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IMMIGRANTS IN



RACISTS OUT!

The racism of the Trump administration has reached a new level. It's nothing new to hear him demonizing entire sections of the population based on race or religion but the crackdown on the southern border is especially barbaric.

Although he has said that he will stop separating families when they try to gain refuge in the US, arresting and detaining people without following any due process has remained the norm. And many of the families that have been arrested have not been reunited and may never be.

All this is happening while the supreme court in the US decided to support his ban on immigration from seven predominantly Muslim nations. This should be a lesson to us all. The institutions of bourgeois democracy

will not save us from the ruling of a tyrant. Indeed, they have always been political entities which have the best interests of the rich and powerful at heart.

Immigration detention in Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is basking in the glow of not being Trump. He tweeted that Canada would open the borders to people who are no longer allowed in the US. The tweet could be seen as a step in the right direction but it belies the real actions of the Canadian government when it comes to immigration.

We have not heard from the Prime Minister about revoking the Safe Third Country agreement which stops people fleeing from the US being able to apply for refuge here. We have

not heard from Trudeau about what he plans to do about the thousands of asylum seekers languishing in Canadian jails.

Just ask Ebrahim Toure, an immigrant who has been in jail for five years despite repeated judges rulings that he is no danger to himself or others. The Trudeau government and the Canadian Border Services Agency are in court spending millions to deny his freedom.

Scrap Safe Third Country agreement

If Trudeau really cared about people who seek refuge in Canada, he would end immigration detention altogether, open the borders and scrap the Safe Third Country agreement.

The election of Doug Ford and former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent

attempt to insert himself into a key role in Canada/US relations should give us pause. Conservatives in Canada are watching what is happening in the US and licking their lips at the prospect of a Trump-style government here. Ford has already said he will re-institute racist policies such as the TAVIS task force in Ontario. At the heart of these policies is a divide and conquer tactic that keeps working people fighting each other so no one notices that we are all being attacked by the wealthy.

We can't let it happen.

We need to take a page from the fantastic mobilizations across the US against Trump's racism and build a movement here that can push our government to open the borders and push the racists back into the sewers they came from.

Mass mobilization can stop Trudeau’s pipeline

by **Bradley Hughes**

Due to relentless opposition from Indigenous nations, climate activists and a number of ongoing court cases, the anti-Kinder Morgan campaign won a crucial victory in April. The company announced it was suspending construction, unless it could get a guarantee that the pipeline would be built.

Prime Minister Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau swooped in to buy the existing pipeline and take over the construction of the expansion. They are prepared to spend over \$12 billion dollars to expand bitumen extraction in the Tar Sands, fuelling further climate chaos.

If the pipeline expansion is built, it will triple the amount of oil flowing through the pipeline and the number of oil tankers in the Burrard inlet will increase from three a month to 34 every month.

In addition to the destruction caused when a spill happens, the increased tanker traffic itself will likely drive the resident killer whales in the inlet to extinction.

The dedication of the Indigenous-lead climate movement has won a victory in forcing Kinder Morgan to abandon their project. We can win the same victory over Trudeau’s government.

Peace and pipelines

In the early 2000s a mass movement forced the Liberal government and then-Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to abandon their plans to join the war in Iraq. It’s worth looking at this history to see how we might replicate this success.

Chrétien’s Liberals were an enthusiastic pro-war party throughout the 1990s, just as the Trudeau Liberals back tar sands expansion today. In



Blockade at the Burnaby pipeline terminal June 30th Photo: Coast Protectors

the 90s the Liberals backed sanctions against Iraq that killed over a million Iraqis. In 1999, they sent Canadian warplanes on over 3000 bombing sorties in the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. NATO planes bombed civilian targets, including a passenger train and a convoy of refugees.

The Liberal enthusiasm for war continued during the lead up to the invasion of Iraq. However, as the anti-war movement grew the Liberals began to waiver. The movement built mass rallies that welcomed everyone who opposed the war. This persuaded people to oppose the war despite some calls to support it if it was approved by the UN and despite the pro-war mainstream media.

A key moment was February 15, 2003, when anti-war rallies around the world brought millions into the streets.

Over 250,000 marched in Montreal and tens of thousands joined rallies in other cities across Canada. It was after this that Jean Chrétien started to

back down and announced that Canada would only join the war if it was authorized by the UN.

The rallies inspired teach-ins and moved people to call, email, and visit their MPs to make their opposition to the war known.

Splits in the Liberals

All of this pressure lead to splits in the Liberals. Backbench Liberal MP Carolyn Parrish (Mississauga-Erin-dale, 1993-2006) announced at an anti-war rally that “50 MPs will cross the floor” if the government decides to back the war.

In March 2003, 250,000 people again marched in Montreal against the war. At the same time, a provincial election in Quebec saw all party leaders oppose the war. An election win for the provincial Liberals would be threatened if the federal Liberals took us to war.

All of this lead to victory for the anti-war movement. Prime Minister Chrétien backed down and announced

a few days before the invasion started that Canada would not join the war.

There is no reason to think that the campaign to stop Trudeau’s pipeline will be a copy of the successful anti-war movement, but the anti-pipeline campaign already has many of the strengths that beat back the Liberals 15 years ago.

The anti-pipeline campaign is centred around a clear demand that allows large numbers to join the movement: stop the pipeline.

Within that movement groups can win people over to an understanding of Canada’s colonial oppression of Indigenous people, and to an understanding of the need to defeat capitalism in order to minimize climate chaos. But no one is required to have an understanding of these larger issues before joining the demonstrations.

The anti-pipeline movement is organizing across the country. Days after Trudeau announced the bail out of Kinder Morgan, pickets were orga-

nized at over 100 MP offices.

