing since the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Willie Pickton, convicted of six murders and suspected of killing as many as fifty women in total (mainly Aboriginal). The Supreme Court removed the claim that the province could not call an inquiry while legal proceedings were underway.

Some have argued that the resources allocated for a public inquiry would be better spent on programs and services for women in need, or that "we already know what happened".

Both objections are flawed. A society which can spend \$16 billion on new fighter jets or \$565 million to put a retractable dome on B.C. Place Stadium can easily afford both an inquiry and women's services, and to provide the jobs, training, incomes and housing women need to escape the deadly consequences of poverty.

Just as important, an inquiry is needed to help expose the crisis of murdered and missing women. While a few honourable police officers and politicians tried to solve the Pickton case, many ignored the ongoing mass murders. A dozen women were killed after the RCMP had the evidence necessary to arrest Pickton. If a killer was attacking women in Vancouver's wealthy Shaughnessy neighbourhood, the full resources of the VPD and the RCMP would have been mobilized immediately. But because these victims were Aboriginal, their cases were low priority.

Last February, federal funding for the Sisters in Spirit project was ended by the Harper Tories. This project had researched over 520 cases of murdered and missing Aboriginal women since 1970, the majority in the last decade. The Pickton case is just a part of the violence inflicted on Aboriginal women across Canada. The reluctance of the Campbell Liberals to call an inquiry is a reflection of the racism which allows this violence to continue.

Charge the real G20 criminals

The chaos and waste which marked the brutal repression during the G20 Summit was on display again August 23 in Toronto, as hundreds of people facing criminal prosecution appeared in disorganized and packed courtrooms. For many, the charges were dropped, or diverted without a finding of guilt. Police did not explain why they had arrested these people. Hundreds of defendants still face expensive and time-consuming criminal proceedings.

This appalling exercise is further proof that the massive "security" operation simply flushed a billion taxpayer dollars down the toilet. Police stood and watched during the only episodes of property damage during the Summit, then moved in to arrest about one thousand people at random, using the flimsiest pretexts.

There is nothing new in this scenario. Canada has often witnessed "police riots", from the "Regina Riot" which halted the On to Ottawa Trek, to the vicious attacks on demonstrators during the 1997 APEC Summit, and many more. These are not the acts of "rogue cops" - they are planned assaults on the public, calculated to intimidate working people and their allies from mobilizing to challenge the established capitalist order.

As the Toronto Community Solidarity Network points out, "the people who are facing serious charges ... were on the streets demanding safe and affordable housing, workers' rights, an end to war and occupation, and environmental justice."

The bogus charges against the remaining defendants must be dropped. Instead, we need an independent public inquiry to pinpoint who organized the massive, illegal attack on basic democratic rights and civil liberties. Those perps should be in the dock, not their victims.

PEOPLE'S VOICE

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

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

Volunteers and contributors for this issue:

Dave Arland, Ed Bil, Burton, Wally Brooker,
Sean Burton, Sam Hammond, Julian Holland,
Robert Luxley, Bob Mann, B. Prasant, Darrell
Rankin, Liz Rowley, Gurpreet Singh, Stuart Ryan,
and our mailers in Vancouver & Toronto.

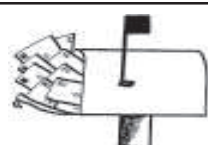
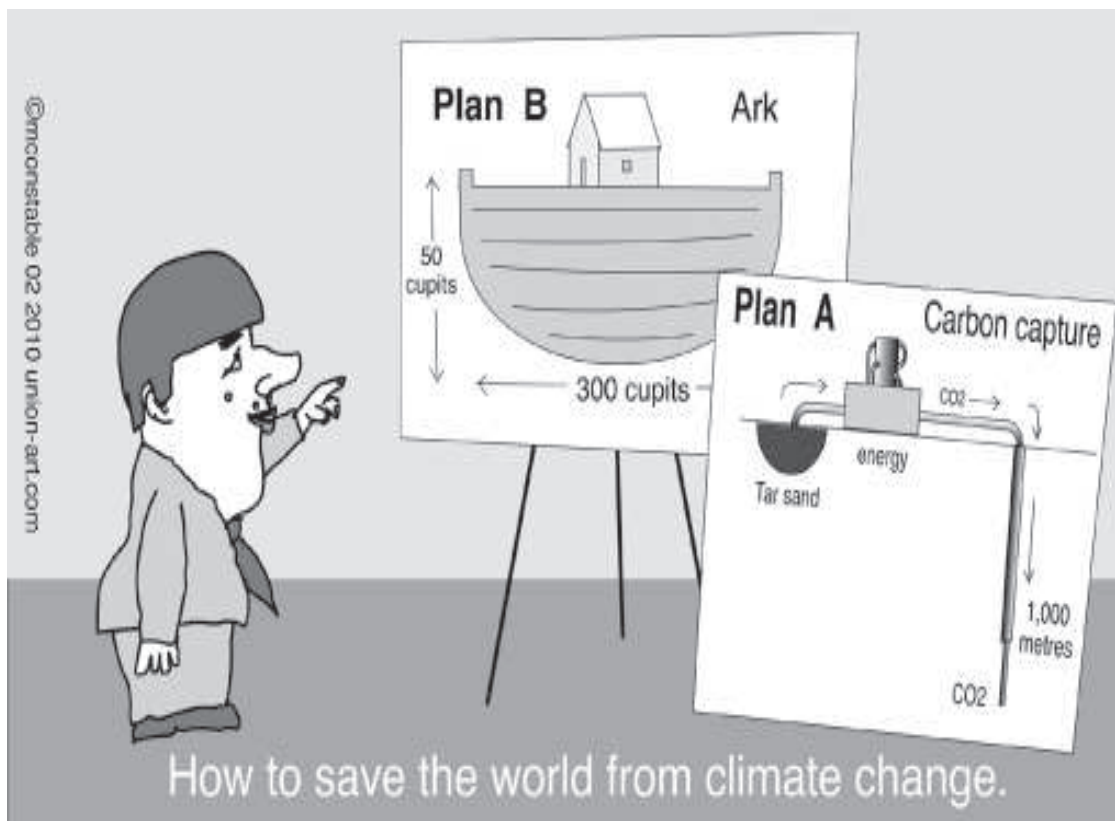
Editor: Kimball Cariou Business Manager: Sam Hammond

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

LETTERS

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

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



Letters to the Editor

Questions re. General Natynczyk

Many questions could pop into the minds of Kelowna residents reading the announcement of Defence Chief Walter Natynczyk's coming to a local winery for a "fundraising social event" on August 16.

First off: Is the government of Canada admitting that after ordering our young people to fight in an immoral, illegal and hopeless war in Afghanistan that the whopping \$490 billion "defence" budget over 20 years is insufficient and that "military families" must depend on charity? Secondly, does this genial General not qualify as a war criminal for his role as commander of the U.S. Army III Corp's 35,000 soldiers in "the supreme crime" (according to the Nuremberg Principles) - the invasion of Iraq?

Of course General Natynczyk has another mission besides fundraising: winning the hearts and minds of Canadians for seemingly never ending military adventures in distant lands. The hearts and minds of people in distant lands are never won by the invasion of foreign soldiers, but hearts and minds must be won here at home by a constant barrage of taxpayer funded pro-military propaganda by the likes of the Okanagan Military Museum and various "support our troops" (no matter what they do) campaigns. All this is in the context of major political parties in both the US

and Canada waffling about their promises to withdraw from Afghanistan.

The war in Afghanistan has never been easy to sell to the Canadian public. Now with the leaked documents - "A huge cache of secret U.S. military files today provides a devastating portrait of the failing war in Afghanistan, revealing how coalition forces have killed hundreds of civilians in unreported incidents. They range from the shootings of individual innocents to the often massive loss of life from air strikes..." (the British Guardian) - that job has gotten just that much harder.

Bloody carnage "over there" and vicious class warfare at home - there's a lot of PR work to be done to maintain the deceptions.

Natynczyk's predecessor Rick Hillier, after writing an arrogant and lucrative autobiography, is now counted a hero and sits on the board of TD bank and Telus. General Natynczyk, awarded the Meritorious Service Cross specifically for his combat efforts in Iraq, will undoubtedly leave his post with a wide range of lucrative job offers to consider.

Former Senator Ross Fitzpatrick (a Member of the Order of British Columbia), owner of the winery where the General will speak, is the CEO of

Viceroy Resource Corporation, a gold exploration company. The men who led us down the path to war, the prime ministers who presided over our wars, the military figures and defence ministers, the intelligence chiefs and politicians who helped make them happen, will have libraries to inaugurate, books to write, awards to accept, speeches to give, honours to receive.

They will be treated with great respect, while the families of military personnel are supposed to humbly accept charity from the rich, and the rest of us will be forced to pay the bloated billions of blood money for our great military conquests. The peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan will be left to mourn their dead and try to rebuild their shattered countries. Is the idea of moral culpability only applicable to our state-designated enemies? Will we ever encounter a shred of remorse in the Okanagan Military Museum?

Mark Haley, Kelowna, BC

Renew today!

Check your label

Please check the address label on the front page to see if it's time to renew. Subscribers who find "2010/09/01" on their label, for example, will have their subscriptions expire with this issue, Sept. 1-15, 2010.

Don't miss a single copy - renew today!

Greetings from UK friends

It was good to march with friends from the Canadian Communist Party on the G20 March during our stay in Toronto. What is it with police chiefs named Blair? We had trouble with one in London (not to mention the terrible Prime Minister of the same name). The policing of the event was dreadful. Over-policing of legitimate protest and under-policing of criminal actions. The way the so called Black Bloc could engage in relatively minor acts of vandalism and get all the publicity enabling your Blair to justify his ludicrous tactics made me think the damage was done by plain clothes cops!

This meant that the news coverage was dominated by a small group of trouble makers whilst the 20 real criminals, despite being surrounded by police and a wire fence, escaped to do further damage to the world!

Nick Matthews and Sue Moron-Garcia,
Barley Close, Rugby, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

SPEAKING
FRANKLYOntario university workers face
tough bargaining challenge

By Julian Holland, Hamilton

The labour movement doesn't often get to choose its battles, especially in downturns when the priority is opposing layoffs and clawbacks. But, envisioning a strategy before the meltdown and Bill 16, this was exactly what the Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee aimed to do.

The OUWCC represents 20,000 workers who belong to CUPE locals at post-secondary institutions across Ontario. Its' top priority has been to establish common proposals, communications strategies and solidarity actions for campuses from Windsor to Thunder Bay.

