How Canadian politicians contracted a hit-man to destroy the Bolivarian Revolution.... see page 12

Pride 2019 Solidarity! See page 6

“Surplus” lands?
Under the former Liberal government of B.C., hundreds of “surplus” public properties were sold off, allowing developers to reap huge profits at the expense of taxpayers.
Page 2

Low grade, high volume
A Vancouver-based company operating in New Brunswick is pushing to open the Sisson Mine, which would excavate 30,000 tonnes of ore per day for 27 years on Indigenous lands.
Page 3

Working day USA
The struggle between workers and bosses over the length of the working day has been going on since the birth of capitalism. Why are U.S. workers losing ground on this issue?
Page 7

No Surrender
A Saskatchewan historian has compiled an impressive body of evidence showing that the Indigenous chiefs who signed the “numbered treaties” never surrendered traditional territories to Canada.
Page 10
By Kimball Cariou

Three years ago, after years of threats, the B.C. Liberal government fired the entire Vancouver School Board just as the trustees were about to meet to fulfill their legal requirement to adopt a balanced budget for the 2016-17 school term. The real reason for the firing was that for most of the years since the Liberals took office in 2001, the VSB had been led by a progressive majority which regularly spoke out against provincial funding cuts.

On this occasion, former Premier Christy Clark, well known for her efforts to weaken the public education system in favour of stronger support for elite private and religious schools, immediately appointed a single trustee to run the entire Vancouver district, with over 50,000 students and more than 6,000 teaching and non-encrolling staff in about 120 schools. Clark’s dream of gutting public education came to an end a year later, in the wake of a Supreme Court decision to force the government to restore the collective bargaining rights illegally taken from teachers many years ago, and then her defeat in the May 2017 provincial election.

Since then, the battle continues to rage. NDP Premier John Horgan’s Education Minister, the radical Rob Fleming, risks forcing a strike by teachers next September, as he tries to impose concessions on the BC Teachers Federation. The excuse is much the same as before: it would cost the taxpayers too much to bring BC teachers salaries and working conditions up to the levels of other provinces. And the NDP refuses to help pay for higher spending on schools, hospitals and social services by rolling back the massive tax cuts granted to the rich and the corporate sector by the Liberals back in 2001.

This brings us to the latest revelations by former VSB Chair Patti Bacchus, now a freelance reporter on public education for the Sun reporter on the prairie. In her latest column in the Vancouver Sun, Bacchus exposes how the Liberals tried to fulfill their legal requirement to prepare a balanced budget for the 2016-17 school term. The government fired the entire Board, followed by a delicious lunch.

Former VSB Chair blows the whistle on BC Liberals

By Kimball Cariou, who has held this responsibility since the launch of the newspaper in 1993. Kimball will be “semi-retired” from this point, working together with our new Editor, Dave McKee, to ensure a smooth transition as People’s Voice strengthens its social media platforms together with the print version.

Early July will see some welcome vacation time for both comrades. Starting on July 9, Dave McKee will be at his editorial office (290A Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6), preparing to publish our August issue. The new email address for PV is <editor@peoplesvoice.ca>, so please use this as your main contact for submissions and to reach the Editor.

Summer is always the time to wrap up our annual Fund Drive, with several events to meet friends and comrades, and to enjoy good food and (hopefully) beautiful weather. Our main fundraiser in the GTA area of Ontario is hosted by the Davenport Club, on Saturday, July 13, from 1 to 5 pm, at 58 Albany Ave., Toronto. Just $20 for all you can eat ($10 for students and low-wage earners), with proceeds to PV. To help with planning, please RSVP to <omarat152@gmail.com>.

The annual People’s Voice Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for Sunday, August 25, starting at 11 am at Surrey’s beautiful Bear Creek Park. Gather at the picnic area near the parking lot at 140 St. and 88 Ave., for a walk around the park, followed by a delicious lunch and performance.

For details or to make a pledge, call Harjit, 604-543-7179, or the People’s Voice BC Office, 604-254-9836.

Contribute online at peoplesvoice.ca/donate

Here’s my contribution to the PV Fund Drive!

Enclosed please find my donation of $_____.

Name__________________________
Address________________________
City/town_______________________
Prov.___________________________
Postal Code______________________

Send your contribution to:
People’s Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

The full story is worth reading at the Straight website. Essentially, Bernstein was furious when the Board refused, since selling capital assets to pay operating costs was a shortsighted and foolhardy move in a real-estate market like Vancouver’s. At the time, the Kingsgate site was assessed at $79 million; today, the estimate is $148 million, meaning that the Board saved the public $69 million.

It’s not often that the utter and total subservience of right-wing politicians to their corporate backers is so completely exposed. If there was any real justice, Christy Clark and Mike Bernier would be facing corruption charges. Instead, the Liberals and their friends got away with buying prime city real estate, worth millions. We can only hope voters never let their party win another majority in the BC Legislature.

SLIM PICKINGS

By Peter Marcus, 2016

It was Slim pickings, depressing, couldn’t work it out. No work, no wages.

“i beg your pardon?”

“There is no pardon.”

“You can’t bend a little?”

“The iron heel does not bend.”

“I’m hungry.”

“Eat cake.”

“I want to work.”

“I need a work camp for you.”

“Where?”

“The midst of nowhere.”

“We don’t.”

“Just more misery. I need relief from all this.”

We’re hungry campers for a fed-up Bowron, in the van to cover the city in marches, demonstrating an occupy movement for paying jobs.”

The rulers won’t lend an ear. They’re not the friends of roaming countrymen. Attracted to Ottawa, trained on boxcars, tracked to Regina, stopped by regal Canadian constables. A Slim delegation met the minister in charge, the prime target, who charged theft.

A thinly veiled “liar,” replied Slim, referring to a riot of officers, asserting their Dominion Day in that queen city on the prairie.

“Twas a so hilarious riot. The iron heel, still the calab roaded, heeled to the electorate.

“(A Workers’ Friend,” a collection of poems by Peter Marcus, will be published later this year.)
Lock 'em up: Jail time best thing for bad bosses

By Norm Knight, Fredericton NB

“Accumulate, accumulate! That is Moses and the prophets!” The words are those of Karl Marx in Das Kapital and describe the fundamental character of capital that it is to expand itself, bringing ever larger spheres of human activity and the natural world under its control.

