CANADA’S LEADING SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER. | PEOPLESVoice.CA | MAY 1-15, 2018 | VOL. 26, #8 | $1.50

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Kinder Morgan: the real National Interest is to close the tar sands and nationalize energy

By Liz Rowley, leader of the Communist Party of Canada

It was high drama when Alberta NDP Premier Rachel Notley drew out the federal government to stop the plans of Kinder Morgan, NDP Premier John Horgan, calling on the PM and feds for back-up. The public was told this western was all about ‘the national interest,’ and that was the reason the PM had to call the two Premiers down to Ottawa for a talking-to. It turns out the talking-to was mostly directed at Horgan, who formed a government after promising to the 2018 People’s Voice Press Fund Drive.

As we enter the more labour-intensive half of the annual People’s Voice Fund Drive, it was wonderful to hear the words of Buffy Ste. Marie at a recent Vertigo spoken word festival event in east Vancouver. Yes, there is a connection here, dear readers. To the NDP, which is 77 now, but remains as vibrant and radical as ever, enthralling the crowd with a stunning series of spoken word poems. Her language was poetic, not the terminology of dialectical and historical materialism, but the message was powerful. Don’t let anyone tell you that what you want isn’t on the menu, she declared, urging listeners to resist the destruction of the earth by the rich and powerful, and even more important, to build something new ourselves. That requires us to reject the lies of corporations and politicians, she stressed, weaving together a series of poems linking the profligating system with the evils of war, resource plundering, exploitation and misery.

Here at PV, we campaign for the changes advocated by Buffy Ste. Marie in our own unique way. Our goal is to bring a message of working class struggle for a socialist world to our subscribers and to all those who find us online, and more widely to anyone who gets a copy at a union meeting or a demonstration. With this issue, we are launching a more colourful version of the paper, our first re-do in over a decade, inspired by the need to improve our work and make it more accessible. We hope you like our new look, and we ask for your feedback as we try to get better in the coming months!

In the meantime, our thanks to everyone who has contributed so far to the 2018 Fund Drive. As the chart beside this article shows, Ontario is closing in on its target, now at 65.5% of their goal, a good thing since our supporters there will soon be busy with a provincial election campaign. BC and Alberta are still lagging behind, but have some important fundraising events coming up that will help kick the Drive into higher gear. Alberta readers are urged to get to the celebration of Karl Marx’s 200th birthday on May 5 in Edmonton (see the ad on this page), and BC Labour Mainland readers are looking forward to the annual Mother’s Day Pancake Brunch on May 13 (see page 9).

The drive will also get a welcome boost when we add the up value of the May Day greetings in this issue. We look forward to reporting a big increase on our overall amounts raised in our next issue.

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Peoples Voice fundraiser banquet

Saturday, May 5th

Doors open 6:30, dinner at 7:30

Ukrainian Centre

11018-97 St., Edmonton

Speakers and Entertainment Program to follow the dinner

Put socialism on your menu

We need your help!

Put socialism on your menu

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Who will put up the most public money to guarantee huge profits to corporate shareholders?

By Liz Rowley, leader of the Communist Party of Canada

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2018 PV Fund Drive - April 20

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Canada continues to meddle in Venezuela's elections

By Yves Engler; this article originally appeared in venezuelaanalysis.com

Is there no voice in Parliament willing to denounce Canadian interference in another country’s electoral process?

In a bid to elicit regime change, Ottawa has worked to isolate Caracas, imposed sanctions and supported the country’s opposition.

Recently, foreign minister Chrystia Freeland endorsed Peru’s decision to block Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro from attending the mid-April Summit of the Americas in Lima. “As Venezuela slides deeper into dictatorship, and as Venezuelans continue to suffer, Maduro’s participation at a hemispheric leaders’ summit would have been farcical,” Freeland noted. But, Freeland has no problem with the presence of Brazilian President Michel Temer, who doesn’t have any pretence of electoral legitimacy. Nor has he opposed the participation of Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernandez who defined that country’s constitution in running for a second term and then ‘won’ it.

Since the summer Freeland has participated in five meetings of the Lima Group, a collection of foreign ministers opposed to Venezuela’s elected government. As part of this initiative she declared that Canada wouldn’t recognize the upcoming presidential election. Two months ago she tweeted out that “we reject this decision by the Gov of Venezuela to call these elections, as they do not give a reasonable amount of time to ensure free and fair elections” and then three weeks later Canada’s foreign minister demanded that presidential elections be called with sufficient advance notice. “When the opposition and government agreed to push back the presidential election from April 22 to May 20, Freeland responded by tweeting “Maduro regime’s decision to postpone Venezuela’s elections until May changes nothing.”

Another demand Freeland has made of the Venezuelan authorities is that international observers be allowed to monitor the election. Yet, the Venezuelan government’s vocal request for UN observers has been opposed by the country’s opposition alliance. Behind the scenes the US is undoubtedly lobbying the international body to reject Caracas’ request. (Notwithstanding the partisan attacks, Venezuela has among the world’s most efficient, secure and transparent electoral systems. In 2012 former US President Jimmy Carter stated, “as a matter of fact, of the 92 elections that we’ve monitored, I would say the election process in Venezuela is the best in the world.”)

The third condition Freeland has imposed for respecting the election is “that all Venezuelan political players be included in the election.” But the Maduro government doesn’t have the power to release those found guilty of crimes and corruption or political figures who have fled the country to avoid criminal charges. Alongside its impossible-to-meet conditions, Canadian officials have prodded Caribbean countries to join its anti-Venezuela campaign. At a Jamaica-Canada bilateral consultation three weeks ago Canadian officials brought up Venezuela and earlier in the year Freeland tweeted that “Canada welcomes signatures by Saint Lucia & Guyana to Lima Group declaration.” Last month Freeland met Costa Rica’s vice minister of foreign affairs to discuss Venezuela and Canadian representatives were part of a recent session dealing with that country on the sidelines of a Group of 20 foreign ministers meeting. Canadian officials are set to join an upcoming discussion of Venezuela called by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Following Washington’s lead, Ottawa imposed two rounds of sanctions on Venezuelan officials in the Fall. Last week the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution condemning the economic sanctions the US, Canada and EU have adopted against Venezuela. It urged “states to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures (and) condemn(s) the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain powers of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure.” A long saga is ending and we’re looking forward to a new relationship between employees and the employer that will be based on respect, equity and appropriate treatment,” United Steelworkers union representative Gilles Ayotte said.

Canada’s journey to human rights

People’s Voice 2018 Fund Drive for $50,000
Donate online at peoplesvoice.ca

People’s Voice

CUBAN-CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (Vancouver)

Greets all workers on MAY DAY, and ratifies its solidarity with the Cuban workers in their struggle against the U$ blockade.

2368 Upland Drive
Vancouver, BC, V5S 2B5
Ph. (604)940-0420

The Embassy’s human rights page is co-sponsored with the Centro para la Paz y los Derechos Humanos. The director of that organization, Maria Herrera, has repeatedly denounced the Venezuelan government. Six top human rights groups have accused the government of Venezuela systematically and repeatedly violates the Human Rights of Venezuelans and political prisoners.”

Clearly Ottawa is guilty of interference in another country’s process of Venezuela. When Russia has been accused of (a much more mild) foreign interference every party in Parliament is quick to condemn them.

Has the NDP become so tied into the American Empire that it cannot point out this obvious hypocrisy?

Yves Engler is a Montreal writer and activist. In addition to seven books of his, his writings have appeared in publications such as The Globe and Mail, The Canadian Citizen and Ecologist. His The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy was a finalist for the Quebec Writers’ Federation Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction.

Unionized Tim Hortons employees to obtain first contract

An arbitrator appointed by the Quebec government will hold a final round of hearings next week with managers and workers’ representatives. The arbitrator will then impose a first collective agreement.

Ayotte praised the determination and perseverance of the 80 Tim Hortons employees, most of whom are women. They joined the union in February 2015, becoming members of Steelworkers Local 7065. “These workers showed tremendous courage and patience in standing up to an industry giant,” Ayotte said.

Quebec labour law dictates that a collective agreement must be negotiated within one year of workers being granted a union certification. The Steelworkers protested that the employer used a variety of tactics to prolong the bargaining process. Following an unsuccessful attempt at conciliation, the parties ended up in binding arbitration.

