Who’s looking at who?

We usually think in terms of browsing the Internet, looking at the world through our computer screens. But in a very real and more threatening way, the Internet is actually watching us.

Regime change games

The efforts by Washington and Ottawa to encourage “regime change” in Venezuela are nothing new. This is just the latest case of imperialism grabbing resources from the global south.

Dangerous gamble

The US withdrawal from the INF treaty is another dangerous move towards escalating military confrontation. At a time when the planet faces climate catastrophe, this could be disastrous.

Origins of IWD

For over a century, women have taken to the streets to mark International Women’s Day. It’s important to recall how this unique annual event was launched by socialist women.

US troops move in... page 7

IWD 2019

Women: Unite and Build the Resistance!

International Women’s Day fightback message - see page 6 -
SNC-Lavalin scandal: business as usual for Liberals

The company pleaded guilty to two corporate offenses in late 2018. Fiera management failed to take safety precautions related to the tragic incident. Amina Diaby was fined $300,000. Not enough to get the company to change its ways, it seems.

The specific chain of events that led to the death of Amina Diaby and the latest victims are different. However, the realities they faced were tragically similar: they were hired through a temp agency; they had virtually no protections on the job; their situation was precarious. The risks all too real.

Last year, the Toronto Star reported on an ongoing investigation at the Fiera Foods plant where Amina died. A Star journalist worked in the factory for a month. She reported she got no training and had to handle a conveyor belt working at a Fiery Foods plant. No one could help her. She had not been trained in how to shut down the belt. They could only watch in horror as Amina struggled to deal with the hard reality of low pay and precarious work faced by social care and health workers.

The Community Health Bargaining Association (CBA) negotiated a total of $40 million with the publicly funded community health and social care workers to keep services running over the next three years. Among 32,000 workers works among the lowest paid workers in the public sector. The investigation at the Fiera Foods plant reveals that union haters have to bite their tongues and stop asking “what have unions done for you lately?” There is also the ongoing problem of the gender gap in pay. Around 80 percent of the workforce in health and social care in Canada is made up of women, who earn low wages. This one factor explains a lot about why the average female works longer hours to earn the same wages as the PMO’s “suggestion.” In simple terms, it was made clear to the most prominent Indigenous cabinet minister in Canadian history that keeping her seat at the big boys’ table would require her complicity in a backroom deal which violated even the business-friendly terms of the DPA. This reflects the ongoing fallout of the working class to private corporate interests. It also deeply insults women and indigenous peoples who were promised a fundamentally new and fair deal by Justin Trudeau.

In April 2017, for example, the BCGEU organized a rally at the provincial legislature in Victoria to call for immediate improvements to the child welfare system. BCGEU pointed out the obvious: low pay made it difficult to attract social workers. BC paid 11 percent less, on average, than other provinces. The poverty-level wages for the same employer for years. The union-haters are having a hard time in B.C. There is a $100 million answer to the question “what have unions done for you lately?”

For the same employer for years. The union-haters are having a hard time in B.C. There is a $100 million answer to the question “what have unions done for you lately?”

In 2011, a 69-year-old male worker was killed in an incident at a Fiera Foods operation in Toronto. The fourth at a Fiera Foods consortium operation since 1999.

This time death came to a man in his 40s. Another temporary worker. He was crushed to death by a tractor trailer in a Fiera Foods plant. No one could have predicted it. The worker has been killed on the job at a Fiera Foods operation in Toronto. The fourth at a Fiera Foods consortium operation since 1999.

In 2015, a 23-year-old temp worker Amina Duby got her head tangled in a conveyor belt working at a Fiery Foods plant. No one could help her. They had not been trained in how to shut down the belt. They could only watch in horror as Amina struggled to deal with the hard reality of low pay and precarious work faced by social care and health workers.

The settlement negotiated by the Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA) provides $60 million in redress funding for 15,000 workers. There is no justice for the workers who were tragically similar: they were hired through a temp agency; there were virtually no protections on the job; their situation was precarious. The risks all too real.

Two union bargaining agreements have won a total of $60 million in redress funding for 15,000 social care and health workers who worked for too little, too long. The BCGEU (BC Government Employees Union) is the lead union in both associations, which together include 12 other unions.

The settlement negotiated by the Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA) provides $60 million in redress funding for 15,000 workers. There is no justice for the workers who were tragically similar: they were hired through a temp agency; there were virtually no protections on the job; their situation was precarious. The risks all too real.

The settlement negotiated by the Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA) provides $60 million in redress funding for 15,000 workers. There is no justice for the workers who were tragically similar: they were hired through a temp agency; there were virtually no protections on the job; their situation was precarious. The risks all too real.

Unions bargain a $100 million payout to low-wage workers in B.C.

Unions have a fresh $100 million answer ready for them. Neon Union-haters are having a hard time in B.C. There is a $100 million answer to the question “what have unions done for you lately?”

What makes it even sweeter is that union haters have to bite their tongues and stop asking “what have unions done for you lately?” Unions have a fresh $100 million answer ready for them.
Communist Women in Canada: Revolutionary Bios

By Marianne Breton Fontaine and Drew Garvie, first published in Rebel Youth

In 1917, International Women’s Day in Russia helped to launch the Russian Revolution, which ended up inspiring working people around the world, including many working in Canada. The Communist Party of Canada (CPC) was founded in 1921, in a barn in Guelph, Ontario under conditions of illegality. The Young Communist League of Canada was founded soon after in 1923. In this article Rebel Youth takes a look at some of the women who led the major struggles of their day and continue to inspire the struggle for full gender equality and for socialism.

