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**Carney to spend billions on
privatization schemes and war**

**STOP
CARNEY'S
CORPORATE
CARNAGE**



Carney announces new corporate slush fund

Mark Carney's Spring Economic Update is another corporate slush fund which will make the rich richer while working people pay more for public services.

Carney made comparisons with the Norwegian wealth fund which uses public money to build infrastructure and fund services for the citizens there but the actual details of the new Canada Strong Fund show a very different direction. Carney is planning to take billions in tax dollars and give them over to corporate interests for development projects. This amounts to the state and the Canadian people taking on the risk and liabilities of any new development projects while the corporations take the profit. It socializes losses and privatizes any gains.

This is a standard from the

neo-Liberal playbook which assumes that private wealth will 'trickle down' to working people as corporations make more money. The problem is that it doesn't work that way. The money captured by private capital has a tendency to disappear into offshore tax havens while working people here see little benefit. That is not speculation. We now have decades of data that confirms this — privatization only benefits the bosses.

Anthony Marco, President of the Hamilton Labour Council stated this succinctly in an article in the Hamilton Spectator.

"The main problem with the Canada Strong Fund is its focus on de-risking. In simple terms, de-risking is when the government pays the bill if a project fails, but the companies keep the money if it succeeds.

By using our money to attract big

investors into areas like green energy or technology, the government is taking all the risk for the world's richest corporations. If these projects do well, Canadians get very little.

privatization for decades making the argument that the private sector is more efficient than governments and that this will save taxpayers money. But most privatization schemes have



If they fail, the public is left holding an empty bag."

The billionaires have pushed for

shown the exact opposite. Giving money to private companies to build housing for example, has led

to skyrocketing housing costs while affordable options are bulldozed for new condos.

A statement from the Public Service Alliance of Canada, already reeling from massive public sector job cuts, states, "This government must put the needs of workers and families in Canada before those of the wealthy CEOs and private corporations. PSAC calls on the government to invest in the public services that keep our country and our communities safe and strong, and to stop the cuts."

Carney has proven that he is on the side of the bankers and billionaires. He is failing to protect public healthcare despite the massive privatization assault from the premiers. He is curtailing workers rights and trampling on Indigenous Sovereignty.

He must be stopped.

When their laws threaten our bread, and freedom

by: Ibrahim Alsayahy

It has been weeks since Bill C-12 came into force.

In Parliament, it was only a vote. Press releases. Smiling government faces before the cameras. Luxurious halls, thick carpets, and calm voices speaking coldly about "management," "fixing the system," and "the public interest."

But outside those walls, the law began another life.

In apartments across Quebec, in damp basement rooms in Montreal, in shared houses in Laval, on farms near Saint Hyacinthe, in student residences in Sherbrooke, and in hotel rooms turned into temporary shelters in Quebec City, people felt it immediately.

They felt it in their chests before they understood it on paper.

They felt it as fear.

For refugees, temporary workers, and international students, laws like this do not arrive as abstract policy. They do not come in constitutional language or legal arguments. They arrive in the middle of the night, when someone wakes suddenly and wonders what if everything ends tomorrow. They arrive as unanswered messages, uncertain appointments, and life plans erased by a single sentence.

The law entered narrow kitchens, where families count what money is left until the end of the month.

It entered bedrooms where three or four people sleep because rent has become impossible.

It entered fields, factories, restaurants, and warehouses.

It entered hearts like a stone.

In Montreal, Nadia wakes before dawn. The light has not yet arrived, and the city is still asleep. She prepares simple sandwiches for her two children, placing them carefully in

paper bags, because sometimes love is a piece of bread. She leaves them with a neighbour, then takes two buses to reach her cleaning job.

She wipes the desks of major companies whose owners she will never know. She cleans shining glass that looks over a beautiful city, yet she still feels she is looking at it from the outside.

Nadia came to Canada fleeing repression. She thought fear had been left behind in another country, another language. But she discovered that fear can travel.

It is no longer the sound of bombs or soldiers shouting.

Now it is an email.

Now it is an immigration appointment.

Now it is a missing paper.

Now it is an administrative decision with no eyes and no heart.

Her son asked her last week, while tying his school shoes with trembling hands,

Will they take us from school?

She looked at him for a long moment, straightened the collar of his shirt as if she could repair the world, and did not know how to answer.

In rural Quebec, Harpreet's day begins at five in the morning. He steps into air so cold it burns the face and climbs onto an old bus carrying the smell of exhaustion. He reaches the farm before sunrise, when the ground is still wet, the sky still grey, and the body not fully awake.

He bends for ten hours a day through mud, water, and cold. He picks vegetables that will be sold in elegant markets, gathering food he himself cannot afford to buy.

His back has hurt for months. He has not asked for rest.

He knows his permit is tied to one employer. He knows that one word, one complaint, one bad mood from the boss could mean losing work,

housing, and the right to remain.

Bill C-12 did not create that chain.

It only pulled it tighter.

The state and employers speak about "labour shortages."

What they really mean is a hand that works, a mouth that stays silent, and a back that keeps bending.

In Sherbrooke, Maria sits in front of a computer late at night. She is trying to finish a university assignment after a long shift in a fast food restaurant. Her feet ache from standing. Her eyes burn from exhaustion.