There is a quiet place, known to the Native people as Macshecwip Sip slosh, in New Brunswick, 60 km north of Fredericton. Traditional chief spasauq possems (a.k.a. Ron Tremblay) describes it as being one of a dwindling number of places where they can gather medicines, hunt, and engage in similar practices that sustain their identity and connection with the land.

In the 1960s, prospectors discovered tungsten there. The amount is huge but because the Earth contains vast and ever increasing levels of tungsten in the rock is just 0.05 per cent. That is why it was never mined until now.

It occurs when rock contains sulphide minerals; these include the common mineral pyrite (iron sulphide), which is present at Macshecwip Siplosh. Pyrite oxidises to air, sulphuric acid; thus when large quantities are released to the surface it has a deleterious effect on the local area and the environment over a long period of time.

The conventional solution to PAG is to sequester the tailings and waste rock in a tailings pond: the presence of a few metres of water over the waste keeps air away so that acid generation is reduced, and any toxics that do form are contained in the pond rather than running off into the environment.

The United Nations International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) says that tailings dams are the largest human-engineered structures on Earth. Even more significant than their size is the time during which they must endure. Because low-grade mines have devastating consequences.

The physics are simple: the area of a breach with great destructive force and also inflict long-lasting damage such as mining abandons land and siltation of rivers. For example, a tailings-dam failure at QIT Iron Ore in Canada in 2015 flattened 1000 hectares of forest and paved it with inorganic mud; and sent a silt plume 600 kilometres downdriver, suffocating fish and killing other aquatic organisms by blocking light. The acidifying process stops only when it reached the Atlantic Ocean. A smaller tailings dam failure in Peru in January this year killed more than 230 people.

There is a troubling disconnect between the required longevity of tailings dams and their performance: a UBC paper in Geotechnical News estimated the rate of serious tailings-dam failures in the world since 1970 to be between 1/700 and 1/1750 per dam per year.

David Doorey wants to lock up bad bosses. The associate professor of Work Law and Industrial Relations at York University says it just might get them to treat their employees better. Nothing else seems to.

The Ministry of Labour in Ontario said they have been doing nothing to help people like Peter Check who just flat out refused to pay his 68 employees who had set up company to employ young people, and didn’t pay them. He did this for years and got away with it.

The Ministry of Labour in Ontario tried to get Check to pay up for what he did but the cheated workers got four cents on the dollar for what they were owed.

These kinds of things happen over and over and over again.

Breaking labour laws is just business as usual for far too many Canadian employers. They do it because they can get away with it. They get away with it because there is little desire, or ability, to rigorously enforce the employment standards laws on the books.

Improved enforcement would change this. But that’s not likely anywhere, anytime soon. Take Ontario for example the new Progressive Conservative government has junked commitments made by the previous Wynne government to hire up to 175 new employment standards inspectors to step up enforcement.

The Wynne legislation was to include increased penalties for employers that violate the laws, streamlined collection methods and the ability of the ministry to impose interest and money for bad wages. The law also would have let the government publish the names of employers who break the rules.

All that is gone now. Instead, the Ontario Ministry of Labour has instructed staff not to initiate any new proactive inspections aimed at preventing wage theft and other employment standards violations. The ministry will also defer inspection and prosecution training for staff who have not yet received it.

Another way to improve worker protection is to impose fines or penalties on businesses, or permit enforcement against bosses personally. Both of those powers already exist under the ESA (Employment Standards Act) in Ontario, but they don’t seem to be helping the government very much deal with bad employers like Peter Check.

"Another option is to throw bad employers who refuse to comply with the ESA into jail as criminals and give them a criminal record," writes Professor Doorey in a post on his Law of Work website. "I like that one. I’m not talking about the employer who makes a mistake, and when ordered to pay, does so. I’m talking about employers who deliberately violate the ESA and arrange their affairs so as to avoid satisfying their legal obligations.”

Doorey concludes: “In fact, the power to imprison rogue employers already exists, in Section 132. Unfortunately, it isn’t used nearly enough, I think because we treat ‘white collar crime’ too leniently in this country. “I would use criminal sanctions more often to punish employers who flagrantly flout employment legislation. And I would go further and restrict those convicted of violating the ESA from registering new companies or acting as an officer of a corporation in the future.”

Doorey also favours public notification of labour law violators as “high risk employers.”

Doorey concludes: “Also, I would require employers convicted for ESA violations, to disclose to all future job applicants that the company has been convicted previously of violating employee protections legislation. “That would give the employees the opportunity to look elsewhere, to take precautions, or to ‘bargain’ a higher wage rate to offset the added risks…. We allow employers to ask employees to disclose if they have been convicted of a criminal offence so employers can refuse to hire them. … We should apply the same standards to those when they have been found guilty of violating employee protection standards.”

That’s only fair, right?”

Professor Doorey makes a good point that can be done, should be done, and would be, to bring more fairness to the relationship between workers and their bosses. Whether it ever will be done depends, as always, on the power of the voice of the working folks to act together to get the fair shake they are too often denied—especially when the law is on their side.
The Communist Party of Canada will campaign for wide-ranging social and economic measures ranging from the need to tackle the climate crisis and to advance the struggle for workers' control.

The CPC's fundamental belief is that big capital is the rightful owner of the planet. The Liberals, governing cliques of the Canadian state, the answer is actually quite clear: the nature of our world. For the two big business parties which act as the driving force behind all major decisions, it is economic inequalities would literally go up in smoke. We cannot permit the possibility of serious global action against climate change and the rise of profits from the workers and resources of every continent.

The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike." The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike." The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike." The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike." The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike." The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike." The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike." The story resembles the Bush administration's preparations for the disastrous 2003 war against Iraq: plenty of finger-pointing and empty promises, while occasionally Donald Trump appears to step back slightly, to look "statesmanlike."
By Kimball Carus

As my time as editor of People’s Voice comes to a close, many readers willingly and generously volunteered their thanks for my efforts over the last 26 years. Your messages are deeply appreciated, and for those who wonder if this means the end of my articles, don’t worry. My role as full-time publisher of PV is ending, but not my work as a writer and editor. Many topics and issues still remain to be written about, and our new Editor Dave McKee will choose which of my submissions to print.