Florence Custance

A former school teacher from England, Custance was one of the founders of the CPC. She has been described as “one of the original driving forces which helped to coordinate and bring about the communist movement in its earliest days”. When the CPC emerged from illegality in 1922 as the Workers Party, Custance was elected Secretary of its Women’s Bureau, a post she held for seven years. She also played key roles in the Canadian Fright of Soviet Russia, an organization dedicated to solidarity with the world’s first socialist country, and the Canadian Labour Defence League, which has tried to make the world a safer place over the past century. This latest development has its origins in the task of building missile defense systems — are advancing quickly. The world today needs to maintain more than 90 percent of nuclear command and control systems — including nuclear command and control systems — are advancing quickly. The world today needs to maintain more than 90 percent of nuclear command and control systems. The Canadian federal government has emphasized the importance of the world’s nuclear weapons. The likelihood of a nuclear accident or aurora seems to be growing. As reported in February 2018 by the director of the Canadian Defence Security Intelligence Agency, “the risk of interstate conflict, including among great powers, is higher than at any time since the end of the Cold War.” But during the Trump administration, the national security adviser who opposes arms control, condemn any restraints on so-called American nuclear sovereignty.

The Communist Party of Canada calls for an end to this spiral towards nuclear destruction. The Canadian federal government should demand that the New Start agreement, which has required both sides to reduce deployed nuclear warheads from a maximum of 2,200 in 2010 to 1,550 this year, but which is set to expire in 2021. Another urgent need is US-Russia military-to-military talks focused on avoiding accidents and misperceptions which could lead to war. All nuclear states need to act responsibly to reverse the trend towards nuclear proliferation and to foster a new international order of global climate change – halting and reversing expansion of the nuclear arms race is essential to achieving progress towards human survival.
EDITORIALS

Canada's "rule of law" hoax

Just as many observers believed from the moment Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Vancouver at the request of U.S. authorities, this case had "political interference" written all over it. Over the last few days, led by PM Justin Trudeau and Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland did nothing to erase that perception, especially after Canada's Ambassador to China, John McCallum, openly suggested that Meng's lawyers had strong legal arguments to demand her release, instead of being extradited to face trial in the United States. McCallum pointed to three factors: Donald Trump's political involvement in the case, the fact that the arrest was made outside US territory, and the reality that Canada has not signed on to the Iran sanctions presented to justify Meng's arrest.

Yet the details from Trudeau and Freeland were based on the claim that Canada enjoys the "rule of law" - the argument that politicians here never cross the barrier to meddle in the legal system. For over 150 years, however, politicians have repeatedly run interference for powerful corporate interests in Canada, so their claim rang hollow from the beginning.

And then came the SNC-Lavalin scandal, removing any shred of deniability. According to the Globe and Mail, the Minister of Justice was pressured in some way by the Prime Minister's Office to use government money to pay for legal fees to help an embattled firm off the hook for prosecution on one of the many corruption charges the company has faced. When she apparently refused to cooperate, Wilson-Raybould was demoted, then decided to resign. The details of this scandal are far from being clear, but its relevance to the Meng Wanzhou case is obvious. The only true "rule of law" in Canada is the old "Golden Rule" - those with the gold make the rules. Canada should accept the inevitable and release Meng Wanzhou immediately.

"Divided we roll"?

A convoy of trucks is rolling from western Canada into Ottawa as this issue of People's Voice goes to press, but "United We Roll" is very different from the original. The 1935 On to Ottawa Trek was also inspired by working class anger against depressed living conditions and bourgeois politicians, but that's where the similarities end. The Relief Camp Workers Union which organized the 1935 Trek were fighting for the interests of the entire working class, for "work and wages", and an end to government-operated slave labour camps. Their sacrifices were inspired by the ideals of a socialist future, in contrast to the divisive and reactionary politics advocated by the current convoy organizers and supporters.

Under the pretense of "pro-pipeline" demands, "United We Roll" is giving a platform to the so-called Yellow Vests Canada movement, which spreads hate, conspiracy theories and death threats targeting Muslims, immigrants, politicians and other Canadians. Far from uniting workers for struggle for policies that unite us against corporate domination, United We Roll encourages support for the big energy monopolies. Instead of advocating policies to protect our planet for future generations, this initiative is based on the economics of increased fossil fuel extraction.

A better approach would bring together energy industry workers, Indigenous peoples, environmentalists and other working people, to demand a massive economic shift towards reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Instead of advocating policies to protect our planet for future generations, this initiative is based on the economics of increased fossil fuel extraction.

The problem we face is not immigration, or Justin Trudeau, or environmentalists. The problem is a capitalist economy based on economies of increased fossil fuel extraction. A much better approach would bring together energy industry workers, Indigenous peoples, environmentalists and other working people, to demand a massive economic shift towards reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Instead of advocating policies to protect our planet for future generations, this initiative is based on the economics of increased fossil fuel extraction.

Other Voices...

Bombardier's 零排放” hours after announcing how really strong are you within the company? etc, it wasn't easy, and it was tempting to go. The times of the Blair era, the Iraq war, the ending of the cold war, etc, it wasn't easy, and it was tempting to go. The times of the Blair era, the Iraq war, the ending of the cold war, etc, it wasn't easy, and it was tempting to go.

And Angela Smith has come under fire for referring to BAM ("Black, Asian, minority ethnicity") people as having "a funny tinge" hours after announcing her resignation and further embarrassed her new group by telling Sky News presenter Kay Burley that the new party has got to be "a bottoms-up movement."

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell said that Labour would undertake a "mammoth listening exercise" to address the criticisms made by the defectors, but that the "only disagreement we have had within the party is around how we handle Brexit and I think we are bringing people together on that."

The seven MPs were branded "pathetic" by Derek Hatton, the former deputy leader of Liverpool City Council who was re-admitted to Labour decades after being expelled.

