Liberals announce "new" foreign policy

Billions for war, not human needs

see page 12

BC's NDP and Green parties have signed a 4-year “Confidence and Supply Agreement,” opening the way for the defeat of Christy Clark's Liberal regime.

This historic shift gives working people in British Columbia new opportunities and challenges to fight for progressive change.

Read more on page 3

5
"Panama" plot thickens

The Panama Papers scandal always had a Canadian angle. Now, details are gradually emerging about the crooked dealings of PM Justin Trudeau, finance minister Bill Morneau, BMO, and KPMG Inc.

12
Housing for People

Skyrocketing housing costs are hammering millions of Ontario residents. Now, the Ontario Communists have launched a campaign for a massive investment in affordable housing.

7
Calls for SA change

The South African Communist Party has urged President Zuma to step down, amid charges of a "corporate capture" of the state apparatus.
against the right-wing, racist agenda of the US. In her letter to the editor, she questions the election of more than 500 Indigenous women and girls, which she describes as “an outrage” and “an example of the criminal justice system’s failure.”

**Canada 150: Whitewashing the Genocidal History of Colonialism**

On National Aboriginal Day, June 21, the Communist Party of Canada sends our warmest greetings to all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We take this important occasion to renew our solidarity against the expansion of resource extraction industries on traditional Indigenous territories, and with all those who stand for an end to racist oppression of Indigenous peoples in this country.

Nine days after June 21, hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent by the federal government to mark “Canada 150.” This year’s July 1 holiday is not a day of celebration for millions of working people who suffer from growing economic insecurity, and especially for Indigenous peoples who face the highest rates of unemployment, poverty, sexual and gender-based violence, incarceration, police violence, and countless other measures of injustice. For Indigenous peoples, being forced to pay for this “party” with their own tax dollars is a bitter insult. These celebrations are being held by the Liberal Party government of Justin Trudeau, who’s record of support for many Indigenous peoples two years ago, when he campaigned as a leader who would heal the damage inflicted by Harper’s Tories.

The Communist Party of Canada joins with many others in condemning this celebration of Confederation as a racist rewriting of the history of the northern half of Turtle Island. The truth is that modern-day Canada was created not through the unification of genocidial assimilationist policies going back nearly 500 years, along with the national oppression of French Canadians and the brutal exploitation of generations of immigrant workers.

The story of genocide began with the theft of Indigenous territories and the imposition of unfair and repeatedly violated treaties. This was followed by the deliberate destruction of Indigenous languages and cultures, the mass removal of Indigenous children from their families (the residential schools, the “60s scopus,” etc.), and thousands of unsolved murders of Indigenous women and girls. This record is usually dismissed as “past history,” giving rise to the arrogant racist view that “you people should just get over it,” and allowing the official myth of a post-racist society to persist.

But the legacy of genocide throughout Canada continues, and individual expressions of racism may have become less acceptable. Despite official apologies from politicians, and the important recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, structural anti-Indigenous racism is so deeply embedded in Canadian society that it is usually minimized, or even completely denied. How else to explain that 150 years after Confederation, a judge in Edmonton can jail a young Indigenous woman, placing her in handcuffs and leg shackles, for the “crime” of testifying against her violent sexual predator. Opposition to the so-called “abolition of First Nations” in Val D’Or (and other police forces), still commit acts of sexual and physical abuse against Indigenous women? Or that the Innuyik (Inuit) man, who has lived his entire life on our land, is bogged down in bureaucratic details after almost two years? Or that over 100 Indigenous communities still lack clean drinking water?

Countless examples could be given, but the point is obvious: anti-Indigenous racism is not “past history,” it remains a defining contemporary feature of the country we call Turtle Island. The truth is that lack clean drinking water?

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A big win brings new challenges for BC working people

The May 30 accord between the BC NDP and Green parties has been greeted enthusiastically by people’s movements in British Columbia. This agreement can spell the end of the reactionary Clark government and open the door to potential gains around progressive demands advocated by the labour movement, First Nations, environmentalists, supporters of public education and health care, child care advocates, and many others. Perhaps most significant, the agreement may help to achieve some form of proportional representation in BC, which would boost the struggle for democratic electoral reforms on a Canada-wide scale.

The Communist Party of BC welcomes these developments as a major victory, but one which also brings new challenges for the working class. The CPI has worked together with other progressive forces for the past 16 years to drive the Liberals under Gordon Campbell and Christy Clark out of office. As our candidates said in the May 9 provincial election, the Liberals have ruled solely on behalf of the big corporations. Their tax breaks for the wealthy and big business were imposed as part of a right-wing agenda of deep austerity cuts to social programs, health care and public schools. The resource sector corporations and the big developers took advantage of virtually non-existent electoral financing regulations to pour millions of dollars into the coffers of the BC Liberals, effectively purchasing a provincial government which backed mega-projects aimed at extracting and exporting fossil fuels and other unprocessed raw materials, at the expense of indigenous peoples, the environment, and the jobs of British Columbians.

These reactionary policies finally cost the Liberals their majority in the Legislature. Under pressure from the nearly 60% of voters who clearly want a change of government, the NDP and Greens have reached a deal to govern a full term in office. Their 10-page accord promises action on many issues - increasing the minimum wage to $15 in stages, reversing cuts to social spending, health and education, action on child care and social housing, increased tax rates for upper income earners, a referendum on PR (which Horgan says will need 50%+1 to pass, not the previous 60% “super-majority”), and much more. While there are some disagreements between the parties, such as the NDP’s support for the proposed $10 day child care, universal Green New Deal block on progress on these issues.

The accord promises to resist the transnational pressures to cancel the Trans Mountain Pipeline project, but unfortunately, it does not include an immediate end to the Site C pipeline. As a working class party, we appreciate the political propitiousness of the current site workers at Site C, but we believe that appropriating the valuable agricultural land of the Peace River region is a higher priority, and there are better ways to create jobs in British Columbia.

During the recent election, the Communist Party of BC campaigned for fundamental economic and social changes. We believe that the capitalistic logic of Gordon Campbell’s tax cuts for the rich and the corporations, which cost the provincial treasury an estimated $2.5 billion annually. Our platform called for doubling social assistance rates, a $20 minimum wage, universal child care, legislation to implement PR, an improved Labour Code, public ownership of the resource sector, an massive social housing program, and other policies to put people back in the folding of corporate profits.

