

Cancel **Canada Day one year on**
The Canadian state and
Indigenous Sovereignty

pages 4
and 5



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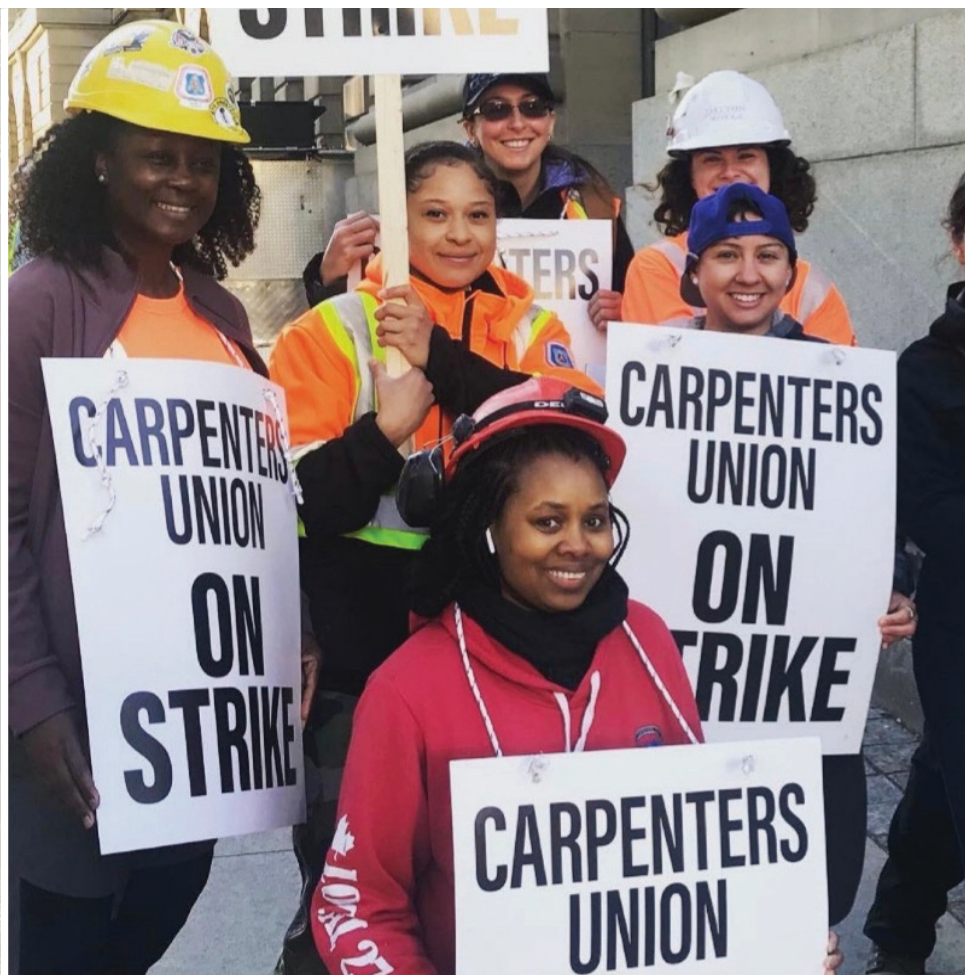
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From railways to retail, tens of thousands
of workers are fighting back

IT'S RIGHT TO STRIKE!



HBC workers and Carpenters on strike.



Airport delays: corporate greed meets COVID crisis

An open letter to airport whiners

Hi jet setters:

We see airport delays are making big news, and for some of you this proves that Trudeau is a fascist. We find this odd on many levels, not least of which being that at least the fascists made the trains run on time.

Plus, airport lineups are common in the US and Europe too. Over there people are putting the blame on everything from Brexit to a global conspiracy by the World Economic Forum. Why destroying the airline industry would be part of the “Great Reset” is beyond us, but we’re certain you’ll put on your tinfoil thinking caps and come up with a good answer.

Meanwhile, the thoughts and prayers of the roughly 1 ½ million Canadians with compromised immune systems, for whom air travel runs the gamut from death-defying nightmare to utter impossibility, go out to you in your hour of suffering.

A few things come to mind about airport delays:

All this means you believe the pandemic is over, like Mr. Ford and his mini-me Chief Medical Officer told you. We hate to break it to you, but those guys don’t rate too high on the truth-o-meter, but okay.

So you think you can just go back to the before times because you want to go to Orlando? As the

eminent Dr. Hibbert says “And hill-billies want to be called sons of the soil - but it ain’t gonna happen.”

So you show up at the airport without having done any checking about requirements, which means you haven’t got your shit together. Which means the ones complaining

means the airline ground staff are particularly vulnerable, and once infected must isolate. Fewer staff = long lines. And it means that flight crews are getting sick too, causing flight delays and cancellations. Canceled flights + fewer staff = longer long lines. Math isn’t so hard.

(which it isn’t, especially if there are delays and cancellations) and if you were all computer literate (which you aren’t). In today’s circumstances they’re pretty useless.

So a big part of the problem is an already inadequate workforce now decimated by COVID. And your

solution? Demand that Air Canada and other carriers hire adequate numbers of workers who, it turns out, are kind of essential? Nah! Blame the government and demand they cut the few public health requirements still in effect? Yup!