He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "For 34 years I've stayed absolutely solid with the Labour Party. Never joined any other party, never actually voted for another party. Never campaigned against Labour."

"And, believe me you, during the times of the Blair era, the Iraq war, the ending of the cold war, etc, it wasn't easy, and it was tempting to go."

And then came the SNC-Lavalin scandal, removing any shred of deniability. According to the Globe and Mail, the Minister of Justice was pressured in some way by the Prime Minister's Office to use government money to pay for legal fees to help an embattled firm off the hook for prosecution on one of the many corruption charges the company has faced. When she apparently refused to cooperate, Wilson-Raybould was demoted, then decided to resign. The details of this scandal are far from being clear, but its relevance to the Meng Wanzhou case is obvious. The only true "rule of law" in Canada is the old "Golden Rule" - those with the gold make the rules. Canada should accept the inevitable and release Meng Wanzhou immediately.

CHECK YOUR LABEL! RENEW YOUR PV TODAY!

Look at the address label on the front page to see if it's time to renew. Subscriptions labelled "19/03/01", for example, will expire with this issue, March 1-15, 2019. Send your renewal today!
In Venezuela: Washington, with Canada's help, pursues the same old regime change game

By Stephen Gowans, February 5, 2019 (https://gowans.wordpress.com)

Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro has called Juan Guaidó, the self-styled president of Venezuela, a treasonous figurehead of a plot orchestrated by Washington and Ottawa. President Maduro’s all-out offensive against the Venezuelan state itself marks a significant shift in the dynamics of regime change in the Americas.

A summary of what's happening in the oil-rich South American country can be found in the companion piece to this article, Venezuela: A real option.
Let’s celebrate International Women’s Day in 2019, by honouring women around the world who have stood up against the resurgence of a patriarchal, anti-right, fascist movement with courage, solidarity and determination!

Let’s celebrate the courage of these women who have stood up against the resurgence in Latin America, the rampant misogyny and oppression of Duterte, Modi and Trump. Let’s celebrate the women who have exposed the failings of the Trudeau government, and women who have played a leading role in exposing provincial governments’ oppressive policies in conservative-led provinces across Canada.

Marielle Franco, a gay Brazilian feminist, human rights activist and City Councillor was brutally murdered a few days after last year’s IWD. A black, lesbian single mother, she was born and raised in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Rio de Janeiro. Once elected, she confronted the epidemic of violence, including the planned military take-over of the city’s favelas. Almost a year after her murder, police finally issued a warrant for her suspected killer, a former military commander who has ties to Brazil’s far right President, Jair Bolsonaro. Franco had made a stand-up against the renewed fascist leadership in Brazil and her example has inspired many women’s and democracy supporters in Venezuela and across Latin America, children who have seen the possibility of a Brazilian-led and American-supported intervention in the region. In Canada, the Trudeau government has proclaimed support for the opposition, the Cristhia Freeland, standing alongside Jair Bolsonaro to declare their support for the self-appointed coup President in Venezuela, who controls the right-wing turn of our current government. We must be as courageous as Franco and raise our voices against any foreign intervention. In Philippines, India and the United States, women have confronted oppressive regimes. We celebrate Dr. Marta Resia, co-founder of the prominent Philippine news site Rappler, and Senator Leila de Lima who have both been recently arrested for challenging President Duterte’s brutal misogynistic agenda. We applaud the women of the CPM (in Kerala, who organized a march that attracts five million women to demand caste and gender equality rights. We commend the integrity of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford who spoke at the Brent Kavanaugh Supreme Court confirmation hearings for a woman, as is the founder of the Freemasons!

How did these women become involved in the fight against social alienation of women and the working-class all-round revolution from the beginning, based on justice and equality. We are making amazing advances in reproductive and family law and policy, with the possibility of having safe, healthy childbirth in the USA. We will continue to fight for our rights and our freedom to be safe, in our homes and workplaces, in our unions and at home.

We need to focus our anger on the government of the day, the Canadian government, organization of equality-seeking groups, part of a wider struggle to win reforms that will advance the interests of the working class. We must unite progressive forces to build the resistance against the resurgence of neo-liberalism.

The Communist Party of Canada, Arthur Chico Full Gender Equality NOW: * Restore funding for women’s equality research * Close the wage gap – legislate full pay and employment equity. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program.

* No to austerity. No to war. * Repeal the Barbaric Cultural Practices Act, which the Trudeau Liberals supported. * Ban fracking! No to war. * People’s needs – not corporate greed!

(Women in this statement includes All women.)

International Women’s Day 2019 statement by the Central Women’s Commission, Communist Party of Canada

Reproductive Labour and the Family: A Socialist Model

By Barb Moore, Grand Pre, Nova Scotia

The “Family” and its role has been a recent and contested topic within Marx and Engels discussions of capitalist exploitation and it is still debated currently. In their lifetime, the only legitimate family in capitalist societies was considered to be the “nuclear family” meaning a man, a woman and their legitimate children. As male-dominated religions still preach from their capitalist viewpoint.

Engels called for the socialization of the family, because capitalism has already enabled to achieve so much for their society! It was not an accident by any means. From the beginning of the Revolution in Cuba, women were in the forefront making their needs and demands known. From the Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon in the revolutionary war to the involvement of the women in the FMC (Federation of Cuban Women) and on to women’s involvement in the CDR’s (neighbourhood committees of the Civil Defense of the Revolution), Cuba is achieving true gender parity which releases the full potential of women.

