Delegates to the Vancouver & District Labour Council have endorsed the call for Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions against Israeli apartheid.

In the wake of the Singapore Summit, the DPRK and the USA continue to work towards a peaceful resolution to the decades-long conflict in the Korean Peninsula. It takes two partners to make progress.

Mexican voters go to the polls on July 1 to elect a new president. The frontrunner in the race says the country would survive the collapse of NAFTA by shifting to alternative policies.

Canada’s crisis of institutional racism keeps getting worse, not better....

Refugees Welcome: Scrap the ‘Safe Third Country Agreement’
- read page 7 -

Indigenous Peoples Have the Right of Self Determination and the Right to Survival, Dignity and Well-Being
Systemic racism embedded in Canada’s prisons and police

By Kimball Curari, Vancouver

The systemic racism directed at Indigenous peoples in Canada has been widely recognized for decades, but in many key respects, little progress is being made. In fact, some recent reports indicate that the situation may be getting worse, not better.

One example concerns incarceration rates for Indigenous people, who make up five percent of the country’s population. But Indigenous women made up a shocking 43 percent of prisoners in federal custody, and 29 percent in provincial and territorial custody. In 2016-17, up from 26 percent in 2008-09.

Another indication of the ongoing impact of institutional and structural racism comes in a complaint filed by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) calling for “an immediate investigation into the ongoing impact of institutional and structural racism revealed in Vancouver Police Department’s practice of ‘street checks’ or police stops, often referred to as carding.”

The terms are familiar in other parts of Canada, such as the police practice in Toronto and other cities of stopping non-white individuals or marginalized communities person outside of an investigation, questioning them, obtaining their ID, and often recording their personal information. The BC complaint is based on freedom of information data from the Vancouver Police Department website, revealing that Indigenous and Black people are significantly over-represented in the number of street checks conducted by the VPD.

The data on 97,281 street checks conducted between 2008 and 2017 revealed that 15 percent of these checks were of Indigenous people, who make up only 2 percent of the city’s population. During those years, about 4 percent of all street checks targeted Black people, who make up less than 1 percent of the population. The trend in recent years is for this disparity to widen, not decline.

As UBCIC vice-president Chief Bob Chamberlin states, “The statistics on racial disparity in street carding demonstrate the lived reality of institutional racism that our people face despite the public rhetoric and celebrations around reconciliation. We can’t be any clearer – this must be investigated, the VPD must make the public apologize and make an immediate commitment to change their terribly discriminatory practices.”

Elaine Durocher, a Métis grand daughter and board member of Downtown Eastside Women’s Center, says, “We experienced the racist practice of VPD street checks every day in the Downtown Eastside. Indigenous people and people of colour living in poverty, are we routinely stopped by the police on every block – from our home, to the food lineup, to our volunteer work for no reason other than to question and intimidate us. For Indigenous women surviving colonial gendered violence, which is the subject of the national inquiry currently under way, street checks are yet one more way that we are over-policed and under-protected on our own lands.”

Black Lives Matter Vancouver adds: “Over the past few years that Black Lives Matter has existed in Vancouver (uncovered Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh lands), we’ve come to notice there is a stringent denial of the existence of racism in Canada. It is difficult to see ‘why there is a need for a Black Lives Matter chapter in Vancouver?’

because they are convinced that racialized issues like police violence, carding, racial profiling, drive while black and so on, are only unique to the United States and Eastern Canada. The recent report alongside the numerous other reports indicates of anti-Blackness in Vancouver, such as the physical assault of Solomon Akintoye, the racial profiling and tasering of Jamiel Solomon Akintoye, and the violent handling of a young black girl in Surrey by the RCMP; further proves the necessity of fighting racism in this city and this country.”

June Francis, co-chair of the Hogan’s Alley Society, said: “Black and Indigenous people have long complained of systemic racism by the Vancouver police. The figures released on Vancouver police’s targeting of Indigenous and Black people for arbitrary street checks and police stops are alarming and should start to shed light on the daily reality of targeted populations who are far too frequently exposed to physical harm, humiliation and serious violations of their rights.”

PV photo: K. Curari

The hard facts of anti-Indigenous racism in Canada

(Source: Assembly of First Nations)

- One in four children in First Nation communities live in poverty. That’s almost double the national average.
- Suicide rates among First Nation youth are five to seven times higher than among non-Aboriginal Canadians.
- The life expectancy of First Nation children is five to seven years less than other non-Aboriginal Canadians and infant mortality rates are 1.5 times higher among First Nations.
- Incarceration rates among First Nation citizens on-reserve have risen 31 times the national average.
- A First Nation youth is more likely to end up in jail than any other group in Canada.
- First Nation children, on average, receive 22% less funding for child welfare services than other Canadian children.
- There are 40 First Nation communities without schools, and there are First Nation communities where children have been out of school in more than two years.
- First Nation students attending reserve schools are funded at a rate of $3,000 – $7,000 less than students attending other schools in Canada.
- First Nation people on-reserve have the lowest labour force participation rate (52%) of any Aboriginal group, compared to 67% of non-Aboriginal Canadians.
- First Nation citizens are dealing with the effects of chronic and communicable diseases and are exposed to greater health risks because of poor housing, higher unemployment, contaminated water and limited access to healthy foods.
- Tuberculosis among First Nation citizens is 31 times the national average.
- One in five First Nations is diabetic – that’s three to five times the national average.
- Approximately 25% of on-reserve water treatment systems pose a high health risk.
- 12% of First Nation communities have to boil their drinking water, impacting about 75,000 citizens.
- First Nations are experiencing a housing crisis with approximately 85,000 housing units required across Canada. In many cases multiple families live in one and two bedroom homes.
- Approximately 44% of the existing housing stock needs major repairs and another 15% require outright replacement.
- Of the 88,485 houses on-reserve, 5,486 are without sewage services.
- mould contaminated almost half of all First Nation households.