A big step towards this goal was achieved two years ago, when the OUWCC adopted an action plan which put its members on fighting footing for 2010. At the time, Chair Janice Folk Dawson noted, "We have talked about coordinated bargaining for ten years and now we are finally ready to achieve it. We now have an action plan in this sector that reaches into 2010; and we are going to be stronger for it!" In 2008 the OUWCC was confident that by standing in solidarity, the sector would achieve real gains.

Before the ink could dry on this

plan, conditions changed dramatically. The last eighteen months have been difficult: support staff jobs are threatened by outsourcing, large numbers of contract faculty have been laid off, and teaching assistants face tuition hikes which translate into pay cuts. In 2009 aggressive employer driven bargaining forced workers at York (CUPE 3903) and McMaster (CUPE 3906) onto the picket lines. While both strikes ended with agreements that favoured the employer, they did demonstrate a readiness to fight. This was a crucial message to send with over 28 OUWCC contracts set to expire in 2010.

The introduction of Bill 16, legislation to impose a two-year wage freeze, signalled that an already tough bargaining environment had given way to an open attack on public sector workers. The OUWCC initially took a strong position, pledging to resist concessions, wage freezes and two tiered agreements. On the ground, members at Guelph (CUPE 1334) and McMaster (CUPE 3906) delivered strike mandates. By mid-summer it was becoming clear that employers were having a hard time enforcing austerity, as various locals at the municipal level signed agreements that broke the 0%

blockade.

Despite these encouraging signs, the OUWCC and CUPE Ontario have wavered since Finance Minister Dwight Duncan requested the suspension of collective bargaining until consultations with unions were complete. The call for tripartite discussions, a calculated response to the Supreme Court ruling which overturned Bill 29 in B.C. (which had unilaterally ripped up the collective agreements of health care workers), was clearly a first step in the move to legislate the suspension of compensation increases.

To this point, statements from CUPE Ontario have largely avoided the fundamental question of the charter right to collective bargaining, by placing the focus on the fact that wage freezes are a "bad idea" since they inhibit consumer spending. The OUWCC followed this path, lobbying to get a seat at the table, where it planned to present an "alternative vision for the protection of public services". Ultimately the province excluded the OUWCC from the consultation process.

The absence of a coherent and militant position shared across the

public sector has already produced divisions. Administrative and technical staff represented by OPSEU at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine walked away from talks on August 17 to become the first local in the sector to strike since the passage of Bill 16. But the bargaining teams at other locals have taken much more cautious stances, such as CUPE 3906 at McMaster, which has signed a no-strike/no-lockout protocol which will remain in effect until November 15.

Taking a "wait and see" position when so much is at stake is a risky strategy at both the local and provincial level. Unless activist members push to mobilize for an all-out response to the province's attack on collective bargaining rights at the Emergency all CUPE Locals Meeting on August 25-26, it is likely that the membership will be left with legislated concessions and a litany of "next time" and "we will be back" speeches. For those who belong to the OUWCC locals that pushed hard and sacrificed at the bargaining table to align contracts for 2010, such a defeat will have lingering effects that last much longer than any two year freeze. ●

(Holland is an executive member of CUPE 3906 at McMaster University.)



Seen here at last year's Labour Day parade in Toronto, CUPE 3907 (a member of OUWCC) bargains for graduate assistants at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. (PV photo: Ed Bil)

U.S. Steel brings pension battle to Hamilton

By Bob Mann, Hamilton

Just over a year ago, U.S. Steel locked out employees at its Nanticoke Plant. On the evening of August 2, 2009, security escorted 150 members of United Steelworkers 8782 out of the Lake Erie Works to join approximately 800 workers who had already been laid off that spring. For nine months the union held out against the company's demands, but after a long winter a deal was ratified which deprived new hires of access to a Defined Benefit Pension plan.

Emboldened by this success and hoping that the financial crisis will frighten workers into submission, the multinational giant is taking aim at USW Local 1005, which represents employees at its Hamilton Works. The corporation wants to reduce vacation time, weaken cost of living allowances and eliminate the indexing formula that protects pensioners from inflation. But, while each of these items constitutes a major concession, the real aim of U.S. Steel is to impose a Defined Contribution Pension plan on incoming employees.

There is a war against retirement today in Canada. No matter what our age or sector, we all need to understand the difference between Defined Benefit Pensions (DBPs) and Defined Contribution Pensions (DCPs). When corporations and governments push to replace defined benefits with joint contribution plans, they are trying to get workers to shoulder the risks and losses associated with market activity. Like the taxpayer funded bailouts given to big banks and mega-corporations, the DCP is a tool to place full liability on ordinary citizens for the cyclical meltdowns that come with reckless profit-

seeking and financial speculation.

Until the 1950s, very few workers enjoyed any protection against poverty once they had left the workforce. Companies and governments fought tooth-and-nail against putting aside money while workers were producing profit so that they could receive a stable income later in life. Today

has turned the pension issue into a defensive fight.

For many years corporations such as U.S. Steel tried to sell DCP plans to the public as "win-win" scenarios. The leadership of USW 1005 has had to work hard educating its membership about the "pot of gold" pitch delivered by both the media and human

shift a portion of the workers' compensation. So, while the employee sacrifices wage increases in the present for higher pension contributions, because of market volatility there is no guarantee the money will be there at the end of the day. Perhaps even more alarming, DCPs make plan holders dependent on the destructive policies of investment companies which aim to push down wages, eliminate benefits and ignore workplace safety in order to maximize stockholder returns. This is why millions of workers in the U.S. are forced to cash in their 401(k) plans just to meet basic health care costs and mortgage payments.

When DCPs aren't accepted at the bargaining table, the big corporations turn to bankruptcy protection, plant closures, and long lockouts. The leadership at USW 1005 has already had plenty of experience facing these tactics. In 2004 Stelco tried to use the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) as a tool to force concessions.

USW 1005 President Rolf Gerstenberger passionately reminds the membership that, "during the CCAA process started by the old Stelco... the company and the CCAA court were trying to get Local 1005 to participate in changing the pension arrangement in one way or another. Local 1005 kept saying we had a contract and expected everyone to live up to the terms of the agreement. By opposing the CCAA process from the beginning we were successful in not losing anything."

Prior to making its purchase in 2007, U.S. Steel carried out a complete due diligence study of Stelco's assets and liabilities. Executive Vice-President and Chief

Financial Officer Gretchen Haggerty even wrote to USW 1005 assuring them that U.S. Steel had maintained "a large defined benefit pension plan for decades" and would "honour [its] commitment to the Stelco pension plans."

Only a couple of years down the road, when the contract between USW 1005 and U.S. Steel expired on July 31, the company announced it would dismantle the DBP. Given this dishonesty, even though neither party has called for conciliation and no strike or lockout date has been set, USW 1005 has every reason to expect an epic struggle and little sign that U.S. Steel will bargain in good faith.

Fully aware of what the employer was looking for, the bargaining team opted to refuse to present any proposals that could be manipulated by U.S. Steel into damaging trade-offs. The big question is: will the historically militant workers at the former Stelco Hilton Works will be able to hold the line this time around?

The goal of all Canadians should be the creation of a universal pension plan that provides a meaningful life after a lifetime of work for every person regardless of their employer. The model for this plan will have to come from labour rather than corporations representing the elite, which is why every workplace that loses its Defined Benefit Pension plan is a step backward in the fight for a universal pension plan. It is imperative that the union movement and working people mobilize behind locals like USW 1005 fighting to maintain the integrity of worker's pensions which are here today, but could be gone tomorrow. ●

(Mann is a retired steelworker and long-time labour activist in Hamilton.)



there is still no real pension system in this country, and the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) is so inadequate that it has created a dysfunctional and inequitable patchwork of private/public benefits.

For this reason, the majority of DBPs have been established in places where militant unions have had a significant shop-floor presence. Steelworkers in Hamilton took to the picket line four times, beginning with an 86-day strike in 1958, to build a plan that continues to provide dignity to its membership in retirement. The last step forward made by USW 1005 in this long uphill struggle came with the strike of 1990, which resulted in the indexation of pension benefits. The rise of neoliberal economics

resources.

During the investment boom of the 1990s and early 2000s, workers were told that contributory plans would generate fantastic returns and personal freedom. According to this story, union members were hostages to secure retirement plans and therefore missing their opportunity to retire rich!

The absurdity of this story has been demonstrated by the current economic crisis. Today individuals without DBPs face a future of extreme uncertainty after many years of following the advice of pundits and brokers.

A Defined Contribution Pension is little different than a private Registered Retirement Savings Plan into which the employer agrees to

Labour needs to take the lead

This year's Labour Day takes place two years into the most serious capitalist crisis since the Great Depression. The so-called "recovery" is already faltering in Canada and around the world. Corporate profits and huge bonuses for top executives have rebounded, but for working people, the reality is continued high unemployment, falling incomes, more social cutbacks, and new attacks on wages and pensions. On a global scale, the working class faces the unchecked growth of militarism and imperialist wars, and the impact of deepening environmental problems and natural disasters.

In this complex situation, the labour movement and its allies desperately need to build a massive, united and coordinated fightback campaign. But the

experience of the past two years shows that the willingness of workers to struggle for their rights has yet to be matched by the leadership of the trade unions. The time has come to stand together and say: those who reap billions in profits must pay for the economic crisis!

Faced with a stubborn refusal by most working people to surrender to the right-wing agenda, the ruling class and the Harper Tory minority government have increasingly resorted to demagogic tactics designed to create divisions and muddy the waters, such as the racist campaign against Tamil refugees and the scrapping of the long-form census. In Canada, the most visible and powerful public rejection of Tory policies - the demonstration by some 40,000 people during the G20 Summit on

June 26 in Toronto, including thousands of trade unionists - was met with brutal state repression, including the arrest of over 1,000 protesters and bystanders.

The corporate/government attack has been particularly sharp against organized workers, such as the Vale Inco strikers who held out valiantly for one year in Sudbury and Port Colborne against the outrageous attempt by their Brazilian-based bosses to gut their collective agreement.

There are many other positive signs that workers across Canada are ready to take on the corporate agenda. These include lengthy and determined strikes by university employees, civic workers, and Steelworkers in Ontario, and by the paramedics in British Columbia. In Montreal, 75,000 public sector workers and their allies marched on May Day this year, during the Common Front negotiations with the Charest government.