As a gesture of appreciation for community support, the Steelworkers and its members invited Sept-Îles residents to join them for final arbitration hearings, held April 9-11. “We want to thank the people of Sept-Îles who supported us all along and at the same time recognize the courage and determination of these workers over the last three years,” Ayotte said. ●

SOURCE United Steelworkers-WSU
May 9 marks the 73rd anniversary of one of the most significant dates in the history of the Cuban revolution — the downfall of the Nazi regime to the Soviet Red Army, which had rolled back fascism all the way from Stalingrad to Berlin. The defeat of Hitler fascism was accomplished by a military alliance which the USSR played the leading role, and included the USA, Britain, Canada and others. A few months later, the USSR entered the Asian-Pacific war, the event (more than 100,000 military personnel from Hirohito and Nagasato) which triggered the surrender of Japan’s militarist regime.

These events proved that a country where the working class held political power could rise from poverty and feudal backwardness to a leading place in the global geo-political system. The early achievements of the Soviet Union during less than three decades demonstrated the correctness of Lenin’s analysis of illiteracy and unemployment, the liberation of peoples from Tsarist oppression, huge strides toward full legal and social equality for women, public and democratic planning to meet the needs of the people, and then the triumph over Hitler fascism, won at the terrible price of over 25 million Soviet lives.

The victory over fascism sparked a mighty upsurge of struggles by the working class in the capitalist world, and by the peoples of Asia and Africa who broke the chains of white supremacy and colonial rule, starting with the Second World War.

These lessons must be remembered today, when the menaces of fascism, racism, xenophobia, misogyny and other ideologies of hatred and violence are emerging again, just as they did during the Great Depression, the capitalist crisis which ended in a devastating world war. Once again, unity of the working class is needed to defeat these threats from the right. As an example, the growing transnational corporate agenda, and save the planet from imperialist war and environmental catastrophe.

Solidarity with U.S. teachers!

The past 18 months have seen plenty of exaggerated punditry about Donald Trump’s base of working class support. It is true that some working people in areas badly hit by the decline of basic industries, and turned off by the pro-business and pro-war policies of the Democratic Party leadership, have voted for right-wing candidates. But the bedrock of Republican support remains the billionaires and corporations which reap huge benefits from Trump’s tax cuts, and pour vast sums into the Republican campaign war chest. Deeply the “Trump phenomenon, the basic class divide in U.S. society has not changed. The old labour song, “Who’s side are you on?” remains valid. For proof, just consider the nation-wide movement of teachers for decent salaries and better working conditions.

Early signs of the teachers’ militancy came in urban centres like Chicago and Detroit. But this year’s surge of struggles began in so-called “red state” strongholds like West Virginia, where striker teachers won a 9 percent pay raise for state employees. From there, similar struggles spread to other states which voted for Trump — Arizona, Kentucky, and Oklahoma, and then to Washington DC. By now both teachers and workers have broad public support, despite vicious attacks by Republican politicians.

Most U.S. teachers live on austerity salaries, while their pensions are woefully slimy, and there are more likely to other workers to hold a second job. Yes, teachers are part of the working class, using their power to fight for the working class communities where they live and teach. That includes demanding fair share of tax driving to cut taxes for the rich, at the expense of education, health care and pensions.

On May 1st, 2018, we salute the classroom teachers of the U.S., who are showing their sisters and brothers across North America how to fight for real, positive social change.

By Drew Garvie

On April 19, the National Assembly of Cuba ratified the election of Cuba’s new President and Council of State. The day also marked the 57th anniversary of the victory over the mercenary invasion organized by the United States at Playa Giron, the Bay of Pigs.

The make-up of the new Assembly, elected in March, demonstrated the breadth of support for the Revolution amongst all social groups in Cuba.

Of the 605 deputies, women now account for 53% of members, with over 40% being Black and racialized peoples. The Assembly is also getting younger, with an average age of 49, and young aged 18-35 accounting for 13.2% of the body.

The 31 member Council of State, made up of Assembly members and led by the President of Cuba, was also elected. The President, Raul Castro, was re-elected to the post of President of Cuba, was re-elected to the post of President of Cuba, was re-elected to the post of President of Cuba, was re-elected to the post of President of Cuba.

Raul Castro, was elected to the Assembly but stepped down as President after two 5 year terms. He addressed the Assembly in a speech emphasizing the diversity of the leadership and the historic importance in the process of continuity and renewal.

Speaking about the election of Miguel Diaz-Canel to the post of President, Raul pointed out that: "Comparador Diaz-Canel is not an improvisation; over the years he has demonstrated maturity, work capacity, ideological soundness, political awareness, commitment, and loyalty to the Revolution."

The newly elected President told the Assembly, “I assume this responsibility with the conviction that all we revolutionaries, from any trench, will be faithful to Fidel and Raúl, the current leader of the revolutionary process.”

Diaz-Canel countered the attacks against Cuba and its Revolution by corporate media outside the island by saying: “To those who through ignorance or bad faith doubt our commitment, we must tell them that the Revolution continues and will continue.”

Raul Castro will continue as First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba until 2021, when a Party Congress is planned. In addition to speaking about the generational importance of this transition of leadership, Raul emphasized the need to continue with the process of updating Cuba’s socialist model, and the current dangers of imperialism in Latin America and around the world.

Castro mentioned recent attacks on the democracy and sovereignty of Brazil with the soft-coup against Dilma and Lula, ongoing aggression against Venezuela and Bolivia and new attacks against the FSLN government in Nicaragua. Raul also commented on the new attacks from Washington against the island, which is still facing a an illegal and immoral blockade by the United States. In these remarks he touched on the US move last fall to expel Cuban embassy staff and reduce diplomatic staff in Havana, referring to the US using a “crude pretext” to backtrack on progress towards normalization of relations.

That “crude pretext” is the accusation that US and Cuban embassy staff were attacked by an unknown and invisible weapon causing headaches, nausea and possibly brain injuries.

This truly bizarre narrative has now been picked up in part by the Canadian government which has changed the Canadian Embassy’s designation in Cuba to an “unaccompanied post”, removing the families of diplomatic staff.

There is no proof that has been released, other than statements that reported symptoms could be the result of some sort of unknown weapon. The Canadian government is also stepping up its hostilities against Venezuela, stating that they will not recognize the results of the upcoming Presidential elections. This points to a dangerous possibility that Canada’s relatively positive relations with Cuba could take a turn for the worse.

Since the election of Diaz-Canel, the new President has already been visited by Nicolas Maduro, President of Venezuela, and Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, who have all made statements of support for Cuba’s transition and vowed to continue the struggle for sovereignty and independence in the region against the deepening attacks of the United States.
By Sean Burton, April 2018

Newfoundland and Labrador’s provincial budget was released on March 28 to relatively little fanfare, with Liberal Premier Dwight Ball describing it as a “steady as she goes” budget. Though not entirely off the mark, Ball’s comment rather disingenuously implies there are still some cuts in the name of “efficiency” that we need to worry about. A better, if less- 

In the budget speech, finance minister Tom Osborne stated early on that “(the provincial government) cannot take such severe action as massive job reductions and cuts to services”, a nod to no doubt to the widespread discontent in the province following the 2016 budget in particular. Public sector workers following the 2016 budget in discontent in the province 

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minister Tom Osborne stated something is being done while 

patch job to make it look like of the province’s roads: a quick this budget to the state of many 

of “efficiency” but nothing we need 

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By Ed Lehman, President of the 

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in affordable housing that many can 

for down 

but obviously that is 

only part of the equation in home 

the government also 

claimed this budget was informed 

As air strikes came now 

out of government that the 

government had used chemical 

weapons against their own 

people. There were nowhere 

one day before the Organization 

for the Prohibition of Chemical 

Weapons (OPCW) was to visit 

Douma, Syria to examine 

the site where the US and its 

allies claim chemical weapons were 

used against Syrians. On 12 April 

US Secretary of Defence James 

Mattis stated that there is no 

evidence of a chemical weapons 

attack in Douma. Yet President 

Trump launched airstrikes with 

the support of British PM May 

and French President Macron 

who rededicated the province’s 

governments or parliaments. 