Despite its shortcomings, we believe the agreement may help to reverse some of the worst impacts of Liberal rule. Premier Clark should accept the democratic will of the voters and resign immediately. Once the new government takes office, the Communist Party of BC will help to mobilize the working class and diverse forces for progress on issues. Such strategy is critical because capital always tests every tactic to make the new government back away from implementing progressive policies.

2017 Election - British Columbians Have Spoken

Open Letter from the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs to Premier Christy Clark, John Horgan and Andrew Weaver

From April 28 to May 9, nearly two million British Columbians took to the polls to give expression to their deep concerns relative to the previous sixteen years of a BC Liberal majority rule. Clearly, sixty percent of those British Columbians overwhelmingly voted for change.

Six years of a heavy-handed Clark majority government left British Columbians deeply mired in an overwhelming debt, subsequent to a litany of highly outdated, unfeasible and environmentally destructive megaprojects, including the Site C Dam and the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project and the faking market to the US for a pipeline. British Columbia’s economy has become reliant on an industry propped up by a temporary and transient workforce precarious perched on precarious notions requiring the complete destruction of our pristine air, land, and waters, and on an industry which runs roughshod over the democratic and human rights of Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike.

British Columbians demand a different way of governing and have called for a dramatic shift from protecting foreign corporate interests to ensuring the health, safety and future of the long-term, sustainable livelihoods of our families and communities.

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs calls on the newly elected government of BC to enact the changes British Columbians have called for. More specifically, we call on the government of BC to immediately implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enact the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to begin to implement the recommendations and provisions of the Supreme Court of Canada’s ruling in Tsilhqot’in Nation v. British Columbia. The Province’s piece-meal approach of agreement making with First Nations across BC can no longer do justice to recognizing Indigenous peoples’ inherent Title, Rights, jurisdiction and especially First Nations’ rights to consent.

We must immediately begin to make the political changes to strengthen the BC Environmental Assessment process by disposing of the problematic Canadian Environmental Assessment Office and the Site C Dam and Kinder Morgan Environmental Assessment Agency allowing BC to substitute its EA process for projects where both provincial and federal EAs are required, and to promote the wellbeing of communities across BC. First Nations have called for significant engagement that is both genuine and meaningful.

Further, we must work together to address the destructive policies and practices pertaining the state of our environment.

A new BC government must not only provide safe healthy environments for children and communities, but also offer new opportunities for their growth and development; to do so we must address the funding and resourcing shortfalls of First Nations education and health care services throughout the province. Homelessness and affordable housing must also become immediate priorities, and the provincial government must take significant movement to address and effectively end the devastating on- and off-reserve addiction and homelessness amongst numerous BC communities.

The new BC government must make a strong case for the trust of British Columbians and to protect the future of our environment and our communities.

On behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President; Chief Robert Chamberlin, Vice-President; Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer.

NDP, Green agreement paves way to make BC better, says BC Federation of Labour

Vancouver, May 29 - The pact announced today that paves the way for a progressive, majority government and that includes both the BC NDP and the BC Greens creates an historic opportunity for lasting and profound change in our province, says BC Federation of Labour President Irene Lanzinger.

“British Columbians who voted for change in the May 9 election should be heartened that our two left of centre parties were able to reach an agreement that has so much to offer all British Columbians,” says BC Federation of Labour President Irene Lanzinger.

Lanzinger says the spotlight shifts to BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon who will decide the next step. “Respectfully, we would encourage the Queen’s Representative in BC to be guided in her decision by two things: The agreement reached today by the BC NDP and the Greens for a majority government, and the 60% of those British Columbians who voted for change,” says Lanzinger.

The new BC government must make a strong case for the trust of British Columbians and to protect the future of our environment and our communities.

On behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President; Chief Robert Chamberlin, Vice-President; Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer.
New hope for working people

After a series of depressing elections over the last year (the rise of Donald Trump was not the only case), some positive news for working people has arrived at the ballot box. Here are two very different scenarios, with some interesting similarities.

In British Columbia, one of the most right-wing governments in recent Canadian history got the hook on May 9. The Liberals won a few more votes than the NDP, but lost their majority in the Legislature, and the Greens ended up with the balance of power. Barring any unexpected events, the Greens will take over as the official opposition by the end of June, ready to implement an accord with the Greens based largely on demands raised by people’s movements across the province. The accord isn’t a program to attack the basic political power of the big corporations, but it can help to reverse the worst impacts of austerity and cuts imposed by the Liberals since 2001 (and in fact, by the Liberal government of the previous 90s). Any measure, this is a victory. But the only way to build on this accord is through mass mobilization and pressure by the labour and people’s movements.

On a global scale, the setback for Theresa May’s Tories in the UK a month later was a much bigger development. Not just because Britain is a key ally of US imperialism, but also because Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn campaigned as a socialist, on a platform calling for radical reforms.

Today, an estimated 168 million children work in various jobs around the world. In the Asia-Pacific region, for example, about 9.3% of the child population is forced to work even modern-day slave conditions. Children often work to double exploit, along with exports, that which allows children or their parents to “consent” to such work.

Abolish child labour!

June 12th marked the annual World Day Against Child Labour, a phenomenon which most people in Canada usually regard as a rare and anachronistic situation. The reality is that millions of children and youth around the world remain trapped in capitalist chains, performing backbreaking and dangerous jobs for the private profit of their employers.

Socialists have always fought against every form of exploitation, either “raised in” the form of legal wage labour, or clearly barbarous. Child labour is often considered to be a capitalist carry-over from the very beginning of the inhuman capitalist system. As the World Federation of Trade Unions points out, “the fortunes of bourgeois were created on the bodies of children.”

Today, an estimated 168 million children work in various jobs around the world. In the Asia-Pacific region, for example, about 9.3% of the child population is forced to work even modern-day slave conditions. Children often work to double exploit, along with exports, that which allows children or their parents to “consent” to such work.

On June 7th Canada’s Minister of National Defence, Harjit Sajjan, announced what he referred to as a “new” defence policy indicating that the Liberal government has bought into a more aggressive role for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and making the Canadian military more suited to “war fighting” in overseas theaters. Mr. Sajjan declared Canada will increase war spending over 70% during the next 10 years to the tune of $32.7 billion; he also pledged to increase the number of fighter jets to 88 from 65; and to increase the number of personnel in both the regular and reserve armed forces. Still on the table is the issue of Canada officially joining the U.S. “Ballistic Missile” system.