These examples prove that Canadian workers are just as capable of challenging the ruling

**Labour Day
2010 statement,
Central
Executive
Committee,
Communist
Party of Canada**

**One voice
One choice
Union!**



mc 2010 union-art.com

class as our sisters and brothers in other countries. The powerful upsurge of general strikes and mass protests in Greece, Portugal and other countries has inspired workers everywhere to step up our militant resistance

However, the truth is that heroic struggles by workers across Canada have been weakened by the labour movement's inability to mobilize its full potential. Time and again, we have witnessed the refusal by many union leaders to build broad community/labour solidarity campaigns around strike battles or wider social issues. This trend includes the retreat from mass action by the Common Front union leaders in Quebec, the collapse of the Coalition to Build a Better B.C., the reluctance of the Steelworkers Union to appeal for wider support for the Sudbury strikers, and the attempts by some forces to hamstring important efforts by the Ontario Federation of Labour leadership to move in a more militant direction. Most troubling, the Canadian Labour Congress itself remains unwilling to engage in the type of movement-building which would rally millions into action against the corporate agenda.

Some activists mistakenly argue that the difficulties in mobilizing the labour movement for a major struggle mean that workers have "sold out" or that the trade unions are a spent force. This wrong assessment has fuelled attempts to impose divisive tactics on the people's movements, such as the claim that isolated acts of property damage, rather than mass action, is the only way challenge the foundations of ruling class power.

The real lesson of these experiences is that working people in Canada have the strength and understanding to conduct tough battles for their rights, despite that challenges of cold weather, scabs, police brutality, corporate media slanders, and relentless political attacks. When organized workers have leadership which matches their capacity for struggle, important victories have been achieved. But when leadership consists of looking for "exit strategies" or calls to retreat at the first sign of pressure, workers are understandably reluctant to take chances.

On this Labour Day 2010, the Communist Party of Canada salutes all working people across our country and around the world who have chosen to fight rather than surrender. Their struggles have

played a major role in slowing the offensive by the corporations and pro-business governments (including many led by social democratic parties) against the interests of the entire working class.

We renew our call for the labour movement in Canada to play a leading role in stepping up resistance against the corporate attack. It remains both timely and urgent for the CLC and other labour federations to convene a broad People's Summit, with the full participation of the Aboriginal peoples, youth, seniors, women, immigrants, anti-war and anti-racist groups, environmental groups, and many other movements. Such a Summit should develop an Action Plan to bring down the Harper Tories and other pro-business governments, and to block the offensive by the corporations.

Unity can and must be built around a set of immediate demands for a People's Recovery Program, such as expanded EI coverage, a massive investment in low-income housing and improved social programs, and reversing the huge tax cuts given by the Tories and Liberals to the corporations and the wealthy. These and other pro-people demands are needed to rally millions into action, rejecting the lie that "there is no alternative" to the policies favoured by big business.

We urge trade union members and all activists in the people's movements to raise their voices for such a perspective to move from isolated defensive battles, towards a strategy of coordinated, united, mass resistance, based on recognition that "an injury to one is an injury to all." The working people of Canada have nothing to lose from such a strategy - and we have a better future to win! ●

Injured nickel miners fight Xstrata for their jobs

PV Ontario Bureau

Sudbury - George McIvor wants his job back, and he won't take no for an answer. George is a nickel miner in the Sudbury basin, and he works for the multinational Xstrata nickel company (formerly Falconbridge Noranda) - or at least he used to.

Xstrata doesn't want him anymore. They refuse to call him back after he suffered a back injury that requires the company to accommodate his injury in the workplace.

The company doesn't say it won't call him back, or four other members of Local 598 Mine-Mill (CAW) in similar situations. They just don't get called at all. And that's the problem, says Vicky McIvor, spokesperson and tireless fighter for the Committee for Injured Laid-Off Workers of Xstrata Nickel.

In February 2009, Xstrata laid off 686 workers, including George McIvor and four others who had been previously injured on the job and accommodated in the workplace up until then. Of those who escaped the February lay-off, 111 were injured workers who are still working today in an accommodated jobsite. Those numbers reflect the fact that Sudbury has the highest job injury rate in Canada.

On March 22, 2010, Xstrata starting recalling its laid off workers. By leap-frogging over McIvor and the other four injured workers, the company flagrantly broke the collective agreement and the Human Rights Act.

Five months after the first worker was by-passed, the company says it can't find accommodated work for any of them, and that its modified (work) centre is now closed. In other words, Xstrata is dumping injured workers and is prepared to risk a legal fight.

No doubt taking note of the changed circumstances of the mining unions after the 360 day strike by Local 6500 ended with losses to the union, Xstrata's attitude to the injured workers is simple: "Make me" is the clear message.

They know that EI benefits are running out for all the laid off workers, and especially for the injured workers who are fighting for their rights and jobs with very little resources.

Recognizing the company's very deep pockets and its capacity to starve them out, the Injured and Laid Off Workers Committee took to the streets in July and began a daily rally and information picket at the mine sites. Each day at 6:30 am, the injured miners and their supporters hand out flyers and talk to workers. Local media have also picked up this David and Goliath story.

The Committee's message? Everyone who works for Xstrata is in danger so long as the company ignores the collective agreement and the Human Rights Act. They've touched a nerve with miners in one of the most dangerous work sites in the world, and they're getting a lot of sympathy. Local Steelworkers union leaders recently joined them on the line, along with members of their own union, and friends in the

community.

Ralph Marion, Organizer of the Communist Party's Charlie McClure Club in Sudbury, is working with the committee to win support for this fight.

"These workers and their committee deserve all the support labour and the community can give them" he said, adding the NDP MPPs could also help. "In a mining town like Sudbury, this is everybody's fight."

When the Injured and Laid Off Workers' Committee took their case to the Human Rights Commission, they were told they had a case. Xstrata held another round of second stage grievance meetings - not to bring them back, but to cover the bases for the coming legal battle. On August 3, two of the men, including McIvor, filed cases with the Human Rights Commission.

Mine Mill Local 598 (CAW) is pursuing the company through the exceedingly slow grievance procedure.

People's Voice readers can send messages of support, and connect with Vicky McIvor and the Committee for Injured Laid Off Workers of Xstrata Nickel, at 705-866-1786 or email at vmcior@live.com. ●



**Solidarity
with
workers in
struggle!
Support the
PV 2010
Fund Drive!**

Historic miners' strike ends in Sudbury

By Liz Rowley

Three hundred and sixty days after it started, the strike of 3,300 miners, mill and smelterworkers in Sudbury and Port Colborne against Vale Inco, the second largest mining company in the world, is over.

By a vote of 75.5% at Local 6500 in Sudbury, and 74% at Local 6200 in Port Colborne, the United Steelworkers voted July 8 to end the longest mining strike in Canadian history.

"Nobody voted for the contract; they voted to go back to work", said Patrick Veinot, Local 6500 Vice President.

That was the sentiment as the bitter pill of a defined contribution pension plan (snuck in for new hires through the two-tiered back door) means today's relatively secure pensions will soon be a thing of the past. Entirely subject to the marketplace, DC plans could leave a pensioner with 30 years service with next to nothing when the economy tanks again.

For those with the defined benefit plan, pensions increased to \$41,400/year with lifetime COLA and health care benefits and long term disability. This too will all be gone when the current workforce expires.

The settlement establishes new triggers and a \$1,500 cap on the nickel bonus, a profit-sharing scheme Inco devised in the 1960s in lieu of a raise. The bonus used to kick in when nickel reached US \$2.25/lb. Now the price must tip US \$3.75 - another wage cut.

The small wage increase amounts to US \$2.25-\$2.50 an hour over the lifetime of a five-year agreement. There was also a \$2,000 signing bonus, and some smaller bonuses linked to production.

Welcome back: you're laid off

There was also agreement that 113 jobs would be eliminated in Sudbury: a "preliminary" number according to Vale, the maximum according to the USW. The union says the 113 have been accounted for with the retirement of 89 at the end of the strike, and 55 more who found jobs elsewhere. With these numbers, Vale should be hiring, says the USW.

Vale's July 26 recall included calls to tell 18 workers that they no longer work in Sudbury, but could apply in Port Colborne in southern Ontario, or Thompson in northern Manitoba. Either way, Vale is aiming for labour mobility - pack-sack miners who will dig it out and move on.

Speculation is the workforce will continue to drop as Vale contracts out more non-union work, a real and continuing threat to the unionized work force.

During the strike, Vale fired nine of the most militant union members, including Veinot, who became Vice President in early August. The company claims that because Veinot was fired he was not a member of the bargaining unit, and ineligible to hold office. But the popular strike leader had the support of the Local Executive and membership, who told Vale to "stuff it".

The eight cases (one has retired on a full pension) will go to

arbitration after an Ontario court ruled that the company must show just cause for the firings, bring witnesses, etc. Veinot is convinced the union will win reinstatement for all eight.

Dozens of legal actions launched against the union and individual strikers were dropped

"Nobody voted for the contract; they voted to go back to work"

with the settlement. But the company is intent on sending a message to union members, by refusing to revoke the firings as part of the settlement.

It's the same message at Vale's reorientation meetings, where workers are told that the union no longer has the "power" in the workplace, and is a third party that shouldn't be involved. If there's a problem, workers are told to speak first to the supervisor, and only involve union stewards as a last resort.

In fact, nothing in the collective agreement has changed, as Steel rep Myles Sullivan tells it. But the political climate has certainly changed after a year on the picket lines facing scabs, cops, helicopters and lawsuits, after lost homes, marriage break-ups, and hardships are counted in, and after being forced to accept a collective agreement nobody but the company wanted.

Mind-boggling profits

This strike began shortly after the 2008 economic crisis, the ensuing bail-outs of giant corporations, and a global corporate assault on wages, pensions and organized labour. Provincial and federal governments proclaimed that the way out of the crisis was to open up the country to foreign investment.

This was the first set of negotiations after the takeover of Inco by Vale, a multi-national with operations all over the world and 2008 profits of US\$13.2 billion. Company data show that each Vale worker produced \$221,223 of the 2008 profits. Vale made \$4 billion from the Sudbury operations alone in the two years after it bought Inco in 2006. Six top Vale executives took home \$33 million in 2008, an increase of 121% over the last two years. Vale's earnings during the second quarter of 2010 rose 254% over the same period in 2009, to \$6.11 billion. This is a company with deep, deep pockets.

"Ourselves Alone"

Throughout the strike, the USW worked hard to build ties with unions at Vale's global operations. At mass rallies in Sudbury, international guests visited the picket lines, and strikers crossed the world telling their unionized brothers and sisters about the historic strike in Sudbury.

The strikers also travelled in busloads to the OFL convention last November, to Ottawa, Toronto,

Hamilton, wherever they could.