These strikes are a reminder of 

last year’s attacks on Syria which 

were also based on falsified 

information and the stories of 

"weapons of mass destruction" 

which were used to justify the 

attack on Iraq. The US/UK/ 

French attacks have nothing to 

do with protection of the Syrian 

people, and everything to do 

with the drive for profits and the 

overthrow of governments not 

willing to do the US bidding. 

The attack on Syria is integral to a 

wider geopolitical agenda. 

These air strikes came now 

because of US unwillingness to 

accept the defeat of ISIS, the al- 

Wilayat front, the Army of Islam, 

and other extremists opposed to 

the Assadian government. If 

Americans and their allies cared 

about the people of Syria they 

would have supported the transition 

toward peace in Syria and supported 

diplomatic solution to the conflict 

rather than risk sparking a major 

regional war which could lead to 

a nuclear conflagration engulfing 

the whole world. 

The airstrikes are illegal under 

international law, under US 

and UK law, and under the UN 

Charter. 

We urge all Members of 

Parliament and the Senate to act 

for peace. Canada should remain 

neutral in the international 

conflict in wars crimes and must 

speak out against US aggression 

about US attacks in Syria and only 

"obliterate" Syria and the Middle 

East. 

The US, UK and France should 

step their war of aggression 

withdraw from Syria so that 

negotiations leading to peace can 

be achieved. 

by a “gender based analysis” but 

as the St. John’s Status of Women 

Council pointed out, the budget 

fails to do anything substantive 

there either. There is nothing 

about addressing the wage gap, 

and we shouldn’t hold our breaths 

for public day care anytime soon. 

The Ball government has also 

made some fanfare releasing a 

report on a fixed link between 

the island and Labrador, which 

could cost around $2 billion and 

take nearly 15 years. Now, it’s a 

neat idea and could be of great 

benefit to northerners. 

Of course it would mean the 

provincial government getting 

serious about road improvement 

in general if they expect heavy 

traffic from the mainland to opt 

for that the route over the Nova 

Scotia ferry. Most worrisome is 

that P3s figured in that report 

as the means of getting it built. 

Again, we should not be surprised. 

So the “steady as she goes” budget 

is what it is. We’re supposed to be 

excited about a possible surplus 

in four or five years, but what kind 

of vision is this for Newfoundland 

and Labrador? Business as usual 

and what the Liberals like to 

call “good fiscal control” is not 

serving the needs of working 

people in this province, who 

deserve far better. 

Airstrikes on Syria 

Illegal and Immoral

By Ed Lehman, President of the 

Regina Peace Council, April 16, 2018

The Regina Peace Council 

strongly condemns the illegal 

and murderous airstrikes on Syria by the USA, the UK, and France 

on April 14, 2018. These strikes are a reminder of 

a nuclear conflagration engulfing 

the whole world. 

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PEOPLE’S VOICE | MAY 1-15, 2018 | 5

Newfoundland and Labrador Budget 2018: The Patch-Job

By Sean Burton, April 2018

Newfoundland and Labrador’s provincial budget was released on March 28 to relatively little fanfare, with Liberal Premier Dwight Ball describing it as a “steady as she goes” budget. Though not entirely off the mark, Ball’s comment rather disingenuously implies there are still some cuts in the name of “efficiency” that we need to worry about. A better, if less-
Mexico better without FTAs

Statement from the Coalition of Social Organizations and Citizens: Mexico Better Without FTAs, issued on April 11, 2018, in the face of Trump’s efforts to force a total surrender by Mexico in the renegotiation of NAFTA.

The current climate in which the Mexican government has agreed to continue renegotiating the deepening of NAFTA is unacceptable. At every turn the U.S. President has been shuttering diplomatic relations built on mutual respect and understanding among nations - good neighbour relations. Today national unity doesn’t revolve around the Mexican President, rather it is focused on sovereignty, democracy, rule of law, the defence of the migrants and on attaining significant changes that include modifying the terms of our relations to North America and the world. We stand decidedly against the wall and America and the world. We stand strong in the face of Trump’s threats and hostilities towards our country, by condemning Trump’s threat of the use of force in international relations, while asserting the need for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Parallel to the Summit of the Americas in Lima, social organizations from the continent held the Peoples Summit from April 10-14. There we strengthened our unified resolve to fight the new wave of ‘modernized’ FTAs while also defending the migrants’ right to asylum for all those fleeing violence and lack of opportunities in our countries. For an integration from the peoples and for the peoples! (The Coalition of Social Organizations and Citizens: Mexico Better Without FTAs is a broad-based movement of Mexican popular organizations.)

MAY DAY GREETINGS!

Defend the rights of immigrant workers!
Lower Fraser Club, Communist Party of Canada

May Day Greetings from CUPE Local 3906
Academic Workers at McMaster University

To all our friends and comrades at The People’s Voice:
Here’s wishing you a Happy May 1st. We join you in celebrating the struggle for workers’ rights and social justice, the world over.

HAPPY MAY DAY!
**Trading away Canadian jobs and sovereignty**

April 19 - The Communist Party of Canada today warned that Canadian negotiators led by Chrystia Freeland could be trading away key items demanded by Trump and US chief negotiator Robert Lighthizer in NAFTA negotiations fast-tracked to conclude by the end of April ahead of Mexican and US mid-term elections.

Freeland is in Washington for the second time in 2 weeks, meeting with Lighthizer and Edborfano Guajardo, Mexico’s Secretary of the Economy and chief NAFTA negotiator.

In March, Lighthizer announced the US was withdrawing its demand that 50% of automobile content had to be produced and assembled in the USA; a demand that would have destroyed the auto parts and assembly industry in Canada, killing hundreds of thousands of good jobs and throwing a spanner into the engine of the Canadian economy. The US stepped back because they knew the Canadian government could never agree to this demand and expect to survive the next federal election.

This demand was on the table so that it could be taken off at a critical moment when maximum pressure could be exerted to get something else agreed to by Canadian negotiators; something big and hard for Canadians to swallow.

Lighthizer gave some ideas when he pointed to Canada’s supply management system in agriculture, which provides dairy, egg, and poultry farmers with production quotas and a guaranteed income. This system ensures farmers don’t go bankrupt due to “market forces”, like is happening to US dairy farmers in the states bordering Quebec and Ontario. A glut in milk production has seen milk prices plummet with small farms going belly up as a result of the US’ unregulated “free” market. It’s well unfair trade that’s caused this misery to US small dairy farmers, but US deregulation and other dog-eat-dog policies.

But other interests in Canada have also been calling for an end to supply management in dairy, egg and poultry under NAFTA negotiations, instead of the intensifying demands of Big Business here in Canada for bigger corporate profits at the expense of family farmers.

Lighthizer has also suggested that steep tariffs on softwood lumber, steel and aluminum could all disappear if Canadian government were to agree to US terms on softwood lumber. These terms set new rules for unrestricted access to softwood lumber (mainly in BC but also across Canada) at prices to be set in the US.

Lighthizer also suggested getting rid of the Dispute Panels where Canada has won every single trade dispute with the US on softwood lumber – a very valuable and essential dispute resolution panel for Canada which is the reason why the US wants to get rid of it.

These should not be confused with the ISDS (Investor State Dispute Settlement) provisions under NAFTA, which has already cost Canadian $314 million under the current NAFTA rules. Lighthizer also pointed to procurement policies that would allow the US to benefit US multinational corporations to invest in public services and social programs in Canada directly and through F-3 arrangements that would quickly privatize Canada’s universal healthcare and public education systems, and prevent the establishment of new universal social programs such as childcare.

Much more is in the balance in these final days of negotiations which appear to be coming to a close with a new NAFTA deal signed by the US, Mexico and Canada – details to be publicly unveiled down the road or maybe never. In the rush to beat the clock, the shroud of secrecy is greater than ever, the better to hide the dirty dealing that is selling out Canadian jobs, unions, the labour movement and Canadian and environmental rights.

The struggle to stop this desperate NAFTA deal might have been won if the fight to stop it had been more united, more broad-based, and if the trade union movement had picked up the fight. As it is, the labour and people’s movements will be fighting the consequences of this anti-people, anti-labour deal for years to come.

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**From the Morning Star**

Thousands of anti-war demonstrators greeted politicians returning to Parliament on the evening of April 16 by urging them to stop bombing Syria.

