WFTU leader barred

The president of the class struggle oriented World Federation of Trade Unions has been barred from entering the USA to attend United Nations sessions and to speak at a labour event in Los Angeles.

Justice for Colten Boushie!

See page 3...

Posties fight for equity

It's 2018, but while Justin Trudeau's cabinet may be 50 percent women, his Liberal government continues to fight against pay equity for federal employees.

Black Snow falling

From Greenland to the Himalayas, dark snow is falling from the sky. The black material in the snow is dust and soot. It's called cryoconite, and it's largely the product of forest fires and human-made global warming.
Disability justice network emerging in Ontario

By Dave McKee

On December 1, 2017 Hamilton played host to the first Disability Justice “UnConference,” to celebrate and commemorate the International Day of People with Disabilities. The event, called “Momentum,” provided space for activists, disability activists, academics and service providers from across Ontario and beyond, to gather for discussions, networking and presentations. Organizers selected Hamilton, in part, because the city has the highest proportion of people with disabilities in Ontario yet remains extremely underserviced. The UnConference brought together people with disabilities from a range of experiences, ages and backgrounds. Instead of listening to studies or proposals from people without disabilities, such as politicians, Momentum was focused on sharing the knowledge, needs and priorities of people with disabilities. This allowed the event to explore a range of issues, including the limitations of accessibility-based legislation, people’s experiences of racism and sexism, ableism and other oppressions like racism and sexism, and the history of the disability justice movement. People with disabilities experience very high levels of violence, and it is even worse for people who are racialized, women or gender oppressed. Statistics show that across Canada, 83% of women with disabilities are sexually assaulted at least once. People with disabilities also suffer higher rates of poverty, experience higher levels of police brutality, and are far more likely to have their children removed from their care and custody.

Accompanying the resurgence of fascist and reactionary organizing, there has been an increase in egotistical discourse, including suggestions that people with disabilities should be sterilized.

For many people, including disability activist and Momentum organizer Sarah Jama, one of the important messages from Momentum is about the difference between accessibility and justice. Most government legislation in Ontario is focused on accessibility, which is a limited approach that emerges directly from the priorities of capitalist society. As Jama notes, “Accessibility is generally aimed at facilitating productivity and consumerism among people with disabilities. Capitalism places a value on people who produce and consume, but what about someone who produces for them or thinks they „work from working?” Jama points out that this approach manifests itself in many ways, including the tendency for advocacy organizations to use spokespeople who are all too often white and cis, and rarely people whose disability makes it more difficult for them to communicate.

The Minister for Momentum included a commitment to making it an annual event and developing concrete ways to connect and engage activists from different communities. Jama identifies the Vote as an opportunity to mobilize on a province-wide level. The DIJO is specifically addressing accessibility justice through a lens that focuses on racialization and sexism.

In a province where the government is firmly wedded to an austerity and privatization agenda, efforts like the Momentum Unconference and the Disability Justice Network of Ontario are an important part of the progressive movement and deserve the strongest support.

---

US bans militant unionist

The World Federation of Trade Unions has denounced the US government for denying an entry visa to the WFTU General Secretary George Makris, who had scheduled a visit to March 2018 to attend an event of the United Nations in New York, where he is a permanent representative. The WFTU was also invited as the main speaker to an annual meeting of labour organisations and friends of the WFTU Los Angeles.

A statement from the WFTU Secretariat says, “We followed all the proper procedures but unfortunately the persistent answer from US authorities has been negative.”

This position of the US Department of State is anti-democratic and aims to hinder the work of the militant trade union movement of the workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The US General Secretary of the WFTU is a mass, class-oriented, international trade union activist of 92 million members in 126 countries all over the world.

WFTU General Secretary George Makris was born in 1956 in Thessaloniki, Greece, where he joined the Greek Communist Party at 16 years of age. In 1981 Makris graduated from the Agricultural University of Thessaloniki. Makris is the General Secretary of the WFTU since 1992, and the present delegate of the WFTU in the US. Makris is also Honorary President of the Communist Movement of Greece, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of America, member of the Board of Directors of the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY), member of the Board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

Makris is a member of the WFTU Executive Committee and as such is a key figure in the struggle against the US occupation of Iraq, resistance against colonialism, racism and sexism. Makris has also been a delegate of the WFTU at the United Nations and at many other international events.

The US government has shown that it has never been friendly to the WFTU and to its legal representative into the country where the United States, to engage political discussion and struggles in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The WFTU is a workers trade union, aimed at developing a solid internationalist working class movement.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The WFTU is a workers trade union, aimed at developing a solid internationalist working class movement.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The WFTU is a workers trade union, aimed at developing a solid internationalist working class movement.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The WFTU is a workers trade union, aimed at developing a solid internationalist working class movement.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The WFTU is a workers trade union, aimed at developing a solid internationalist working class movement.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The WFTU is a workers trade union, aimed at developing a solid internationalist working class movement.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.

The WFTU is a workers trade union, aimed at developing a solid internationalist working class movement.

US governments do not like the consistent anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist line of the WFTU, and they think that through anti-democratic prohibitions they will stop our internationalist action of the WFTU workers in the US. At the same time, it is deliberate discrimination against the WFTU and against its right to fulfill its role within the United Nations, a role that has played since 1945.
Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, Feb. 11, 2018

The acquittal of Gerald Stanley, who fired the shot that killed Colten Boushie, marked another symbolic victory in the long and bitter fight of Indigenous peoples’ right to live in safety and dignity, as their ancestors did. Despite this profile of isolation, racism, and attack against workers’ wages and job security, in the federal sector. Women must be paid the same as men for work of comparable worth.

Postal Workers take equity fight to arbitration

To mark May Day 2018, People’s Voice will print greetings from a wide range of labour and people’s organizations in our May 15 issue, which will be distributed at events across Canada. The deadline camera-ready ads will be April 21; if PV is preparing the layout, the deadline is April 20. Please check with us about the deadline if your ad is being sent electronically.

Ad rates (based on 5 column page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One column</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 2 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 3 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 5 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 7 inches</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, Feb. 11, 2018

The acquittal of Gerald Stanley, who fired the shot that killed Colten Boushie, marked another symbolic victory in the long and bitter fight of Indigenous peoples’ right to live in safety and dignity, as their ancestors did. Despite this profile of isolation, racism, and attack against workers’ wages and job security, in the federal sector. Women must be paid the same as men for work of comparable worth.

Postal Workers take equity fight to arbitration

To mark May Day 2018, People’s Voice will print greetings from a wide range of labour and people’s organizations in our May 15 issue, which will be distributed at events across Canada. The deadline camera-ready ads will be April 21; if PV is preparing the layout, the deadline is April 20. Please check with us about the deadline if your ad is being sent electronically.

