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SOLIDARITY

Can beat the billionaires' attacks



As the Canadian state enters a recession we will see further attacks on working people and Indigenous Nations. The economy is shrinking but inflation continues to climb marking a dangerous period of stagflation that will hurt and already

wear the weary working class. But there are signs of resistance everywhere from the mass rallies against Ford in Ontario and Smith in Alberta to the Indigenous people fighting to stop the destruction of their lands. The far-right is waiting in the wings to try

and whip up anti-immigrant and anti-Indigenous racism to use the crisis to build their forces. They can be stopped but only with a new movement that can push back against the Carney Liberals whose cuts and privatization

plans will only make matters worse. In this issue we have reports and analysis to arm you in the fight to end the push to the right from governments at all levels. Solidarity can win!

Frack Off Tim Houston: resist new Nova Scotia onshore gas

by: Brian Champ

The Tim Houston government passed legislation last March to lift the moratorium on fracking that had been in place since 2014, and in December they allocated \$30 million for exploring new “onshore gas” developments in Nova Scotia. This January they signed an agreement with Dalhousie University to administer the Subsurface Energy R&D Investment Program (SERDIP), despite growing scientific evidence of the dangers of fracking.

This method of extracting fossil gas – mainly methane – involves injecting a pressurized liquid into rock formations to crack them, allowing the gas to be captured. Methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, inevitably escapes. The cracks also allow fresh groundwater to be contaminated with toxins, including radioactive elements, and the fractured rock is prone to earthquakes.

Add to this the urgent need to stop burning fossil fuels if we hope to have a livable future.

A mass movement erupted over a decade ago against fracking developments by Alton Gas. At the centre of this resistance were the Mi’kmaq communities and their Chiefs who refused to give their consent. Mi’kmaq activists built traditional “truckhouses” on site, physically blocking the development. The Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition (NOFRAC) was instrumental in building the campaign against fracking. The Dean of Management at Dalhousie University, David Wheeler, chaired the Nova Scotia Independent Review Panel on Hydraulic Fracturing (2013-2014) that recommended that fracking was

stopped. The combined pressure from the movement and this expert panel ultimately led to then Premier Stephen McNeil imposing the fracking moratorium.

The reversal of this decision by the current government is part of sweeping changes that side with extractive industries to the detriment of the people of the province, and especially Mi’kmaq communities: a moratorium on uranium mining

fast-tracking fossil fuel electricity plants in Salt Springs and Marshdale without Mi’kmaq consent; ramped up RCMP attacks on Mi’kmaq run cannabis stores that are really attacks on treaty rights.

This follows other attacks. Last September, the government introduced legislation imposing \$50,000 fines and/or six month sentences for “impeding access to” forest access roads on Crown lands, after

in a report released in April. The Province is in control of the program, and Dalhousie University must vet any public communications with the Province which owns and controls all information including data, working papers, evaluation and research. This undermines the credibility of Dalhousie University and means that public access to information regarding fracking development

ment claims to be consulting with Mi’kmaq communities, there is no way proper consultations could happen on this timeline, not to mention “free, prior and informed consent.”

In truth, the Mi’kmaq made their position clear last year when the moratorium was lifted: “The Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Chiefs continue to remain opposed to hydraulic fracturing and will not see it happen in our unceded and traditional territory.”

Sipekne’katik First Nation Chief Michelle Glasgow added: “Environmental racism is a real thing. The Province of Nova Scotia and Premier Houston are making decisions and moving at a speed that appears rooted in racist and colonial practices. They continue to marginalize the voices, position and concerns of the Mi’kmaq.”

The government, fracking companies and Dalhousie University are pushing a destructive, anti-Indigenous agenda. Premier Tim Houston said in late May that there has been interest in participating in SERDIP by seven companies and they have begun talking with one of them.

But the resistance is growing and is sure to explode on the streets and at the sites of exploratory drilling as they develop, building on the success of the Shoulder to Shoulder campaign that pushed back against the mean-spirited budget earlier this year. Building the links between militant workers - such as long-term care workers on strike against the Province - with the Mi’kmaq led movement fighting to stop fracking is crucial.

Fracking was stopped before and it can be stopped again through mass mobilizations from below.



in place since 2009 has also been lifted; massive cuts to arts, social programs and education; stranding striking CUPE long-term care workers on the picket line for six weeks as they fight for a living wage;

Mi’kmaq people camped at Hunter’s Mountain to prevent clear cut logging on their traditional hunting territory.

SERDIP has other problems that have been raised by NOFRAC

will be limited.

The program plan is to award exploration agreements to “successful proponents” by May and conduct exploratory drilling by July through October. Although the govern-

Victory for Kebaowek First Nation against nuclear waste

On May 29, the Federal Court of Appeal upheld a decision in favour of the Kebaowek First Nation against the building of a nuclear waste disposal facility near Chalk River, ON.

The upheld ruling said that Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) made an error in granting the permit for the facility to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL).

Under the Species at Risk Act, the Ministry was obligated to prove that the site was the best of a number of alternatives, due to the presence of endangered species in the area such as the Blanding’s turtle and 2 species of bats.

Court of Appeal Justice Monica Biringier wrote in the decision that the Ministry “failed to meet the applicable standards of transparency, intelligibility and justification.”

Kebaowek First Nation Chief Lance Haymond welcomed the decision, saying that it “reinforces what we have been saying from the beginning: decisions that threaten

endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, and our sacred river must be based on a transparent, rigorous, and lawful process.”

Ole Hendrickson from the Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area (CCRCA) that has also mobilized against the project said “We hope that they’ll find a better solution. And that means a location not a kilometre from the

river where there’s a huge number of species at risk.”

