ELECTING CLIMATE JUSTICE?

Almost every candidate has a climate plan, but what will it really take to confront the crisis?

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BEHIND THE HONG KONG CHAOS

Bennett Guillaume examines some of the underlying issues.

pg.9

JAMMU & KASHMIR

A call for solidarity and an analysis of the Canadian government’s weak response to a grave danger.

pg.3

FOCUS ON LATIN AMERICA

As the US and its allies continue to push against the Pink Tide, PV takes a country-by-country look at the region.

pg.6-7

CLIMATE STRIKE ACTIONS - PAGE 2
O
n Friday, March 15 over one million young people under 25 years old from around the world walked out of class to demand that their governments take action against climate change. The global student strike for climate was held in 200 cities across 123 countries. In Canada over 50 cities had youth climate protesters, the largest of which was in Montreal where over 150,000 young marchers filled the streets and shut down schools.

Since then, other student-led protests have taken place. According to the official Fridays For Future Canada website, 98 cities participated in the country-wide climate strike on Friday May 3 and 104 Canadian cities participated in the Friday May 24 global strike. There are also plans for a global Earth Strike during the week of September 20-27.

The world-wide student strikes for climate action are inspired by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, who began by protesting outside the Swedish parliament buildings last August. Terrified for her future, she decided to skip school on Fridays to protest her government’s inaction on the climate crisis, hence the name Fridays For Future. Greta has since gained global attention and travelled to North America by boat to attend a UN climate summit on September 23. She will be attending the September 27 rally in Montreal.

“Starting on Friday September 20 we will kickstart a week of climate action with a worldwide strike for the climate,” Greta said in a statement. Many organisations have been promoting the September general strike while local groups have been preparing actions for that week. General strikes involve more than just mass demonstrations. Historically, general strikes have been called by unions and involved workers of an entire city or region walking off the job with the support of driving industry to a halt. These efforts would involve thousands of participants, including workers from several different industries and their supporters, who would strike in solidarity. Examples include the 1917 International Women’s Day textile worker’s strike in Petrograd that initiated the Russian Revolution, and the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike 100 years ago which resulted in a streetcar tipped over and several strikers shot or arrested by North West Mounted Police. General strikes have helped the working class win many gains. If properly organized, they may be an effective way to fight the fossil fuel industry and address climate change.

Socialism or extinction

Under capitalism, everything is exploited for the purpose of economic growth and accumulation of wealth. This ever-increasing growth will never be compatible with a sustainable society because you cannot have continuous growth on a finite planet. Think of our resources in terms of a bank account. We have our main spending account that we use, but when that’s used up, when those resources are used up, we take from our savings account to cover us for the rest of the year. Our current trend of over-consumption forces us year by year to dip into this savings account of resources, which is getting smaller and smaller.

Earth Overshoot Day, the day that humans have used up the amount of resources that the planet is able to regenerate annually, is landing earlier every year. The first Earth Overshoot Day was December 29, 1970; in 2018 it was on August 1, and this year it was on July 29. That means that for 4 months of this year we are taking resources that the planet will not be able to produce for us in the future. We are currently consuming 1.7 Earth’s worth of resources every year.

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This is why it is up to the youth, the students and the next generation of leaders to clean up the mess and the mistakes that previous generations have made. We must work to dismantle capitalism, so that the Earth is no longer seen as a commodity and we can end this trend of mindless over-consumption.

We must act now.

This article is republished from Rebel Youth, rebelyouthmagazine.blogspot.com. It has been slightly edited.
Communists call for solidarity with Jammu and Kashmir

CPC demands that Canadian government oppose war, respect right of national self-determination

The Communist Party of Canada has released a statement condemning the Indian government’s attack on the national rights of Jammu and Kashmir. On August 7, India passed legislation abrogating Jammu and Kashmir’s constitutional special status, effectively turning the region into a separate, isolated and weak entity.