PV FUND DRIVE

Donations from our mail appeal continue to arrive, along with online contributions. Over the last two weeks, we have received another $1,200 in donations, taking us to $15,552, or 71.1% as of June 22. Newfoundland & Labrador and Manitoba have topped their targets with donations and pledges, and other provinces are closing in on their targets. (New Brunswick Nova Scotia is at 95%, Ontario at 84%, and Alberta now at 80%.) Fundraisers coming up soon include the annual Davenport Club BBQ in Toronto, on Saturday, July 7-8 pm (see page 11 for details). The B.C. Civil Liberties Association is one of the People’s Voice, with editor Kimball Curari, is set for Sunday, July 29, at 819 Nanaimo Road Lake, ph. Joe Lyechak for more details. Our biggest fundraiser, the PV Walk-A-Thon at Franklin Park in Surrey, BC, will start at 11 am on Sunday, August 26.

2018 PV Fund Drive - June 22

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Contribute online at peoplesvoice.ca/donate

Here’s my contribution to the PV Fund Drive!

Enclosed please find my donation of $ to the 2018 People’s Voice Press Fund Drive.

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Address

City/town

Prov. ________ Postal Code _______________

Send your contribution to:

People’s Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

PV file photo: K. Curari
It takes two to tango

By Finian Cunningham

President Donald Trump appeared to blindside everyone when he announced he was cancelling "war games" on the Korean Peninsula as a gesture of peaceable intent towards North Korea. If Trump was truly trying to de-escalate tensions, then it will be key to a successful resolution of the decades-old conflict, because only if North Korea fulfills its vow to scrap nuclear weapons.

Starting the week after his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Trump referred to the annual joint military exercises between US and South Korean forces as "provocative" and "inappropriate" in the new context of peaceable exchange. Understandably, the US president and the Trump administration – like previous US administrations – had refused to consider moving or even moving away from its manoeuvres, and its latest face-to-face talks on Singapore's Sentosa Island. Even the Pentagon seemed to be going along with Trump despite the cancellation, writing that the "defence drills" aimed at combined US allies in Japan and South Korea.

The US army's move was followed up with visits to his South Korean and Japanese counterparts to "assure them" that US defence pacts are "ironclad". Notably, however, Pompeo did not retreat from Trump's announcement of cancelling the joint military drills due to take place later this year. In his trip to Beijing, Pompeo accepted Chinese Minister Wang Yi's stance that security and military treaties profit from the ongoing USreshape of the OPC.
Tariff war will hit working people

It appears that the tariff war launched by Donald Trump is about to get much bigger, possibly sparking a major global economic slump. In a socialist world, a reduction in certain types of economic activity could result in a greater need for workers in other sectors, a shorter working week, and a longer paid vacation. At the same time, huge concessions on NAFTA, Canada should shift to a People’s Alternative economic strategy based on the needs of working people and the environment. Making such a change calls for the election of a government with the strength and wisdom to chart a new course for the 21st century; that will be a prominent issue leading up to the October 2019 federal election.

Family separation is not new

The Trump administration’s war against working people extends in a particularly brutal way with the establishment of prison camps to jail thousands of migrant children. Faced with a backlash, the President finally had to make a small tactical retreat. But days after he supposedly rescinded the policy, only a small percentage of the jailed children and their parents had been reunited. This brutal attack is directed against people seeking a better life from a country torn and scarred by greed, with an ominous signal of the real intentions of the white supremacists and xenophobes who are enabled by Trump and some European ultra-right leaders. In the name of “defending the white race,” these dangerous forces are the modern-day equivalent of the Nazis.

Family separation is not new leading up to the October 2019 federal election.

Women’s pay: capitalism knows a good thing when it sees it

By Laura Duggan, Irish Socialist Voice

When people talk about the pay gap they often cite the generally accepted figures of 10-14 per cent difference in pay between men and women, but this gap being more noticeable in the higher echelons of business. Critics admit that the pay gap is real but explain away differences by stating that women earn less on average because they work fewer hours, and female-heavy sectors are paid less than male-dominated ones, so a pay gap should be expected and accepted as part of the way of things. This is often accompanied by a push to get more women into the higher-paying science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields or to put the “right” women in the “right” jobs.

But while it is true that women do on average work fewer hours, neither side is asking why this is the case, and why female-dominated industries are paid less. The gender gap in that sector actually works, female plant and machine workers are paid less, and most of these work in female-dominated field of child care. Even the most skilled wage earner in that sector is paid less. Like pushing for more women in the work-place, the pay gap is negotiation skill assumes that female staff being paid less. It is this work that is essential to the maintenance of the home and family — the very foundation of capitalism. It is this work that is essential to the production of future workers and resources — and it is all at risk.