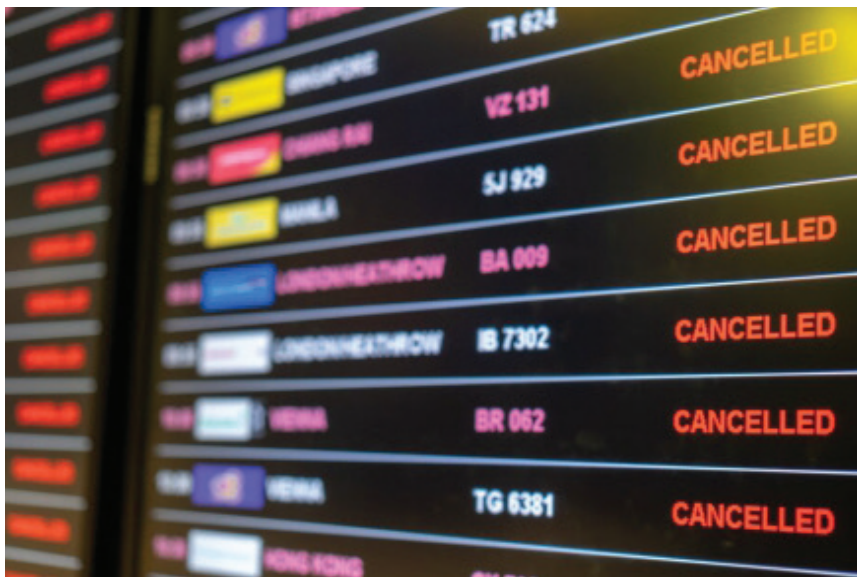
Your solution to a problem caused by a virus is to make the spread of viruses easier. Genius.

So go ahead and complain. Forget about the corporate greed that is the real culprit. The corporate media and airline industry are heavily invested in the pandemic being over, science and public health be damned.

They are happy to give you a megaphone to shout in the wrong direction.

And we thank you for your service.

Signed: COVID and your new pal, MonkeyPox



loudest are probably the same ones contributing most of the problems.

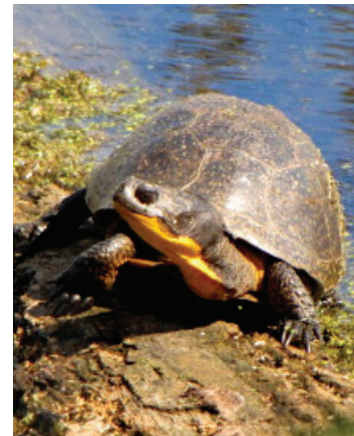
You refuse to acknowledge that airports, like any crowded indoor space only more so, are super-spreader environments. This

Even in the before times airlines were bumping up their profits by eliminating workers and replacing them with “time saving” machines. Which would be great if air travel was straight forward and simple

DoFo welcomes turtle killer to cabinet

Former Bracebridge mayor Graydon Smith is Ontario’s new Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. He is also facing charges, along with other members of Bracebridge council, of knowingly killing and destroying the breeding grounds of endangered Blanding’s turtles.

Despite warnings from locals over 2 years, the town plowed



ahead with a paved road right through the turtle habitat. Given the choice between animals facing extinction and development, development won unanimously. Town lawyers say they’ll get the charges thrown out of court because the town can do whatever it wants, can’t it?

The only surprise here is that DoFo didn’t appoint Smith environment minister.

Tax fraud charges against ex-Tory MP mysteriously dropped

by: John Bell

During his 18 years as a Reform Party, Canadian Alliance and then Conservative MP Rob Anders was a champion of lower taxes. And when government (even the ones he was part of) didn’t lower them enough it seems he took the DIY route.

Anders was put on trial for 5 charges of evading taxes, hiding capital gains, and lying on his tax returns to the tune of \$750,000. The “misleading” returns were filed from 2012 to 2018, so include 2 years when he was still a Harper government MP.

Then, shockingly, on the first day of the trial the Crown dropped all charges. “Last week, new information came to my attention, the consideration of which led me to believe that I no longer had a reasonable prospect of conviction,” said prosecutor Tyler Lord.

This is odd, since the charges were leveled over 2 years ago. Wonder what miraculous new info popped up in the nick of time?

One thing that Anders had going for him – Canada has the weakest white collar crime laws among OECD nations, and a poor record

of convicting big-time tax avoiders. So, no prospect of conviction does not mean innocent.

For those not familiar with this exemplar of Canadian conservatism, a career review is in order. Then we can leave it to you to decide if Anders is “innocent”.

He was under 30 when first elected as a Reform (soon to be rebranded Canadian Alliance) MP. He was hailed as one of the “fresh, young faces” of the conservative movement, along with the likes of Jason Kenney and Ezra Levant. He was slavishly loyal to Stephen Harper, Frank Nitti to Harper’s Capone.

In 2001 Anders was the only MP who voted against granting honorary citizenship to Nelson Mandela. He maintained Mandela was a communist terrorist. Throughout his career Anders has been a rabid anti-communist.

MP Anders was assigned the veterans affairs file. His dedication to his job was revealed after a 2012 meeting with a veterans’ support group. “He was out like a light for about five minutes. He came in late, didn’t ask any questions and then fell asleep. Wow ... I couldn’t believe my eyes,” reported veteran Jim Lowther.

Anders counter-attacked, brand-

ing the ex-soldier “an NDP hack”. Lowther responded saying he was a card-carrying Conservative. “I did two tours of Bosnia and one in Afghanistan – and now I’m a NDP hack? Never been called that before.”

In fact, Anders was famous for falling asleep in Parliament. Photos and videos of him catching his beauty rest abound.



Anders and his leader, Stephen Harper

Back in 2005 Anders was caught illegally using public money to send a flyer to voters, which was puzzling in a number of ways. For one

thing the pamphlet, which was supposed to be about crime and crystal meth, contained a survey question about “homosexual sex marriage”. For another the propaganda was sent to people in Richmond BC, and he represented a Calgary riding.

Worth noting: he was co-chair of the Scrutiny of Regulations Committee at the time. But then Tories like Anders are notoriously

anti-regulation.

And then there was the time he accused then NDP leader Thomas Mulcair of “hastening”

Jack Layton’s death by supporting the call for a 2011 election. The implication was that Mulcair did so to further his career. Mulcair was guilty of some pretty shitty things while NDP misleader, but this wasn’t one of them.