As Murray Dobbin (June 9th) and Peggy Mason (June 7th) point out nothing has changed internationally since the election of the Trudeau government to justify such increase in Canada’s war-making effort. “Last year Canada already spent $28 billion on the Department of National Defence which had made it the 7th highest military spender among NATO members and the 17th highest military spender in the world. However, the federal government spent only 1.5 billion for the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC). Over the past two decades, military spending has dramatically increased but funding for environmental protection and climate action has flat-lined.”

(Voice of Women for Peace, May 10, 2017)

The stage for Mr. Sajjan on June 7th was set by the Minister of International Affairs on June 6th. Chrystia Freeland, who should be acting as our top Canadian diplomat, heaped praise on past US aggressions around the globe and reinforced her pro-US military statements with the Russia hegemon card (remembrance of Cold War days) and the North Korean card. Ms. Freeland must be aware of how many military bases the U.S. has in the world compared to the number of bases the Russians have. She must know that the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (Jan 26/17) moved the hands on the Doomsday Clock two and a half minutes to midnight to reflect the danger in the world since the 1950’s. U.S. aggression, the dream of no nightmare, of fighting and winning a conventional world war or nuclear war is sheer lunacy – Canada should be exerting its best diplomatic efforts to develop peaceful relations with all countries including Russia, China, Syria, and North Korea. As Murray Dobbin has written: “U.S. ‘leadership’ is known by another name in scores of U.S. interventions to overthrow democratic governments and install dictators as the epitome of U.S. leadership” (June 9th, 2017)

Canada needs new, made in Canada policies aimed at the achievement of peace and disarmament in the world. Negotiations are going on at the United Nations to ban nuclear weapons; Canada should be part of these deliberations. In the short term Canada should withdraw from the conflict in Iraq and Syria, stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia; and make diplomacy a top priority. In the long term Canadians must find the steps to break with the U.S. Empire and the war-making alliances that it leads. Both NATO and NORAD are not contributing to peace and security around the world.

If we must look outside of our borders for leadership we would be wiser to look in Britain than the U.S. – increasing numbers of people in the United Kingdom, especially young people there are embracing a positive, peaceful vision of their country; they also realize if their country is not real people’s movement, they will not be confronted with “blowback.”

Ed Lehman President, and David Gehl, Vice-President, Regina Peace Council

Letters to the Editor

“New” Defence Policy - Still Made in Washington

Ed Lehman, President, and David Gehl, Vice-President, Regina Peace Council

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#abolishchildlabour
**A Little Crooked House: Trudeau, Morneau, BMO & KPMG Inc.**

By Paul Bentley

"There was a crooked man, and he walked a crooked mile. He found a crooked steeple upon a crooked title. He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse, and they all lived together in a little crooked house."

Finance Minister Bill Morneau has recently reinvigorated his promise to crack down on tax evasion schemes, but how can we trust him when he is himself named in the Panama Papers? This issue, buried in the back-pages of last year's CBC coverage, is not raised by any of the major media outlets in Canada in connection with Morneau's current determination to "lay down the gantlet" on tax loopholes.

In other countries like Iceland and Pakistan, and perhaps even Britain, government leaders have been forced to resign or subjected to criminal investigations as part of the fall-out of the Panama Papers. If, as the Toronto Star claims, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is now under orders from Morneau to pursue criminal charges against "tax cheaters", shouldn't we be investigating their own boss? Or is this another case of the old political trick of "hiding in plain sight"?

There is no doubt that as Executive Chair of Morneau Shepell, the pension and investments consulting firm he inherited from his father, Morneau was responsible for hiring the legal services of Lennox Corporate Services Ltd., to set up a tax evasion scheme in the Bahamas. According to the ICIJ this was done in February, 2014, and Morneau did not retire from the firm until October 2015.

The excuses offered for Morneau are that, according to the CRA, he resigned from Morneau Shepell and its Bahamas subsidiary before being sworn in as a minister, and that, according to the National Post, Morneau is subject to a conflict of interest "screen" in regard to his family's finances; that is the millions of dollars he inherited from his father (am I beginning to sense a pattern here?). Yes, he openly said that he placed his money in "a fully-trusted" trust with BMO, a private bank, and yes BMO is professionally audited by one of the Big Four international accountants – KPMG, so you will never find Trudeau's name in the Panama Papers, right?

Not so fast, what about the fact that KPMG is named in the Panama Papers? So, it happens, BMO Newsshelf returns to the complex world of Canada's largest private banking system where Trudeau has parked his money! And what about the fact that Morneau is KPMG's "buddy"? And that BMO is the largest contributor to the Trudeau Foundation of the major Canadian Banks etc… and oh, and by the way, KPMG also happen to be the auditors for Morneau Shepell.

The plot thickens when we consider that KPMG is likely also cooking the Liberal Party's books. Democracy Watch has recently accused Trudeau of a conflict of interest by hiring KPMG executive John Herhalt to manage the Liberal Party's finances.

The problem with KPMG is not just that it is named in the Panama Papers, nor that KPMG has a long history of the fraudulent mis-representation of its client's books. For example, KPMG is under investigation by US Senators Warren and Markey of Massachusetts for its part in facilitating the fraudulent representation of Wells Fargo accounts during the 2008 financial crisis.

The problem with KPMG is that it is currently under investigation by the Chappell - the US's 4th international forensic audit group - for its part in the "offshore tax evasion projects on the Isle of Man. NDP leader Thomas Mulcair recently asked the following question in the House of Commons:"

"For weeks after KPMG was ordered to maintain all records during an ongoing investigation, a group of offshore shell companies set up by KPMG went ahead and shredded documents related to that probe. This is the very definition of obstruction of justice. Then the Liberals blocked the investigation into KPMG. I am curious; is there any other way the Liberal front bench can twist obstruction of justice and sweetheart deals for crooked billionaires into support for the middle class?"

Well, there may be one. When the little crooked Trudeau - Morneau house is in a lot of trouble with the law in Canada, it can always turn to its so-called "partners" in the accounting community. Enron partner and former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, to set-up meetings with the US firm "Blackrock" and its spin-off "Blackrock" – the largest private equity and assets management firms in the world – to raise some cash.