Ad rates (based on 5 column page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One column</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 2 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 3 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 5 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 7 inches</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, Feb. 11, 2018

The acquittal of Gerald Stanley, who fired the shot that killed Colten Boushie, marked another symbolic victory in the long and bitter fight of Indigenous peoples’ right to live in safety and dignity, as their ancestors did. Despite this profile of isolation, racism, and attack against workers’ wages and job security, in the federal sector. Women must be paid the same as men for work of comparable worth.

Postal Workers take equity fight to arbitration

To mark May Day 2018, People’s Voice will print greetings from a wide range of labour and people’s organizations in our May 15 issue, which will be distributed at events across Canada. The deadline camera-ready ads will be April 21; if PV is preparing the layout, the deadline is April 20. Please check with us about the deadline if your ad is being sent electronically.

Ad rates (based on 5 column page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One column</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 2 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 3 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 5 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 7 inches</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, Feb. 11, 2018

The acquittal of Gerald Stanley, who fired the shot that killed Colten Boushie, marked another symbolic victory in the long and bitter fight of Indigenous peoples’ right to live in safety and dignity, as their ancestors did. Despite this profile of isolation, racism, and attack against workers’ wages and job security, in the federal sector. Women must be paid the same as men for work of comparable worth.

Postal Workers take equity fight to arbitration

To mark May Day 2018, People’s Voice will print greetings from a wide range of labour and people’s organizations in our May 15 issue, which will be distributed at events across Canada. The deadline camera-ready ads will be April 21; if PV is preparing the layout, the deadline is April 20. Please check with us about the deadline if your ad is being sent electronically.

Ad rates (based on 5 column page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One column</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 2 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 3 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 5 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 7 inches</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, Feb. 11, 2018

The acquittal of Gerald Stanley, who fired the shot that killed Colten Boushie, marked another symbolic victory in the long and bitter fight of Indigenous peoples’ right to live in safety and dignity, as their ancestors did. Despite this profile of isolation, racism, and attack against workers’ wages and job security, in the federal sector. Women must be paid the same as men for work of comparable worth.

Postal Workers take equity fight to arbitration

To mark May Day 2018, People’s Voice will print greetings from a wide range of labour and people’s organizations in our May 15 issue, which will be distributed at events across Canada. The deadline camera-ready ads will be April 21; if PV is preparing the layout, the deadline is April 20. Please check with us about the deadline if your ad is being sent electronically.

Ad rates (based on 5 column page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One column</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 2 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 3 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two columns x 5 inches</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 4 inches</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three columns x 7 inches</td>
<td>$180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As the strange saga of the 2016 US presidential election continues to unfold, some questions remain mysterious, while others are too clear. In the latter category, the capacity of the US ruling class for hypocritical outrage seems endless. The hounds from Congress grow louder all the time: how dare another country attempt to interfere with our sacred democratic process?

More facts about outside attempts to sway voters in the 2016 campaign may eventually become known, but regardless of this episode, many U.S. political leaders and pundits grandly admit that the “Russian hackers” are light-years behind Uncle Sam when it comes to blatant interference in foreign countries. Any student of world politics can quickly recall some of the most obvious cases, including the 1970 attempt to block the election of Chile’s Popular Unity government, and the massive U.S. role in the Italian election of 1948, to help defeat that country’s very popular Communist Party. One recent study found that the U.S. had intervened, either covertly or openly, in 86 foreign elections between 1946 and 2000. But this is just the tip of the iceberg, when we consider the history of CIA-backed coups and interventions against progressive governments, ranging from Iran and Guatemala during the 1950s, to the Chilean coup of 1973, and the recent US-led bombing of Yugoslavia (1999) and the overthrow of the Gaddafi government of Libya (2012). In the more recent “colour revolution” scenario, Washington pours dollars and “advisors” into a country with the aim of taking advantage of domestic political disputes to install pro-US regimes. Venezuela is the most significant current target of this US imperialist strategy.

Yes, foreign interference to change the leaders and governments of other countries is an unacceptable violation of national sovereignty and international law. But the U.S. is almost always the guilty party.

The unending Phoenix fiasco

We often read about distant countries where unscrupulous bosses or reactionary governments impose unbearable working conditions on employees, or refuse to pay wages and salaries on time. Labour news since mid-2016 has been full of reports about strikes by workers who are owed months of back pay.

Well, for many employees of the federal government of Canada, that is exactly what has been happening since the launch of the Phoenix pay system two years ago, tens of thousands have received incorrect pay amounts, cases getting nothing at all for extended periods. The Auditor General reported in the last year that the number of outstanding pay requests continues to rise, reaching almost 500,000 cases. The latest estimates say that it will take years to fix Phoenix and cost far more than the $55 million already contested by the government. Just as astounding, the Auditor General reported that the Liberal government’s decision to lay off compensation advisors made it even more difficult to fix problems once the Phoenix rollout began, making a mockery of PM Trudeau’s attempts to blame Harper Tories for the problems.

Now, 17 unions representing over 225,000 federal workers have sent a joint letter of demands, asking the Trudeau government to work with them to rebuild a system that will pay them accurately and on time. The unions also want a national plan to mitigate the many adverse consequences of Phoenix, and to provide damages to make workers whole for the hardships and stress caused by the system’s failures.

It’s true that the origins of this fiasco go back to the previous century. It’s time to stop making promises, and to fix the problem once and for all.

Is the CLC: Disaffiliation, Dues Strike or Special Convention?

Sharp debates continue in the labour movement across the country in the wake of Unifor’s decision to leave the Canadian Labour Congress. For our readers’ information, we present a February 8 statement from the President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

At the emergency meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Canada Council this week, it was clear that many large affiliates were opposed to Brother Yussuf’s constitutional interpretation. Despite this fact, the interpretation was upheld by a large margin. This in itself raises other constitutional questions. There are also disagreements on other questions that we left unsaid. These deep divisions within the house of labour cannot be papered over. We can be certain that many of the larger affiliates are now considering their options for how to move forward. Below are a few of the possibilities.

Disaffiliation

Any union has the right to disaffiliate from the CLC at any time, as Unifor did recently. For some, this question can be reduced to a simple cost-benefit analysis. Do the costs of being part of the CLC as much as they put in? This is a difficult question to answer at the best of times. For CUPW this is also a principled question. We are constitutionally-bound to be affiliated to the CLC, the federations of labour and the labour councils and for good reason.

We know that we are stronger with a united labour movement that can advance the struggle together. An example can be found in the Save the Canada Post campaign. We never could have stopped that austerity-drive without the broad support we received from the entire labour movement. Labour councils across the country were key to mobilizing communities and ultimately defeating this agenda. It was a spectacular demonstration of what could be done when labour comes together at the grassroots level.