But the labour movement as a whole was never engaged. The fight remained largely in Sudbury, and was mainly about bargaining. Few outside Sudbury knew about the strike, and most unions were just sympathetic observers.

But the issues at stake were huge, affecting workers across Canada. The strike began shortly after the massive attack on the wages and pensions of autoworkers, and during the campaign against public sector workers in Toronto and Windsor. All of organized labour was under attack, especially around pensions and wages.

A key issue was the take-over of Inco by Vale, which had made legal undertakings through the Canada Investment Act to operate in specific ways that would benefit Canada. US Steel made similar undertakings when it bought Stelco in Hamilton, and now faces charges for breaching its obligations.

Vale's clear breach of its obligations should have made the fight an issue to all those concerned about Canadian sovereignty. The labour movement is on record calling for public ownership of natural and energy resources. This would have engaged a much broader base of support for the strike and put more pressure on the federal government.

Vale's decision to scab its operations put the provincial government front and centre, and should have brought the whole labour movement into the struggle from the start. But the fight for an anti-scab law was left to the NDP, vastly outnumbered in the Ontario Legislature by Liberal and Tory MPPs. France Gelinias did her best, but speeches and press releases were never enough. This fight cannot be won without mass mobilization of the labour movement and its allies, without thousands of feet marching on the lawn of the Legislature.

The strike could have become a poster child of the fight for public ownership and Canadian sovereignty, for labour rights and anti-scab legislation, and for a united, fighting labour movement defending and improving pensions, wages, and living standards.

But the USW's position of "ourselves alone" led in a different direction. The political fight was left to the NDP in Queen's Park and Ottawa, where anti-scab legislation and control over corporations like Vale can't possibly be won without mass mobilizations by labour and its allies.

Unity and Struggle

At the local level in Sudbury, the fight quickly moved from the union hall into the community. Family members and supporters pressed the City Council into action against Vale's by-law infringements for sleeping scabs inside mine offices at the work sites. Supporters raised funds, mobilized for the rallies, responded to the media, exposed the scabs, and helped families suffering after months on strike.

But support never moved much beyond the USW at the national and international level. Most key decisions were made at the top

levels of the union, and strikers were often scrambling for information about the state of negotiations. The union's "one day longer" strategy proved inadequate in a wholly changed situation against an extremely powerful corporate adversary.

The central lesson of the Sudbury strike, applicable to the whole labour movement, is that the days of "ourselves alone" are over. Right-wing governments allied with transnational corporations can't be beaten with the bargaining strategies of the last 50 years. To defeat the agenda of austerity and union-busting, it will take a united labour movement with a coordinated offensive agenda and a mobilized membership.

The war continues

"The battle's over, but the war continues". That's the message



Community solidarity in Sudbury (PV photo: Ed Bil)

Miners enter second year on strike at Voisey's Bay

By Liz Rowley

One hundred and thirty miners at Voisey's Bay enter their 13th month on strike against Vale Inco Sept. 1, after Vale refused the United Steelworkers' offer to settle for the same agreement ratified by a majority of mine, mill and smelterworkers in Sudbury and Port Colborne in July. The Newfoundland miners who are now facing the second largest mining company in the world on their own.

Local 6500 USW in Sudbury voted to send almost \$7,000 in solidarity to the Voisey's Bay strikers in early August, after it became clear that there is no settlement in the works and Vale is intent on breaking the strike, and the strikers, in Newfoundland.

Steelworkers' District 6 Director Wayne Fraser wrote to Premier Danny Williams right after negotiations broke off July 20. Charging that Vale is prolonging the strike by treating Voisey's Bay strikers as "second class employees", Fraser urged Williams to intervene "to ensure Vale treats the working families of Newfoundland and Labrador with the respect and dignity they deserve."

Many of the strikers are Aboriginal people, which based on its global record, Vale seems to think means even lower wages and worse conditions are the order of the day.

Last spring, Vale attacked Sudbury strikers, implying the USW was racist for "turning up its nose" and "refusing to close the gap" between the poor wages and conditions that are the norm for miners in Brazil, and the relatively much higher wages paid in Canada. The union sharply rebuffed the attack, asserting its role was to raise wages everywhere and fight reductions everywhere too.

More than anything, the incident exposed just how low Vale will go to exploit and attack its employees around the globe.

The power of this vicious multi-national mining corporation is enough to crush the strike and the courageous strikers at Voisey's Bay, without a massive effort across the labour movement to nail this company politically and force a settlement. The federal and Newfoundland governments should be pushed to cancel the deal with Vale, and kick them out of Canada for the way they have treated Canadian workers, and Canadian sovereignty.

Enough is enough! Vale should be nationalized, and there's no time like the present to proceed. Taken up and fought for by labour across Canada, these demands would turn the situation for miners and best serve the interests of Canada and Canadian labour. That's where the beef is. ●



GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

New attacks on Johnson Control workers

The International Metalworkers' Federation has called on affiliates to demand an end to violence at the Johnson Controls Interiors plant (Resurreccion) in Puebla, Mexico.

Early on August 16, unknown persons were allowed access to the Johnson Controls Interiors plant, threatening workers on the first shift and assaulting them with sticks and stones, leaving many injured. Two members of the Executive Committee of the newly formed Section 308 of IMF-affiliated the Mexican Miners' Union (SNTMMSRM), Candido Barreucos and Vigilio Melendez, were beaten in a company office and forced to sign letters of resignation under gunpoint. They were taken to a hospital with severe injuries.

The Mexican Miners' Union believes that the assailants were associated with the company-controlled "protection" union (the Confederacion de Organizaciones Sindicales, or COS) the union that was ejected after a three day strike by the workers in May of this year. Under the agreement ending the strike, signed in the presence of officials of the Puebla government, Johnson Controls agreed to recognize the Mexican Miners' Union as the workers' representative and to take no reprisals against the strikers. But in both JCI Plants in Puebla, (Resurreccion and FINSA) intimidation, threats and violence against workers and their supporters have dramatically increased.

On August 9, Enrique Morales, Coral Juarez and Maria Luis Rosina from the Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador, a worker center in Puebla that has supported the Johnson Controls workers in their efforts to form a new section of the union, were threatened by four men while visiting workers from Johnson Controls to inform them about their human and labour rights.

The IMF and a network of solidarity organisations supporting the workers and the Mexican Miners' Union at Johnson Controls have asked affiliates to send letters to Johnson Controls management in the U.S. and to the Mexican Government demanding steps to end the violence and protect the rights of the workers to be represented by a union of their choice.

Strikes shake South Africa

South Africa's schools and hospitals are among the scenes of a nationwide showdown between the government and public sector unions, which have launched a strike demanding an 8.6 per cent pay rise, which the government insists it cannot afford.

Crowds who blocked a main road near a hospital in Soweto, holding up traffic and blocking entrances, were broken up by police firing rubber bullets and water cannons. In Johannesburg striking teachers threw bricks and stones at police,

while nurses tore down a gate at one hospital as pickets struggled to block scabs from entering.

Schools were shut down by flying pickets in other areas. "This will continue until we get the response from government that we need," said the teachers' union leader Nomusa Cembu.

The government's hope of a swift victory over the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) disappeared as other smaller unions joined the walkouts. The auto workers' union, NUMSA, is also threatening to expand a strike action, demanding a 15 per cent increase in wages.

On Aug. 19, the South African Communist Party issued a statement expressing "support to the ongoing working class struggles in the public sector and those led by NUMSA in the automobile industry. These struggles are consistent with the manifesto commitments of creation of decent work."

"The public sector strike has once more raised the ire of those who fundamentally are opposed to trade union organisation in the public sector," said the SACP, a partner in the ruling ANC coalition since the end of apartheid. "There can be no justification for an assault on workers' rights in whatever method it presents itself. The leadership of the trade unions are themselves aware of the huge responsibility they bear on their shoulders. The right of workers to strike must be defended with our lives.

"The SACP calls on all parties to immediately settle these strikes. The demands of the workers are genuine. We need to introspect as a county how we have excluded a majority of people who constitute what we call the working poor from the good interventions of government in the areas like housing, education and even other social grants that could benefit them. We also need to use this period to reflect on the relationship between the developmental state and the workers and the task of building a developmental public service.

"We are also appalled by the intransigence of the automobile industry and their tactics to increase their profit by employing a workforce on the basis of methods that are not in line with our agenda of creation of decent work. The use of labour brokers in this industry and part time employment is immoral and demonstrates how capitalism does not have respect for human dignity. A human being is just treated as a tool to make profit and the more value we can extract the better.

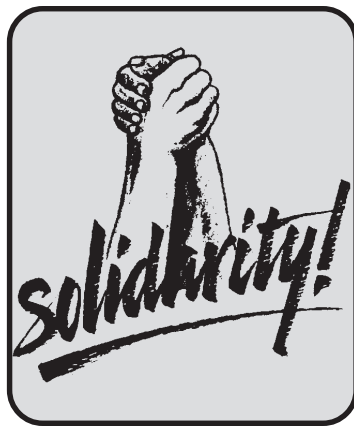
"The demands of the workers are legitimate and must be supported by all in our country. For too long we have allowed capital to run scot free. The time is now to deepen our anti capitalist strike including making sure that workers, the creators of wealth, share in the country's wealth."

French unions strike vs. "reforms"

The French labour movement continues to resist the so-called "reforms" imposed by the right-wing government of Nicolas Sarkozy. Rail unions have

announced that they may strike in September to protest the government's attacks on retirement and pension rights. The UNSA-Cheminots union says that the four unions at the state rail company Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer Francais will meet at the end of August to decide what form their action will take. A strike of undetermined length in September is one possibility.

Meanwhile, workers at the Fos



and Lavera oil terminals at the port of Marseilles held a 24-hour strike starting on August 20. The CGT (General Confederation of Labour) trade union has called all port workers to strike over government plans to privatize state-run ports. Two earlier industrial actions occurred on August 2 and July 27.

Greece sinking into crisis

The German newspaper *Der Spiegel* reports that "the austerity measures that were supposed to fix Greece's problems are dragging down the country's economy. Stores are closing, tax revenues are falling and unemployment has hit an unbelievable 70 percent in some places. Frustrated workers are threatening to strike back."

The austerity measures have reduced the country's budget deficit by 39.7 percent. Government spending has been slashed by 10 percent, 4.5 percent more than the EU and International Monetary Fund had required. But purchasing power is dropping, consumption is taking a nosedive and the number of bankruptcies and unemployed are on the rise. The country's gross domestic product shrank by 1.5 percent in the second quarter of this year. Tax revenue, desperately needed to consolidate the national finances, has dropped off.