Also, like the anti-war movement, this movement is relying on mass demonstrations in the streets. This shows the government the size of the opposition.

More importantly, mass demonstrations gives people the confidence to continue organizing and to argue with their families and friends about the need to stop the pipeline.

This movement is also building across the country, even if it is largest in BC where the pipeline will be built. Also this movement is strong enough to pull some elected politicians in its wake. The federal and BC NDP have spoken out against the pipeline. The politicians aren’t important for themselves, but their support makes it easier for the movement to attract even more people.

Indigenous leadership

The leadership by the Indigenous Nations whose lands and waters are threatened by the pipeline is an immense source of strength for the movement. It is also building support for Indigenous rights to their land and exposing the hypocrisy of provincial and federal politicians who claim to support Indigenous rights, but always side with private profits.

Unlike the anti-war movement, this time we also have mass civil disobedience with 200 people having been arrested for blocking Kinder Morgan already.

We must build the movement against Trudeau’s pipeline across what is currently called Canada. If we can build on these strengths, support for Indigenous leadership of the movement, a broadly built movement across the country that anyone can join, with mass rallies and building up to mass civil disobedience involving thousands, we can beat back the Liberals and stop this pipeline.

Nationalism fuels rise of Golden Dawn

Nick Clark spoke to activists in Greece about taking on fascist Golden Dawn and the racist policies of the European Union

A Nazi MP rises in parliament to call for a military coup, while fascist gangs terrorise migrants in city suburbs. This is the picture in Greece as the fascist Golden Dawn party attempts a resurgence.

For Petros Constantinou—an Athens councillor and coordinator of anti-fascist group Keerfa—the battle against Golden Dawn is “at a crucial point”.

Emboldened by nationalist opposition to the government, the Nazis hope to gain from anger at the failures of the ruling left wing Syriza party.

“They’re trying to put a stop to the radicalisation and turn to the left in Greece by playing the cards of nationalism and racism,” said Petros, pointing to an incendiary speech by Nazi MP Constantinos Barbarousis.

During a debate in parliament Barbarousis called on the military to arrest the leaders of the government over a deal with the government of neighbouring Republic of Macedonia.

Cynical

Under the deal the Republic will rename itself Northern Macedonia. But the Greek Tory opposition New Democracy has cynically riled up a nationalist campaign against it.

As Panos Garganas—editor of Socialist Worker’s Greek sister newspaper—explained, the Tories hoped to “encourage people to mobilise against the government on a nationalist basis”.

“The main effect it had was to give the far right a chance to come out on the streets.”

Golden Dawn has joined rallies organised by New Democracy



Greek Anti-Fascists on the march against Golden Dawn

against the deal, and Golden Dawn’s fascist squads have stepped up their attacks on migrants and refugees.

Anti-fascists from Keerfa have fought back, with some successes. A mobilisation earlier this month deterred a threatened Nazi attack on a language school for Pakistani children.

Anti-fascists also outnumbered a Golden Dawn march in northern city Thessaloniki—a focus for the nationalist campaign.

Murder

A demonstration in September will mark the fifth anniversary of the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas.

It will call for the jailing of key Golden Dawn figures as a long-running trial of 68 of its leading members finally nears an end.

But, said Petros, it’s not enough just to react to the threat of Golden Dawn.

The left also has to challenge

corralled thousands of refugees in overcrowded prison camps to be deported out of Europe.

In a horrifying illustration of the

The left has to challenge the policies against migrants and refugees implemented by Syriza and demanded by the European Union.

the policies against migrants and refugees implemented by Syriza and demanded by the European Union (EU), which are “opening the way for racism”.

As part of a deal with the EU and Turkey, the government has

dangerous conditions inside, a small Iraqi child died after falling into a cesspit in a camp near Thebes last week.

Panos said the left also has to challenge the austerity policies implemented by Syriza and demanded

by Greece’s EU creditors.

The EU backs the deal because it wants Macedonia to be a new place to imprison migrants, and big business also wants access to Macedonia’s economy. Yet for all the EU’s praise, there’s no end to austerity in sight.

“The attacks continue and people are fighting back,” said Panos. “There have been some important strikes.

“But there is an attempt for all this resistance to austerity to be channelled in a nationalist direction.

“It will be up to the left not to allow this to happen by supporting strikes and arguing at the same time against the nationalist drive.

“It’s not easy, but this is what we have to do.”

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Interview with Saron Gebresellassi Justice for Musie Gebremichal

by **Michelle Y.C. Tascioni**

On June 3, Toronto police arrested Musie Gebremichal and brought him to Toronto Western Hospital, where he was treated for life-threatening injuries.

The details of this encounter remain unclear.

On June 19, community members gathered near Toronto Western Hospital to call attention to an instance of police brutality leaving its victim in a coma.

Socialist Worker spoke to Mr. Gebremichal’s lawyer, Saron Gebresellassi.

SW: Give us a brief context of this vigil here in front of Toronto Western hospital.

SG: I am the lawyer of Mr. Musie Gebremichal, who is stationed

here at Toronto Western hospital where he is a critical care unit.

He has been in a coma for two weeks and very badly injured. I saw him at four o’clock this morning, and was heartbroken to speak with him, and to see just how terribly affected he is [by this injury]. He can barely put together any words right now, but we are happy that he is alive and that he survived this.

SW: The issue here seems to be what we don’t know what happened. What are you calling for now?

SG: A lot of the media keep on asking me “what happened?”, and we keep on saying that that’s exactly our point. There are so many unanswered questions and we need answers. We need to know the when, where, and who - who were



Demand answers from the cops

the officers that were responsible for this vicious and brutal attack? We need to know who knew what. We need accountability.

We are calling on the Special Investigation Unit to trigger their mandates to conduct an independent and impartial investigation.