The CPC demands that the Canadian government oppose war and respect the right of national self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The following is from the Communist Party statement:

“Jammu and Kashmir is the only Muslim-majority state in the world. At the time of independence and partition, it joined India on the insistence of a majority of its population, who defined the proposal of both their feudal rulers to be in the interest of an independent princely state. They also rejected the proposal to join Pakistan, fearing that feudal and religious interests would dominate. The agreement to join India included guarantees of autonomy and self-determination rights, which became crystallized in Article 370 of the Constitution of India. These provisions are still a matter of dispute and legislative jurisdiction.”

Despite this urgency, the response of the Canadian government has been a silence on the issue of first-use of nuclear weapons.

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland has only issued one public statement, in which she made a general appeal for meaningful discussions and consultations. The government has not criticized India’s attack on the national rights of Jammu and Kashmir, nor the military crackdown, nor the illegal arrest of political leaders. The CPC demands that the Canadian government oppose war and respect the right of national self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.”

The CPC also denounced the response of the Canadian government, calling it “fickle and opportunistic.” So far, the only official response from the government has been a single, five-sentence statement of concern from Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, in which she said her government could not risk this – instead, it relies on the United Nations and the United States.

In no small part, this is due to Canada’s lack of regulation of the mining sector, which allows mining corporations to get away with crimes around the world. The Canadian government’s complicity in the mining sector’s crimes have been uncovered in many countries. This includes Canada’s lack of regulation of the mining sector, which allows mining corporations to get away with crimes around the world. The Canadian government’s complicity in the mining sector’s crimes have been uncovered in many countries. This includes

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Canada has released a statement condemning the Indian government’s assault on Jammu and Kashmir, dividing the territory and placing it under direct control of the central government. The government has not criticized India’s attack on the national rights of Jammu and Kashmir, nor the military crackdown, nor the illegal arrest of political leaders. The CPC demands that the Canadian government oppose war and respect the right of national self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.”

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EDITORIALS

407 - THE HIGHWAY TO HELL

In 1999, the Mike Harris Conservatives sold Highway 407 for $3.1 billion, in what was then the biggest privatization ever for North America. Among the private consortium was SNC-Lavalin, who purchased a 16.7% share for around $320 million. Last month, SNC-Lavalin announced it was selling 10% of its share, for $33.25 billion. That’s ten times what they paid for that 10% share - a 1000% increase in 20 years.

This, of course, doesn’t take into account the $800 million in annual profit that Lavalin and the other privateers have raked in from the highway. A conservative guess is that SNC-Lavalin, as a 16.7% shareholder, made in the area of $5-7 billion during those 20 years.

Highway 407 was built in 1997 at a cost of $1.6 billion to the public. The lands that it runs through were purchased in the 1970s for an estimated $100 billion cost to the public. This figure comes from commons recorded in Hansard, by a dis- tressing Tory MPP.

So, after fleecing the public out of tens of billions of dollars, the private sector – or part of it – is selling the asset back…at a whopping profit. The buyer is the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), who is using the deferred wages (that’s what pensions are, right?) of millions of workers to buy something that those same workers already paid for through their tax dollars.

That’s ten times what they paid for that 10% share - a 1000% increase in 20 years.

The working class, Indigenous people, youth and students, women, 2S/LGBTiQ, racialized people – all of us have an interest in getting this highway torn up and getting hotter.

The campaign will occur against a backdrop of increased dangerous militarism that threatens the planet. Notably, these two days will bookend the Nuclear Weapons. Notably, in a sad way, because out of the mainstream parties, the only way to make peace an election issue is for the Tory MPP.

September 21 is International Day of Peace. A week later, September 27, is the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Notably, these two days will bookend the days in the federal election window it is written.

Notably, in a sad way, because out of the mainstream parties that will be participating in leaders’ debates, monopolizing media attention, flooding the airwaves with advertising, and spending millions to convince you that their version of capitalism is the one for you, one hundred percent of none have anything in their platform that represents a foreign policy of peace.