The austerity package included reducing civil servants' salaries by up to 20 percent and slashing retirement benefits, while raising numerous taxes. The result is that Greeks have less money to spend and sales figures everywhere are dropping, spelling catastrophe for a country where 70 percent of economic output is based on private consumption. Fully a quarter of the store windows on Stadiou Street in Athens bear signs reading "Enoikiazetai" - for rent. The National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce calculates that 17 percent of all shops in Athens have had to file for bankruptcy.

The country's unemployment rate in 2009 was 9.5 percent. This year it may rise to 12.1 percent and economists expect it to reach 14.3 percent in 2011. The Greek trade

union association GSEE warns that 20 percent is a more likely figure for 2011. This would put the unemployment rate as high as in 1960, when hundreds of thousands of Greeks were forced to emigrate.

US matches India call centre costs

Call centre workers are becoming as cheap to hire in the US as they are in India, according to the head of the country's largest business process outsourcing company. High unemployment levels have driven down wages for some low-skilled outsourcing services in parts of the US, particularly among the Hispanic population.

At the same time, wages in India's outsourcing sector have risen by 10 per cent this year and senior outsourcing managers command salaries above global averages.

Pramod Bhasin, the chief executive of Genpact, said his company expected to treble its workforce in the US over the next two years, from about 1,500 employees now.

"People [in the US] are open to working at home and working at lower salaries than they were used to," Bhasin told *The Financial Times*. "We can hire some seasoned executives with experience in the US for less money."

Wipro, the Bangalore-based IT outsourcing company, started to recruit workers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa during the global economic downturn. Suresh Vaswani, joint chief executive of Wipro Technologies, forecasts that half of his company's overseas workforce will be non-Indians in two years, from the current 39%.

India is still expected to retain

the overall cost advantage, particularly in more sophisticated software outsourcing. Observers say that while the cost of some senior positions may have equalized with the US, and certain call centre services may be more cost-effective to set up in depressed areas of the US, this phenomenon may not outlast the US downturn.

Even after a tripling in numbers, Genpact's US workforce would still be only about a ninth of its total staff. The former in-house outsourcing unit of US multinational General Electric has operations in Chicago, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and New York.

Youth joblessness hits records

The International Labor Organization reports that the youth unemployment rate around the world edged up to a record high of 13% in 2009.

"Advanced" economies have seen some of the biggest jumps in unemployment. Across the developed economies and European Union countries, close to 18% of youth are unemployed. Spain and the United Kingdom show high rates of "discouragement" among young workers slipping out of the workforce altogether, as their governments embark on fiscal tightening programs that will shed more jobs.

According to the ILO report, youth unemployment rates increased by 4.6% in developed economies and the European Union between 2008 and 2009, and by 3.5% in central and south-eastern Europe. These are the largest annual increases in youth unemployment rates ever recorded in any region.

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

Send me information on the Communist Party of Canada

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

Central Committee CPC
290A Danforth Ave, Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6
416-469-2446 <info@cpc-pcc.ca> www.comunist-party.ca

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

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

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

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

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

Ottawa CPC
Tel: 613-232-7108

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

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

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

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

Labour pressures Obama to liberate the Cuban 5

People's Voice Ontario Bureau

On August 8th, three family members of two of the Cuban Five, Gerardo Hernandez and René Gonzalez, were welcomed to Toronto's Steelworkers Hall at a very warm reception hosted by principals of several major union organizations: Tony Woodley, General Secretary of Unite (Britain's largest union); Andy Stern, SEIU President Emeritus; Leo Gerard, United Steelworkers International President; Ken Neumann, USW National Director for Canada; and Heide Trampus, Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Network.

This initiative of Unite, SEIU and the Steelworkers in Canada is the result of a recently adopted joint action plan, one of whose five

priorities is the release of the Cuban Five. Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez and René Gonzalez were collectively condemned to four life sentences and 75 years of imprisonment, by a politically corrupted U.S. court system, for attempting to prevent more terrorist attacks on Cuba from the U.S.

Olga Salanueva, the wife of René Gonzalez, summarized the present legal situation of the five Cubans incarcerated in five different prisons throughout the USA. Luis Posada Carriles - a real terrorist who was the main conspirator behind the plot to blow up a Cuban airplane taking off from Barbados in 1976 which killed 73 people (including a victorious Cuban fencing team and a group of

outstanding Guyanese scholarship students travelling to undertake medical studies at Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine), as well as the plot to set off explosions in Cuban tourist centres in 1997, one of which killed Canadian resident Fabio Di Celmo - walks freely about Miami. Meanwhile, "the five Cuban anti-terrorists are unjustly in prison for the crime of acting to save others' lives," said Salanueva. "They should not be in jail even one day. Heroes should not be in jail."

Salanueva pointed out that, with their appeals having been overruled, "The Cuban Five are now applying for Habeas Corpus, their last remaining chance for justice, but have little hope or trust in this, as this appeal will be going to the same judge who sentenced them in 2001." Therefore "the message of the families on this present visit to Canada is different from the previous appeal for justice in the courts. Obama should declare the Cuban Five free. But this won't happen spontaneously. A huge public opinion push is needed."

Just six days earlier, Gerardo Hernandez had been released from thirteen days of torturous conditions in "the hole" because of a massive worldwide protest against this inhumane treatment. So too, the Cuban Five will need a massive protest directed at Obama, Salanueva concluded.



Trade union leaders announce Cuban Five campaign on August 8 at the Steelworkers Hall in Toronto (Photos: Ed Bil)

Adriana Perez has not been able to see her Gerardo since his imprisonment twelve years ago, having been refused a visa ten times to visit the US to see her husband. The previous two weeks, during his cruel and unmerited isolation, had been "difficult", she said. "On July 21 Gerardo went into the hole, with no ventilation, extreme heat because of the heat wave, where he was held for 13 days." This incident showed the risks that the Five Heroes face in U.S. prisons.

Irma Gonzales, the elder daughter of Olga and René, has been able to visit her father, since she holds both Cuban and US nationality. But she feels the pain of having to try to reassure her mother that her father is alright, as she brings messages from one to the other. She points to the greater pain that Adriana must feel, not

having any children to console her for Gerardo's absence or to visit him. Irma said that she never imagined on her last visit to Canada that she would be still fighting for the release of the Cuban Five seven years later, and that a renewed effort would still be needed.

A joint letter from the union groups was read out, addressed to President Obama, calling for the immediate release of the five Cuban anti-terrorist fighters.

NDP leader Jack Layton thanked the unions involved in the launching of this campaign: "Hundreds of thousands of Canadians go safely to Cuba, but are not sufficiently aware of the what the Cuban Five and their families have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice." Layton promised that "this is the beginning of a campaign, and our Party will be part of it." ●



Olga Salanueva, Adriana Perez, and Irma Gonzalez, family members of the Cuban Five heroes.

South Korea: raising tensions, ignoring mass opinion

By Sean Burton, South Korea

The chances are good that if you mention Korea to most Canadians, they will think about DPRK leader Kim Jong Il and nuclear bombs. Fewer would probably be able to name the president of South Korea or his policies. This is not entirely surprising, since the North's strongly anti-U.S. policies often lead the mainstream media to focus upon its supposed transgressions.

There are plenty of reports dealing with the North's nuclear weapons program for example, but materials discussing the activities of the South and its allies, particularly in a negative light, are exceedingly rare. The recent massive war games conducted by the U.S. and South Korean navies has only been discussed in the western media in terms of a "response" to North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean warship earlier this year. Never mind that such exercises are a regular occurrence, and heaven forbid you suggest the war games might be provocations themselves!

The fact is that tensions in the Korean peninsula have risen to new heights not because of the North, but because of the government in Seoul. Before 2008, there had been two moderate progressive governments under Kim Dae Jung and Roh Moo Hyun. With respect to inter-Korean relations, Kim Dae Jung initiated what is called the "Sunshine Policy", essentially a series of diplomatic and economic agreements with the DPRK with the overall intention of breaking down cold-war animosity and paving the steps to potential

Korean unification.

President Roh continued the policy, and like Kim Dae Jung, also met with Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang. The death of both presidents last year in many ways symbolizes the unfortunate about-face in Seoul's policy. Following the victory of the Grand National Party (GNP) and Lee Myung Bak, the Sunshine Policy has been abandoned and the overriding attitude toward Pyongyang has been strict and bellicose. Diplomatic and business ties have eroded, and the threat of bloody border skirmishes is rising again. Since the border is uncertain along the Yellow Sea, there was a history of conflict there even during the previous administrations, but since the mysterious sinking of the *Cheonan*, the Lee government has become increasingly hostile.

The GNP is a major vehicle for the right-wing in South Korea, while center and left forces have often been weakly organized politically. Despite gaining strength after the fall of the military dictatorship twenty years ago, the South Korean left in no way possesses the level of influence of the right, manifested by the GNP, which is the modern incarnation of General Park Chung Hee's Democratic Republican Party.

The right determines the national agenda in the South and liberally uses anti-communism to force otherwise progressive people to soften their positions. And, like Canada, large numbers of people do not vote during elections. The question justly arises: what do the people of South Korea think about the rising tensions and who do they blame?

To be sure, there are those who see fit to blame the North entirely. But the majority of South Koreans

that I've met have only limited knowledge about the DPRK, and their opinions vary from hostility to simple ambivalence. It's hard to say who actually likes the North, since being open about such a belief is illegal under the South's "National Security Law". But through hearing the non-right wing news and chatting with people on the matter, it is clear that the GNP is identified as a negative force and that many lament the end of the Sunshine era.

To hear more specific opinions, I discussed the matter with several Korean acquaintances. These people come from different backgrounds and political opinions, but they are all against Lee Myung Bak. Fundamentally, it was a discussion about the merits of the Sunshine Policy and potential reunification. Opinion on the Sunshine Policy does vary. The main negative argument is that South Korea did not get much in return for providing aid to the North. In other words, the North allegedly just took what was offered and did not change or open up at all.

On the positive side, a number of people whom I have met say the wealthier South should do what it can to assist its brethren in the North, which has been economically weak since the collapse of the socialist trading bloc. Another issue was the importance of keeping the border more or less open to allow divided families to meet. Such meetings had been occurring regularly, but these days movement over the DMZ is becoming more limited.

With regards to overall North Korea policy and potential reunification, there is a lot of cynicism towards the Lee government's proposals. Despite

the fancy speeches from Lee and from the U.S. for that matter, it is widely understood that the current government wants the DPRK to collapse, which would mean further hardships for its people.

