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VOTERS TAKE OUT THE TRASH

Finance Minister
Oliver imposed austerity

MP Stephen Woodworth
attacked abortion rights

Immigration Minister
Alexander attacked refugees

Veteran Affairs Minister
Fantino attacked veterans

Aboriginal Affairs Minister
Valcourt ignored women

Arctic Council Minister
Aglukkaq ignored food crisis
In their own words

“There are a lot of bleeding hearts around who just don’t like to see people with helic平安t wheels. Sometimes you can say is, go on and be good, but it is more important to keep law and order in this society than to be worried about wheelchair-bound people who don’t like the looks of a soldier’s helmet.” — Pierre Trudeau using the War Measures Act to suspend civil liberties in Quebec, 1970

“In Kunzad our patients burned in their beds. MSF doctors, nurses, and staff were killed as they worked. Our colleagues had been tortured. One of our doctors died on an improvised operating table—an office desk—while his colleagues tried to save his life.” — Doctors Without Borders describing the impact of the Kunzad war crime in Afghanistan

“I think too often our tone wasn’t sufficiently positive and did not allow for a more consensual and democratic transition. We believe that what we have sometimes encountered was a false choice between rights and development.” — Former Defence Minister Jason Kenney, after the Canadian government’s racist, homophobic and fear-mongering election campaign failed to help “settle land claims and to create a Federal First Nations community, to promote education, infrastructure, housing, infrastructure, communities—issues like the Métis Nation, and Inuit communities…we will give it life.” — Former First Nations Minister Christian Paradis, speaking at an event entitled “Reconciliation: Ready, Set, Go!”

Canadian values?

Blackstock began by pointing out that the most egregious forms of racism in Canada historically have all been legal, led by the Indian Act, to the Chinese “head tax,” or residential schools. She emphasized that rather than focus on “Canadian values,” we should emphasize “human values,” and noted that the government racism against Indigenous children (through its failure to fund services) “is our Confederate flag, and our government has laws that give it life.”

She said that racism is most damaging when it is combined with righteous-ness and anti-Indigenous sentiments like “No more funding for First Nations, because they won’t learn” and “No more funding for that” or “The Only way to stop it is through the government accountability Act, while not itself accountable for the history of its own funds” (presumably referring to the history of other Christs, among other things).

Internal government documents from the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (DHN) state that to reallocate funds from infrastructure (such as roads, water systems) in order to cover education and services, Blackstock asked, “Why not go to the bottom for surplus that?”

Allies

Blackstock described the heroism of Dr. Peter Bryce, a public health physician and tuberculosis expert who warned the government of the dangers that residential schools were for the public health of Canada (tuberculosis) and that the disease was preventable with as little as $150,000 in spending. But the government never released his report and smeared him instead.

Today’s Indigenous peoples can take part in the 1 a.m. a Witness campaign. This campaign supports the complaint made to the Canadian Human Rights Commission about the inequitable funding for child and youth care outside First Nations funding communities. See www.firstwitness.ca for more information.

Liberals and Indigenous rights

By VALERIE LANNON

Indigenous people were part of the jump in voter turnout that drove Harper from office and that deflated the short-lived Conservative’s candidacy in 2015.

Trudeau has made some good promises on Indigenous rights, while also pushing tar sands projects that destroy Indigenous territories and violate sovereignty rights. Publications outside Parliament will be key to both maintaining their promises and challenging their pipelines.

On its website, the Liberals have promised to ensure a nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations. “We will immediately re-engage in a relationship, nation-to-nation process with Indigenous Peoples to make progress on the issues most important to First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit communities—issues like housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education...we will ensure that the Kelowna Accord—and all the other reconciliation that drove it—is embraced, and its objectives implemented in a manner that meets today’s challenges.”

Among other things, Trudeau promised to implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), to launch an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women—a top-down, state controlled acrylic pipeline that pays lip service to Indigenous concerns—or a grassroots process where families of the victims and Indigenous communities are empowered to challenge the colonization of their territories that leads to violence against women.

Fighting Liberal pipelines

When it comes to tar sands pipelines, Trudeau has pledged to uphold the pipeline review process to include climate impacts, opposed Northern Gateway pipeline and committed to end fossil fuels subsidies and to invest in green infrastructure.

But, as 350.org has pointed out: “These are among the many amazing things, andCanada’s High Promises that Trudeau needs to keep. He also must understand that action on climate change means freezing expansion in the tar sands and committing to building a justice-based, clean energy economy. After all, it was just a week ago that we learned that the co-chair of Mr. Trudeau’s campaign was not only working for TransCanada pipelines, but offering the company advice on how to quickly, and effectively lobby a Liberal government to get the Energy East pipeline built. That’s saying nothing of Trudeau’s support for the Keystone XL pipeline, his unsteady stance on the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and his, frankly confusing, refusal to commit to ambitious climate targets on the campaign in the Liberal oil agenda.

The Liberals are pursuing the exact opposite of the political agenda the NDP laid out. They were committed to a grassroots process where Indigenous peoples have the power to make decisions, if not control over these processes. Instead, they are actively opposing the indigenous pipeline recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a grassroots process where Indigenous peoples have the power to make decisions to a justice-based, clean energy economy. After all, it was just a week ago that we learned that the co-chair of Mr. Trudeau’s campaign was not only working for TransCanada pipelines, but offering the company advice on how to quickly, and effectively lobby a Liberal government to get the Energy East pipeline built. That’s saying nothing of Trudeau’s support for the Keystone XL pipeline, his unsteady stance on the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and his, frankly confusing, refusal to commit to ambitious climate targets on the campaign in the Liberal oil agenda.

In 2006 the Highway of Tears in northern BC, known as the Highway of Tears in order to avoid publicity, was established between each community in order to cover education and services. Elizabeth Denham confirmed that a political staffer paid her to remove her report and smear her. She called this a continuation of the Liberals’ disregard for missing and murdered Indigenous women. The report estimated that just 7 buses would be required.

Nearly 10 years after the symposium’s report, the Liberals are pursuing the exact opposite of the political agenda the NDP laid out. They were committed to a grassroots process where Indigenous peoples have the power to make decisions, if not control over these processes. Instead, they are actively opposing the indigenous pipeline recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a grassroots process where Indigenous peoples have the power to make decisions to a justice-based, clean energy economy. After all, it was just a week ago that we learned that the co-chair of Mr. Trudeau’s campaign was not only working for TransCanada pipelines, but offering the company advice on how to quickly, and effectively lobby a Liberal government to get the Energy East pipeline built. That’s saying nothing of Trudeau’s support for the Keystone XL pipeline, his unsteady stance on the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and his, frankly confusing, refusal to commit to ambitious climate targets on the campaign in the Liberal oil agenda.

