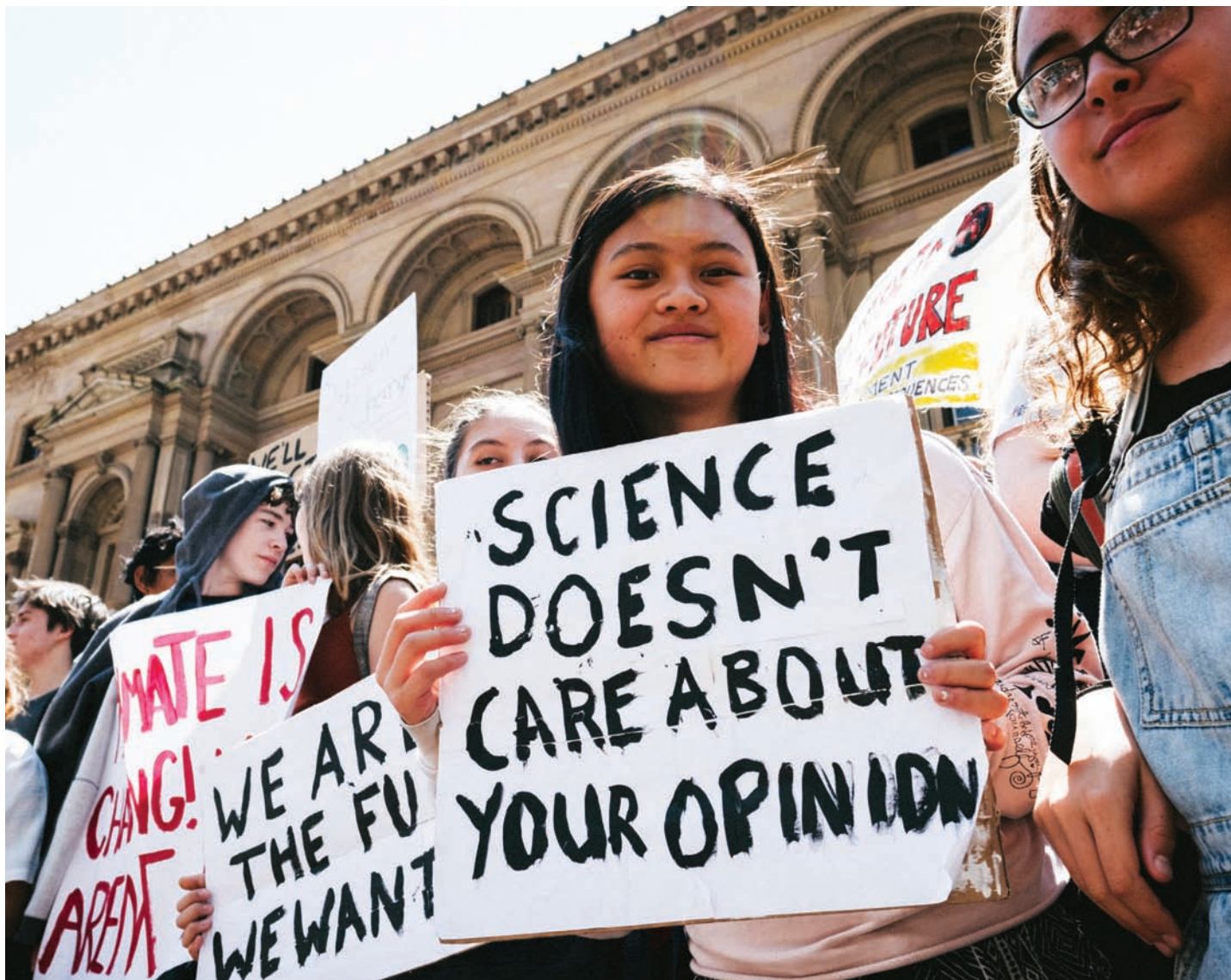


# STRIKE FOR THE CLIMATE



**S**tudents are in revolt. They are marching against cuts in Ontario. They are organizing to stop tuition increases in BC. And they are striking across the globe calling for action on climate change.

March 15 will be an international student strike for the climate. Thousands of students have already struck around the world, and the March demonstrations are expected to be huge.

In Québec, students at several universities have already pledged to strike on that day, building on the success of last fall's mass mobilizations demanding urgent action by the Québec government. Secondary students have also been joining walkouts as part of Fridays for Future.

Greta Thunberg, one of the leaders of the student movement, speaking to the European Economic and Social Committee, said:

*"We know that most politicians don't want to talk to us. Good. We don't want to talk to them either. We want them to talk to the scientists instead. Listen to them. Because we are just*

*repeating what they are saying and have been saying for decades."*

The response from European leaders to the mass actions was to peddle the absurd conspiracy that Greta and the thousands of students who joined her are Russian agents. As if we needed more evidence that politicians are not taking this threat seriously.

When students met with US Senator Diane Feinstein last month asking her to support the Green New Deal, she said it would never pass the Senate, condescendingly telling them, "I've been doing this for thirty years. I know what I'm doing." But that's the problem. She and the political establishment she represents have done nothing substantial in all those years, with catastrophic consequences for people and the planet.

These students are tired of politicians and their rich backers mortgaging the future and are making increasingly radical demands.

They are not alone. There is a mood to fight back is growing across the globe.

## Workers in revolt

The radicalization is not just among the students. Workers are starting to find their power again.

The strikes by teachers in the US are showing that workers have the ability to change society and to challenge the austerity and cuts foisted on us by the 1%.

India just went through one of the largest general strikes in its history. General Motors workers in Oshawa are pushing for more radical action to save their jobs while the union leaders dither.

And the solidarity actions with postal workers when their right to strike was taken away through back-to-work legislation created an example for rank and file militants in all sectors.

The Ontario Federation of Labour and the Toronto and York Region Labour Council have called for mass stewards' assemblies to stop the anti-worker laws being proposed by Doug Ford's Conservative government. They are organizing meetings across the province, where

## Haiti revolt

Canada is no friend of the Haitian people

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## SNC Lavalin

Corrupt to the core

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## Capharnaüm

Refugee crisis through the eyes of children

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## Party and revolution

How do we organize?

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## Workers vs Ford

Unions prepare the fightback

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## The Green New Deal

Can it work in Canada?

page 4

thousands will gather to decide how to make their stand.

## Liberal corruption

And on the federal level, the Trudeau Liberals are floundering. The SNC Lavalin scandal has finally exposed Trudeau for what he is – another stooge of the rich.