The vast majority (98 per cent) of those who are looking after homes and children in 2016 were women. Even when both partners are working full-time outside the home, the responsibility for the home and childcare falls on women. It is this assumption of the “sacrificial Wife and Mother” that continues. Women in these jobs are manipulated into providing child care and care for sick family members, and are less likely to be promoted or to secure higher wages. It is this work that is essential to the maintenance of the home — socially reproductive work rears its head. It is this work that is essential to the production of future workers and resources — and it is all at risk. It is this work that is essential to the production of future workers and resources — and it is all at risk.

Socially reproductive work is maintenance of the home and family that is unpaid, often unthanked, and predominantly falls on the shoulders of women. This work is essential in keeping the nuclear family producing future workers...

This is where the diminishing of socially reproductive work rears its head. Socially reproductive work is maintenance of the home and family that is unpaid, often unthanked, and predominantly falls on the shoulders of women. It is this work that is essential in keeping the nuclear family producing future workers and maintaining current “human resources”— and it is all at risk.

Capitalism knows a good thing when it sees it. Even when both partners are working full-time outside the home, the responsibility for the home and childcare falls on women. It is this assumption of the “sacrificial Wife and Mother” that continues. Women in these jobs are manipulated into providing child care and care for sick family members, and are less likely to be promoted or to secure higher wages. It is this work that is essential to the maintenance of the home — socially reproductive work rears its head. It is this work that is essential to the production of future workers and resources — and it is all at risk. It is this work that is essential to the production of future workers and resources — and it is all at risk.
By Nina Pagliccia

In a strange case of reversed roles Canadian Minister of For- eign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland, tried to convince US president Donald Trump to return to his lost love of international trade agreements, in an impassioned speech on June 13 at the National Press Club in Washington DC.

Freeland seems to have a good chance of landing a circle in Washington. At least enough to survive the change of date and nomination as "diplomat of the year." But she should know that this recognition was not meant to acknowledge her achievements, but rather to use her influence on behalf of some US sectors that dissent from aspects of Trump's foreign policy that are perceived to hurt business, such as international trade tariffs. Freeland obliged and that was precisely the aim of her speech.

We don't know the impact that this speech had on Trump, if any. But her message would have been fitting had she been on the same stage during that TV appearance, whom she did praise once.

What we do know is that her speech was intended to be inspirational - was full of liberal, capitalist and imperial rhetoric, and not much of a little understanding of the geopolitical realities of today. Her tenacious defense of the virtues of capitalism placed her right back at the time of the old Cold War, with the only exception of authoritarianism being the nemesis instead of communism.

She pointed her accusatory finger at Venezuela, Russia and China, enumerated countries that do not follow her image of international order. Of the USSR and the cosmovs that are, for example, China and Russia, that do not follow her image of international order.

A look at the list reveals that Chrystia Freeland's "mano-a-mano" retort to Donald Trump's "America First" policies was an insult to everyone. At the G7 meeting means a deep fissure in Canada-US relations.

The odd situation was an exaltation of the common goal of two countries, share, albeit with tactical differences: "the fight for liberal democracy and the international rules-based order that supports it." By "international" she obviously meant North American.

Her reductionist view is that reproducing a patched up, worn out Cold War nuclear war.

The ability of US imperialism to dominate the planet is facing serious new challenges.

In the new upcoming world order, countries with different systems can form alliances and countries with similar systems, such as capitalism, communism, Venezuela's 21st century socialism, or Russia's Orthodox Christianity, can work together to deescalate major conflicts and bring competitors together.

She went on to say, "Liberal democracy is also under assault at home and abroad. Authoritarian regimes are actively seeking to undermine us with sophisticated, and ruthless propaganda and espionage programs." An obvious reference to Russia. In fact she did refer specifically to Venezuela's "authoritarianism" and to Russia's "move" backwards "from democratic capitalism."

Her reductionist view is that reproducing a patched up, worn out Cold War nuclear war.

Chrystia Freeland fails to see the emerging multipolar world

Oh no, Canada: a country of peacekeeping?

By Kimball Curio

Every Canada Day, the federal government spends millions of dollars on fireworks and parties, to promote the concept that Canada is a country of peace and living happily together in the "greatest country in the world." Of course, the dire poverty facing many, the centuries-old oppression of Indigenous Peoples, Quebec, Acadia, and racialized communities, the wide gap for women, and the ongoing recognition that, when the realities are admitted, the claim is that we are all united around the goal of "overcoming the problems of the past". A key part of this unofficial Canadian ideology is the fiction of a world of military conflicts and violence, ours is a unique country of peace, but while Canada did provide military units as United Nations peacekeepers in the past, as of April 18, 2018, a total of 22 (yes, twenty-two) Canadian armed forces personnel are serving in UN peacekeeping missions.

The days of the storming the beaches, the dropping of the atomic bomb, and the defeat Hitler fascism (my mother’s favourite uncle was killed in a Normandy beach assault 72 months after D-Day) are long past. Today, the Canadian Armed Forces are fully integrated into the USNATO military machine, which has elbowed the United Nations Security Council out of the loop.

"Peacekeeping," which was always a problematic term at best, has long been replaced by military operations designed and led by the major imperialist powers and their allies (or paid servants). The last significant occasion on which Canada refrained from joining such a "coalition of the willing" was during the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when huge numbers of protesters made it politically impossible for the Liberal government to participate. Even then, Canada was not about to enter a war of aggression without a "peacekeeping," or preparation for war against Russia?