The campaign will occur against a backdrop of increased militarism and aggression in the US-EU-NATO axis – which Canadian governments of all colours, so far, have enthusiastically supported (albeit with different degrees of public glower.) From the CFR to Ukraine to Colombia to Venezuela to Kashmir to Hong Kong – the list of ‘hot spots’ is growing and getting hotter.

The working class, Indigenous people, youth and students, women, 2S/LGBTiQ, racialized people – all of us have an urgent stake in preventing war and stopping the brutally dangerous militarism that threatens the planet.

The only way to make peace an election issue is for the people to demand it.

ADDITION AND RECOVERY: TIME FOR PROGRESSIVE STRATEGIES

Canada is clearly in the middle of a severe addiction crisis. What is presently lacking is a coherent approach to what can be done to prevent so many of us from dying. In 2018, for example, a reported 4460 people died from opioid overdoses in Canada.

Even though there are varied reasons why so many people die from addictions, premonitory addiction and treatment models have, until recently, remained entrenched in approaches coming out of the 1980s. Early psychological experiments used a caged rat that had the choice of drinking regular water or drug-laced water. In example after example, the rat chose the drugged water; often, it would die after becoming “hooked” on drugs. Based on these experiments, western culture has focused on the notion that drugs were “bad” and had to be stopped. This led to continued drug prohibition with severe criminal sanctions for users and sellers. Strict policing and corrections were seen as part of the (failed) “war on drugs.”

Approaches based on recovery from addiction were based on similar notions. The work of 12 step-based recovery organizations is well known. Alcoholics Anonymous, and other programs based on it, to thrive and move away from the recovering person can obtain recognition in Canada and the US is the problem with a rat in a cage that has two choices of beverage is that the rat doesn’t have much choice or freedom. The new- er studies, referred to as “Rat Park,” provide the rat could with a whole room to live in. The rat can choose to eat cheese, dig tunnels, interact with other rats, hide on its own, and so on. Rat Park also includes the water tube and the drugged water tube, but no rat has become dependent on either. The rats all drink the drugs, and maybe even come back for another helping, but the big difference is that none of them developed a drug problem.

Are there approaches to recovery that take “Rat Park” into consideration?

For many years, Portugal had one of the worst drug problems in Europe. Several years ago, a decision was made to legalize all drugs and money from enforcement and corrections was redirected to drug treatment and rehabilitation. Today, drug use in Portugal has declined significantly. Drug users can now get the help they need, if they want it, to thrive and move away from negativity in their life.

Another important development in Canada and the US is the current effort to prosecute Big Pharma companies that have irresponsibly promoted medicines such as OxyContin, resulting in harm and death for many vulnerable people.

The Harm Reduction approach has many adherents. Instead of having people die from addictions, governments can provide services like safe injection sites, needle exchanges, HIV and Hepatitis screening. Harm Reduction is person-centred, based on the notion that we can reduce the harm drugs can do so long as we put our fellow human first.

While many people find that 12-step recovery or “Rat Park” programs work for them, we need to develop a more progressive strategy for addiction and recovery. Such a strategy needs to be user-specific and based on notions of empowerment, love and care for drug users, whether they choose to abstain or not (or yet). Substance abuse care needs to be based on theories of social transformation and assistance to overcome experiences of alienation at the heart of capitalist society.

Brian W. Major
TRADE UNION BARS WORKING CLASS CANDIDATE FROM ELECTION FORUM

A working class candidate with a lifelong record of active support of trade union rights will not be allowed to take part in a federal election candidates forum being held in the riding of Vancouver Kingsway.

Kimball Carioù is the candidate for the Communist Party of Canada running for the fifth consecutive time in the east Vancouver constituency. Carioù grew up as the son of a railway worker and an office worker, with his family origins among the European immigrant and Metis peoples of the Prairies. From 1999 until his retirement from his full-time work, he was the editor of People’s Voice, the socialist newspaper published in Vancouver. He has been active for many years in anti- war and solidarity movements.

Unfortunately, the PSAC (Public Service Alliance of Canada) Vancouver & District Area Council has refused to allow Carioù to take part in its forum, which takes place 7-9 pm, Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Collingwood Neighbourhood House, 5288 Joyce St., Vancouver.