Mulroney happens to be on the Board of Blackstone, and his daughter Caroline, who just announced her interest in a "political career", is married to Andrew Lapham, executive advisor to Blackstone based in Toronto. It was through Mulroney that Trudeau arranged for Stephen Schwarzman, Blackstone's CEO, to advise the Liberal cabinet on relations with the new Trump administration. No doubt the new relations with the Liberal Party will be of use when it comes to the pursuit of Canadian investment opportunities such as its part in the Panama Papers.

Not to be undone, Blackrock's global head of active equities, Mark Waisman, is now playing his own move on Morneau's economic growth advisory council. In this capacity, Blackrock's recent investor summit held in Toronto, to which Trudeau made his pitch for "severing private capital" in the form of a new Canadian public-private infrastructure bank.

Of course, Blackstone and Blackrock are also named in the Panama Papers. Sadly, Canadians may never see any benefits from the circulation of all this international finance capital if it is ultimately destined for off shore tax havens. I guess this is what Marxmeant when he said that "the executive of the modern state is but a committee for the management of the affairs of the bourgeoisie."
Report from the 27th Central Convention of the Young Communist League, from the Central Executive Committee, YCL-LJC.

From May 19 to 22, the Young Communist League of Canada held its 27th Central Convention, the largest of the four conventions since its re-founding in 2007. The Convention delegates, plus alternates and observers attended from Montréal, Toronto, Guelph, Hamilton, London, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria to reiterate our commitment to working class struggle and move forward with our strategies to build socialism in Canada. We dedicated these three days to exchange, discuss, debate and learn from the struggles carried out by young communists throughout the country.

Held under the slogan: “Now is the time to organize against imperialism and reaction; honouring our past, we build our socialist future”, this Convention happened under hostile conditions marked by the resurgence of imperialist attacks on the rise of the ultra-right and of fascist ideas, imperialist and capitalist barbarity, with the Convention taking place right in the middle of the anti-communist propaganda. Braving these challenges, we reaffirmed that improved once more that the communist youth in Canada is poised and determined.

The political report was discussed during the first two days of the convention and adopted unanimously. It provides a picture of the political, social and economic context that surrounds us and the struggles we are involved in.

On the international level, delegates all shared their political analyses regarding the possibility of a new global crisis and the need to organize against imperialist attacks in the region of the ultra-right and of fascist ideas. The imperialist policies of the Canadian government was denounced and the delegates pronounced themselves in favour of a foreign policy based on peace, international solidarity and the respect of every country’s sovereignty and integrity throughout the world. They expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Cypriot people, the people of Western Sahara (Africa’s last colony) and against any imperialist intervention in the Korean peninsula.

Concerning Canada, the delegates outlined the important role played by the YCL-LJC in the fightback against austerity and neoliberal policies imposed by federal and provincial governments. Outlining the end of the honeymoon between social movements and the Trudeau government, the young communists insisted on the importance to mobilize for a fundamental change in favour of policies that guarantee the interests of the youth and the people instead of the interests of the monopolies. The delegates clearly stood against the corporate policies of the Trudeau government and shared their concerns about the danger of the rise of the ultra-right and of fascism. They also stood in favour of a democratic and egalitarian solution to the national question, a solution that would move away from the social movements on the basis of the genocides of indigenous nations and the oppression of Quebec and other provinces. The discussion on the political and social situation in Canada also allowed the delegates to delineate the situation of social movements and of the role that young communists can play in these movements.

Strengthening the young communists’ analysis and work within racialized and oppressed communities, the Convention adopted our analysis that connects struggles against oppression and Marxism-Leninism. This is in continuity with the 94 years of struggle against racist regimes and all kinds, where young communists played a vanguard role.

The Convention was also the occasion to discuss the strategies to adopt in order to organize youth on campuses and in their workplaces to present the revolutionary political project of the YCL-LJC. These discussions concluded with the adoption of an action plan focusing on three main campaigns to be prioritized in the next few years. One campaign attacks imperialism, racism and the rise of the ultra-right and shows the direct link between all three. Another focuses on young workers through the campaign to raise the minimum wage to at least $15 per hour. The third reinforces our action in the student movement across Canada with free education as the main and unifying demand. Discussion on the action plan was also the occasion to review the strengths of our collective and evaluate how the YCL-LJC can play a more proactive role in mass movements.

The Convention also adopted an updated version of the Declaration of Unity and Resistance, the political programme of the YCL-LJC. This declaration was elaborated through the re-founding convention of 2007. Its update 10 years later was mandatory considering the political evolutions and the new experiences in struggle which comrades throughout the country benefited.

Allies participate

As mentioned in the political report, “Our basis of unity is the people’s struggle for a socialist future”. However, this basis is not sufficient to get from where we are to where we want to be. Therefore, the Convention participated in the mobilization of numerous allies with whom we have historical connections and relationships. We have proven that our revolutionary strategy develops strong connections with mass movements.

Amongst those who greeted the Convention, we must outline two special guests: Liz Rowley, Leader of the Communist Party of Canada and Miguel Figueroa, from the Canadian Peace Congress. Both supported all efforts of the YCL-LJC since its re-founding. Delegates also benefited from the greetings of Beixi Liu from the “Fight for 15 and Fairness” campaign with whom the YCL-LJC has collaborated with for many years. Rajean Heslet from the Canadian Federation of Students, also addressed the Convention, discussing future plans for the student movement and outlining the efforts made by the young communists in the student movement against tuition fees, notably last November 2nd.

Another important guest was Orion Keresztesi from CUPE local 1281 who outlined the important role played by the young communists in the struggle against right-wing student unions and their significant commitment to collaborate with these associations’ employees as a way to strengthen mobilization.

A Convention held under the banner of international solidarity

The Convention took place while the deepening of the crisis of capitalism leads to the headlong rush of imperialism and the resurgence of increasingly bloodier wars. Delegates, therefore, reiterated their solidarity with peoples struggling against imperialism by adopting two special resolutions: one in support of the hunger strike of the Palestinian prisoners, the other in solidarity with the Venezuelan people, its representatives and its revolutionary process.

Abroad, the Communist Youth of Venezuela (JCV) wanted to assist the works of the Convention and salute the young communists of Canada in person, but for administrative reasons this project could not come to fruition. The other focuses on our action in the Palestinian prisoners, the other in solidarity with the Venezuelan people, its representatives and its revolutionary process.

The political report was adopted by incoming Central Committee to evaluate the possibility of organizing as soon as possible a Pan-Canadian tour of the YCL-LJC.