He started his mandate proclaiming his support for feminism and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. He has recently demoted the only Indigenous woman in his government because she wouldn't sweep the corruption under the table. Judy Wilson-Raybould may be out of cabinet, but she will certainly be top of mind as the Liberals crash and burn in an election year.

The faultlines are being exposed everywhere. The possibility of real growth in socialist ideas is real and the radicalization is palpable. If you want to work to ensure that promise of change becomes a reality, join us and fight for the better world we know is possible.

# Secrecy, lies shroud plan to privatize healthcare

by John Bell

Doug Ford and his Ontario Tory government have no intention of privatizing healthcare services. So said Health Minister Christine Elliott, one of the “moderate” Tories naïve observers had hoped would rein in Ford’s far-right agenda of austerity and privatization.

She lied.

When confronted with leaked documents proving the privatization plans, made public by NDP leader Andrea Horwath, Elliott tried to talk her way out of it and claim that Horwath was just “playing politics.” When reporters kept pressing her with the evidence, she abruptly ended her press conference and headed for the side door.

According to CTV News, Elliott claimed that her government was consulting front line health workers. “Doctors, nurses and other health care providers (are being consulted) as we build our long term transformational strategy,” Elliott said.

She lied.

Representatives from the Ontario Nurses Association, and Concerned Ontario Physicians (representing 11,000 doctors) say there has been “absolutely zero” consultation with the Ford government.

Or perhaps they did consult Dr. Brian Day, the doctor who is suing BC for the right to privatize health care. Ford hired former BC premier Gordon Campbell to “audit” all Ontario spending, and Campbell has supported Day’s lawsuit. And Dr. Rueben Devlin, former president of the OPC party and one-time advisor to Mike Harris, is a champion of health care privatization and “special advisor” to Ford on health issues.

One thing is certain, they did not consult the public on their plans.

In the election campaign, Ford promised to end “hallway medicine” and over-crowded hospitals, but specific plans were non-existent. During pre-election debate, Horwath warned about Ford’s plan to privatize healthcare. Ford denied it. “That is not in my vocabulary”, he said with the smug grin he wore throughout those debates.

He lied.

Just like he lied about low gas prices being the result of his scrapping the “carbon tax”. Just like he lied about “buck-a-beer.” Just like he lied about



Privatizers Ford and Scheer

not ending the guaranteed income programs. The list goes on....

## Leaked proof

The documents revealed by Horwath and the NDP show that the first step toward privatization is to create a “super agency” to conduct a massive transformation of the health system. Top of the agenda is to hire focus groups to find a media-friendly name for the agency; maybe the goal will be to provide Doug Ford with new vocabulary so he doesn’t have to use the word “privatization”.

Maybe “outsourcing” would be more palatable. The leaked documents say the new “super agency” would “outsource” services like air ambulance, hospital inspections, laboratory services, and more. The new bureaucracy would also take over labour relations, foreshadowing attempts to weaken and break the power of unionized workers to resist cutbacks and privatization.

Ontario Health Coalition Executive Director Natalie Mehra warns: “The draft legislation also provides for the Super Agency to create mega-mergers. It also enables the ordered closures of health providers like hospitals without any appeal.”

Health Minister Elliott tried to sweep the evidence back under the carpet. She insisted the documents were just first drafts for study, not indication of government policy. She even tried to say she had never even read the plan.

She lied about that too. The leaked documents have been approved by Ford’s cabinet. And far from being a purely hypothetical exercise, it turns out that the “super agency” has already been created in secret. Ford, Elliott and their gang have started a new crown corporation called “Health Program Initiatives” to start the privatization ball rolling.

They have installed three as-yet unidentified “high ranking” bureaucrats to run the corporation; these are temporary “placeholder” names, hastily appointed until job searches can be done to find more suitable permanent bosses.

The planned legislation will be hidden in a larger omnibus bill when it brought to the legislature. That, and the rush get the new “super

agency” up and running are attempts to do an end run around rising public opposition.

“It’s a done deal. But the entire Ford government has been hiding this plan from the public. Why? Because people won’t like it,” Horwath told the press.

The latest from Elliott’s office is this statement: “Unfortunately, due to the importance of cabinet confidentiality, we are unable to confirm what has gone through the cabinet process.”

Even with all the evidence on the table the Tories continue down the path to privatization, with their denials, lies and secrecy.

## Whistleblower punished

The person who leaked the documents is known—the government has fired them. But like so much of the healthcare privatization story, this information has been kept from the public.

Sources say the Ontario Provincial Police have been brought in, suggesting charges may be brought against whoever leaked this information to the NDP. Remember that Doug Ford has a special connection to the provincial police, having tried to have his drinking buddy Ron Taverner appointed OPP Commissioner. Ford insists he can appoint anyone he wants, and that naming the top cop is just a “political appointment.”

Whoever the whistleblower is, they deserve praise. They must have known that the odds were good they would be identified; there can’t be that many people with access to such cabinet level documents. Yet they revealed the evidence because it is in the public interest.

Ontario has legislation to protect people who expose white collar crime, but not those workers who blow the whistle on a provincial government that secretly plots to undermine a federal law like the *Canada Health Act*.

We need protection for workers who expose the secret machinations of government. It is in the interest of accountability and democracy. We aren’t about to get it from Ford.

The hallmark of Ford’s government is deception and secrecy. His election slogan, “For the People”, is nothing but a cruel joke.

# Corruption at SNC Lavalin

As the pressure on his government from the latest SNC Lavalin scandal mounted, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told the press: “Her [Jody Wilson-Raybould] presence in cabinet should actually speak for itself.” Famous last words. First thing the following morning Wilson-Raybould resigned from Trudeau’s cabinet, saying that she was lawyering up before publicly speaking further about the scandal.

Wilson-Raybould was Liberal Justice Minister until a recent cabinet shuffle demoted her to the Veterans Affairs portfolio. Then the rumours began to leak, that the popular young minister was moved out because she refused to cut a deal that would allow engineering, mining and construction giant SNC Lavalin to avoid bribery and fraud convictions. Instead they would get off paying some fines.

Lobbyists for SNC Lavalin—one of the world’s biggest engineering corporations—had been pushing hard for a deal. These included insiders from Chretien, Martin and Harper government days. It is alleged that pressure from the Prime Minister’s Office then came down on Wilson-Raybould. As more information leaked out, Trudeau tried to do damage control. NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and Tory leader Andrew Scheer both called for an independent investigation by the Ethics Commissioner; finally Trudeau had no choice but to say he would welcome such an investigation.

## SNC Lavalin—partner with Canadian state

The growth of SNC Lavalin into one of Canada’s biggest and most strategically important corporations is due to its partnership with the Canadian state—and for decades that meant with the Liberal Party.