Since morning, she has had only cold coffee and a piece of stale bread.

She came as an international student carrying a simple and noble belief: that study and hard work could open the door to a better future.

But tuition rises.

Rent rises.

Food prices rise.

And immigration rules change faster than she can understand them.

Every message from immigration Canada makes her heart shake.

Every rumour of new restrictions spreads among students like fire.

Every administrative delay can swallow years of sacrifice in a

moment.

These are not isolated stories.

This is how the system works.

Modern capitalism needs migrants, but wants them with fewer rights.

It wants the refugee as a worker, not an equal neighbour.

It wants the student as a customer paying fees, not a human being with a secure future.

It wants the temporary worker as a body that produces, not a voice that protests.

That is why a law like Bill C-12

healthcare, and public services are the politicians and corporations they serve.

They want workers to blame the weaker, not the richer.

They want working people born here to fear working people who arrived from elsewhere, instead of all of them looking upward, where profits pile up like snow on palace roofs.

But the truth does not live in press conferences.

The truth lives in the street.

The truth is that migrants cook the food, build the homes, clean the hospitals, drive the trucks, care for the elderly, and keep these cities alive.

And another truth is this:

Fear does not last forever.

In recent weeks, we have seen something greater than the law.

Neighbours walking with families to immigration appointments so no one goes alone.

Students sharing food and rent.

Workers speaking in whispers about organizing, then speaking louder.

Community groups translating rights, confronting lies, and breaking isolation.

This is what those in power truly fear.

Not the poor refugee.

Not the exhausted student.

Not the overworked labourer.

What they fear is these people discovering their shared strength.

Bill C-12 came into force weeks ago.

But another reality has also come into force.

Those treated as temporary are the ones who make this society run.

And the day will come when those who plant, carry, clean, and build raise their voices together and say, We will not live in fear anymore.

Postal Workers vote on agreement: Fight for decent jobs and public services

by: Deborah Murray

After over two years of negotiations, postal workers are voting on a tentative agreement recommended by 60% of the National Executive Board.

In the process, Canada Post stalled negotiations and even walked away from the table on several occasions. It ignored CUPW union delegates and the proposals voted on by 93% of CUPW members.

This fightback has been a difficult one. Postal workers have had to stand their ground in the face of Canada Post's demands for major rollbacks and concessions. They have waged two all-out strikes, rotating strikes, a ban on overtime and flyer distribution. Union members rallied across the country outside offices of federal MPs and at the Ottawa headquarters of Canada Post. They blocked Purolator trucks moving parcel mail that Canada Post shifted to competitors. They withstood a government-imposed vote on the employer's choice demands, resoundingly rejecting it.

CUPW members also launched a nation-wide campaign to save the public postal service from cuts to services currently underway by Canada Post and the Liberal government – closing post offices, replacing door-to-door delivery with community mailboxes and in the process eliminating thousands of jobs.

Canada Post and the Liberal government have attacked postal workers' jobs, their right to strike and collective bargaining. They have announced major cuts to postal services without public consultation as expected under federal

legislation.

Canada Post has blamed postal workers for its declining financial status throughout this round of negotiations. Doug Ettinger was hired as CEO of Canada Post in 2018. Ever since, it has experienced consistent and ever increasing losses. Yet postal workers have watched in dismay as each year the CEO and other board members have awarded themselves huge bonuses.

Why does this keep happening? The answer is that Ettinger is doing what he was hired to do – erode services, cut jobs, incur financial losses, and lay the groundwork to

privatize the postal service.

And now, after this long struggle, postal workers are voting on a tentative agreement in locals across Canada. Voting is expected to finish at the end of May.

This tentative agreement has caused intense debate among members. This division is reflected in the less than unanimous recommendation from the National Executive. Nine voted in favor of recommending the tentative agreement to union members, but five were opposed, including national president Jan Simpson.

A number of CUPW locals

are also recommending a “no” vote including locals in Halifax, Toronto, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Vancouver. Some union members have set up a cupwvoteno.ca website, arguing the tentative agreement contains many rollbacks rejected by the members in the July 2025 forced vote.

A minority report from the five dissenting National Executive members argues the agreement abandons the 2023 demands unanimously endorsed by the National Executive and 93% of CUPW members. The agreement, they argue, is a huge victory for the

employer.

The National Executive members recommending a “yes” vote, have presented the usual fatigued argument, “this deal was the best they could get,” before presenting gains -- keeping the defined benefits pension plan and securing wage increases.

It is hard to tell where the vote will land at this point. A strike vote is being conducted at the same time as the vote on the collective agreement. The National Executive as a whole is recommending a “yes” vote for strike action. Either way, a “yes” strike vote will show postal workers can be a united force. If it is paired with a “no” vote on the agreement, strike actions of various sorts will be back on the table. So too will be the prospect of a lock-out and back-to-work legislation.

Whichever way CUPW members vote, we cannot be expected to carry the battle with Canada Post and the Liberal government alone. While unions, socialists and activists on the ground, notably in Edmonton, Toronto and Halifax, have built strong solidarity in this battle, a glaring need has been exposed. We must build a strong unifying fightback against an ongoing and large anti-union offensive by employers and provincial and national governments.