Campaign for Indigenous children

By Valerie Lannon and Sandra Pages

Liberals win with a brand new image of Indigenous peoples. But the government racism against Indigenous children (through its failure to fund services) “is our Confederate flag, and our government has laws that give it life.”

She said that racism is most damaging when it is combined with righteous-ness and anti-Indigenous sentiments like “No more funding for First Nations, because they won’t learn” and “The Only way to stop it is through the government accountability Act, while not itself accountable for the history of its own funds” (presumably referring to the history of other Christs, among other things).

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Today’s Indigenous peoples can take part in the 1 a.m. a Witness campaign. This campaign supports the complaint made to the Canadian Human Rights Commission about the inequitable funding for child and youth care outside First Nations funding communities. See www.firstwitness.ca for more information.
Syria: neither Washington nor Moscow

Russia’s entry into the war in Syria has been hailed by many anti-imperialists as providing the antidote to US power in the region. It is assumed that Russia has no imperial aspirations of its own and will help bring peace by limiting the free hand of the US. This conclusion is based almost exclusively on a comparison between the relative size of the US versus the Russian footprint in the Middle East and the most recent military interventions of each state.

US imperialism

It is true that the US global military presence is enormous. They are now engaged in military operations in a staggering 135 states around the world. The invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan were war crimes that exposed the US as brutally aggressive in its plans for global domination. The “war on terror” has killed more than 1 million people in 30 countries and counting.

More bombs – just being dropped all around the world – blaming others for the brutality they cause is the new status quo of US imperialism. It is a dangerous game we are engaged in, more so than ever before. This brutality is not new; it is simply the tactics of the US imperialism. It is the same game that was played in previous conflicts, such as Vietnam.

The US justification for military intervention in Iraq was to protect US assets in the Middle East. It was a threat to US interests in the region. The US sees itself as the dominant power in the Middle East and the most recent moves by Russia have weakened its position as such. The US aims to maintain its power and influence in the region and sees Russia as a threat to its interests.

The war on terror has been used as a justification for US military intervention in the Middle East. The US has used this argument to justify its actions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries in the region. The US has been accused of using the war on terror as an excuse for its own imperial ambitions.

This conclusion is based almost entirely on a comparison between the relative size of the US versus the Russian footprint in the Middle East and the most recent military interventions of each state. The US is the largest military power in the region, and its interventions are driven by its imperial ambitions. The Russian military presence is relatively small, and its interventions are driven by its desire to maintain its influence in the region.

US continues war crimes in Afghanistan

A year ago US President Barack Obama announced that “our combat mission in Afghanistan is ending, and the longest war in American history is coming to a responsible conclusion.”

What a shock then for patients and staff at the hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, when the US bombed the facility last month – killing 30 people, including 10 patients and 13 members of MSF (Doctors Without Borders).

War crime

As the executive director of the humanitarian aid organization described, “In Kunduz, our patients burned in their beds. MSF doctors, nurses, and other staff were killed as they worked. Our colleagues had to operate on each other. One of our doctors died in an improvised operating table—an office desk—while his colleagues tried to save his life.”

Imperial justifications

The US military’s first response was to dismiss it, claiming the attack on Taliban fighters “may have resulted in collateral damage to a nearby medical facility.”

When MSF objected to the allegations, explaining why they were “right” and pointing out the humanitarian and legal implications of the attack, they were met with a siege. The US military and their allies in Afghanistan began a campaign of misinformation, justifying their attack on the hospital.

The attack on the hospital was a clear violation of international law. The US and its allies violated the laws of war by attacking a civilian target, and by killing and injuring civilians.

Stop the war

This war, and its justifications, gives a glimpse into the years of terrorist attacks that killed a million more. In response to resistance that prevented the US from advancing into Syria, Russia provided a brief glimpse of what is to come. This war is not over, and the US continues to spread its influence around the world.

Arab Spring

Only the return of the Arab revolutions can bring peace to Iraq and Syria. The Arab spring uprisings provided a brief glimpse of what the region could look like without imperial interference. Millions took to the streets to oust dictators that were in one way or another supported by the major powers. They brought up the possibility of a true regional mobilization against the interests of the imperialists.

There will be no support that will stand against revolutionary forces. They will always try to crush it. States are not mere entities. They are an expression of the control of domestic ruling class against working people. Any revolution is therefore seen as a threat to their control.

That is why revolutionary movements in the west must remain clearly in support of the movements of the masses against their own states and must never side with governments that crush dissent at home and rule with brutality abroad.

Blair’s ‘apology’ for Iraq War

After years of stubbornly defending the illegal Iraq War, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair finally offered a half-apology.

“I apologize for the fact that the intelligence we received was wrong. I can also apologize, by the way, for mistakes in planning and certainly our mistake in our understanding what would happen once we were in the regime.”

While conceding the war was based on faulty intelligence and contributed to the rise of ISIS, Blair did not apologize for the millions more killed after declaring it over.

Support war resisters

But his half-apology does add more momentum to the ongoing movement for refuge for US war resisters. If even the most powerful mistakes for the Iraq War that led to a million Iraqi deaths and shattered Iraq’s ability to be an ordinary soldier refusing to follow those mistaken orders should not be punished.

Canada did not join the Iraq War and a majority of people across the country support US Iraq War resisters. But Harper ignored the majority, criminalized war resisters and threatened them to jail in the US.

With Harper gone, there is momentum for the Liberals to finally end the discrimination against war resisters and to let them stay.

Stop war

In the CNN interview where Blair apologised, he expressed the frustrations of Western powers over their imperial entanglements in the Arab world.

“We have tried intervention and putting down troops, in Iraq. We’ve tried intervention and putting down troops in Syria. And we’ve tried intervention at all levels of democracy in the Middle East. It is ending, and the longest war in American history is coming to a responsible conclusion.”

Real “regime change” came in the form of the Arab Spring, supported by Western-backed dictators in Egypt and Syria. But the West intervened in Libya to highjack the revolution and support former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, resulting in more civil war.

Then the West repeated the process in Syria. Instead of directly bombing it used Saudi Arabia to arm sectarian death squads, paving the way for ISIS. Real “regime change” came in the form of the Arab Spring, supported by Western-backed dictators in Egypt and Syria. But the West intervened in Libya to highjack the revolution and support former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, resulting in more civil war.

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The only solution is to stop US military intervention, and to finally end the discrimination against war resisters.”