That is not to suggest that the cozy relationship between government and corporation didn’t continue during the Harper years.

It was the Harper Tories that granted a second 10-year contract to SNC Lavalin in 2013, privatizing a range of military services in Afghanistan. SNC has long been in the forefront of privatizing logistical support not just for the Canadian armed forces; remember they won the contract to supply the US military with ammunition for the occupation of Iraq in 2004.

SNC was caught slipping more than \$100,000 in illegal donations to the Liberal and Conservative parties between 2004 and 2011. That is on top of donating up to the legal limit. The former SNC vice-president who engineered the illegal donations, Normand Morin, was rewarded by Harper with an appointment to the Port of Montreal board in 2006.

In 2013 Socialist Worker ran a damning list of bribery and corruption charges against SNC Lavalin, and its operations in

India, Bangladesh, Libya, and at home in Quebec.

## White collar criminals

Canada has long had one of the worst records on white collar crime prosecution in the so-called developed world. Or the best, if you are a corporate criminal.

In 2018, Justin Trudeau decided to do something about that. He made it even easier to be a corporate crook.

SNC Lavalin’s deepening criminal woes in the past decade prompted its lobbying pressure on a government that was more than willing to listen. Trudeau



SNC: corrupt to the bone

and his finance minister Bill Morneau hid a change to the Criminal Code inside their 2018 omnibus budget bill, enshrining a new legal mechanism called “deferred prosecution agreement” (DPA). Although the NDP tried to have the new law debated separately, the Scheer Tories don’t seem to have been disturbed about flying the DPA in under the radar.

According to DPA supporters like SNC, these would allow corporate criminals to turn themselves in in exchange for avoiding serious charges like bribery or insider trading. But even some Liberal backbenchers rolled their eyes; MP Greg Fergus worried: “It seems we’re letting those with the means have an easier time of it than those who don’t have the means.”

It took Wilson-Raybould’s resignation to blow the lid off DPAs. We’ll have to wait to hear what she has to say about undue pressure from Trudeau and the PMO. Meanwhile the Liberals and Tories will hypocritically wrangle about the particulars of an investigation. Trudeau will try to kick the can until after the coming election. Scheer will hope no one remembers how his party also abetted SNC Lavalin’s crimes.

Meanwhile, pundits will write that SNC is just too big and economically important to prosecute. And others like the CBC’s Neil Macdonald will defend SNC Lavalin’s corrupt practices with thinly veiled racist arguments that that’s just how business gets done in places like Libya.

And Canadians will get a reminder that under capitalism there is only a revolving door between parliament and corporate boardrooms, and that there is literally a separate law for big business.

## Territorial acknowledgment

*As settlers, we acknowledge our occupation of lands that are the Indigenous territories of Turtle Island. Furthermore, we support all struggles for Indigenous sovereignty in whatever forms they take by the hundreds of First Nations and Inuit communities that have resided here for many thousands of years, and by Métis communities that have developed in the last hundreds of years.*

# Imperialism and resistance in Haiti

by Sid Lacombe

The people of Haiti are in revolt. The immediate reason for the uprisings is the pilfering of billions of dollars by former President Michel Martelly from Petrocaribe, a fund to provide discounted fuel which was set up by Venezuela.

Current president Jovenel Moïse, who has been widely accused of vote rigging to get elected, has continued the trend and the people are fed up.

On the streets, protestor Jean-Robert Roland told the Associated Press, “We are protesting so we can come out of misery. The country is in a hole, and the government keeps stealing our money.”

This is another chapter in the long tragic history of the country. But it needn’t have gone this way. It is the direct fault of the imperial powers who have never really forgiven Haiti for its revolution more than 200 years ago.

## Revolution

As the site of the first successful rebellion against slavery in 1804, Haiti represented a dangerous precedent that imperialism needed to constantly undermine and attack. The French, who were unceremoniously kicked out of the country by Toussaint Louverture, blockaded the country and forced the Haitian people to pay reparations for the loss of their slaves which were listed as property in the French calculation.

Haiti had to pay these reparations for fear of being wiped out, and they kept paying until 1947.

This left the country in a desperate state which made it open to pillaging by other industrial powers like the US and Canada.



Haitians protest the coup that toppled Jean Bertrand Aristide

## Canadian led coup

In 2004, Canada played a crucial role in the ouster of elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide who had scared the imperial powers by suggesting that, among other things, Haitians be paid a reasonable wage for their work. The corporate giants who had been running Haiti like a giant open air sweatshop wanted to end this threat to their profits.

The Ottawa Initiative on Haiti, a meeting of representatives from Canada, the US, France and other European nations in 2003 laid the groundwork for an invasion to oust Aristide. No Haitians were actually

invited to the meetings, not even the right wing leadership in the military. After Canadian special forces group Joint Task Force 2 secured the airport in Port-au-Prince, US marines kidnapped Aristide and flew him to the Central African Republic where he remained under house arrest.

Canadian forces remained in the country as part of the UN mission after the coup. And what did they do? They provided cover while the police and right wing death squads attacked supporters of Aristide and union activists throughout the country. Thousands were killed.

And since then, Canada has sent

\$100 million in “aid” to support the Haitian military and police.

Those authorities have attacked any people or groups that would cut into the profits of western corporations.

Gildan Activewear, a Montreal based multi-billion dollar clothing company has been notorious in its activities in Haiti, punishing union organizers and sacking anyone who rocks the boat at their subsidiary companies.

The *Globe and Mail* spoke to Charlotin Odinel, a worker in Port-au-Prince who was fired for his union activities from a company

under contract to Gildan. His story, like many thousands of people, is one of bad wages – or stolen wages, poverty and misery while working for a company that makes upwards of \$300 million in profit each year.

Haitian workers make the lowest wages and face the harshest working conditions of anyone in the western hemisphere.

And the government of Canada has repeatedly sided with the corporations who want to keep millions of Haitians in poverty.

We need to stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti against all imperial meddling in their country.

# Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan close to war over Kashmir

India and Pakistan are once more on the brink of terrible conflict.

And again the disputed and divided region of Kashmir is at the centre of a war of words traded by Indian and Pakistani political leaders.

At least 44 Indian paramilitary police were killed in a car bomb attack in Kashmir last week. A Kashmiri militant group aligned with Pakistan-based jihadists claimed responsibility.

India’s hard right prime minister Narendra Modi wasted no time in promising retaliation. He vowed to “avenge every tear” and said, “The fire that is raging in your hearts is in my heart too.”

Military chiefs and media arm-chair generals are only too pleased to oblige.