The Convention also got attention from our sister organizations, members of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, of which many expressed their solidarity with the struggles of the communist youth in Canada. Amongst these, we must outline the greetings received by EDON (Cypriot Democratic Youth Union), the Syrian Communist Youth Union Khalid Bakdash, the youth of the Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism, the Communist Youth of Portugal (JCP), the Union of Communist Youth of Spain (UCJ), the YCL of South Africa and many other organizations that we are to meet with whom we go to Sochi next October for the occasion of the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students.

We must also outline that the delegates received greetings in-person from the youth of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) and from the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students delivered by their representatives based in Toronto.

The events of the Friday, May 19th was an important activity of the Convention and the occasion to salute young communists returning from the 25th Ché Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade. They explained the importance of their solidarity with the Cuban revolution with enthusiasm to the joy of the audience.

Honour our past, build our socialist future!

On Saturday evening, a banquet organized to celebrate the occasion of the 27th Central Convention of the YCL-LJC gathered friends and allies. The programme, combining honouring our past, we build our politics and culture, included the participation, amongst others, of Chris Frazer, LGBTQIA+ rights activist and former National Secretary of the YCL-LJC in the 1980s, who recalled some episodes of the YCL-LJC history (notably the participation to the World Festival of Youth and Students in 1982) and outlined the important role played by this organization in the youth and student movement in Canada. Maram Abu Nasser, Palestinian activist originally from Gaza and active in the BDS movement, challenged the guests who, in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike, were asked to drink salted water. Jaime R. Brenes Reyes, president of PSAC Local 610 denounced the cuts in education in Canada and insisted on the necessity of large mobilization for free education.

The banquet was also the occasion to honour the past struggles of the youth and of the international communist movement, starting with the October Revolution. This event changed the world by proving that national liberation, the development of the socialist economy and the possibility to overthrow capitalist order and establish a state by the people and for the people. Despite the difficulties that led to the temporary victory of the counter-revolution in the USSR and in Eastern Europe, we know that the October Revolution represents a beacon for all progressive youth around the world, including in Canada.

Continuity & renewal

After the three Convention days, the young communists elected a new Central Committee composed of 15 national and 15 regional members. Selection of CC members was done on the basis of membership – both within the YCL-LJC and in mass movements – regional and national considerations, with the advancement of gender-oppressed and racialized people. About half of new CC members were new to the YCL-LJC served on the outstanding leadership and are in a good position to ensure continuity in the collective. They will also have the task of forming newer members and ensuring the renewal of cadres.
"Defend, Advance, Deepen the National Democratic Revolution"

SACP calls on Zuma to step down and to reconfigure ANC alliance

As the political crisis in South Africa continues to deepen, the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party met June 2-4 in Johannesburg, just over a month before the Party’s 14th National Congress (July 11-15 in Pretoria). The SACP’s membership now stands at an all-time high of 276,168, up from 152,474 at the time of the 13th Congress in July 2012. Over 1,800 voting delegates have been elected to attend the 14th Congress.

A statement from the June CC meeting stresses that “the SACP is well aware that we carry many responsibilities with high expectations being vested in our Party from a wide array of forces, many of which might not have been historically sympathetic to us. It is no secret that the ANC is now in deep crisis. At the highest national leadership level it is paralysed by deep divisions that, for the moment, render it incapable of undertaking the decisive concrete initiatives necessary to save the majority of ordinary ANC members and supporters now clearly recognising as imperative, beginning with the stepping down of President Zuma.”

The statement continues:

“The steep decline in popular support that saw the loss of major municipalities and provincial elections in August last year, has continued unabated, for instance in the recent local elections in the rural Nqutu municipal and other by-elections a week ago. This rate of decline of the ANC may not retain its electoral majority in 2019 and further organisational fragmentation cannot be ruled out. Every week, in fact almost every day, we read in letters to the editor, e-mails and more and more whistle blowers coming forward to the South African Human Rights Commission’s Unbending Panel, the sheer scale of corporate capture and plunder of state resources by the Gupta network becomes more and more evident. Sadly, and even more concerning, the central role of President Zuma and his son Duduzane in this outsourcing off our national sovereignty is also increasingly apparent.”

The political report to the Central Committee meeting identified four interrelated features of the Gupta parasitic-parliamentary network:

- Accelerated rent-seeking based on state capture - with key state-owned corporations (among them ESKOM, Transnet, SAA and Denene), and a network of procurement, being the principal target.
- The emergence of a parallel shadow state, what some have described as a “silent coup” - with key policy and deployment decisions being taken outside of the constitutional structures of government (outside of the ANC’s governing party).
- Growing authoritarianism and insecurity in the executive, with public sector strikes against the military-style, top-down command and control patronage faction. Private corporate capture of public institutions has included the SABC, under the despotic rule of Hlaudi. The Gupta-funded ideological apparatus - the New Age and ANN7, along with social media fake bloggers, and Twitter bots linked to pop-up “think tanks”, like the “Black First, Land First”, and the “Decolonisation Foundation” seek to divert the narrative. These diversionary narratives often invoke narrow, right-wing Africanist themes, and feed into the erosion of the important non-racial values of our constitution and our movement.

At the local level this decline in moral and ideological values is seen in increasing tribal and ethnic-based mobilisation. “All of this is happening at a time when life for the majority of South Africans, the working class, urban and rural poor and middle strata, is becoming more desperate, more insecure. Levels of racialised and gendered poverty, inequality, and unemployment (now at 27.7%) in the city of cities, persist and are even worsening. This is happening while anetwerk of para-state elements within the ANC - the MK Veterans Association is one of the many instances, in particular threats against our second deputy general secretary, Cde Solly Mapaila. These patterns are repeated, often more violently at the grass-roots levels, with a surge of political assassinations, notably in KwaZulu Natal.”

“A diversionary populist platform and “ideological interventions” from the parasites openly expressed. Dark threats are reportedly uttered at ANC NEC meetings, and there is a growing pattern of intimidating actions directed at those who dare raise concerns. The illegal role of a paramilitary force linked to elements within the MK Veterans Association is one of the many instances, in particular threats against our second deputy general secretary, Cde Solly Mapaila. These patterns are repeated, often more violently at the grass-roots levels, with a surge of political assassinations, notably in KwaZulu Natal.”

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SACP executive members at a June 2017 news briefing

As a Saudi-led military campaign continues in Yemen, latest figures from the World Health Organization show the number of suspected cholera cases in the country has risen over 300,000. More than 780 people have died in the latest outbreak which began at the end of April.