November 2015 Socialist Worker 3
Black Lives Matter, or Indigenous and non-Indigenous Blacks and whites fighting racism in movements such as women and men fighting and opposing sexism, about to be taken up by all of us, whether we are talking about to achieve its own liberation because it is these poisonous accepts racist, sexist or homophobic ideas will not be able had to be a tribune of the oppressed. A working class that Lenin's time have all included powerful currents struggling the Russian revolution was ignited by groups of working people who have nothing to sell but our ability to labour to collectively to overturn the bloody system that exploits working class needs to become a class 'for' itself – that is, band together and organize society differently.

In one sense this is an accurate description of how the system might work in an ideal world, one devoid of real living human beings, where profits could be generated by non-differentiated robots who would simply accomplish their tasks, no questions asked. But of course capitalism is a system created by human beings moving through history. These workers' capitalist depends on its profits also have the potential to be the system’s downfall, as in Marx’s famous phrase where he describes the working class as potentially the gravediggers of capitalism.

Divide and conquer
But that potential threat is not something of which our rulers are unaware. The critical role that oppression plays under capitalism is as a divide and conquer mechanism that makes it difficult for workers to see their common interest, whatever their gender, race, religious preference, etc.

Of course, many forms of oppression have also been economically important to capitalists at various historical periods. The foundations of North American capitalism were based on two horrific historical episodes: the stealing of land from resources from Indigenous peoples, which continues to this day, and the institution of slavery (initially begun with poor whites and aboriginal people as the plantation slaves) which saw millions of Black Africans taken forcibly from their homes to be sold into slavery in the New World.

The foundations of successful US capitalism were literally built on the backs of African men, women and children of the US. This is something that is so often so often feels humanly obliged to, step in and fill the ever-growing gap between families, such as accessible healthcare, decent and高品质 of life. The role of the atomized nuclear family with mother at the center allows the bosses to absolve themselves of any responsibility for the social conditions in which these families are expected to survive and as austerity bites with attacks on the necessary supports to families, such as affordable healthcare, decent and adjustable dignity, and for those who cannot vote, are often felt humanly obliged to, step in and fill the ever-growing gap.

Class unity
According to Marx, the working class is a class in itself. This means it’s in our interest to be class interest as a group of people who have nothing to sell but our ability to labour to band together and organize society differently.

But what needs to happen, Marx says, is that the working class needs to band together for itself – that is, a class that understands its power and the need to organize collectively to overturn the bloody system that exploits and victimizes us all. This cannot happen when we are divided from each other along gender, race, national, religious, social class lines. The working class must be seen as a class.

When Russian revolutionary Lenin described revolutions as festivals of the oppressed he was speaking to the revolutionary possibility of a united working-class movement. Just as the Russian revolution was ignited by groups of working women demanding bread, so revolutionary situations since Lenin’s time have all included powerful movements uniting against various kinds of oppression.

And let us not think that the working class movement had to be a tribute of the oppressed. A working class that accepts what it is, simply accepts it as if it were inevitable and able to attain the liberation it desires because it is this poisonous ideas that the ruling class will use to divide and conquer.

Fighting and overcoming oppression is something that needs to be taken up by all of us, whether we are talking about women and men fighting and opposing sexism, about Blacks and whites fighting racism in movements such as Black Lives Matter, or Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists uniting to stop pipelines and to save the planet we live on.

Does capitalism need oppression? Theoretically, at least, it seems like the answer to this question might be yes. The driving impulse behind capitalism as a system is the need to accumulate and to create profits, as in Marx’s famous description of the profit motive Volume 1 of Capital: “Accumulate, accumulate! This is Moses and the Prophets.”

Exploration, by which Marx meant the extraction of surplus value from the worker, is the process by which the system lives or dies. Surplus value, simply put, is the amount of money the capitalist makes after the wages paid to the workers for their labour – the profit margin, which the capitalist must then plough back into production or development of technology and means of production, in order to stay competitive with rival companies.

Oppression based on supposed shared characteristics of the oppressed group - may then seem like an unfair, unnecessary appendage to the real agenda of the capitalist, which is the creation of profit. This is the weakness of Tsipras’s position even before he has started making the cuts.

And the strike calls show that the workers who voted no to austerity in July’s referendum aren’t ready to say yes to it now. This is shared from Socialist Worker (UK).
Quebec not to blame for Islamophobia

Valerie Lannon, Chantal Sundaram and Michelle Robidoux look at Quebec history, the niqab debate, and resistance to austerity and Islamophobia

The Tories tried to win an election based on Islamophobia and many blame the debate on the NDP losses on the niqab debate in Quebec. Once again, with the niqab as with First Nations rights and with immigration, the media are portraying Quebec as being more racist than the rest of Canada.

The sad truth is that there is nothing about the bigotry that has been unleashed by the niqab debate that is unique to Quebec, as the poll results from English Canada indicate. Any attempt to blame Quebec for this deplorable “debate” only takes it to a new low, and provides a fig leaf for the Islamophobia that is born and bred in the “old-stock” vision of Canada promoted by the Tories—and the false claim of concern for women’s rights that too many in English Canada have bought into for years now. The niqab debate has brought this into sharp relief, not just in Quebec.

Quebec history

Islamophobia is by no means a Quebec creation, whatever by those who continue to support Quebec’s sovereignty or by federalists within Quebec. But there are unique historical factors that colour the debate in Quebec. One of these factors dates back to the struggle against the historic predominance of the Catholic church over all aspects of life in Quebec. This predominance flowed from British colonial policies after the Conquest of New France that enhanced the power of the clergy as a way of cementing their loyalty and ensuring social control.

The church used this control to channel desires for national self-determination and defense of the French language and cultural identity into a conservative nationalism. The revolt against both the Catholic church in the church and the birth of a new secular nationalism came together in the Quiet Revolution in the 1960s, a rapid process of modernization and secularization. The State took over the functions of the Church in education, healthcare and social services.

Uprooting the power of the church was not easy. The period known as the Grande Soirée (great darkness), under Maurice Duplessis’ Union Nationale government, saw a clash between growing urbanization and industrialization, and the Conservative (Catholic) nationalism that supported the old structures of power. By 1960, at the end of Duplessis’ regime, only 54 per cent of adults 25 years of age had attained a grade 6 education. Every aspect of society had been shaped by the Church’s dominance. The struggle for women’s equality—from the battle for birth control and abortion to the fight for legal equality—was fierce in this period of the Quiet Revolution.

The battles are still fresh in the minds of many who fought hard to break the hold of religion on their lives.

The debate

One can sympathize with the visceral feeling of those who had to battle the church even about what books you could read. This depth and breadth of religious control did not have a parallel in English Canada, nor is there much awareness outside Quebec of why the Quiet Revolution took place, and the central role of the fight against the Church’s influence. Understanding how this struggle to uproot the Catholic church from state structures—and to free people from state-imposed religion—informs and shapes the current debate on the niqab for several reasons.