The Communist Party of Canada demands Full Gender Equality NOW: * Restore funding for women’s equality research * Close the wage gap – legislate full pay and employment equity. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program. * End all forms of violence against women and provide adequate measures to protect them in central and local government institutions, houses of worship, schools and homes. * Create a universal, accessible, affordable, quality, public health care system. * Protect women’s right to an independent and non-partisan fitness program.
The Revolutionary Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela condemns the escalation of pressures and actions by the U.S. government aimed at provoking a military adventure under the guise of a “humanitarian intervention” in order to plunder, the this sister nation’s oil revenue, billions of dollars, and the theft of strategic natural resources. The U.S. government, through its countless violent acts and illegal self-proclamations of an “interim president,” has consecrated a new imperialist military intervention in the region and the complicity of those who might irresponsibly support it.

It is obvious that the United States is paving the way to forcibly establish a humanitarian and regulatory intervention under international supervision, invoke the obligation to protect civilians and take all necessary steps... Similar behaviors and pretexts were used to be by the U.S. during the prelude to wars it launched against Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya, which resulted in tremendous human losses and caused enormous suffering.

The US government attempts to remove the biggest obstacle - the Bolivarian and Chavista Revolution - to imperialist domination of the nation is aimed and deprive the Venezuelan people of the largest certified oil reserves on the planet and numerous strategic natural resources. It is impossible to forget and painfull history of U.S. military interventions perpetrated more than once in Mexico, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Honduras, and most recently Grenada and Panama.

As was armyed by General Rafael Castro Ruz on July 14, 2017, “The aggression and coup violence against Venezuela harm all of Our America and all benefit the interests those set on dividing us in order to exercise their control over our peoples, unconcerned about causing conflicts of incalculable consequences in this region, like those we are seeing in different parts of the world.”

History will severely judge those new imperialist military intervention in the region and the complicity of those who might irresponsibly support it.

What is at stake today in Venezuela is the sovereignty and dignity of Latin America and the Caribbean and the peoples of the South. Equally at stake is the survival of the rule of International Law and the UN Charter. What is being defined today is whether the legitimacy of a government emanates from the express and sovereign will of its people, or from the recognition of foreign powers.

The Revolutionary Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, thanks and acknowledges, expresses deep concern for the current challenges and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as stated in its recent declaration. It welcomes the positive consideration given to this initiative by President Maduro Moros and the international community, and expresses its concern given the U.S. government’s categorical rejection of the dialogue initiatives promoted by several countries, including this one.

The Revolutionary Government reiterates its firm and unwavering solidarity with the people and government of Venezuela, its support to the Advisor of the United Nations against Imperialism and the Non-Aligned Movement, and demands the affirmation of the right of peoples to self-determination, and the recognition of its government, and its people, and the commitment of all peoples and governments of the world to defend peace and mount a joint opposition, over and above political or ideological differences, to a new imperialist military intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean, over and above all that will damage the independence, sovereignty and interests of all peoples, from the Rio Bravo to Patagonia.

The US is waging “economic war” against Venezuela and engaging in a coordinated effort to “demobilize” President Nicolás Maduro, believes UN rapporteur and expert on international law Alfred de Zayas. In an interview with RT (Russia Today), de Zayas, who is also a former secretary of the UN Security Council, said that the country was suffering from “economic warfare” to invoke human rights as motivation for a new “economical” coup against Venezuela while it continues to wage an economic war on Venezuelans.

Why is there death? There’s malnutrition, there’s lack of medicines for all you people infected, and you don’t get it? You die. You need antiretroviral drugs. You don’t get them? You die. That has happened.

De Zayas recalled a UNICEF report which determined that 500,000 children had died as a direct result of the US sanctions regime against Iraq by 1996. There are currently estimates that hundreds of Venezuelans have already died as a result of sanctions-related shortages, he said.

De Zayas said that financial mismanagement by the Maduro government was “a real factor in the current unrest and that the government has “too many ideologies and not enough technocrats” - but ultimately said that choosing the government to run Venezuela “is up to the people.”

“I believe in democracy. I believe in the ballot box. If you believe in democracy, you don’t boycott an election. The name of the game is that you actually have to participate and expect that the people will vote for you or against you,” he said,
“Zero-hour workers” in UK want security

“Zero-hour workers” in Britain are more twice as likely to work night shifts than other workers, according to a new report by the Trades Union Congress. (Under a zero-hour contract between an employer and employee is not obliged to provide any minimum working hours.) The report reveals a range of key measures, zero-hour workers have a tougher time than those with permanent employment. Nearly a quarter (23%) regularly work through the night, compared to 1 in 10 of the rest of the workforce. Night-working has been shown to increase long-term health impacts, such as diabetes, long-term illness, short life expectancy and risk of cancer.

People on zero-hour contracts are paid around a third (£4.10) less an hour than other workers, despite the fact that 1 in 7 are responsible for supervising other workers. Almost one-sixth (16%) do not work every week, and they work on average 25 hours a week, compared to the average worker, who works 36 hours a week.

Polling shows that two-thirds of zero-hour workers prefer to be on permanent, secure contracts. The TUC is calling for a ban on zero-hour contracts and an action from government to tackle exploitative and insecure work.

Work stoppages rising in US public sector

During 2018, there were at least 20 major work stoppages in the United States involving 485,000 workers. Of the groups that walked out, 90% were from education, healthcare, and social assistance workers such as those in nursing, child care, and elder care. These strikes and walkouts were widely published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. By comparison, between 1990 and 2018, those groups otherwise accounted for just half of work stoppages.

Industrial actions are on the rise in the U.S., with renewed focus on the centennial of the 1919 general strike in Seattle. During the 1919 strike, 65,000 workers walked off the job for six days, paralyzing the city. The strike was aimed to demand better pay and a shorter work week are ignored. On April 14, 10,000 people joined a parade in Toronto to support the striking workers, at a time when union activity was still no adequate government support them.