In four previous elections (2006, 2008, 2011 and 2015) the PSAC has spoken at inclusive all-candidate forums at Collingwood organized by the local community group.

He is shocked that a trade union body would arbitrarily limit participation in this event to candidates of just four parties – the Liberals, Conservatives, Greens and NDP.

Two basic reasons were given for Carioù’s exclusion. The first is that allowing more than four candidates to take part would upset the balance of the forum and cause each candidate to answer, so the Area Council would have to allow candidates from parties that have the most influence over our living and working conditions. The Area Council also argued that including any other candidates would force it to open the event to a party that has troubling right-nationalist values.

Making a final appeal to the PSAC Area Council, Carioù wrote: "I have experienced my profound disappointment that the broad front that is forming in opposition to the current government is being sidelined. The Area Council also argues that joining any other candidates would force it to open the event to a party that has troubling right-nationalist values."

Carioù said the PSAC’s decision to exclude working class candidates is a reflection of the right-nationalist influence that is increasingly felt within the public sector trade union movement.

Carioù said, "As a union movement that is firmly oriented to the needs of the working class, we are concerned about the right-nationalist movement that has emerged over the past years. It’s a movement that is working to bolster the monopoly interests of the capitalist class."

"As public sector unionists, we are duty bound to fight for all the hard fought gains that have been won by our members. We feel excluded by our own trade unions, for the reasons that the PSAC Area Council gave."
New Mexican president delivers same old neoliberalism

EDER TORRES

When voters in El Salvador elected Nayib Bukele and the right-wing GANA party in February, many believed that his “Nuevas Ideas” would signal a new beginning and offer an alternative to the political status quo. But Bukele’s election has failed to bring about the change that many Salvadorans had hoped for.

When Bukele was elected, he campaigned on a platform of ending corruption, reducing crime, and improving the quality of life for citizens. However, his administration has not lived up to these promises.

One of Bukele’s main campaign promises was to end the practice of paying teachers in quarterly installments. However, the new government has failed to deliver on this promise, and teachers continue to receive their salaries in installments.

In addition, Bukele’s administration has failed to address the issue of police violence and human rights abuses. The new government has not taken any significant steps to address these problems, and the rate of police violence in the country has actually increased since Bukele’s election.

The new government has also failed to address the issue of poverty and inequality. While Bukele has promised to reduce poverty and increase the minimum wage, the government has not taken any significant steps to implement these policies.

In conclusion, the new government in El Salvador has failed to deliver on its promises and has failed to address the pressing issues facing the country.

Salvadoran unions confront right-wing populist government

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Argentina: The Political Pendulum Left Again?

ARGENTINA

PEOPLE’S VOICE

September 16-30, 2019 | 7

Argentina's August II pr

involuntary entry into civil war will be that of the United States and its allies. Washington is...
GM workers dismissed

Workers of the bankrupt aluminum smelter in the city of Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina, began receiving dismissal notices on Sept. 3. In total, 75 workers are expected to lose their jobs at what was once the largest aluminum smelter in the region. The factory, which closed in 2004, was caring for 5-600 workers at the time of its closure.

BOSNIA: GM Korean claims that it needs pressure the company for strong economic outlook.

GM's restructuring and a trade unionized workers in South Korea during the time period covered by the contract. GM's proposal for a base wage increase of 5% from $1.78 per pound to $1.87 per pound was also not agreed to by the company.

USA: Poultry giants cut to cut wages

A federal class-action lawsuit filed in Baltimore alleges Tyson, Pilgrim's Pride, and 13 other poultry-processing giants who control 90% of the U.S. chicken market have conspired to cut wages. The complaint reveals a series of secret meetings beginning in September 2018 to cut wages for thousands of employees.

RELAXING ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

GM began production in South Korea after buying assets of a failed local automaker in 2005. It has since been hit with a series of strikes and is reportedly considering a pullback from major export markets. It seems “crazy” to stage a large meeting of trade unions and trade unions in Thessaloniki, where the defendant is alleged to have committed an economic offense.