The river in question is the Kichi Sibi, also known as the Ottawa River. It is a major tributary of the St. Lawrence River. The nuclear waste would not only affect the local area, but potentially cause downstream harm in Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.



The decision is a significant setback for the project, but does not stop it outright. If ECCC were able to explain why the site was the best out of “all reasonable alternatives” to reduce the impact on these species it could meet the legal standard.

It is unclear whether ECCC will appeal or attempt to provide this explanation. One thing is clear: the resistance of the Kebaowek people, the CCRCA and supporters to this project has been key.

This will be key to more battles coming ahead, including an appeal of another ruling last February that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission breached their constitutional obligations to uphold the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We must also be vigilant against attempts by Canada to use new laws such as Bill C-5 to fast track these proposals.

For more info, visit:
<https://www.stopnuclearwaste.com/>
<https://concernedcitizens.net/>

Mi’kmaq Land defenders hold strong

Last September, grassroots Mi’kmaq people gathered to stop the Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP) company from clear-cutting on Hunter’s Mountain, Mi’kmaq traditional territory that is a source of medicine, used for hunting, gathering and sacred ceremonies. Outraged that logging and mining operations continued during a province-wide “woods ban”, they built a camp community that was supported by Mi’kmaq people and settlers alike. The Mi’kmaq land defenders remained until late December, their success only marred by the burning down of two buildings that were left at the camp after they left.

This spring, PHP made clear that there were 5,800 tons of downed trees that they asked for permission to remove from the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Chiefs. Citing the need to avoid fueling wildfires, permission was granted, but Mi’kmaq land defenders who had stood up at Hunter’s Mountain last fall wondered if this wood couldn’t have benefited Mi’kmaq people rather than corporate logging interests.

BILL C-9 and the criminalization of dissent

by J. Griffin

The right to protest has been a fundamental cornerstone of Canadian history for well over 100 years: from the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919, the “On to Ottawa Trek” in 1935 to the Conscript Crisis of 1944; all the way to the Kanehsatà:ke Resistance (Oka Crisis) in 1990, the 3rd Summit of the Americas protests in Quebec (2001) and the G20 Summit Protests in Toronto (2010). Many of the present rights taken for granted by society have been fought for through protests and political actions. However, just as people sacrificed everything to gain these rights, our rulers have fought hard to deny them: from violent repression at protests, surveillance of individuals and organizations involved in political activism and even legislation at the municipal level.

What's in a bill?

The latest effort at the federal level takes the form of Bill C-9. Currently in consideration by committee after passing second reading at the Senate, the bill represents a clear and present danger to civil liberties in Canada. Drafted by Carney's Liberal Party and supported by the Bloc Québécois, the bill in its current form is comprised of 4 general elements:

Makes displaying a flag or symbol associated with a “listed terrorist organization” a criminal offence for willfully promoting hatred against an identifiable group. This is a highly political process, completely under the control of the Federal government, with no transparency and very limited rights to appeal. Concretely, this implies that holding a Palestinian, Kurdish or Tamil flag would be considered willfully promoting hatred. It also gives law enforcement free reign to police flags and banners at protests and gives them discretion to characterize a peaceful protest as “promoting hatred”.

Removes the requirement for the Attorney General to consent to bring hate speech charges. This safeguard makes sure that only legally-appropriate charges in the public interest go forward in cases where the public's right to freedom of expression is at stake, and prevents malicious private prosecutions from going forward.

Introduces a new “hate crime”—described as “an offence motivated by hatred”—that can be applied to any violation of the Criminal Code or any other Act of Parliament (e.g. littering in a National Park). This provision extends penalties for the original offence.

Denies Charter-protected freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly rights near 30,000 – 40,000 buildings in Canada. It would criminalize obstructing access to buildings, as well as proscribing the much more nebulous “creating a state of fear” charge for those entering a specific category of buildings: those used primarily for religious worship;

those used by “identifiable groups” (those “distinguished by colour, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or mental or physical disability”) for administrative social, cultural, sports activities or events, or as an educational institution, including as a daycare centre, or as a seniors' residence.

Aside from the elements listed above, the bill also threatens to eliminate the “Good Faith Religious Text” defence. Under s. 319 (3) (b) of the Criminal Code, “No person

London, Ontario, Reem Sultan from the Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council spoke of the impact of the bill on Muslim communities: “This protection has been critical in ensuring that legitimate religious teachings are not mischaracterized as hate propaganda. Removing this defence risks exposing ordinary faith-based speech to criminal charges. It creates confusion about what is permitted, and disproportionately harms communities whose sacred texts are more frequently misinterpreted or politicized, especially Muslim

The Implications

These carve-outs and objections show that the goal of this legislation is to provide a superficial appeal to standing up against far-right hate speech, while in reality curtailing the right to protest, providing federal support to bubble zones, and making the support for causes such as Palestinian liberation a federal offence in everything but in name. In a country where the state of Israel attempts to exert its influence at the federal, provincial and even municipal levels, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the

to confront the threat of white supremacy and hatred.

One More Arrow In Carney's Quiver

Under the guise of “stopping hate”, the Carney administration is waging a war on the hard-earned right of people in Canada to protest, whether they are Indigenous or settler, born-and-raised here, or came from abroad. People come to Canada to make this country their new home based on the fundamental premise espoused in the second article of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms: “Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion; (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and (d) freedom of association.” It's that freedom of expression that is made most apparent in the act of protest: be it against an unjust law, an unjust government or even in support of the fundamental right of a people to exist.

