WHICH DIRECTION?

minority government needs mass pressure

see page 6-7

EDUCATION WORKERS FIGHT FOR STUDENTS
As Ontario’s education workers bargain, they are fighting to defend public education from Doug Ford’s cuts.

pg.2

ALBERTA AGAINST AUSTERITY
The United Conservatives’ first provincial budget is a full-on attack, but workers are fighting back.

pg.3

PINK TIDE RISING?
From Ecuador to Bolivia to Argentina to Uruguay to Chile, progressive forces in Latin America are fighting back and winning some victories.

pg.4-5

GENDER EQUALITY AND TRANS RIGHTS
PV’s popular redFEM column relaunches, with this hard-hitting look at the struggle for trans rights.

pg.12
Ontario: education workers fighting “more than ever” for students

Ontario teachers have launched a new province-wide strike, calling for a stop to the unconscionable cutbacks to education, the privatization of education, class-size increases, and the destruction of education union rights.

The walkout began on Monday morning, with teachers, education workers, students, and their families joining picket lines across the province.

The strike is the result of months of negotiations with the Ontario Teachers’ Federation (OTTF), which represents 185,000 teachers and support staff across the province.

The negotiations have been marred by a lack of interest from the government, which has been unwilling to address the growing crisis in education.

The strike will last for a period of 24 hours, with the possibility of extending it if the government does not agree to the teachers’ demands.

The teachers are demanding an end to class-size increases, a fairer funding formula, and a strong, democratic voice for teachers in the decision-making process.

They are also calling for a moratorium on the privatization of education, which has been increasing in recent years.

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The strike is expected to have a significant impact on the province’s education system, with many schools facing the possibility of closure.

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MINORITY GOVERNMENT: STRONG MASS MOVEMENT NEEDED TO FORCE GAINS

 Throughout the federal election campaign, opinion polls projected the probability of a minority government. It was a scenario that many progressives and greens harboured hopes for. The idea was that it would provide a strong opportunity for the labour and movement’s voices to be meaningfully heard. Now, with a minority government elected, the question is how labour and the movement respond.

 1 On the other hand, the election represents a rejection of hard-right policies. While the Conservatives won the popular vote, they won only 24 seats in the House of Commons. The Liberals won a much larger seat count than most polls projected, from forming government and their Deputy Leader Lisa Raitt was defeated in a by-election. Added to all this is the ability to implement their platform of privatization, cuts to services and infrastructure, as well as an increase in the GST. The racism and right-wing policies the party favoured were far from eschewed.

 4 After the elections, the government is still in a minority position and needs to be organized, structured, and mobilized. It is essential to work with other left forces to push the Liberals, USU, and the Green Party to the left, to get the necessary support for a new minority Liberal government, it is essential to work with other left forces to push the Liberals, USU, and the Green Party to the left, to get the necessary support for a new minority Liberal government.

 5 The reality is that the Liberals may be able to avoid much of the pressure typically faced by a minority government. They have a much larger seat count than most polls predicted, so they can shop around, picking and choosing their allies and partners, and thereby not rely consistently on parties of the radical left.

 6 The Liberal victory in the 2015 election came as a surprise to many. They won a much larger seat count than most polls projected, and it allowed for a minority government to be formed. This means that the voices demanding even social justice and political change can get heard, and that the government will be forced to act.

 7 The Liberal victory in 2015 was a victory for the left, as they won a majority government. It allowed for a new minority Liberal government, which was more open to working with other left forces to push the Liberals to the left, to get the necessary support for a new minority Liberal government.

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Falling living standards in the oil patch due to the Liberal premiers Jason Kenney in Alberta and Scott Moe in Saskatchewan. Growing chauvinism in the USMCA deal.

Legitimate working class anger... During a campaign stop in Oshawa, Ontario, Trudeau was heckled by a crowd of hundreds of working people, with chants of “Ban frack 2020.”

Addressing women's discrimination requires more than any party in Parliament is willing to give, because it means addressing unequal development across the country, the power of the energy and natural resource corporations, the climate crisis, and austerity policies that have driven down wages and living standards for all workers.

The Communist Party offered a path forward on all these issues, in its election campaign, starting with public ownership under democratic control of energy and natural resources, guarantees of jobs at living wages for all workers, environmental policies for protecting workers, environmental justice, and fighting exploitation and underemployment in this严重, multi-faceted crisis and the working class is staring down the barrel of a severe, multi-faceted crisis and the working class is staring down the barrel of economic recession, such pressure is urgent.

While the suffering of the working class will be critical to press for decisive action on climate change, the government's priorities, which are focused on austerity, inequality, and austerity policies, that have driven down wages and living standards for all workers.

60 years ago, Communists in Canada and around the world stood up against the threat of nuclear war. It was a massive united struggle that is forged through national, gender, and racial equality.

The narrative that “Quebec is the racial core of Canada” is not accepted. Never mind that a key issue for Quebec is the nation-state's “Law on the Secularism of State,” which is fundamentally reactionary, identity-based and nationalistic. And in the wake of Quebec's win, it was immediately attributed to racism.