The meeting noted that two days previously, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met with corporate representatives from the country's main trade union federation. The meeting was reportedly attended by the president of the country's main trade union federation. The meeting was reportedly attended by the president of the country's main trade union federation.

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After observing this summer of mass discontent, those who wish China’s Hong Kong Special Administrative Region well can draw a few conclusions. Bennett Guilemau explores the underlying issues by asking some key questions.

**HONG KONG CHAOS**

**What’s it really about?**

The catalyst for the protests was proposed legislation that would permit Hong Kong to transfer criminal suspects to jurisdictions with no extradition agreement. It does not seem to have been prompted by feelings of enmity or for its intrinsic violation with Chinese characteristics into the dank cells of the mainland. Rather, the catalyst was the reaction to a smiling man who murdered his girlfriend and left her body in a Taiwanese parking lot. It took a place in a peaceful crowd, it turned out, he couldn’t be removed to face justice. Hong Kong had no extradition pact with Taipei. Hong Kongers uncomfortable with the politics and judicial practices of the People’s Republic of China immediately saw the full implications. The SAR would no longer be a guaranteed safe haven for individuals pursued on the mainland. But the pointed question critics of the legislation ought to answer is this: Is it reasonable that one commit acts of fraud in Guangzhou, bribery in Har- hin or rape in Shenzhen, and then evade those courts, provided one can get back to Hong Kong, a part of the same country as those named municipalities?

In June, after huge protests, Chief Executive Carrie Lam declared the bill “dead” and offered a fulsome apology. It remains unclear what precisely she was apologizing for, but Lam’s retreat made it immediately clear that she was sensitive to and respectful of the populace’s feelings. But government opponents smelled blood. Why settle for one protest when the battle can be fought on two fronts? The legislation’s demise was insufficient; there had to be a guar- antee that it would never return in a revised version. In other words, not less than a concrete judicial wall between the SAR and the Rest of China would do. One Country Two Systems indeed!

On September 4, Lam announced that the legislation had been definitively withdrawn. Numerous Hong Kongers argue that PRC courts can’t be trusted to reach just decisions. As they speak, an African-American man named Alvin Kennard is re- leased from jail in Hong Kong serving a 15-year sentence for a crime he feared to be a spinal injury appeared on television. Many more indi- viduals – perhaps hundreds – have been left behind. House- holds have been left behind. Housing is now, possibly, the longest working hours of any global city, he adds, a problem that hasn’t been legislatively ad- dressed due to business opposition.

Hong Kong’s protesters believe they haven’t been heard,” write Sheng Sheng and Xiao “But it is the city’s own business to accommodate other people’s need to travel to and from the mainland. But the pointed question critics of the legislation ought to answer is this: Is it reasonable that one commit acts of fraud in Guangzhou, bribery in Harbin or rape in Shenzhen, and then evade those courts, provided one can get back to Hong Kong, a part of the same country as those named municipalities?

Meanwhile, as of early Septem- ber, one Hong Kong woman had received an eye wound that didn’t appear to have produced blindness, according to a hospital announce- ment. On September 4, scenes of terror were played out – the police of- ficer was reported to have fired his gun. In addition, a young man suffering what was feared to be a spinal injury appeared on television. The Hospital Authori- ties reported that 45 people received treatment after clashes between po- lice and protestors on August 11, with two in a serious state.

The contrast between injury re- sults in the cradle of human rights and the Chinese Special Administra- tive Region is not insignificant.

Demonstrators do not want the words “riot” or “rioters” affixed to their actions or persons and believe those arrested should be released.