“A world of fortresses will be poorer, more fragile, and less sustainable” said Mark Carney at his much lauded speech at Davos in January. With Bill C-9 and others of its kind (like Bills C-5, C-12 and C-22), Carney and the political class of Canada has decided that a new course is needed for the country: a “bold” course where its population as a whole are the enemy within; where marginalized communities, immigrants and the average citizens who stand up for the rights of these communities are to be corralled, controlled, monitored and treated like criminals. A course that strips away all peoples of Canada of the fundamental right to express themselves and openly call out oppression, hate and genocide, while paying the faintest lip-service to fighting the hate groups that are actively growing by recruiting Canadian youth and selling them an ideology based on ignorance, hatred and resentment.

All of the individual civil liberties we have come to consider a fact of life were fought for and won through mass protests, strikes and revolutions; they have been won by the blood, sweat, tears and lives of brave individuals who gave their all for these causes. And, throughout history, the state and the elites, in their myriad forms, have fought tooth and nail to prevent those victories. As it has been for centuries, the maintenance and expansion of the people's liberties can only come from a unified, coordinated and overwhelming show of force of the people. The people hold the power to earn and maintain those rights. And it is the people, rising from below, who must make their voices heard and, with their brave and revolutionary force, give a clear, definite and incontrovertible retort to the state: we reject this bill, we reject our freedom being restricted. We stand together against hate, and we demand our freedom of speech and protest be respected. Or else.



shall be convicted of an offence under subsection (2) if, in good faith, the person expressed or attempted to establish by an argument an opinion on a religious subject or an opinion based on a belief in a religious text”. This provision has served as a bulwark against arrest and prosecution of religious communities for legitimate discussion of religious text and interpretation of said texts. Bill C-9 would repeal this section, allowing law enforcement to infringe on religious freedom.

Strange Bedfellows

The bill has faced intense criticism from various sectors in Canadian society. The Canadian Labour Congress, in a communique issued on the bill, stated that “the Bill threatens labour rights, fundamental freedoms, the right to protest, and public accountability”. In October 2025, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association issued a letter signed by over 40 different civil organizations from across Canada, urging the federal government to reverse course on the bill and “pursue community-based approaches that protect vulnerable groups without compromising the rights and freedoms of people in Canada”.

Additionally, the elimination of the “Good Faith Religious Text” defence has raised the justified ire of various religious organizations across the country. In December 2025, in a press conference in

communities”.

On March 27, Cardinal Frank Leo, from the Archdiocese of Toronto, issued a letter to all Canadian Senators and Prime Minister Mark Carney, expressing the concerns of the Church and other organizations with the bill. In the letter, he expressed: “As the Senate now undertakes its important role of sober second thought, I respectfully ask that you carefully consider amendments that will provide clear and unambiguous protection for freedom of religion, conscience, and expression. These rights are foundational to Canada's democratic society and are essential for the flourishing of diverse communities, including the many faith communities that serve the common good across our country.”

Meanwhile, although far-right groups have not made any official comments regarding the bill in question, it has a specific “Hate Propaganda Offence” charge that focuses specifically on Nazi iconography, specifically “the Nazi Hakenkreuz, also known as the Nazi swastika, the Nazi double-Sig-Rune, also known as the SS bolts” or any symbols that can be confused with them. Although this provision covers groups that use more traditional Nazi and neo-Nazi iconography, it does not touch more prominent groups like the Second Sons, who have appropriated symbols like the Canadian Red Ensign as their own.

government to argue in good faith that this legislation will effectively combat hate speech in a way that truly protects marginalized communities, guarantees free speech for citizens or helps to stand up against the rising white supremacist threat in Canada.

Considering the fact that the process to get an organization categorized as a “terrorist organization” depends heavily on the recommendation of the Minister of Public Safety, based on the assessment of intelligence agencies, this gives the federal government a great amount of power to shift the narrative in a direction that portrays protests in support of Palestinian liberation as hate crimes. And, considering intelligence agencies in Canada have a proven track record of selectively providing information, it is reasonable to be suspicious of the legislation and wary of the far-reaching and catastrophic implications for people who speak out in support of the struggling peoples of the world.

Bill C-9 pathetically only addresses the most obvious and basic iconographic symbols of white supremacist ideology. However, it fails to address the new and insidious ways in which the far-right is gaining ground in Canada, and fails to provide a comprehensive framework to address the structural causes that have allowed the rise of white supremacist groups today. The bill undermines safeguards that guarantee the basic right of people

The Canadian state, Alberta referendum and Indigenous Land rights

by: Bradley Hughes

Premier Smith's separation referendum in Alberta gives two bad choices to Albertans and violates the treaty rights of Indigenous nations within the borders of the province.

Her referendum question asks, "Should Alberta remain a province of Canada or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada?" Canada is a settler-colonial nation based on ethnic cleansing and genocide. All the gains that workers have wrested from our ruling class such as universal healthcare, education, human rights and environmental protections are currently under attack to increase the profits of the 1%. There is nothing to be gained from allegiance to Canada. However, this referendum isn't about looking after people in Alberta, it's about increasing the power of oil and gas companies in Alberta and furthering the Smith government's agenda of healthcare privatization and other attacks on workers.

This new referendum question replaces questions directly on separation that were submitted to Elections Alberta twice. And twice were ruled against by the courts. The latest version of the question asked, "Do you agree that the Province of Alberta should cease to be part of Canada to become an independent state?"

This is an attack on Indigenous treaty rights and self-determination. This was pointed out to Premier Smith weeks before the Court of King's Bench of Alberta ruled that Elections Alberta should have rejected the separation petition and that the signatures can not be counted and verified. On May 1, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) delivered a nearly 593 page submission to Smith's cabinet explaining their Nation's opposition to a separation referendum and the basis in both colonial and Dené law that would forbid it. Cabinet never responded.