We call on chief Saunders to attend at Toronto Western hospital, and actually meet Musie directly

and his family. To date, we haven’t heard a response from chief Saunders. We absolutely demand an answer and that he comes here to pay a visit.

We also call on the Mayor of the city of Toronto to also indicate what he would be doing about this particular situation, and how he will trigger the mandates of his office. We haven’t heard anything from the office of mayor Tory, yet.

We also call on the Premier Doug Ford to issue a statement.

Our point here is that something terribly wrong happened on this night and we want answers. We are having issues with Toronto Western hospital in terms of the protection of patients’ rights.

We are confident that with continued pressure in the coming days, we will see some results.

Update on June 23

According to a video update on lawyer Saron Gebresellassi’s Facebook page, Musie Gebremichal has regained some consciousness and has indicated that approximately 6 to 8 police officers were involved in this encounter.

The Special Investigation Unit has expressed its decision not to probe into this still unclear incident, citing the victim’s pre-existing medical condition as the main reason of his hospitalization.

Mr. Gebremechal’s lawyer advises that there is no such pre-existing medical condition that would have put her client into a coma. She is urging the SIU to reconsider its decision.

Trump and Trudeau: Stop separating families

Across North America, mass opposition to Trump’s cruel policy of ripping migrant families apart forced him to partially back down. But this was no thanks to Justin Trudeau. Canada also has a long history of state-enforced family separation, that continues to this day.

by Peter Hogarth

Donald Trump’s plan for dealing with immigration into the US was on full, terrifying display last month, ripping migrant families apart and putting children into cages.

But this prompted a massive backlash and on June 20 (World Refugee Day), Trump was forced to partially back away from some of the most cruel policies. The surge in solidarity can continue pushing back on Trump’s policies, and expose and challenge Trudeau.

and Border Protection facility. The recording featured 10 children from Central America, estimated to be between 4 and 10 years old, sobbing uncontrollably while Border Agents joked about it. The shocking audio cast a light on Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ “zero tolerance” policy of US border enforcement. As Amnesty International explained, “This is a spectacularly cruel policy, where frightened children are being ripped from their parent’s arms and taken to overflowing detention centres, which are effectively cages. This is nothing short of torture.”

immigration arrests by 30% from 2016 to 2017 and horrifying images, video and audio of children being ripped from their parents at border crossings.

But a recent poll from Quinnipiac shows that roughly two-thirds of US voters oppose separating children from their parents. Video footage released by the US Border Patrol shows migrant children in concrete-floored cages and an escalating number of reports from journalists and whistleblowers has led to international condemnation.

The outcry against Trump’s family

the way we do things in Canada.” But Canada has a long history of state-enforced family separation and that legacy continues today.

Separation of Indigenous families

Beginning in 1876 and continuing for 120 years, 150,000 First Nation, Metis and Inuit children were removed from their homes and families by the Canadian government and sent to residential schools. It was a policy of forced assimilation and these church-run, government-funded policies were designed to extinguish Indigenous culture, language and traditions. They were also rampant with abuse and led to thousands of deaths. The last residential school closed in 1996.

This Canadian tradition of separating Indigenous children from their families was carried on in what has come to be known as the “60s scoop.”

Between 1965 and 1984, federally-funded provincial governments across Canada arranged permanent foster care or adoption of Indigenous children into non-Indigenous homes. Children were removed and placed in homes—often hundreds if not thousands of miles from their home communities—by child welfare agencies that judged First Nations’ ways of parenting as not meeting the standards of white, Christian society. In Ontario alone, over 16,000 children were removed.

However, the tragedy continues for First Nations children and families. Decades after the end of Residential Schools and the 60s Scoop, there are currently more children in child welfare care than at the peak of

ents and that, while only accounting for 2% of the population, Indigenous children are between 10% and 20% of children in care.

Provinces fund child welfare for children off reserve but expect the federal government to fund it on reserves, violating their own provincial child welfare laws. The result is that if the federal government does not fund it, the provinces typically do not top up the funding levels.

This two-tiered child welfare system means First Nations children on reserves receive less funding for child welfare than other children and aggravates the conditions that bring children into contact with authorities, such as poverty and poor housing.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has confirmed that unequal funding from federal and provincial governments has led to more First



Jeewan Chanicka speaks at Families Belong Together rally in Toronto, June 30th

erty, they are 12 times more likely to be removed from their families, graduate at less than half the rate of their non-Indigenous peers and are over-represented on a plethora of poor health indicators.”

According to the Tribunal, Canada’s failure to act, including Trudeau’s Liberals, on the many reasonable solutions put forward to end the discrimination has led to suicide deaths of young people on reserves. The Tribunal has issued 3 non-compliance orders to the government of Canada for not ending the discriminatory funding. These complaints have been echoed by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Separation of migrant families

Canada also has a long history of separating migrant families, which Trudeau has continued. The Temporary Foreign Worker Program draws migrant workers to be exploited in precarious jobs, separated from their families and unable to bring them over because of they are denied permanent residence and under constant threat of deportation.

As the West Coast Domestic Workers’ Association explained, “[Migrant workers] have made the biggest sacrifice possible to provide for their families back home, which is being separated from their loved ones, and that separation often lasts an average of about seven years.”

Last year more than 150 migrant

children were detained in holding centres—including a six-year old detained for six months. Even children with Canadian citizenship have been detained—nearly 250 from 2011 to 2015 in Toronto alone—if their parents were detained.

Faced with the Trump administration’s racist travel bans and escalating deportations, Trudeau has staunchly refused to rescind the Safe Third Country Agreement that refuses to allow refugees who arrived in the US from continuing to Canada.