They insist on “surgical” missile strikes on targets in Pakistan, launched from the Indian side of the “line of control” that divides Kashmir between the two countries. Indian commandos have already mounted cross border raids, but TV pundits demand these be just the opening skirmishes of a greater war.



On Thursday an Indian government minister reiterated a plan to restrict the flow of water to Pakistan. “Our government has decided to stop our share of water which used to flow to Pakistan,” said Nitin Gadkari, transport and water resources minister. He added that the country would divert water from eastern rivers and supply it to Indians in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab states.

## Bombing

Pakistan’s prime minister Imran Khan said his military had nothing

to do with the suicide bombing but would immediately respond to any attack by India. “Pakistan will not just think about retaliating – we will retaliate,” he said.

Modi is increasingly worried that he and his BJP party will do badly in parliamentary elections that are just months away, particularly after mass protests by women and a strike by tens of millions of workers.

He calculates that conflict with Pakistan could energise his support base.

But many fear that this could

mean India’s military planners miscalculate the mood in Pakistan, and trigger an escalation between the two nuclear-armed powers.

And, already there has been a violent response to the bombing in India itself, with far right thugs targeting Kashmiris across the country.

Earlier this week, students living in a hostel in Dehradun, in the north of India, were threatened by a mob looking for any Kashmiri they could find. Hostel bosses, instead of protecting them, threw them onto the street.

But there also many heroic stories of Indian families sheltering Kashmiri friends and neighbours from the mobs.

## Powers

The India-Pakistan conflict is part of a bigger geopolitical battle in which the world powers have taken sides to further their own interests.

China is heavily invested in Pakistan, and wants increasing access to its gas reserves and natural resources. It is financing mega-projects from power plants to a 2,000 mile

road linking China to Pakistan’s deep water port of Gwadar, on the Arabian Sea.

A long term enemy of India’s with its own ongoing border dispute with New Delhi, China is keen that its client state is not dominated by its rival. India formed a key part of the US “war on terror” and today, as opponent of China, retains a strong strategic relationship.

The governments of India and Pakistan have no genuine interest in the lives of ordinary people in their countries, and neither do their backers in Beijing and Washington.

The only way out of the permanent round of military conflict is for ordinary people across South Asia to see they have more in common with each other than they do with their rulers.

That means giving Kashmiri people themselves the right to determine whether their state belongs in Pakistan, India or as an independent nation.

• This article was originally posted on [socialistworker.co.uk](http://socialistworker.co.uk)

# WANTED: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR CANADA

by **Chantal Sundaram**

**P**owerShift, a convergence for climate justice that began in the US 10 years ago, continued in Ottawa this year with a diverse and inspiring agenda centred on youth empowerment and skills-building. But three of its sessions were dedicated specifically to a project new to Canada that originated in the US: the Green New Deal (GND).

Most people know about the GND because of the recent Sunrise Movement in the US that helped give courage to Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez to introduce a resolution that would transform the US economy in ways that would address both the climate crisis and economic and social justice.

Courage, the movement that emerged out of the Leap Manifesto, which raised the climate justice flag but failed to create a lasting movement within the NDP, produced a draft document for what a Green New Deal could look like in Canada, distributed at PowerShift. The first session tried to define the parameters of what a GND could look like, the second the political alignments and forces necessary to implement it, the third, necessary organizing strategy, particularly with the 2019 federal election in mind.

In the first session, Avi Lewis laid out an honest assessment of the original New Deal's successes and failures, and what might allow for a different framing of it this time.

## What was the New Deal in the 1930s?

In the US, the New Deal was a massive state intervention to save capitalism in a time of depression, but also of massive social movements. It is an example of a government's ability to transform the economy quickly on a scale we haven't seen outside of wartime, through planned intervention. This did not happen due to the good will of Roosevelt,

but because his hand was forced by the immense pressure of mass movements of workers, unemployed, and poor people, that made some kind of compromise necessary to stave off social upheaval and possibly revolution in the US.

Millions of jobs were created, there was massive electrification and creation of public power, some workers' rights were established, the welfare state was expanded, banks were regulated, the arts were funded.

Nevertheless, this compromise to avoid social revolution also sought to re-entrench capitalism, and left a dark legacy as well: mega power projects that appropriated Indigenous land; greater racial segregation through racist housing policies that created white suburbs and "redlining" in city centres, mass deportations of Mexicans and others.

## From the US to Canada: the Green New Deal today

This history has provided a reference point more recently for a proposal for the US to intervene on a similarly mass scale to stop climate chaos, in the form of the resolution introduced by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The US Green New Deal sets goals for a national mobilization over the next ten years to achieve net-zero GHG emissions while creating millions of high-wage green jobs, and prioritizing economic and climate justice for frontline and vulnerable communities, with a commitment that this New Deal, unlike the original, would leave no one behind.

It proposes a national job guarantee for all, with a wage and benefit guarantee for workers affected by the transition, stronger organizing rights, prioritizing frontline leadership and prior informed consent, especially as concerns Indigenous communities. It is inspired by movements like Sunrise, but social movements in the US today are not nearly as large or as strong as they were in the 1930s.

The panelists emphasized the need



Students strike for the climate in Berlin, February 15, 2019

for any similar initiative in Canada to have a movement-building agenda. Clayton Thomas-Mueller of 350.org said a GND in Canada, with a federal job guarantee for a complete transition away from fossil fuels "would take a social movement army led by youth". He emphasized the youth demographic of Indigenous communities in Canada, and that a GND is inextricably linked to reconciliation.

Mike Palacek of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers talked about the fact that their last round of negotiations put climate change on the bargaining table through the introduction of public postal banking to finance green projects and transitioning Canada's largest truck fleet to electric – which would involve retrofitting plants like GM in Oshawa instead of closing them. But he also talked about how they used this beyond the bargaining table, as a tool to reach out to the community in a campaign called "Delivering Community Power" that involved going door to door with a pamphlet on how we could become carbon-neutral.

Syed Hassan of Migrant Workers

for Change talked about the need to challenge divisiveness, racism, and xenophobia in developing a method for waging collective struggle and a process for determining what a GND should be. Similarly, Karen Cocq of the Fight for Fifteen and Fairness talked about the need to counter the right-wing populism represented by the Canadian "yellow vests" truck convoy to Ottawa, which is the result of a fundamental failure of capitalism, leaving many behind: "If we don't organize them, someone else will."