The ACFN submission to both the cabinet and the courts point out that Alberta did not exist when their Treaty 8 was signed. At that time, Alberta was only a district of the Northwest Territories, and modern Alberta includes that district and the district of Athabasca. Unlike some other provinces Alberta didn't join confederation, it was created by Canada. In their submission ACFN Chief Allan Adam writes, "it was

First Nations' consent to non-Indigenous settlement through the Treaties that led to the creation of Alberta. It is our ongoing commitment to honour the Numbered Treaties that legitimize Alberta today. First Nations are founding partners in the creation of Alberta. We cannot simply be ignored or bypassed by a majority vote among newcomers in favour of secession." He concludes from this that, "Alberta should not be permitted to leave with the lands and resources that the Treaty brought into Confederation – lands that Indigenous people have taken care of for millennia. I have said this before – anyone who wishes to leave these lands is free to leave with all the lands they brought with them – that is to say, with nothing."

The Dené nation has exercised its right to self-determination for thousands of years before the colonial state was created and they have continued to do so since then. The submission explains this: "Peoples capable of asserting a right of self-determination have distinct and separate rights of self-determination

from those held in common with all the citizens that live within the nation state. The Dené, as a distinct and proud people, have this right of self-determination." From this Chief Adam concludes, "To call Albertans an oppressed people and to assert that Albertans share the struggles of colonized people is as offensive as it is absurd."

The ACFN submissions to the provincial cabinet and to the court explain how their traditional lands extend into Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. Their "hunters routinely cross provincial and territorial borders in canoes, quads, snowmobiles or pickup trucks with their rifles, shotguns and ammunition. Those provincial and territorial borders do not dictate how our members exercise their Treaty rights." Requiring their members to travel across an international border at the nearest road would turn a 100 km journey into a 700 km journey.

The treaties between the ACFN and other nations are not with the province of Alberta and the province can not unilaterally change or amend

these treaties. This is the reason for the court decision that even the petition to hold a referendum on separation and the referendum itself can not proceed without consultation by the Crown. Chief Adam tried to explain this to the Premier and her cabinet: "Our law and protocol demand that if you are considering changes like this, that you come to our leadership first, before opening the question to the public . . . changes to the Treaty relationship without solemn dialogue in the spirit of reconciliation would be a profound breach of Dené law."

The ACFN submissions to cabinet and the courts also contain many examples of the anti-Indigenous racism that has escalated in recent years. Social media defending Alberta separatism goes from rehashing old slurs against Indigenous people and their leaders to threats of violence. As this process proceeds the racism and violence will intensify.

Despite all this the Premier is going ahead with a referendum that will fuel anti-Indigenous racism and regardless of the outcome do nothing to help the people within the borders

of Alberta.

After the Premier's announcement of the new question the ACFN responded with a media release. Chief Adam referred to the earlier court decision, "Once again, the court has recognized the constitutional duty to consult, but this is not just a victory for Indigenous people. When the court upholds the constitution, it affirms everyone's rights. This is a victory for all patriotic Canadians."

While we believe that the Canadian state is a prison house of nations that deserves to be dismantled, in this case we fully support the right of Indigenous Nations to chart their own course of action in nation-to-nation treaty rights negotiations.

Describing the new referendum question, he stated: "This entire mess has been a cynical political exercise by the Premier. It serves no one in Alberta. A referendum on whether to hold a referendum is not a clear question. This whole thing is a waste of time and money." The ACFN has asked Prime Minister Mark Carney to put the new referendum question before parliament as required by the Clarity Act and they expect Parliament to use their power under the act to prevent the referendum.

The Alberta government has previously scheduled referendum questions for October 19. The new separation question will join five questions on taking away rights from migrant workers in the province and four questions related to giving the Alberta government more power to degrade public services, override federal laws, select judges and abolish the senate. Tellingly, there are no referendum questions that would require Alberta to spend more on healthcare or education, to raise wages, or to protect human rights.

There is no good choice in this referendum. It ignores Indigenous rights, it is designed to pit workers against each other and to fuel anti-Indigenous racism and grow the far-right. Workers in Alberta and elsewhere in so-called Canada need higher wages, an emergency response to the climate crisis, an end to militarism, and more to deal with the overlapping crises of a system in decline. Calls to support settler colonialism in its Canadian or its Albertan form will set back the movements for all of those things. Inside and outside of Alberta we should call for solidarity with Indigenous Nations, and take on Smith and Carney in the fight for a better world.



The referendum will attack Indigenous treaty rights

Canada is a prison house of nations

Canada has oppressed the autonomous Indigenous nations that have lived on Turtle Island since time immemorial, and has also oppressed the Quebec nation. This is both historical and it continues today.

Both French and British colonialists claimed Indigenous lands based on the “doctrine of discovery” laid out in papal bulls from the 15th century.

The fur trade undermined Indigenous communities by driving Indigenous demand for European tools and other manufactured goods. Settler colonies took over Indigenous lands through violence, disease and treaties. The Hudson’s Bay Company was established through a 1670 Royal Charter and granted control over Rupert’s Land comprising most of the drainage basin of Hudson’s Bay, expropriating traditional lands from many Indigenous peoples. Resistance was immediate and ongoing, continuing to this day. Crown obligations to treaties were often neglected or ignored.

The nation of Quebec

Quebec’s oppression as a nation began after the British conquest of New France in 1763, but it continued in the cultural, political and economic backwardness imposed on Quebec up until the late 1960s. Francophones in Quebec were second class citizens without the right to speak French at work, earning less than anglophones and oppressed through an alliance of wealthy anglophone elites and the Catholic Church.

Even after the secularized public education in French and other language rights were won, a national consciousness remained, that has remained a key factor energizing student, worker, anti-war and environmental struggles that have won important gains.