Canada is training troops in the west African country of Niger, and preparing to send troops to Mali, as part of a wider campaign by imperialist France to retain their position of strength across its former colonial empire. Those who think the operation in Mali is to combat Muslim extremists should recall that when the US and its NATO allies defeated the Gadhafi government in Libya in 2011, Nato and its allied pilots termed themselves the "ISIS air force," a grim reference to their ongoing war against the "Islamic state," and distancing itself from any measure of United Nations. The yardstick of if the range of international issues, Canadian foreign policy is now clearly stating that right-wing forces, such as bitter opposition to the democratically elected governments of Venezuela, antagonism towards Russia and China, and a refusal to criticize Israel’s apartheid anti-Palestinian policies. This close-knit relationship may be challenged by the increasingly isolationist character of the Trump administration, but in the long run, the global capitalist class led by the American military-industrial complex is looking towards stronger coordination of military policies.

As we are all aware, the Canadian military is an important link in the growth of far-right political forces. Even while any genuine independence from US foreign policy positions is not being felt, such forces are scoping a wide range of alleged "threats" and planning their next assault.

Oh no, Canada: a country of peacekeeping?

Like the election of Doug Ford in Ontario, the emergence of organized racist groups within the Armed Forces is a dangerous signal that policies in Canada may be turning towards fascist demagogy. The "Golden Boys" move to the right of the political spectrum, with the aid of an army of thugs, immigrant-bashers and pro-fascist online demagogy. The "Golden Boys" move to the right of the political spectrum, with the aid of an army of thugs, immigrant-bashers and pro-fascist online demagogy.

The ability of US imperialism to dominate the planet is facing serious new challenges.

It seems the US is moving to the right of the political spectrum, with the aid of an army of thugs, immigrant-bashers and pro-fascist online demagogy.

One Canada Day, it seems the US is moving to the right of the political spectrum, with the aid of an army of thugs, immigrant-bashers and pro-fascist online demagogy.
For stability and a sovereign peace, the People’s Korea-USA agreement brings good news

By Socorro Gomez: President of the World Peace Council, June 13, 2018

With hope, however cautious, the world receives the news about the agreement signed this June 12 between the Presidents Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump, which puts Korea and the US closer to a diplomatic solution for the regional instability, to dissipate the constant threat of war and end the painful Korean national division. After almost seven decades of outrageous, offensive policy of the US and its allies against the People’s Korea, the peace forces must follow up on the dialogue’s development with renewed commitment.

A series of alleviating events culminated on this point, with emphasis to the two friendly meetings already confirmed between the Korean leaders. In the most recent one, on April 27th, Presidents Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in reaffirmed the historic commitment with a future peaceful and sovereign national reunification, cementing rapprochement in the meeting’s environment, with the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula. Moreover, we mark the 18 years of the promising 15th of June North-South Joint Declaration, of similar commitment, which gains strength.

The disposition of the Korean leadership and President Kim’s posture are brave and assertive. After all, the People’s Korea and the peace forces all over the world have been vehement in denouncing the impacts of the imperialist interference in the Korean Peninsula, since the devastating 1950-53 war. That desolating episode, the US led a horrific bombing campaign that destroyed 75% of the capital Pyongyang, among other cities. Estimates inform that, during the war, almost three million Koreans were killed. Moreover, in the following decades, a policy of denunciation and criminal sanctions set the bases for the isolation imposed on the People’s Korea by the US imperialist and its allies, with offensive impacts on the population. Still, Kim Jong-un took the bold and necessary path towards dialogue.

Cooperating with Trump, Kim put the demands that his country has reiterated on the table: the end of the war drills held on a yearly basis between the US and South Korea – which Trump finally admitted are “provocative” and “inappropriate” in a press conference in Singapore – and of the sanctions frequently reinforced against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The successive North-Korean leaders have equally reiterated the proposal of a peace treaty to finally end the Korean War, through which the US laid the bases for its offensive presence on the peninsula. Such permanent presence is the number of 28,000 troops. According to Trump, in his press statements, the US should reduce or withdraw the troops from South Korea, end the military drills and gradually suspend sanctions against the People’s Korea in exchange for demilitarization – a commitment fully and expeditiously performed by the DPRK including through the destruction of the testing site in May, for instance.

The agreement signed is a great victory for the entire Korean nation, who yearns for rapprochement and, in the future, the peaceful and sovereign reunification. In the context of the anniversary of the Joint Declaration signed on June 15th, 2000, between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea, hope must be strengthened together with the demand for a sovereign peace, corresponding to the will of the Korean people, who has already been suffering from the division and the imperialist interference in the peninsula for over 60 years. Furthermore, as the World Peace Council has been affirming, the threat of a generalized war should dissipate thanks to the commitment reinforced by all, including the peace forces all over the world.

The end of foreign interference and of the US threats of aggression is a condition for the progress of negotiations, which, as the Korean leadership affirmed, will be accompanied by the desired demilitarization of the peninsula and the national rapprochement, in favor of peace and shared prosperity, which are the strategic necessities and goals of all consequent forces.

From the June 12 joint DPRK-US statement:

Convinced that the establishment of new DPRK-U.S. relations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and of the world, and recognizing that mutual confidence building can promote the demilitarization of the Korean Peninsula, Chairman Kim Jong-un and President Trump state the following:

1. The DPRK and the United States commit to establish new DPRK-U.S. relations in accordance with the desire of the peoples of the two countries for peace and prosperity.
2. The DPRK and the United States will join their efforts to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.
3. Reaffirming the April 27, 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, the DPRK commits to work toward complete demilitarization of the Korean Peninsula.
4. The DPRK and the United States commit to recovering POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of surrounding identified.