The representative of the Canadian Labour Congress said a GND would hold promise for union and non-union workers alike because it ties climate action explicitly to good jobs and a just transition. "People are legitimately worried about trading in good union jobs for precarious low-paid jobs," and a GND could take on this disparity. In fact, the outline proposed by Courage includes making prosperous the jobs with the smallest climate footprints – support workers, service workers, and care workers – by expanding the scope of this work and paying those who do it a decent wage.

## Alignments, organizing, and action for a GND

The second session on People's Alignment talked about the goal of making a Green New Deal a vehicle to get people into a movement that also fights racial, social and economic inequality. The facilitators talked about the need to tell a story that resonates with white working-class people, but at the same time represents an emerging left that includes racialized people. They were working with a definition of "political alignment" as an array of social and political forces that align around a shared agenda, but which are not monolithic.

The third session was on organizing and taking action for a GND, during the 2019 election and beyond. Here the facilitators argued that because the dominant neo-liberal alignment is on the decline, we need mass public support for a new left alignment and the federal election will be a strategic opportunity for a GND in Canada, especially for young people. It was the electoral cycle in the US, along with movements like Sunrise, that provided a strategic opportunity there. Here, the election provides the potential to move the window of ideas accepted in public discourse to include a GND.

The strategy put forward was "momentum-based" organizing that is face-to-face, high visibility, inspires people to vote "with the movement", persuades others based on where they are at, engages people to act independently in their own field (law, faith-based, art, education, etc.), and focuses on getting the youth vote.

The activist calendar between now and the election includes the March 15 student strike for the planet in Quebec, the March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racism, a tentative national climate mobilization in late April, and the official start of the federal election campaign in September.

In all of this, there was an attempt



to present the GND broadly, not just in the name of Courage, though they are one of the major organized promoters at the moment and perhaps the only one currently proposing what it might look like more concretely. While it was only one topic at PowerShift it clearly was a priority for many of the youth activists there. If it starts to get

interest from sections of the labour movement, that could be a powerful combination.

And if the federal election is used as a tactical moment to grab some broad public attention for a GND, while still keeping a focus on its social implications beyond elections (many of which could pose a potentially

fundamental challenge to the logic of capitalism) this could be not only a proposal for a just transition from fossil fuels, but a set of transitional demands that give ordinary people more confidence to challenge the very logic of a system that has brought us to the brink of environmental destruction.

## Bold solutions for climate change

by **Kim McAuley**

The Green New Deal announced by US Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) on February 7 is billed as a first draft of a (necessarily) ambitious plan to stimulate the U.S. economy, combat climate change, and address economic inequality.

The GND outlines progressive goals – at the top of the list is eliminating the U.S. carbon footprint by 2030. As well as calling on the government to massively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the GND also calls on the US government to ensure that clean air and water and healthy food are basic human rights and to end all forms of oppression. It proposes a wide range of measures to tackle inequality, poverty and racism. That's a tall order, yes. But our situation calls for a tall order.

The GND has its critics: some say it is unrealistic (one would assume then they're ok with the reality of living – and dying – under the threat of catastrophic climate change) or that it's a high-level plan and not fully fleshed out – but it doesn't purport to be. Greg Carlock, a researcher who authored a report on the GND for Quebec, the March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racism, a tentative national climate mobilization in late April, and the official start of the federal election campaign in September.

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fundamental challenge to the logic of capitalism) this could be not only a proposal for a just transition from fossil fuels, but a set of transitional demands that give ordinary people more confidence to challenge the very logic of a system that has brought us to the brink of environmental destruction.

And it's highlighting the divide between the 1% who are trying to laugh it down, and the rest of us who are either weighing its merit or already working to defend it and make it a reality. The current President of the United States is the ultimate climate change denier, recently tweeting wonder about whatever happened to global warming, and noting it would be welcomed right now. But as we go to print, the *New York Times* endorsed the GND as technologically possible, while *Forbes* feebly attempted to dismiss the GND and AOC in one fell swoop with the flimsy old adage "don't trust anyone under thirty". It's safe to say the capitalists are already on the back foot.

This is a Deal we need to examine, discuss and explore implementing with everyone – but mostly with our Indigenous and our unionized sisters and brothers. We would do well to use the GND together in putting Trudeau and his groupies' feet to the fire here.

need to create better green jobs and implement just transition, the need to create a better world. The GND is forcing people to figure out which side they're on, in boldly stating what it wants – much like the courage exhibited by millennials themselves and rightly so – it is their future and their children's future the GND addresses.

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Blockading GM headquarters in Oshawa

## Build the stewards' assembly

by **Carolyn Egan**

A stewards' assembly is taking place on March 25th called by the Toronto and York Region Labour Council. Over 1,000 labour activists are expected to attend, and the focus is to develop strategies to take on the attacks by Ontario's Ford government. This is the time for bold actions. Rhetoric from trade union leaders is no longer enough as we see announcements coming one after another slashing health care and student grants, privatizing services, attacking unions and student federations.

The trade union movement can't wait until all we have won is gone. It has to take on the task of mobilizing its membership to fight back, working with communities to challenge the provincial government. We have seen the Tories pull back on their plans to allow developers to destroy the green belt surrounding Toronto and the parents of autistic children have put them to shame about their plans to cut funding and services. This shows that they are vulnerable to organized pressure and this has to be ramped up a hundred fold.

There is some light on the horizon. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has demanded that Canada Post revamp its truck fleet, which is the largest in Canada, and change it to electric power as part of the union's climate justice agenda. It is suggesting that auto assembly plants such as GM Oshawa which is scheduled to close be retrofitted for this purpose, which would save thousands of good union jobs.

GM is clamping down on workers who have mobilized walkouts and put up barricades outside GM HQ. Their example has inspired workers at feeder auto parts plants to do the same. The Tory government has said it will do nothing to stop the closure. There are tremendous examples in our history where workers have taken militant actions themselves and won real victories. The Political Action Committee at Unifor Local 222 in Oshawa did a study session

the 1937 autoworkers' sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan. This is what we have to return to.

Sting and the cast of *The Last Ship*, an incredibly inspiring musical on workers taking control of their own destiny, took the production to Oshawa. It tells the story of corporate owners and governments treating the shipyard workers with contempt and how they organized to take them on. The cast performed before an audience of GM workers at a local centre in an act of solidarity. Those present were incredibly moved by the actions of the actors and inspired by the message which put workers in the forefront of history. It was very uplifting to those who saw it and gave confidence that they can take on their corporate bosses.

This is the spirit that should infuse the stewards' assembly and workers have to leave the event with a clear plan on how to bring this into their workplaces. We know that in every workplace there is a small number of activists, and an even smaller number of pro-management members, but the vast majority is in the middle going about their daily lives. Our job is to connect with that majority and bring them on side in the fight against the outback agenda and attacks on unions. We did it before when Conservative leader Tim Hudak threatened to bring in "right to work" legislation when running for Premier and we can do it again.