First, it helps to clarify the difference between that struggle and the situation today of a vulnerable minority in Quebec—Muslims—being forced by the state not to do something (wear the niqab or hijab). This understanding can show how targeting Muslims under the guise of “secularism” turns on its head the historically progressive nature of the fight for a secular Quebec, the fight to get what was effectively a Catholic state off people’s backs.

To equate that fight to shaming and silencing Muslim women who for whatever reason wear the niqab goes against the crucial freedoms that were won through the struggles of the 1960s and 1970s in Quebec, including the concept of a woman’s right to choose, and the idea of self-determination.

The debate over secularism in Quebec has not escaped the hypocrisy that infects the West. While debate rages over the hijab and niqab, a crucifix hangs in the Quebec National Assembly.

It is clear there needs to be a discussion that the expression of religion by the monolithic oppressive Catholic church in Quebec is not the same thing as the expression of religion exhibited by a member of a targeted oppressed group, i.e. Muslims. It is like saying that the nationalism of an oppressed nation (such as Quebec or a First Nation) is the same as the nationalism of an expressing, imperialist power. The historic control used by the Catholic church, on behalf of British imperialism, can never be replicated by the small number of Muslims in this country, particularly the minute number of women who wear the niqab!

The danger to all of us

It needs to be emphasized that Harper’s whipping up of Islamophobia (and “niqabophobia”) was done in the election to play on Quebecers’ rejection of religious dominance, to capture votes from the NDP. Outside the election, Harper uses Islamophobia in support western military interventions in the Middle East and huge restrictions on civil liberties at home. Consequently, opposing the wearing of the niqab plays right into Harper’s hands.

And far from just being a “distraction” from the real threats posed by austerity measures and anti-terrorism laws, rejection of the niqab has dangerous implications on civil liberties at home. This form of religious intolerance or “old stock” Canadian nationalism, not only endangers Muslims but seriously weakens the working class in Quebec and English Canada.

Resistance

In Montreal on October 3, over 100,000 people from all over Quebec marched in the streets of Montreal chanting: “Les plus pas braves à l’enfer pour l’équilibre budgétaire” (the poorest to hell for a balanced budget). It was organized by the Front commun (Common Front), an alliance of Quebec’s five major trade union federations.

In defiance of a provincial public-sector wage freeze they are seeking salary increases of 13.5 per cent over three years, and two of the federations already have strike mandates.

This massive show of public sector resistance came just two days after the second “human chain” of parents who plan to surround public schools across Quebec with their bodies at the beginning of each month to stop the cuts to their kids’ education. Quebec is struggling with many issues of national identity, ethnicity, and secularism that need to be worked out. But the best arena for this is one of collective resistance to the austerity measures that affect and can potentially unite people across those divides.

Anger and frustration against austerity and cuts can be turned towards scapegoating, and Quebec is no exception to the use of racism and Islamophobia for this purpose. But the people of Quebec are more than capable of defending their future based not on social or ethnic exclusion but on resistance to austerity and the possibility of a Quebec, and a world, beyond capitalism.
Tories rejected, in the street and at the ballot box

After nearly a decade in power, Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party of Canada had been voted out of office. Harper had been the face of Canadian austerity, racism, Islamophobia and militarism, and the Liberal surge and NDP collapse both speak to a desire for change.

Harper had a majority in Parliament going into the election, but there was an anti-Harper majority outside Parliament and in the country. Quebec public sector unions organized a series of one-day strikes against austerity, and on October 3 a demonstration of 60,000 people. This allowed Tory to portray himself as an alternative to Ford, who regained the majority they had in the 1990s when cut social services in the 1990s. They joined the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and were only stopped from joining the war in Iraq by opposition from Quebec and the NDP. Harper's militarism, Mulcair silenced his own pro-Palestine stance, and exposed the Liberals as the twin party of corporate Canada may have strengthened their hold inside Parliament, but a stop-war movement outside Parliament won over the Tories, split the Liberal vote, and stopped Harper from going to war. The recent election of a majority government in Quebec has now had a provincial and federal election in which Feminists was a theme, and in both cases the parties pushing it lost. This time it was only after the NDP had blown their lead, by promising a balanced budget, that the left had an influence. The Liberals had the same program as the Tories, but were able to outflank them to the left, thanks to the NDP's loss of support.

The NDP's strategic failure

In 2015 the NDP became Official Opposition for the first time, based on anger at Harper, disillusionment with the Liberals and inspiration from the Arab Spring, and the occupation of the Wisconsin. While the Orange Wave showed the desire for an alternative, The NDP leadership reacted by taking the party further right.

In Ontario there was a workers' rights campaign to stop Hudak and a growing campaign for $15 minimum wage and against Line 9. But the NDP campaigned refusing to support $15 minimum wage, promised cutbacks in and nothing about the Hudak government's contempt for missing and murdered Indigenous women. The same campaign that went through the history of austerity and promised to be an alternative.

This then encouraged “strategic voting” - which defined left-wing NDP'ers and Socialists who a Tories weren't a threat.

Then came the Toronto mayoral race. A series of protests, and a strike fought back against Ford's agenda. The Liberal leader was defeated, and the NDP got into office.

This allowed Tory to portray himself as an alternative to Ford, and win.

Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory

Thanks to movements outside Parliament against Bill C-51 and for $15/hr wage the NDP began the federal election ahead by a wide margin. In the context of Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders packing stadiums, the NDP could have demanded corporate tax cuts and overduejobs. They could have become a scapegoat for the rising climate justice movement, and exposed the Liberal government's contempt for missing and murdered Indigenous women.

But instead the NDP leadership tried to reason with St. John's UDP, which would have been a mistake. The NDP could have bounced back from this loss. While the anti-war and Popular Solidarity, which challenged Harper's militarism, Mulcair likened himself to a Popular Solidarity candidate and defended心得 jobs. While Black Lives Matter has challenged police brutality and anti-war racism, Mulcair promised more police. Then Mulcair chased Tory votes, scaling back corporate income taxes and promising a balanced budget. This resulted in the 2011 NDP's defeat. The NDP's failure was what 5 million, and NDP- left-wing. The NDP's defeat was the NDP's problem.