Finally his constituents started to turn on him. Was it the regular scandals, somnambulism and wackadoo statements? Perhaps, but Anders’ real sin was supporting the formation of the far-right split from the Alberta Conservatives – the Wildrose Party. Despite a glowing endorsement from Stephen Harper he lost his job.

Since then he has “worked” as a lobbyist for the gun industry, and for the Christo-fascist group Focus on the Family. He has also traveled to the US to be a paid, right-wing heckler at Democratic political rallies. He is much respected in Trumpian circles.

Now that he no longer faces the prospect of prison, Anders can sit back and help stir up the rabid far-right fringe in Alberta. And in a few years, when he hits 55 he can start to collect his MP’s pension of just under \$100,000 a year. If he lives to 90 he’ll receive about \$4.8 million.

Wonder if he’ll pay his taxes?

Join the picket lines

by: Sid Lacombe

Tens of thousands of workers have struck across Canada in recent months. They are part of a larger conflict between workers and the pandemic profiteer bosses that is spreading around the world.

Almost 45,000 building trades workers have struck in Canada. Many locals have agreed to new contracts but some groups are still out. It was the biggest strike wave in Ontario in decades.

Metro warehouse workers in Etobicoke struck and won significant pay increases. Railway workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers struck against Toronto terminal railways in the spring. More than 750 electrical workers who keep the trains running for CN are still out on strike. Airport workers, who have suffered brutal conditions for the past 2 years are beginning job actions to protest low pay, staff shortages and long hours. Concrete and building workers in Vancouver struck and shut down half of the building projects in the city.

From the union drives at Starbucks, Amazon and Apple in the US to the RMT strikes in the UK, workers are pushing to maintain a basic standard of living against rising inflation caused by corporate profiteering. Bosses are raking in

billions while workers suffer.

The capitalists are preparing an offensive. There have been dozens of articles in the corporate media blaming inflation on wage increases. This is part of an ideological attack designed to divide workers and to force wage demands downward.

But we know that inflation is caused primarily by corporate profiteering. Some left economists are now speaking of greedflation. Supply chain shortages and delays have an impact but the biggest culprit is profits.

Joseph Choonara writes in the International Socialism Journal, "Indeed, economic historian Adam Tooze has compiled evidence showing how a push for profits explains surging prices far better than a supposed wage-price spiral. From the second quarter of 2020 to the end of 2021, 53.9 percent of price rises in the US were driven by increased corporate profits, with 38.3 percent due to non-labour inputs such as raw materials, energy or machinery. Meanwhile, a mere 7.9 percent of the price rises could be attributed to increasing labour costs, well below the average for 1979-2019 (61.8 percent)."

Workers are demanding a share of the massive profits. The CN strikers highlight the fact that CN made almost \$5 billion in 2021 while workers endure longer hours with less pay. RMT workers talk of

the £500,000,000 in profits made by the railway companies over the past year.

This has led to a shift in the way that workers are responding. Corporate greed is understood to be a main driver of inequality. And the pandemic laid bare the real class divide.

Pandemic heroes

One consistency in all of the workers strikes is the pandemic. At the beginning of the covid outbreaks in 2020, workers were told they had to

to fellow workers without proper protective gear.

The governments and business leaders praised the workers as essential and called them heroes for continuing to keep the system going. In some cases workers were even given short term 'pandemic pay' wage increases. Each of them remembers when those increases were taken away prematurely after only a few months. Many were told by their employers that they would be compensated for their sacrifices when the pandemic was over and

workers even further.

The anger and bitterness is palpable on the picket lines. Class struggle is rising to the surface.

Public sector

While many of the recent strikes have happened in the private sector, there are fights brewing among workers in the public sector - particularly in health care and education.

During the pandemic, governments froze wages for nurses in Ontario and actually cut them back in Alberta. Doug Ford's bill 124 capped wage increases at 1 percent a year. With inflation numbers reaching almost 7 percent this results in a real pay cut for health care workers. Likewise, his recent budget reduced spending on education by \$1.3 billion.

Just before the covid pandemic hit, teachers in Ontario were in revolt, organizing rotating strikes and mobilizing tens of thousands against Ford's cuts. As we head towards a new school year, the possibility of new uprisings is very real.

The bosses are planning to attack and the media and politicians will line up to blame workers for the economic woes brought about by capitalist profiteering. As these battles heat up, we will need to mobilize for strike support and get to the picket lines whenever they spring up to support the workers fighting for fair wages and decent jobs.



continue to work to keep the economy afloat. Many risked their lives to go to dangerous workplaces where they were often in close proximity

the next contracts were ready to be signed. Those contracts are up for negotiation now but the bosses have decided to try and squeeze the

HBC workers strike against corporate greed

More than 330 workers at the HBC e-commerce warehouse in Scarborough are on strike. The warehouse is the processing facility for online HBC orders

HBC took money from the federal government through the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) but none of that money actually went to these workers. These pandemic profiteers are nickel-and-diming workers,

Workers on the picket line spoke of being forced to use up their vacation days when they were ill. To add insult to injury, workers can only access an employee discount if they sign up for an HBC credit card - reminiscent of the 'company store' model which fleeces workers when they are on the job, and when they are off the job.

The constant drive by managers to speed up the already relentless pace of work, combined with no pay increases in years, has these workers furious.

The corporation is trying to bring in scab buses to keep the operation going. Workers have stood strong and defeated these efforts, and trucks have not been able to enter the facility. Many tradespeople are also respecting the picket line.

Join the picket line and show your #solidarity at: 100 Metropolitan Rd, Scarborough. The key time to support is early in the morning when the scab buses are being brought in.

The strikers remain defiant and have said that they will put themselves on the line to keep the facility shut.

Henry called for the line to hold fast. "They are trying to get through here, but we are going to make sure that nothing can be done in here."

As we went to press, HBC won an injunction to limit the pickets to 4 minutes stoppage time. This will be a challenge to the whole labour movement to deliver the needed solidarity with mass pickets to challenge the anti-union laws.



and operates much like an Amazon fulfillment centre.