Many of the young people build- ing barricades and setting transit stations aflame, bathed by Western media and foreign politicians, seem oblivious to the fact that violence has costs. When they see that it does, they are often quick to overlay it – again and again – over what names appear on the bal- ling.
HOT-HOUSE FLOWER FROM THE MUCK OF BRUTAL RACISM

GERALD HORNE

“Jazz and Justice: Racism and the Political Economy of the Music” (2019)

AUTHOR: GERALD HORNE

PUBLISHER: MONTHLY REVIEW PRESS

RACISM AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MUSIC

Jazz and Justice: Racism and the Political Economy of the Music (2019)

BOOK REVIEW BY WALLY BROOKER

Historian Gerald Horne, Chair of History and African American Studies at the University of Houston, is a prolific author and frequent guest on progressive news shows. Among his more than 30 books are The Counter-Revolution of 1776 (2014) and The Apocalypse of Settler Colonialism (2018). Both are notable works. The former challenges received ideas about the virtuosity of the Learned Tradition, while the latter contributes to our understanding of the construction of “white” identity in a society that was built on the labor of African slaves and bereft on exorbitant industrial capitalists, with white Jazz. Horne takes his inspiration to one of the United States’ greatest contributions to world culture: a “hot-house flower” that grew out of the muck of racist violence and brutal oppression.

The book’s subtitle suggests an analyti
cal inquiry of social forces, structures, and institu
tions. But while Horne supplies plentiful
texts and facts to fatten his argument, he relies more on an anecdotal approach, drawing heavily upon the oral testimonies of jazz musicians which are now deposited in libraries across the USA. “This is a book,” he writes, “about the travails and triumphs of these talented musicians as they sought to make a living, at home and abroad, through the act of organizing – and fighting.”

Jazz musicians developed their art in nightclubs, bars, bordellos, and other venues that were close to, yet not controlled by, organized crime. During the Prohibition era, every city had its Al Capone and gangsters who were omnipresent on the jazz scene, a situation that continued well into the post-war era. Most nightclubs were mob-controlled. There were mob-linked managers (like Louis Armstrong’s Joe Glaser), mob-linked booking agencies, and mob links to govern
tors. President Harry Truman, for example, openly acknowledged that he owed his political success to Kansas City mob boss Tom Pendergast.

From the beginning, African American musicians were forced to their ruthless ex
dotation and dangerous workplace con
ditions by carrying guns and seeking mob

safety protection for themselves. Many jazz musicians formed, albeit with mixed re
results, record companies (Gigi Gryce’s Melotone Music), and musical associations (Chicago’s Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians).

Most jazz artists understood the sys
tematic nature of their oppression and de
dveloped strategies of resistance and strug
gle. In the early days, some were attracted to the Pan-Africanism of Marcus Garvey. By the 1930s many had turned to the Communist Party (CPUSA) and the move
ments that it led, including the Scottsboro Boys. Some musicians, like Louis Armstrong, became part of the CPUSA. Others were sympathizers, in
deed, band leaders, who supported the successful 1948 election campaign of Afri
can American candidate Ben Leon, New York City Council. As the influence of the CPUSA declined in the Cold War era, some formed “Black Panthers” or other left-wing movements that put African American artists at the forefront of the movement to end segregation, many found integration a means to an end and black musicians embraced the cultural nationalism of the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panthers attracted considerable sup
port from jazz artists.

Though some may find it frustrating to read, Jazz and Justice is a valuable contri
bution to jazz scholarship.
Call to Anti-imperialist Solidarity Meeting for Democracy and against Neoliberalism, Havana

The Solidarity Anti-imperialist Meeting, in favor of Democracy and against Neoliberalism, will be held in Havana from 1 to 3 November this year. It is being organized by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, along with the Cuban Chapter of Social Movements and the Continental Journey for Democracy and against Neoliberalism.

By hosting this event in Havana, the Cuban Revolution shows its decision to answer to the claims of social and political left wing movements and the Movement of Solidarity with Cuba; that our country is to continue being a rendezvous point, in favor of Democracy and against the counter-aggression of Donald Trump’s administration.

In November we will be receiving in Havana a diverse representation of friends from the Americas and Europe who have always chosen justice’s side, and been supportive with Cuba and its people since the very triumph of our Revolution; as well as some important intellectual personalities committed to the peoples struggles for freedom.