In this effort, the Canadian Labour Congress needs to step up significantly. It has so far failed us in the role it was intended to play in the labour movement. We need strong cross-labour forums to build a movement with broad public support and a united strategy. We must meet this government offensive with a labour offensive for decent jobs, decent working conditions and protected public services.



Postal workers on the picket line in Scarborough fight to save the public service

...continued from page 8

The Liberals have long made a project of scapegoating immigrants, refugees and migrants for the chronic underfunding of everything from public post-secondary education to affordable housing, deliberately fostering the growing anti-immigrant sentiment that serves to distract from those actually responsible.

It's no secret that the federal Liberals prefer racist scapegoating to taking on premiers like Doug Ford and Danielle Smith in defence of healthcare. The not-so-hidden agenda is that the unprecedented increase in military spending promised by Carney can only be funded by diverting significant funds from social programs. And if they can do it while scapegoating refugees, even if it fuels Pierre Poilievre and the far right, so be it.

Defend healthcare jobs

The other target coming out of the corporatization of healthcare are frontline workers, who already bear the cruel impact of cuts that are out of their control. Every provincial system has stories of nurses and others on the frontline in tears at the end of shifts, unable to sleep over their inability to provide the care they know is needed.

May 5 saw a rally against the

cutting of over 400 front-line jobs (3% of the workforce) at the Ottawa Hospital, mainly nurses and PSW's. The union that represents the 4,300 workers there, CUPE 4000, was joined by the Ottawa Health Coalition and other community

supporters united against targeting health care workers for a crisis caused by chronic underfunding – in a system already plagued by staff shortages and harrowing “hallway care.”

Already, 700 healthcare jobs have

been cut across Ontario, 500 of them in Ottawa. CUPE members at the Bruyère Hospital have launched a 6-week protest campaign to save 70 frontline jobs. CUPE 942 workers at the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre are holding ongoing demon-

strations against planned layoffs of nurses and PSW's at its long-term care facility.

Public healthcare is a union issue, and not only for those who work in it. Their jobs are essential to maintaining a viable public system, not “fat” to be cut while private clinics turn a profit.

Stop the “train wreck” of private healthcare

The fight brewing right now in Ontario could make a difference in pushing back the whole privatization agenda across the country – and could bring together all the outrage in Ontario against the dismantling of public services while Doug cries over the loss of his private jet.

On May 28, there will be a convergence on Union Station in Toronto by train, Go-train, and other transport to “Stop Ford's Privatization Train Wreck.” The ride is free or by donation, with seats available through the Ontario Health Coalition until May 20. This promises to be the first mass protest to stop the privatization of hospitals, and it will march on the Ontario Legislature.

But the message it carries has to be to every provincial government, and to Carney's Liberals: public healthcare in the Canadian state is a human right that was hard-won by ordinary people and won't be lost without a fight.



Premier Eby, hands off the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act!

by: **Bradley Hughes**

In 2019 the NDP government of BC passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), in order to:

“(a) to affirm the application of the [UN] Declaration [on the Rights of Indigenous People] (UNDRIP) to the laws of British Columbia;

(b) to contribute to the implementation of [UNDRIP];

(c) to support the affirmation of, and develop relationships with, Indigenous governing bodies.”

Over the last few months the NDP Premier of BC, David Eby, has attacked all three of those principals.

From dream to nightmare

In 2019, Scott Fraser, then Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, described DRIPA in the BC legislature as “like a dream. ... [it] is a commitment to respect, promote and advance the rights of Indigenous peoples.”

Then Indigenous leaders and Horgan spoke.

Premier Horgan foreshadowed the bill’s fate: “The road travelled to get here has been filled with confrontation, litigation and negotiation. History is littered with words that were not followed up with actions.”

Cheryl Casimer of the Ktunaxa Nation, reminded MLAs of the province’s record, “The relationship between the Crown in Right of British Columbia and First Nations is one that has been mired in racism, denial and, therefore, conflict and adversity. ... our relationship has developed primarily in the courts, where First Nations have sought to be recognized and to protect their rights by challenging these denial-based laws and policies.”

After government and Indigenous leaders lauded the consultation and negotiations that helped create DRIPA, it was passed unanimously.

Old habits

Since 2019 several nations have again gone to court because the NDP government will not recognize their rights. In the last year two court decisions favouring Indigenous land rights have shaken resource industries in BC. And both times Eby was quick to denigrate Indigenous rights.

Last summer, the longest trial in Canadian history ended - it actually started days before DRIPA was introduced. The Quw’utsun (Cowichan) Nation had seasonally occupied their village of Tl’uqtnus, now in Richmond BC, every year since time immemorial until the 1860s. Then this land was sold, initially without

their knowledge, after BC’s first Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Colonel Richard Moody, ignored orders to preserve it, instead selling it to himself, then

any of their land titles. The decision makes it clear that it is B.C.’s obligation to advance reconciliation in these circumstances,” said Quw’utsun Nation Chief Cindy

claims can be made on Indigenous land without their consent or knowledge. They also ruled that DRIPA means all BC laws should be interpreted according to

Indigenous organizations forced him to back down. He then said he would instead suspend it for three years, making this vote a confidence motion. But ten NDP MLAs refused to fall in line and he backed down again. Finally, the following Monday, Eby announced that he wouldn’t touch DRIPA during this session, and instead will negotiate with Indigenous “on a path forward to discuss and consider the government’s stated legal concerns, while upholding the title and rights and human rights of First Nations.”