They are demanding retroactive pay increases that they did not get during the pandemic. The workers continued to work during the worst of the Covid pandemic, putting themselves at risk while HBC's profits from their e-commerce division grew.

Many workers have years of experience at this facility. With inflation climbing for rent, gas and food, they have fallen far behind the minimum salary required for a living wage in Toronto. Socialist Worker spoke with workers who despite a decade of work, are still only making about \$18 an hour. The pre-inflation minimum living wage in Toronto was set at \$22.

offering a measly 36 cents for the first year and 18 cents in the second year and refusing to pay the retroactive pay workers are owed since their contract expired in May 2021.

Striker Margaret Henry explains, "We are striking today because we don't have fair wages, we are underpaid and they are increasing quotas. We need our retroactive pay from years back. We have sacrificed our families to work through the pandemic. They are refusing our retro pay and we need a pay increase to keep in line with the cost of living which is going up every day. If we take what they are offering us which is not good we are just falling back into poverty which we cannot afford."

Rail strikes threaten British Tories

For three days in mid-June members of the Rail, Marine and Transport Workers Union (RMT) brought most of Britain's trains to a standstill. In negotiations rail bosses were playing hardball, threatening layoffs and offering pay raises far below the current inflation rate of 12%.

Rail workers aren't having it. RMT leader Mick Lynch took to the media, easily refuting Tory charges that wage increases were fueling inflation, pointing to record high corporate profiteering.

Despite the inconvenience to travelers, the strike had massive support from other unions, and general public. Dan, a striker from Coventry told Socialist Worker UK: "People from the public, not in a trade union, donated £60,000 to the strike fund last week."

The militancy and public support has the scandal-plagued Tories rattled. But there is a danger that RMT leadership will use strikes as



a negotiating tool and accept some layoffs and wage hikes less than inflation. Members like Dan want to go further: "I'd like to see more strikes announced.... When we have the movement supporting us, we want to keep momentum going."



Workers at an Apple store in Maryland won their union vote

Cancel Canada Day one year later

*One year ago, Canada day events were canceled across the country. What was usually a day of nationalist fervour was, instead, a day of mourning and anger at the treatment of Indigenous people. Tens of thousands marched across the country as statues of colonizers were toppled. The Canadian ruling class was shaken by the events. Since then politicians of all stripes have tried to reclaim Canada day and have tried to erase the memory of that unprecedented moment. **John Bell** looks at the legacy of the day and the lengths our politicians and business leaders are going to reclaim their colonial project.*

Just a year ago “Canada Day” was all but cancelled. The unmarked graves of hundreds of Indigenous children were being uncovered. Solidarity with Indigenous land and water defenders was building, and with it awareness and frank discussion of Canada’s genocidal colonialism.

The slogan “No Pride in Genocide” was put forward by Idle No More and other Indigenous groups and #CancelCanadaDay got results. More than 50 municipalities cancelled celebrations in 2021, replaced by vigils or community meetings. The celebrations that went ahead were muted to say the least.

The far-right and Canada day

Fast forward a year. Instead of solidarity and honest examination of Canada’s genocidal track record, Canada Day 2022 is being hijacked by the far-right, many of the same figures who organized the illegal occupation of Ottawa’s streets this winter.

This didn’t just happen. And the right-wing pushback is not restricted to attacking Indigenous rights, but that is a crucial part of a plan to “take back Canada” for the corporate status quo.

Although unmarked graves continue to be discovered, this no longer makes headlines. Instead we are beginning to see articles questioning the findings, and reasserting the old lies that the Residential Schools were beneficial. Sometimes it is masked by polite terms and up front disclaimers: “I’m not a racist, but...”

Sometimes the dog-whistle is dispensed with and the genocide denial is right up front.

Right-wing academics and influencers, like William Gairdner and Thomas Flanagan have been at work for year denying the genocidal reality of colonial history. They

are devoted to preventing the thing that poses the greatest threat to the Canada they love: solidarity between young environmental activists and Indigenous land defenders.

If those names are unfamiliar to you, rest assured they are well-known and influential in conservative and far-right circles. Let’s meet them.

hatred of “statism” and glorification of the individual, and the holy family. Any provision of services by the state – healthcare, education, welfare, support for people with disability, etc. – is an deviation designed to weaken and control our independent human nature.

As for Indigenous rights, he

land is simple: assimilation.

So it is natural that he adds his voice to genocide denial and writes favourably about Residential Schools. “I found it odd that in so many photos of Indian students in these schools, almost all look like clean, well-dressed, well-fed, happy kids. How come?” is typical

He was teacher, friend, mentor and close advisor to Stephen Harper through his rise to power. Harper’s political strategy – build a right-wing fortress in the west from which to launch an assault on national power – is based on Flanagan’s ideas and financed by big oil and gas money. Like Gairdner, for Flanagan the solution to the “Indian problem” is assimilation: cultural genocide.

In 2009 he wrote a document for a petro-financed “think tank” called ‘Resource Industries and Security Issues in Northern Alberta’. Everyone who opposes conservative ideology and supports Indigenous struggles should read this document.

It is a threat assessment that reveals the ultimate fear for Tory “nation-builders” – solidarity in struggle between a mass environmental movement and Indigenous land defenders.

Whitewashing residential schools

A year ago that fear must have seemed very real. Patriotic statues were being toppled and the genocidal nature of Canada’s “nation-building” made headlines around the world. So people like Gairdner and Flanagan went to work, lining up compliant academics and scribes to ramp up the denial machine and discredit the truth of Residential Schools as instruments of oppression and land theft.

It is noteworthy that Gairdner and Flanagan collaborated in April for the 2022 gathering of Civitas, a shadowy far-right “ideas” conference where attendees are sworn to secrecy so they can freely speak their bigoted minds. Gairdner is the founder of Civitas and Flanagan hosted a symposium called “Indian Residential Schools and the Issue of ‘Unmarked Graves’”, featuring a trio of discredited academic genocide deniers.