Assembling on Parliament Square, they gathered at 172 hours’ notice for the demonstration to oppose US-led forces attacking Syria, which was organised by the Stop the War Coalition (SWC), following a weekend of parliamentary demonstrations held across more than 30 different cities in Britain, following the US and French launching a chemical weapons attack on people of Douma is “as bad as” the 2013 chemical weapon attack. Even military experts like Lord West, the former first sea lord and chief of the naval staff, as well as General Shaw, the former commander British armed forces in Iraq, have questioned the evidence and the motive for such a chemical weapons attack.

Since the Assad government had all but won the battle for eastern Ghouta by early April, using chemical weapons that could prove a US military response highly unlikely. Two emergency debates have been held in Britain’s Parliament about about the use of chemical weapons in Syria, but they failed to get anywhere.

May of bypassing the vote for fear of handing a massive political victory to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn if the vote was to fall. Ray Mercer, a retired aerospace worker, told the Star: “The fact Trump and May started bombing Syria the morning chemical weapons inspectors were arriving in the country tells you all you need to know. After the disaster in Iraq, we have a very clear example. We need international pressure and negotiations, not Western military action.”

Meanwhile, speakers from the long history of Western aggression in the region said that the real action in Syria was “inseparable” from the “long history of Western aggression and intervention.”

“I feel that the most important emphasis the British people can make is to ensure the British did not end up in another Iraq or even Syria,” May faced angry Labour MPs in the Commons following a statement to the Commons about the air strikes. Corbyn accused the PM of intervening in the Syrian civil war on a “whim” days before Parliament was recalled so that she could avoid scrutiny.
By John Haylett, Morning Star, April 11, 2018

Ben Caspit is a political commentator who has a daily radio show, regular spots on TV and columns in several Israeli papers and who distinguishes himself in his latest offering on last week’s “Great Return March in Gaza” by portraying the scale of bloodshed as a triumph for Israeli moderation.

He contributes a piece to Al-Monitor’s Israel Pulse, laying bare what he calls “Israel’s Gaza nightmare” — there is a mass breach of the border fence could oblige tanks and helicopters of the Israeli Defence Forces to open fire on marching civilians.

“Picture the outcome if they would have burst through the fence, even at a single point, and begun marching into Israel. It would have ended in a bloodbath,” Caspit quotes a senior Israeli military official as saying.

“We would have no choice but to employ enormous force and that would have resulted in dozens, if not hundreds, of casualties. The images would have been a huge victory for the Palestinians.”

“As far as we’re concerned, the fact that the Israeli military and the IDF of responsibility for shooting people to the fence. However, we have already been identified as Hamas terrorists, but without any casualties among the women who are 16 casualties, 12 of whom were killed with 16 casualties, 12 of whom have already been identified as Hamas terrorists, but without any casualties among the women and children, is a very significant achievement on our part. It should not be taken for granted.”

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, 16 people were killed by snipers, 1,400 wounded — half with bullet wounds and others suffering the effects of tear gas and rubber bullets — and at least one woman was shot in the back.

Casip, however, accepts his government’s figures, while noting that 16 deaths “is still a high number. It is more than either side has suffered in a day, with the exception of when actually fighting.”

On that basis, someone in the Israeli government must surely be in line for a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for showing such restraint, even if it may not be repeated.

Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman warned: “Next time, we have the capacity to respond more forcibly. We will not hesitate to use any means at our disposal.”

Casip rolls out another unidentified military figure to speculate that Hamas activists might, during the next protest march, try to shoot at IDF troops. They will try to incite the area and cause us to make a mistake, which would send tens of thousands of people to the fence.”

No wonder these army officers prefer to remain anonymous. Their offerings are a reworking of former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir’s shut about “the Arabs” — she denied Palestinians’ very existence.

Meir said: “We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children,” which had the twin value of absolving the IDF of responsibility for shooting dead Palestinian children while dehumanising Palestinian parents for allegedly treating their children as disposable cannon fodder.

This message resurfaced in Israeli media coverage at the weekend when Hamas was accused of sending a seven-year-old girl to breach the border fence only to be returned to her mother by kindly IDF troops, thereby comforting Israeli citizens in a day, with the exception of when actually fighting.

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May Day 2018: With Internationalism and Solidarity!!

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) in the name of its more than 92 million affiliates all over the world salutes, on the occasion of this great day, all the workers who live, work and struggle in every corner of the world. May Day was, is and will be a beacon for the struggles of yesterday and tomorrow despite our enemies’ efforts. May Day has to be a message of resistance against bourgeoisie, imperialists and their international alliances’ policies.

At the same time, the workers’ blood which was shed in Chicago on 1886 reminds us of our duty today; it reminds us that nothing is given for free; every right or freedom that was conquered by our class has been won through sacrifices, conflicts and organized struggles.

Today, whilst technology and scientific progress have contributed to the increase of the produced social wealth, our class’ living conditions have been deteriorating. In every capitalist country, the bosses attack our class, the bosses attack our class, the bosses attack our class. Every capitalist country has to be a message of resistance against bourgeoisie, imperialists and their international alliances’ policies.

Today, whilst technology and scientific progress have contributed to the increase of the produced social wealth, our class’ living conditions have been deteriorating. In every capitalist country, the bosses attack our class: they are privatizing everything, they are sweeping through salaries, class achievements: they are attacking the bosses in every country, the bosses attack our country, the bosses attack our class, the bosses attack our class, the bosses attack our class.

Deteriorating. In every capitalist country, the bosses attack our class, the bosses attack our class, the bosses attack our class.

The ongoing imperialist intervention in Libya and Syria, the growing aggression against Venezuela, the US decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the massacre of Saudi Arabia against Yemen, the tension on the Korean peninsula, they are all indications that multinationals have smelled new profitability areas; and every time this goes through the dead bodies of workers.

Under the current conditions of the deep economic crisis of capitalism and intense competition among various imperialist centers to control new markets, our most powerful weapons are INTERNATIONALISM and SOLIDARITY. No worker must feel alone. All together, we must move on with Solidarity and Internationalism, building the Unity of the working class to give practical effect to Karl Marx’s motto “proletarians of all countries unite”.

In this context, and on this anniversary, the WFTU expresses its solidarity with our persecuted brothers, the immigrants and refugees, who either because of imperialists’ bullets or because of poverty and misery generated by this system, are forced to leave their homeland. The WFTU will continue to be on their side, fighting for a world without exploitation and refugees. Immigrants must become an integral part of unions, unite with local workers and fight together for wages, rights, against wars and interventions.

We join our voice with the heroic Palestinian people in order to gain their own independent and democratic homeland.

At the same time, we stand by the side of the struggling female worker, the one who suffers from double exploitation. The WFTU female members, at the recent World Women’s Congress in Panama, declared loud and clear that they want equal rights to work, society and life. The WFTU also fights and will continue to fight for this equality. It’s the same orientation that we follow for the the youngsters, as the new generation of workers have the task to honor the best May Day struggle traditions.

This year, the WFTU, by giving its hand to anyone who has stood up, has announced the year of trade union education and training. Our purpose is that the new shifts of workers be insubordinate, militant, enemies of class compromise and collaboration. We honor the year of trade union training and we call on every union to contribute to the militant truth, revealing the true meaning of May Day and the sacrifices the working class made for it. By rescuing the past, the very memory of our movement, we leave a legacy for tomorrow’s struggles and we also have a tool for the future. It is a duty to know the history of our movement.

The WFTU takes steps forward, strengthens and grows: and that’s what frightens our opponents. There is no other way than to make it present everywhere, in every corner of the world, so that there is no longer a hungry, dismissed, hunted or persecuted worker. The WFTU must be a “trench” of struggle for a future without exploitation of man by man. This is how the vision of the first Secretary General of the WFTU, Luis Saillant, envisioned in 1945 will be brought to life: “The WFTU for the workers of the whole world!”

Long live May Day!

Ph. 604-255-2041 for information.

Salute to workers on May Day 2018! Nanaimo Club CPC

May Day Greetings Davenport Club, CPC

Mother’s Day Brunch

11 a.m.-2 p.m.
1600 block E. 20th Ave. Van.
(3586 BellaVista)
$15 - kids $10
All proceeds to People’s Voice
Ph. 604-255-2041 for information.

IGNITE THE MOVEMENT FOR SOCIALISM

May Day Greetings
Ontario Committee, CPC

READ THE WORKING CLASS PRESS ONLINE!
PEOPLESVOICE.CA | @PVNEWS1
As we celebrate and build the struggles of the working class around the world this May Day, the enemies of peace are busy organizing for war.