When a “progressive” party lurches rightwards, the right benefits. Eby’s success in convincing people to oppose Indigenous rights, increases support for the leaderless BC Conservative party.

A recent Angus Reid poll shows that respondents who agree that DRIPA, “goes too far in limiting provincial authority over land and resources” has risen from 44% last March to 53% now. Meanwhile, Eby’s approval rating declined from 53% to 37%. The BC Conservatives now have 44% of decided voters vs the NDP’s 42%. 70% of those who believe DRIPA “goes too far” would vote Conservative. Eby’s turn away from reconciliation is increasing the chances for a Conservative government.

An injury to one is an injury to all

In an open letter to MLAs, the First Nations Leadership Council, wrote “Premier Eby has falsely framed his proposed suspension of DRIPA as a necessary and urgent response to legal uncertainty arising from recent court decisions that affirm First Nations’ inherent title and rights in this province. His framing is not only misleading but is also inherently wrong. We are dismayed at the degree to which the court cases and DRIPA are being misrepresented, mischaracterized and conflated as rhetoric and fearmongering.”

It is urgent that we act in solidarity with Indigenous nations and beat back the NDP attacks on DRIPA. Their attempts to reverse Indigenous land claims victories in the courts must be stopped.

Behind these attacks is the NDP allegiance to resource industries. They are already attacking environmental regulations under cover of fighting Trump. While the fracked gas industry enjoys billions in provincial subsidies, our schools, hospitals and post-secondary systems are underfunded and failing. Premier Eby’s racist arguments are a distraction from the multiple crises caused by putting profit before people.

Let’s build solidarity with Indigenous nations and all of Eby’s other victims.

selling it on for a profit without ever visiting it.

The court ruled that it was still stolen land, and that the Quw’utsun Nation has title to land “owned” by Canada and the city of Richmond. Further, “BC owes a duty to the Cowichan to negotiate in good faith reconciliation” for land sold to individuals and businesses. The Quw’utsun have been clear that negotiations were preferable to court, and are eager to negotiate. They point out that, “Generations of real Quw’utsun people ... were denied the ability to exercise our way of life, and access to key food and trade systems, when our settlement lands at Tl’uqtnus were taken from us. We continue to experience the impacts today. However, we are a respectful people. We intentionally did not bring this case against any individual private landowners, and we did not seek to invalidate

Daniels (Sulsulxumaat).

Mired in racism

“Mired in racism,” Eby instead decided to appeal, repeating far-right talking points “These are profound issues that are hard to consider in the absence of the real people ... the homeowners, the business owners, ... I want the court to ... understand the impact on certainty for business, for prosperity and for our negotiations with Indigenous people.” The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) pointed out this means that members of Quw’utsun nation are not considered “real people”, and plays up the unfounded fear that they will take away homes and businesses.

The second case was the BC Court of Appeal ruling last December that BC’s mineral claims process was inconsistent with UNDRIP because mineral

UNDRIP. A Premier committed to reconciliation would welcome this opportunity to patiently explain “free, prior and informed consent”, pointing out that amending the Mineral Tenure Act is part of the DRIPA action plan. Eby instead announced that his government would appeal the ruling and amend DRIPA to prevent Indigenous nations from forcing changes to this, or any other, BC law. In reality, changing laws was DRIPA’s whole purpose.

Eby summoned Indigenous leaders to a meeting on April 2nd to dictate his unilateral changes. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and UBCIC President responded: “We can’t have the key Indigenous-specific piece of human rights legislation subject to cabinet will, when other human rights legislation is justiciable.”

Unanimous opposition from



Resist the roll-back on Indigenous Rights

Carney and the Premiers are attacking Indigenous rights to prop up corporate profit

by: Brian Champ

Justin Trudeau-era reconciliation was a cover for continuing “energy superpower” and extractive policies.

Wet’suwet’en land defender and matriarch Freda Husan exposed this most clearly in 2020, declaring that “Reconciliation is Dead” after her arrest by invading RCMP officers on unceded Unist’ot’en territory. In response, the Indigenous-led Shut Down Canada movement exploded across so-called Canada creating a crisis for Trudeau that only abated with the onset of the Covid pandemic.

Under Carney reconciliation is stretched to the point of breaking.

This has not gone unnoticed globally. Amnesty International’s April 20th global human rights report noted that “several bills threatened Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination, including by expediting approvals for major infrastructure projects.” Ketty Nivyabandi, secretary general of the English Canadian arm said “Indigenous rights” were “rolling back.”

This roll back encompasses Indigenous sovereignty and inherent rights based on the land, which is being met by resistance.

RCMP raids on Mi’kmaq operated cannabis stores in Nova Scotia violate their treaty rights. Authorities are trying to divide the growing movement against the Tim Houston government cuts to social programs as they gear up for more fracking, clearcutting and mining in the province.