Gairdner is heir to his family’s wealth and libertarian ideas. He has authored right-wing op-eds beloved by the National Post and best-selling books like *The Trouble With Canada* (too “woke”), *The Trouble With Democracy* (too many little people getting in the way), and *The War Against the Family* (uppity women and gays). The through-line is a

opposes government reconciliation policies, as feeble as they may be, because they imply Canada has something to apologize for. He is an unabashed nationalist; his idea of Canada is based on unopposed exploitation of the natural wealth that lies behind “nation building”. The solution to the problem posed by Indigenous people’s claim to the

of his style. Flanagan was a key academic of the “Calgary School”, devoted to libertarian economics, meritocracy and unfettered oil and gas exploitation. Like those who share his ideology, he extols the free market but happily looks the other way when his corporate friends go cap in hand to government for subsidies, tax breaks and handouts.



Tens of thousands took to the streets to #CancelCanadaDay

It is noteworthy that Gairdner and Flanagan collaborated in April for the 2022 gathering of Civitas, a shadowy far-right “ideas” conference where attendees are sworn to secrecy so they can freely speak their bigoted minds. Gairdner is the founder of Civitas and Flanagan hosted a symposium called “Indian Residential Schools and the Issue of ‘Unmarked Graves’”, featuring a trio of discredited academic genocide deniers.

For the right, “taking back Canada” begins with taking back Canada Day.

Other Civitas highlights include “How To Make Canada the Most Pro-Family Country in the World” and “Gender, Biology and the Woke Revolution”. If you needed a slogan for the proceedings it would be “Take Back Canada”.

For the right, “taking back Canada” begins with taking back Canada Day.

But there is a problem. When Harper was on the rise, he was able to cobble together a winning coalition by convincing the far-right bigots from the Reform Party base to bite their tongues and pretend to be pragmatic centrists. In this he had support from the likes of Gairdner and Flanagan. But the cracks were only papered over and by the end of the Harper years the neo-Tory coalition fractured, splitting off the openly racist People’s Party federally, and a multitude of far-right splinters in the crucial Alberta hinterland.

Sadly it was the COVID pandemic, which required a strong state

intervention to contain, which provided a new basis of far-right unity. Racist, anti-science conspiracy theories spread faster than viruses. While this coalition pretended a populist anti-corporatism, their connections to the oil and gas industry are well documented.

A cursory glance revealed the white supremacist roots of this coalition, even though it used patriotism and vague rhetoric about “freedom” and non-existent constitutional rights as camouflage. It is reminiscent of this passage from Sinclair Lewis’s 1935 novel *It Can’t Happen Here*, imagining the rise of fascism in the US: “... the struggle was befogged



by the fact that the worst Fascists were they who disowned the word ‘Fascism’ and preached enslavement to Capitalism under the style of Constitutional and Traditional Native American Liberty.” (Note: “nativism” is what we refer to as white supremacy.)

The line between conservative ideology and far-right organizations is increasingly blurred. The old centrist Harperite coalition cannot be reassembled. The Reform Party bigots have the example of Trump and a Republican style politics that is openly contemptuous of democracy. The overturn of *Roe v Wade* is proof, and you can bet right-wing

Tories are drooling at the prospect of reopening the abortion debate.

Rather than pull the far-right to the centre, the opposite is happening. Tory MPs paid homage to the convoy movement. Interim leader Candice Bergen bought dinner for neo-nazi organizers. At least 20 CPC MPs showed up for friendly discussion with organizers of the far-right Canada Day re-occupation of Ottawa. It appears any new coalition will be far to the right of the old Harper regime.

Pierre Poilievre and his ilk think they can harness the increasingly confident far-right for their electoral ambitions. Every day Poilievre throws another log on the populist fire. They play a dangerous game, offering confidence and resources to fascists, risking the tail wagging the Tory dog.

I believe this Tory/far-right coalition has major weaknesses that make it possible to smash it up. Possible but not easy. It means extending the “community solidarity” model that emerged in opposition to the Ottawa trucker occupation – community activists and labour groups coming together for mutual support. Crucial to this is for organized labour to take the threat of an unopposed far-right more seriously.

Their coalition is based on selfish individualism, hatred and reaction. We are different, solidarity and co-operation are in our DNA. We need to push beyond blinkered electoral politics and rediscover the source of our power.

The far-right has showed us their priority: to destroy the growing bonds of Indigenous struggle, beginning with Canada Day. Our job is to defend and extend those bonds, to build “community solidarity” for Indigenous justice and environmental salvation. Our failure to do so carries dire threats. Let’s tell them – we’re not going back!

Liberals hypocrisy on Indigenous Reconciliation



On National Indigenous Peoples’ day, Coastal GasLink prepared to drill under the Wetzin Kwa river against the wishes of the Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs.

by: Kim McAuley

Today was #CancelCanadaDay and tomorrow, and every day that follows, is #CancelCanadaDay until we have Indigenous self-determination, land back and an end to 154 years of illegal land occupation, oppression and genocide of Indigenous peoples”. This statement on #CancelCanadaDay July 1, 2021 applies today and every July 1 until there is full reconciliation. Indigenous peoples will decide when that has been achieved. We are not close yet.

The process of uncovering the full depth and breadth of the genocide on Turtle Island continues. We are still both mourning and livid. We can’t capture in words the depth and breadth of outrage and grief. A year has passed and what is being done by ‘our government’? Nothing of value that demonstrates they’re acting on their statements on Truth and Reconciliation. In fact, the opposite.

On their website (under the “Our Platform” tab) regarding implementing the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Liberals state “... UNDRIP, provides a road map to advance lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. That’s why we made sure to pass legislation to implement the Declaration here in Canada. But full implementation of the Declaration requires a whole-of-government approach.” There is more stated there, all written in their typical smoke and mirrors style – to convey that ‘they care greatly and are taking action and doing something’.