We have always remained in the CLC even when unhappy about the direction it is taking. For us it is not only a question of what is, but also what could be. This year our conventions have committed time and again, through our action plan to reconstitute and revitalize bodies of the labour movement, to arm them with a militant, grassroots agenda of mobilization. There is no force stronger than an organized and united working class movement.

Dues Strike

Another option that some affiliates are likely considering is withholding their dues payments from the CLC. This is a means of putting financial pressure on the organization, without actually withdrawing entirely from the house of labour. This is something that has been done many times in our movement, often with bad consequences. These kind of pressure tactics could have unintended consequences on staff and severely inhibit the work of the labour movement. This is a poor means of solving political questions.

In Solidarity,
Mike Palecek, CUPW National President

Special Convention

It is clear that the most democratic means of solving important divisions within the labour movement is with a convention. Conventions of the CLC happen every three years, with the next convention scheduled for 2020. But when matters of extreme importance are raised, such as the current internal crisis facing the labour movement, there are provisions in the CLC constitution to call a special convention. A special convention can be called by a majority vote of the Canada Council, or by request of affiliates representing 50% of the membership of the CLC.

This is a costly exercise, and this alone gives reason to be hesitant. But when one considers the cost of any other course of action, it is obviously the right one. A convention where thousands of delegates from across the country can meet, debate and decide the future of the labour movement is the only means of solving these questions.

Renew today!

Check your label
Please check the address label on the front page to see if it’s time to renew. Subscribers who find “2018/03/01” on their label, for example, will have their subscriptions expire with this issue, March 1-15, 2018. Send in your renewal today!
Justin Trudeau’s Trail of Broken Promises

Support indigenous communities resisting the Transmountain Pipeline expansion

Special Resolution by the Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, Feb. 16-11, 2018

The Liberal government makes a mockery of any promise to give Indigenous Peoples the veto over developments affecting them, and to recognize Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination commitments on climate change. The difference between Tory all-out support for all pipelines, up to and including climate change denial, and Liberal support for some pipelines, despite their intended reform of the environmental review process, is at best symbolic. There is no difference of substance.

The Federal Liberals’ support for the Trans-Mountain pipeline makes a mockery of any promise to give Indigenous Peoples the veto over developments affecting them, and to recognize Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination commitments on climate change.

The ever-increasing urgency of climate change mitigation, the logic of technological innovation and the vested interest of petroleum importing countries in reducing their imports make it more obvious every day how short-sighted and self-defeating it is to attempt to prop up the status quo in the economy. Canada’s working class, both unionized and non-unionized, has borne the brunt of a weakened industrial sector and the increased power of corporations with ever more sweeping and one-sided trade agreements. Meanwhile the corporate sector has amply demonstrated its lack of initiative to fulfill either employment needs or human needs.

The way out is not petty squabbles between jurisdictions, but sweeping re-structuring of the economy with all levels of government taking a hand in directing the change, controlling the assets and protecting working people from being sacrificed. The CPC calls for no new pipelines, winding down the tar sands and guaranteeing workers in the oil industry jobs in renewables or other sectors including jobs in an expanded manufacturing sector, upholding promises of nation to nation relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Ottawa, acting for climate justice and reversing climate change. It’s time for working people to take a hand in creating a government that functions in their interests and is willing to take action.

Photographers challenge PM Trudeau in Winnipeg.

Already the Liberals have given away the farm, or rather its fuel wealth of traditional lands on reserves across the country, from sewage and sanitation, to all-weather access roads, to completely inadequate health care and education facilities. The first two federal budgets presented by the Liberal government’s backing for the Site C dam and the Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain pipeline are among the most outrageous examples of favouring the profit-hungry of big energy monopolies, in direct violation of the principles of the UNDRIP and the TRC.

In late January, for the fourth time in two years, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued another order for the federal government to stop removing children from Indigenous families, and to end the pattern of racial discrimination in funding for First Nation child welfare agencies. While Minister of Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott has promised to implement the latest Tribunal ruling, the government’s foot-dragging on this issue does not inspire confidence that this form of cultural assimilation will be ended soon.

In 2012 rally against pipeline expansion. (Photo: K. Cariou)

Some pipelines, despite their multi-national, largely foreign owned monopolies in the oil and gas sector who have no capacity for and no interest in generating reliable employment and are the last entities on the planet to be trusted with stewardship of the environment. It is not in the interests of Albertan workers to remain hungry of big energy monopolies, and including climate change and the vested interest of petroleum importing countries in reducing their imports make it more obvious every day how short-sighted and self-defeating it is to attempt to prop up the status quo in the economy. Canada’s working class, both unionized and non-unionized, has borne the brunt of a weakened industrial sector and the increased power of corporations with ever more sweeping and one-sided trade agreements. Meanwhile the corporate sector has amply demonstrated its lack of initiative to fulfill either employment needs or human needs.

The way out is not petty squabbles between jurisdictions, but sweeping re-structuring of the economy with all levels of government taking a hand in directing the change, controlling the assets and protecting working people from being sacrificed. The CPC calls for no new pipelines, winding down the tar sands and guaranteeing workers in the oil industry jobs in renewables or other sectors including jobs in an expanded manufacturing sector, upholding promises of nation to nation relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Ottawa, acting for climate justice and reversing climate change. It’s time for working people to take a hand in creating a government that functions in their interests and is willing to take action.

Support indigenous communities resisting the Transmountain Pipeline expansion

Special Resolution, Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, February 10-11, 2018

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was not elected solely by pleading to take a different course than the Harper Conservatives on many fronts. The Liberal call for a new nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples is a full capture of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the emphasis on all the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). If these promises had actually been carried out, this would have made a sharp break with the historic policies of both the Liberal and Conservative parties, which have always imposed various forms of colonial, assimilationist and genocidal policies upon the Indigenous peoples within the borders of the Canadian state.

Instead, over two years after the Liberals took office, their list of broken and failed promises to Indigenous peoples grows longer every day. The Communist Party of Canada condemns the Liberal government’s abysmal record, as a repetition of the same old pattern of delays and excuses while the need for delays and excuses while the need for engagement and consultation with Indigenous Peoples grows longer every day.

Meanwhile the federal NDP is willing to take action.

The Communist Party calls for no new pipelines, winding down the tar sands and guaranteeing workers in the oil industry jobs in renewables or other sectors including jobs in an expanded manufacturing sector, upholding promises of nation to nation relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Ottawa, acting for climate justice and reversing climate change. It’s time for working people to take a hand in creating a government that functions in their interests and is willing to take action.

projects, the Liberals continue to ignore the dissenting voices of First Nations and other affected communities. The Liberal government’s backing for the Site C dam and the Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain pipeline are among the most outrageous examples of favouring the profit-hungry of big energy monopolies, in direct violation of the principles of the UNDRIP and the TRC.