BC NDP Premier Eby was forced to shelve his attempt to unilaterally amend the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) in the face of staunch resistance from First Nations across the province. But he hasn’t given up, and has proposed negotiating changes to the act with Indigenous leaders.

Proposed fast-tracking of energy corridors across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario are ignoring the objections of Indigenous peoples. Opposition to Bill 5 and C-5 in Ontario led by Indigenous youth aims to protect the breathing lands, one of the largest stores of carbon on the planet, from “critical mineral” mining projects in the so-called “Ring of Fire.”

The roll back also includes attacks on basic human rights and dignity for Indigenous peoples across so-called Canada. This includes: the lack of clean water and healthcare provision on reserve; the targeting of Indigenous people by police forces and courts; the apartheid conditions faced by Indigenous people in employment, housing, life expectancy and health.

Government policies and anti-Indigenous racism on the far-right – including the denial that residential schools were part of a genocidal apparatus – is driving the roll back

population and one-third of those in federal custody, and half of incarcerated women.”

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse-

his patients in Fort Chipewyan – near to both the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) and the Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN). Fort Chipewyan is on the

this “risks irreversibly harming” the communities of more than 150,000 people “now and for generations to come.”

On April 13, Tuccaro announced the devastating findings of the MCFN health study, which they commissioned and funded themselves, unable to wait until 2034 for federal government action. It found that cancer rates in Fort Chipewyan are at least 25 percent higher than the rest of Alberta. Since 1993, there have been 149 documented cases in a community of 900 people – a “gross underestimate” since an additional 100 to 150 people have left the community and are no longer considered locals.

Tuccaro added that the full report will be released “once we get the Alberta Health Services (AHS) information, because without that, it’s incomplete.” The AHS has not provided data since 2022 which could corroborate a link between the Kearl tailings leak and spikes in cancer rates in the community.

Standing alongside ACFN Chief Allan Adam and Treaty 8 Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi, Tuccaro warned “we will stop the oil sands in the Wood Buffalo area until this is finalized.”

Proposed new tar sands crude pipelines to the BC coast would allow these operations to expand, when they should be shrinking to avoid global climate catastrophe. Building a livable future means supporting Alberta Indigenous peoples standing up for the health of their communities, their water and lands, and a livable future.

See more coverage by Brandi Morin on <https://indigenousinsider.substack.com/>



of Indigenous rights. These same forces are bludgeoning immigrant communities and the working class.

Fighting against injustice and racism in Indigenous and immigrant communities is not an optional add-on but is crucial to building the unity to win.

Indigenous leaders call out prison injustice

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues met in New York from April 20 to May 1. Governor General Mary Simon and Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Rebecca Alty told the forum of “slow improvement” for Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

But other voices punctured this mood.

On April 21, Indigenous Peoples’ representatives and allies called for Canada to end the mass incarceration of Indigenous Peoples and shift \$1 billion of the estimated \$3 billion of federal prison funding to Indigenous governance.

Prince Albert Grand Council Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte said: “for decades, Canada has promised to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in prison, yet today we make up just 5% of the

Nepinak connected this to the “massive apprehension of First Nations children under provincial and territorial child welfare laws” as “part of this systemic discrimination” that puts Indigenous “children into conflict with the law and often places their welfare at risk.”

Union of BC Indian Chiefs Women’s Representative Katisha Paul called for “real solutions [that] require the transfer of resources, jurisdiction, and authority to First Nations governments to lead restorative justice and healing in our territories.”

While the Canadian criminal justice system must ultimately be abolished for the rights of Indigenous peoples to be respected, it is important to support and amplify these calls for Indigenous led restorative justice and healing.

Indigenous Health versus Tar Sands Profits

The severe health impacts of tar sands tailings pond leaks for Indigenous peoples in northern Alberta has been known for decades. In the early 2000s, Dr John O’Connor noticed unusually high rates of rare cancers, autoimmune disorders and miscarriages amongst

shore of Lake Athabasca, downstream from Fort McMurray’s billions of litres of toxic sludge. When O’Connor raised these concerns in 2006 to the authorities, they investigated him for raising “undue alarm.”

In May 2022, the Imperial Oil Kearl facility tailings containment structures failed, leaking 5.3 million litres of toxic sludge. The company and the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) not only did not attempt to repair the damage, but the public and nearby First Nations were not informed until February 2023!

ACFN Chief Allan Adam declared: “All trust with the Alberta government has been broken ... they cannot be trusted to oversee this mess.” MCFN Chief Billie-Joe Tuccaro said “we fear that Kearl is just the tip of the iceberg. We are bracing for even more catastrophic events unless there are real reforms.”

But the reforms on offer from the Alberta government are to allow tar sands operators to “treat and release” billions of litres of tailings. Dr. Julia Sawatzky of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) said

Review: Palestine 36 the seeds of the Nakba

by: Faline Bobier

The fourth film of Palestinian filmmaker Annemarie Jacir, filmed on location in Palestine after Oct 7, 2023, is a passionate and at the same time historically accurate depiction of the revolt against British colonial rule that lasted from 1936-39 and included a months long general strike and other acts of resistance.

The film can seem measured and slow at times because it's carefully assembling the actors and setting the scene for the revolt against British rule and the encroaching Jewish settlements, which are displacing Palestinians from land they have farmed and held for generations.

