



# System Change NOT Climate Change Save Our Planet from Capitalism!

By *Gauche Révolutionnaire* (our sister organization in France)

This is an edited translation of a statement that is being distributed today in France and around the world.

‘COP21’ in Paris is the 21st meeting of its kind since 1972. There has been so much noise but with what results? **2015 will be the hottest year on record.**

The governments of the rich countries continue to grant themselves and the big companies they represent even greater rights to pollute the planet.

While talking about shifting to cleaner energy, governments around the world do the opposite. **G20 countries are providing \$452 billion a year to subsidize fossil fuel production** according to a recent report by the Overseas Development Institute.

Governments constantly strive to increase the power of big business over our lives and over the future of the planet, leaving ordinary people with little control. Governments even put the climate of the planet into the marketplace! Yet as Naomi Klein wrote, it is *Capitalism vs. The Climate* and the “*economy is at war with many forms of life on earth including human life.*”

We can expect nothing from their summits, except the opportunity to build our fight-back. Today’s most urgent question is how to take control over our future.

# **Save our Planet from Capitalism**

Continued from page 1

## **Ecology and Capitalism – One Big Masquerade**

Volkswagen's actions are striking. They used green claims to sell cars, while deliberately cheating pollution controls since 2009 – hiding emissions 40 times higher than the EU allowed. Governments and big companies do everything to make us believe that ecology is safe with capitalism. It will never be so.

### **'Individual' and Green Market Solutions**

Governments and establishment ecologists speak of 'individual solutions' to persuade us that we are all equally responsible for the environmental crisis. Also that the fight against climate change should not be political: their system cannot be questioned. The promotion of 'individual measures' and 'green capitalism' mainly hides who are the real polluters – the corporations. Climate activists know that these approaches are not real solutions. We need to build links with those who are in a position to take control over the major companies and run them democratically: the organized working class.

For big companies, environmental labels or small 'green' measures have less to do with ecology and more to do with image and marketing. Alternative energy sources are not as profitable as fossil fuels. Since profit counts more than anything else, the big polluters such as the oil giants, continue wrecking the planet. Transport, factories, energy production are all dominated by big business; we have no control over them.

### **Let's Take Control of What We Don't Yet Own!**

Today, the majority of the population has no say in production. Workers are the driving force of any company, but the only thing that matters to the bosses is that they are available as cheaply as possible. Workers have virtually no say in what is produced or how. The present rotten system works only to produce profits for the ruling classes – a tiny minority in society – no matter at what cost to the living conditions of the majority. All the progress and gains were won through mass pressure and struggles!

The capitalists use loopholes in the laws that they themselves have devised, constantly renege on the very norms that are supposed to protect us. Yet

the elite have many laws to protect their ownership of society, and corporations have rights beyond those of living people. It is up to us – the majority of the population – to take matters into our hands by using our collective strength as the producers of the world's wealth.

### **Organize and Fight for Socialism**

The capitalist system is taking us backwards; we must bring it down. We can change things through socialist revolutionary action like France in 1968. The key sectors of the economy would be under the control of workers and the people through democratic public ownership. This should include the major energy companies, 'Big Pharma', major vehicle manufacturers, mining corporations, agri-business and many other major monopolies that dominate our lives, as well as the banks.

The socialism we need has nothing in common with French Socialist President Hollande's market approach or Stalin's bureaucratic dictatorship. It would mean democratic planning of the economy and the use of resources to satisfy the needs of everyone, not to provide profits for a privileged handful of people.

With working people controlling society, everything would change. The law of making private profit for the few would disappear. We would use quality materials to make long-lasting products, avoiding the current waste and 'planned obsolescence'. The production and use of goods would no longer be hazardous to workers and consumers. Investing in non-polluting fuels, factories to build renewable energy equipment, public transit, long distance rail and upgrading building efficiency is the only way to carry out a real energy transition.

Everyone would have a job and work fewer hours. We would have more time to control construction and infrastructure development to ensure the least damage to the environment. We have the technical means to plan production according to the environment and our needs, not for profits; we can have the rational management of society.

It is time to organize to stop the bosses and their political representatives having a free rein in all major decision-making. Time to fight for a real change in who controls the climate and safeguards the future for everyone on the planet.

# Change Canada's Environmental Record

## Keystone XL and Enbridge's Northern Gateway are Dead

### Stop Kinder Morgan and Energy East

The recently departed Harper had a terrible environmental record. His government spent taxpayers' \$illions to push pipelines, reneged on the weak Kyoto agreement, gutted environmental regulations and science, and gave large subsidies to the tar sands. The Liberal victory has raised hopes that Canada's record on the environment will change. However, it will take actions rather than hope to win radical answers to global warming.