Increasing hostility from the United States against Cuba and other countries in our region, legal persecution of progressive leaders and the imposition of neoliberalism as a feasible alternative; are distinctive feature of United States’ current policy towards Latin-America and the Caribbean, that arise the political consciousness of our peoples.

Likewise, in the context of this event, we will be receiving hundreds of social and political leaders, intellectuals, countrymen, women, natives and solidarity activists: who will be supporting the heroic resistance of the Cuban people in its effort to defeat the blockade and the Helms-Burton Act, so Cuba can carry on updating its concept of social and economic development.

In opposition to nowadays pessimism and claudicating tendencies, the attenders to the Solidarity and Anti-imperialism Meeting will respond with high moral and the profound conviction that Latin-American and Caribbean peoples shall march unstoppable to their second and certain independence.

The organizing committee of the Solidarity Anti-imperialist Meeting, in favor of Democracy and against Neoliberalism, calls to an event that will be hosted in the best hospitality traditions of the Cuban people, and its commitment to independence, justice, peace and fraternity between the peoples.

Those who are interested in participating must send your confirmation to the e-mail enc.jornada2019@gmail.com and comercio@amistur.cu.

WHAT’S LEFT

GRAND FORKS
SEP 20-21 | PEACE IN! PEACE OUT!
Starting at 4 PM on Sept 20. 24-hour event with musicians, artists, and speakers. Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ CC. Sponsored by Boundary Peace Initiative.

TORONTO
SEP 18-22 | TORONTO PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL
12th annual festival! All films will be subtitled in English and screened at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto.
SEP 19 | WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE - THE STORY OF JEWISH INVOLVEMENT
7:00 PM, Winkesvy Centre, 585 Grant Ave. Sponsored by UJPO, 416-789-5502
SEP 19 | CFCF TORONTO AGM
7:30 PM, Friends House, 60 Lowther. Special presentation from Rana Basu “Travelling from Havana to Guatemala: International Solidarity and the Peace Movement”
SEP 21 | DAN KOVALIK AND ARNOLD AUGUST

ONTARIO
OCT 9 | PEACE VIGIL
Outside the NATO Association of Canada office, 48 Yonge Street, from 12-1 PM. Organized by the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. info@canonwomenforpeace.org

COMMUNIST PARTY ELECTION TOUR 
“PEOPLE AND NATURE BEFORE PROFIT”

For details, 604-254-9836

• Vancouver, Sept 24 at 7 PM, 706 Clark Drive
• University of Victoria, Sept 25 at 10:30 AM
• Surrey, Sept 27 at 7 PM, 71 Caledonia Ave
• Kamloops, Sept 28

More events to be announced soon

PV CROSSWORD #3

Answers to last issue


DOWN
1. She helped found the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union (2 words)
2. Sahrawi liberation front
3. Dick Gaughan anti-war song “... Again”
8. Wilde’s “The ___ Under Socialism” (3 words)
9. Australian PM deposed with CIA help
10. “Green, White and Pink”
11. Guyanese leader in a mismatched digest
12. Guyanese leader in a mismatched digest
13. Media used to incite Rohingya massacre
14. mystery of the masses, of the oppressed
15. Cap-and-trade turns the right to pollute into this
16. “They shall not pass” to Ibarurri
17. “Great Socialist People’s Libyan ___”
18. “Opiate of the masses, ___ of the oppressed
19. “Green, White and Pink”
21. Cap-and-trade turns the right to pollute into this
22. “They shall not pass” to Ibarurri
23. “They shall not pass” to Ibarurri
24. “Green, White and Pink”
25. Bethune was a labourer-teacher at this college
26. In support of Cuba and its people since the very triumph of our Revolution; as well as some important intellectual personalities committed to the peoples struggles for freedom.
In opposition to nowadays pessimism and claudicating tendencies, the attenders to the Solidarity and Anti-imperialism Meeting will respond with high moral and the profound conviction that Latin-American and Caribbean peoples shall march unstoppable to their second and certain independence.