It's a timely film since it takes us back to the period that laid the ground for the Nakba and the expulsion of over 750,000 Palestinians, as well as the creation of the racist apartheid state of Israel, responsible along with the US and other Western powers, for the ongoing genocide we have been witnessing for over two years in Gaza.

The cast of characters have been carefully chosen by Jacir to represent the various historical players. There is Khalid (played by actor Saleh Bakri), a worker turned revolutionary, Khoulood (Yasmine Al Massri), a journalist from an upper middle-class background and her husband who is a worldly, centrist-liberal newspaper editor who's not averse to making an accommodation with Zionism to make his way and line his pocket.

The central character is Yusuf (Karim Daoud Anaya), a soft-eyed gentle young man from a small village who works as a driver to the newspaper editor and crosses checkpoints daily, facing the reality of the growing militarization and oppression of poor and working class Palestinian people.

Jeremy Irons appears as High Commissioner Arthur Wauchopes, one of several British officials who discuss among themselves how to carry out counterinsurgency



Karim Daoud Anaya as Yusuf

efforts to weaken the Palestinian revolt from within. Publicly they speak about balancing the interests of the Palestinians and the Jewish population but it's very clear that the end goal is the elimination of the vast majority of the Palestinians in order to set up a loyal Zionist state that will prove useful to the British. Eventually Israel will become the faithful watchdog for British and then US imperialism in the region.

Jacir's film paints a picture of the British occupiers, even those who seem to be well-meaning or sympathetic to the Palestinians, as equally complicit in the brutality, whether or not they participate themselves.

British actor Robert Aramayo plays the brutal Captain Orde Wingate, who personifies the arrogance and cruelty of the coloniser, shooting civilians in cold blood and ordering the collective punishment of entire villages. On the other hand, British secretary Thomas (Billy Howle), shows empathy for the Palestinians' discontent and makes empty promises, all the while counseling patience and quiescence as the settlers continue stealing land in the background. When he throws up his hands, exclaiming 'I quit Palestine,' Khoulood, the female journalist, replies "I'm not a tourist."

Palestine 36 paints a picture of the British colonialists, who may be hardline or 'liberal', but who are all complicit in the project they deny they are carrying out – the setting up of a Zionist settler state that will culminate in the violent expulsion of the Palestinian

people. But this project will also give birth to Palestinian resistance which has endured and gained worldwide support over the last few years. Palestinian resistance has exposed the barbarism of Israel and its aiders and abettors, in the form of Western arms sales to a murderous state, which routinely targets civilians, hospitals, aid workers and children.

Jacir's film doesn't skate over the complicity of the Arab middle classes who seek accommodation with burgeoning Zionism and the British colonialists, even though it will lead to their own downfall, along with that of their people.

But the main protagonist of Palestine 36 is the collective strength of the resistance, whether that's embodied by Yusuf, whose eyes are slowly opened to the brutality of the 'genteel' occupiers when his father is murdered and his brother taken to prison, or by the younger children who will grow up as witnesses to the slaughter and displacement of their families.

Jacir paints a living, breathing historical document of a people slowly coming to realize that their only salvation is through their own resistance. It is this enduring resistance up until our present moment that has spread to inspire people world wide to fight back on behalf of the Palestinian people but also to recognize that our own governments are entirely complicit with the murder being carried out by the state of Israel and that to fight effectively we have to take on the imperial wolves within our own borders.

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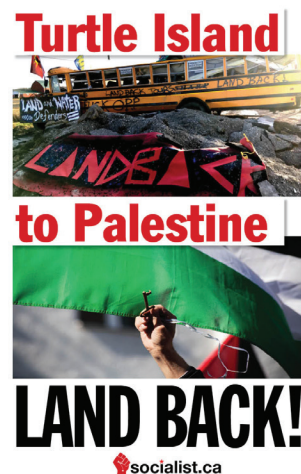
For workers' power and International Socialism



LAND BACK!

Territorial acknowledgment:

As settlers, we acknowledge our occupation of lands that are the Indigenous territories of Turtle Island. 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.



The US-Israeli war on Iran war driving economic turmoil and inter-imperialist tensions

by: Canan Sahin and Sid Lacombe

Donald Trump's Iran quagmire is sending shock-waves through the global economy and forcing a realignment in the international imperial order.

There is a steady stream of new threats from Trump, interspersed with announcements of negotiations. Although it remains difficult to determine what is actually unfolding, most accounts suggest that the two sides are still far

February. Diesel prices have increased by 50 percent, exceeding \$5 per gallon. Although inflationary pressures will fall most heavily on poorer populations globally, disruptions to supply chains are also likely to weigh on the U.S. economy.

As costs mount, Republicans are likely to face political consequences. Trump's approval ratings have declined, and he risks losing a significant portion of his base in the midterm elections.

Cracks within NATO are growing

The war on Iran is exposing deeper contradictions in the positioning of Europe and the United States within the global economy and military order.

European criticism against the US has intensified due to the war's economic consequences. Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are affecting energy flows, insurance costs, and supply chains, which in turn slow industrial output in export-dependent economies like Germany.

against Iran.