This final issue is also an appropriate time to thank those who made it possible to keep People’s Voice in print, above all our loyal readers and fund drive contributors. The decision to launch PV was based on the assumption that the readers of the Canadian and Pacific Tribunes would support our project, and we were quickly proven correct. In early 1993, our supporters raised $70,000 to ensure the first year of publication, and many volunteers stepped forward to submit articles, photos, poems, and cartoons. This was the start of People’s Voice, and I can still email, so most articles arrived via snail mail, to be re-typed into a different format for layout. Our first year required long hours and a steep learning curve, but we were rewarded with the immediate and solid support of our rebuilt readership base.

As the editor, I came to the position with a certain “skill set”, but a woeful lack of training in other areas. I was quickly dispelled of this illusion. My immediate and most important supporter was the student newspaper (the Gateway) immediately volunteered for the student newspaper (the Gateway) and joined the Communist Party. At the Gateway, I was taught the rudiments of writing articles by Terry Jackson and Candace Savage. Later that term, I switched to the much more radical Poundmaker, joining a collective including Ron Yakimchuk, Ross Harvey, Judy Samoill, Jim Selby, Cheryl Berger, Herb Nilsen, Anne Harvey, Winston Gerechk and a host of other brilliant volunteers who were constantly training newcomers. At the same time, my new comrades in the Communist Party educated me about the class struggle, Marxism-Leninism, and the strategies and tactics of the fight to win socialism in Canada. Liz Rowley had recruited me to the Party before leaving to Ontario, and my mentor became the Alberta Party leader, Bill Tuomi, a skilled writer and publisher in his own right. Bill’s approach was to let young comrades take on various political projects, and he was always ready with short but useful critiques of my writing and organizing efforts. Bill gave his approval when the Party’s Central Organizer, John Bizzell, suggested that I take the job of PV editor when the Party organizer in Saskatchewan.

Arriving in Regina in early 1982, one of my regular responsibilities was to write for the Tribune about economic and political struggles in Saskatchewan, and to find other writers. The staff at the Tribune office in Edmonton helped to hone my skills, and my readers and supporters across Saskatchewan were invaluable sources for news and commentaries, especially comrades such as Bill Gilbey, Pete Smollett, Victor and Julia Berzowski, Lloyd Matson and Anne Dorson. During the 1970s and 80s, I also gained a broader understanding of political and social issues in Canada, working directly with many highly knowledgeable and dedicated comrades, especially trade unionists and activists in the National Farmers the actions of prairies. I was fortunate to work with friends and comrades from the Latin American and South African communities, and with others who taught me about the crucial importance of diversity in the working class and revolutionary movements, especially among women, Indigenous and racialized peoples, and the rapidly growing queer rights movements.

By 1992, I had accumulated 20 years of experience as a correspondent with some knowledge of newspaper operations, and as a political organizer. I offered myself as an editor when we discussed how to replace our previous publications. It was an impulsive gesture, but I had the support of many others, including my partner Jane and our son James, and the gamble worked. The contributors to People’s Voice since that time are too numerous to list. Some of the most frequent include our photographers Ed Bil, labour poet Marcia Pever, David Lethbridge, George Gidora, Wally Brooker, Helen Kennedy, Sean Burton, Stuart Ryan, Sam Hammond, and Larry Wansen, and new writers like James Church-Jones, Norm Knight, and others. Members of our Editorial Boards since 1993 have included David Cooke, Ken Todd, Jane Borou, and Wally Wansen, respectively. Of our Editorial Boards since 1993 have included David Cooke, Ken Todd, Jane Borou, and Wally Wansen, respectively. Of our Editorial Boards since 1993 have included David Cooke, Ken Todd, Jane Borou, and Wally Wansen, respectively.

Finally, thanks to the mailers who prepared each issue for Canada Post, especially our Marxist editor Nat Sherlock, Ed Bil, Margaret Shilton, and Ted Pedersen, and of course my tireless co-worker Hassan Azizkhan. A generation after we began, new skills are required, such as the efforts of Joy Watts and other social media volunteers. I look forward to a different role in building our current press working class, and helping Dave McKee make People’s Voice bigger and better.

My final word to readers who haven’t yet contributed to our 2019 Fund Drive - your financial support is still needed. Send us a cheque today!
Fifty years after the historic Stonewall uprising of June 1969, the struggle for Two-Spirit and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer & Questioning (2S/LGBTIQ) rights is far from over. Pride 2019 takes place in an increasingly dangerous environment for 2S/LGBTIQ people. The backlash against inclusion, diversity and queer rights includes a deadly escalation of murders of trans women. The recent report of the Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls noted the persistent violence against two-spirit Indigenous people. Conservative provincial governments are working to undermine and roll back the equality gains achieved through decades of struggle. Neoliberal austerity forces is fuelled by promotion of far-right and so-called “populist” forces is fuelling by promotion of hate speech, and expressed on college campuses. The newly-elected Kenney government in Alberta will undermine funding for 2S/LGBTIQ people. Ford’s sex-ed curriculum whose Ford’s sex-ed curriculum whose Ontario scrapped the updated curricula. Anti-2S/LGBTIQ violence is on the rise in the U.S. The Trump administration’s proposed redefinition of gender “as a biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth,” is part of a wider push to impose narrow fundamentalist restrictions on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to roll back women’s reproductive rights. The spread of violence and bigotry reminds us that Pride was born in activism and struggle against police violence in our communities. The corporatization of Pride, and the institutional participation of uniformed police and military personnel in Pride events, have made them less, not more inclusive. 2S/LGBTIQ rights are human rights. Full equality for 2S/LGBTIQ people means winning political, social and economic reforms that guarantee a good quality of life, the freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity, and respect for the bodily diversity of intersex people, is urgently needed to strengthen working class solidarity and turn back the rising tide of hate and reaction. Only the achievement of a socialist society free of exploitation and oppression can fully guarantee 2S/LGBTIQ equality. We demand: - Full legal and political protections for sexual orientation and gender identity, gender expression, and the bodily integrity of intersex people - Employment equity legislation for Indigenous people, women, disabled people, racialized, and 2S/LGBTIQ people - Housing and shelters for homeless 2S/LGBTIQ youth, along with increased social assistance and action for full employment - Safe haven for refugees fleeing violence, including refugees fleeing Quebec homophobia, trans-, and biphobia - Strengthened enforcement and penalties for hate crimes, and a ban on hate groups - 2S/LGBTIQ-straight alliances in public schools and inclusive, 2S/LGBTIQ-positive sex-ed curricula - Increased funding for anti-oppression and equity-seeking programs - End enforcement of trans rights - A federal ban on “conversion therapy” - End public funding for religious schools - Regulate social housing and care facilities to end elder abuse and the “re-closeting” of retired 2S/LGBTIQ workers - Federal repeal of consent laws for 2S/LGBTIQ youth - Remove the blood donation ban against gay men and trans women Unite the fight: - Build active solidarity with all members of the 2S/LGBTIQ community, including those who are marginalized through racism, poverty, sexism, transphobia, and ableism - Strengthen the overall fight against austerity policies and corporate power - Fight ongoing police repression, brutality and murder of members of the 2S/LGBTIQ, Indigenous and racialized communities around the world. - Reject the “pink-washing” as a way to justify militarism, aggression and war