Their actions demonstrate that what they really mean is ‘we don’t actually have to DO anything about the foundation of horrors our founding fathers built our present privilege upon’. There is further evidence of this in a recent court brief filed by the Liberal government’s attorney general – the ultimate body upholding ‘the law’ in Canada – who had the hubris to write “Courts have confirmed that the UN Declaration can serve as an interpretive aid to Canadian law. However, neither the UN Declaration nor the UN Declaration Act can displace the Constitution or clear statutory language, nor has any Canadian Court suggested that the UN Declaration itself has constitutional status. Giving the UN Declaration constitutional force would require a constitutional amendment.”... “While the UN

Declaration is a persuasive source to aid in the interpretation of laws, the Court’s interpretation of legislation must remain grounded in the legislative text”. The court file (T-1714-21) is public record and anyone can read it. And they know that. This directly contradicts what they say at press conferences and on their website. And they do not care. Because they hold the balance of power.

The resistance of the Wet’suwet’en and the arrests of Karla Tait and Freda Huson during the police raid on the Unist’ot’en camp triggered national protests surrounding the Coastal GasLink project, forcing the federal government to engage with the Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs (rather than the band councils who they often find easier to negotiate with over land and resources) and achieved a Memorandum of Understanding to preserve Indigenous authority over land. With that won, in good faith, the hereditary chiefs continued to pursue their cause in court to stop the pipeline, but Ottawa has invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the project and when Covid hit, lobbyists for the oil and gas industry moved quickly to get construction crews for pipelines labeled as essential and swiftly resumed construction. It is due to be operating by 2023.

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) demanded that Canada stop construction on the pipeline until free, prior and informed consent was given by First Nations, stating they were “disturbed by forced removal, disproportionate use of force, harassment and intimidation by law enforcement officials against Indigenous peoples who peacefully oppose large-scale development projects on their traditional territories”. That was in 2019. The government has still not responded to UNCERD and says it will do so some time this year. All they are doing is delaying – literally buying time – until the pipeline is completed.

The courts in this country (and every capitalist country) exist to uphold the rule of law for capitalists. The police exist to enforce law and order for those who pay their salaries – capitalists. Building a movement that links ongoing resistance of Indigenous people to the colonial state and workers struggles against the bosses will be crucial for the success of both.

Borders kill—dozens of migrants suffocated in San Antonio, Texas

The horrors that killed at least 46 people in Texas repeat themselves all over the world

There was horror on the US border as at least 46 people were found dead inside a tractor-trailer in San Antonio, Texas, on June 27. The terrible discovery was made by a worker who heard cries for help coming from inside the trailer and found a pile of bodies inside.

In a desperate attempt to cross the border, migrants got onto a truck with no air conditioning and no water in the sweltering Texas heat. A further 16 people, including four children, were taken to hospital after suffering heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Democratic politician and candidate for governor of Texas Beto O'Rourke called for action to "dismantle human smuggling rings". But the blood is on the hands of the US state and its border controls.

The number of people attempting to cross the border irregularly has risen to the highest levels in more than a decade this year. Border forces said in March this year they expected 18,000 encounters with migrants a day.

While increasing numbers of migrants are risking their lives to get to the US, the options for safe routes across the border are basically non-existent. Despite the promises president Joe Biden made during his election campaign, immigration policy has changed



little since the presidency of Donald Trump. The public health order known as Title 42, which the Trump administration first used to expel migrants, is still in use. The order sends migrants back with no chance to apply for asylum. Often this leads to migrants repeatedly making attempts to cross the border.

During Biden's presidency, this policy has turned away at least a million people. The policy director at the American Immigration Council, Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, said policies like these only result in tragedy.

"With the border shut as tightly as it is today for migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, people have been pushed into more and more dangerous routes," he posted on Twitter. "Truck smuggling is way up."

In just one year ending last September, US Customs and Border Protection reported 557 deaths on the southwest border alone, including in Texas. The actual number is likely to be even higher.

US border controls kill hundreds, if not thousands, a year. The same horror that refugees and migrants face in Texas repeats itself worldwide.

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International Socialists study series

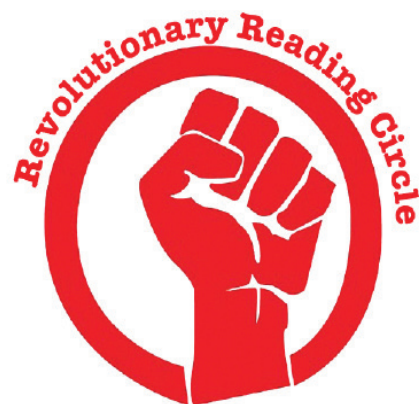
Imperialism and capitalist crisis: view from the global south
Baba Aye, Socialist Workers League, Nigeria
July 10, 1pm

Stalinism's long shadow
Tomáš Tengely-Evans, Socialist Workers Party, UK
August 7, 1pm

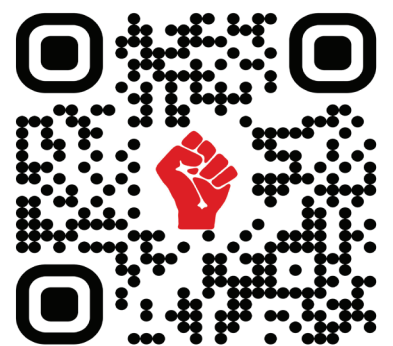
How Marxist economics explains the crisis
Faline Bobier, IS Canada
August 28, 1pm

Revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx
Chantal Sundaram, IS Canada

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Territorial Acknowledgement

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

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WHERE WE STAND socialist.ca/ourstand

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.

Capitalism cannot regulate the catastrophic effects of climate change. We stand for climate justice, including the

concept of "just transition" for affected workers.