China, which had previously shown a degree of compliance, issued a statement declaring that the sanctions "shall not be recognized, shall not be enforced, [and] shall not be complied with."

This was followed by the activation of China's blocking statute against U.S. extraterritorial sanctions, effectively stating that any company complying with U.S. measures would be in violation of Chinese law.



Thousands of ships remain stranded in the Strait of Hormuz

apart on key issues such as sanctions and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Either way, the impact of the war is already causing havoc and pushing the global economy toward a period of sustained stagflation. Growth projections are being downgraded while inflation rises. Increases in fossil fuel costs affect all sectors of the capitalist economy, from plastics manufacturing to shipping rates.

Across the world, gasoline shortages and rationing are affecting countries such as Vietnam, South Korea, and Thailand. Japan has already drawn on its strategic reserves twice since the start of the war.

Rising Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) prices have sharply increased the cost of cooking fuel, devastating households in countries such as India.

Higher nitrogen fertilizer prices due to shortages are reducing crop yields, contributing to rising food costs.

There are also growing shortages of helium and aluminium, disrupting advanced technology sectors and creating bottlenecks in semiconductor manufacturing and AI chip production.

Textile mills in India and Bangladesh have shut down. The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association announced an indefinite shutdown of all member mills from February due to crippling financial losses. Steel mills in India and Japan have reduced auto production, and tens of thousands of workers have already lost their jobs.

The UAE, a key U.S. ally in the Gulf with a sovereign wealth fund exceeding \$2 trillion, has requested financial helpline from the US in response to the destruction caused by Iranian attacks and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

In the US, where oil and gas production is relatively insulated from global shocks, natural gas prices have still risen by \$1 per gallon since

This was a war of choice for Trump. For Iran, it is a conflict over its right to exist as a sovereign state.

US Threats

Threats of further military escalation from Trump have become routine and are increasingly disregarded. At the same time, the failure of the initial US and Israeli-led attacks has exposed significant limitations in US power.

The U.S. was unable to subdue Iran in the early weeks of the war. Iranian offensive capabilities remained intact, allowing them to inflict substantial damage on US bases in the Gulf.

A recent CNN report detailed the extent of these losses, indicating that Iran struck and largely destroyed 16 US bases. In several cases, the facilities were rendered unusable and may take years to rebuild.

The Iranians used sophisticated satellite tracking systems to wipe out defensive capabilities in the first days of the war. They had recently purchased a Chinese satellite which gives them surveillance capabilities almost on par with those of the US.

The consequences of this failure are severe. Gulf states can no longer rely on the United States as a guarantor of security.

The UAE's withdrawal from OPEC is one direct consequence and signals a significant fracture within the regional bloc.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia are now pursuing divergent strategies to maintain regional influence. The UAE is moving toward closer military alignment with Israel, including the transfer of weapons systems and personnel for defense against Iranian attacks.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has signed a defense pact with Pakistan and has concerns over Israel's growing assertiveness, which are also shared by other regional powers such as Turkey and Egypt.

Friedrich Merz has described the war as a "tangled situation" with no clear exit.

Under Pedro Sánchez, Spain has drawn a legal and political boundary by refusing to allow the use of its bases. This marks a break from the post-Cold War pattern in which European states routinely supported US military operations.

In response, Trump has threatened 25 percent tariffs on European cars while demanding military alignment. Germany, as a major exporter, is a primary target.

The United States is also reducing troop deployments in Germany, Italy, and Spain. These deployments have long underpinned U.S. influence in Europe. These developments push European states to reconsider their dependence on US protection and weaken NATO's internal cohesion.

Germany has released its first comprehensive military strategy, Responsibility for Europe, aimed at strengthening independent European defense capacity. This broader push toward militarization is reflected in rising defense spending, with many European states allocating up to 5 percent of their budgets to the military.

Carney has framed Canada as part of a broader European political bloc, and his government is responsible for the highest levels of military spending since the Second World War. The drive towards militarization is absorbing resources that should be allocated towards healthcare, education, housing and food security.

China pushes back

Amid the crisis, China's position as a major power has strengthened. The U.S. blockade of the Strait of Hormuz threatened shipments to Chinese refineries, while Washington demanded compliance with its sanctions regime

This forces firms operating in China to choose between the two systems, marking a direct confrontation that draws new lines of division in the global economy.

While the outcome remains uncertain, these developments point to deepening inter-imperialist tensions.

The risk of further confrontation was also evident in recent military exercises in the South China Sea.

For China, while the Strait of Hormuz is important, the Strait of Malacca is even more critical.

This gives added significance to this year's Balikpapan war games, joint exercises between the United States and the Philippines, now also involving Japan, which continues to expand its maritime capabilities.

Although such exercises are not new, the key difference this time is that China conducted parallel simulations, assessing in real time how it might respond to potential US actions in the region.

As our comrades in *Workers Solidarity* in South Korea wrote, "The US and China essentially conducted a training exercise that was literally like a real battle amidst tremendous tension."

Such exercises could escalate into direct confrontation. As tensions rise, so does the risk of conflict in the South China Sea.