While Trump wants to build a wall between Mexico and the US, Trudeau is effectively enforcing a wall between the US and Canada to keep migrants out.

Families belong together

But the surge in solidarity that is pushing Trump to backtrack on his cruel policies can expose Canada’s long legacy and push Trudeau to stop interfering with Indigenous families, condemn the US policies and end the “Safe Third Party Agreement,” and end Canada’s own detention system while providing status for all.

Tent cities and encampments outside ICE detention facilities have sprung up in US cities, most notably Portland where hundreds of protesters have surrounded a building for several days.

And on June 30 there were rallies across the US and Canada under the banner, “Families Belong Together.” Tens of thousands marched across the continent to end these racist policies.

LEFT JAB

by John Bell

CIVIL WAR

By now the whole world knows that Donald Trump’s mouthpiece, Sarah Huckabee Sanders was denied dinner at an eatery called the Red Hen. The owner and staff collectively decided not to serve her in response to the horrendous human rights abuses her administration was inflicting on refugee families and children.

Huckabee Sanders and her party left quietly, and were not charged for the cheese plate appetizer they had received. Cheese or no cheese, the next day she escalated the situation, tweeting the restaurant’s location and professing her innocence: “I always do my best to treat people, including those I disagree with, respectfully and will continue to do so”.

To witness Huckabee Sanders performance as Press Secretary is to see her repeat Trump’s portrayal of the press as public enemies. She lies outright, and when challenged she insults and demeans reporters. Whatever her talents, “respectful” isn’t on the menu.

Other Donald Trump enablers received similar treatment.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen (who is directly responsible for putting children in “tender age shelters”) and her party were driven out of a NYC Mexican restaurant when a group of Democratic Socialists of America members surrounded her, chanting “Shame! Shame!”. Later, protesters gathered at her home in the early morning with loud speakers and played tapes of terrified children weeping and calling in vain for their parents. As one organizer said: “No justice, no sleep”.

Then reputed architect of Trump’s racist immigration policies, Stephen Miller, also got a Jones for Mexican food (what are these people thinking?). Another diner recognized him and announced to the rest of the patrons: “Hey look guys, whoever thought we’d be in a restaurant with a real-life fascist begging [for] money for new cages?” Miller was unmoved and finished his meal, proving that he minds neither being called a fascist nor having extra spit in his burrito.

Then Congressional veteran Maxine Waters had the nerve to applaud these actions. She declared: “Let’s make sure we show up wherever we have to show up. And if you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them. And you tell them they’re not welcome anymore, anywhere. We’ve got to get the children connected to their parents.”

Every opinion columnist was suddenly Miss Manners, tut tutting about the watchword of the day: civility. Can’t we all just get along?

Mainstream media pundits were outraged. Waters’ Democratic Party establishment colleagues like Nancy Pelosi threw her under the bus. Trump supporters, a notoriously genteel lot, were shocked. They almost shredded their “Proud Supporter of the Muslim Ban” T-shirts in lamentation.

Their glorious leader told a rally of his faithful: “Maxine—she’s a beauty. I mean, she practically

was telling people the other day to assault! Can you imagine if I said the things she said?”

We don’t have to imagine. Trump has a long record of urging supporters to assault opponents, even promising to cover their legal costs if charged. He himself said of one vocal protester: “I’d like to punch him in the face, I’ll tell you that.” Worse, Trump had deliberately tried to create an equivalence between fascists and anti-fascists. After the fascist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, Trump insisted: “I think there is blame

on both sides. You had a group on one side that was bad. You had a group on the other side that was also very violent. Nobody wants to say that. I’ll say it right now.” He went on to insist there were some “very fine people” amid the Nazis, Klansmen and assorted white supremacists.

To be clear, Trump and his ilk are making it “radical” to be angry when confronted with a swastika or a white hood. Dog whistle racists like Trump encourage Nazis to slither out from under rocks. Why should it be a problem if we drop that rock back on top of them?

When I see the chattering class arguing that the servers and owner at the Red Hen are “just as

bad” as Huckabee Sanders, I call bullshit. And for bullshit turned up to 11 I give you the Toronto Star’s Vinay Menon, who wrote: “Freedom to dine is a right worth defending — even for Sarah Huckabee Sanders”. But in his mealy-mouthed way, Menon gets to the heart of the issue: “In this sense, free eating is just like free speech: you must defend the stuff that makes you queasy.”

What nonsense. The Trump agenda rests on a cornerstone of misogyny, homophobia, racism and white supremacy—in other words it is evil. People who perpetuate this evil are not equal to those who confront them.

The angry people who rioted outside the Stonewall Inn were not equivalent to the cops who raided it. The Black Panthers, with their breakfast programs and armed self-defence were not equivalent to the KKK, with its cross-burning terrorism and lynching.

Don’t be oblivious, and learn from history. Trump isn’t just talk. His actions are consistently brutal and racist. Tolerating racists does not end racism, it stokes it.

Facts have hard heads. Violent crimes against Muslims have risen sharply, dating to Trump’s election. And the hatred unleashed does not restrict itself to Muslims. Anti-Semitic attacks have soared as well those targeting LGBTQ communities.

Fascism is not just another set of ideas and opinions. Fascists are dedicated to destroying democracy in all its forms; they are happy to use the platforms ceded to them by confused liberalism to organize the brutality that is their true goal. To allow Trump and his troops to go unchallenged is to give that ground to the bigots and thugs.

The far-right is on the march around the world, happy to use the gullibility of what they sneeringly call “normies” to amplify their message. We cannot let racists and bigots go unchallenged.



Bigots cannot go unchallenged Photo: Neeta Lind CC BY2.0



San Francisco marches to end deportations in the U.S.