Ginger Goodwin grave vandalized ahead of memorial
Labour leader murdered by police in 1918

In an apparent act of far-right vandalism, the gravestone of labour leader Albert “Ginger” Goodwin has been defaced in Cumberland, BC. The grave, which is the site of an annual memorial vigil each June, had a hammer and sickle ornament chiseled off of it.

Goodwin was a migrant coal miner who moved to Vancouver Island from England in 1910 to work in the Cumberland mines. In response to the atrocious and dangerous working conditions, he became a key union organizer among the coal miners, and helped lead the Coal Miners’ Strike of 1912-1914. Following that strike, Goodwin was among hundreds of miners who were refused employment due to union activity. Undaunted, he continued his union and socialist activity, and in 1917 was elected Treasurer of the Trade Mill and Smelters Union and Vice-President of the BC Federation of Labour.

During World War One, Goodwin’s ill health – a result of working conditions in the mines – allowed him to avoid conscription. In response to his continuing union activity, however, he was declared fit for duty and ordered to appear for examination. An anti-war advocate, Goodwin chose to hide in the wilderness of Cumberland, living with other war resisters who survived through support and generosity of local labour and community members.

In July 1918, a special detachment of Dominion Police (predecessor of the RCMP) arrived in Cumberland to track down the war resisters. Goodwin was shot and killed in an act of violence that the labour movement has always insisted was cold-blooded murder.

The response to Goodwin’s murder was working class anger throughout the province; his funeral procession was over a mile long. His death sparked the Vancouver General Strike in August 1918, a one-day political protest against the murder. It was the first general strike in Canada, and the precursor to the Winnipeg General Strike the following year.

For over 100 years, Ginger Goodwin’s life and legacy have been celebrated in song, story, commemoration and protest. The labour activists who discovered his damaged gravestone made repairs in preparation for this year’s vigil on June 22.

As one of them told People’s Voice, “It’s actually sort of a compliment that after over 100 years Ginger is still seen as a threat by the right wing today.”
By Rob Gowland, The Guardian

I took a straw poll recently among an anonymous selection of employees at Gosford Hospital (nurses, pink ladies, etc.). They complained that things were changing — the who works the longer hours — Australian workers or workers in the USA? There was some initial hesitation on the part of some participants. But ex-psychologist Morton knows how to harness dark discourse and ratcheting up the perception of potential benefit. But from an institutional perspective, Extinction Rebellion is conspicuously absent. As a recent report from Adewale Bakare and Suvrat Rajan indicates, the majority of workers in the US have not received a pay rise in the last four decades. They are entitled to receive more than the average hourly rate. The movement is thirsty for more. And it is getting a nation of people ready to stand up and take action that is consistent with their core values. 

Climate rebellion gaining momentum

By Ryan Burleigh, The Guardian, weekly newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia

Nestled in the shadow of kunanyi, South Hobart, is one of the more hip areas of Australia's southern-most capital city. Young families and university students populate this vibrant district, with its many trendy cafes and boutiques. The locals walk their dogs down streets lined by luxury European sedans that are conveniently on show due to a lack of off-street parking.

In the late afternoon a dark fume cloud tumbles down kunanyi’s slopes, mingling with the blue-grey smoke that rises from the suburb’s chimneys. It is under this ominous cloud that Extinction Rebellion is holding its first public information session on the future of the world.

Just over 50 people have gathered at the South Hobart community building to hear a talk from Jane Morton, former psychologist and now the driving force behind the Extinction Rebellion movement in Australia. Extinction Rebellion is focused on government failure to act on the climate emergency. The movement has three core demands:

- Governments must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.
- Governments must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.
- Governments must create and led by the decisions of a Citizen’s Assembly on climate and ecological justice.

The battle plan is simple: use non-violent, mass civil disobedience to cause enough disruption that governments are forced to heed the demands of the people. Morton is not a powerful speaker. Her delivery is calm with an undercurrent of urgency. But Morton’s message is solid and it falls on receptive ears. This particular crowd does not need convincing. She runs through the data on greenhouse gas emissions, melting polar ice caps, and all the other troubling signs that point to a climate outcome.

The mood in the room is bleak, but ex-psychologist Morton knows how to harness dark emotions and turn them towards a positive outcome.

In a particularly encouraging section of the presentation, Morton emphasises the importance of shifting the narrative from the Liby range of ideas tolerated in public discourse.Judging the language of fear as motivators for the complacent. After all, recent polling from the Lowy Institute indicates that the majority of Australians have serious concerns about climate change. However, it is getting a nation of people ready to stand up and take action that is consistent with their core values. 

However, the decline in union membership and strength of trade unions has seen a corresponding decline in the number of employers willing to provide their employees’ health insurance.

Workers know that they should stand up and fight for their productivity because it is their labour that creates the products we use. They are entitled to receive more leisure and a shorter working week. They are entitled to receive more unemployment and poverty go up. (“Of course,” says Baker, “the big problem of the moment is getting employers fit for work. We need action on the climate emergency. On the question of protecting the system itself, however, Extinction Rebellion is uncompromisingly silent. When asked whether the climate emergency can be addressed in any meaningful way without dismantling capitalism, Morton is evasive, making broad gestures towards the work of soft-left darling Naomi Klein and reiterating the need to hold governments to account as a first step.