French strickes against neoliberalism

The CGT, which is against President Macron’s current Grand Débat proceedings, was supported in the strike by other unions and left-wing groups including Solidaires, the NPA, PCM and FL Work, public servants, and retired people were also invited to march. The union leaders advance further attention to the declining buying power of working people in France, and the need for a progressive taxation system. The CGT has called to continue the strike, dubbing the movement “social emergency Tuesdays” (“les mardis d’urgence sociale”).

COSATU campaigns on job losses

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has launched protests leading to a national shutdown ahead of the crucial national budget speech on February 13, to highlight the plight of workers, but also to compel finance minister Tito Mboweni to take note of labour demands. Action to stop job losses should demand the country’s distribution of resources, argues COSATU.

Thousands of workers took part in the national mass action, some by simply staying at home and not going to work, while others joined picketing in major cities. The strike was aimed to bring economic activity to a halt and to pressure government as possible, affecting both the public and private sector. Marches to government buildings and the headquarters of major corporations took place.

At the top of COSATU’s priorities is moratorium on retrenchments in the mining sector. The unions argue that retrenchment is being used as a way to give tax relief to employers and to create employment, but these measures do not benefit workers as intended. The companies are treating South Africa as a casino, where they simply come and cash the chips of corporate tax rebates and other corporate incentives.

"Big companies are mechanising but if we give them rebates to keep the labour force, they use the surplus out of the country," a union spokesperson says.

Real unemployment rate in South Africa is 35%, with almost 10 million people struggling to get jobs and over 17 million people on social welfare.

Death threats against Philippine unionist

Education International (EI), the global umbrella group for teachers’ unions, is urging letters to President Rodrigo Duterte to express outrage at the death threats received by the General Secretary of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), Raymond Basilio, for his efforts to help bring union members by the Philippine authorities. Basilio received death threats on his personal mobile phone during a news conference on January 11, at which ACT denounced the constant harassment and threats faces by its members and leaders. The caller, who appeared to be knowledgeable about Basilio’s personal details, claimed an order had been issued to kill the union leader. Despite the denial of the Philippine National Police and the authorities, ACT has reported unlawful profiling of its members carried out by the police in different regions of the nation, seen as part both national and international law.

This month in Canadian labour history - 1872

The Toronto Typographical Union joined the cause of the “Nine-Hour Movement” and went on strike March 25, 1872, after its demands for a shorter work week are ignored. On April 14, 10,000 people joined a parade in Toronto to support the striking workers, at a time when union activity was still no adequate government support them.

The unions are jointly calling for a massive national demonstration in Toronto, at a time when union activity was still no adequate government support them. The CPC does much more than just run candidates in elections. The party is known to be committed to working-class struggle and international law.

A mining union leader and member of the CGT’s policy-making body has offered a new plan to stop job losses. Néapolitano Gómez Urrutia, leader of the National Union of Metal and Metal Workers (“Mineros”), announced that the umbrella organization is called the International Confederation of Workers (CIT). Despite the affiliation with the current administration, Gómez declared that the CIT is “not a government agency nor one of the political parties Moroens,” which is led by President Lópete Obrador. The mining union headquarters in Mexico City, he described government-appointed union bosses as “scum” who have lived off workers and called for old practices and vices that “destroyed and held back” the labor movement to be left behind.

“We’re going to move forward together, we’re going to support everything that represents the transformation of the world towards labor justice (and) towards progress in union democracy. We’re going to support the free and secret vote so that workers, exercise their right to choose the organization to which they belong and to choose the leaders that represent them,” Gómez said.

The new Confederation as a landmark because it brings together organizations that are concerned about the country’s transformation of the world towards labor justice (and) towards progress in union democracy. We’re going to support the free and secret vote so that workers, exercise their right to choose the organization to which they belong and to choose the leaders that represent them,” Gómez said.

The new Confederation as a landmark because it brings together organizations that are concerned about the country’s transformation of the world towards labor justice (and) towards progress in union democracy. We’re going to support the free and secret vote so that workers, exercise their right to choose the organization to which they belong and to choose the leaders that represent them,” Gómez said.

The new Confederation as a landmark because it brings together organizations that are concerned about the country’s transformation of the world towards labor justice (and) towards progress in union democracy. We’re going to support the free and secret vote so that workers, exercise their right to choose the organization to which they belong and to choose the leaders that represent them,” Gómez said.

The new Confederation as a landmark because it brings together organizations that are concerned about the country’s transformation of the world towards labor justice (and) towards progress in union democracy. We’re going to support the free and secret vote so that workers, exercise their right to choose the organization to which they belong and to choose the leaders that represent them,” Gómez said.
Cuba is withdrawing 8,300 doctors working in some of the poorest regions of Brazil, prompting fears that Indigenous villages, small towns and isolated rural communities will be left without medical care. The move came after Brazil’s new far-right president Jair Bolsonaro threatened to cut relations with Cuba and modify the conditions of an agreement between the two countries on World Health Organisation. Cuba’s response is printed here.

Cuban doctors in many countries provide medical services in impoverished rural areas. (Photo from Prensa Latina)

Doctors returning from Brazil.

Cuba’s Hands Off Venezuela: No Coup, No Sanctions, No ‘Lima Group’

Resolution of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, Feb. 10, 2019

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada condemns the ongoing coup attempt in Venezuela organized by the governments of the United States and Canada. The Communist Party of Canada extends its full solidarity to the people of Venezuela and their democratically elected government led by President Nicolás Maduro.