In late January, for the fourth time in two years, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued another order for the federal government to stop removing children from Indigenous families, and to end the pattern of racial discrimination in funding for First Nation child welfare agencies. While Minister of Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott has promised to implement the latest Tribunal ruling, the government’s foot-dragging on this issue does not inspire confidence that this form of cultural assimilation will be ended soon.

Similarly, the recent emergency meeting convened by the Assembly of First Nations to discuss the longstanding crisis of lack of clean drinking water on reserves and indigenous communities also drew attention to a related problem - the lack of a government action on a wide range of crucial infrastructure needs on reserves across the country, from sewage and sanitation, to all-weather access roads, to completely inadequate health care and education facilities. The first two federal budgets presented by

terrorizing the interests of the big corporations while paying lip service to the rights of Indigenous peoples. High-sounding words and artistic tattoos are not enough to erase the shameful legacy of centuries of racist, colonial oppression. At this crucial moment, we urge the labour and democratic movements across Canada to stand together with Indigenous peoples who are calling out the Trudeau Liberals for their broken promises.

Going back on their pledge to meaningful consultation over resource extraction projects, the Liberals continue to ignore the dissenting voices of First Nations and other affected communities. The Liberal government’s backing for the Site C dam and the Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain pipeline are among the most outrageous examples of favouring the profit-hungry of big energy monopolies, in direct violation of the principles of the UNDRIP and the TRC.

In late January, for the fourth time in two years, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued another order for the federal government to stop removing children from Indigenous families, and to end the pattern of racial discrimination in funding for First Nation child welfare agencies. While Minister of Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott has promised to implement the latest Tribunal ruling, the government’s foot-dragging on this issue does not inspire confidence that this form of cultural assimilation will be ended soon.

Similarly, the recent emergency meeting convened by the Assembly of First Nations to discuss the longstanding crisis of lack of clean drinking water on reserves and indigenous communities also drew attention to a related problem - the lack of a government action on a wide range of crucial infrastructure needs on reserves across the country, from sewage and sanitation, to all-weather access roads, to completely inadequate health care and education facilities. The first two federal budgets presented by
This year, women will celebrate International Women’s Day with a renewed sense of strength. In many places around the world, two movements are taking stands against sexual harassment, and sexual violence. While in North America this is often connected with what is called the #metoo movement, it is also happening in countries as diverse as India, Ireland and Japan.

We know that sexual violence is still common, particularly to women who are Indigenous, racialized, trans, homeless, or sex workers are disproportionately at risk. In war zones, rape is a weapon.

This January there was a second wave of marches where those who are gender oppressed displayed resistance against patriarchal violence, inequality, exploitation and oppression perpetuated by capitalism across the globe. Many of the marches had demands that included support for economic equality, women’s right to freedom from violence, full recognition of rights and freedom, full equality rights for the LGBTQ community, racialized and non-racialized workers, immigrants, those with a disability, for civil rights and environmental justice, and against police brutality and racial profiling, demilitarizing law enforcement and ending mass incarceration.

This fightback is important, but often there is no lasting organizational structure to support it.

The gains of women and the working class, are directly related to the strength and unity of the organizations that fight for their rights.

The retreat and foot dragging of the Liberal government on such matters as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s Inquiry; pay equity; improved sex work legislation; and a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public childcare system - stands in contrast with their quick stands in favour of Kinder Morgan and Keystone XL pipeline projects, support of the Site C dam, the theft of Indigenous lands and continued genocidal violence.

The government’s support for corporate greed and trade deals such as NAFTA and the TPP extends Canada’s imperialist agenda, where corporations will gain further power and profits, but working people - women and their families - are denied food security, the ability to form or join a trade union, access to affordable housing, healthcare, education, prescription drugs and more. This government, like the Harper Tories, continues to ignore the longstanding demand to create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public childcare system.

Women in Canada are losing ground in terms of pay equity and pensions. The gender gap in Canada is now double the global average; racialized women make only 68 cents for every dollar made by non-racialized men. The Liberal government has no plans to rectify this situation. Recent pension reforms roll back gains women had achieved by excluding the years taken off of maternity and parental leaves in calculation of their final pensions. These are not “improve- ments” - this is austerity. Women are being forced to pay the price for the ongoing capitalist economic crisis and for continuing corporate tax cuts and giveaways. It’s no wonder that a recent study on the global Gender Gap reached the damming conclusion that at the current rate, it will take 170 years for women to reach equality.

There has been a rise of racist, fascist, and extreme right-wing groups in Canada. Gendered, Islamophobic violence occurs all too often in Canada. Muslim women are often verbally attacked and have been physically assaulted by having their hijabs ripped off or worse. As this violence escalates, the government sits idle while the media perpetuates the lie that Western military intervention in the Middle East is required to “save” Muslim women. The Liberals have capped refugee migration and sponsorship to Canada while making war on their North African and Middle Eastern homelands, and exploiting them for photo-ops. This is not feminism.

The truth is, PM Trudeau and the Liberal government cannot claim to be feminist while advo- cating and defending corporate power and super-profits. Policies and decisions that perpetuate violence against Indigenous women and territories, that deepen and expand gendered and racialized economic inequalities, that impose war and austerity at home and abroad, are all part of the capitalist agenda - an agenda that is incompatible with the demands of working-class women from all communities for peace, equality, democracy and economic and social security for themselves and their families.

Historically the labour move- ment in Canada has played a major role in building unity for women’s rights. However, women in leadership of the labour movement were often excluded, or those that were left to fight are weakened by the exit of Unifor. We must demand that our leaders of inspired, progressive women into the leadership of the labour movement to unite our class against the main enemy - capitalism.

We need to continue to Rise Up. We need to organize!

The Communist Party of Canada demands Full Gender Equality NOW:

* Restore funding for women’s equality programs.
* End all forms of violence against women.
* Guarantee accessible and publicly funded abortion and reproductive rights services in every province and territory.
* Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public childcare system, with Canada- wide standards and union wages for childcare workers.
* Protect women’s right to El

It’s 2018.... where’s the gender equality?

Excerpts from statistics gathered by Status of Women Canada

Women continue to be responsible for the majority of caregiving.

* Women spend more than men caring for their children. In 2010, women spent an average of 50.1 hours per week on unpaid child care, more than double that spent by men (24.4 hours).
* In 2010, women were almost twice as likely as men (49% compared to 25%) to spend more than 10 hours per week caring for a senior.