To its credit, Extinction Rebellion has at least one step further than the Occupy Wall Street movement by having clearly defined demands and holding governments to account when it believes they are not fulfilling their obligations. But from a social perspective it is interesting that the movement has focused exclusively on halting our castrated governments, as opposed to pressing the multinational corporations that are actually responsible for the climate emergency.

Still, Extinction Rebellion is a genuine, international movement committed to carrying out acts of mass civil disobedience. It is the kind of halting the runaway climate catastrophe. Crucially, the movement has already made significant gains in the UK. London authorities recently agreed to officially declare a state of climate emergency following 11 days of disruptive activity from Extinction Rebellion groups in the city. In Melbourne, Extinction Rebellion activists clogged up the CBD in late May by staging a large scale “die-in”. Meanwhile, Extinction Rebellion activists are currently in court, fighting in coercing over 500 local councils to make climate emergency declarations. The movement’s momentum is growing. There are currently over 20 Extinction Rebellion branches operating in Australia and several around the world.

Extinction Rebellion presents an opportunity for anyone desperate to take action on the issue of the climate emergency. It is the most radical movement for people with talents in areas from graphic design to public speaking, and anyone with experience in acts of civil disobedience.
Swiss women strike for equality

Women across Switzerland took to the streets on June 14 for a national women’s strike, in the midst of negotiations on interdependent rules to tackle violence and harassment at work, taking place at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva.

Among their national demands in Switzerland’s Women at Work and calling for equal pay, investment in the care sector, recognition of the unpaid work women at home and in the community and zero tolerance of gender-based violence, they call for effective measures to prevent both psychological and physical harassment and highlight the global scale of the violence and harassment that women endure. Delegates to the International Labour Organization’s Centenary

Korea union leader faces charges

A Seoul court on June 21 issued an arrest warrant against the leader of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), a militant labor rights group, on charges of masterminding assaults on police during outdoor rallies.

Kim Myeong-hwan, 57, is the current chair of the KCTU, which is accused of overseeing violent illegal acts during protest rallies in front of the National Assembly compound on May 21 last year, as well as on March 27 and April 2 this year. The Seoul Southern District Court cited a concern that he may flee when it issued the warrant.

During the rallies, labor activists are accused of knocking down barricades set up by the National Assembly, assaulting police officers, destroying police equipment and attempting to force their way in to block the passage of labour bills, including those calling for extending statutory flexibletime from three to six months, to minimize side effects of the government’s mandatory 52-hour workweek policy.

The KCTU chair voluntarily underwent police questioning on June 7 and repeatedly stated that he was broadly responsible for the protest rallies. Before attending his arrest warrant hearing at the Seoul Southern District Court, Kim told The Korea Times that he will fight to expand basic labor rights. “We are facing a detailed investigation of the Moon Jae-in government. The government has joined ultranationalists in efforts to attack parties in a problematic witch hunt against the KCTU,” Kim said in the news conference. “The Moon Jae-in government has finally requested an arrest warrant against me after giving my political opponents every respect to labour and resolve low wages, long working hours and other labor problems.”

He urged KCTU members to respect labor rights, raise the minimum wage to 10,000 won (US$8.60) per hour and carry out a general strike every day.

The chair of the KCTU has so far been arrested four times -- in 1995, 2001, 2009 and 2015.

30 workers die in Indonesia fire

At least 30 people were killed by a fire that swept through a private home doubling as a matchstick factory in Indonesia, authorities said on June 21.

Local TV showed plumes of black smoke billowing from the building in the town of Binjai in North Sumatra province.

Several children were among those killed, and many of the bodies were charred in the fire before they could be evacuated.

Faisal Riza, whose wife Maria died in the fire, told the Associated Press she was one of the women who had come to the emergency center with hundreds of others. “I was calling her phone, but there was no answer,” he said. “I ran to save her, but it was too late. When I got there, the factory was burned down.”

The owner of the house told the local Metro TV station that she had been renting the property for four years to a businesswoman from the provincial capital Medan. Millions of Indonesians work in informal or poorly regulated industries and accidents and fatalities are common. Dozens died in February when an unlicensed gold mine in North Sulawesi collapsed. In 2017, at least 47 people died and dozens more were injured when a fire tore through a fireworks factory outside capital Jakarta.

SFO catering workers strike call

An overwhelming majority of unionized workers employed by two catering companies at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) have voted to authorize their leaders to call a strike.

Representatives for Unite Here Local 2, the hotel and restaurant workers’ union of San Francisco and San Mateo counties, announced on June 15 that 99 percent of their members voted in favor of authorizing a walkout. The union represents nearly 1,600 workers who work for Sky Chefs and Gate Gourmet.

The two contractors provide food and beverages to several airlines. “Airline catering workers are tired of watching United, Delta and American Airlines make huge profits while they struggle to pay for unaffordable health care with poverty wages,” said Lorraine Powell, a Unite Here Local 2 food service director.

Unite Here Local 2 staged a months-long strike at Marriott hotels in the Bay Area and across the country last fall. The union is pushing for similar actions at 20 other airports across the country, demanding higher wages and more generous, expensive health care plans for its workers. The median wage for catering workers at SFO is $18.66 an hour and its members pay an average monthly premium of $88.

Because the catering employees work at an airport, they would not benefit from any authorization from the National Mediation Board, an independent federal agency, in which case they could be “released” and walk off the job.

Gig workers face pension shortfall

“Gig economy” workers in the U.S. could get short changed when it comes to their Social Security checks in retirement. The growing ranks of people who earn money on apps like Uber, Airbnb and Task Rabbit are more likely than traditional employees to miss out on their income. That could mean a smaller Social Security check down the road because the benefits are calculated from reported lifetime earnings. This article is based on a recent study by Caroline Bruckner, managing director of the Kogod Center for Study of Work and Family at American University and economist Thomas L. Hungerford. The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College.

In 2014, independent contractors didn’t pay $3.9 billion in Social Security contributions that they would have paid if they were traditional employees. They didn’t pay $2 billion, according to estimations by the study’s authors. These estimated shortfalls are just for one year and are likely to grow, Bruckner said.

In 2017, Brad Smith, the CEO of Intuit, which owns TurboTax, estimated that a third of the U.S. workforce earned money from the gig economy — and that share will increase to 43% by 2020.