The aid charity Oxfam says someone is dying every hour and the country is on the brink of famine with 7 million people facing severe hunger and 18.8 million in need of aid. “To date, 101,820 suspected cholera cases and 45,000 people have been reported in 19 governorates,” the WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told Reuters.

The organization is warning that the spread of the disease, highlighted in the humanitarian catastrophe in the nation after two years of conflict, could become a major regional target.

“A disclose published on June 7 by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said ‘Yemen is in the grip of a severe cholera epidemic of unprecedented scale. Health and sanitation workers have not been paid for over eight months, only 30 per cent of required vaccines are being imported into the country, garbage collection in the cities is irregular, and more than eight million people lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation.’”

The Saudi-led multinational coalition, backed by the U.S. and UK, launched a military campaign in support of the Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi in March 2015, but it has been calmed by Houthi rebels. Since then, the fighting has left at least 8,050 people dead and 45,100 others injured.

The choler outbreak is the second wave of an epidemic that began in October and spread until December when the number of weekly deaths rose sharply as the disease was not brought fully under control.

Oxfam is calling for a “cholera ceasefire” to allow health workers to halt the spread of the disease, adding that the published number of cases was probably an underestimate.

The country Director Sajjad Mohammed Sajjad said, “Cholera is simple to treat, but we must end the violence as the fighting continues the task is made doubly difficult.”

Unicef’s emergency director Hala Al Toukhi said the massive aid effort is needed now. Those backer’s of this war in Western and Arab capitals need to put pressure on parties to the fighting to agree a ceasefire to allow aid workers and health workers to get on with the task.”

www.telesurtv.net/english/
Mass firings at Grasberg mine

PT Freeport Indonesia has terminated over 2,000 workers taking strike action at the massive Grasberg copper and gold mine in the Indonesian province of West Papua. Workers at the mine commenced strike action on May 21 against the company’s unilateral policy of furloughing workers which has been described by the trade union as a violation of the collective agreement.

The union representing the workers embarked on strike action against the unilateral imposition of the furlough policy, which is a violation of the collective agreement. Freeport refused to recognize the legality of the strike, and announced that it would consider striking workers absent without leave. Workers absent for more than five days will be deemed to have accepted “voluntary resignation”. So far, Freeport has issued 2,018 “voluntary resignation” notices, with a final payment of just one month’s salary, regardless of length of service. Some workers received negative notices because they have outstanding debts to the company. Dismissing workers taking action is a violation of ILO core labour standards.

The terminated workers include 678 Indonesian workers, 355 foreign workers, and 1,384 non-Indonesian workers. The situation is volatile. A union activist described the situation as a tragedy for the Timika-Papua area, “a big possibility to disrupt transportation and the socio-economic impact”.

The status of West Papua is contested, with an independence movement accusing Indonesia of plundering resources. The Indonesian army has been paid by Freeport to provide security for the mine, and violence has broken out in the past.

Irani teachers’ leader hunger strike

Prominent Iranian teachers’ rights advocate Esmael Abdí, who has been on hunger strike for more than 20 days, was transported from Evin Prison to a hospital in Tehran on June 3. Abdí had been suffering from several medical conditions and sharp drop in blood pressure, but refused to be transferred to Imam Khomeini Hospital with chains on his hands and feet. The condition he was ultimately transported to the hospital is unknown.

Abdí had gone on a hunger strike on April 30 to demand an end to the prosecution of trade unionists and civil rights activists for their peaceful activities. He complained about the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps interfering in his case, and attacked other walkout actions by public workers. The increase is recent above the 2016 inflation figure and will be retroactive, applicable from June 1 of this year. The government also reached a deal to end a 21-day civil protest in the Pacific port city of Buenaventura by which stymied exports, especially of coffee.

The powerful Colombian Federation of Education Workers (Fecode) union, which represents some 320,000 teachers, said it would strike in mid-May, affecting classes for 8 million public school students. About a thousand workers at the mine were on strike for two days across the province.

Spanish dockers protest job cuts

More than 6,000 stevedores went on strike across Spain on June 5 to protest against potential job losses in the wake of the ports “reform” demanded by the European Union, which passed through parliament in mid-May. Paralyzing the country’s 39 cargo ports, workers have called for additional 8-hour work stoppages on June 12 and plus a full 48-hour strike from June 14 to the morning of June 16.

Workers are also performing scheduled stoppages on June 9, threatening the country’s main export sectors like industrial machinery and cars. The government said minimum services were being upheld at ports to ensure perishable goods such as fruit and vegetables were getting through and passenger services were not disrupted.

Nurses strike in Pakistan hospitals

Striking nurses of government-run hospitals in Quetta province (Pakistan) threatened on June 8 to close down emergency services at the Civil Hospital and the Bolan Medical College Hospital if the government continued to ignore their demands. The nurses had been on a strike for two days across the province.

Their demands include payment of Professional Health Allowance and Risk Allowance, increase in stipends and salaries in line with what nurses in three other Pakistani provinces have been getting, and improved housing for married nurses. The leaders of the Nurses Action Committee and Balochistan Nursing Association said the refusal by government officials to consider these demands had forced them to boycott even emergency services at government hospitals, which they did not want to do.
Venezuela sets July 30 for Constituent Assembly elections

By Ryan Mallon-Ottrium, venezuelanalysis.com

Venezuela’s electoral authority has formally set a date for constituent elections, as the country’s highest court dismissed a challenge to the process and signed a new constitutional body into law. The Constituent Assembly, which has the power to rewrite Venezuela’s constitution, will be comprised of elected members and will be able to rewrite the current constitution.

The campaign to choose the 545 members of the National Constituent Assembly, which was convened by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, will begin on July 9. The campaign phase will last 19 days, until midnight on July 27, with the elections scheduled for July 30. The Assembly will be comprised of 364 territorial representatives and 181 sectoral representatives, including indigenous, women, and youth. The election will be open to 21 million eligible voters.

The campaign will be held in a “rain, thunder, or lightning,” and has warned that opponents to the Constituent process will try to “sabotage” the elections.

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celebrated this impending tragedy with cheers on Capitol Hill and then got on buses to the White House to bask in adulation as lawmakers heaped praise on him. "Trump is my president. Hey, I'm president. Can you believe it?" In Winship's version of the victory party after a high school football championship, millions of Americans cannot afford to see the doctor or if they do they cannot afford to get their prescriptions filled. In a country where a trip to hospital can land you with a bill running to tens of thousands of dollars, health insurance is essential, and yet millions have none because they simply cannot afford it.