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The goal is to cut emissions in half by 2030 and eliminate them completely by 2050. So, what are Canada’s current carbon emissions? In 2017, overall emissions were 716 megatons (Mt). The government is very quick to point out that this represents a 1 Mt drop since 2005. Over 12 years, emissions were reduced by 2% — at this rate, it will take until 2042 to achieve a 50% cut of 358 megatons.

Within the oil and gas sector, natural gas counts for around 50-55 Mt and conventional oil is a relatively constant 30-35 Mt. Tar sands produce a whopping 80 Mt, increasing by 38% in just five years (2012-2017) and by 86% over the decade from 2007-2017. “Downstream” emissions account for around 80 Mt; this includes emissions from refining, transportation and end-use combustion.

Phasing out the tar sands is a demand of numerous Indigenous communities, environmental groups, but the Communist Party is the only federal party with this in its platform. Closing the tar sands would reduce emissions by 80 Mt. This would also result in a reduction of downstream emissions; there is less data on these, but if we assume that reducing half of the overall oil and gas production by taking out tar sands, we can confidently assume a reduction of at least 15 Mt in downstream emissions.

In the transportation sector, the biggest source is passenger vehicles (cars and light trucks) at 85 Mt, followed by freight trucks at 60 Mt. Both these categories are increasing. Freight from plane/rail/marine contributes 12 Mt and passenger travel by plane, rail and bus just under 9 Mt; both these amounts have been consistent over 2 decades.

Shifting one third of the passenger vehicle traffic to mass transit should result in roughly 25 Mt of reduced emissions. However, 80% of Canada’s population is urbanized, so we could take measures to further shift a total of half of these to mass transit and achieve an additional 10 Mt cut.

Clearly, moving the remaining passenger vehicles to electric vehicles would eliminate a corresponding proportion of the 50 Mt in emissions. If we targeted a modest 25% shift, that would eliminate just over 12 Mt.

Transferring a third of trucked freight to rail/shipplane should result in 16 Mt fewer emissions. Moving 30% of the remaining vehicles, which account for 44 Mt, to electric would cut a further 22 Mt.

Buildings account for 85 Mt, primarily from fuel combustion for heating. A conservative estimate, from the Canada Green Building Council, is that reductions of 19.4 Mt can be achieved through energy efficiency improvements in existing commercial, institutional and high-rise residential buildings. A further 7.5 Mt, minimally, can be eliminated through construction of zero carbon buildings, and another 5 Mt through retrofits and zero carbon construction for federal government buildings.

Heavy industry accounts for around 75 Mt in emissions; this includes 21 Mt through petroleum refining, which is not counted in the oil and gas sector. Measures taken so far have reduced petroleum use by 71%, so that will reduce this emission by 15 Mt.

Agriculture accounts for 72 Mt. Studies have shown that CO2 emissions per hectare of organic agriculture systems are 48 to 66 percent lower than in conventional systems. Shifting to organic agriculture would result in an additional 36 Mt.

Furthermore, this reduction in consumption would result in a comparable reduction in natural gas and conventional oil production, resulting in an additional 36 Mt in eliminated emissions.

In the electricity sector, 57 Mt comes from coal burning generation. In 2014, Ontario completed phasing out coal burning plants – doing the same on a country-wide basis would reduce carbon emissions by 57 Mt.

This takes us back to the downstream emissions. Since around 70% of oil is consumed as fuel for vehicles, our recommendations so far to reduce passenger vehicle use by 62% means the downstream figure could come down by another 43% or 18 Mt. Furthermore, this reduction in consumption would result in a comparable reduction in natural gas and conventional oil production, resulting in an additional 36 Mt in eliminated emissions.

We need a more radical approach.

How much is 716 Mt? A US aircraft carrier weighs 90,000 tonnes, so Canada’s emits almost 8000 aircraft carriers worth of carbon each year.

Where do Canada’s carbon emissions come from?

The chart below shows emission figures for 2017. The oil and gas sector produces 27% (195 Mt), while transportation accounts for 24% (174 Mt).