According to IRS records the number of gig workers has increased by more than 10 million in 2015 from 7.2 million in 2010, according to a recent report by The Wall Street Journal. This Month in Labour History

The 1934 West Coast Waterfront Strike peaked with the death of two workers on “Bloody Thursday” (July 5) and the San Francisco General Strike which began on July 16, stopping work for four days, leading to the unionization of all U.S. west coast ports.

GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

Women across Switzerland took to the streets on June 14 for a national women’s strike, in the midst of negotiations on interdependent rules to tackle violence and harassment at work, taking place at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva.

Among their national demands in Switzerland’s Women at Work and calling for equal pay, investment in the care sector, recognition of the unpaid work women at home and in the community and zero tolerance of gender-based violence, they call for effective measures to prevent both psychological and physical harassment and highlight the global scale of the violence and harassment that women endure. Delegates to the International Labour Organization’s Centenary
Why Israel wants Iran destroyed

Greg Shupak, The Electronic Intifada

Much worried commentary is being written these days about the possibility of a US-led war on Iran. The truth, of course, is there is already a war on Iran. And it is one that very many serves Israeli interests.

The US government is prosecuting a war on Iran while intensifying its military posture against the country, increasing land, sea, and air positions on the basis of unsubstantiated claims that Iran might be planning to use its advanced weaponry, is the engine of violence in the Middle East, and is likely to initiate attacks against US “interests” or those of its proxies.

Such manoeuvres must be understood in the context of the ways in which Iran has functioned as an obstacle to US ruling class goals in the Middle East. It is a view shared by the Israeli ruling class for its own interests.

While Israeli planners despise Iran principally because it is an independent regional power. It has become clear that US policy that includes providing material support for armed Palestinian resistance and for Hezbollah’s defence of Lebanon from US-Israeli aggression includes its share in the joint invasion in 1982 and the US-backed Israeli assault in 2006. It is a policy which it is now being written these days about to help Hezbollah resist the US-backed Israeli occupation of the country.

Though in recent years Israel has come close to attacking Iran militarily, and suggested in February that the US do so, it appears that for the moment Israel would prefer that the US not bomb or invade Iran because Hezbollah would be able to inflict significant damage on Israel in response.

Instead Israel is hoping that Iran will be overthrown by what is called a “sovereign and democratic uprisings” which will be subjected to even greater outside control than it was under the nuclear deal that the US forced Iran to accept and from which the US pulled out last year.

Now it says that, if sanctions continue to prevent it from profiting from its natural resources, it will also withdraw from the accord.

Weakening Iran, with a view toward regime change, has long been a major Israeli preoccupation, highlighted by such Israeli policies as assassinating Iranian nuclear scientists.

Iran hasn’t been close to having a nuclear weapon, but any suggestion there’s evidence to suggest it never had anything resembling Israel’s attacks on Syria are partly Iran. The Syrian government has partnered with Iran in arming Palestinians and Hezbollah. The Syrian Baath Party has its own history – however uneven – of confronting Israeli militarily.

Israel, of course, also remains in occupation of Syria’s Golan Heights – whatever Donald Trump might say – and Israel has deepened its colonisation there while arming anti-government groups and carrying out fatal bombings of Iranian and Hezbollah targets in the country.

Furthermore, the threats against the overextension of the anti-Iran alliance being forged between the US, Iran, Syria, and the pro-US Middle Eastern dictatorships, notably Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates could also still withdraw from the accord.

As Adam Entous of The New Yorker points out, the US’ “peace package” aims to embed such policies in the Middle East. It is a provocation that the US sense of its needs in the region.

Despite the recent retreat of the US from the JCPOA agreement with Iran, the US government has stated clearly that it intends to deploy every weapon in its arsenal. The US government is also considering military action against Iran.

This “peace package” aims to both permanently extinguish Iran’s national aspirations and neutralize Iran.

Making Palestine disappear

Reporters suggest that the proposal involves the “enshhring of Israeli control of disputed territory” as well as denying Palestinian claims to sovereignty, the right of Palestinian refugees to return, and offering Palestinians only non-contiguous territory.

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Israel is also hoping that the US will do the same.

Israel, as Adam Entous of The New Yorker points out, does not consider Iran a threat.

They have been concerned about the imposition of economic, targeting and monetary sanctions on Iran which has undermined its economy and reduced the ability of the economy to meet economic challenges and is an impediment to its economic growth.

The US administration clearly indicates that they consider Iran, as well as a tool at its disposal to coerce the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRGC) to submit to hegemonic designs in the region.

They recall the decision of the Trump administration in late 2018 - in complete contravention of world public opinion - to take the US out of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement with Iran.

This decision, taken despite global appeals, including by the UN, has significantly increased tension in the region and has raised the threat of a new devastating war in the Middle East.

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These actions are having a disastrous impact upon the people of Iran and their allies.

The people of Iran have been fighting not only for their own rights, but also for the rights of others.

The aim of US policy regarding Iran is to secure the undisputed domination of US imperialism and its allies in the region. The actions and policies of the US administration on Iran have been and continue to be coordinated with those of the governments of Israel and Saudi Arabia.

They are concerned that the current escalation of aggression by the US and its allies in the Middle East is not curtailed by the US. The US is not only not curtailed, but is escalating the war, which has been 30 years.

The peace-loving forces of the world must work in unison to promote détente and denounced foreign intervention in Iran’s internal affairs.

The future of Iran and its political system is a matter that should be determined by the Iranian people, and them alone. The communist and workers parties, together with all progressive forces in Iran, reject foreign intervention in their country under any pretext. They call on all forces campaigning for peace and disarmament globally to condemn the US administration and its Saudi and Israeli allies’ politics of confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in contravention of the UN Charter.

We say No to Sanctions and No to War on Iran

The parties signing this statement (as of June 19): (HKL, Cortes, Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, Communist Party of Canada; French Communist Party; Communist Party of Greece; Hungarian Workers’ Party; Communist Party of India; Communist Party of India (Marxist); Turkish Party of Iran; Lebanese Communist Party; Nepali Communist Party; Pakistan Communist Party; Portuguese Communist Party; Communist Party of Russian Federation; Communist Party of South Africa; Communist Party of Spain; Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain, Syrian Communist Party (Unified); Communist Party of Turkey; Communist Party of Ukraine.

New death threats in Colombia

Colombian trade union leaders León Díaz and Dibeh Quintana have again received death threats.