There is tremendous discontent in society today. It is why we see centre parties failing around the world, as people are being drawn to both the right and the left. The truck convoy to Ottawa in defense of the failing oil industry, Corbyn winning Labour in the UK, the rise of the Democratic Socialists of America and the 'yellow jackets' in France are all examples. We have to play our role and make an absolute priority of taking bold steps to fight the right and take on the attacks of governments and corporations. The stewards' assembly in Toronto can be the spark that sets us on this course.

## Where we stand

### The dead-end of capitalism

The capitalist system is based on violence, oppression and brutal exploitation. It creates hunger beside plenty, it threatens our sustenance through unsafe and unsustainable farming, and kills the earth itself with pollution and unsustainable extraction of oil, minerals, animals, trees, and water. Capitalism leads to imperialism and war. Saving ourselves and the planet depends on finding an alternative.

### A system that is killing the planet

Capitalist profits depend on extracting the world's blood and bone. The devastating impact of capital's assault on the planet affect the world's most vulnerable populations and threaten 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 reaps its profits off our backs.

Capitalist monopolies control the earth's resources, but workers everywhere actually create the wealth. A new socialist society can only be constructed when workers collectively seize 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 immigration controls. We support the right of people of colour and other oppressed groups to organize in their own defence. 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 transgender 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 repression of Indigenous peoples and the people of Quebec.

We support the struggles 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 national 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 turns workers from one country against those from other countries. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The 1917 revolution in Russia was an inspiration for the oppressed everywhere. But it was defeated when workers' revolutions elsewhere were defeated. A Stalinist 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 Stalinist, not socialist, parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

### Elections and democracy

Elections can be an opportunity to give voice to the struggle for social change. But under capitalism, they can't change the system. The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary 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 workers' delegates.

### Reform and revolution

Every day, there are battles between exploiter and exploited, oppressor and oppressed, 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 orient to building 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 present system cannot be fixed or reformed as the NDP and many trade union leaders say. Nor can the system regulate itself to prevent environmental destruction and climate injustice. It has to be overthrown. That will require the mass action of workers themselves.

### The revolutionary party

To achieve socialism the leading activists in the working class have to be organized into a revolutionary socialist party. The party must be a party of action, and it must be democratic. We are an organization of activists committed to helping in 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.

If these ideas make sense to you, help us in this project, and join the International Socialists.

# What we think

# Why a revolutionary party

If you want to change the world you run into some common questions. Why can't mass movements simply overtake the system? Can't we simply vote in the changes we want to see? Is a revolutionary party really necessary?

Electoral political parties at worst seek to expand the wealth and privilege of the capitalists, or at best believe that capitalism can be made into a 'humane' system piece by piece. As revolutionary socialists, we know that neither approach will lead to a better world. Oppression and environmental destruction are built into the capitalist system, and any political agenda that seeks to operate within this framework is in support of these tendencies.

As Malcolm X put it, "You can't have capitalism without racism."

This does not mean revolutionaries don't take the fight for reforms seriously. Meaningful victories within the capitalist system have been won through grassroots struggles. Student movements to stop tuition hikes, struggles for civil rights, and victories gained through unions have never been handed down freely from top. The over-efficiency of capitalist production relies on the maximization of exploitation. Through uniting within a movement over a common cause, political victories have been won for the oppressed of the world.

This does, however, mean that disparate ambiguities can be revealed within and between movements. Varying goals and politics can lead to different outcomes. There is constant debate within movements regarding the merits of reform or revolution, or to what degree intersectionality and solidarity should play a role. Movements can look for short cuts and tactics other than mass movements where working people organize themselves to fight for change. Or movements can be so concerned with smaller and smaller reforms that they are essentially toying the capitalist line.

The solution to these problems is the creation of a unified and organized revolutionary party. The goal of this party is not to affect change through reforms themselves, but to better unify movements in which they are involved and to help the self-emancipation of the



working class. Indeed, we do not work counter to radical movements, but work within them to increase the profile of socialist politics.

In the words of Rosa Luxemburg, the Polish revolutionary who was murdered in the midst of the German Revolution 100 years ago: "Legislative reform and revolution are not different methods of historic development that can be picked out at the pleasure from the counter of history, just as one chooses hot or cold sausages. Legislative reform and revolution are different factors in the development of class society. They condition and complement each other, and are at the same time reciprocally exclusive, as are the north and south poles, the bourgeoisie and proletariat."

The revolutionary party does not seek to be the leaders for the working class and oppressed, but of the working class and oppressed. We believe that workers should and must be in charge of their own labour power and take control of the means of production. We believe that oppression and exploitation can end when self-actualization and self-activity are used for the benefit of society as a whole, and not simply to help the 1% increase profits.

As revolutionary socialists, our ideals are to act as, Lenin wrote in What is to be Done? (1901), "the tribune of the people, who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." For those who seek to do more than simply reform the system in hopes it becomes more palatable, they must be someone "who is able to

take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat."

This means that revolutionary socialists must fight alongside other workers to build their political confidence at every level of political struggle. This will include struggles inside and outside of the workplace, joining struggles to improve living standards, fights against oppression, war, climate chaos and more.

Revolutionaries must avoid the arrogance of thinking they have all the answers. As Luxemburg warned, there is no "plan set out in some book or theory". The roll of the party is to draw lessons from struggle within the working class; to debate those lessons to answer the question "What is to be done?"; to put its conclusions to the test in practice; and to return to debate the validity of its strategy and tactics.

The aim of the revolutionary party is to unite those who seek to fight on every front against exploitation, oppression, and systematic destruction of resources and people. This means educating ourselves on the history of workers' struggles, learning from and being involved in current day struggles, and creating unity through revolutionary theory and practice. If you agree with these ideas, please join the International Socialists and help build a better world.



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# Capharnaüm, a film of chaos and miracles

by Chantal Sundaram

The film *Capharnaüm*, nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign-language film, tells the story of undocumented refugees and migrants in Beirut, from the perspective of children.

I didn't know when I watched it that most characters were non-actors, and was amazed that such real performances were possible, especially from small children. But when I learned that they were just telling their own stories within a fictionalized plot, it all made sense. As the New York Times put it, "Capharnaüm is not just a film, but a rallying cry."

The director, Nadine Labaki, tells real stories, because in her words, not only are those stories more interesting than art, they are stories that need to be told. She wanted to tell the story of children who don't understand why they are displaced by war, born into poverty, neglected and mistreated. In interviews about the film she has said that when you ask those children whether they are glad they were born they answer they are not, and wonder why they were born at all.