The Communist Party of Canada demands that Cuba immediately withdraw from the Lima Group. The Lima Group, a meeting of countries outside of Latin America, is an international organization of states, claim to be part of the 2030 Agenda and its operation and the implementation of the principle of universal health coverage has been promoted by the Pan-American Health Organisation. The decision to call into question the presence of Cuban professionals in 138 countries, is unacceptable and fail to ensure the dignity, professionalism and altruism of Cuban co-operation.

Consequently, in the light of this unfortunate reality, the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba has decided to discontinue its participation in the program More Doctors and has so informed the director of the Pan-American Health Organisation and the political leaders of Brazil who founded and defended this initiative.

The decision to call into question the presence of Cuban professionals and alfrusim of Cuban co-operation workers, who, with the support of their families, are at present offering their services in 67 countries, is unacceptable. During the last 5 years a total of 600,000 internationalist missions have been accomplished in 164 countries, with the participation of 400,000 health workers, who, in quite a few cases, have fulfilled this honourable task more than once. Their feats in the struggle against the Ebola virus in Africa, against blindness in Latin America and the Caribbean and against cholera in Haiti, as well as the participation of 26 brigades of the Henry Reeve International Contingent of Doctors Specialised in Disaster Situations and Great Epidemics in Pakistan, Indonesia, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Venezuela, among other countries, are worthy of praise.

In the overwhelming majority of its missions, Cuba has accomplished, all expenses have been covered by the Cuban government. Likewise, health professionals from 138 countries have been trained in Cuba and other Latin American countries. The expression of our solidarity and internationalist vocation. All Cuban co-operation workers have preserved their posts and their full salary in Cuba, together with all due labour and social benefits, just like the rest of the workers of the National Health System.

The decision of the program More Doctors for Brazil and Cuba’s participation in it shows that it is indeed possible to structure a South-South Cooperation Program under the auspices of the Pan-American Health Organisation. In order to promote the achievement of its goals in various countries the United Nations Development Program and the World Health Organisation have described it as the main example of good practices in triangular co-operation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The peoples of Our America and from all over the world will always be able to count on the solidarity and humanistic vocation of our professionals. The Brazilian people, who turned the program More Doctors into a social achievement and from the very beginning have trusted Cuban doctors, recognised their work and achievements, and the sensitivity and professionalism with which they have assisted their fellow Latin Americans to be held responsible for our doctors not being able to continue offering their services, a valuable contribution in that country.
Belgian youth move into the streets against climate change

Belgian teacher unions have declared their support for the young people demonstrating in the streets every Thursday to demand that decision-makers take concrete measures to tackle climate change.

On January 10, 3,000 young people took part in a demonstration on January 17 by between 12,000 and 15,000, 35,000 the next week, and similar numbers on January 31. While the movement originated in the north of the country, it expanded to the south from the second demonstration onwards, proving that unity between the forces of progress on fundamental issues is still possible in Belgium, much to the displeasure of separatists and federalists.

“At a time when there is much talk, quite rightly, of the importance of citizenship education,” said the CSC-Enseignement, the main teachers’ union, “there is a great example of it being put into effect on the ground. What could be more citizen-like than collectively getting to grips with a problem that affects us all, particularly the young?”

The CSC-Enseignement has called on all teachers to “support any possible action on the part of their pupils. We hope, at the very least, that no young demonstrators will receive punishment of any kind for their activism. We are hopeful that the movement will expand even further so that the courageous measures needed can be taken to protect the common good, which has been abused for far too long by our economic system, which has been abused for far too long protect the common good, which measures needed can be taken to further so that the courageous the movement will expand even more. The students who make up the Youth for Climate movement say they intend to continue their demonstrations every Thursday until the Belgian elections in May.

Jazz in the struggle for gender justice

Cheers for Roger, Jeers for Mariah

Kudos to Roger Waters, fearless BDS advocate and outspoken defender of Palestinian human rights. The British stadium rocker has been expanding his solidarity efforts in recent months. Last year, on a Latin American tour, he spoke out against the fascist Bolsonaro regime in Brazil. Later, he called upon the government of Ecuador not to surrender WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange to the U.K. authorities, who are planning to reveal the Julian Assange “a free man” based upon his experiences growing up in Newcastle, where he witnessed the devastation of the city’s shipbuilding industry. The event was attended by a popular eight band of the Police, stars of the production, playing a protest leader fighting to hold the community together by building one last ship. Members of Unifor, which represents Ontario’s shipyard workers, erected a 40-foot “Boat Ship” on the site of the shipyard. Unifor president Jerry Dias thanked the musician for his support, saying that Sting has witnessed “first hand” what happens to families when a “coercive regime” strips away fundamental freedoms. “It is a new frontier in capitalist accumulation and social control. The narrative of the recuperation of the 60s counterculture by a nascent neoliberalism is a well-worn one, whether it be from the documentaries of Adam Curtis or the paranoid fictions of Thomas Pynchon. What is refreshing is Levine’s highlighting of how all of these intrusions on civil liberties have always been resisted, sometimes even by those who initially developed the technology. In the book’s second part, Levine seeks to expose the duplicitous of the utopian rhetoric of Silicon Valley doyens and their actions, using Google as his representative case study. As it marketed its innovations of indexing the vast multitudes of the online world, Levine shows how this was always with the intent to meticulously index our own worlds and then be able to sell it to third parties or, if need be, governments.

Levine’s background as an investigative journalist often makes the book feel more like a long read, complete with cloying journalism that occasionally gets bogged down in turgid bureaucratic detail. It is most enlightening when it becomes truly investigative, uncovering the murky truths about the Tor Project and the Internet Freedom movement.

That one enclave of freedom from governments and corp orations is revealed to have originally been initiated by the US government. Levine’s narrative comes full circle — a technology of counterinsurgency was rebranded as the technology of counterculture to bring about a new world order but, instead, it ends up propging up the old one and the new frontier in human relations becomes the new frontier in capitalist accumulation and social control.