Photo: Pax Ahimsa Gethen

Trump’s torture

Trump’s policy requires authorities to criminally prosecute migrants crossing the US border. As a result, every day, dozens of children are being separated from their parents.

While there is no official government-policy that children and parents must be separated, under the Trump administration’s directive it is inevitable: when migrants are criminalized, the children and parents cannot be together in federal jail and, so, the children are taken into government custody or to foster care. Border Patrol announced that just between May and June, they separated 2,342 children from their parents.

ProPublica released audio recordings of children being torn away from their parents at a US Customs

There was a surge in deportations under the Obama administration, which paved the way for Trump—who made “illegal immigration” a central part of his message during the 2016 presidential election.

Since being elected he has moved to aggressively enforce the borders. The Trump administration has made deportations a priority and given Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers the green light to deputize local law enforcement to enforce immigration violations, to raid schools, hospitals and job sites looking for undocumented people, given them additional funding and threatened to pull grants from cities that say they will be a sanctuary to undocumented immigrants. The result has been an increase in

separations has forced him to change course on one aspect of his border policy. On June 20, he issued a statement that he would sign an executive order to end the family separation policy, but didn’t commit to reuniting the 2,300 children already separated. As well, the change will mean that families will be able to remain together, albeit while being detained indefinitely.

Trump’s backtrack is no thanks to Trudeau. Up to two days ago, his position was that he wouldn’t “play politics” with the issue. Only after the flood of condemnation did Trudeau break his silence, saying “what’s going on in the united states is wrong... I can’t imagine what the families living through this are enduring. Obviously that is not

While Trump wants to build a wall between Mexico and the US, Trudeau is effectively enforcing a wall between the US and Canada to keep migrants out.

the residential school system; easily more than double. The CBC reports that more than 27,500 children are likely no longer living with their par-

Nations children ending up in child welfare care. As Cindy Blackstock writes in a CBC article, “over half of First Nations children live in pov-

Where we stand

The dead-end of capitalism

The capitalist system is based on violence, oppression and brutal exploitation. It creates hunger beside plenty, it threatens our sustenance through unsafe and unsustainable farming, and kills the earth itself with pollution and unsustainable extraction of oil, minerals, animals, trees, and water. Capitalism leads to imperialism and war. Saving ourselves and the planet depends on finding an alternative.

A system that is killing the planet

Capitalist profits depend on extracting the world's blood and bone. The devastating impact of capital's assault on the planet affect the world's most vulnerable populations and threaten the long-term meaningful existence of humanity. Capitalism cannot regulate the catastrophic effects of climate change. We stand for climate justice, including the concept of "just transition" for affected workers.

Socialism and workers' power

Any alternative to capitalism must involve replacing the system from the bottom up through radical collective action. Central to that struggle is the workplace, where capitalism reaps its profits off our backs.

Capitalist monopolies control the earth's resources, but workers everywhere actually create the wealth. A new socialist society can only be constructed when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution to satisfy human needs, not corporate profits—to respect the environment, not pollute and destroy it.

Oppression

Within capitalist society different groups suffer from specific forms of oppression. Attacks on oppressed groups are used to divide workers and weaken solidarity. We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls. We support the right of people of colour and other oppressed groups to organize in their own defence. We are for real, social, economic and political equality for women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination and homophobia against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people.

We oppose environmental racism. We oppose discrimination on the basis of religion, ability and age.

Canada, Quebec, Indigenous Peoples

Canada is not a "colony" of the United States, but an imperialist country in its own right that participates in the exploitation of much of the world. The Canadian state was founded through the repression of Indigenous peoples and the people of Quebec.

We support the struggles for self-determination of Quebec and Indigenous peoples up to and including the right to independence. In particular, we recognize Indigenous peoples' original and primary right to decide their fate and that of their lands, heritage, and traditions. Socialists in Quebec, and in all oppressed nations, work to give the struggle against national oppression an internationalist and working class content.

Internationalism

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries. We oppose everything that turns workers from one country against those from other countries. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The 1917 revolution in Russia was an inspiration for the oppressed everywhere. But it was defeated when workers' revolutions elsewhere were defeated. A Stalinist counter-revolution, which killed millions, created a new form of capitalist exploitation based on state ownership and control. In Eastern Europe, China and other countries, a similar system was later established by Stalinist, not socialist, parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

Elections and democracy

Elections can be an opportunity to give voice to the struggle for social change. But under capitalism, they can't change the system. The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary protect the ruling class against the workers. These structures cannot be simply taken over and used by the working class. The working class needs real democracy, and that requires an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates.

Reform and revolution

Every day, there are battles between exploiter and exploited, oppressor and oppressed, to reform the system—to improve living conditions. These struggles are crucial in the fight for a new world. To further these struggles, we work within the trade unions and orient to building a rank and file movement that strengthens workers' unity and solidarity.

But the fight for reforms will not, in itself, bring about fundamental social change. The present system cannot be fixed or reformed as the NDP and many trade union leaders say. Nor can the system regulate itself to prevent environmental destruction and climate injustice. It has to be overthrown. That will require the mass action of workers themselves.

The revolutionary party

To achieve socialism the leading activists in the working class have to be organized into a revolutionary socialist party. The party must be a party of action, and it must be democratic. We are an organization of activists committed to helping in the construction of such a party through ongoing activity in the mass organizations of the working class and in the daily struggles of workers and the oppressed.

If these ideas make sense to you, help us in this project, and join the International Socialists.

Interview with Sandy Hudson

“We need to be looking at a long game here”

On June 16th thousands of Ontarians took to the streets to demand that decent work be protected, including all of Bill 148 and the 2019-scheduled \$15 minimum wage. Sandy Hudson, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Toronto, addressed the rally. She spoke with Kevin Taghabon about the situation after the Ontario election.