Confederation brought together

the conquered lands of New France, the maritime provinces and Rupert’s land to form the new, explicitly capitalist, dominion of Canada, to counter US expansionism. John A

won real gains through struggle, but Indigenous people still live in apartheid conditions whether on or off reserve. This is reflected in life expectancy, disease incidences,

political secession for the colonies and for the nations that ‘its own’ nation oppresses” working class internationalism was “a meaningless phrase” undermining class

between workers in English Canada and those in Quebec.

How should socialists approach Indigenous struggles? Most Indigenous people are workers at least part of the time, so the fight against anti-Indigenous racism is crucial to build working class unity, including winning support for Indigenous struggles for equity, justice and sovereignty, both on and off reserve.

But Indigenous struggles by land defenders and water protectors asserting sovereignty over traditional territories, whether unceded or covered by treaty, strike at the very heart of the settler colonial state. They are not merely land claims, but seek to reestablish traditional and sustainable ways of living together on the land, acting collectively to protect the water and respect all living beings.

These assertions of sovereignty are incompatible with and threaten the destruction of the genocidal institutions of the state. But Indigenous peoples comprise about 1/20th of Canada’s population, and cannot win their liberation all on their own.

Topple Canada

To overthrow Canada, a revolutionary worker’s movement must also smash the state. Non Indigenous socialists, whether they are in Quebec or English Canada, must support Indigenous justice and sovereignty struggles – up to and including 100% Land Back.

Striving for unity in struggle between worker’s movements and Indigenous sovereignty struggles targeting the state in settler colonial contexts is crucial for revolutionary politics.

This strategy cannot be confined within one national or settler colonial context, but must develop internationally across all borders to challenge international capital on a global scale.



The military was called in to attack the resistance in Kanesatake in 1990

McDonald mandated the building of the railway, awarding the contract to Montreal businessmen in return for campaign donations. As Indian Affairs Minister, he formed the Northwest Mounted Police, pushed Indigenous peoples from the best lands, created the reserve and pass systems, implemented the genocidal residential “school” system and violently suppressed the 1885 uprising of Metis and Plains Cree peoples when they resisted this genocide and theft of their lands.

Since the Red Power movement of the 1960s, Indigenous sovereignty and justice struggles have

interactions with police and courts, access to public services and settler violence.

Right to secession

The Russian revolutionary Lenin argued at the turn of the 20th century for revolutionary socialists to be the “tribune of the oppressed”. Russia too was a prison house of nations.

For a revolutionary movement to win, the workers must be united across national, ethnic and racial divides. Lenin argued that unless the working class of the dominant nation demanded “the right of

solidarity across national divides and leaving reformist hypocrites unexposed.

But “socialists of the oppressed nations ... must particularly fight for and maintain complete, absolute unity ... between the workers of the oppressed nation and the workers of the oppressing nation.” This is necessary in order to maintain an “independent proletarian policy and class solidarity with the proletariat of other countries in the face of all the subterfuge, treachery and trickery of the bourgeoisie.”

This is directly applicable to Canada with respect to relations

Hot Cargo: Canadian Labour Congress cuts ties to Histadrut

by: Peter Votsch, CUPE 7797 (retired)

Activists from Labour4Palestine (L4P) and other international solidarity supporters brought forward a much-anticipated motion at the recent Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) convention calling on affiliates to refuse to load or otherwise work with “Hot Cargo”, i.e., goods going to or coming from the apartheid state of Israel.

This campaign, which has been continuing for over a year, has been part of a solidarity request by Palestinian trade unions to trade unions all over the world as part of the Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS)



movement to weaken and isolate Israel.

The motion itself called for the refusal to handle “Hot Cargo”, but also called on the CLC to cut ties with Israel’s main trade union, the Histadrut.

Apartheid union

The Histadrut, founded in 1920, was from the beginning an organization that saw its role in the Zionist colonial project as one displacing Palestinian workers. Palestinian produce was attacked and destroyed, and Palestinian workers were replaced with Jewish workers. The Histadrut was also instrumental in building the Haganah, precursor to the current Israeli Defense Force.

Only in 1959 was it forced to accept Israeli Arab workers in a separate section, and has refused to admit the many workers who have traditionally crossed over from the Occupied Territories of Gaza and the West Bank to work in Israel. The Histadrut even played a role prior to the 1980s as one of Israel’s largest employers, further cementing its role as a main player in a colonial project, and not a trade union.

While the CLC blocked the original motion from reaching the floor, another Palestine solidarity motion was amended by L4P activists to include a call to break ties with the Histadrut, which did hit the floor through coordinated pressure from rank and file workers. This passed with an overwhelming majority.

Victory for solidarity

The action required by the CLC to take, as stipulated in the motion, is an important victory for the many workers throughout the trade union movement involved in L4P. It is also a solid model for workers everywhere seeking to build international solidarity: connect with workers abroad calling for solidarity, put together an actionable set of demands, mount a campaign across trade unions public and private, and finally pass motions that obligate labour leaders to act. L4P has been adept at this, and we and our allies will continue to build on the great success of those worker delegates at the CLC to bring campaigns such as “Hot Cargo” to new levels.

World Cup: Corporate greed games

by: Sid Lacombe

The parliamentary budget office says the world cup will cost us more than \$1 billion in public funds. This money is allocated for infrastructure, security and promotion for the games. Toronto is paying \$380 million and Vancouver as much as \$624 million to host events. The price will be paid by both municipal governments and from the federal government.

At a time when people are being squeezed by a cost of living crisis, this is a ridiculous priority for government spending. While there will be an influx of cash as a result of the games, history has taught us that this will go to a small number of people. The hotel magnates, airlines and bar owners will be flush with cash as the workers struggle to keep up with the rise in workloads.