Women spend more time than men on domestic work.

* In 2010, while women spent 13.8 hours per week doing housework, men spent 8 hours.

Women in the workforce tend to earn less than men.

* Average earnings for women in all job tenures (as percentage of men’s earnings) were 68.4% in 2014, suggesting a gap of over 30%.
* Among full-time job tenure only, women earn 73.3% of men working full-time in Canada, or roughly 27% less. Women represent about two-thirds of part-time workers.

Women are under-represented in politics.

* 26% of those elected in 2015 to the 42nd Parliament are women.
* A 2014 study of municipal councilors and only 18% of mayors.

Women continue to experience high rates of gender-based violence.

* Women are at a 20% higher risk of violent victimization than men when all other risk factors are taken into account.
* Women account for 87% of victims of sexual offences and 76% of victims of criminal harassment.
* Aboriginal women (10%) were about three times as likely to report being a victim of spousal violence as non-Aboriginal women (3%).

Imagine the Future

Imagine we all have homes to live in, decent paying jobs, free education, free universal quality childcare.

Imagine a country where the rights of Indigenous Peoples were truly recognized and upheld and where we have already taken major steps toward decolonization.

Imagine a world with well-resourced, meaningful, effective educational work and legal steps taken to combat racism, sexism, and discrimination on basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

Imagine a culture where Indigenous Women, racialized women, disabled women, young and old women, are celebrated in words and music and the arts and as artists.

Imagine a world where we are safe and respected whether we are on the streets, in our homes, at school, in our community or at work.

Imagine a world where we have begun to repair environmental damage, and taken measure to reverse climate change.

Imagine a world where everyone has access to clean water.

Imagine a world where all nations have the right to their own self-determination.

Imagine a world where there is no war; a world where reparations have been made and women are no longer seen as collateral damage.

Imagine a world where there is mutual respect and cooperation and sharing of resources.

Imagine a world that corporations don’t rule; where there are workplace councils run by workers and countries are ruled by a people’s democracy.

Imagine a world where all women and girls are represented by a single women’s organization.

This world is not a utopian dream but the goal of a socialist society. We fight everyday to win reforms that will bring us closer to this goal.

Imagine a world without Capitalism. We do.

We fight for a world without patriarchy, without white supremacy, and to repair the damage caused by colonialism, capitalism and imperialism.

Join us in the struggle.

Join the Communist Party of Canada.

From the Central Women’s Commission of the CPC.

For more information, ph. 416-469-2446 or visit the Party’s website: www.communist-party.ca
Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

This February 14th, as in past years, marches will be held across Canada to commemorate the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The February 14th marches demanding justice have been held for almost three decades, but the current need for action is as great as ever before.

The Communist Party of Canada continues to stand in solidarity with the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and all those fighting for an end to the ongoing violence. We demand the government act now to deliver on long delayed promises to address the violence against Indigenous women and girls and to redress the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls.

Indigenous women and girls have no other choice but to struggle against racist violence caused by capitalism, patriarchy, the ongoing dispossession of Indigenous peoples and the denial of their national rights to self-determination. The lives of Indigenous women are shattered and cut short by this capitalist social crisis and the negative actions and inaction of the Federal government and police forces across the country.

Part of the fight to honour murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls is the ongoing fight for a national inquiry. One of the Trudeau government’s many promises to Indigenous peoples during the 2015 election was an immediate national inquiry. From the outset Indigenous women have been fighting for an inquiry capable of substantive action to stop the violence. Included in this is the fight for the inquiry to include a review of individual files of murdered or missing women and of police conduct, after this was deliberately excluded from the initial terms of reference for the National Inquiry. Police actions and inaction are both a cause of violence towards Indigenous women, as in Val’D’Or where police officers were the perpetrators of widescale sexual and physical assault, or in many cases of murdered women where police failed to take investigations seriously due to deeply ingrained racist views within law enforcement. After public demands from families and allies, the inquiry widened there is now a commitment to include police behaviour and individual files in the terms of reference.

Indigenous leaders and women’s organizations have expressed serious concerns over communication with the families of victims, the transparency of the process, staff resignations, funding and timelines. In December of last year, at a gathering of chiefs hosted by the Assembly of First Nations, passed a resolution calling on the Trudeau government to reset the inquiry by demanding that chief commissioner Marion Buller be replaced. The Native Women’s Association of Canada, who have been fighting for a future that is more equal. This has been instrumental in breaking the silence. The Communist Party of Canada stands in full solidarity with these actions across the country. The fight for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women is bound together with the fight for an equal and voluntary partnership of nations within Canada, for the recognition of sovereignty and self-determination and for an end to the colonial legacy.

The first women’s memorial march in 1992 was in response to the murder of a woman on Powell Street in Vancouver. Out of this sense of hopelessness and anger came an annual march on Valentine’s Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, Unceded Coast Salish Territories. Photo from the 2009 march, by K. Caruso.

The United Nations theme for International Women’s Day, March 8, is “Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives”. UN Women is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The organization’s statement for IWD 2018 says, “This year, International Women’s Day comes on the heels of unprecedented global movement for women’s rights, equality and justice. Sexual harassment, violence and discrimination against women has captured headlines and public discourse, propelled by a rising determination for change.

“People around the world are mobilizing for a future that is more equal. This has taken the form of global marches and campaigns, including #MeToo in the United States of America and its counterparts in other countries, protesting against sexual harassment and violence, such as #YoTambien in Mexico, Spain, South America and beyond, #QuellaVoceChe in Italy, #BalanceTonPorc in France and #Ana_kaman in the Arab States; “Ni Una Menos” (“not one less”), a campaign against femicide that originated in Argentina; and many others, on issues ranging from equal pay to women’s political representation.

“International Women’s Day 2018 is an opportunity to transform this momentum into action, to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women’s rights and realize their full potential.

“Echoing the priority theme of the upcoming 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, International Women’s Day will also draw attention to the rights and activism of rural women, who make up over a quarter of the world population and 43 per cent of the global agricultural labour force.

“They till the lands and plant seeds to feed nations, ensure food security for their communities and build climate resilience. Yet, on almost every measure of development, because of deep seated gender inequalities and discrimination, rural women fare worse than rural men or urban women. For instance, less than 20 per cent of landholders worldwide are women, and while the global pay gap between men and women stand at 23 per cent, in rural areas, it can be as high as 40 per cent. They lack infrastructure and services, decent work and social protection, and are left more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

“Making the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality, to leave no one behind, needs urgent action in rural areas to ensure an adequate standard of living, a life free of violence and harmful practices for rural women, as well as their access to land and productive assets, food security and nutrition, decent work, education and health, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

“Rural women and their organizations represent an enormous potential, and they are on the move to claim their rights and improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. They are using innovative agricultural methods, setting up successful businesses and acquiring new skills, pursuing their legal entitlements and running for office. Recently, as hundreds of courageous women from the film, theatre and art industry in the USA started speaking against sexual harassment and assault by powerful men in the industry, they found a powerful ally in Alliance Nacional de Campesinas, the national farmworker women’s organization, no stranger to the abuse of power.