Having acknowledged that the DPRK-U.S. summit, the first in history, was an epochal event of great significance in overcoming decades of tensions and hostilities between the two countries and for opening of a new future, Chairman Kim Jong-un and President Trump commit to implement the stipulations in this joint statement fully and expeditiously.

We congratulate President Kim Jong-un and the leadership of the People’s Korea-USA agreement brings good news.

DPRK-US agreement a welcome step towards peace and stability

Central Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada, June 12, 2018

The Communist Party of Canada welcomes the June 12 agreement between Presidents Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump, as an important step towards removing the threat of a new and potentially catastrophic war in the Korean Peninsula. But while we express our optimism, we know that powerful voices within the imperialist camp still seek to prolong the legacy of US hostility, aimed at isolating the DPRK and imposing US domination. We call upon the federal government to fully support the June 12 agreement, to demand an end to sanctions, and to help build stronger and peaceful relations with the DPRK and its people, who must be allowed to exercise their sovereignty, and to build peace and prosperity without the constant threat of US aggression.

For over six decades, our party has advocated a negotiated treaty to end the Korean conflict. We have always supported proposals to demilitarize the Korean Peninsula, such as the withdrawal of US troops, an end to the annual war games conducted by the US and South Korean military forces, and removal of all nuclear weapons from the region. The June 12 agreement opens a policy way towards these goals, and to eliminate a potential source of a future military conflict.

Those who seek to sabotage the agreement by claiming that the DPRK-U.S. summit has been failed, or that it violates human rights, should look instead at the United States, which killed three million Koreans and destroyed Pyongyang during the 1950-53 war. US imperialism is responsible for waging nuclear war against the people of Japan, and for countless aggressions and interventions against Korea and other countries. It is the United States which has the world’s biggest prison population, and which violates the human and democratic rights of its people on a massive scale. The US was founded upon the genocide of Indigenous peoples and the wholesale theft of their lands, and upon the chattel slave trade and the resulting pervasive racism still practised today. Yet despite imperialism’s history of threats and aggression, the leadership of the DPRK has wisely chosen to seek peace and friendship with the USA. On this historic occasion, we congratulate President Kim Jong-un and the entire Korean nation, and reiterate our full support for the goal of peaceful and sovereign reunification of the peninsula.

But we also stress that the dangers of war and militarism are growing in our world today. The United States is escalating its military spending, developing its nuclear weapons technology, and threatening Iran, Venezuela and other countries. Canada’s military spending is growing rapidly, and Canadian troops are increasingly integrated within the US global military strategy to expand imperialist domination and encircle Russia and China. More than ever, the movement for peace and disarmament must become a powerful factor in Canada, and around the world, and we pledge to make this struggle a priority for our Party’s work.
The Communist Party of Canada calls on the Trudeau government and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Ahmed Hussen to end meetings with U.S. counterparts discussing the controversial Safe Third Country Agreement and instead immediately withdraw from the agreement.

Minister Hussen, over the last two weeks, has been in talks with the U.S. to reach a new deal with the U.S. which would restrict “irregular entry” and force refugees to cross the U.S.-Canadian border at official points of entry. If Trudeau’s claims to welcome refugees were sincere, the agreement would have been torn up in 2015 when he and his government were elected.

In 1951, Canada signed the international Refugee Convention and Protocol, which states that Canada must grant protection to all those seeking asylum due to fears of persecution or death in their country of origin. This is Canada’s international legal obligation.

Fourteen years ago, in 2004, the then Liberal government signed the STCA with the U.S. government of George W. Bush. It was based on a fallacious assumption that both countries are “safe” for refugees, therefore refugees should apply for asylum in the first country they arrive in, either Canada or the U.S. However, the agreement only applies to designated border crossings. Refugees that understandably think they may have a better opportunity to receive asylum in Canada than in the U.S. can legally apply for asylum in Canada if they do not cross the border at a designated point of entry. The Canadian government decided to force refugees into a precarious position in which they are legally forced to cross the border and now they are looking to shut down the U.S.-Canada border for refugee migration altogether.

While Immigration Minister Hussen has been secretive about the discussions he is having with U.S. Homeland Security, he told CBC in late May that, “...the discussions would revolve around making sure that we are modernizing the agreement in a way that makes it applicable between points of entry”, meaning refugees coming from the U.S. would be turned away no matter the situation they would face in the U.S. or if they are deported back to their home country from the U.S.

The current agreement has led to thousands of refugees risking their physical safety by forcing them away from designated border crossings and making long journeys in the middle of winter. One year ago, Mavis Oulong, a 72-year-old Ghanaian refugee died in a ditch from hypothermia while crossing into Manitoba. In 2015, another refugee from Ghana who was persecuted for being LGBT, lost all of his fingers on both hands to frostbite on the journey across the same border.

The current shared rhetoric surrounding these crossings by ultra-right groups, the corporate media and even politicians of large parties has enabled their racist and xenophobic grave threat that the attack on the rights of refugees and immigrants will be won.

The situation of refugees forced to cross the border irregularly is a human rights outrage and process of “illegal” immigration. In fact, the majority of refugee claimants made by persons entering Canada anyway no matter the situation it is applicable between points of entry. The discussions would revolve around making sure that we are modernizing the agreement in a way that makes it applicable between points of entry.”

The Conservative, now led by Andrew Scheer who has close connections with the right and xenophobic Rebel Media, has repeatedly called for the expansion of the STCA.