Kevin Taghabon: On a recent podcast (Sandy and Nora Talk Politics) you and Nora Loreto mentioned that the labour movement is sitting on quite a repository of money, resources, spaces. Things that we could use as a movement in combating Doug Ford. What do you see that they could do?

Sandy Hudson: I think that we really need to be looking at a long game here. It's gonna be a long four years, but it's really gonna be a long decade, to be honest. If we remember what happened when [PC Premier] Mike Harris got into power [in 1995], we're still feeling the effects of the cuts that that government made today. We're gonna need to start training people...

For me, I think that unions are a no-brainer when it comes to resources. They have so many resources, and they are everywhere. I think they are best placed to make sure that we, as a people are as prepared as possible to take on power in this province.

One of the things that was interesting in the past few years is how quickly the narrative has changed around things like colonization, anti-Black racism, those types of issues. Can you tell us a little bit about how social movements can change the discussion around us in a way that would be beneficial to working people in Ontario?

A cultural shift like having politicians and media talk about anti-Black racism and understand that that's what it is, it doesn't happen from people in power. It happens from the bottom up. Five years ago no one was talking about anti-Black racism in a public



Sandy Hudson, co-founder of Black Lives Matter-Toronto

sphere...

It's groups like ours [Black Lives Matter Toronto], Idle No More, and all sorts of other groups who are managing to shift the culture around the way that we talk about issues that are gonna be extremely important to support in the next four to ten years. The other side is trying to shift culture too. They're trying to shift it towards white supremacy. They're trying to shift it towards a place where people don't get to live with dignity.

The 15 and Fairness struggle has really linked up... union workers with precarious workers in food service, retail, the gig economy, all these other sectors that aren't traditionally where the labour movement fights.

Things are changing everywhere, and we have to respond to that. We can't stick with the same organizing strategies that we've had for decades. The reality is that power has figured out what works for us and said, "okay, so we're just gonna make it harder for you to unionize by creating a gig economy. This is how you're gonna get your jobs now." We need to figure out how to support workers in a more sustainable way that doesn't just rely on the same organizational strategies that we had in the last few decades.

That's not to say throw everything out. Let's keep what works. But let's also be creative about how we can create these linkages. That's very, very important. The 15 and Fairness campaign has managed to start doing that, and I'm really excited about that, and I hope it continues. This is what we need.

One of the things that's come up too in the speeches today in front of Queen's Park is how marginalized communities are going to be the first ones hit by [the new government's policies]. Why does the state act in this way?

Quite frankly, that's the way that power operates. They're gonna take a look and say, "who matters the least?" People who are in poverty. People who are immigrants who are already precarious in their lives, let alone their work. People who are desperate and perhaps... can't afford to take the type of actions and risks that others like us can.

That's what [governing parties] do, because it's easier for them to do that. It's so important for those of us who can take risks to do that, and take those risks for those communities if we're really concerned about justice.

• Read the full interview at socialist.ca

Fighting fascism on film

by **Faline Bobier**

In the Fade, a German movie which debuted to a 4 minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival in 2017, is now available for viewing in North America.

The director, Fatih Akin, was born in 1973 in Hamburg of Turkish parentage and as such is probably ideally placed to make this movie, which highlights the dangers of increasing anti-immigrant racism and fascist organizing, particularly in Europe.

In the Fade garnered a best actress award for Diane Kruger at Cannes and watching her wrenching performance, it's easy to understand why.

Kruger plays a German woman, Katja Sekerci, who loses her Turkish husband Nuri (Numan Acar) and son Rocco to a bomb blast.

There is a police investigation into her family's death but from the beginning the police want to see it as a drugs-related retaliation since Katja's husband was previously jailed for a drug-related offence.

Katja knows that her husband has long since given up dealing drugs. Without realizing it at the time, she catches a glimpse of one of the bombers as she leaves her husband's office the morning of the bombing: a woman Katja describes as young, blond and female and 'as German as me', a phrase whose significance will become clear.

Katya suspects that a neo-Nazi targeted her husband as a foreign-born immigrant. This is hardly an outlandish suggestion, given the current climate of anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment, which is being stoked by politicians on all sides. In fact, the director based his script on real reports of Neo-Nazi attacks currently in Germany.

And although the evidence eventually points clearly to a neo-Nazi German couple, the trial exonerates them. Their links to the Greek fascist organization Golden Dawn are made explicit. There's a harrowing scene where Katya travels to Greece to identify the Golden Dawn cohort who gives them a fake alibi for the time of the bombing.

Kruger is in almost every scene of the film and she brings to the role an incredible intensity and truthfulness that pulls the viewer in to her journey, which becomes an increasingly isolated one, as her family and the institutions of power—the police and the courts—seem both unwilling and unable to take the threat of fascism seriously.

In fact, one of her only allies turns out to be the father of one of the accused neo-Nazis. He apologizes to her from his own place of deep sorrow that his child has grown to become "wicked, cowardly and stupid."

This is a hard movie to watch, but it feels like an important call to action. In the end, Katja turns to a hopeless gesture that feels to her like the only possible recourse for the death of her husband and son.



TRADE WARS

International solidarity to build working class unity

by **Carolyn Egan**

The G7 summit recently took place in Canada. Unity was not to be had among the representatives of the ruling classes who met in Quebec.

The spectre of trade wars is very real. The United States has imposed significant tariffs on a whole range of products. Trump has stated that he is following through on a campaign promise to "make America great again". He is telling American workers who have been wracked by job losses, under employment, and precarious work that he will be their saviour.