Many people have also voiced concern about cutbacks to social programs and the diversion of finances to big corporate projects, as well as government interference in the media. At least a couple people that I spoke to also made it clear that inter-Korean relations and plans for reunification should not involve foreign countries, including the USA. The powerful influence of the U.S. and its military is frowned upon by large numbers of Koreans, who do not appreciate the friendliness of the GNP to American policy, one of many

factors in the massive beef import protests of 2008. Furthermore, it is precisely the U.S. power in the region that keeps the peninsula on a military footing.

In general, there is significant distrust toward the government at this time. A considerable number of South Koreans refuse to accept the charge that North Korea sank the *Cheonan*. Many South Koreans want a return the openness of the previous administrations, and to reconnect diplomatically and economically with the North as a way of reducing the present tension. Among those that I have spoken to, there is a hope that the GNP will be dumped in the next elections and that there will be a reset of inter-Korean relations. ●

Iraq war was illegal, says Clegg

British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, leader of that country's Liberal Democrats, shocked his pro-war Conservative Party coalition partners on July 21 when he declared the US-led invasion "illegal". At the time, Clegg was standing in for Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron for prime minister's questions in parliament.

During heated exchanges with Labour's shadow justice secretary Jack Straw, who was Tony Blair's foreign secretary when the war began in 2003, Clegg said: "Perhaps one day you could account for your role in the most disastrous decision of all, which is the illegal invasion of Iraq."

Clegg later insisted that he was speaking in a personal capacity, even though he was filling in for Cameron, who was on an official visit to the US. Lawyer Philippe Sands warned that Clegg's remarks made in the Commons would be "a statement that an international court would be interested in, in forming a view as to whether or not the war was lawful."

Stop The War Coalition chairperson Andrew Murry said: "Nick Clegg has only said what is common knowledge in every living room across the land - that the Iraq war was illegal. The deputy PM should now use his authority to ensure that those responsible for this gross breach of international law, Tony Blair above all, are brought to justice." ●

(From the Morning Star, Britain)

Colombian police admit file manipulation in Obando case

By Cameron Sumpter,
Colombia Reports, Aug. 5,
2010

A Colombian police investigator admitted to manipulating evidence against activist Liliy Obando which was recovered from FARC leader "Raul Reyes" computers, found in the cross-border raid in Ecuador in 2008, reports *Europa Press*.

When asked by a prosecutor if the police official had "opened and manipulated information before that information was subject to judicial review, in the absence of legal authorization to do so," investigator Ronald Coy replied, "yes sir."

The policeman is testifying in the case against Obando, a Colombian trade unionist and human rights defender, who was arrested on August 8, 2008 and accused of raising money for the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia).

The evidence of Obando's links to the guerrilla organization were allegedly found in the Raul Reyes computers, which the prosecution said also contained personal emails between Reyes and Obando.

Coy had earlier testified that no

e-mails were found on the computer.

Obando and her defense have always maintained that she was raising money for Colombia's largest agricultural union FENSUARGO.

According to James Brittain, a Canadian professor who has campaigned for Obando's release, the trade unionist was arrested the week she wrote a report on the murder of 1,500 FENSUARGO members over the last 30 years.

Obando's defense attorney Eduardo Matias says that Ronald



Labour activist Liliy Obando, now on trial in Colombia.

Coy's confession means that the prosecution against his client now has no legal basis.

"There was ... an abuse of authority in violation of due process and therefore the proof can not be considered as evidence in criminal proceedings," the lawyer said.

Following the Colombian raid on Ecuadorean soil which killed FARC leader Raul Reyes, Ecuador's public prosecution released a report alleging that Colombian authorities manipulated the computer files before handing them over to the international police force Interpol.

Interpol's investigation found no evidence that the files had been tampered with after March 3, but said that Colombian authorities "did not always follow internationally accepted methods for handling computer evidence."

The international police organization also acknowledged that it had never performed a physical electro-magnetic exam of the hard discs, which according to Interpol is the only valid way to retrieve a copy of computer content.

According to the analysis of the Ecuadorean prosecution, Colombia did tamper with the files before March 3. The report says that all 45 files handed over to Ecuador have the same creation, last modified and last viewed date. The timestamps on 40 of those files are before March 1, indicating that Colombia never opened the files they sent to Ecuador.

If Colombia had not tampered the files, the creation, last modified and last viewed dates would all be different and the last viewed date would have to be between March 1 and March 3. The files captured during the raid have been cited as evidence in numerous accusations by the Colombian government in the past two years against people who have alleged links to the FARC. •

CUPW backs mail to Gaza

Following an announcement that Israel Post has suspended mail delivery to Gaza, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers is encouraging people to send their mail on a Canadian boat bound for the blockaded Palestinian territory.

"As postal workers, we know very well that cutting off mail creates suffering and hardship for people, who are isolated from their loved ones," said Denis Lemelin, National President of CUPW. "How many more abuses will the people of Gaza have to endure?"

"We are heartened by the growing international response to Israel's cruel treatment of the Palestinian people," said Lemelin. "We stand in solidarity with all efforts to break the blockade and end the indignities imposed on the Palestinian people by the state of Israel."

Numerous organizations are working to endorse a Canadian boat to Gaza this autumn. People who want to send a letter to Gaza can contact organizers at the website <http://canadaboatgaza.org/> •

"Let the sun shine" at Co-op Books

Things are getting bigger and brighter these days at People's Co-op Bookstore, located at 1391 Commercial Drive in Vancouver. Renovations are expanding the store's retail space by about 120 square feet, with the benefit of opening up a large west-facing picture window to let the sun shine in.

Since the store moved to this location nearly 30 years ago, the back room has been a combined storage/bookkeeping area, walled off from the front retail section. Most of the titles stored in the back were recently moved to another storage locker in the building. The resulting extra space allows more room for new stock, and expands the store's ability to host readings and other literary events. Customers are already excited by the change, even before the renovations are complete.

September will be an important month, as the store continues to celebrate its 65th anniversary, and its proud heritage as a cooperative specializing in books on labour and social justice issues.

One highlight will be the Vancouver launch of David



Suzuki's new book, *The Legacy: An Elder's Vision for our Sustainable Future*. People's Co-op Books will do the sales at this major event, at Kitsilano Secondary (2550 W. 10th Ave.), 8pm, Friday, Sept. 17. Call the store at 604-253-6442 for tickets and info.

People's Co-op is once again the official bookseller at this year's Word on the Street festival,

Sunday, Sept. 26, 11 am-5 pm, held at Library Square in downtown Vancouver. Check out the store's tent for great bargains on a wide range of titles!

As a member-owned cooperative, People's Co-op holds an annual general meeting to review operations and elect a Board of Directors. This year's AGM is at 7:30 pm, Friday, Sept. 24, at the store's retail location. It costs just one dollar to become a member and vote at the AGM.

Over the past year, a number of initiatives have been taken to improve sales and strengthen the store's financial base. Another event is coming up this fall; on Sat., Oct. 30, readers are invited to dress as their favourite literary character for a special Halloween celebration at the Russian Hall, 600 Campbell Ave. Advance tickets go on sale soon at the store - see our next issue for details!

Volunteers are greatly appreciated for the store's growing range of literary events and other activities. Drop by during regular hours (10-6 Monday through Saturday, 1-5 Sunday) to talk to co-managers Ray or Jane about volunteer opportunities.



MUSIC NOTES

By Wally Brooker

Montreal Artists vs Israeli Apartheid

Montreal artists, including hundreds of musicians, have been staging events to promote the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign (BDS) against Israeli apartheid. On July 22, Artists Against Apartheid XIII was held at La Sala Rossa, a popular club on St-Laurent Blvd., featuring performers who had signed the Artists Against Israeli Apartheid open letter last February. Performers included hip-hop artists Samian, Nomadic Massive, Amérythmes, as well as DJ Andy Williams and Kalmunity Vibe Collective. The Montreal declaration, signed by 500 artists, can be found at www.tadamon.ca/post/5824. Montreal activists will host the Quebec-Canada BDS Conference on October 22 (www.bdsquebec.org).

Musicians fight Arizona law

Musicians continue to play a significant role in the struggle against Arizona's racist Bill SB1070, which makes it a state crime to be undocumented. Sound Strike, the boycott founded by Rage Against the Machine's Zack de la Rocha, now has pledges from over 300 musicians. Recent artists to join include British star M.I.A., rapper Kanye West and rock band Sonic Youth. On July 28 the Obama administration won a partial injunction against the bill, but some egregious clauses still went into effect the next day. While the legal contest between Arizona and Washington continues, 21 states are discussing "copy-cat" bills. Meanwhile, a few musicians who oppose the bill disagree with the boycott tactic. Pop star Lady Gaga performed in Phoenix in July and urged her fans to resist the bill, saying "without immigrants this country wouldn't be shit."

President Wyclef Jean?

Three-time Grammy winner and Fugees star Wyclef Jean, who moved from Haiti to the USA when he was nine, is running for president of the illegally-occupied nation. The November 28 vote will occur in the absence of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in exile since the 2004 coup engineered by the USA, Canada and France, and with Fanmi Lavalas, Haiti's most popular political party, still banned. Although officially occupied by a U.N. force, the real power in Haiti is the USA, and its proconsul is none other than former President Bill Clinton. Wyclef Jean, who just happens to be a nephew of the Haitian ambassador to the USA, opposes the return of Aristide and the legalization of Fanmi Lavalas. His presidency would only further legitimize the Clinton plan for Haiti: more sweatshops, trendy tourism and "guided" democracy. Aristide and Fanmi Lavalas are feared because they sought to free Haiti from the clutches of the IMF and the World Bank.

Lydon & John: musical schmucks

Former Sex Pistol John Lydon (a.k.a. Johnny Rotten), justifying his decision to defy the cultural boycott of Israel and perform there on August 31, says critics must understand that it's because he hates all governments. For the punk-rocker who rose to fame singing *Anarchy in the UK*, this is a cynical smokescreen. The boycott call comes from 171 civil society groups in Palestine, not the 'governments' of the Palestinian Authority or Hamas. Some anarchist! As for Sir Elton John, it seems that he worked hard to offend as many social justice groups as possible this summer. On June 5 he performed in Florida at the wedding of conservative talk-show bigot Rush Limbaugh, reportedly for a million dollars. Then on June 17 he played a concert in Tel Aviv, thumbing his nose at requests to cancel. Finally on July 22 he played Tucson, in defiance of the cultural boycott of Arizona. Unlike Lady Gaga, he did not denounce Bill SB1070 but instead ranted against musicians honouring the boycott, employing the peculiar epithet "fuckwits." <Headline 18 helv>Lebanese singer joins Gaza ship

Lebanese singer May Hariri has joined a ship bearing medical aid for Gaza. The *Saint Mariam* is carrying only female passengers, including a multifaith group of nuns, doctors, lawyers and journalists. Spokesperson Samar al-Haj told *The Guardian* on August 6 that the Lebanese government had given permission for the *Saint Mariam* and its sister ship *Naji Alali* to leave for Cyprus, the first leg of its journey. The women have vowed not to leave the ship if attacked. The popular Arabic singer (www.may-hariri.com/) has said little about joining the humanitarian convoy.