Migrant Workers

The Canadian government has a moral responsibility to welcome refugees, many of whom are fleeing lethal situations that the government has created. As climate change worsens creating the expected millions of climate refugees and imperialis’s drive to war grows stronger day-by-day, the crisis of millions caused by these crimes will also grow. Now is the time to act and fightback against xenophobic immigration laws and the ultra-right.

The Communist Party of Canada calls on the Trudeau government to immediately scrap the “The Designated Country of Origin List” which prohibits refugees from more than 40 countries from seeking refugee status in Canada. This agreement is also designed to violate the rights of refugees from 40 specific countries that the government has declared “safe”. Refugees from these countries are treated with more scrutiny than regular claimants and have a harder time getting status. This supposed “safe list” includes countries with right-wing governments and strong fascist movements that are not safe, including the United States, Hungary, Poland and Austria. It also includes other “allies” which are extremely violent, such as Israel and Mexico.

The Canadian government itself has been guilty in contributing to instability, death and political persecution around the world as a result of their participation in wars, coups, and other imperialist interventions. The Canadian backed coups in Haiti, Ukraine and Honduras and the Canadian bombing of Syria and Libya are all prime examples. The Canadian government has a moral responsibility to welcome refugees, many of whom are fleeing lethal situations that the government has created. As climate change worsens creating the expected millions of climate refugees and imperialism’s drive to war grows stronger day-by-day, the crisis of millions caused by these crimes will also grow. Now is the time to act and fightback against xenophobic immigration laws and the ultra-right.

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For generations, workers on tea plantations in India have struggled with lack of access to safety, health, and adequate sanitation facilities. For the past two years, women workers on plantations in the states of Assam and West Bengal which supply tea to UK-based Tetley have been organising to demand decent water and sanitation.

In the past when workers complained to management, they were ignored. Now the workers, mainly women, have formed water and sanitation committees on six plantations to document the abominable conditions and to provoke concrete improvements.

At campaign meetings and rallies on World Water Day this year, they spoke out and demanded that local plantation management to engage in good faith negotiations with them. In response, Pressure Group at Tetley has publicly agreed that plantation workers face and allege human rights violations), and that it has a “planned action plan” to “address the issues” (such as water, and inventory clerks, to major corporations including Verizon, and the Tea Pickers' Union), for example, says it takes any allegations of misconduct seriously, but there isn’t clear evidence to support the allegations of sexual harassment.

The accusations are part of a flurry of other informal complaints made against the tea industry. The workers and retailers have failed to provide their suppliers with the financial information needed to assess and complete hazard corrections.

Companies sourcing from plantations in India, such as Waltex, Calico, Inco, and McDonald’s, for example, have also been subject to sexual harassment.

Worker safety has been a sensitive subject for Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk, who addressed the topic during the company’s annual meeting in early June. Musk also attacked the United Auto Workers on Twitter, saying in one post that the union had has “sold out” workers, and that the company’s annual meeting in early June. Musk also attacked the United Auto Workers on Twitter, saying in one post that the union had has “sold out” workers, and that the company’s “sweatshop progress” was not to blame for workers’ conditions.

Brazil’s top labour court ruled on June 21 in favour of workers at the Nestlé factory in Brazil. Petróleo Brasileiro, which produces sugar and ethanol, is one of the world’s leading brands, producing sugar and ethanol. The company has faced scrutiny over its alleged implications for the environment, climate change, and social conditions.

In the five years following the collapse of Rana Plaza, Bangladesh has made progress in improving workers' health and safety in its garment industry. Now, the “sweatshop business model,” which relies on global compliance, is undermining those gains as international clothing brands cut costs by working with suppliers in Bangladesh, and continue to roam the world looking for the lowest production costs, the most vulnerable workforce, and the weakest, most compliant government.

The dramatic rise in the country of grant domestic workers ‘labour’ status, the Unorganised Labour Social Workers (National Union for the Sexual Harassment of Women) at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act of 2013. But neither law provides any legal framework regarding rights of domestic workers. In the light of this, granting trade union status to a domestic workers’ union in a domestic workers’ building, 91 percent did not have a fire detection and alarm system, and 70 percent had no low pressure water fitting in the building to prevent collapses.

By April 2018, the Accord’s 100-plus member companies had 25,000 initial and follow-up inspections and more than 99,000 specific electrical, fire safety and building safety audits completed — more than 60 percent of the 123,000 identified hazards have been eliminated, and 767 factories have completed more than 90 percent of their corrective action plans.

After the Rana Plaza disaster, disaster, clothing brands try to evade their legal responsibilities. Some workers were able to secure a wage increase of up to 35 percent, according to calculations by the Attorney General’s Office.

Petrobras plans to appeal the decision in the Supreme Federal Court, but other problems face the company. It has recently settled a nearly $3 billion lawsuit with U.S. investors and is seeking to avoid further $21 billion divestment programme.

A nationwide strike by truckers over high fuel costs forced embattled President Michel Temer to cut diesel prices, in part via proposals paid to truckers. While the government has promised to compensate Petrobras for losses incurred by the price cut, some doubt whether the company would be made whole, and CEO Pedro Parente has resigned.

The document also bars former workers from sharing “business-related” information or contracts that ex-employees assist Tesla’s defense against claims; releases any claims made against Tesla; and dictates that any disputes under the agreement will be handled in an individual arbitration.