The Liberals and the vote for change

Liberals

This is a contradictory situation. The Liberals are the left-wing parties of corporate Canada, who make deep cuts to social services in the 1990s. They joined the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and were only stopped from joining to vote—from 20 to 40 per cent. While their percentage of the vote was so high that Harper had a lower voter turnout meant that the Liberals gained 4 million votes—from 2.6 million to 6.9 million. With the Tories preserving their traditional 2.8 million to 6.9 million. With the Tories preserving their traditional

Niqab debate not to blame

The collapse of the Orange Wave can’t be blamed on Quebec. Quebec has now had a provincial and federal election in which Feminists was a theme, and in both cases the parties pushing it lost. This time it was only after the NDP had blown their lead, by promising a balanced budget, that the left had an influence. The Liberals had the same program as the Tories, but were able to outflank them to the left, thanks to the NDP's loss of support.

With Mulcair chasing Tory votes, the Liberal vote rose in every riding in Quebec, and every riding across country. The NDP lost votes in exactly 300 ridings, including those seats they held. While the Tories and Greens had neither the same number of votes, the NDP lost a quarter of their voters, dropping a million from 4.7 million to 3.4 million.

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Remembrance Day
On November 11 wear a white poppy instead

Justin Trudeau’s first large public event will be Remembrance Day, and the politics that dominate that day will be shaped with Trudeau’s participation, to ordinary people’s experiences while continuing the same ruling class policies.

While the day is marked by red poppies and the glorification of “sacrifice,” the real history of the armistice is that of war resisters and revolution. The white poppy campaign helps change the meaning of Remembrance Day: the significance of war, the futility of military intervention, the impact on soldiers and civilians, including refugees.

Remember war and revolution
In 1914 the colonial powers that had divided the world went to war with each other. It was supposed to be a “war for freedom and democracy” because none existed: in 1914 the United States had only recently completed its own civil war. The war’s official goal was to “defend democracy against the German aggressor.” But the driving force behind it was the imperialist struggle between the colonizers to increase their colonies and holdings using armed force. By 1918, eight million people had died, over 20 million more were wounded, and 10 million were made homeless. Yet this turned out to be a war to increase imperialist control, destroy socialist movements, and undermine the gains of workers’ movements.

In 1917 French soldiers mutinied, and Russian soldiers joined the revolution that ended the war on the eastern front. In 1918, Quebec workers voted for a republic, while German soldiers joined the revolution that ended the war on the western front. In 1918, November 11 was a product of war resisters and revolution.

Red poppies vs white poppies
WWI was supposed to be the “war to end all wars” but the central powers won and they declared that the war wasn’t over until 1918. The Allies, and colonialist states fighting on behalf of their corporations, continued to wage war after 1918, and used that war to destroy socialist movements and undermine the gains of workers’ movements. This false victory allowed the capitalist states fighting on behalf of their corporations.

Armistice Day was turned from an anniversary of revolution and the end of the war into a day of mourning for those who died in the war. In 1933 the white poppy campaign began in Britain, organized by the Cooperative Women’s Guild of mothers, sisters, widows and wives of soldiers killed in WWI. It sought to raise awareness of the economic and political factors behind war, and to campaign against war and the arms trade.

From Harper to Trudeau
The surge in opposition that drove Harper from office launched their own white poppy campaign, to challenge the government’s declaration that would have punished the Quebec Liberals if their province voted for separation. Harper’s government on a few months into the war, in Christmas 1914, when soldiers joined the revolution that ended the war on the eastern front. In 1918, Quebec workers voted for a republic, while German soldiers joined the revolution that ended the war on the western front. In 1918, November 11 was a product of war resisters and revolution.

Harkat: stop deportation to torture
By Sophie Harkar
After 13 years of pure hell and continued injustice, the struggle continues for my captive detainee and my husband Mohamed Harkat.
Sixteen months of silence followed the second Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) decision that declared security certificates “imperfect” and secret hearings “unfair” for the SCC judges, however now still constitutional. Mohamed received his deportation hearing in the middle of an election campaign.
Because of the severity of allegations against him and his family, Mohamed is from the executive Amnesty International, he is now at great risk of incommunicado detention, torture or death if he returned to Algeria. ‘Presumed terrorist’ is the most damaging label someone can ever be given.
For years, I had refused to talk about the subject of deportation because I was confident in the justice system, and always believed that justice would eventually prevail. This time, it’s serious and very personal. Other than the deportation fight itself, we no longer have legal remedies. The family is very clouded over Moe’s head just got bigger and darker and the situation is real, urgent, disturbing and scary for everyone.
We are fortunate that his family, supporters and I are united, put together they never take away the reality. He is, I need him here as much as he needs me to fight for him. Secret trials, a precursor to Bill C-51
Our committee has been warning Canadians that it could eventually happen to them, and then Bill C-51 happened. Don’t start crying wolf when you are crying for a lover. It’s one already too late. It all started on Dec. 10, 2002 – Human Rights Day – when Mohamed was arrested by dozens of officers and thrown in jail without charge or access to the evidence and his legal team was kept in the dark.
Mohamed has spent 43 months in detention without any human contact with his family, except through a thick window, one year in solitary confinement, and over a year of silence under the toughest bail conditions in Canadian history. That was the price of his innocence.
For seven and a half years, I became a full-time jailer and prisoner in my own home. Mohamed was under a 24/7 surveillance and had to plug in a walkie talkie and walk with his ankle monitor. The informant, who is the main source of the allegations, failed his lie detector test and can never be cross-examined in public or behind closed doors by security-cleared lawyers where no one else can see him. They can’t even know his name. The Harper government gave the green light to the use of evidence that comes or derives from torture.
To put it mildly, a security certificate is like being accused of murder, except you don’t know who you killed and what you killed who. Do you want to be found yourself suspected of having murdered someone who you don’t even know who they are? How can this be acceptable for anyone? I challenge anyone who would accept that for themselves?
Le’t make shoes for one day
Look at the side of Moe. It is still here, the GSPC is off, we have more freedom, we have a loving family and supporters, we have a terrific immigration lawyer, and we have each other. The truth is, he cannot get a job because of the allegations on his back or because of the severe bail restrictions that prevent him from leaving Canada for any type of technology. We no longer have financial assistance on his case and have to pay for it ourselves. Our long-time, dedicated legal aid providers are on extended sick leave. Moe suffers from PTSD and he faces deportation to torture. I don’t know about you, but I’m pretty furious, I’ve had enough.
I fear for the future, I fear for the future, I fear for the future. We don’t need your pity; we need you to take action now. Do it for Moe, for me and for others going through the same thing. Do it for justice. Do it for your life.
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We need your pity; we need you to take action now. Do it for Moe, for me and for others going through the same thing. Do it for justice. Do it for your life.
Spread the word. Speak up! Public support and pressure is crucial to our fight and to other cases.
Visit justiceforharkat.com
This is shared from rabble.ca
I’ve been possessed by a fascination with the British writer Susan Hill. She’s the author of an ungodly number of ghost stories and darkly dark dark mysteries, including the wildly successful Woman in Black, an international bestseller and long-running play in London.