The list of countries under attack or facing increasingly bellicose threats by the United States and its NATO allies is growing. The last year has seen sweeping sanctions and destabilization attempts against the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, US and Canadian backing for an ongoing self-coep in Brazil, and an election stolen by the elite in Honduras. In the Middle East, apartheid Israel has stepped up its war crimes against the people of Palestine, especially in Gaza where dozens of unarmed demonstrators have been assassinated by IDF snipers. The recent illegal missile strikes against Syria by the US, France and the UK seek to prolong and deepen the dirty war against Syria which has already cost the lives of over 500,000 people. Iran is facing deepening threats by the US and Trump administration, which is filled with war mongers with a long history of targeting the country.

The people of Korea, after more than six decades of war, occupation and division, have faced renewed attacks in the last year, including the threat of annihilation by the world’s largest nuclear power, the United States. The Trudeau government has deepened the Harper era militarization and drive to war in Canada. Is almost all of the conflicts around the world the Canadian government is contributing to US and NATO aggression. This is evident in the expansion of Canadian troop deployments in Ukraine, Iraq and Latvia. Most recently Canadian troops have been sent to Mali to aid in France’s imperialist efforts in West Africa.

The war propaganda from politicians and the corporate media is relentless. Cold War horror stories have been resurrected as the war governments spread fear and division to justify their aggression. A broad and massive anti-war movement must drown out the drums of war before it is too late.

Last year’s announcement that the Trudeau government intends on raising military expenditures by 70% over the next ten years shows that the government is doing everything it can to expand imperialist war and exploitation. The fight for an independent foreign policy of peace and disarmament is vital.

Unestranged pillaging of the environment has meant the effects of climate change are starting to be felt around the globe. Hurricanes, flooding, droughts and wild fires have effected millions. Meanwhile the federal government loudly and proudly enforces the will of the oil and gas monopolies allowing for more environmental degradation and the flagrant violation of Indigenous sovereignty in Canada. This is being played out again with the federal governments current insistence that the Kinder Morgan pipeline be built in B.C., despite massive opposition and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Continued capitalist economic crisis has also expanded the drive to deepen exploitation. Their profits are made from growing poverty. As the global economy created a record number of billionaires last year, inequality has skyrocketed. The 8 richest people on earth now own as much wealth as 50% of the world’s population. This year the world’s 2,000 billionaires had their wealth grow by $762 billion, enough money to end extreme poverty seven times over.

Yet that is not enough for the capitalist class. Corporate greed in Canada has sought to deepen exploitation by fighting the raising of the minimum wage tooth and nail, gutting and raiding workers’ pensions, and continuing the privatization and austerity agenda. Signs of destitution and suffering can be seen everywhere, with the homelesness created by the housing crisis, the opioid crisis increasing its death toll, and the suicide crisis of Indigenous youth on reserves.

The Trudeau government was elected in part because of its talk about addressing rising inequality, but there has been no “real change” which roll back corporate power. The NAFTA negotiations are an indication of this. NAFTA 2.0 will be another move to isolate and roll back workers’ rights and foreign investment. This expansion of the corporate version of North America is filled with war mongers with a long history of targeting the country.

Workers of the world unite against war & reaction

May Day 2018 message from the Central Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada

May Day 2018: Workers of the world unite against war & reaction

The Trudeau government intends on raising military expenditures by 70% over the next ten years shows that the government is doing everything it can to expand imperialist war and exploitation. The fight for an independent foreign policy of peace and disarmament is vital.

As anger grows towards declining living standards, the capitalist class is growing more violent and repressive. The most reactionary sections of capitalist classes around the world are growing stronger and seek to blame Muslims, women, Indigenous peoples, Black and racialized peoples, and queer and trans peoples. The rise of ultra-right and fascist organization and ideology in Canada and around the world seeks to rollback the hard fought gains of working and oppressed peoples and preserve the capitalist system.

Ultra-right governments have made major gains in Europe (Poland, Italy, Hungary, Ukraine and the United States with the Trump administration). In Canada the ultra-right is seeking to expand their close relations with the Conservative Party, as can be seen by Andrew Scheer’s connections to Rebel Media and Doug Ford’s Ontario links to anti-choice and ultra-right groups.

Mass action by working people is needed to isolate and rollback ultra-right and fascist forces. Broad alliances fighting for democracy and equality rights must be formed in opposition to racism, white supremacy and fascist organization and advocacy. Last year’s massive mobilizations after the attacks in Charlottesville demonstrate that it is possible.

The drive towards war, racism, climate crisis, poverty and precarity is by no means ending. The current back the #MeToo movement, the Women’s March, the struggle of Indigenous communities against the Trans Mountain pipeline, and the massive teachers’ strikes in the United States highlight the current struggles that show the way.

Workers in Canada can show their solidarity and actively support workers struggles globally, standing shoulder to shoulder against the forces that are leading the world off a cliff. Labour and its allies must unite and fight for a people’s agenda for Canada, organizing mass action for demands: to roll back corporate power and the drive to war.

This May Day the Communist Party of Canada is fighting for:

• Fair trade, not NAFTA
• Multi-lateral trade with all countries that is beneficial to all parties, and includes long term credits for developing and socialist countries; 
• A Foreign policy of peace and disarmament; Get out of NATO and NORAD; Cut military spending by 75% and use the money to end extreme poverty
• Climate Change – nationalize natural and energy resources; close the tar sands and put the profits in public development of new energy sources such as solar, wind, thermal, and nuclear energy.
• Create Jobs – invest in a national housing program to build affordable social housing across Canada; invest in value-added manufacturing, including Canadian and urban and inter-urban mass rapid transit; agricultural implements industry; machine tool industry; renewable energy, small and medium business; expand social programs;
• Raise wages and incomes – raise the minimum wage to $20; substantially increase pensions and drop the age for a full pension and OAS to 55; introduce a guaranteed annual income at a living wage; increase Canada’s oil and gas royalties and expand to cover all job seekers including part-time and first-time by absorbing HTS, EI, CPP, and employment equity; repeal the Temporary Foreign Workers Act;
• Expand immigration and refugee acceptance and resettlement; scrap the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement;
• Expand universal social programs and Medicare, and introduce a system of universally accessible, affordable, quality public childcare;
• Eliminate tuition fees and make post-secondary education accessible to all;
• Protect and expand civil, social, labour and democratic rights. Enact Bill of Rights for labour, including the rights to strike, organize and picket. Enforce and enact anti-racism laws.

Workers of the world unite!

May Day 2018: Workers of the world unite against war & reaction

Workers of the world unite! The anniversary of the birth of revolutionary Karl Marx, Marx’s foundational writings highlighted the necessity of workers to overthrow the capitalist system in order to end exploitation and oppression and emancipate humanity.

Working people will take control of their own destiny and establish working class political power in order to change the world. Another world is possible, and this May Day the struggle to win it continues.”
Say NO! to Imperialism’s War on Syria

The Canadian Peace Congress unequivocally condemns the brazen aggression of the United States, Britain and France against the Syrian Arab Republic on April 14. These imperialist powers launched over 100 cruise and other missiles at three alleged but unproven chemical weapons facilities in Damascus and Homs, and under the pretext of punishing Syria for its alleged use of chemical weapons in Douma, on the outskirts of the capital city. This military assault, without the prior approval of the Security Council, was a gross, undue violation of the UN Charter and international law. It has been piously condemned by many countries around the world, and has created divisions within the NATO bloc itself.

Once again, these NATO powers – arrogantly assign themselves not only the role of the ‘world policeman’, but also the right to ‘judge, jury and executioner’ on behalf of all humanity. French President Emmanuel Macron has once again, with the utmost arrogance, arrogantly claimed that the use of chemical weapons in Syria is ‘legal’. One wonders if he even heard of – much less read – the UN Charter.

Once again, they have dragged out the discredited doctrine of the “Responsibility to Protect” (R2P) in order to justify flouting international law to serve their own interests, as they did previously against Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya and elsewhere.