His mantra is that their enemy is not the corporations who have been driving down wages and devastating their communities, but their fellow workers from countries around the globe. He is pulling out the well worn tactic of divide and rule, using the smoke screen of nationalism to divide workers one from another. Protectionism is a disaster for both Canadian and American working people and will have devastating results, particularly for low wage workers, women and communities of colour.

Workers must not fall for these tactics, allowing enmity to build against those like ourselves in other nations. Our friends are not the bosses who are trying to take away our hard won pensions and benefits, who are intensifying our work whether it's in health care, steel mills, mines, manufacturing or offices. We have to be in solidarity with workers internationally and push back together against employers everywhere who are placing corporate profits above all else.

A sense of desperation

The United States is the world's largest economy but its hegemony is being challenged, particularly by China. There is a sense of desperation from the Republican leadership;

the tariffs are not coming from a position of strength. The US is willing to alienate long time allies such as Canada and the European Union to win internal arguments at home. It has imposed a 25% tariff on steel and 10%



Locked out workers at ABI

tariff on aluminum.

Alain Croteau, a Steelworker leader from Quebec has said, "The American economy relies on our aluminum and steel production, as part of our heavily integrated manufacturing market that benefits workers in both countries. Unjustified tariffs will cause economic harm to both countries."

In terms of steel, Canada produces 13 billion tonnes a year and has approximately \$14 billion in sales. One half goes to the US. Canada is the largest supplier of steel and aluminum to American manufacturers. This will impact 22,000 jobs directly and 100,000 indirectly, primarily in Ontario.

In terms of aluminum, Canada produces 3.2 million tonnes with sales of \$1.2billion, with

8300 direct jobs and 20,000 indirect, with 80% being exported to the US. Quebec is the largest producer. Auto tariffs are now being threatened by the US, which would absolutely cause havoc to the Ontario economy, with up to 400,000 jobs being affected. American workers will also be hurt.

Canada is imposing tariffs dollar for dollar up to \$16.6 billion on a long list of US imports from playing cards to flat rolled steel, effective July 1, 2018. Absolutely no worker wins in trade wars.

An example of the type of battle workers should be engaged in is the series of strikes and lockouts that have taken place in Quebec over the last number of years against two tier pensions. This attack by employers divides workers, robbing the next generation of a decent retirement. At La Farge Cement, Rio Tinto, Resco, Samuel and Sons and other companies workers have fought to defend these hard won rights and stood up for younger members through a series of strikes and lockouts.

Steelworkers (Syndicat des Métallistes) led this campaign with thousands of members walking the line and engaging in broad advocacy campaigns. Labour law reforms have recently been introduced in the province which have banned two-tier pensions and benefits. This is almost unheard of and is a huge step forward for workers. It is the result of a ten year campaign that shows that victories can be won against multinational corporations and neo-liberal governments in these times.

There was solidarity organized against companies such as Rio Tinto with workers coming together across national divides showing that they are prepared to stand together against their employers.

This type of internationalism is the antidote to the rise of right wing nationalism and is the way forward for the trade union movement.

The Rankin File, Legacy of a Radical

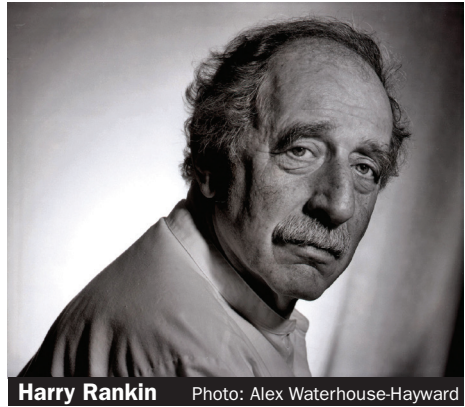
by **Ryan Schebek**

There could not be a more apt time in Vancouver election history to make a movie about Harry Rankin's life. This year will mark a historic mayoral election for Vancouver, as Gregor Roberson of Vision Vancouver steps down. Affordable housing is on everyone's mind, paralleling the same issues campaigned on in 1986 when Harry ran.

Harry was a lawyer and political activist who was first elected to Vancouver city council in 1966. In 1986 he ran for mayor of Vancouver and lost against Gordon Campbell. The film is a documentary directed by SFU film student Teresa Alfeld. The movie combines original reels of 16mm footage with modern day interviews with other activist who worked close to Harry and knew him personally.

The original 16mm footage was provided by Phil Rankin upon request to finally finish the movie. The original film was shot by Peter Smilsky during Harry's lifetime.

Alfeld's documentary centres around the 1986 mayoral election and attempts to capture Harry's larger than life personality on screen. The film does a wonderful job of balancing the inconsistencies of Harry's character: his constant balancing act between humour and stubbornness, fighting for socialism but denying to his opponents he was a communist. Harry, we are told, joked that he was for higher den-



Harry Rankin Photo: Alex Waterhouse-Hayward

sity building projects in Vancouver because when the revolution happened they would be easier to take back.

Campaigning under the municipal party COPE, Harry's politics were considered left wing as he fought for affordable housing in the False Creek area as Expo 86' was wrapping up. Perhaps if Harry had won we would be living in a very different city. Today we live in the neoliberal fallout of the Campbell era as social housing is slashed and government land is used for luxury condo developments.

There is a strong parallel between Expo 86' and the Vancouver Winter Olympics of 2010: both events were used to justify expansive development projects that only benefit the wealthy. Olympic Village, built during the Olympics, was developed under


the promise that is would provide social housing to citizens in need. However today the Olympic Village continues to expand, often with rooms left empty and soaring rent costs. This is similar to events surrounding Expo 86' as Harry campaigned to allocate 35% of Expo land towards social housing. In reality developments on Expo land have become the opposite.