Michelle Travis, a spokesperson for Unite Here Local 40, which represents hotel workers in Vancouver said workers are expecting to see workloads increase but pay will stay the same. They are planning to protest during the world cup. "The [workers] want to make sure that they are valued for the work that they provide, and they want to make sure that it's not just the hotel owners and FIFA that are going to do well from this," Travis told *Global News*.

There is always money available for billionaire sporting events but once again the working people — who will have little access to the actual events — will pay.

In Mexico, striking teachers have made the connection. While President Claudia Sheinbaum has said there is no more money for education workers they are forking out millions for the games. Teachers have vowed to shut down events if their demands for pay raises are ignored.

Teachers were brutally attacked by police at a march to the FIFA "Fan zone" in Mexico City this week. CNTE union general secretary, Pedro Hernandez Morales spoke at the rally

and said that "the ball will not roll" if their demands are not met.

In both Toronto and Vancouver, concerns have been raised about how police are pushing homeless people out of the downtown areas near the world cup venues.

The Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union (TUHU) held a rally downtown to denounce violence against the poor and homeless. Rev. Angie Hocking, a member of the TUHU, said the violence is "out of control". "This city's push to clean up the streets has meant more policing, more displacement and more violence towards unhoused people" she said.

The TUHU released a report titled, Safety for Whom? documenting the abuses by Toronto police and private security which has grown significantly as FIFA related tourism has increased.

Sport vs corporate control

Sports are a welcome distraction for billions



The Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union rallies against police violence

of people worldwide. There is a thrill from the spectacle and a camaraderie with fellow team supporters that helps beat back the isolation and boredom of an otherwise drab life. It is one of the few entertainment mediums that isn't immediately predictable and doesn't insult your intelligence.

But as is the case with every endeavour that operates under the profit motive there is a dirty underbelly of exploitation, corruption and violence.

Billionaire team owners are frequently given huge amounts of public money to attract teams to certain cities and or for venue construction. FIFA itself has been involved in dozens of corruption scandals. In 2015 FIFA officials were charged by the FBI for corruption and money laundering to the tune of \$150 million.

Dave Zirin in his book *Bad Sports: How owners are ruining the games we love*, outlines how the sports-industrial complex has become a showcase for the politics of the right-wing owners who prioritize profit above

all else and has reshaped the politics of urban centres.

"The owners seem to be saying that it's their world and we just live in it even if our taxes pay for their stadiums with every unfilled pothole and under-funded library. It's time to upset the setup."

He argues that the billionaire owners have to be stripped of their power and teams should be handed over to communities to make the games accessible to working people and end the corruption.

Protest and world spectacle

There is a long tradition of global sporting events becoming a site of protest from the classic raised fist black-power salute by Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics to the poignant protest at the Paris Olympics where Algerian athletes threw red roses into the Seine river to commemorate the 120 Algerians killed by police during protests against French colonial rule in 1961.

This world cup comes at a time of heightened political polarization and protests are inevitable. In the US, there are already planned protests against ICE agents who will be present at most venues using new facial recognition tech to identify and round up suspected "illegal immigrants".

Trump has also banned members from the Iranian team from being housed in the US forcing them to travel to hotels in Mexico after each game.

And the Israeli genocide in Gaza is already part of this backdrop as zionists are attempting to ban Lamine Yamal from entering the US after he hoisted a Palestinian flag during his club teams victory in the Spanish league.

As with everything under capitalism, the conflict between billionaire owners and the working people who actually pay the bill will continue to erupt. We need to end the corporate greed that dominates these games and return sports to the people.

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Santa Marta conference on ending fossil fuels charts path away from UN gridlock, towards climate justice

by: Cailin Gallinger

In November of last year the United Nations had the dubious honour of marking its 30th “Conference of Parties” (COP), the annual meeting of signatory nations to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The meetings began in 1995, following a tumultuous prior decade that saw both the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to assess the state-of-the-art science of the Earth’s climate and guide global policy, as well as the collapse of nascent international negotiations on climate action due to malicious interference by members of the Bush Sr. administration.

Two years later, at COP3 in 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was signed, the first major international agreement on carbon emission reductions. Even at this early stage, however, there were cracks that hinted at future impasses, such as US-mandated concessions to exclude its massive military emissions from carbon budget accounting. The Paris Agreement in 2015 further cemented the low bars achievable under the UN consensus mechanism: while signatories to the UNFCCC made a commitment to keeping the Earth’s average temperature from exceeding 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and ideally limit it to 1.5°C, no clear strategies were put in place to achieve this goal, nor consequences delineated to ensure compliance.

So where did these parties find themselves last November, as they descended upon the lush rain forests of Belém, Brazil? The outlook was bleak: in 2024, scientists determined the Earth had reached a yearly average temperature of 1.5°C for the first time, and the trend of increasing anthropogenic carbon emissions showed no sign of even slowing down, let alone reversing.

COP failures

In the decade since the Paris Agreement, COPs have become something of a joke, transparent bully pulpits for petrostate host countries to keep the world hooked on oil while slicking themselves in the thinnest coat of greenwash imaginable. They were also open markets for major companies to do the same, exerting significant influence over the negotiations even though they technically only attended as “observers”. At COP28 in Dubai over 2,400 fossil fuel lobbyists were present, outnumbering delegates from almost all individual nations, and an acknowledgment of fossil fuels as the driving force behind climate change was only included in the final text for the first time at COP26 in 2021.

Last year there was not just a failure to make progress, but a veritable backslide: the words “fossil fuels” appeared nowhere at all in the final agreement.