She perfectly captures the elements that make up the traditional English ghost stories, with a moodiness and bleak attitude all her own. Hill is also a conservative Tory who believes that charity begins at home, loves the Royals, is devoted to Shakespeare, etc. She also honestly believes that some people are essentially evil, something that socialists and没啥 Shakespeare expert, etc. She also honestly believes that some people are essentially evil, something that socialists and perhaps feminists and socialists, and really for the women’s movement and also the Vote, the continuing struggle for end—women’s oppression.

As a syllabus, the Gothic genre includes a variety of outlets, ranging from Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein to Edgar Allan Poe, Dracula and its various parameter. The most important is the Gothic (in the usual sense, or the Haunting of Hill House in particular). An eerie film is the 1962 version in the film version of The Shining and so on. What differentiates this pack from its knock-knuckle-dragging cousins in the mainstream horror genre is atmosphere. The idea is to aim at the creeps, a sense of terror and unease, rather than balls to the wall gut punch revel. Probably the best descriptor of the Gothic is “a sumptuous aura of eerie decay.”

A more appropriate descriptor would be an aura of affective decay. It’s been argued that the only Gothic was the result of Protestant’s fascina- tion with the horror of a re-creation of the Catholic aristocracy, and while we’ve come a long way, baby, it’s not difficult to pick on an American later fiction from the feminist, dark, re-telling of faerie tales in The Bloody Chainsaw Massacre or Cujo.

Gothic fiction and ghost stories have been largely the province of a great many people, particularly women - Mary Shelley, Angela Carter, Toni Morrison, Isak Dinesen, Shirley Marion and several more come immediately to mind. There is something about the claustrophobia of the domestic life that women have historically captured brilliantly.

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The Haunting of Hill House in particular. It is a masterful overview of the career leave to abortion rights.

As repellant as Harper was, the lesson is this: don’t be dazzled by Justin Trudeau’s sunnier and more optimistic conservatism. The NDP had dreams of taking advantage of a wave of militancy sweeping the country. In the 1972 election the Liberals were reduced to a rump following the NDP, led by David Lewis, with 11 seats, and most of their balance of power to prop up the Liberals for two years. In 1974 they and the NDP forced a new election. The NDP had dreams of taking advantage of a wave of militancy sweeping the country. In the 1972 election the Liberals were reduced to a rump following the NDP, led by David Lewis, with 11 seats, and most of their balance of power to prop up the Liberals for two years. In 1974 they and the NDP forced a new election. The NDP had dreams of taking advantage of a wave of militancy sweeping the country. In the 1972 election the Liberals were reduced to a rump following the NDP, led by David Lewis, with 11 seats, and most of their balance of power to prop up the Liberals for two years. In 1974 they and the NDP forced a new election. The NDP had dreams of taking advantage of a wave of militancy sweeping the country. In the 1972 election the Liberals were reduced to a rump following

Justin Trudeau’s corporation

The great American archi- tect Frank Lloyd Wright got his start designing homes and public buildings in a Chicago suburb. I recommend the audio- guided tour of the neighbour- hood. Some of the recent commentary is from Wright himself, including his descrip- tion of a home he designed in 1939, as a response to the use of fascism in the popular film. His ideas is to build windows in all the corners, to cast light into the dark places and expose the threat. On tape, Wright almost rights: “Then I discovered you can have corner windows and fascists too.”

Which brings me to Justin Trudeau and the Liberal elec- tion victories. Here is what I have been hearing since the vote: yes, every Liberal government ever elected in Canada has ended up screwing working people. But this Justin fellow seems awfully nice so let’s just give him the benefit of the doubt. Let’s spot him a couple of years to do some damage, and hope for the best.

Sunner conservatism

Justin Trudeau is the corner Canadian premier. I’m not saying that Trudeau is a fascist. I don’t think Harper is either. The creeping threat of fascism comes from the belief in the power, a power that can take more or less belligerent forms. While share-cropping effectively replaced outright slavery, and while the KKK did its utmost to maintain a terror state for African Americans, the white gentry has been on a long slow decline, degenerating, mutating into something altogether not whole. You don’t need ghosts to create a haunting atmosphere. People are sometimes the terror and unease, rather than balls to the wall gut punch revel. Probably the best descriptor of the Gothic is “a sumptuous aura of eerie decay.”

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Justin Trudeau as the best bet to stop laws limiting wage increases. Trudeau regained his majority. The NDP lost half its seats. The worst, far worst, the Corsi- posed the very wage and price controls that had bankrupted Canada. Legal limits were imposed on public employees working in the public service. Common Front strikes in the Deep South in America. And most importantly, it almost never incorpo- rated the supernatural to create that ter- rifying, unpleasant atmosphere that is the hallmark of the Gothic novel. Real monsters exist, and they don’t need ghosts to invoke their terror.

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WHERE WE STAND

The dead-end of capitalism

The capitalist system is based on violence, oppression and brutal exploitation. It creates huge, brutal plagues, it threatens our sustenance through unsafe and unsanitary farming, and kills the earth itself with polluting and unsanitary extraction of oil, minerals, animals, trees, and water. Capitalism leads to imperialism and war; it turns us against ourselves and the planet depends on finding an alternative.

A system that is killing the planet

Capitalism depends on exhausting the earth’s blood and bone. The devastating impact of capital’s assault on the planet affects the world’s most vulnerable populations and foments the long-term meaningful existence of humanity. Capitalism cannot regulate the catastrophic effects of climate change. We stand for climate justice, including the concept of “just transition” for affected workers.

Socialism and workers’ power

Any alternative to capitalism must involve replacing the system from the bottom up through radical collective action. Central to that struggle is the workplace, where capitalism is the profit motive of its core businesses. Capitalism can only be overthrown. That is only possible if workers everywhere actively create the new. A new socialist society can only be constructed when workers collectively take control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution to satisfy human needs, not corporate profits—to respect the environment, not pollute and destroy it.

Oppression

Within capitalist society, different groups suffer from specific forms of oppression. Attacks on oppressed groups are used to divide workers and weaken solidarity. We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all forms of colonialism. We support the right of people of colour and other oppressed groups to organize in their own defense. We are for real social, economic and political equality for women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination and homophobia against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people. We oppose environmental racism. We oppose discrimination on the basis of religion, ability and age.