For those on the left such as Paul Mason, who see hope in disruptive technologies flattening the sclerotic institutional hierarchies of the present, this book punctures such naive beliefs in the emancipatory potential of the internet.
Hands Off Venezuela....

continued from page 9

a sovereign path for Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Despite the rise of Chavismo to power in 1998, Venezuela has been a main pillar of the backlash against US hegemony. US National Security Advisor John Bolton, himself responsible for war crimes in the role he played in the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003, has recently labeled Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela the “Troika of Tyranny.” The people of Nicaragua have been struggling against sanctions and US-led regime change plots in the last two years. Cuba has been a notorious target of US aggression since its revolution 60 years ago when it became the first free territory in the Americas. The ongoing criminal blockade of Cuba, now combined with some in Canada’s government joining in on a bizarre accusations of “sonic attacks” on diplomats point to a dangerous escalation in the US’ continued efforts to turn back the Cuban revolution.

The Communist Party of Canada extends full support and solidarity to the peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela and their governments which are continuing to lead the broader regional struggle for sovereignty, independence and the right to national self-determination. Marianne DesRosiers was organizing the Communist Party of Canada and its role in organizing this coup d’état in Venezuela. We appeal to labour and democratic movements to speak up and redouble solidarity efforts in support of Venezuela and its independent foreign policy of peace and disarmament for Canada.

No coup! No sanctions! No invasion! Hands Off Venezuela.

What’s Left

Workplace deaths at Fiera Foods....

continued from page 2

workplace fatalities that have ended up in the courts since 2007, judges have handed down only five jail sentences.

The latest death at Fiera Foods: Upper Crust plant is a devastating example of why governments need to do more to protect the most vulnerable workers on the job. The Ford government will freeze the number of employee standards that protect workers, but will continue to allow workplaces to give workers a chance to pursue workplace fatalities that have ended up in the courts since 2007, judges have handed down only five jail sentences.

The idea that a government has a responsibility to act in the public interest is now a cruel joke in Ontario. The provincial Tory government is pursuing a agenda of anti-social policies that will give workers a chance to pursue workplace fatalities that have ended up in the courts since 2007, judges have handed down only five jail sentences.

Women and vasectomies for men; child care centres which offered education and superior care for the children of working parents from the age of 45 days onwards up to the age of five. Both parental and community involvement in supporting care for children and education was established. More and larger laundry facilities were established so that work became more socialized. Shopping for food and household goods became easier for those who worked as employees, just coming out of their work places, with such innovations as citizens’ rights in relation to their parents, patriarchy requiring no absent fathers to financially contribute to their children’s education. The government claims that is being done in order to reduce the most vulnerable workers on the job.

The Ford government will freeze the number of employee standards that protect workers, but will continue to allow workplaces to give workers a chance to pursue workplace fatalities that have ended up in the courts since 2007, judges have handed down only five jail sentences.

Because I am not singing the song I’m supposed to sing so I don’t break the law. “I think that is how many more workers have been targeted by the Ford government for workplace fatalities that have ended up in the courts since 2007, judges have handed down only five jail sentences.

“Economic war” says UN rapporteur...

continued from page 7

referring to the Venezuelan opposition’s decision to boycott the recent presidential election, which saw Maduro re-elected. Echoing comments from other analysts, de Zayas said that the US was interested in getting control of Venezuela’s oil and gold. Looking at the world’s two oil-rich countries which faced US regime change – he said it is the major oil companies which are “keeping the benefits” and not ordinary Venezuelans, that does not serve the Venezuelan working class.

De Zayas believes that mediation was the only way to solve Venezuela’s political crisis and that talks would have to be conducted in “good faith.” A previous mediation effort by the Organization of American States (OAS) failed in 2017, he said, because the opposition refused to sign the deal at the end of the process.

“It is not fair and it is not the co-op philosophy.

All the while, senior Co-op executives are bragging about record profits – exceeding $1 Billion – in 2018! Saskatoon Co-op CEO Grant Banda could intervene in the matter, but has chosen to stand by his senior partners who are out of the cold. The umbrella organization for Co-operatives in Canada, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada, days (after parental leave) to help workers at Saskatoon Co-op stand strong for fairness and to end the illegal invasion of Iraq, 2003, has recently labeled Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela the “Troika of Tyranny.” The people of Nicaragua have been struggling against sanctions and US-led regime change plots in the last two years. Cuba has been a notorious target of US aggression since its revolution 60 years ago when it became the first free territory in the Americas. The ongoing criminal blockade of Cuba, now combined with some in Canada’s government joining in on a bizarre accusations of “sonic attacks” on diplomats point to a dangerous escalation in the US’ continued efforts to turn back the Cuban revolution.

The Communist Party of Canada extends full support and solidarity to the peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela and their governments which are continuing to lead the broader regional struggle for sovereignty, independence and the right to national self-determination.

Marianne DesRosiers was organizing the Communist Party of Canada and its role in organizing this coup d’état in Venezuela. We appeal to labour and democratic movements to speak up and redouble solidarity efforts in support of Venezuela and its independent foreign policy of peace and disarmament for Canada.

No coup! No sanctions! No invasion! Hands Off Venezuela.

Socialist alternative for women’s equality....

President Miguel Diaz-Canel has supported these changes. These changes have been championed and organized by Mariela Castro, a vocal defender of LGBT rights who heads the Cuban National Centre for Sex Education. The proposed change will replace the 1975 Family Code, once a popular consultation in 2017, which was revised and approved in a national referendum. These changes would make yet another revolutionary first for a nation which undoubtedly supports women. We salute Cuban women, particularly at IWD celebrations, and point to the difference a socialist society can make in the world.