As in 1959, a call to cut military spending and fund people's needs...
IRELAND: Workers redefined as “self-employed”

New attemps are being made to redefine “self-employed” in Ireland. When the practice starts to become widespread, workers are likely to have become “self-employed” in large companies, and this will be the case when they are designated self-employed. The practice has a common in certain sectors, notably the construction and transport industries, allowing some companies to avoid paying social security contributions on behalf of employees.

McMahons said: “When the practice starts to become widespread, workers are likely to have become ‘self-employed’ in large companies.”

QUEBEC: Farmworkers win damages

Two representatives from the All Canada Bank Employees Union were set up to investigate the issue. The unions went ahead with the investigation, with the cooperation of the Public Accounts Committee that “no legislative change” would be required.

The case involves two farmworkers who were hit on Oct. 22 as two bank mergers were announced, including the acquisition of the private funds and money management of Guatemalan farmers, and the need for employers to ensure decent working conditions.

The two men had come to work on a farm in a part of Que- bec in which they were working as contract workers. When they were hired, they were employed by an employment agency in Trois- Rivieres. They were paid $8 per hour and were not provided with any meals. The employees had refused to sign the contract because this change would also be legal for the farm.

The some of the men only spoke Spanish and they did not know how to read or write, leaving them in a vulnerable position in a small rural community.

The two men had been employed by a labor agency in the region for several years. The men were paid $8 per hour and were not provided with any meals. The employees had refused to sign the contract because this change would also be legal for the farm.

JAPAN: Unions seek minimum wage hike

The year-long investigation concluded that “no legislative change” would be required.

A press release from the staff of Rabochaya Gazeta states, “as the case, this law does not apply to neo-Nazi parties. The new laws will be subject to the Advisory Council in November and December. The proposals are part of a three-year drive to establish a National Labour Organization.

In this year’s negotiations, Rengo agreed to a 2% increase in the basic wage scale plus regular wages. The wage disparity between regular and non-regular work- ers, who are split between small and large firms, has prompted people to keep their jobs in order to save their pensions, as the hopes for the government to complete its program in the near future are diminishing. The confidence of the government a year ago.

According to the researcher at Open at the National Social Security Commission, the government’s Public Accounts Committee that “no legislative change” would be required.

Manufacturing industries in Bosnia-Herzegovina employ more than 100,000 workers, of whom 30,000 work in the textile industry. The manufacturing sector has grown in recent years, but with a basic minimum wage just above €100 ($120) per month, it still has the lowest wages in South-East Europe.

Japanese labour organiza- tion is set to seek a hike in the average hourly minimum wage for regular workers. The proposal is aimed at improving the working conditions of construction workers.

The Japanese government has never actually raised the minimum wage for home-based workers. In 2013, the government announced a plan to increase the minimum wage for home-based workers, but this plan was dropped.

A new law has been passed in India, which requires employers to ensure that their employees are paid a minimum wage.

The All India Bank Employees’ Union (AIBE) and the All Bank Employees’ Union (ABEU) are amongst those unions involved in the campaign. The AIBE has called for a general strike tomorrow in protest at the move to make workforces self-employed on large companies.

QATAR: Kafala system ends

All workers in the Gulf region of Qatar have the same legal rights and responsibilities, and are entitled to all the benefits that come with being employed by an employer.

The Kafala system, which has been in place since 1996, has been used to exploit workers in Qatar. The system has been a source of abuse and exploitation for workers, and has been used to force workers to work long hours and in dangerous conditions.

The new laws will be submitted to the Advisory Council in November and December. The proposals are part of a three-year drive to establish a National Labour Organization.

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Repression, amid the reality of a people’s brave resistance

Gaza Fights for Freedom

（2019）

WRITERS: ABBY MARTIN, MIKE PYNE
DIRECTOR: ABBY MARTIN

DIRECTOR: ABBY MARTIN

In the wake of the Bush-era bombing of Baghdad, a group of filmmakers and journalists began an undercover investigation of the United States’ involvement in Iraq. Their work, which led to the arrest of seven US officials, was featured in the documentary “Baghdad Calling,” which chronicles the crimes committed by the US military in Iraq. The film is not only a powerful reflection on the ongoing war in Iraq, but also a powerful reminder of the importance of independent journalism in a world where media freedom is under threat.

The film features interviews with experts and witnesses from around the world, including former US soldiers and activists who have been involved in the war, as well as anti-war protesters and supporters. It also includes footage of protests and demonstrations around the world, as well as footage of the war itself, including images of US soldiers and their victims.

The film is a reminder of the importance of independent journalism in a world where media freedom is under threat, and of the need for people to come together to support the cause of freedom and justice.

Waters to Assahne: “Wish You Were Here”

More than a decade after the Assahne massacre, the village of Assahne remains a scar on the soul of the Palestinian people. The day after the massacre, the villagers were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in the nearby town of Khan Younis. The massacre was carried out by Israeli soldiers and caused the death of several villagers.