The increasingly visible decline of US power carries profound global consequences. The longer the impasse with Iran continues, the greater the risk of a broader international conflict. Meanwhile, the costs of militarization and war are being offloaded onto the working class through austerity, inflation, and escalating human suffering. As the spiral toward wider conflict accelerates, we need an international working-class struggle against war and austerity.

Joint day of action by Ontario education unions shows the way to fight Ford

by: Pam Johnson

Ontario education unions: Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO), Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF), Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA), Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO) and Ontario School Board Council of Unions (CUPE-OBSCU) joined forces for a Day of Action on April 29.

In a press release they stated, “Under the banner of ‘Stronger Together,’ the five unions are prepared for the next round of central bargaining and ready to demand more for students from a government that has neglected them since taking office in 2018. Chronic underfunding continues to shape daily realities in schools, where large class sizes, rising incidents of school violence, insufficient supports for students with special education needs, ongoing challenges in retaining and recruiting teachers and education workers, and aging, deteriorating buildings all converge to create significant strain.”

Their demands:

- Reverse the cuts in all schools across Ontario
 - Reduce class size & increase Special Education supports
 - Reinstatement of the Model Schools at the TDSB
 - Fund our schools based on actual students’ needs
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union

(OPSEU) members in Ontario colleges joined the day of action in Peterborough and Cornwall where two colleges – Fleming College in Peterborough and St. Lawrence in Kingston/Cornwall – have been merged.

The merger happened without warning and

In the lead up to the day of action one faculty member said, “40% of programs have been cut at St. Lawrence already. This happened behind closed doors. It will harm the quality of education.”

Trent Central Students Association (TCSA)



Workers from a number of education unions rally together on April 29

or consultation with faculty and staff. Colleges have already faced 12,000 layoffs in the past year and multiple programs and courses have been cut.

members also joined the Peterborough action and spoke “Two-thirds of students rely on OSAP. I see doors closing – asking more for less in a system that is already stretched thin”.

Common Front

At the Peterborough action, Dave Berger, ETFO executive board member, said, “The education system has lost \$6.5 billion since Ford came to power. The message we are trying to get out is – ‘smaller classes, big difference’”. He also stated, “We are going to get through this round of bargaining with a Common Front like they had in Quebec”. This references the public sector unions joining forces in a Common Front to take on austerity measures by the right-wing Francois Legault government in 2023. The Common Front staged eleven strike days and forced a better deal and showed the power of organized workers.

Students Kick off the Ford fightback

Students organized by the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario kicked off the push-back against Ford with a strong, militant demonstration on March 4 against OSAP cuts. It was the opening salvo in a series of protests that have been happening across the province in both urban and rural towns. The protests billed as ‘Fighting Ford’ protests have brought together the anger and frustration over multiple issues against Ford’s destruction of public services and attacks on the environment, workers and indigenous rights.

Like the cross-sectoral collaboration between education unions, these demonstrations are a welcome development toward the building of a collective struggle that can beat Ford.

Health Card, not credit card: keep Healthcare public

by: Chantal Sundaram

The fight for public healthcare is heating up this spring, in Ontario and across the country.

March saw protests at federal Liberal MP offices, including Mark Carney’s, over the feds’ failure to enforce the Canada Health Act against Alberta’s Bill 11, which threatens illegal full-scale private healthcare delivery. Protesters demanded that provincial health transfers be clawed back for every dollar invested in private health clinics, up to and including full suspension of federal health transfers until Alberta complies with public healthcare law.

April saw rallies across Ontario against the privatization already under way in private for-profit clinics operating inside public hospitals. On April 25 dozens of cities and towns participated in a province-wide day of action, which came on the heels of Doug Ford’s private jet purchase. This was only the latest theft of public money by Ford: wealth continues to be funnelled out of public and into private healthcare to line the pockets of his corporate friends.

The Greater Toronto Health Coalition has been organizing “kitchen table” meetings in Toronto libraries, community centers, and online, to break down the myths about privatized healthcare - which will not cut down on

wait times or in any way add more “options” to the public system but will only bleed resources away from it.

Already, more and more patients and their families are being forced to pull out their

credit card instead of their health card for services that should be public. Every province is trying to get in on the lucrative for-profit action in some way, and Carney is letting it happen.



Healthcare workers rally against cuts in Ottawa

Racist divide and conquer

This spring Liberal MP offices were also the site of protest against cuts to the Interim Federal Health Program for refugees. That program served as a critical temporary safety net for refugees, asylum seekers, and others fleeing violence while they awaited provincial coverage. Many of these families are fleeing persecution and humanitarian disasters where health care is non-existent.

Thanks to the Carney Liberals, as of May 1 refugees and asylum seekers will now be forced to pay for healthcare that was previously covered, with co-payments for “supplemental” health care products and services. This means patients will have to cover a \$4 co-payment for every prescription and 30% of the cost of supplemental services, including dental care, vision care, and mental health counseling. So now not only is healthcare being slashed for all, but the most vulnerable are being scapegoated for a crisis they did not create.

These cuts have been denounced by healthcare providers and refugee advocates across the country. The Canadian Paediatric Society stated that they “will create an insurmountable barrier to essential healthcare for some of the most marginalized families in Canada.” And the cuts are taking place at a time when federal Bill C-12 means thousands of people are losing their status and facing deportation.

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