Labour singer Anne Feeney

U.S. folksinger-activist Anne Feeney, a participant in countless working-class struggles over the past 40 years, is gathering strength for a different fight. The 59-year-old Pittsburgh native has been diagnosed with a tumour on her lung. Feeney has cancelled upcoming gigs and returned to her hometown to be with friends and family. Supporters who can afford it may help the troubadour recover lost income by donating up to \$50. Cheques may be sent to Anne Feeney, 2240 Milligan Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218. For info on how to donate via PayPal, send an e-mail to getwellanne@annefeeney.com. Feeney is the 2005 recipient of the Labor Heritage Foundation's Joe Hill Lifetime Achievement Award. For more info visit: <http://fellow-travelers-advisory.blogspot.com/>

From Chajjalwadi to Paash: comrades who stood against religious fundamentalism

By Gurpreet Singh, Surrey, BC

Even as religious fanaticism continues to haunt the world peace, the leftists have kept their struggle against this menace alive for years. If India is known for religious intolerance, there is no dearth of heroes who laid down their lives fighting against fundamentalism since 1947, the year the country got divided on religious lines. While Hindus and Muslims were together in the struggle against foreign occupation, India witnessed religious violence that broke out with the creation of Muslim Pakistan and the independence of the country simultaneously.

It was the leftists who came to the rescue of the people who suffered, both during the religious conflicts at the time of partition, and later during communal violence in Punjab and elsewhere. Among them was Gehal Singh Chajjalwadi, a communist activist who was murdered by Sikh fundamentalists for helping Muslims on the Indian side of the border. Since the Sikh leadership had decided to go with India when the division was announced, Chajjalwadi's actions had angered both the Hindu and the Sikh extremists. Whereas the Muslims were being murdered by them in India, the Muslim fanatics were killing Hindus and the Sikhs on the other side of the border.

Chajjalwadi risked his life by helping Muslim families reach safely to Pakistan, and had been warned by the Sikh fundamentalists not to help them. One day he went missing while returning to his home on a bicycle. It was later revealed that he was brutally murdered after being kidnapped. Though a community fair is organized every year in his memory at his native

village, little information is available about him on the internet. This past August, when India and Pakistan celebrated their 63rd year of independence, unsung martyrs like Chajjalwadi should also have been remembered.

Years later, Paash, a progressive poet whose birth anniversary falls this month, died for similar ideas in 1988. He supported the ultra communist movement in India and was opposed to another partition. For this reason, he had launched "Anti 47 front" against the Sikh separatists who were seeking a theocratic homeland. Paash was among 300 communists murdered by the Sikh extremists between early 1980s to early 1990s. The communists at that time not only opposed a Sikh homeland, but also the ultra-Hindu nationalism. The terrorist violence in

Punjab against the Hindus sparked anti-Sikh violence in other states of India, as a result of which the migration of the two communities began. Sikhs began migrating to Punjab, while Hindus started leaving Punjab for safer areas. For those Hindus and the Sikhs who came as refugees from Pakistan, it was a repetition of 1947. Incidentally, Paash was murdered on the martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, the three revolutionaries hanged by the British government in 1931.

Since religious terrorism is still a challenge before the world, only socialist ideas can help in shaping a secular civil society. It is unfortunate that certain radical leftist groups have also joined hands with theocratic forces for short term gains. ●

People's Voice deadlines:

SEPTEMBER 16-30 issue: Thursday, Sept. 9

OCTOBER 1-15 issue: Thursday, Sept. 23

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

Myths about refugees...

continued from page 12

acceptance rates can vary from 0-80% depending on the judge. The Safe Third Country Agreement between the US and Canada creates a "Fortress Canada" by disallowing up to 40% of asylum seekers.

Myth 6: It is not our problem.

The Canadian government has recently been forced to apologize for racist and exclusionary

historical measures including the Chinese Exclusion Act and Komagatamaru incident. These apologies and the rhetoric of multiculturalism is hollow when current policies and practices perpetuate racism and exclusion. The recent backlash that repeats the tired-old refrain about "illegals" and "criminals" has meant that right-wing neo-nazis such as Paul Fromm and the Aryan Guard have resurfaced publicly and are being given a platform to spew their hate about sending the boat back. Is this really the side that we are on?

Immigration and refugee issues are not simply about Canadian benevolence or charity. We need to rethink what function and whose interests the state border actually serves. The current trends of global migration reveal the ways in which patters of Western domination and corporate globalization have enriched some countries by creating economic and political insecurity that forces people indigenous to their lands to migrate. The Canadian government continues to maintain economic and diplomatic ties with the government of Sri Lanka, instead of supporting those who have survived the brutality of that government, which makes us complicit in their displacement. Also, we must always remember that Canada is a settler country, built on the theft of Indigenous lands and the forced assimilation of Indigenous communities. On what basis is a colonial government denying colonized people their right to livelihood? Finally, we must challenge the idea that some are more worthy than others to a life of dignity; instead we should reaffirm the universal value that people have the freedom to move in order to seek safety and to flourish. ●

Eila T. Male (nee Rauma)

Eila passed away peacefully on July 7, 2010. Eila is survived by her daughters, grandchildren, and husband. During her life, Eila donated to various causes and volunteered on numerous committees and organizations. In lieu of flowers, donations in Eila's name to McKenney Creek Hospice in Maple Ride will be greatly appreciated. Condolences can be sent to www.gardenhill.ca.

Orest Moysiuk, 1929-2010

Longtime People's Voice supporter Orest Moysiuk passed away in July, at the age of 81. Born in Fernie, BC, to Wasyl and Anna, the family later moved to Saskatchewan. Orest graduated with a B.A. (Honours Chemistry) in 1950 from the U of S, followed by a M.Ed. in 1967 from UBC. Having moved to Vancouver in 1953, Orest remained, building a home in Burnaby in 1961 and raising his family. He taught at Britannia Secondary School in Vancouver for 25 years. Orest will be remembered for his passion and unwavering commitment to causes of social justice, education, world peace and the environment. He will be deeply missed by his many friends in the people's movements, by his wife of 50 years, Helen, daughters Mary-Ann (Ramon Flores) and Tanya (Rob Dick), son Ken (Lena), granddaughters Natasha and Alysia, sisters Sonia and Ludy, and many others. The family has requested that donations in Orest's memory can be made to the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, Box 1063 - 2480 E. Hastings, Vancouver, BC V5K 1Z1, or People's Co-op Bookstore, 1391 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC V5L 3X5.

What's Left

Victoria, BC

The Palestinians: A Social and Cultural History with Terri Hunter MA. Saturdays, 1-2:30 pm, Sept. 25-Oct. 16, Monterey Centre, next to Oak Bay Library. To register call 370-7300.

Vancouver, BC

Left Film Nights, Aug. 29, 7 pm, "CRUDE: The real price of oil"; **Sept. 26, "The Secrets in Their Eyes."** Free, donations welcome, Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive. For details, call 604-255-2041.

Benefit Dance for Daycare in Bajo Lempa, El Salvador, Sat., Sept. 11, 7:30 pm, at St. Michael Church, 409 E. Broadway. \$20 adv./\$25 door. Organized by *Mangle por la Cultura BC*, 876-6749.

COPE Annual Meeting, Sun. Sept. 19, 2:30 pm, Japanese Language School, 475 Alexander.

Criticize Israel, Go to Jail? Forum with Prof. Michael Keefer (*"Antisemitism: Real and Imagined"*), Thur., Sept. 23, 7:30 pm, SFU Harbor Centre, 515 W. Hastings. Organized by Seriously Free Speech Ctee.

Burnaby, BC

Labour Day Picnic, Mon., Sept. 6, 11 am, Central Park (Patterson Skytrain), organized by BC Federation of Labour.

Calgary, AB

Labour Day BBQ, Monday, Sept. 6, 11-2, Olympic Plaza, 8th Ave. SE, for info call Calgary & District Labour Council, 403-262-2390.

Toronto, ON

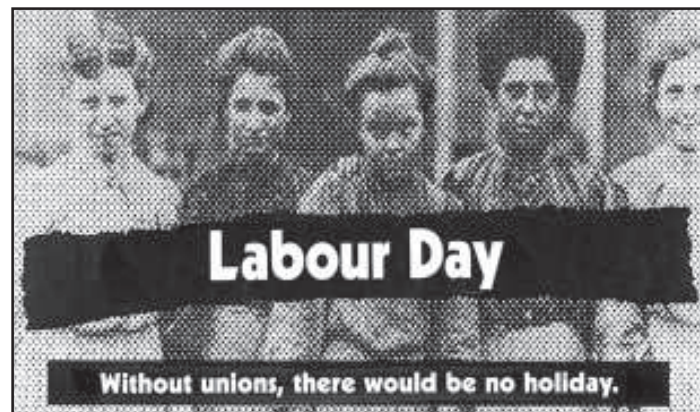
Salsa in the City Square, celebrate the 15th annual Toronto Cuba Friendship Day, Sat., Aug. 28, 1-8 pm. Live music with Latin bands, Cuban food, messages from City Hall and the Ambassador of Cuba in Canada. Free admission. Call Sharon at 905-951-7629 or Ardis at 416-534-5340.

Kickoff Campaign Social to elect Howard Kaplan, Sat., Sept. 11, 2-4 pm, Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave., admission \$10. For information see page 3, or call Liz Hill, 416-654-7105.

Celebration of Life for Gordon Massie, Sun., Sept. 19, 2-4 pm, GCDO Hall, 290 Danforth Ave. For details call the Communist Party office, 416-469-2446.

Montreal, QC

Palestinians And Jews United, vigil against the occupation, every Friday at noon, Sainte-Catherine and Union (near Metro McGill).