The movie serves as a window into the past and lessons for the future of Vancouver. Archival footage from the 80's shows protests and pickets outside of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Their signs read a clear need for affordable housing and justice for Fred Quilt (who died after being beaten by RCMP in custody).

These issues are relevant today and Harry had the guts, back then, to openly call the actions of the RCMP racist during the trial of Fred Quilt. He had no hesitation speaking the truth and fighting for everyday Vancouverites.

This documentary captures the very essence of Harry Rankin, his humour, his boldness and his marathon-like will to keep fighting for truth and justice. Today there is not a single park, street or sign dedicated to Harry's legacy. This movie stands as one of the few remnants of his legacy for the younger generations and is true inspiration of the viewer.

To learn more about the movie and up coming screenings visit: <https://rankinfilefilm.com/>



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Vancouver: vote for the city we need

by Ryan Schebek

Arent freeze, although only one aspect of the City We Need platform, is at the heart of a movement in Vancouver. The municipal party endorsing this platform is the Coalition of Progressive Electors or COPE. Currently there are three COPE candidates running for city council endorsing the City We Need Platform and pushing for radical change at city hall. They are Jean Swanson, Derrick O’Keefe and Anne Roberts. Vancouverites will have a chance to vote for the city we need on October 20.

Rent freeze now!

The median rent in Vancouver for a one bedroom apartment exceeds \$2200 a month. Due to loopholes in the way landlords charge rent, rental rates have gone up 20% in the last year. This is despite a provincial rule that rents cannot be raised more than 4% per year.

COPE candidates hope to close all loop holes (like renovations) with a rent freeze, tying rental rates to the unit. Therefore if one tenant moves out and a new one moves in the rent cannot be increased.

Critics argue a rent freeze would hurt tenants. This is clearly not the case. They



Jean Swanson campaign rally: The rent is too damn high!

say a rent freeze will cause landlords to stop renting altogether as this disincentivizes renting, now that they cannot extort tenants. This is highly doubtful, as landlords benefit from supplementing their income with rental properties. There is no reason why a landlord would turn down a chance to make supplementary income from rental property just

because it is no longer skyrocketing in price.

Some argue Vancouver’s rental woes stem from an improper balance of supply and demand. However, as new luxury condos are popping up like weeds, it is not a question of the quantity of the supply meeting demand, but what kind of supply. There is plenty of government land that could be used to build

affordable housing and development permits could prioritize developers willing to build affordable units

Movements and the election

Although a rent freeze is out of the jurisdiction of city hall, City We Need and COPE offer a unique solution. The plan is that COPE candidates will act as an activist council that will push for altering the Vancouver City Charter (which changes often) and give the city more say in helping its citizens find somewhere to live. At the same time, it will pressure the provincial government to get involved with the housing crisis.

City We Need is building a movement that the average citizen can get behind, one that will inspire them to demand change. If the average person cannot afford to live in Vancouver we all lose, as the city’s most vulnerable end up homeless and many working class people dig up their roots and leave.

We all lose as populations are displaced and vibrant neighbours are gentrified. The city we need is a city that de-commodifies housing – and this is what COPE plans to do if elected.

• To find out more and to learn how to get involved, please visit: www.cityweneed.ca

Justice for Jonathan Styres

Jonathan Styles was 29 years old when ex-Canadian forces reservist Peter Khill shot him twice in the chest and shoulder with a shotgun. He died almost immediately. He was the father of two daughters.

In a case reminiscent of the Colten Boushie trial, the jury in Hamilton acquitted based on Khill’s argument that he feared for his life after finding Styles rummaging through his truck in a rural area outside Hamilton. The defence claimed that Khill thought that Styles had a gun. Styles wasn’t armed and had his hands up when the shooting occurred.

Six Nations Chief Ava Hill spoke to the Aboriginal People’s Television Network after the attack. “What’s that mean? A car is more important than a young man’s life? I’m in shock,” she said.

She was not alone. The anger at the verdict had led to calls for rallies and further occupations throughout the country calling for justice for Indigenous peoples.

“Dangerous proposition for justice system to allow Canadians to adopt – assuming all natives are (1) dangerous & (2) carry a gun. That’s PURE racism,” said Pam Palmater, chair of Indigenous Government at Ryerson University.

Indigenous singer Tanya Tagaq took to twitter and said, “You have been killing us for hundreds of years and you are allowed to continue

to do so. Don’t ask why we are angry.”

It’s certainly not just this case that has fuelled anger among Indigenous peoples. The entire “justice” system in Canada is racist and rigged. Indigenous people make up 5 per cent

of the population make up 27 percent of inmates in Canada.

A media release sent by Chief Hill spelled this out. “Indigenous people will not feel safe until there is a justice system in place that val-



Anger at the verdict in the shooting of Jonathan Styles has led to calls for protest.

ues Indigenous lives... Peaceful co-existence between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples requires a justice process that is non-discriminatory and fair. Justice is necessary if there is to be any hope for reconciliation.”

Unfortunately, in Ontario it seems reconciliation is a long way off. The recent election of Doug Ford’s Conservative party will likely push things backwards. His new cabinet doesn’t have a Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. That portfolio has been downgraded and merged with the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Northern Development. That decision starkly highlights what Ford thinks of Indigenous issues. He apparently only thinks of Indigenous peoples and their lands in terms of how they can be exploited.

This is nothing new for the Tories. The last Conservative premier, Mike Harris, called for violence against Indigenous protesters in Ipperwash Provincial Park the day after he was elected. Harris told the Ontario Provincial Police, “I want the fucking Indians out of the park.” The result was the murder of Indigenous land defender Dudley George who, along with many others, had occupied the park lands to assert their legal land claim.

True reconciliation may not be a priority for the Tories or the Canadian state, but for all of us it must be central to our efforts to fight back against Ford and Trudeau.