“I do think the agreement will chill valid employee complaints,” said W. Scott Greer, a law professor at Temple University.

“A reasonable worker would just keep their mouths shut, rather than risk losing their severance pay.”

The agreement still includes a two-year ban and higher wages for existing workers.

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Chinese unions grow in numbers and strength

ROBERT GRIFFITHS, general secretary of the Communist Party of Britain, from a recent meeting in Beijing between the Chinese Communist Party and Western communist parties.

There is an important role in the anti-fascist war, China’s democratic revolution, social reconstruction and reform,” Mr An told the representatives from Canada, Australia, the US, Sweden, Finland and Britain. “Since then, our federation has become a popular motif in China today as the study of Marxism expands.

In the event of unions and employers failing to agree, Mr An said recently that “no NAFTA can be complete unless Anaya wins.”

Disguised as opinion polls, Mexicans are receiving automated campaign calls against Lopez Obrador and his MORENA party. The calls claim to be from the “Mexican Institute for Democracy,” but an investigation by Mexican newspaper El Norte revealed the voice is that of the institute’s existence. The messages spread fabricated claims that there are accusations of kidnappings and fraud, and that Lopez Obrador plans to send Mexican troops to protect kidnappers and drug dealers.

Clearly, the Mexican ruling class is creating a false perception that AMLO is winning.

Mr An has emphasised the importance of bringing as many workers and employers as possible into China’s system of labour contracts. These are negotiated by the ACFTU collectively, specifying wage levels and other terms of employment. They are reviewed by the national minimum wage provisions also apply, with no exemptions for small enterprises or for female labour.

It is quick to point out that the federation often consults foreign unions when negotiating contracts with multinational corporations. Furthermore, we press these companies operating abroad to comply with local laws that protect workers,” he points out.

In order to secure a safety net for migrant workers and their families, the ACFTU also ensures that migrants are protected in accordance with “household responsibility” legislation.

A recruitment drive launched by the federation in April is targeting forry drivers, couriers, health workers, hotel staff, food delivery workers and security guards.

Many of these are migrant workers from the countryside. Some have also been subject to widespread state of strikes and protests, displaying posters calling for the federation to step up its campaign to ensure that the CPC and the law will defend workers’ interests.

His remarks prompt a fresh round of questions to Mr An from his foreign communist visitors.
The U.S. press doesn’t tell you what Maduro has done for the poor

By Daniel Krovak, May 25, 2018

I just returned from observing my fourth election in Venezuela in less than a year. Jimmy Carter has called the electoral process a “dictatorship” and as a country in need of saving. This coverage not only ignores the reality of Venezuela, it ignores the fact that the U.S. has been an impediment to democracy throughout Latin America since the end of the 19th century.

Prior to the Venezuelan presidential election on May 20 — an election which included an opposition candidate, Henrique Capriles, from the business community — the U.S. government announced that it would “recognize the outcome no matter who won. The U.S. had gone so far as to threaten Mr. Maduro’s economic adviser had said leading to the collapse of the Venezuelan economy.

The U.S. also threatened further economic sanctions on Venezuela if incumbent leftist Nicolas Maduro won — sanctions that even Mr. Faldon’s “economy adviser had said leading to the collapse of the Venezuelan economy.

The result was that Maduro won in a landslide. But it was not the only boycott — observed mostly in wealthier communities, as I witnessed — that won the election. The U.S. has been an impediment to democracy throughout Latin America since the end of the 19th century.

The North American corporate media treats the Maduro government’s support for the poor as a form of election cheating, not as a policy to help working people.

The return of Hugo Chavez to power after he was overthrown in a U.S.-backed coup and kidnapped. But you never hear the voices of these poor people in the U.S. press. You never hear their side of the story, how they have benefited from the Bolivarian Revolution and how desperately they do not want to go back to how things were before.

While they have been given a voice in Venezuela, it remains muzzled in this country, and by a press which passes off pro-intervention and pro-war propaganda as journalism. It is no wonder the United States is now considered one of the greatest conductors in the world. The American Indian Movement (AIM) was founded on July 11, 1968, by Dennis Banks and the Ojibwe people of Minnesota. The movement’s goals included the occupation of Alcatraz, the Trail of Broken Treaties to Washington, D.C., the occupation of Mount Rushmore, and, most important, dignity.

I believe that every single one of us, celebrity or not, has a responsibility to get involved in trying to make a difference in the world. Our generation faces many challenges, some of which exist beyond the boundaries of corporate pop, Euro-classical and jazz, Songlines has much to offer. The 2018 awards are for best recordings in five regional categories: Africa & Middle East, Asia, Latin America, Asia, Africa & Pacific, Europe, and “Fusion” (that latter for recordings that crossed regional boundaries). Winning artists and sample their music at www.songlines.co.uk/awards. Four additional Songlines awards — for Best Artist, Best Group, Newcomer, and World Pioneer — will be announced online at www.songlines.co.uk. Winning artists and sample their music at www.songlines.co.uk/awards.
USW welcomes criminal investigation of workplace deaths

continued from p. 5 for a sick child, when it makes no economic sense? Until socially reproductive work is properly appreciated and paid, the labour market will remain a market in which women’s work is not valued as much as pushing women into the higher-value science, technology, engineering and mathematical fields, we have a problem with how we value social and caring work. Now that the vast majority of families are required to be dual-income homes to afford increased living costs, the playing down of women’s work inside the home and out is increasingly destructive and keeps women and their families chasing ever-decreasing returns. Lone mothers are doubly penalised for this. Already earning less by virtue of being women, they must also reduce their working hours to care for their child. This is the silent pay gap, and it is where we can see the class of the difference in the devaluation of women’s labour and the capitalist promotion of the nuclear family: working to pay the child care and strong trade unions with employees who are paid fairly. We need public housing, and strong trade unions with good legislation behind them. This is a slave of a world that we need to break the shackles that hold us all.