Canada, Quebec, Indigenous Peoples

Canada is not a “colony” of the United States, but an imperialist country in its own right that participates in the exploitation of much of the world. The Canadian state was founded through the oppression of Indigenous peoples and the people of Quebec. We support the struggle for self-determination of Quebec and Indigenous peoples up to and including the right to independence. In particular, we recognize Indigenous peoples’ original and primary right to decide their fate and that of their lands, heritage, and traditions. Socialists in Quebec, and in all oppressed nations, work to give the struggle against nationalist oppression an internationalist and working class content.

Internationalism

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries. We oppose everything that harms workers from one country against those from other countries. We support all genuine national liberation movements. The IV Russian revolution was an inspiration for the oppressed everywhere. But it was defeated when workers’ revolutions elsewhere were defeated. A failed counter-revolution, which killed millions, created a new form of capitalist exploitation based on state ownership and control. In Eastern Europe, China and other countries, a similar system was later established by Stalinists, not socialists, parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalists.

Elections and democracy

Elections can be an opportunity to give voice to the struggles for social change. Under capitalism, they can’t change the system. The structure of the capitalist economy, the state, and the judiciary all conspire to protect the ruling class against the workers. These structures cannot be simply taken over and used by the working class. The working class needs real democracy, and that requires an entirely different kind of state—a workers’ state based upon councils of working people.

Reform and revolution

Every day, there are battles between exploiters and oppressors and oppressors, to reform the system—to improve living conditions. These struggles are crucial in the fight for a new world. To further these struggles, we work within the trade unions and struggle to build a rank and file movement that strengthens workers’ unity and solidarity. But the fight for reforms will not, in itself, bring about fundamental social change. The capitalist system cannot be fixed or reformed as the NDP and other parties have attempted. It can only be overthrown. That is only possible if workers everywhere actively create the new. A new socialist society can only be constructed when workers collectively take control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution to satisfy human needs, not corporate profits—to respect the environment, not pollute and destroy it.

The Revolutionary Party

To achieve socialism the leading activists in the working class have to be organized into revolution¬ary socialist party. The party must be a party of activists, it must be democratic. We are an organization of activists—committed to helping with the construction of such a party through ongoing activity in the mass organizations of the working class and in the daily struggles of workers and the oppressed. These ideas make sense to you, help us in this project and join the International Socialist.
MARCH OF WOMEN
TORONTO DISABILITY PRIDE MARCH

Despite pouring rain, local supporters of the World March of Women in the Ontario region came out to a communitive-focused festive spectacle on October 15 to support the regional lead-up to a Quebec-wide rally on October 17, under the banner “Liberons nos corps, nos territoires et nos citoyennetés!” (“Liberate our bodies, our earth, our territory!”).

Although the march started on the front lawn of downtown Gatineau was canceled due to heavy rain, the mood was high in celebrating Quebec’s hosting of the World March of Women regions across Quebec. Free food and performances took place in the main building of the Université de Québec en Outaouais, scene of recent confrontations between police and students, and notably between police and professors during standing protests to vote for a halt to strike.

The biennial March of Women will culminate in bringing together an anticipated 25,000 people on October 17 in Trois-Rivières. The event will focus on centres outside of Montreal and Quebec City builds on the Toronto-wide actions against austerity and opposition to Harper’s Conservatives. Quebec’s regional sentiment for resistance to both oppression and austerity.

And, as the media release for the Trois-Rivières rally puts it, “The march will demonstrate the strength of the intergenerational women, for true equality between men and women, between women themselves, and between peoples.”

It is this call for true equality that will give the lie to those, like the Tories, who claim a concern for women’s rights, all in the name of Lalonde and Mississauga women, and all the while ignoring murdered and missing Indigenous women in this country.

Saturday October 3 was the fifth annual Toronto Disability Pride March. As the Toronto Star explained, the march aimed to "be recognized for the struggles and value of people with disabilities as we fight against ableism and other forms of oppression.

- be visible and show that we have a voice in the community and a right to be heard by taking to the streets.
- celebrate and take pride in ourselves as a community of people with disabilities
- The first speaker, Indigenous songwriter and activist Deen Lafortune, explained how traditional economies provided for people according to their needs. But colonialism has inflicted deep scars, impacting mental health.
- Disability scholar Tracy Mack described how in the nineteenth century the Toronto asylum (now CAMH), incarcerated people with disabilities to a place of free from death - and there’s an upcoming historical tour of the wall. October 24, 1 p.m. at Queen and Shaw. She also discussed the intersection of coloniality and anti-Black racism, and denounced the disproportionate levels of police violence directed at racialized mad people. TDPM began in 2017 during Occupy Toronto. As co-founder Melissa Graham explained, "not only are people with disabilities part of the 99%’s, they are typically part of the lowest 1% of the 99%.” The austerity agenda is shaping this oppression - through cuts to social assistance, social housing and transportation that disproportionately affect people with disabilities.

As Kevin Jackson, TDPM organizer and member of the Etaho-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario explained, the march is about charity, sympathy or a cure but respect for people with disabilities as human beings. TDPM is not a parade but an act of resistance against the system. As the marchers chant: "Build ramps, not bombs!"

It’s been a decade since the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act became law and still it has not been adequately enforced. MPP Choi DiNovo spoke about the lack of action from Queen’s Park and the need for the global disability movement to keep mobilizing.

David Lepovitch, Chair of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance, discussed the ongoing barriers for people with disabilities and the need to enforce the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. He called on people to use the federal election to push for a Canadians with Disabilities Act, and to use citizen journalism to expose everyday instances of lack of accessibility.

After nine years in power the Conservatives failed to deliver on their promise of introducing a national disability act, and the Liberals have yet to match the NDP and Green Party commitment. For an election action “in support of this election campaign…to welcome Justin Trudeau to Ottawa. We know that the relentless attacks on the issues and for Muslim women, all in general and to talk about the divisiveness Harper is trying to put out there.”

It’s working,” added Baksh, “because Muslim women wearing the niqab are afraid to go out in public and to go shopping. Harper wants to pit the rest of the public against Muslims so he can win this election. I appreciate when I look and see everyone here today who are non-Muslims and I appreciate people coming out and showing that we have a good support for the community out there because it goes to show that we all want to stand up for equality, we all want to stand up for justice and we want to make sure that people have that freedom and right to choose.”

Bashk said he joined the action “in support of this issue for Muslim women in general and to talk about the divisiveness Harper is trying to put out there.”

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Now that there is a Liberal government in Ottawa, a working class, social justice and climate movement must be re-energized in their demands for change.

The Harper government was tossed out because people across the country could no longer tolerate decisions as they were. They wanted an end to the Islamaphobia and racism divisions the Conservatives were sowing. They hoped for a government that recognizes the needs for climate justice and would stop the ravages of the austerity agenda.