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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.

Read the full statement at:
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G7 and Nato summits will see Ukraine war escalate

The war in Ukraine has settled into a murderous and grinding conflict that will cause massive human destruction and could set the scene for further horrors. The warmongers had a packed schedule in late June, with the G7 and the Nato summit happening within a few days of each other.

The Nato conference, will see the nuclear-based military alliance discuss how best to escalate war with Russia over the invasion of Ukraine. Leaders are poised to put in place a renewed key Strategic Concept document at the conference. This will outline Nato's future objectives. It will see an aggressive plan to expand Nato's military backing for its eastern European allies.

It will include a new pledge that Nato's allies including Britain would deploy ships, warplanes and troops to specific territories if the US and its allies believe it's necessary. Russia would be designated as "the most direct and immediate threat to our security" according to Nato secretary general Jens Stoltenberg.

The summit will also see pressure on Turkish leader Tayyip Erdogan to lift his veto over Finland and Sweden's bid to join the alliance. That would clear the way for a major

Nato expansion.

The Nato summit will build on decisions and promises made at the G7 conference of wealthier nations. Leaders there reasserted that they were "unified" in their opposition to Russia. The group also continued plans to ramp up the economic war on Russia. Several

of the G7 group moved to ban all imports of Russian gold and tighten sanctions.

On June 20, the Baltic state of Lithuania, a Nato member, blocked the transport of many goods, including steel and coal, to the Russian territory of Kaliningrad. It is separated from the rest of Russia by Estonia, Latvia and

Lithuania. The secretary of Russia's Security Council, Nikolai Patrushev, said, "Russia will definitely respond to such hostile actions. Their consequences will have a significant negative impact on the population of Lithuania."

The G7 and Nato councils of war come as the New York Times says United States CIA officers are already in Ukraine to pass information to Ukrainian officials. And special operations forces from several countries, including Britain, are training Ukrainian troops near the battlefield. The Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky was set to ask for more arms for the country's military at the Nato summit.

As Western leaders discussed how to escalate the conflict, Russia continued its assault on Ukraine. For the first time in three weeks, Russian military forces fired missiles at the capital, Kiev. Russia also announced it will send nuclear-capable missile systems to its ally Belarus.

President Vladimir Putin said Iskander-M systems "can fire ballistic and cruise missiles, both conventional and nuclear types". The systems have a range of up to 310 miles.

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Protests across Spain after massacre of migrants in Melilla

Anti-racists held angry mobilisations in Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Bilbao, Seville, Granada, Cádiz, Mataro and Zaragoza

Protests erupted across Spain on the evening of June 26 after the mass killing of at least 37 people. They died trying to enter the Spanish enclave of Melilla in north Africa—a colonial legacy—that borders Morocco.

Anti-racists held angry mobilisations in cities including Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Bilbao, Seville, Granada, Cádiz, Mataro and Zaragoza—and many more are planned.

Moroccan security forces, acting in alliance with the Spanish National Police and the Civil Guard, crossed the barrier between Morocco and Melilla. They hit, beat to death and drove back migrants who had managed to break through to Melilla. This is the price of the European Union's border regime—bloodied and pummelled corpses of desperate people.

Melilla and Ceuta, Spain's other North African enclave, have the European Union's only land borders on the African continent. Spain and Morocco seal the border with ten-metre iron fences, barbed wire, watchtowers and brutal repression of those who try to enter the EU without the official documents.

A video and several photographs featured on the Público website show assaults on 500 people who had reached the fences and 133 who managed to cross. The migrants had organised themselves and launched a planned and defiant attempt to breach the border.

But then came the states' response. "The migrants who managed to cross were surrounded by the Spanish Police and the Civil Guard, who pushed them towards the Moroccan side. Some managed to break free and run further

into Melilla," says photojournalist Javier Bernardo.

He added that he was surprised to see Moroccan forces openly working in Spanish territory—normally strictly forbidden.

Spain's president Pedro Sanchez from the PSOE, the equivalent of the Labour Party, paid homage to the work of the Moroccan forces. He

government, which calls itself progressive, has applauded in the declarations of Pedro Sánchez, a massacre which is the product of the EU's migration policies.

"Despite the indignation of many people in the city, this Spanish semi-enclave in Morocco has tried to maintain normality, as if dozens of people had not been murdered here in cold

Sanchez peddled the disgusting evasions of all ruling classes, including Britain's. He said, "If anyone is responsible for everything that happened at the border, it is the mafias that traffic in human beings." In fact, these traffickers gain from the borders and laws that stop migrants. And it is the violence of the Spanish and Moroccan states that are so deadly.

Even the thoroughly mainstream United Nations refugee agency said many of those killed and injured were from Chad, Niger, Sudan and South Sudan, and therefore possible asylum seekers according to international law.

The previously radical Podemos party is in government with the PSOE. Its spokesperson Idoia Villanueva called only for the imposition of "international law". The Moroccan authorities officially recognised only the deaths of 23 people who were suffocated or crushed near the Moroccan fence.

Spain has tried systematically to make Morocco responsible for the border with its enclave. The Moroccan government has now taken this on and in return Spain recently supported Morocco's plan to deny self-determination to the people in the territory of Western Sahara.

The protests in Spain are a positive sign of a fight against the government's killer borders. As hunger and poverty grow, there will be more migrants and refugees. The battle continues to overthrow the border regimes of Britain and the European Union.

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described the migrants' attempts to find safety and escape poverty as an attack on Spain's "territorial integrity".

Jesús Melillero, a member of the Marx21 socialist group in Melilla said, "The Spanish

blood."

Spain will seek to have "irregular migration" listed as one of the security threats on Nato's southern flank when the alliance gathers for a warmongers' summit in Madrid on June 28.

In the wake of the Roe v. Wade ruling, we say: **NEVER GOING BACK!**

Outrage and cross-border solidarity have been growing since the leak in May of the draft decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 US Supreme Court decision that established a constitutional right to abortion in the States.