The people decry the lack of affordable health care and agonize for it at every opportunity. Ranged against them, however, is the well-funded propaganda machine of the “health care industry”, committed to for-profit health care and keen to improve its lucrative business opportunities. So what if millions cannot afford to get sick? As long as the better-off can still afford the outrageous fees charged by private hospitals and specialists, the industry is happy.

President Obama’s very modest universal health insurance scheme (the so-called “Obama-care”) got off the ground despite a vigorous campaign by the industry that portrayed it as that most hideous of anti-American things, “socialised medicine”. It has been drummed into Americans for many decades now that anything even resembling “socialised medicine” must be banned. As a consequence many now simply accept it as an incontrovertible fact. The industry campaigns against this Communist-type evil with such catchy devices as posters in which medical inscriptions are etched into a hammer and sickle.

Donald Trump, a billionaire property developer, is naturally opposed to anything that smacks of socialism, no matter how tenuous the connection. He denounced Obama-care and declared that once-elected he would tear it up and replace it with a real health care scheme, by which he meant one that the industry would be happy with. This proved to be harder than they expected, as ordinary people expressed concern over their future if they could not afford health care.

Trump and the Republican majority in Congress had to water down their original plan to simply “tear up” Obama-care when some of their own side got cold feet (or grew a conscience) but on May 4 the House passed a bill to do just that. The American Health Care Act (AHCA), aimed at altering or eliminating provisions of Obama-care, “will devastate all but the richest of society with exorbitant medical costs that many cannot afford. Medicaid would be slashed by hundreds of billions. Twenty-four million would be left without health insurance.” (Michael Winship, Emmy Award-winning writer, and the president of Writers Guild of America, East.)

This attack on the poor in America will not do the Republicans any good at the next Congressional elections, but in the meantime it was so dear to their hearts that they rammed it through the House without even the pretence of public consultation. As Winship notes: “The fact is, few Republicans have even read the bill. They did not wait for a cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office before ramming it through. No hearings were held; no group was given the opportunity to raise its objections in such a public forum: no American Cancer Society, AARP, the March of Dimes, the American Hospital Association – all of which, along with many other professional and advocacy organisations, have made their opposition known. No American Medical Association, which used to defend the American health care industry, committed to a “health care industry”, turned against the bill. It was crucially important to look at this bill for what it is. It is not in any way a health care bill. Rather, it is legislation which aims to take significant funding allocated to health care for very low-income people and use that money for tax cuts for some of our wealthiest citizens. This is contrary to the spirit of who we are as a nation, a giant step backward in the fight against poverty. On the other hand, it is very much in the spirit of who the American ruling class are. They built up the USA’s wealth by looting the resources of the less developed nations of the world and also siphoning off the profits of the developed countries. Now, they are decisively down of the downhill, they are desperately trying to boost their declining profits by cutting expenditure on social services, education, health care – anything that would divert to the poor funds which the US ruling class believes should go into their own capacious pockets.

However, since the election of Trump, the watchword for the Left of America is now Resistance. This massive attack on the poor and vulnerable is unlikely to be allowed to pass without a fight.
Labour is right to set its sights on preventing the Queen’s speech and bringing down Theresa May’s tottering government. May might think she can cling to office with the help of the DUP, but this is a terrorist-backed, randomly-vacated, shell of a political party. Perhaps even clearer, however, is that the Liberals have betrayed the Labour Party on immigration by taking back the seat for the Liberal Democrats in the snap election. The Liberal Democrats have been squeezed out of the political spectrum by an ever more right-wing and intolerant Conservative party.

May should be looking over her shoulder, not at Corbyn. Corbyn says he will build a cross-party government, and a massive majority of the country agrees with him.

Corbyn believes that the Labour Party, and the UK as a whole, is ready for a socialist revolution. But he also believes that we should begin by building a cross-party government and then move on from there. May, on the other hand, is a Thatcherite Tory who believes in privatisation, austerity, and cutting public services. She is also a racist who has recently been forced to resign as foreign secretary.

The Liberal Democrats have failed to secure a majority in the general election, and now face a choice: either to continue their existing policy of supporting a Conservative government, or to support a Labour government. The decision will be made in the coming weeks.

The Labour Party is now in a position to demand better for the people of the UK. They can demand an end to austerity, an end to privatisation, and an end to the cuts to public services. They can demand a socialist future, where the wealth of the UK is owned and controlled by the people, not the rich.

The Labour Party is ready for a socialist revolution. The people of the UK are ready for it too. Let us work together to build a socialist future for all.

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Corbyn’s victory in the leadership contest was a huge victory for the Labour Party and the working class. It is a victory for the left, for the people who have been excluded from the political process. It is a victory for democracy and for sectional interests. It is a victory for the working class and the people. It is a victory for socialism.

Corbyn’s victory shows that the Labour Party is ready to fight for the people. It is ready to stand up for the people, to fight for their rights, to win the fight for justice and equality. It is ready to stand up for the people, to fight for their rights, to win the fight for justice and equality.

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The Communist Party of Britain campaigned strongly to help defeat the UK Tories and to build electoral support for the Labour Party led by Jeremy Corbyn. CPA general secretary Robert Griffiths issued the following statement on June 9, the day after the Tories were reduced to minority status: “The result of the election has been decided by massive popular participation and support for the Labour manifesto and a majority of electors have rejected austerity policies. The Tories have no mandate for five months of public spending cuts, privatisation and attacks on the NHS. In raising Labour’s share of the poll by 10 percentage points to almost match the Tories, enthusing huge numbers of young people, Jeremy Corbyn and his leadership have been vindicated. So, too, has the emphasis placed by the Communist Party on the role of mass struggle and class politics in raising people’s class consciousness, confidence and political understanding. This will help bring further advances for Labour in the new election that will be necessary in the very near future, once Theresa May resigns.”

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Celebrating the Life of Betty Griffin

Thursday, Sunday, July 2

BBQ – Refreshments – Film – Speaker – Music

Sunday July 2 / Rain Date: Monday July 3

Starts 2 pm, at 526 Main Street, Toronto (2 blocks north of Allan Street)

$20 employed; $10 unemployed

Children under 12 free

Bring Friends – Support People’s Voice

Celebrate the Life of Betty Griffin

Please join us in remembering a life lived to the fullest.