Once again, they claim to have “solid evidence” to back up their allegation that the Syrian government and armed forces used chemical weapons against its own citizens. And yet, these NATO powers have not provided a single shred of real evidence to prove their allegations, relying instead on photos and video clips provided by the notoriously pro-opposition, Western-financed and directed “White Helmets” group. Indeed, this missile attack came six hours before the OPCW’s fact-finding mission arrived in Douma. Why was this aggression launched before this OPCW inspection? Was it to pre-empt revelations that the alleged Douma chemical attack was a sham?

Once again, Western mainstream news services act as an uncritical mouthpiece – a corporately controlled echo chamber – for this interventionist ‘regime change’ strategy, silencing any perspective, analysis or factual revelation that challenges or contradicts the dominant discourse on the Syrian conflict.

The Real Motives for this Attack

There has been wide speculation internationally about the real motivations behind this illegal and unjustified aggression. Some suggest that it serves to distract domestic public attention from the continuing difficulties facing the respective government elites in the U.S. in Britain and France, and to bolster their sagging political fortunes at home. Others argue this aggression is nothing more than another ‘fundraiser’ to justify and further increase their bloated military budgets. Still others point to an attempt to divert world attention from the most recent atrocities of the Israeli regime, killing dozens of unarmed protesters in Gaza, and injuring hundreds more.

No doubt all of these objectives played a role in spurring this attack. The primary motivation however lies elsewhere. The simple, inescapable fact is that the strategy waged by U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies, and supported by Saudi Arabia, the reactionary Gulf States, Turkey, and Israel, is to overthrow the duly-elected Assad government in Syria has been an abject failure. The conflict in Syria – now well into its eighth year – was never a ‘civil war’ at all, but rather a cynical attempt at “regime change” with the intent of carving up Syria into smaller mini-states which could be more easily dominated and exploited.

As many as 400,000 have perished and millions more internally displaced and/or forced into exile as a result of this foreign-financed and orchestrated war. But the Syrian people have persevered, the jihadist terrorists (ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and related groups) have been systematically defeated, and the country’s unity, independence and sovereignty defended. The US and its allies however refuse to recognize this reality. They are desperately searching for any pretext to maintain their ‘proxy war’ on Syria and their illegal presence inside the country (including more than 2,000 US troops and over 5,000 paramilitary “private contractors”) which clearly violates Syria’s sovereignty. Israel has stepped up its direct aggression as well, and Saudi Arabia has just offered to send its own military forces into Syria to “protect US-held” occupied territories inside the country. This is the real underlying strategy driving the propaganda “war” and military attacks on Syria.

Canada’s Role

Sadly, Prime Minister Trudeau supports this aggressive and illegal attack that threatens to ignite further destruction and possible direct confrontation with Russia and Iran as well. The Peace Congress condemns this dangerous policy and calls on the Canadian government to end its support for foreign aggression, illegal occupation, and the ‘proxy’ war which has been waged for more than seven years to overthrow the legitimate government of Syria. More than ever, Canada needs an independent foreign policy based on peace, disarmament, and respect for international law, not on the promotion of war and aggression.

We further demand that Canada:

- accept the will of the Syrian people to determine their own future without foreign interference in accordance with the UN Charter, and formally withdraw all foreign forces from Syria and its illegal presence inside the country;
- end the economic sanctions on Syria that punish ordinary Syrians by driving up the price of essentials, and block the flow of remittances;
- reopen the Syrian embassy in Ottawa and normalize diplomatic relations with the internationally recognised Syrian government;
- commit funding for the peaceful reconstruction of that once-beautiful country that has been devastated by years of foreign-imposed war; and
- cancel all military contracts with Saudi Arabia – materiel which is then channelled to terrorist groups in Syria, and used in the continuing “dirty war” on the people of Yemen, and on its own oppressed national minorities.

The Canadian Peace Congress conveys its internationalist solidarity with the government and people of Syria in their heroic struggle against terrorism, and in defence of their homeland. And we urge all peace-loving individuals and organizations across Canada to redouble efforts to end all foreign intervention, and to support a just, negotiated resolution ending this ghastly war, one which fully recognizes the right of the Syrian people to determine their own future, and respect for international law, and national sovereignty.

Hands Off Syria!

Signed by the Executive of the Canadian Peace Congress
April 19, 2018
Media workers killed in Yemen

Three Yemeni media workers were killed in two separate incidents within the same war-torn country. Yemen TV producer Mohammed Naser al-Washali and his driver, Abdullah al-Adh, were among the victims. Mr. Naser al-Washali, who was filming a drama TV series, was killed on April 12 by two snipers belonging to the Saudi-led coalition, according to the Yemeni Journalists’ Syndicate (YJS), an affiliate of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

In addition, news photographer and camera operator Abdullah al-Qady, working for Belques TV and AFP French news agency, was also killed after a rocket fired by the Houthis group set his vehicle on fire. During the incident, two other journalists in the west were also injured, the YJS added.

The IFJ and the YJS have urged all media outlets to provide protective equipment to journalists and photographers and to follow international safety procedures during the coverage of the conflicts.

“People killed are not the loss of our three colleagues in Yemen, during what looks like the third or fourth year of a civil war, as said IFJ General Secretary, Anthony Bellanger. “We call on the Yemeni and Saudi-led coalition to respect their responsibility for killing of media workers and we demand a full investigation to explain why they bombed a filming location. Those responsible must be held accountable.”

Iranian teacher activist released

While welcoming the April 15 release on bail of Iranian teacher unionist Mohammad Habibi, the ETUI, which has named him as a prisoner of conscience, also urged the authorities to set free trade unionists in Iran. The ETUI, a branch of the Iranian Teachers’ Trade Association (ITTA). He comed the release of Habibi, a jailed trade unionists free.

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Communists to run 13 in Ontario - campaign to put working class demands on the table

PV Ontario Bureau
Ontario is just weeks away from a very important provincial election. Recent polls indicate that Doug Ford’s Conservatives hold a wide lead and that the NDP may be moving into second position.

It has not taken Ford long to inject an aggressive right-wing tone to the election, indicating the battle lines will be sharply drawn around questions of defending working class gains. These include the remains of the post-war reforms, like universal health care and expanded public services, as well as recent wins like the minimum wage increase and related workplace improvements.

During their leadership race, the Tories were united around improvements. Ford’s pledges of tax and program cuts to benefit corporations and the rich are estimated to cost $25 billion over three years. This will undoubtedly be paid for by the working class, through a combination of wage and benefit cuts, service reductions, fee increases, and privatization.

These policies will exacerbate the crises that already exist in areas of unemployment and precarious work, wages and benefits, and insufficient funding for health, education and social programs. “A Conservative government would be a disaster for the working class,” says Dave McKee, Ontario leader of the Communist Party. “Ford is eerily reminiscent of former Conservative premier, Mike Harris. His campaign carried that same populist tone and hard-right platform. He even used the same slogan, ‘Make Ontario Great Again.’”

The Communist Party is fielding 13 candidates in the June 7 provincial election. The Party says the working class is at a turning point: it must stop accepting different versions of business-friendly policies, and instead demand policies that place people’s needs first.

As McKee says, “The ‘lesser evil’ approach has been used repeatedly to keep out the Conservatives, but in the process the working class has stopped advancing an independent program. The result is overwhelming political dependence on either left-talking social democrats. Unsurprisingly, this has left the working class with a poorly organized and weakly led opposition to austerity and neoliberalism, policies which continue to reign supreme in Ontario.”

“We need to move past an electoralist approach, which compresses mass struggle into the legislative arena and subordinates labour’s independent political work to the election campaigns of a political party. We need to see the trade union movement organizing around a labour political program, mobilizing year-round and engaging the whole working class in fighting for progressive change. Through that kind of approach, labour could force political parties, candidates and governments to step up and deliver real social, economic and political alternatives.” Unfortunately, most of what is offered as “alternative” is pretty weak.

Kathleen Wynne’s Liberals are trying, again, to position themselves as the guardians of women’s rights, social programs, and a healthy economy for working people. In March, they tabled a provincial budget that promised a series of one-time boosts for a range of social programs: further subsidies for child care; increased funding for hospitals, long-term care, and mental health; expanded pharmaceutical and dental care coverage; and extended tuition grants for post-secondary education. There was nothing, however, about progressive tax reform to provide stable and adequate funding for expanded services over the long term. The housing crisis is not addressed. Nor was there any mention of economic development, short of commitments to “advocate for Ontario abroad” and increase investment in the already existing P3 infrastructure plan.