“On 8 March, join activists around the world and UN Women to seize the moment, celebrate, take action and transform women’s lives everywhere. The time is NOW.”

The first women’s memorial march in 1992 was in response to the murder of a woman on Powell Street in Vancouver. Out of this sense of hopelessness and anger came an annual march on Valentine’s Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, Unceded Coast Salish Territories. Photo from the 2009 march, by K. Caruso.
SS. Korea union leaders still jailed

An appeal court in Seoul, South Korea, has freed Samsung Electronics’ Vice-Chairman Lee Jae-yong on parole two weeks earlier over the ACB’s appeal. The union and the ACB did not comment on the case. The ACB’s refusal to maintain its current two weeks earlier over the ACB’s appeal. The union and the ACB did not comment on the case. The ACB’s refusal to maintain its current social fund (“fondo social”), a critical item in the negotiations, will also be retained.

Dutch teachers on rotating strikes

Dutch educators began strike actions in February, demanding decent salaries and a normal workload, and urging the government to clearly and firmly address their concerns. The first regional strike of the planned series was held in the province of Groningen, Friesland and Drente, on February 14. As reported by Education International (EI), the Algemeen Onderwijsbond (AOB), the current flu season makes the shortage of teachers extremely visible in the Netherlands. Since the beginning of February, many schools have reported about their struggle to cope with the absence of teachers on sick leave, and to cover class absences, there are no teachers available for replacement, classes are sent home, retired teachers are begged to help out, and school boards have to find substitutes on a part time basis work extra days, school teachers teach the whole week and the "no-teen-too-sick" continue teaching. Following several earlier protest actions in 2017, the Dutch government started to take small steps. The current budget contains measures to reduce the workload, which teachers see as a first step. The government argues that "workload can only be reduced effectively when there are enough teachers," but they also want to attract more people into the profession, only a substantial financial support for teachers could have an equal say on matters that concern them most," said Johannes Heineman, Head of Player Relations of the World Players Association. "The unity and determination of workers in São Paulo, Brazil demonstrated their dedication to collectivism and building opportunities for the players that will follow."
By Nino Pagliccia

U.S. Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, has returned to Washington this week after a trip to Latin America, with Mexico, Argentina, Peru and Colombia, and a final stop in Israel. Tillerson’s itinerary and details of his report, much less his political and ideological, but in an actual physical sense as well. The result was that Tillerson, with a good chunk of it owned by Greek and German companies and the country’s main telecommunications firm has been privatised, was instead the foreign arm of the Greek people who voted for the new alliance aimed at exploiting newly exploted gas fields in the Mediterranean and participating in multiple Israeli-led military drills. While Israel sees an opportunity to advance its political and commercial goals in Greece’s economic woes, the Greek government is playing along without fully assessing the possible repercussions of engaging with a country that is regionally viewed as a pariah, while internationally becoming condemned for its military occupation and terrible human rights record. Israel moved to pull Athens into its own camp in 2010, shortly after the Turkish-Israeli spat over the Maris Marmara attack when Israeli commandos attacked the Turkish boat bound for Gaza, killing nine Turkish nationals and injuring many more. Although Turkey and Israel have since reached a diplomatic understanding, Tel Aviv has moved forward to create alternative allies among Balkan countries, exploiting historical ties between some of these countries and Turkey.

Bilateral agreements were signed, high-level diplomatic visits exchanged and military exercises conducted in the name of deterrence against Venezuela, expelling terrorism. Greece and Cyprus received greater Israeli attention since then, on the one hand, was cut military ties with Israel upon coming to office, wrote Patrick Strickland, reporting from Athens. Instead the “ties have, nonetheless, been deepened.”

Just one month after the Mavi Marmara attack, Israel’s prime minister George Papandreou visited Israel followed by an official visit by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Greece – the first of its kind. That was the start of a love affair that is growing deeper. The main motivation behind the new alliance, coupled with a changing narrative in Greek media regarding Israel and Palestine. One George N. Tzogopoulos has

The U.S. government has mimicked the U.S., declared that it would be “a serious crisis.” The European Union’s policy are being replaced with sanctions, threats and actual military interventions in countries that dare to challenge the empire’s design of domination. Countries that cave in may be “rewarded” with trade deals that make sure “America first” is the outcome. The EU, as the U.S. messenger to the world, traveled to some Latin American countries not to promote real democracy, peace and respect for constitutional process but just the opposite. By his own words, he has incited a military coup in Venezuela, immediately echoed by senator Marco Rubio on Twitter: “The world would support the Armed Forces in #Venezuela if they depose a corrupt and weak regime. But there is no place in the world for restore democracy by removing a dictator” This is a diabolical “marketing-style” means to sell

Does democracy fit in the corporate mind of Rex Tillerson?

By Nino Pagliccia

U.S. Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, has returned to Washington this week after a trip to Latin America, with Mexico, Argentina, Peru and Colombia, and a final stop in Israel. Tillerson’s itinerary and details of his report, much less his political and ideological, but in an actual physical sense as well. The result was that Tillerson, with a good chunk of it owned by Greek and German companies and the country’s main telecommunications firm has been privatised, was instead the foreign arm of the Greek people who voted for the new alliance aimed at exploiting newly exploted gas fields in the Mediterranean and participating in multiple Israeli-led military drills. While Israel sees an opportunity to advance its political and commercial goals in Greece’s economic woes, the Greek government is playing along without fully assessing the possible repercussions of engaging with a country that is regionally viewed as a pariah, while internationally becoming condemned for its military occupation and terrible human rights record. Israel moved to pull Athens into its own camp in 2010, shortly after the Turkish-Israeli spat over the Maris Marmara attack when Israeli commandos attacked the Turkish boat bound for Gaza, killing nine Turkish nationals and injuring many more. Although Turkey and Israel have since reached a diplomatic understanding, Tel Aviv has moved forward to create alternative allies among Balkan countries, exploiting historical ties between some of these countries and Turkey.

Bilateral agreements were signed, high-level diplomatic visits exchanged and military exercises conducted in the name of deterrence against Venezuela, expelling terrorism. Greece and Cyprus received greater Israeli attention since then, on the one hand, was cut military ties with Israel upon coming to office, wrote Patrick Strickland, reporting from Athens. Instead the “ties have, nonetheless, been deepened.”