Tuesday July 11, 2017 2-4pm.

Riverway Golf Course Clubhouse, 9001 Bill Fox Way, Burnaby, BC

Food and refreshments will be served.

Easy access and free parking.
By Liz Rowley, leader of the Communist Party of Canada

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, and PM Trudeau are working hard to convince Canadians that a 70% increase in military spending is a noble goal. Freeland said it's part of our commitment to Arctic sovereignty and global security. But the truth is much simpler and a lot uglier: the Liberals are preparing to take Canada to war.

The annual report of the Liberal promises during the 2015 federal election, the government has adopted Harper's aggressive foreign policy of war and regime change, and surpassed the vast public military expenditures the Tories planned to make—but had to back off from as a result of vocal public opposition.

What’s new? The arrival of Donald Trump, his demand that Canada and other NATO member states increase military spending to 2% of GDP, and Trudeau’s imperialist foreign policy since February while meeting with Angela Merkel in Germany. Merkel said she promised to deliver while both leaders offered cash and soldiers with boots on the ground, to be deployed wherever NATO (read: the US) was inclined to organize the next regime change (read: coup d’état).

The background to these developments is last year’s announcement that NATO no longer sees itself as a North Atlantic Treaty Organization, but as a “political-military alliance” with the ability to overthrow governments at will, anywhere in the world.

Trump, who just last year also campaigned as a “peace” candidate who could get along with Russia and find political solutions in global hotspots like the Middle East, said then that NATO was obsolete.

Pierre Trudeau, when he was faced with US ultimatums over Vietnam, saw the danger in developed a two-track foreign policy of staying out of the Vietnam War and in a friendly relationship with Cuba including trade, tourism, and cultural exchange. The US policy of economic blockade, invasion, chemical and biological warfare, and hundreds of assassination attempts on Fidel Castro.

Justin Trudeau, on the other hand, has put up no resistance to US demands on foreign policy and military spending, or on trade. In every case, the Liberals have responded with concessions, not only on trade and foreign policy, but on issues relating to the fundamentals of Canadian sovereignty, Medicare, privatize public services and assets, privatize education, eliminate supply management system in agriculture, increase the pension age to 67 or 70, introduce right-to-work laws and smash the trade union movement, drive down wages and living standards.

Sound extreme? Just look south of the border, where a similar agenda is leaving millions of working people unemployed and on the streets, living from hand to mouth, with nothing left but a deep hatred for Wall Street, and (for the able-bodied) the billionaire President who said he would fight to restore their jobs and living standards—by making America great again.

Trump’s prescription for recovery is war: huge profits for the arms industry that backed him, and jobs for life (a short life) for the young unemployed.

It’s not an agenda the Liberals want to admit to two years before an election, but it is an agenda that’s already out there in the NAFTA ‘renegotiations’ and in the NATO deployments and vast increase in military spending.

Christa Freeland’s assertion that this is an expression of sovereignty and independence. To be sure, the Canadian economy has been shot through with US corporate investment and ownership, and the resulting intrusive influence of US multinational corporations. But the Liberals’ capitulation to US demands to increase military spending by 70% and gear up to become a full partner in the US dirty war machine, is a backsliding.

It’s also criminal. Overthrowing governments you don’t like is a crime under international law, and under Canadian law too. Terrorist attacks in Canada will increase as Canada is increasingly identified as a terrorist state that is a full partner in illegal US and NATO wars of aggression.

The government has said nothing about how it will pay for this 70% increase in military spending. But since it has ruled out corporate tax increases to pay for corporate social programs and infrastructure spending, the only other options are (1) to increase taxes on working people through the regressive GST, property taxes, gas taxes, taxes on alcohol and other goods, (2) to increase taxes on working people through fees, such as road tolls, child care fees, etc., and (2) to eliminate universal social programs such as

CPC leader Liz Rowley

In response to the province’s prolonged, deepening housing crisis, the Communist Party of Canada (Ontario) has launched a year-long, province-wide housing campaign.

Housing costs are soaring in all areas of the province, with the average house price rising 24% between April 2016 and April 2017, to $700,000. The provincial average for renting a one-bedroom apartment was $1,400 per year in 2016. Rent control does not apply to units created after 1991, which means that a tenant has no hope of rent controlled housing is diminishing rapidly.

Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association reports that in 2015, over 170,000 households in the province were on waiting lists for rent-guaranteed-to-income (RGI) housing, an increase in 45,000 households over the decade. Furthermore, waiting times are also increasing—a RGI applicant housed in 2015 had to wait an average of 4 years, whereas RGI applicants applying in 2015 will have to wait an average of just over 5 years to be housed.

Applicants in some urban areas expect to wait up to 14 years.

Across Ontario, 725,000 households are income bgressed. This means they are spending more than 30% of their household income on housing that is inadequate (crowded or in need of major repair), with no access to acceptable housing.

In response, the Liberal provincial government launched the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. The current centurypiece of the provincial government’s housing policy, “Inclusionary zoning,” which was introduced in Bill 2016, the Promoting Ontario’s Affordable Housing Act, 2016. Inclusionary zoning empowers municipalities to require developers to temporarily reserve a portion of new units for low- to moderate-income households. Such an approach continues the failed reliance on the private sector to provide affordable housing, by offering multiple economic and financial incentives to developers. These incentives include waived development charges, lower taxes assessed, fewer regulatory restrictions, and sale of public land at low prices. Inclusionary zoning does nothing to address the larger issues of rent control and construction of affordable housing for the working class.

Despite the government’s claim that Bill 2016 and inclusionary zoning will be a huge step forward in solving the housing crisis, it all adds up to more profitable profits for developers and no construction of affordable units. It facilitates gentrification, as developers often need to temporarily set aside a token number of affordable units, which they gain cheaper and easier access to permits and resources. It also means reduced public revenue

through waived charges and fees, and a huge transfer of valuable public lands to the private sector. It’s time for a government to refor for redefining affordable housing, which effectively enables the provincial government to manipulate data and conceal the depth of the housing crisis.

The Communist campaign is focused on two main demands: reducing housing costs and increasing the supply to nation relations within Canada.

This is the recipe for peace, and for a fighting working class. It’s time for recovery for working people in Canada.

We won’t come without a fight that the labour and people’s movements must take on now. There is no time to lose.

Ontario Communists launch campaign: “Housing for People—Not Profit!”

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