In the midst of this frustrating impasse, two nations—Colombia and the Netherlands—decided it was time for the gloves to come off. Towards the end of COP30, when it was clear negotiations were once again stalling, they released a joint announcement for the first “Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels” (TAFF) to be hosted in Santa Marta, Colombia in April of this year. Notably, they extended invitations only to “coalition of the willing” states identified as committed to real climate action, and excluded the United

States, Russia, China, and other major fossil fuel-producing countries that have historically torpedoed international collaboration.

That conference has now transpired, and there are promising signs this was not just another cushy vacation for world leaders to hem and haw over word choices and phrasing. Alongside the traditional meeting of government representatives, for the first time the process included both a science pre-conference and an independently-organized People’s Summit that brought in representation from Indigenous peoples, grassroots environmental networks, feminist organizations, trade unions, and civil society groups.

Together, these satellite meetings resulted in two important documents that directly influenced the outcomes of the conference: 1) a scientific “action report” distributed to governments ahead of the conference that made concrete recommendations for what must be done to get off fossil fuels (something the IPCC is explicitly prevented from doing); and 2) a declaration presented at the “Peoples’ Assembly” on April 27 that outlined core principles for a just transition.

The language in these reports was clear, direct, and unambiguous. The science action report states that governing bodies must “ban new fossil infrastructure, mandate deep methane cuts, accelerate electrification and inscribe fossil-fuel phase-down targets”, while the Peoples’ Declaration is even more overt, naming as the root causes of the climate crisis “a global system rooted in capitalism, colonialism, racism, patriarchy, class and caste systems, imperial domination, and white ‘supremacy’ which are characterized by inequality, exploitation, extraction, expropriation and extermination.”

Climate justice from below

The Peoples’ Declaration made four key demands:

A complete, equitable, and just phase-out of fossil fuels aligned with meeting the goal of keeping warming below 1.5°C, reaching true zero global emissions by 2050

A rapid, direct, equitable, and just transition to 100% renewable energy with universal and equitable access

An end to barriers to transition and committed pursuit of solutions; and

A comprehensive and just transition. Then came the final two days of the conference, dedicated to the more traditional “government negotiation”-type programming, where these roadmaps and declarations would inform discussions towards action by all participating states. Unlike the traditional COP atmosphere, however, these talks took the form of smaller, more informal “closed-door” breakout sessions where contributions were kept anonymous in the official record, and both government representatives and civil society stakeholders were given equal opportunity to speak. At the end of the high-level summit, Colombia and the Netherlands produced a summary of the talks and identified key “workstreams” to tackle before the second conference, to be jointly hosted by Ireland and Tuvalu in 2027.

Although Santa Marta did not produce a binding agreement to end fossil fuels, it was still a major breakthrough towards achieving that goal. The Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative, who organized the conference, has sought to implement such an internationally-binding treaty since 2020, heeding demands made by the island nations most vulnerable to warming-induced sea level rise since even before the 2015

Paris Agreement. This “fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty” would be a direct parallel to the 1968 UN Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which—while significantly flawed, and often used as a tool of control and domination by existing nuclear-armed states—would at least accurately reflect the potential for death and destruction wrought by continued fossil carbon extraction, and the immediacy with which action to stop it is needed.

Familiar Foul Faces

Given the universally acknowledged risks of such planet-imperiling practices (what Colombian president Gustavo Petro called a “suicidal model of capitalism”), the presence of certain countries at the first TAFF may have raised a few eyebrows. Canada, Australia, Brazil, and Norway, collectively representing 10% of the world’s oil and natural gas production, were all proudly in attendance. Canada in particular was an egregious outlier among the assembled parties: it ranks 4th and 5th in global oil and gas production, respectively, while its per-capita carbon emissions exceed even those of the US. And, true to the songbook being rapidly composed under the Carney government, Canada was the only nation with nary a whistle of the “f-words” in its opening remarks at Santa Marta.

The contradictions inherent in Canadian participation in a meeting premised on ending the production and export of oil and gas are painfully obvious. That there were government representatives at a conference with getting “away from fossil fuels” in its very title, just weeks before deals were announced for a new oil sands pipeline as well as new and expanded natural gas infrastructure, should be a permanent stain on Mark Carney and the Liberals’ reputation.

Carney, who just a few years ago stated it was an “absolute imperative” for the world to reach net zero, has now gone all-in on a gas-powered national electricity grid while pointedly demurring on whether Canada can still meet its 2030 Paris emissions targets. It’s no wonder why an ex-environment minister left his cabinet amid a chorus of MPs speaking out against his climate backpedalling: even the neoliberal governing party can’t stomach the hypocrisy. If Canada intends to meaningfully participate in future TAFFs, we will need to push heavily for a grassroots response to force the government to live up to its commitments, alongside supporting Indigenous peoples, youth activists, and trade unions as key parties in the negotiations.

Ultimately, solving the massively complex problem of climate change will take more than convivial gatherings of nation-states and textual declarations; it will require a real, sustained, and transformative revolution in how our societies operate at their most fundamental levels. But Santa Marta represented a turning point where stifled old frameworks and endless bureaucratic obstructions were finally cleared away, leaving space to imagine a truly just and sustainable future. Gone are the days of blissful capitalist ignorance to the “externalities” foisted upon the planet in pursuit of profit. The world has woken up, and it is starting to speak back. It’s time we heed the call of comrades at the forefront of this new climate battleground and, in solidarity, join the fight.



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It means that locals no longer fight in relative isolation, against a single employer, but use their collective power to make demands not just on the employer, but also political demands on the government.

Many union activists in the public sector have long argued for a ‘Common Front’ approach taken by Quebec public sector unions. It pulls together the incredible power that workers have when they fight together to im-



Local 358 picket in Peterborough

prove not only their own working conditions, but also the services used day in and day out by the public, which they deliver. When you pull together community members with workers taking action, you have the kind of force that can reverse the terrible cuts that we are seeing affect working class communities throughout Canada, no matter which stripe of government is in office.