Just one month after the Mavi Marmara attack, Israel’s prime minister George Papandreou visited Israel followed by an official visit by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Greece – the first of its kind. That was the start of a love affair that is growing deeper. The main motivation behind the new alliance, coupled with a changing narrative in Greek media regarding Israel and Palestine. One George N. Tzogopoulos has...
the USSR and, for the most resolute period of war-time alliance with communists collaborated with the accommodation with fascism and intent of the British bourgeoisie book are that faced with the solid — epistocracy — has been professional reputation of Britain’s "narrow, tightly enmeshed relation— other and pretending that it is as good as any "populist delusion that one person’s opinion is as good as any and counter espionage much official Maclean had been. The subterranean connection in this bizarre coupling is the author’s who convinced the successes in subverting the security apparatus of the British State has been unfairly blamed on the failures of the “widening emeshed relationship” which characterised the structure of the British ruling class. Davenport-Hines sees the amount of difficulty in rehabilitating the professional reputation of Britain’s spooks and ends up regretting that: “Government the knowable — epistocracy — has been suppressed most of the English— speaking world by a version of democracy that elevates opinion above knowledge.” The bare facts that underpin this book are that faced with the solid intent of the British bourgeoisie and its French allies to reach an accommodation with fascism and its allies. The Soviet Union in checking Hitler, a talented cadre of Communist correspondents and its espionage on Stalin’s clandestine apparatus of the Communist International and Soviet espionage. This conscious purpose carried through into the period of war-time alliance with the USSR, for the most resolute and courageous among them, into the cold war. The book has several strengths. Its detail and periodisation is useful in marshalling many of the known facts and in doing honours the compelling degree of falsehoods and fantasies. It is insightful with the atmosphere of the male camp — culture and the culture of trust which was both a strength and weakness of the British intelligence apparatus. Davenport-Hines has little time for his rivals in the literary spy circus but he reserves his real animus for the “foul-minded, mercenary and pernicious,” mole—hunters of the 1980s in Parliament, the media and the state apparatus. “Their besmirching of individuals and institutions changed the political culture and electoral moods of British far beyond any achievements of Moscow agents or agencies,” he contends. So intent is he on defending the institutional integrity and policy preferences of the Establishment — and what we might best call its “corporate” organs of surveillance, security and spying — that he verges on suggesting that the Soviet intelligence community had prioritised the well—being of the British ruling elite as much as the accumulation of intelligence. The casualty of such absurd self—contemplation is any sense of history, coupled with a willful blindness to its ironies. He recounts an incident when the ex—comminist and fellow jazz musician of the British Left, with his old friend Donald Maclean and the still—loyal communist, had defended the suppression of the 1956 Hungarian counter—revolution. Maclean reportedly argued that without the Soviet intervention Hungary would “rule defunctly by capitalists, the Church and landlords, with some sort of fascist front and permanent witchhunt to keep down even the memory of such a thing” short a sort of France Spain.” The situation in today’s fascist—infused Hungary is a demonstration of how insightful a Foreign Office official Maclean had been. In the murky world of espionage and counter espionage much published material is suspect and this book, no less than others, has an ideological axe to grind.
People's Voice 25th Anniversary Fund Appeal for $50,000

It hardly seems possible, but this month marks the 25th anniversary of the launch of People’s Voice. Our first monthly issue rolled off the presses at Comibus in Vancouver, BC in March 1994. The Virus, however, a Vancouver-based women-only, feminist, anti-capitalist printshop and collective, has continued to roll out political and logistical advances that allow us to print in Montreal, and now Hamilton, and publication frequency increased to 20 issues per year. Our dedicated volunteer Lloyd Matthew set up our first website nearly 20 years ago, working every year to raise $50,000. People’s Voice has been kept alive by contributions from friends agreements to the 25th anniversary, there are more reasons than ever to believe that with your support we can strengthen our presence both in print and online. People’s Voice is on the front lines of resistance against the racist, fascist, and misogynist forces that are ramped up by Donald Trump’s bullying and hate speech. We give extensive coverage to the struggles of women and men to defend and expand their right to live their lives free from fear. We expose the way of the rich, local and national, and we use the power of our voice to raise issues about the communities that we serve. We provide regular updates on our projects and our progress, including the launch of our new website. As a working class newspaper, we defend the fight for a union movement, and support every effort to organize new sections of workers. We speak out against the neoliberal austerity policies of right-wing governments, and we highlight the work of our own fundraising and bosses’ attempts to cut wages, benefits and pensions. Unique among newspapers in Canada, People’s Voice calls for the abolition of NATO, the new era of US imperialism, and the support of working people in Canada, Mexico and elsewhere. To “tax the greedy, not the needy” and to slash military spending by 75%, and to slash corporate plundering, affordable child care, pharmacare, and an end the war on drugs. Our editors and website provide the understanding for a working class perspective.

Our goal is to win a socialist future, in which working people own and control the economy, creating a world based on social justice, an end to exploitation, and an end to war. We think that there is more than enough evidence to say that the 25th anniversary of People’s Voice better than ever.

So make your contribution early, past our projected completion date. Thank you for your solidarity!

Frank Martens, 1937-2018

Frank was born in the summer of 1937 and raised in a poor family in rural Portugal during the period of right-wing government. He was a child of the Revolution, and the son of a worker who died of a heart attack at the age of 48 due to cancer. Frank married Judy in Portugal; they had two children, Mary and Judy. Frank was always committed to the working people and the rights of the poor. He was a proud member of the Communist Party and dedicated his life to the fight against capitalism and imperialism. He was a tireless worker for the rights of Indigenous peoples and other oppressed peoples, and he was a champion of the fight for gender equality, liberation for oppressed peoples, environmental justice, and social justice.

Frank was an active member of the Communist Party of Canada for many years, and he held a leadership position within the party. He was a respected leader and an influential voice in the party's fight against right-wing government and bosses’ attempts to cut wages, benefits, and pensions. He was a passionate advocate for the rights of workers and their families, and he was a tireless fighter for a better world.

Frank died unexpectedly on April 22, 2018, following a brief illness. He will be missed by his family, friends, and comrades, who will continue to honor his memory and fight for a better world.

Looking for IWD activities in your area? www.internationalwomensday.com/Events

---

Tillerson vs. Venezuela...

change in Venezuela. It is seen by many as raw U.S. imperialism. It has an intercontinental reach, and the Bolivarian Revolution wants to eradicate the U.S. empire. It has an international outlook, and the Venezuelan military.

Tillerson happened to be in America, the Venezuelan government, and was consistent with its policies. Tillerson said that the Venezuelan military.