The NDP under Andrea Horwath has made policy announcements that carefully position themselves just to the left of the Liberals, without proposing truly progressive changes. For example, their announcement of OHIP pharmaceutical coverage is for a small program - less than $500 million - that would only cover drugs deemed “most essential.” This leaves out a huge range of pharmaceuticals, and people who rely upon them, and not at all the universal pharmacare that we need. Similarly, their proposed dental coverage is limited to people without any other coverage. This is a two-tier approach that opens the door to means testing and undermines universality. Like the Liberals, the NDP has not said anything about confronting the housing crisis. The Communist platform rests on three main pillars: (1) an economy that puts people first with a full employment strategy, increased wages and benefits, reduced work week, and strong plant closure legislation; (2) expanded health and social services; and (3) a strong campaign against NAFTA and corporate sovereignty.

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MAY DAY GREETINGS to working people in British Columbia

Greetings to the workers of North America
Unite to defeat NAFTA and the U.S. military danger
Penner-Bethune Club, Winnipeg
Communist Party of Canada

No to bitumen exports across unceded traditional indigenous territories on the West Coast!

webiste: cpbc.ca

Communist Party of BC
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, V5L 3J1
604-254-9836 cpinfo.bc@gmail.com
New book to examine the plot to attack Iran

The Plot to Attack Iran: How the CIA and the Deep State Have Conspired to Vilify Iran, by Dan Kovalik, foreword by David Talbot.

Dan Kovalik, human rights attorney and author, whose work is frequently featured on the Marxism-Leninism Today web site, is coming out with a new book. It could not be more timely, given the Trump Administration’s appointment of anti-Iran hawks Michael Pompeo and John Bolton to top foreign policy posts.

Pre-publication advertising states: Iran, once known as Persia, is one of the oldest nations on earth. It has a rich history and a unique culture, and is bordered by seven countries, the Caspian Sea, and the Persian Gulf. It is literally the intersection of many countries and many worlds. It has a population of eighty million people and occupies a space nearly the size of Alaska, the largest US state; it is the seventeenth largest country in the world. Over the past century, Iran’s greatest resource, and at the same time its greatest curse, has been its oil. For it is oil that has caused the United States and other world powers to systematically attempt to destroy Iran.

After a greedy Iranian monarch sold all of Iran’s oil and natural gas reserves to a British financier in 1901, the West started just one of its many invasions and exploitations of the country. The 1953 coup that deposed the democratically-elected prime minister for a US-selected shah? Sold to average American citizens as a necessity to protect democracy and guard against communism. In reality, it was America’s lust for Iranian oil and power that installed the tyrannical shah. The Iranian hostage crisis that miraculously ended with Ronald Reagan’s inauguration as president? Evidence shows that Reagan negotiated with the hostage-takers to hold the hostages until his inauguration.

Using recently declassified documents and memos, as well as first-hand experience of the country, critically-acclaimed author Dan Kovalik will change the way you think about Iran, and especially what you think of US interference to mask its own terrible crimes. Not only does the illuminating and important The Plot to Attack Iran delve into the current incendiary situation, but it also predicts what could happen next, and what needs to be done before it is too late. Date of paperback publication is June 18, 2018. A pre-publication discount is available at Amazon.

Soviet Yiddish songs of WW2

The active, fighting role of Soviet Jews in World War II is celebrated in “Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of World War II,” a new recording of 17 songs composed by Jewish Red Army soldiers, refugees, survivors, and victims of the Nazi invasion of the USSR. “Yiddish Glory” is a collaboration between University of Toronto Yiddish Studies professor Anna Shternshis, Russian singer-songwriter Puzy Koverko and Russian violinist and arranger Sergei Erdenko. Canadian members of the 12-piece international “Yiddish Glory” orchestra include jazz singer Sunny Milman, clarinetist Michael Sulzbach and accordionist Alexander Sevastyan. The songs were discovered in the archives of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine in 1994. Professor Shternshis learned of the collection, while in Kiev in the early 2000’s to research Yiddish culture. Soviet musicologist Moisei Bergovsky (1892-1961), an expert on Yiddish folk songs and klezmer music, was the compiler. Like many Soviet Jews in the last years of the Stalin era, he suffered political repression. His institute was closed, and he was exiled to Central Asia from 1951-55. Although he returned to Kiev in 1956, Bergovsky’s song collection remained in the library archives, seemingly forgotten. “Yiddish Glory” celebrates the bravery and resilience of Soviet Jews, as well as their hope, humour, and despair. “Yoshke From Odessa”, for example, depicts a Jewish soldier who “slices his enemies into pieces”. “Purim Gifts for Hitler” compares the Nazi dictator to others who tried and failed to destroy the Jewish people. “Babi Var” refers to the heinous massacre of more than 30,000 Jews on September 29-30, 1941 by German troops and Ukranian collaborators. While “Yiddish Glory” is not the only collection of Yiddish songs from the Soviet Union, it is the first to document Jewish participation in the Great Patriotic War, and for that reason it has historic, as well as artistic value. (www.sixdegreesrecords.com/yiddish-glory)

Giddens educates as she entertains

Rhiannon Giddens is a popular musician who challenges stereotypes. The 41-year-old singer, violinist, banjoist, composer, and musicologist from North Carolina has emerged in recent years as a compelling voice in American music. She first achieved recognition with the Grammy-winning African-American string band she founded in 2005. Her arrival as a unique solo voice was signalled by her acclaimed 2015 album “Tomorrow Is My Turn”, which featured homages to the great folk singers: “Odetta” (“Waterboy”) and country music star Patsy Cline (“She’s Got You”). Giddens’s second solo album, last year’s “Freedom Highway”, was named album of the year by Canadian roots music magazine Penguin Eggs, following a survey of music journalists, radio hosts, folk clubs, and festival producers. Its nine original songs reference the struggles of African Americans over two centuries: from the 19th-century narrative of a woman slave (“At The Purchaser’s Option”), to contemporary police shootings of young Black men (“Beter Get It Right the First Time”). There are timely covers as well. Giddens’s renditions of Richard Farina’s “Birmingham Sunday” (about the 1963 KKK bombing of a Baptist church that killed four young girls), and the 1965 Staples Singers civil rights anthem “Freedom Highway”, sound urgent and contemporary. Rhiannon Giddens has wide-ranging influences: from southern string bands, work songs, blues, old-time jazz, and Celtic; to country, R&B, hip-hop, and even opera. If all of this seems eclectic, it’s not a fault. Giddens has the talent as a vocalist and instrumentalist to pull it off, as well as an appealing ability to educate while she entertains. (www.rhiannongiddens.com)

José Antonio Abreu: 1939-2018

José Antonio Abreu, the musician and economist who brought Venezuela’s renowned system of youth orchestras, died in Caracas on March 24. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was among the mourners. In a social media post, accompanied by a photo of the two of them smiling together, Maduro wrote: “The Venezuelan people that you so loved are crying for you today. The Venezuelan people who you taught to love music are lamenting your death.” Abreu’s death was announced by the Simón Bolívar Musical Foundation, which operates the program he created: The Foundation for the National Network of Youth and Children’s Orchestras of Venezuela. It’s better known throughout the world as “El Sistema”, and has now spread to more than 60 countries. Its motto: “music for social change.” Back in 1975, Abreu conceived of the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar as “El Sistema”, and has now spread to more than 60 countries. Its motto: “music for social change.” Back in 1975, Abreu conceived of the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar as

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Privatization: Paying the Way to Poverty

By Sean Burton

When we are reminded of the Holocaust we often think of the so-called “Final Solution” and the 6,000,000 Jews murdered simply because they were Jews. But the Holocaust Memorial Service held in St. John’s on April 15 also commemorated the nearly 11,000,000 other victims of the Hitler regime including the mentally ill, homosexuals, physically challenged, ethnic minorities, Soviet prisoners of war, and political opponents, including many thousands of members of the German Communist Party (KPD) who actively fought against the Nazi seizure of power.

Indeed, the KPD may well have won the next election if the German ruling class, industrialists and financiers had not pressed for the ascent of Hitler and his ilk. Nazi Germany was the most heinous, murderous regime in history, forged from economic depression, wrong-headed nationalism and corporate complicity. Still today, companies which profited from that time, like Hugo Boss and Bayer Pharmaceuticals, ply their trades globally. We must never forget that the Nazi terrorist regime was created in the most advanced capitalist nation in Europe in the inter-war years.