The premise of the story is a young Lebanese boy who sues his parents for giving birth to him. But as Labaki says in her interview with the New York Times: "he's actually not only suing his parents, he's suing the whole system because his parents are also victims of that system – one that is failing on so many levels and that completely ends up excluding people."

In order to tell this real story, Labaki needed real people to do it, and so she went looking for them. The protagonist, Zain, is played by then 12-year-old Syrian refugee, Zain al Rafeea, who Labaki discovered when he was

working as a delivery boy, stealing and begging on the streets of Beirut.

His character in the film ends up as babysitter and then guardian (when the mother in the film disappears) to Boluwatif Treasure Bankole, less than a year old at the time of shooting (playing a boy). She is herself the child of undocumented parents who themselves were arrested during the time of shooting – so she



was actually separated from her real mother while playing the role of a child that suffered the same fate in the film.

The fictional mother who disappears, because she is arrested, was also a non-actor and undocumented immigrant who herself was arrested during filming. She told this story during the press conference at Cannes where the film won the Jury prize, and said in tears that the most emotional scene she shot was in the prison – a real prison – where she ran into

people she knew.

And Zain's fictional parents in the film are also real people of Beirut's poor: the scene in which they reply to the judge about their treatment of Zain and his sister is an improvised response. Labaki told them to just tell the judge (also a real judge) how unfair it is to judge them for their behaviour when they are themselves treated as non-persons, and to

without music and it worked, but that they came to a balance that preserved the sense of reality.

This is the third film Labaki has made with non-professional actors (the other two are *Caramel* and *Where Do We Go Now?*) In interviews Labaki has been asked whether she has influences amongst those who have blurred the lines between documentary and fiction in film. To my knowledge she hasn't cited any, but I see traces of Berthold Brecht, Ken Loach and Augusto Boal.

Brecht's theatre was based on the idea that both actors and non-actors could "show" real stories instead of acting them. In film, the socialist UK director Ken Loach has worked with non-professional actors and improvisation to tell real stories.

This film also makes me think of Augusto Boal, who developed a concept of Theatre of the Oppressed with detailed techniques to help ordinary, sometimes traumatised people figure out how to bring their difficult stories to the stage. In his 1992 *Games for Actors and Non-Actors* he states:

"A session of Theatre of the Oppressed has no end, because everything which happens in it must be extended into life... The Theatre of the Oppressed is located precisely on the frontier between fiction and reality – and this border must be crossed. If the show starts in fiction, its objective is to become integrated into reality, into life."

I believe this was Nadine Labaki's intention with her film *Capharnaüm*. Whether it wins accolades from the Academy or not, it is a beautiful telling of a side of the story that needed to be told. And hopefully a rallying cry against a system that robs too many children of the feeling that it is good to be alive.

## "Thou shall not tell a girl she deserved it" New album *Encore* by The Specials

by D'Arcy Briggs

The Specials have been around in one form or another since 1977, and are often seen as the largest group of the 2 Tone movement. In fact, the movement itself was named by Specials' keyboardist and label founder, Jerry Dammers, who wanted to defuse and destroy the racial tensions within Thatcher's UK. The group featured black and white musicians, from Jamaica as well as the UK. Becoming active the same year as Rock Against Racism launched, anti-racism and standing against groups like the National Front were always an important part of their message.

Their sound is a blend of ska with mod and punk. Hits like "Ghost Town," "Free Nelson Mandela," and "Too Much Too Young," are just a few of their hits. With all that said, the announcement of a new original album came as a surprise to fans. Their last album of original material was 1998's *Guilty 'til Proved Innocent!*, and an album featuring Terry Hall as vocalist hasn't been seen since 1980's *More Specials*. Can The Specials still deliver topical and unifying music in 2019?

What's most impressive about *Encore* is how relevant it sounds. Listeners not only get some high quality ska and reggae, but sounds that members of the band have pursued in other projects such as funk, spoken word, and pop. The Specials tackle Brexit, sexism, austerity, Tory rule, and Black Lives Matter on their latest album. It's an incredibly pointed yet accessible release.

The lead single and video for the album is "Vote for me," a down-tempo ode to untrustworthy politicians that Hall delivers in his

trademark gloomy disposition. The track is directed straight at Theresa May and the ongoing austerity her government continues to take. One verse in particular hits heavy with "You're all so drunk on money and the power / Inside your ivory tower / Teaching us not to be smart. / Making laws that serve to protect you / But we will never forget that / You tore our families apart."

The song's video serves an equally bleak outlook on the world, with an art direction somewhere between Monty Python's animated shorts and an existentialist nightmare. News footage of Thatcher-era and contemporary protests

are featured before a pastiche of social decay, crime, and protest. As the camera slowly pans by to the video's end, the crowds slowly raise their heads to the audience, perhaps realizing their own collective power.

The funk driven "BLM" is guitarist Lynval Golding's history of racism as seen through personal experience. We begin with his father, who was a member of the Windrush generation, the name given to African-Caribbeans who followed the call of employment and citizenship following the devastation of World War 2. "The year was 1954, you know / Sir Winston Churchill shout across the Western

islands / He said, 'Come, help us rebuild this country devastated by war' / And so anyway, my father set sail upon the wind rush, born for a new life." Each verse ends with a thematic closer, with this one ending "He'd knock on door after door after door / But the sign on the window kept saying the same thing / 'No

dogs, no Irish, no blacks' / Welcome to England."

The following verse details Lynval's travels to be with his father and attend school. It ends with school boys throwing racial slurs towards him. "Are you talking to me? / Are you talking to me? / Boy, welcome to England."

In the mid-90's, Lynval moved to Washington state. "In 1994, I move again / The land of the free, the home of the brave / The United State of America." The verse details how racism followed him halfway around the world. "When she heard my accent, she said / 'Oh, you're not from here, you're not one of them' / 'One of them?' I said, 'You mean me being black? / Well ma'am, let me tell you something right, I am black!'" BLM, while musically not The Special's standard fare, is an amazingly personal and important track.

"10 Commandments" is the other heavy hitter from the album, featuring Saffiyah Khan



Saffiyah Khan smiles down a fascist

on vocals and is a response to Prince Buster's incredibly sexist track by the same name. Khan came into the public eye two years ago when she famously smiled-down a fascist protester at an event in Birmingham. The Specials were combing through their back catalogue of music to find inspiration for their new album. The band has done covers of Buster's work and has even sampled them in their own hits. "But Ten Commandments has not traveled very well, and from listening to it again it felt important to do a contemporary version," he says. After playing around in the studio, they realized they needed a woman to speak in her own voice on the track. Saffiyah was contacted and the new "10 Commandments" was recorded.