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ChinA UNIOns...

Paris honours gay icon Mark Ashton

Mark Ashton, 1986

Paris is to honour Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) founder member Mark Ashton, who paved the way for gay rights to be adopted by Britain’s trade unions. The council of the French capital’s fourth arrondissement, a sector which includes the gay village Le Marais, is set to commemorate Ashton as “a role model for young people” after Communist Party councillors proposed a street or public place be named after him.

The former general secretary of Britain’s Young Communist League played a key role in building support for Britain’s striking miners among the gay community during the 1984-85 dispute.

Unfortunately, President Trump’s anti-Chinese “trade war” threat may have caused the cancellation of a planned ACFTU visit to the federation’s AFL-CIO families. Unfounded. Mr An remains keen to promote trade union contacts, exchange visits and other arrangements around the world.

“China wants to buy more goods from the US and other developed countries — but US government policy restricts what China can sell to us,” he lamented. “Yet the benefits of technological advance should be shared between people and parents leave us to be shared between parents; and state education to third level that is accessible to all and doesn’t pigeonhole students according to gender, race, or class. We need public housing, and strong trade unions with good legislation behind them. This is a slave of a world that we need to break the shackles that hold us all.

WHAT'S LEFT

Moncada Day Celebration
Sunday, July 29th @ 2pm

Chilean Coop
399 School Ave, Vancouver

Music, food...speakers... $15

People's Voice

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For the issue dated August 1-31, 2017
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People's Voice
Canada abstains on UN condemnation of Israeli violence

By Abram Lutes, PV correspondent in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR - ARENA, the leading right-wing party in El Salvador’s Legislative Assembly, is attempting to push through a new “Water Law” which would privatize the country’s water distribution company, ANDA. But hundreds of students, academicians, workers, and social movement activists have taken to the streets to protest the proposal and demand the Legislative Assembly cease its tabling of the bill.

On June 14, the University of El Salvador cancelled classes as University employees and students alike poured into the streets of the capital, San Salvador. They marched on the Palace of Government to deliver correspondence from the University’s faculties denouncing the new “Water Law” strategic plan to better guarantee clean water to all Salvadorans. The protest was ended when police attacked protesters gathered outside the Legislative building with pepper spray before the correspondence could be delivered, prompting a broad condemnation from local civil rights organizations.

Local organizations The Social Initiative for Democracy and the Citizen Network for Democracy and Transparency issued a joint statement, demanding that the speaker of the legislature, ARENA deputy Norman Quijano, “carry out the relevant measures to determine who was responsible for the repression, and to “guarantee that this never happens again”.

Hilary Goodfriend, a Salva- doran resident and regular contrib- utor to the NCLA report, tweeted the day of the repression, saying: “The FMLN’s [two] terms in office saw unprecedented state respect [and] tolerance for social movement protests, including plenty opposing the government. Today’s repression by the new ARENA government after several decades. National University students was a wake-up call for many young people”.

The right-wing ARENA, which currently dominates the legislature, was close to the military dictatorship which ruled El Salvador with US support for several decades. Despite its significant presence at the level of national politics, it is widely perceived and won many seats mainly because leftist voters stayed home, disappointed with the performance of the leftist FMLN’s track record while in office.

Despite repression of the previous government, demonstrations, popular organizations in San Salvador continued to organize and protest. On June 16, popular organizations again mobilized, this time on the other side of the city along Cuscatlan Avenue. According to an event description on Facebook by the organization Salvadorans United for the Right to Water, this was “to ensure Don Norman [Quijano] sees us”.

Salvadorans have faced the prospect of water privatization before and fought back. In 2006, with the signing of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with the United States, there was immediate pressure put on the country to privatize its water distribution infrastructure and open its lakes and rivers to exploitation by foreign water companies, but this was forestalled by protests.

Since the signing and implementation of CAFTA, privatization has happened on a smaller scale in various municipalities, with catastrophic effects. In 2017 in the rural community of Tacuba, the ARENA mayor attempted to claim ownership over the town’s community-constructed wells system, ending its free provision of water to the town’s residents. The creation of Free Trade Areas (FTAs) under CAFTA have also allowed multinational corporations like Coca-Cola to avoid environmental regulations on water use and contaminations.

The US-based organization Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), feels that outside pressure is again part of the push for water privatization this time around: “The US recently began funding two public-private partnerships for water treatment facilities in El Salvador” reads the preamble of a recent petition on their website, “Despite millions of dollars committed to community organizations fear a slippery slope towards the privatization of water. For leftist organizations having recently taken control of El Salvador’s legislature, the threat is very real.”

The public-private partnerships in question were publicly and aggressively advocated for by Mari Carmen Aponte, US ambassador to El Salvador under Obama, who received criticisms from labour unions and other popular organizations for her interference in El Salvador’s internal affairs.

CISPES, echoing the demands of many progressive organizations in El Salvador, wants US politicians to end their support for public-private partnerships in the country.

El Salvador erupts as legislature moves to privatize water