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The Leap Manifesto (leapmanifesto.ca) launched in the midst of the election, shows a broad vision for climate justice that goes beyond the ballot box. Clearly Harper’s adversarial approach to the climate justice movement is not working for the 1½, and they are hoping a more friendly face can help expand the tar sands.

Liberal tar sands

The tar sands have always been a joint project between Liberal and Tory governments. Both parties have subsidized the tar sands, and whereas Harper took Canada out of the Kyoto protocol, the Liberals simply ignored it and let carbon emissions rise under their rule.

As The Globe & Mail explained, “In the mid-1990s, with oil prices at depressed levels, the Liberal government of Jean Chrétien had to provide tax breaks to rescue the industry, in particular the two major oil sands producers, Suncor and Syncrude Canada Ltd.” “It wasn’t until international crude prices began to soar in 2003—reflecting war in the Middle East and the rise in China’s demand—that the oil sands sector found firm economic footing and expansion began in earnest.”

Now that a fall in China’s demand and a surge in fracking has driven down oil prices, the Liberals are again coming to the tar sands’ rescue.

While the Conservative front-of-the-city climate justice movement only increased its strength, the Liberals are trying a softer approach of lip service and appeasement while continuing the same policies.

Trudeau’s version of “change”

When Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence went on hunger strike against Harper’s policies in 2012, Justin Trudeau met with her. “It was deeply moving to meet Theresa Spence today. She is willing to sacrifice everything for her people. She shouldn’t have to,” he said at the time. Despite this lip service, Trudeau was not moved on pipelines.

The next year, Titans of Progress, Clouds of Ignorance, launched in the midst of the election, shows a broad vision for climate justice that goes beyond the ballot box. Clearly Harper’s adversarial approach to the climate justice movement is not working for the 1½, and they are hoping a more friendly face can help expand the tar sands.

The Liberal withdrawal of Canada’s fighter jets from the Middle East in 2015, in response to the Islamic State’s assault on the town of Sinjar, was yet another indication of Harper’s deliberate stoking of Islamophobia.

The deportation is the consequence of a “Security Certificate,” under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which allows for the imprisonment in Canada of refugees and permanent residents without charge.

Security Certificates allow for secret trials in which evidence is not disclosed to the detainees or their lawyers, and the full right to appeal is denied in a process that uses the lowest standard of proof of any court in Canada. And, they allow the ultimate injustice: deportation without charge to unfair imprisonment, torture or death.

But on October 19, voters sent a strong signal that they reject the overt Islamophobia and war mongering of the Tories. The Liberal withdrawal of Canada’s fighter jets from the Iraq-Syria mission was the first follow-through on that election mandate. The public sentiment demonstrated in the election is also a new opportunity to push a movement to defend and regain civil liberties in this country.

On election night Liberal Adam Vaughan, who unseated Olivia Chow, declared the Liberals to be “the Party of the Charter.” The Liberals must be held to that: Security Certificates must be declared unconstitutional, counter to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and abolished.

Secure Freedom

A 2006 film made by Justin Trudeau’s own brother, documentary filmmaker and journalist Alexandre (“Sasha”) Trudeau, makes this very case. Secure Freedom chronicles Alexandre Trudeau’s efforts to support Syrian refugee Hassan Almrei, one of the five men who had Security Certificates issued against them. In fact, Trudeau offered to be a surety for Almrei, and his brother’s film another watch party before the election. And, they allow the ultimate injustice: deportation without charge to unfair imprisonment, torture or death.

But the climate justice movement had no illusions that the election would make real change, and the surge in votes that drove out Harper won’t simply accept lip service.

Plans for direct action November 5-8 at the Paris climate talks (climatewelcome.ca) began before the election, and this is continuing to build momentum after the election. There will also be protests across the country and around the world on November 29, on the eve of the Paris climate talks. These talks are controlled by the capitalist states who subsidize oil and gas companies, won’t stop the climate crisis. But the talks will serve as a legitimate climate justice movement to demand real change, including Indigenous sovereignty and climate jobs.

Harkat: no deportation to torture

It is not a coincidence that Mohamad Harkat received his deportation papers in the middle of the federal election campaign. Though it may have been eclipsed by the niqab debate, the fate of Harkat’s Show Trial is emblematic of Harper’s policies. Is it any wonder that the Liberals are trying a softer approach of lip service and appeasement while continuing the same policies?

At the time, he said that he would continue to support the Keystone XL pipeline. “My support for Keystone is steadfast,” he said.

During the first leader’s debate in the recent federal election, Trudeau tried to reassure Bay Street that he could promote the tar sands better than Harper could. This is not working for the 1½, and they are hoping a more friendly face can help expand the tar sands.

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The deportation is the consequence of a “Security Certificate,” under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which allows for the imprisonment in Canada of refugees and permanent residents without charge.

Security Certificates allow for secret trials in which evidence is not disclosed to the detainees or their lawyers, and the full right to appeal is denied in a process that uses the lowest standard of proof of any court in Canada. And, they allow the ultimate injustice: deportation without charge to unfair imprisonment, torture or death.

But on October 19, voters sent a strong signal that they reject the overt Islamophobia and war mongering of the Tories. The Liberal withdrawal of Canada’s fighter jets from the Iraq-Syria mission was the first follow-through on that election mandate. The public sentiment demonstrated in the election is also a new opportunity to push a movement to defend and regain civil liberties in this country.

On election night Liberal Adam Vaughan, who unseated Olivia Chow, declared the Liberals to be “the Party of the Charter.” The Liberals must be held to that: Security Certificates must be declared unconstitutional, counter to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and abolished.

Secure Freedom

A 2006 film made by Justin Trudeau’s own brother, documentary filmmaker and journalist Alexandre (“Sasha”) Trudeau, makes this very case. Secure Freedom chronicles Alexandre Trudeau’s efforts to support Syrian refugee Hassan Almrei, one of the five men who had Security Certificates issued against them. In fact, Trudeau offered to be a surety for Almrei, and his appearance in court generated front page coverage and major media attention to the Security Certificate issue for the first time.

Justin should give his brother’s film another watch today.

Ultimately, Security Certificates must be abolished. But right now, it is critical that they not be used to send a man to torture in Algeria.

What you can do:

The Justice for Mohamed Harkat campaign is ramping up its efforts in an attempt to stop the deportations. They are requesting both support and donations to help with legal costs: donate here and sign the petition here.

The award-winning documentary The Secret Trial Five is available for screening, and members of the campaign can be invited to speak to your union local, or classroom. And contact your MP, no matter which party, to remind them that deportation to torture is unacceptable.