The service was held at Memorial University. Elizabeth Malischewski was the coordinator under the auspices of the Jewish Community Havura for President Steve Wolnitz, a former Political Science professor at Memorial. Malischewski read out the names of Jews slaughtered whose relatives live in Newfoundland today. With each announcement she would add the words “and one million more.” A candle was then lit in their memory. The process was repeated six times.

Members of the local Jewish community somberly lit all the candles save the last one, the seventh, representing the deaths of those who did not fit neatly into the Aryan nation. Chris Youé, one of our Newfoundland comrades, was at the service on behalf of the Communist Party of Canada, invited to light the seventh candle. Chris was introduced as someone who had taught courses on world and African history, as well as the history of racism, and a card-carrying member of the CPC for 25 years. Speaking after the ceremony, Chris said that it was an honour to be selected to present his new book, Patriots, Traitors & Empire, to the audience. The event was a highlight of our May Day celebration in St. John’s.

Community Party at St. John’s Holocaust memorial

By Sean Burton

Vancouver, BC

Left Film Night, Sunday, April 29, 7 pm, screening of "The Young Karl Marx" at the Centre for Socialism Education, 706 Clark Drive, ph. 604-255-2041.

May Day rally and march, Tuesday, May 1, starting 2 pm, from Canada Place. Organized by Vancouver & District Labour Council, 604-254-0703.

Mother’s Day Pancake Brunch, Sunday, May 13, 11 am-2 pm, 3586 Bella Vista (1600 bl. E. 29th), $15 (kids $10), hosted by Burnaby Club, proceeds to People’s Voice.

CPC 97th Anniversary, Sat., May 26, 6 pm, at the CSE, 706 Clark Drive. The Otto René Castillo Club CPC invites you to celebrate anniversary of the Communist Party’s foundation, with speaker, poems, music, food and refreshments. Admission by donation.

People’s Voice 25th Anniversary Banquet, Saturday, June 2, doors 6:30 pm, Russian Hall, 690 Campbell Ave. Tickets $20 ($12 students or unemployed). For details, ph. 604-254-9836.

Edmonton, AB

May Day Rally & March, May 1, 5:00 pm. Immigrants Local 720 Union Hall, 10512 122 St. Celebrate Karl Marx’s 200th Birthday, Sat., May 5, doors open 6:30, dinner 7:30, with speakers and entertainment, Ukrainian Centre, 11168-97 St.

Calgary, AB

May Day Rally, march and discussion, May 1, 4:30 pm, from City Hall.

Winnipeg, MB

May Day March, Winnipeg Labour Council, May 1, 5:30 pm at City Hall, 510 Main St.

Brampton, ON

May Day Celebration, Sunday, April 29, 2-5 pm at Loafer’s Lake Recreation Centre, 30 Loafer’s Lake Lane.

Toronto, ON


May Day March, Tuesday, May 1, 5 pm at Finch West subway station.

Rally for Gaza & Commemorating 70 Years of Nakba, Sat., May 12, 1:30 pm, 180 Bloor St W.

Patriots, Patriots & Empire. Thursday, May 17, 7:00 pm, authors Stephen Qowans and Paul MacLean will present his new book on modern Korean history and the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, OCGD, 290 Danforth Ave., presented by Toronto Association for Peace.

Montreal, QC

May Day 2018, International Workers’ Day celebration organized by the CDN, Sat., April 28, gather at Parc olympique (Pierre-de-Coubertin and Pie IX) for March at 1 pm.
The Communist Party of Canada condemns the illegal and murderous airstrikes on Syria conducted by the US, UK and France April 13th, and the support given to these attacks by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. We call on Parliament to condemn the airstrikes which are illegal under international law, under US law and under UK law, and under the UN Charter that rules these are war crimes.

The strikes take place one day before the United Nations Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was to visit Douma, Syria to examine the site where the US and its allies claim chemical weapons were used against Syrian civilians. The OPCW was going to Syria April 14 over the objections of the US government which had earlier vetoed a Russian motion to send the OPCW to investigate, and determine whether chemical weapons were used, or not.

Following the US veto, the Syrian government invited the OPCW to investigate, which it had agreed to do. The OPCW arrived in Syria April 14 to carry out the investigation in Douma, despite the US/UK/France attacks before.

Contrary to US claims, no evidence has been produced to prove that chemical weapons were used, or found, in Douma. Senior US officials including US Secretary of Defence James Mattis on April 12 – one day before the airstrikes – have admitted that there is no evidence of a chemical weapons attack in Douma. Yet President Trump has launched airstrikes with the support of British PM Theresa May and French President Macron, but not their governments or Parliaments, after tweeting his war plans to the world.

The strikes are reminiscent of last year’s attacks, which were also based on falsified information and also sold to the public under the rubric of the US’ and EU’s “responsibility to protect”. In fact this doctrine and these acts of war are protecting the mega-profits of the corporations and the arms industries. This doctrine of war is responsible for the deaths of 2 million people since it first appeared in 2001.

The Canadian government’s support for this doctrine has transformed Canada into an active participant in US and NATO’s dirty wars and aggression around the world, and has saddled the Canadian public with a 70% increase in military spending, plus increased spending on NATO, shredding Trudeau’s promise to transform Canadian foreign policy from war-making to peace-keeping.

Canada is lock-step with US imperialism and the world’s war mongers, ready and willing to overthrows governments it does not like, and the UN Charter that rules these are war crimes.

The infamous fable of Iraqi “weapons of mass destruction” which was the justification for the illegal US war on Iraq has long since been exposed as a fabrication of the US government. Similarly, the US statement that sarin gas was used by the Syrian government was also proven to be baseless, though it was also stated as fact in the western press and media. These are the Big Lies echo in media across the world, of lies and disinformation was spread in social media. This campaign of lies and disinformation was echoed in media across the capitalist world resulting in mass confusion about the real situation in Syria, and those actually responsible.

This is consistent with the unmitigated evidence of the April 7 airstrike being pressed in the weeks leading up to April 13, in the US press and media, and in social media. This campaign of lies and disinformation was echoed in media across the capitalist world resulting in mass confusion about the real situation in Syria, and those actually responsible.

Canadians have been fooled before. They shouldn’t be fooled again. The US/UK/French attacks have nothing to do with protection of the Syrian people, and everything to do with the drive for profits and the overthrow of governments that will not bend to US dictates.

These airstrikes threaten not only Syria, but global peace and stability. Military actions are a deliberate US provocation against the Russian government which has indicated it will respond to any airstrikes with counter-strikes aimed at the launch sites. The US/UK/French decision to launch these airstrikes is a recipe for a world war, which could include nuclear weapons.

We call on the peace movement, the labour and democratic movements, and on all peace-loving peoples to demand that the US, UK and France immediately end their war of aggression, and withdraw their weapons, troops and ships from the region, so that negotiations leading to peace in Syria can take place. Mass public opposition in the streets is decisive to stop the drive to war on Syria.

We call on Canadian Parliamentarians to urgently speak up for peace and against the illegal war and war crimes launched by the US, UK and France against Syria. Canada must not be complicit in war crimes, and must speak out against US aggression that could ‘totally destroy’ Syria and the Middle East, or escalate into a global confrontation involving Russia and the US, in the name of ‘responsibility to protect’. ●

Central Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada

UNITE AGAINST WAR & REACTION

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE FOR SOCIALISM

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS’ DAY GREETINGS

COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA, CENTRAL COMMITTEE

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

MAY DAY 2018

1er mai 2018

Burnaby Club, CPC

Voeux de combativité, de solidarité et d’unité, Contre l’austérité, l’impérialisme et la guerre

Pour la paix, la démocratie et le socialisme

PARTI COMMUNISTE DU QUÉBEC

NEWS FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFITS!

Every issue of PEOPLE’S VOICE gives you the latest on the flightback from coast to coast to coast! Whether it’s the flightback against neoliberalism and austerity, solidarity with Cuba or workers’ struggles around the world, we’ve got the news the corporate media won’t print!

And we do more than just that! PV reports and analyzes events from a revolutionary people’s perspective, helping to building the movements for justice and equality, and eventually for a socialist Canada.

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