That is insulting, to say that the Venezuelan military.

That is insulting, to say that America handles regime change in Latin America. That is insulting, to say that America. That is insulting, to say that America. That is insulting, to say that America. That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulting, to say that America.

That is insulti...
Support Colombian political prisoner Simon Trinidad

By the International Campaign for the Release of Simon Trinidad, Jan. 29, 2018

In Colombia, like many other Latin American countries, peasant farmers with little land have been oppressed ever since colonial times. The story of Ricardo Palmera, also known as Simon Trinidad, is a story at the intersection of long-standing close relationship between the governments of the United States and Colombia, and the 52-year insurgent war from 1964 to 2016. Ricardo Palmera was a child of the upper class in Valledupar, the capital of the department of Cesar in Colombia’s sprawling Atlantic Coast region. As a young man he became involved with the community cultural center in Valledupar; he developed strong interests in literature, history, music and film. While he studied economics and then worked as a banker, he never gave up his activism; he was also concerned about the social inequities and injustices in Colombia.

In the mid-1980s he joined the Unión Patriótica, a political force that represented the demobilized FARC members and others interested in broadening Colombia’s political system, in the context the peace initiatives by then-President Belisario Betancur. However, the UPR met with large-scale state-supported violence, with as many as 6,000 members and supporters killed from the inception to the mid-1990s, when it was effectively shut down. In that context, Palmera decided to go into banking and his life in Valledupar and to join the FARC guerrilla forces. That is when he chose the name Simon Trinidad.

Once in the FARC Simón Trinidad was involved primarily in educational work and providing political advice to the leadership. By 1995, he was a key member of the negotiations under President Andrés Pastrana, Trinidad was one of the FARC commanders who had the most contact with foreign government and international organizations from 1994 to 1999 when he was the FARC’s de facto capital during that period, San Vicente de Caguán. Trinidad was a leading figure in another country, the United States.

In February 2003 a small aircraft had crashed over the jungles of southern Colombia. Three of the four survivors of the crash were United States military contractors. The FARC proceeded to take them prisoner and then held them for over five years. In December 2004, in Ecuador, Simón Trinidad was arrested by Ecuadorian authorities and then sent back to Colombia. A case against him from the United States was never any evidence that Simón Trinidad had any real involvement with the FARC.

In Simón Trinidad’s first hostage-taking trial the jury also hung, and the US decided to retry him. In his second hostage-taking trial the jury indicated they were deadlocked, but the judge ordered them to continue deliberations. The jury eventually convicted him on one of the six charges: conspiracy to hold hostages. The only evidence the government had was that the FARC had put out a communiqué in April 2003, that if the government would agree to negotiate the exchange of prisoners, Simón Trinidad would be one of their spokespersons. The fact that he had gone to Ecuador to pursue such negotiations. There were many people who knew that Simón Trinidad had any role or responsibility in the capture of the three military contractors.

Trinidad, after his conviction, was renovated to 60 years in prison. He has been held at the highest-level federal maximum-security prison in the United States, which is in Colorado, much of the time in solitary confinement and with limited contact with the outside world. In 2018 and the United States has yet to remove the FARC from the list of terrorist organizations, even though a peace process, supported by the United States, had led to the FARC’s surrender and extinction of the FARC as a guerrilla army and its transformation into a political party.

Palmera should be sent back to Colombia. He is costing U.S. taxpayers an undiscounted sum (the Bureau of Prisons says it doesn’t cost anything to keep prisoners there) even though he was tried mostly because he was a leading figure in an insurgent group in another country, not because he was personally involved in terrorism, kidnapping, or any other crime directed against anyone in the United States.

Please send letters to Simon Trinidad. He is in a maximum- security prison with limited communication with his family and the outside world, to let him know that he is not alone.

Note that the envelope has to be addressed exactly as follows: Jovenal Ovidio Palmera Pineda Reg. Número 27896-016 OFP Florence Unit U.S. PENITENTIARY PO BOX 8000 FLORENCE, CO 81226

Greenland's black snow

By Blake Skylar, People's World

Greenland and other parts of the world are experiencing a troubling phenomenon that is something like something out of post-apocalyptic fiction, but the dark snow falling on land ranging from the Arctic to the Himalayas is quite real. The black material found in the snow is comprised of dust and soot. It's called cryoconite, and it's largely the product of forest fires and man-made global warming. In terms of both climate and pollution, it's a sign that things are getting worse.

According to data from the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, in 2014 the Arctic ice sheet was 5.6 percent darker than the 1980-1990 average. During that same year, there were more forest fires measured in the Arctic than ever before in history, and the Greenland ice sheet has melted at a rate of about 286 gigatons per year since 2009. This shows a startling correlation between the black snow and natural disasters caused by climate change.

This creates a vicious cycle in which more fires are caused as ice warms, and the ice warms more quickly due to the cryoconite that is in, part, a product of those fires. Forest fires, however, are not the main culprit. Other contrib- utors include power plants and wood-burning stoves, according to National Geographic. The warming of the snow and the ensuing melting effect, will likely cause sea levels to rise more rapidly than previously forecast, as prior studies had not taken this recent phenomenon into account.

Part of the solution, say researchers, is to reduce emissions and stop the burning of fossil fuels and wood, which means shifting toward clean energy and addressing the issue of increasing bruising. "Controlling soot may be a way of slowing Arctic warming within the next two decades," said Marc Z Jacobson, dean of Stanford University's Atmosphere/Energy Program. "We have to start taking new steps now, and that includes controlling our mitigation efforts and the sooner we start making changes, the better." Cryoconite, he learned, is the second-leading cause of global warming after carbon dioxide. Jacobson explained that this is not just about vanishing sea ice and future climate change catastrophes, but also about the here and now. These kinds of soot emissions, he found, kill over 1.5 million people each year, and each leaves millions more with respiratory issues, cardiovascular disease, and asthma.

"Black carbon or soot," said Horodyskyj, "is found on the highest peaks, where the particles are inaccessible to most people – high up in the Himalayas, for example, where it has been found. "Yet we see the damage it leaves in its wake." That damage, she explained, varied depending on region. These "dark particles lead to enhanced heating, melting, and sublimation. While melting ice in Greenland can directly contribute to sea level increases, in the Himalayas ice loss affects people on a more local scale, by disrupting water sources, as well as cutting off climbing routes. The Nepalese Himalaya are home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains; as climate continues to change and the warming of the snows and ice continues, this may affect the local communities who rely on trekkers and mountaineers for income."

Whether in the Himalayas or Greenland, "this is caused by man-made pollution," she concluded. "Governments must do their part to be aware of what is happening. It needs to be looked at properly."