The film is a powerful testimony to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people, and a reminder of the need for international solidarity in support of the Palestinian struggle for justice and freedom.

THE HIGHWOMEN RINGING HIGH IN THE CHARTS

Country music supergroup The Highwomen is ringing high in the charts with their debut album, a collection of original songs with strong female and working-class themes.

The album was created using the exact same collaborative process The Dixie Chicks used to create “Wish You Were Here,” the title track from Pink Floyd’s landmark album “The Wall.” The Highwomen’s approach to songwriting was based on the idea of letting women speak for themselves, and the result is a powerful and compelling collection of songs that speaks to the struggles and experiences of women around the world.

The album features songs about the importance of female representation in government and in the arts, as well as songs about the power of love and friendship.

The Highwomen’s message is one of hope and empowerment, and their music is a testament to the strength and resilience of women everywhere.

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

The Association of Women in the Arts is a non-profit organization that promotes women in the arts and raises awareness about gender equality issues in the arts.

The organization was founded in 1975, and its mission is to promote the work of women artists, to advocate for gender equality in the arts, and to provide resources and support to women artists.

The organization sponsors a wide range of programs and events, including conferences, workshops, and exhibitions, as well as publications and awards.

The Association of Women in the Arts is headquartered in New York City, and its members come from all over the world.

The organization is supported by individual and corporate donations, as well as by grants from government agencies and private foundations.

The Association of Women in the Arts is a valuable resource for artists, educators, and others interested in promoting gender equality in the arts.
Ending gender oppression means defending trans rights

BECKY BUHAY

A few years ago, a friend of mine posted a beautiful graphic on her Facebook feed: it said, amongst other things, that “Transwomen are Women” — something she didn’t think was contentious. She was totally unprepared for the onslaught of hateful messages, some from people she knew, but mostly from complete strangers. She had posted it publicly and was ganged up on, including by hundreds of people from outside of Canada. Not part of the feminist or queer community, she had been unaware of the vitriolic, incendiary debate she had inadvertently waded into.

In 2019, there are now few in Canada, especially if they frequent social media, who aren’t aware of the “debate” around gender that has exploded into a hate campaign against trans people. I know many trans rights activists who have received so many online threats that they have had to close their social media accounts.

The danger is not just online. The number of violent attacks on and murders of trans folk, especially Indigenous and racialized transwomen, is rising rapidly in many countries, including Canada. These numbers are underreported, but are believed to have increased by some 75% from 2017 to 2018 alone and globally, there have been hundreds of violent attacks on and murders of transgender folk. This year, the Southern Poverty Law Centre has termed “transphobic hate” a hate crime and highlighted that this pernicious, anti-trans violence is likely just the tip of the iceberg, with many hate crimes not reported to police.

The queer community and their allies have fought and won rights. These victories have made some people, particularly those who hold rigid views of gender, uncomfortable. However, by and large, in Canada relatively few people publicly oppose the rights of gays and lesbians to get married and be free of discrimination in the workplace and elsewhere.

There has long been a tendency in the feminist movement, often termed “radical feminists”, for whom the greatest enemy of women is men. Since 2017, many of these feminists who reject trans inclusion have begun to work with far-right and fascist groups. These trans exclusive feminists are willing to fight side by side with those who would deny their reproductive rights.

There are feminists themselves who are trans or trans-identifying folk, who have fought for and won rights. These victories have been hard-fought, with the rights of trans folk, especially Indigenous and racialized transwomen, being fought for by activists, especially Indigenous and racialized transwomen, being fought for by activists, including many who are feminists themselves. These groups spread myths and disinformation, and fan hate. It is true that globally, a handful of trans- or trans-identifying folk have committed crimes against women. These few cases are trotted out as proof of danger. Why would society deny the rights, and even the existence, of all, because of the actions of a few? None of us would have any rights if that were the standard.

The program of the Communist Party of Canada makes clear that when we refer to women, we include all. We reject the gender binary, recognizing that scientifically there have always been more than two genders. We recognize that “women’s” bodies and “men’s bodies” have more similarities than differences, and that embryos all start out the same. Gender is a combination of many elements such as chromosomes, anatomy, hormones, psychology and culture. We also reject the notion that patriarchy has always existed. Gender oppression is a key feature of capitalism. It arose with the advent of private property. As the program says, “Establishing gender inequality will be crucial for putting capitalism altogether behind us and advancing to a higher stage of history.”

We reject the non-class based, unscientific notion that all women are sisters, oppressed equally, and united in an ability to bear children. Margaret Thatcher was never our sister.

The ending of gender oppression is fundamental to the liberation of all humanity. The Communist Party is proud to have trans and gender variant members. Together we join movements to end all forms of oppression — including racism, Islamophobia, transphobia, sexism, nationalism, and colonization. We are united in overthrowing capitalism, building a socialist society, and fighting for a future for our planet.