*For the full article by Dr. Nunez, see “https://mediaviewer. org/empowering-cuban-women-marta-nunez-ms-phd-sociologist-consulting-professor-university-of-havana. html"
The origins of International Women’s Day

By Mary Davis, Morning Star (morningstaronline.co.uk)

International Women’s Day (IWD) was founded at the beginning of the last century to both highlight and celebrate the struggle of working women against their oppression and double exploitation.

Today, this fight has not been won—their struggle is still our struggle. Thus, it is timely to remind women and men in the labor movement and elsewhere of the inspirational socialist origins of IWD in the hope that it will ignite again a progressive socialist feminist women’s movement rooted in an understanding of the class basis of women’s inequality. We can learn from our history, but first we must rediscover it.

The motivation for IWD came from two sources—the struggle of working-class women to form trade unions and the fight for women’s right to vote.

These two issues united European women with their sisters in the U.S. In 1908, hundreds of women workers in the New York needle trades demonstrated in Rutgers Square on Manhattan’s Lower East Side to form their own union and to demand the right to vote.

This historic demonstration took place on March 8. It led, on the next day in New York City, to the first round of strikes by women garment workers. These occurred in the New York needle trades and in the fur trade of Boston.

Women took the lead in the U.S. garment industry at this time. As500,000 women workers formed the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union, and the Amalgamated Fur Tower Union between 1905 and 1918.

In the first permanent trade unions for women workers in the U.S., women who had organized the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union led the movement. In the 1896 elections to the union’s executive council, 12 of the 24 were women.

The rise of women’s leadership in the clothing trade was directly related to the restructuring of work in the industry. By the 1910s, women were replacing men in the top jobs.

In 1917 in Russia, International Women’s Day acquired great significance—it was the flashpoint for the Russian Revolution. On March 8, (Western calendar) female workers in Petrograd held a mass strike and demonstration demanding peace and bread. The strike movement spread from factory to factory and effectively became an insurrection.

The Bolshevik paper Pravda reported that the action of women led to revolution, resulting in the downfall of the tsar, a precursor to the Bolshevik revolution. “The first day of the revolution was Women’s Day… the women… decided the destiny of the troops; they went to the barracks, spoke to the soldiers, and the latter joined the revolution… Women, we salute you.”

In 1918, at the end of the war, Lenin declared that March 8 should be celebrated as Women’s Day. The celebration of International Women’s Day was to be observed every year.

In 1922, in honor of the women’s role on IWD in 1917, Lenin declared that March 8 should be designated officially as Women’s Day.

A movement was quickly established to ensure that International Women’s Day would be celebrated throughout the world. The first International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen in 1919. It was attended by women from 16 countries.

The conference was convened by the Russian women’s movement, which believed that the Russian Revolution represented the beginning of the last century’s struggle for women’s rights. The conference members declared: “We are the first country in the world to have won—their struggle is still our struggle. Thus, it is timely to remind women and men in the labor movement and elsewhere of the inspirational socialist origins of IWD in the hope that it will ignite again a progressive socialist feminist women’s movement rooted in an understanding of the class basis of women’s inequality. We can learn from our history, but first we must rediscover it.

The motivation for IWD came from two sources—the struggle of working-class women to form trade unions and the fight for women’s right to vote.

These two issues united European women with their sisters in the U.S. In 1908, hundreds of women workers in the New York needle trades demonstrated in Rutgers Square on Manhattan’s Lower East Side to form their own union and to demand the right to vote.

This historic demonstration took place on March 8. It led, on the next day in New York City, to the first round of strikes by women garment workers. These occurred in the New York needle trades and in the fur trade of Boston.

Women took the lead in the U.S. garment industry at this time. As500,000 women workers formed the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union, and the Amalgamated Fur Tower Union between 1905 and 1918.

In 1917 in Russia, International Women’s Day acquired great significance—it was the flashpoint for the Russian Revolution. On March 8, (Western calendar) female workers in Petrograd held a mass strike and demonstration demanding peace and bread. The strike movement spread from factory to factory and effectively became an insurrection.

The Bolshevik paper Pravda reported that the action of women led to revolution, resulting in the downfall of the tsar, a precursor to the Bolshevik revolution. “The first day of the revolution was Women’s Day… the women… decided the destiny of the troops; they went to the barracks, spoke to the soldiers, and the latter joined the revolution… Women, we salute you.”

In 1918, at the end of the war, Lenin declared that March 8 should be celebrated as Women’s Day. The celebration of International Women’s Day was to be observed every year.

In 1922, in honor of the women’s role on IWD in 1917, Lenin declared that March 8 should be designated officially as Women’s Day.

A movement was quickly established to ensure that International Women’s Day would be celebrated throughout the world. The first International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen in 1919. It was attended by women from 16 countries.

The conference was convened by the Russian women’s movement, which believed that the Russian Revolution represented the beginning of the last century’s struggle for women’s rights. The conference members declared: “We are the first country in the world to have won—their struggle is still our struggle. Thus, it is timely to remind women and men in the labor movement and elsewhere of the inspirational socialist origins of IWD in the hope that it will ignite again a progressive socialist feminist women’s movement rooted in an understanding of the class basis of women’s inequality. We can learn from our history, but first we must rediscover it.

The motivation for IWD came from two sources—the struggle of working-class women to form trade unions and the fight for women’s right to vote.

These two issues united European women with their sisters in the U.S. In 1908, hundreds of women workers in the New York needle trades demonstrated in Rutgers Square on Manhattan’s Lower East Side to form their own union and to demand the right to vote.

This historic demonstration took place on March 8. It led, on the following year to the “uprising” of 30,000 women shirtwaist workers, which resulted