The entire length of the track is amazing, but one verse in particular directly targets the 2018 Irish rape case in which a 27 year-old man was found not guilty and the defense lawyer called into question the victim's choice of underwear, saying "You have to look at the way she was dressed. She was wearing a thong with a lace front." Khan announces "Thou shall not tell a girl she deserved it / Because her skirt was too short / She walked home, streets lights illuminating her as a target / But she started it, because she looked at him / And he finished it 'cause he wanted to / And they'll bring out her skirt as Exhibit A before the judge." From start to finish it's a great song, ending with "But I shall be seen / And I will be heard / The commandments of I, Saffiyah Khan."

*Encore* continues to deliver powerful protest music for 2019. It speaks heavily to the most important issues we're facing today, while also echoing the anti-racist and anti-Thatcher history of the group.

# Students in revolt

**S**tudents all over Ontario are marching against the Ford government's cuts. *Socialist Worker* spoke with student organizer Mohammad Ali about the protests thus far and the next steps.

## Why are students marching against Ford?

Students are mobilizing at the level that we are seeing because they see through Ford's lies. These are the biggest student mobilizations in the province in at least 10 years.

Ford says he's lowering tuition by 10 per cent but there will be no increased funding for the institutions so there will be less money in the system overall and that will attack the quality of education. The pressure will then be on faculty, institutions and student services. That will mean larger classes, fewer resources for students and will put a large burden the system

## Can you let me know more about the student union defunding? What is Ford doing exactly?

He is calling for a change in the fee structure for student unions so students can cancel their fees. This is an attack on democracy on campus and communities. Ford and the conservatives know that student unions and public interest research groups (pirls) are hubs of community and campus organizing. So he is trying to take away resources of community organizers on campus and otherwise.

Ford called the student unions are marxist hotbeds on campus. There are some assumptions we can make here - conservative forces



Students can see through Ford's lies

planned an agenda to attack democracy (pirls and student unions) for a long time.

We know this because students and student newspapers started covering this 10 years ago. Conservative student clubs launched campaigns

to destabilize student unions and pirls and led de-federation drives and organized trainings for conservative students. Now that Doug Ford is in power he can use legislation to take away the resources of the student groups.

## What sort of impact will this have on student clubs?

Student clubs do a number of different things and run multiple services. Ford says this won't impact on things like campus food banks but it will mean that the staff people who may have been involved in running those will not be there. And there may be other costs associated with services for students that will be on the chopping block.

## Ford called for student protesters to have their mouths washed out with soap. What do you make of that?

It's because Ford doesn't want to have a real discussion. He knows that the plan is to stifle democracy and directly attack students. So he just tries to smear the people mobilizing against him.

He is hoping that he can frame the argument about saving another dollar and that students will be happy when they see a fee reduced but we know this will have negative impacts on students and nobody is buying his line. That's why he resorts to sound byte attacks and not real arguments.

## What are the next steps for the movement? Are there more rallies planned?

The Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario is currently in the middle of a week of action but there will be more major events in March. There will be mobilizations before the budget and a day of action will be set soon.

• Check [wethestudents.ca](http://wethestudents.ca) for more info.

# SFU students organize for tuition freeze

by **Quentin Rowe-Codner**

As the Ford government severely and ruthlessly attempts to reshape higher education in Ontario, students in British Columbia are also gearing up for their own fight against changes being implemented across their campuses.

Within the past few months, administration at Simon Fraser University has quietly announced that they plan on raising tuition for all students in the coming year. The current proposal by the administration features a 2% hike for domestic students (as much as is legally allowed) and hikes of up to 20% for international students, depending on what courses they are planning to take. As the cost of living continues to rise and wages show no signs of catching up, this tuition hike will become a significant burden for many students, some of whom may find themselves priced out of an education at SFU.

The student consultation the administration carried out entailed all of one early morning meeting in the middle of midterm season, which was only publicized by one email.

Despite this, students from Left Alternative (LA) and Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA), as well as members of the Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) made the effort to attend and voice their concerns. What they found were further bureaucratic brick walls. While the university disclosed by how much they would be raising tuition, they did not say where this extra revenue would go. Through this experience of poor consultation, lack of information, and outrageous proposals to deepen the unaffordability of higher education, students involved with LA, TSSU, and SOCA created



Simon Fraser students fight for a freeze on fees

Photo: SFU Tuition Freeze Now

the Tuition Freeze Now campaign, which has grown to include support and members from the International Socialists, as well as endorsements by the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) and the Graduate Student Society (GSS).

More recently, organizers with Tuition Freeze Now called on supporters to fill the room as they presented their demands to the university's Board of Governors (BOG) in a meeting conveniently scheduled by the BOG at 8AM in downtown Vancouver. They were able to assemble 35 people, most of whom were wear-

ing their campaign t-shirts, and garner support for their presentation. The speakers for Tuition Freeze Now highlighted the fact that the university has been shamefully secretive in their hike announcement, having not disclosed why the extra funding is needed, nor where the money will be going.

Despite this, university president Andrew Petter stated during the meeting that their consultation process is "better than most universities." Even if that statement were somehow correct, the fact remains that students at SFU

are not very concerned with the consultation processes of other universities.

Most importantly, the speakers also presented their demands for an immediate tuition freeze, stating that "We are tired of the burden of education falling on our shoulders. We are tired of the unfair system of payment between international and domestic students - how international students can pay up to 4 times more than domestic students. And we are tired of being squeezed from all angles - paying more and more for school, housing, and life, all while our wages fail to keep up." Along with a tuition freeze, the campaign also seeks to put pressure on the provincial government to increase funding for higher education, and to make affordability a top priority.

Building off the momentum, Tuition Freeze Now will continue to pressure the BOG, and expand the movement for affordable education. The campaign has been working hard at building support both on campus and across the city, and is gearing up for a large rally on March 18th.

The BOG is set to officially declare the tuition hike on March 21st. Until then (and after), Tuition Freeze Now offers a crucial point of resistance against the administration. As is being said, tuition freeze now, free tuition next. Follow the campaign online (and in person if possible), and please sign their petition at [tuitionfreeze-now.com](http://tuitionfreeze-now.com). Most importantly, if you are in the Vancouver area, please consider supporting the rally on the 18th.

• For more information on the March 18th rally, please visit the SFU Tuition Freeze Now facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sfutionfreezenow/](http://www.facebook.com/sfutionfreezenow/)