The decision, released on June 24, holds that the Constitution of the U.S. does not confer any right to abortion. This will lead to almost half the states severely restricting or criminalizing abortion, which will disproportionately impact the already hardest hit people in communities south of the border.

Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas were joined by Trump cronies Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. Together with John Roberts, these six voted against three justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

The Democrats have spent decades trying to position themselves as the champion of women's rights. Yet when they had opportunity under Clinton and Obama, they did not create or enact federal laws to protect those rights, and instead left it up to individual states. That gave Christian right-wing Republicans the opportunity to build toward what they've been wanting for decades – overturn Roe, take away reproductive freedom and individual autonomy

– and now we need to fight back all over again.

This is another goose-step forward for the far-right. If they can take this right away, what will be next? Clarence Thomas made this clear when he urged the overturning of other rulings protecting the right to contraception, gay sex and same-sex marriage.

On this side of the border, abortion rights were won because of hard-fought struggle and mass movement action. Recent mainstream media coverage has interviewed veterans of those struggles and those clips are heartening

in many ways and worth watching to prepare for the struggle ahead of us to protect our rights. Those past battles taught us that we can fight and win. The LGBTQ2+, Indigenous sovereignty, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo movements and current labour strikes and successful wins are emboldening many on the left.

We won't sit still here at home in smug satisfaction. Communities in the States need our solidarity and our loud voices now. Justin Trudeau has made strong statements, but words are not enough.

Every freedom we've won has been hard won, usually by the labour movement, and we can't sit down now. There are ongoing problems of access in regions across this country, including in New Brunswick, northern Ontario, in Indigenous communities and the interior of BC. If Trudeau is as serious about protecting reproductive freedom as he claims to be, a good way to show it would be to tackle these problems of unequal access. He could also tax American multi-national companies and use that money to open abortion clinics in Canadian cities close to the US border.

More than court decisions, the struggles of LGBTQ2+, #MeToo, Black Lives Matter and other mass movements are key to creating lasting change. They deeply embed our rights in our culture, they teach us how to stand up for our rights, how to struggle through together, how to protect each other, how to win and how to stand in solidarity when others of us are under threat.

These movements and trade unions' defense of abortion clinics, when right wing bigots try to shut them down, create strong and sure responses that are far more effective at creating change. This is our clarion call as we face the struggles of the post-Roe v. Wade world.



Fight for Trans rights

The far-right is using trans rights to build a campaign of hate

by: Alex Adams

At the Ottawa convoy protests, far-right groups were carrying transphobic placards calling for an end to teaching “gender ideology” in schools and “protection” for children against the same.

Transphobia plays a central role in the ideology of the far-right. Many groups see anti-trans arguments as a gateway to larger attack on LGBTQ2S rights in general. It is crucial for socialists to see and understand how these arguments are being used to fuel the general bigotry of the far-right forces.

The People's Party of Canada (PPC) released a statement last fall promising to “fight radical gender ideology” – proposing to repeal Bill C-16, the legislation passed in 2016 that added gender identity and expression to the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Their statement is a disjointed rant filled with inaccurate characterizations of trans people and boldfaced lies, from the strawman argument for “safety” of women and girls from “biological men” accessing bathrooms to the alleged push by “predatory doctors and activists” for children and youth to identify as trans and undergo the gender transition process.

They also confuse gender identity and sexual orientation, asserting that children with gender dysphoria are “being encouraged to start transitioning, when most of them would grow up to become healthy gays and lesbians.”

Predictably, they are also against the recent legislation banning conversion therapy, which

they promote as “therapeutic counselling to help them accept who they are instead of destroying their bodies”

The PPC hides behind false concern for protecting “women, children, gays and lesbians” from harm brought on by trans activism. It is utterly despicable but not surprising that a homophobic, sexist, and racist party would make this claim.

PPC has also run a candidate in the Fraser Valley in BC who was very involved in leading protests against SOGI, a curriculum tool on sexual orientation and gender identity that was released by the province in 2017. Laura-Lynn Tyler-Thompson first ran for them in a by-election for that BC riding, and then in Red Deer AB in the 2019 federal election. She cites fighting ‘gender ideology’ as her motivation to

get into politics. After that, she became leader of the Christian Heritage Party of BC.

On the provincial level, we have a new far right formation in Ontario called the New Blue Party, which is making similar statements promising to fight “woke activism” on a number of fronts – they tie together their own racism, transphobia and homophobia together in a video to promote the party

The opening for them to do this has been created by the general political climate in which the right is growing. It's especially important for socialists to take the right position on issues of oppression because oppression literally serves to divide the working class. The right sees trans rights as an easy wedge issue to push forward their agenda.

Capitalism from its beginnings has relied

on exploitation and oppression to maintain the dominance of a small minority over the large majority of people. Exploitation and oppression take on various forms and degrees, and vary both over time, and between different societies.

Trans oppression arises from the same roots as women's oppression, and in a way similar to gay and lesbian oppression. The origins of women's oppression in the rise of class society developed with the emergence of class societies and the consolidation of the nuclear family under capitalism. This happened as a consequence of the systematic oppression and dispossession of women and the subordination of women's sexuality. Women's oppression, heteronormativity, the gender binary, the commodification of women's bodies and control over bodily autonomy are deeply embedded in capitalist ideology, as are homophobia and transphobia

There have been a number of so-called progressives who have supported the same arguments against trans rights put forward by self-identified radical feminists (TERFs). This is a wrong position for any credible socialist to take, it is our responsibility to show solidarity with all movements of oppressed groups of people. We need to show respect for how people self-identify, and we need to resist claims that the rights of one oppressed group (trans people) undermine those of another (women).

Such arguments are inherently divisive and potentially reactionary, and they fail to identify oppression in capitalist societies as being driven from the top.