Join a picket line near you!

Info at: <https://opseu.org/campaigns/worth-fighting-for/>

Health care fight heats up in Ontario

by: Christine Beckermann & Michelle Robidoux

This is how one of the thousands of healthcare workers, patients and others horrified by the dismantling of public healthcare captured the mood of anger and determination at Ford's health care privatization.

An estimated 8,000 people joined the protest, dubbed "Stop Doug Ford's privatization Train Wreck". At Union Station, delegations from London, Barrie, Kingston, Ottawa, Windsor, the Niagara region, and more poured off the trains to join crowds gathered outside the station. The protest stopped at the Sheraton Hotel where over 1,000 members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees joined in, then marched to Queen's Park.

The spirited march chanted "public healthcare: not for sale" and "hey hey, ho ho, corrupt Ford has got to go". A new anthem written by Sarah Basciano for the rally had the crowd singing along to "people not profit".

The rally targeted Ford's deliberate underfunding of public hospitals. The majority of hospitals in Ontario are currently in deficit. As the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has shown, this is by design, as funding has not kept up with inflation and the growing needs of an aging population.

These deficits affect smaller and rural hospitals even more than the bigger hospitals in cities like Ottawa, Oshawa and Hamilton. But those bigger hospitals are now laying off hundreds of workers. The Ottawa Hospital announced in April it was cutting 3% of its workforce – 400 jobs – including front line nurses, PSWs and administrative staff.

In Oshawa, Lakefield Health told nurses



Thousands marched to Queen's Park to stop Ford's privatization plans

to deliver meal trays to patients after three full-time dietary aide workers were among the 40 jobs cut in the past year. At St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, more than 60 PSWs, clerical and administrative positions are being eliminated, with some work transferred to nurses.

These cuts are costing lives, with longer wait times in emergency rooms, less time per patient, and patients being pushed out of hospital sicker and faster than they should because of the pressure inside the system.

Ontario funds hospitals at the lowest level of all provinces in Canada. Yet Ford spends millions in public funds on dismantling the

Science Centre, buying a jet, taking workers to court over Bill 124, and creating ad campaigns trying to convince us that his government is spending a record amount on healthcare. In fact, Ford is shunting hundreds of millions (close to \$300M in the last year alone) to for-profit private clinics to hollow out hospital services like surgeries and diagnostics.

But Ford is increasingly on the ropes. His recent move to exclude his communications and those of his cabinet from Freedom of Information requests is about covering up the stench of corruption that hangs over the Conservative government. It has exposed the

levels his government is willing to go to push through their deeply unpopular agenda.

The mass protest forced minister of Health Sylvia Jones onto the defensive. Responding to questions after the rally, she attempted to frame the drive to a two-tier system as about "convenience" and not privatization for profit. Ford was also forced to respond to the rally, claiming that corporations are more efficient than the public system, and that individual health care "consumers" can "spend their money a lot wiser than the government".

But if corporations are more "efficient", why is the Ford government paying up to twice the amount of public funds for services in private clinics than in hospitals?

While the protest mainly targeted the Ontario government, this fight is also against a federal government that refuses to enforce the Canada Health Act to stop runaway privatization, and is choosing militarization over funding social programs. Rallies at Liberal MP offices and pressure on the federal government must continue to grow.

Now is the time to expand and deepen the fight to save public healthcare. The summer will be an important time to dig even deeper and sow the seeds of organizing far and wide.

Critically important is the growing mobilization of healthcare workers who are the greatest bulwark in the fight to stop privatization of hospital services. The Ontario Nurses Association is fighting in court for the right to strike. OPSEU workers are on the picket lines. CUPE workers are protesting at hospitals across the province. These workers have the power, alongside a mass movement, to both sound the alarm about the state of health care and force Ford to fund the system.

Join your local health coalition:
ontariohealthcoalition.ca

Our jobs are 'Worth Fighting For' Solidarity with OPSEU strikers

by: Peter Votsch, CUPE 7797 (retired)

Twenty-seven community and social services agencies, all organized with OPSEU-SEFPO, hit the picket lines simultaneously on May 25. All are part of the "Worth Fighting For" campaign that brings together workers in developmental, youth, child welfare and addictions services, shelters and community agencies. Workers in this sector were hit hard by Bill 124, brought forward in 2019, aimed at limiting the right for public sector workers to bargain wage and benefit increases to 1%. The Bill ended in 2022, when the Tories sought to renew it, but lost their case to do so in court.

Approximately 100 workers hit the picket line at 8 on Monday morning in Peterborough at the offices of Developmental Services of Trent Highlands, part of OPSEU-SEFPO Local 358, which represents approximately 300 workers in the Peterborough-Kawartha Lakes-Halliburton area. Earlier this Spring, they had voted 97% to strike. In Toronto strikers hit the pickets in multiple locations including Sistering, a 24/7



Workers on the line at Sistering in Toronto

drop-in shelter for women and gender diverse folks. Picket lines are up in large and small communities from London to Thunder Bay.

The campaign was organized around synchronizing the end of collective agreements across as many companies/agencies in the sector, so that workers across the sector would bargain, and strike together against their various employers. The goals were to recoup 6.5% across the board as a make up for the wage restraint under Bill 124, but also to fight government cuts in the sectors, that have an impact not just on workers, but also their clients and their families.

At the strike deadline, the 27 OPSEU-SEFPO locals did not have acceptable settlements from their employers, leading 5000 workers across the province in those locals to take coordinated strike action.

This is one of the first of its kind in English Canada, where workers adopt the 'Common Front' tactic often used in Quebec, which brings large numbers of workers in various sectors to bargain and take collective action.

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