***The Alberta Tar Sands***

After long and determined campaigns against the Canadian government and corporations, Obama has blocked the Keystone XL pipeline to the Gulf of Mexico and the Liberals' announced ban of tanker traffic in northern BC waters has finished off the already stricken Northern Gateway pipeline.

The battle now is to stop Kinder Morgan's pipeline to Vancouver and Energy East's line to the Atlantic. The Liberals' election platform did not oppose these pipelines and other statements seemed to support them. Campaigns stopped Gateway and Keystone. The campaigns to stop Kinder Morgan and Energy East are gaining confidence from these victories and we can win these ones as well.

## We need Good Jobs and a Healthy Environment

A determined transition to clean energy is needed to stop global warming and protect the environment. Canada could easily produce all its energy needs from clean and renewable energy sources. Energy use could be significantly reduced with major investment in energy efficiency and widespread improvements in transit.

A shift to clean energy would provide hundreds of thousands of jobs. This would make up for the jobs lost in the tar sands and the 600,000 manufacturing jobs Canada has lost in the last 15 years. These would be well-paid union jobs with much lower health and safety risks than in the fossil fuel industry. These jobs would be long-term and secure, unlike those in the tar sands.

The biggest barrier to transitioning to clean energy and protecting the environment is the control of wealth by a tiny handful of people. The rich and big business are sitting on some \$800 billion that they refuse to invest. If this money was democratically controlled, Canada could have a massive jobs program to upgrade infrastructure, build new homes and insulate existing ones, build public light rail, revise the long distance rail system and transfer to a clean energy society.

The opportunity is great, the need is urgent. Building campaigns that link the fight for the planet with social and economic justice would unite the majority of Canadians to challenge and end the grip of big business on our society and environment.

### **Harper Gone, Liberals Win**

On October 19 the majority of Canadians breathed a sigh of relief. Finally, Harper was gone. The Liberals, entering the campaign as outsiders, campaigned to the left of the traditional left party, the NDP, and won comfortably. Six weeks later, Justin Trudeau, still in his honeymoon period, has yet to be seriously tested but hard decisions and economic storm clouds lie ahead. It isn't clear how the NDP members will respond to this serious defeat.

[Full article:

<http://socialistalternative.ca/posts/1490>]

## Internationalism

We live on one connected Earth. Climate change is a global environmental crisis.

Big business has its tentacles in every corner of the planet, moving jobs and money around, ever seeking the greatest profit. Capitalism exploits people and the environment everywhere; it knows no borders in its greed. Capitalism creates war, environmental damage, hunger and misery.

There is a growing international wave of radicalism against inequality, austerity, cuts to public services and environmental destruction. In Britain and the US, Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders are rocking the political establishment.

Socialists are internationalists, in support of struggles for peace, human rights and a better world. We understand the connection of struggles around the world and work to build solidarity.

Socialist Alternative in Canada is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), an organization with members in 45 countries. We work closely with our colleagues in Alternative Socialiste Quebec and Socialist Alternative US. CWI members are MPs, union leaders, councillors, human rights campaigners and grassroots activists.

We strive for a society that puts people and planet first.

**For news and analysis from around the world, written by local activists go to: [socialistworld.net/](http://socialistworld.net/)**



### Join Socialist Alternative

Socialist Alternative is small but rapidly growing. We are active in workplaces, universities and in communities. We fight pipelines, support workers' struggles, organize international solidarity, campaign for a \$15 minimum wage, oppose discrimination and racism, and more. We work in many alliances and coalitions.

We fight for every reform, while we point to the need to end capitalism and its profit-greedy destruction of the environment and human well-being. In its place, we work for a democratic and



Councillor Sawant

### Socialist councillor Re-elected Kshama Sawant Wins in Seattle

Socialist Alternative's Seattle councillor, Kshama Sawant, won a resounding re-election victory with 56% of the votes.

This is a huge success, as she and Socialist Alternative faced intense opposition from big business and most of the other councillors. Without taking a dime of corporate cash her campaign raised \$450,000.

Victory came from the campaigning work of Sawant including leading the fight to win the first \$15 minimum wage in North America. It also depended on the clear political analysis and strategy of Socialist Alternative and the hard work of hundreds of people.

This victory belongs to socialists and working class people everywhere. Together, we have a world to win.

[Full article: <http://socialistalternative.ca/posts/1513>]

just society that puts the needs of humanity and the earth first. With the diversity and fertility of nature, the endless energy of the sun, and the ingenuity of humans we can build a world without war, hunger, poverty, injustice or environmental destruction.

Such a socialist society would have nothing in common with the dictatorships of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union – socialism is about the full flowering of human democracy and potential.

**To join or find out more about Socialist Alternative**

**Website: [socialistalternative.ca/](http://socialistalternative.ca/)**

**E-mail: [contact@socialistalternative.ca](mailto:contact@socialistalternative.ca)**