Since Iván Duque became president last year, violence against union and social leaders has been on the rise.

Igor Díaz, from the Sintracarbón union, received a text message on June 6, with a threat to “take care that your operation would commence in 24 hours. On May 11, he received a death threat from a criminal group called Las Águilas Negras. The threats were made after he had participated in a meeting with Dutch congress people and senior executives from multinationals to discuss the coal industry.

A joint statement from unions in Colombia’s mining and energy sector, reads: “This new attack is a warning against Sintracarbón’s work, an organization known nationally and internationally for defending workers from employers and the government to intimidate and kill social leaders.”

Díaz Quintana, from the Unión Sindical Obrera (USO) visited the prosecutor’s office in Bogotá in June 2019 with an assault case she had been the victim of in 2016. When she visited the prosecutor’s office, she was told to refrain from answering the phone in the same evening, she was told to refrain from contact with prosecutor’s office, or she would “actually die tomorrow.”

These threats are part of a strategy from employers and the government to intimidate and kill social leaders. The Colombian unions have again received death threats since Iván Duque became president last year, violence against union and social leaders has been on the rise.

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Why Canada really is all Indigenous territory...


A growing number of ground-breaking academic publications in recent years have been important new insights into the true character of Canadian society, in particular the nature of the land on which it sits. Is this land, then, is this wilderness, the land of the First Peoples? The answer, of course, is Yes. The title of this book, No Surrender, suggests this is the case. In the foreword, the esteemed Winona Wheels, who has been writing about the land of the First Peoples for more than 50 years, says, "Krasowski writes in a fresh, straightforward manner, transparent in his intentions. His prose is direct and uncompromising, a quality that is rare in academic writing." The book itself provides a sweeping policy change: it begins with the federal Liberal minister, Jean Chretien, to drop Trudeau and his Indian Affairs Department. It is the first time the term 'termination' is used by the Canadian state, effectively eliminating the treaties and extinguishing the rights of the Indigenous peoples of the region, and the ongoing question: whose land is this? The last is No Surrender: the land is Indigenous, by Sheldon Krasowski. Like this reviewer, Krasowski was born on Treaty 6 territory, in the city of Saskatoon, where he began his pursuit of Indigenous studies. Krasowski has gone on to pursue his academic career at Trent University in Ontario, and more recently at the University of Regina.

The reference to Treaty 6 is progressive for Canadian studies, and it is well known that the new Indian Act and the Canadian capitalist state no longer support the terms of the numbered treaties. Canada rode roughshod over the Indigenous peoples of the region, and they face huge obstacles, still from the post-Confederation period. It is quite clear from Krasowski's work that the Cree, the Saulteaux, the Métis, and the Indigenous peoples of the region were shackled by the new Indian Act and the occupation of their lands. Few of the Indigenous women and girls, and more recently at the University of Regina.

as the battle over the Liberal government’s Tramountain pipeline project continues, in the courts and on the ground where Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples are gearing up for civil disobedience and other resistance tactics.

"Krasowski’s through his research, his knowledge, his understanding, his writing, and his passion, he has put the reader into a world that is both familiar and new. His writing is clear, concise, and at times, poignant. It is a world that is both familiar and new. His writing is clear, concise, and at times, poignant. It is a world that is both familiar and new. His writing is clear, concise, and at times, poignant."

Ian Tamblyn joins Roots Music Canada

The multi-talented folk musician Ian Tamblyn has been publishing some engaging and informative content about the roots of music at the online magazine Roots Music Canada. Tamblyn, 71, is a singer-songwriter, film music composer, record producer, educator, and playwright. During his 50-year career he has composed 1500 songs and recorded 30 albums. He's won a Juno award, and a Canada Council award for music. Tamblyn is also a lover of nature. Much of his experience as a self-described "adventurer" has to do with his travels, especially to Canada's far north, an experience that has deeply informed his music. Ian Tamblyn has been writing since January 2015 for a regular column for Roots Music Canada, a website dedicated to news, reviews, features, and analysis pieces on contemporary Canadian folk music and beyond. His column focuses on the making of the album and a free copy of an important 36-page book that accompanies the album visit https://folkways.si.edu.

Singing of Our Native Daughters

The group’s first album, Songs of Our Native Daughters, released early this year by Athabasca University professor and singer-songwriter Amethyst Kiaat, the quartet tells stories of the oppression of African-American women, as well as their resistance and their hopes. It is no coincidence that all four are adept banjo players. The African-American history of the banjo, an instrument that has long been a symbol of white Appalachian bluegrass and country music, is only now more recently acclaimed, thanks to the efforts of artists like Giddens and her band-mates. The group’s first album, Songs of Our Native Daughters, released early this year by the lastest, well-known, and well-recognized来了 homeownership in the UK at least – to make good on its original pledge “to use popular music to educate and inform about the plight of working people”. Luminaries, past and present, who recorded for Topic include Ewan MacColl, Peggy Seeger, Johnnie Ray, A.L. Lloyd, Martin Cathy, The Watersons, Shirley Collins, Dick Gaughan, and more recently, Eliza Carthy, one of the central figures in contemporary U.K. folk music. On May 31, Topic released "Vision and Revision: The First 80 Years of Topic Records", a double CD and vinyl that features prominent contemporary folk artists, each interpreting a song of their own choice from Topic’s back catalogue. The anniversary celebration updated with two albums, one released on June 17 at London’s Barbican Centre. There, in addition to the tracks from the landmark Topic albums, singer-songwriters Gillian Welch and Olivia Chaney gave convincing performances (Lee with "The Deserter" and Chaney with "Polly Vaughan") that suggested the label’s future is in good hands. According the North American musicologist, Wally Brooker, Topic can be heard on "Vision and Revision". Folk music enthusiasts who may be visiting London this year will have an opportunity to view and purchase the Topic anthology, "Vision and Revision: The First 80 Years of Topic Records", at Cecil Sharp House, is an exhibition of iconic photographs from the label’s archives. It continues until January 5, 2020. For more info: www.topicrecordsc.co.uk.

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Junior doctors strike to expose India's poor health system

By Dipanjanah Dasgupta

The recent 7-day strike by junior doctors (medical students) in West Bengal evoked a huge outrage against the state government. The strike was not only due to the inadequacy of medical facilities, but also the question of the government’s role against the students’ movement. The healthcare service in West Bengal stalled for almost a week after a junior intern doctor of Nirlanit Sarkar Medical Hospital (NRS) was physically assaulted by relatives of a patient who died on the night of June 10 due to alleged medical negligence.