Gordon Massie

Gordon Massie, former Saskatchewan and then Ontario leader of the Communist Party of Canada, died on July 30, in palliative care at Bridgepoint Health Centre in Toronto, after a brief struggle with cancer. He was in his late 60s.

Gordie was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in the Gorbals, a tough area of the city notorious for its poor living and social conditions, and home to the militant Scottish trade union movement. A machinist by trade, Gordie knew the Canadian labour movement very well, and was politically active in it from the time he arrived in Canada until his retirement two years ago. In the early 1970s, he came to work full-time for the CPC in Toronto, before moving to Saskatchewan in 1979, where he served as Provincial Leader for three years. He returned to Ontario and in the mid-80s was

elected Ontario leader of the Party, where he served until stepping down in 1988.

Gordie left the Party after the 1988 convention, deeply opposed to the Hewison leadership which went on to attempt the liquidation of the Party. He rejoined briefly after Hewison's ouster, but then moved on to work in the hospital sector where he was an able and effective chief steward in SEIU.

A worker-intellectual, a militant fighter for workers' rights, for peace and for socialism, Gordon Massie's passing is a loss for the Party and all those fighting for a socialist future.

A celebration of Gordie's life will take place on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2-4 pm, at the GCDO Hall, 290 Danforth Ave., Toronto. Please send messages to Liz Rowley, rowley@cpcc-pcc.ca.

REDS ON THE WEB

www.comunist-party.ca

www.peoplesvoice.ca

www.ycl-ljc.ca

www.solidnet.org

Treat Tamil asylum seekers with humanitarian respect and dignity

Issued on Aug. 18 by the Asian Solidarity Bureau of the Communist Party of British Columbia

The Communist Party demands that the Harper government cease their verbal attack on the unfortunate refugees that arrived on the *MV Sun Sea* in British Columbia. These Tamil people are the victims of the ravages of war. The unsubstantiated claims of terrorist elements and criminalization without investigation or proof of any kind are beyond irresponsibility.

Over the past several years the increasing vilification of selected immigrant groups and nations, war resisters and refugees exposes a dangerous element of racism and reaction that typifies the Harper

Government's foreign policy and domestic policy. The actions to make difficulties for the Roma people and even tourism from Mexico are indications of these tendencies.

The Harper government is seeking to revive the shameful racism of Canadian immigration policy that has had only a brief respite over the last thirty years. It has also continued the shameful legacy of racism in the relations between the First Nations and the Canadian State.

Prime Minister Harper might well refer to current actions and advocacies of the government of Australia. He should remind himself, if he has the capacity to read history, that the government he is quoting until 1972 had a "whites only" immigration policy. It is not the numbers or the politics of immigrants

that underscores the reactionary policies brewing in many countries, it is the colour of their skin and the origin of their culture.

The story of the Chinese workers who built the railroads from the west saddled by unfair racist head taxes, brutal and deadly working conditions and finally mass deportations, bridged the British colonial period and the Dominion of Canada, and set the stage for the anti-Asian policies that barred Asian immigration until the early 1950's.

Presently the Punjab state government in India is seeking close to \$150 million of reparation for the 350 Punjab immigrants who were forced to pay \$15,000 entry fees into Canada in 1914. When they arrived aboard the ship *Komagata Maru* they were not allowed to disembark, were kept aboard for two months in Vancouver harbor, interrogated, abused, robbed of their entry fees and sent back to India where many of them died at the hands of the British military.

There were Jewish people fleeing the Nazi holocaust that were also turned away and sent back to certain death in the extermination camps.

Domestically, while all this was happening to immigrants, the First Nations children were being forcibly seized from their families and forced into boarding schools where they were victimized and subjected to ethnic cleansing. Respected researchers and Native spokespersons say that over the years there are many thousands who entered these "Christian" hell holes and never survived, they are the "Canadian Disappeared".

The Communist Party is not aware of any terrorist attacks carried out in this country by refugees. We are aware that these Tamil people arrived here openly without subterfuge and presented themselves properly to Canadian authorities for processing under Canadian law. We are also aware that their actions as asylum seekers are in line with international law which our government must

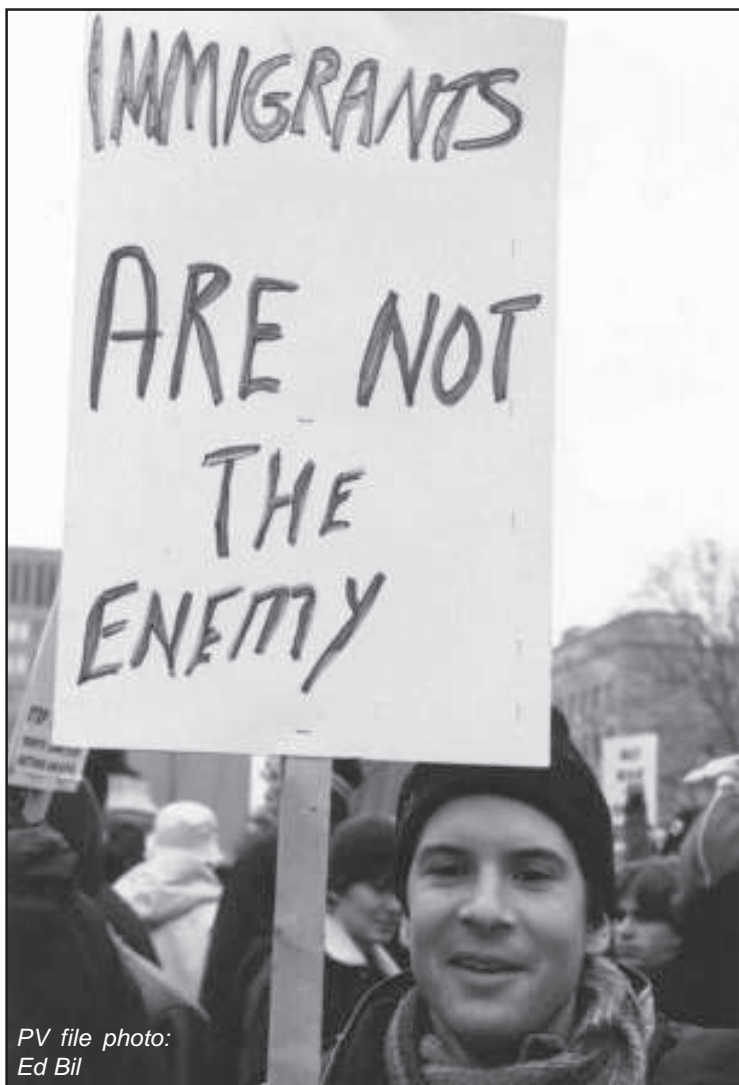
recognize.

The Federal government spokespersons who are whipping up racism, xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments are doing so to hide the real agenda of a government that is leading our country to de-industrialization, massive unemployment, environmental disaster and deeper involvement in imperialist wars on behalf of global capital.

The threat to the Canadian working people is in Ottawa not on a ship in a British Columbia naval base.

The Communist Party urges all who live here to stand in solidarity with those who wish to live here and not to be divided by race, colour or class, into pro and con groups against immigrant people who are the present versions of our own parents, grandparents or great-grandparents.

We call on all British Columbia labour and democratic organizations to stand in solidarity and speak up on this issue now. ●



PV file photo:
Ed Bil

Myths & Realities about Tamil Refugees

Excerpts from materials issued by No One Is Illegal.

Myth 1: They are illegals who are jumping the queue.

There is no "queue" for refugee claimants. Refugees are forced from their homes in emergency situations due to human rights abuses committed during wars, military occupations, or persecution against a minority group. We cannot expect refugees to wait for Canada to select them from overseas. We must understand that they undertake long and dangerous journeys to protect their lives and the lives of their families. According to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, to which Canada is a party, there are no penalties on refugees who arrive without pre-authorization and irregularly.

Myth 2: They are terrorists.

There is no evidence to substantiate this. Rohan

Gunaratna, the government's primary source, has already been discredited by lawyers as well as an Immigration and Refugee Board adjudicator for being incredible. Last October, when the 76 Tamil asylum-seekers came on *Ocean Lady* they were similarly labelled as terrorists and security threats. However by January 2010, they were all released from detention when Canadian Border Services Agency admitted they had no evidence of a terrorist connection.

Furthermore, officials are just relying on stereotypes of Tamils as all being associated with the Tamil Tigers to create unnecessary racist hysteria and mistrust of asylum-seekers. National security laws in the post-9/11 climate have directly targeted and marginalized immigrants, refugees, and racialized people. These laws and policies are less about protecting society than creating a culture of fear. Many of these policies - such as Security Certificates - have been struck down in the Courts after years of human rights and anti-racist campaigning...

Myth 3: The situation is getting better in Sri Lanka.

According to a 2010 Amnesty International report, in the past 12 months the Sri Lankan government has continued to jail critics and clamped down on dissent. Some 80,000 Tamils remain in refugee camps, while 400,000 displaced Tamils survive in communities where homes and infrastructure were destroyed. The government continues to extend a state of emergency, restricting many basic human rights, and thousands of arbitrary detentions are justified under the guise of detainees being suspected Tamil Tigers. This past month, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed a panel to investigate war crimes and genocidal acts committed by the Sri Lankan government against Tamils.

Myth 4: They are a burden on tax payers.

The biggest resource expenditure has been the government's choice to spend thousands of dollars in an unnecessary security operation, including resources spent on incarcerating women and children. Only a tiny fraction has been spent on the health and well-being of the migrants, whose lives are worth more than dollars. Furthermore, scapegoating migrants for being a financial burden lets the government off the hook. All residents continue to receive inadequate access to necessary social services because of misplaced government priorities - choosing to bail out banks and sink billions into the police and military - not because of the lack of resources to provide a social safety net for all in need.

Myth 5: Canada has a generous refugee system; we cannot keep accepting people.

Despite border panics, only a small minority of asylum seekers make claims in the Western world. There are about 20 million refugees worldwide and most migrate to neighbouring countries of Africa, Middle East, and South Asia. Canada accepts fewer than 20,000 refugees per year, which is less than 0.1% of the world's displaced population.

Furthermore, Canada's system is not generous. Deportations from Canada have skyrocketed 50% over the last decade, with 13,000 deportations in the past year. With the Conservatives, the number of approved asylum claims has dropped by 56%. Minister of Immigration Jason Kenney's recent refugee reforms create two tiers of refugees, establishing a hierarchy based on nationality... In addition, the refugee system has been termed a "lottery system" because

NEWS FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFITS!

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

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

people's
VOICE

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

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

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

10/14

See "MYTHS", page 11