Dr. Paribaha Mukherjee, an intern doctor, got a serious head injury in this clash. He was admitted to the Institute of Neurosciences in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal. This is not the first time junior doctors in Bengal were beaten up in a number of previous incidents, even senior doctors were brutally beaten up brutally by patients’ relatives. The junior doctors' strike was called off after 10 days of protests against the government’s failure to end this agitation.

Recently such incidents have increased to an extent across most of the country. Relatives of patients have ransacked hospitals, and beaten up nurses, doctors or hospital staff members, after blaming the deaths of patients on the negligence of doctors.

The trigger this time came when the junior doctor was injured. On the following day, June 11th, the junior doctors at NRS ceased work, joined by their colleagues at other state hospitals. On June 12th, senior doctors supported the junior doctors’ strike, and even private hospitals too stated that they would not admit patients.

The health care system of Bengal has been deteriorating for years. The relatives of patients were running from hospital to hospital to find minimum treatment. A long queue from hospital to hospital to find relatives of patients were running from hospital to hospital to find the junior doctors' strike, and even private hospitals too stated that they would not admit patients.

The closure of Canada’s Embassy in Caracas: a new step towards imperialist attacks on Venezuela

The Young Communist League and the Communist Party of Canada jointly denounced the closure of the Canadian Embassy in Caracas on June 17th, revealing that the Chavez government has closed its consulates in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver as a measure of solidarity.

Foreign Affairs’ Minister Chrystia Freeland justified this decision by saying that they would refuse the accreditation of certain diplomats. This decision is in no way justifiable from a diplomatic point of view. This is a purely political decision that increases Canadian participation in the multifaceted aggression of which Venezuela is victim.

It also demonstrates the Venezuelan government to justify the need to intervene in this country.

The government's decision follows a long history of interference in the Venezuelan internal affairs. Already in the winter of 2015, a MAP officer threatened the Venezuelan opposition, took part in an attempt to bomb the presidential palace. In late summer 2017, Canada began to impose economic sanctions on Venezuela, the latest ones taking effect on April 15.

These sanctions literally hold hostage the Venezuelan population: similar sanctions imposed by the United States have cost more than 40,000 lives. In addition, at the end of December 2017, Canada declared persona non grata in the government of Venezuela, and said that she would not go to another seeking to find life for the children of the poor.

The Premier of Bolivia called for a meeting with the Bolivarian government.

Join People’s Voice readers and supporters at Car Free Day on Vancouver’s Commercial Drive!

Sunday, July 7, 12 noon-6 pm
Call 604-255-2041 for location

WHAT’S LEFT

Solidarity with Bolivarian Venezuela, celebrate Venezuela’s independence and sovereignty, Friday, July 5, 7 pm, at the Centre for Solidarity and Socialism, 706 Clark Drive. Organized by Venezuela Peace and Solidarity Committee of Vancouver.

Car-Free Day Festival, Sunday, July 7, Noon-6 pm, visit the People’s Voice display on Commercial Drive and meet local communist candidates. Info: 604-254-9836

Moncada Day Celebration, Saturday, July 27, 2 pm, at the Chilean Housing Co-op, 3390 School Ave. Speakers, food, entertainment, organized by Cuban-Canadian Friendship Association.

Surrey, BC

People’s Voice Walk-A-Thon, Sunday, Aug. 25, Bear Creek Park, gather at picnic area by the parking lot, 140 S. & 88 Ave. Walk at 11 am, international lunch 12 noon, speakers and program 1 pm. Sponsersed by Lower Fraser Club CPC.

Toronto, ON

Davenport Annual People’s Voice BBQ, Sat., July 13, 1-5 pm, 58 Albany Ave. All you can eat, $20/ person ($10 students/low-wage). Please RSVP to: ontoronto@peoplesvoice.org

Celebrate Moncada Day, Friday July 26, 7:30- 9:30 pm, premiere showing of "Cuban Women in the Revolution" by Argentine journalist Maria Torrellas. Friends House, 60 Lowther Ave., near St. George Subway. $7 admission free. Sponsored by CCFC Toronto, (Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto), Juan Gualberto Gomez (Association of Cubans), and LACSN (Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network).

For the Issue Dated August 1-15: Thursday, August 8

PEOPLE’S VOICE DEADLINES
FOR THE ISSUE DATED AUGUST 1-15: THURSDAY, AUGUST 8
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO PD EDITORIAL OFFICE
290A Danforth Ave, Toronto, ON, M4K 1B6 editor@peoplesvoice.org

Vancouver, BC

Sponsorship for the festivities is $300. Please contact Positive Futures at: info@positivefutures.org. (Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto)

Meet the hired gun Ottawa is using to overthrow the Venezuelan government.

The brazenness of Ottawa’s intervention in the South American country’s affairs is remarkable. Recently Global Affairs Canada tendered a contract for an individual to coordinate its bid to oust President Nicolás Maduro. According to buyandsell.gc.ca, the Special Advisor on Venezuela needs to be able to:

- Use your network of contacts to advocate for expanded support to pressure the illegitimate government to return constitutional order.
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Culham blamed elected President Rafael Correa for supposedly closing “democratic space” in Ecuador, not long after a failed coup attempt in 2010. When describing the diplomatic overtures of social democratic president Manuel Zelaya in 2009 Culham refused to employ the term coup and instead described it as a “political crisis.”

In his role as Canada’s ambassador to the OAS Culham reportedly took positions viewed as hostile by the Chavez/Maduro governments. When Chavez fell gravely ill in 2013, he proposed the OAS send a mission to study the situation, which then Vice-President Maduro described as a “miserable” intervention in the country’s affairs. Culham’s comments on the 2014 “guarimbas” protests support for Machado speaking at the OAS were also unpopular with Caracas.

At the OAS Culham criticized other left-of-centre governments. When Chavez fell gravely ill in 2013, he proposed the OAS send a mission to study the situation, which then Vice-President Maduro described as a “miserable” intervention in the country’s affairs. Culham’s comments on the 2014 “guarimbas” protests support for Machado speaking at the OAS were also unpopular with Caracas.

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