

## Build the FIGHT FOR 15



### Workers Say We Need a Raise

**Low-wage worker, Olivia Honour, writes**

At my minimum wage job, I often felt like a failure. I remember my peers and mentors emphasizing the importance of university in obtaining a well-paying job. Like many others, I listened and followed suit. So, with a BA and over \$20,000 of debt in hand, I was eager to start my life. I completed two unpaid internships, and was on my way to a big city, Vancouver, full of idealism and hope.

I hit a brick wall. With no job in sight in my field, I reluctantly admitted defeat and moved back home. I saved up, and 3 months later I was back in Vancouver where I accepted a minimum wage job.

Placed on 'temporary worker' status indefinitely,

I had no benefits. Job security was laughable – people were routinely fired for trivial things. A colleague in training was fired in front of the entire team on his second day because he wasn't performing fast enough.

This job had a complete chokehold over my life – I was constantly mentally and physically exhausted. People sometimes forget the mental toll of a low paying job. I was always thinking about money. I never had any, as my measly pay disappeared to pay rent, food, phone bills and necessities.

I couldn't start paying off my student loans, so the interest kept building up, silently mocking me for the decisions I made.

Continued on page 2

## Workers Say We Need a Raise...

Continued from page 1

I know I am not alone. Half a million people in BC (27% of workers) earn less than \$15 an hour. They are mostly women (60%), over 20 years old (82%), have post-secondary education (53%), and work for large employers (51%).

Since April 1, BC has the lowest minimum wage in Canada at \$10.45 an hour, while Vancouver is the most expensive city in Canada. These low wages mean that BC has the second highest poverty rates in Canada, with 849,070 people (19.4%) living below the poverty line.

I am angry. I am tired of hearing that 'Canada isn't that bad'. It is time we refuse to stay silent and speak up about our experiences. That is why I am fighting for 15! ■

## 15 Movement Grows Across Canada

*Reports from Tim Heffernan (Ontario)  
Deirdre Grégoire (Québec) and Chris Fofonoff (BC)*

Since the victory in Seattle in May 2015, led by Socialist Alternative councillor Kshama Sawant, the fight for \$15 has spread across the US and Canada. A Canada-wide day of action on April 15 saw over 25 demonstrations and rallies from coast to coast.

In Québec the *15+* campaign, an initiative of Alternative Socialiste, has build strong ties with union activists, especially joining actions for \$15 an hour for the workers of the Old Port Employees Union in their contract negotiations. Now the union federations are launching a large-scale Québec-wide 15 campaign.

The Ontario campaign is *15 and Fairness* with widespread support from unions, students and community groups. The many activities include work at Toronto Airport (photo right) and several universities. In March, there was a large conference to discuss strategies for the fight ahead.

The BC Federation of Labour launched *Fight for 15* in 2015, holding regular rallies and protests. In Surrey, Socialist Alternative has built a Working Group with a year of old-fashioned hard work. The group, involving local unions, anti-poverty groups and activists, has held several actions (photo front page) and planning meetings. Local groups can help to win 15. ■

## Toronto Airport Workers Fight for 15



*Sean Smith of Unifor spoke to Socialist Alternative*

"People think of the airport as well-paying, but these jobs are increasingly precarious and our working standards have fallen drastically. When I started at Air Canada in 1985, most workers were full time and, in today's money, making around \$70,000 with good benefits. Now it's multi-employers, no job security, a lot of part-time contract work. Take flying Air Transat - the flight crews will be AT but everyone you meet until you get on the aircraft, even though in AT uniforms, will be workers contracted out by AT and at the lowest cost.

"We came together and said we're going to bargain as one to deal with multiple employers.

"The only way we can fight back is with universal demands because if we bargain \$15 for one group of workers they're just going to be undercut by the next contract worker. So we have a working class movement, at the airport and in the community." ■



## TPP: Destroys Jobs and the Environment: Not a Done Deal

By Leslie Kemp



Trudeau's Liberal government has signed the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) – threatening jobs and the environment.

The TPP would be the largest trade bloc, including 12 countries, 800 million people and 40% of the world's economic output. It aims to counter China's rising economic power. It is not about trade: already 97% of Canadian exports enter TPP countries tariff free.

The TPP was negotiated in secret by corporate and government elites. It will boost corporate domination and reduce democratic rights and the ability to protect jobs, human rights, health and the environment. Corporations will be able to challenge government actions that they claim affect profits, making it harder to stop global warming and capitalism's destruction of the natural world.

Trudeau claims that North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and other trade deals are "ultimately good ... for our businesses and our workers." NAFTA has been good for corporations, but bad news for workers in Canada, the US and Mexico.

Under NAFTA, companies can sue governments for loss of future profits. A US company filed a \$250 million lawsuit over Quebec's moratorium on fracking. TransCanada is suing the US government for \$15 billion for not approving the Keystone pipeline.

The TPP is worse than NAFTA, as complaints against governments will be decided not in public courts but by Investor-State Dispute Settlement. Highly paid corporate lawyers would judge cases, with no right of appeal.

We can stop the TPP before it is ratified. However, it will take economic disruption by unions, Indigenous people and environmentalists. The power of the 99% is a force to reckon with. As the poet Shelley wrote, "Rise like Lions after slumber ... We are many – they are few." ■

## Reconciliation Needs Justice and Healing

By Leslie Kemp

Attawapiskat shows how long the road to reconciliation is. Colonialism has tragic consequences for Indigenous peoples. The poverty of northern communities is a disgrace in a country as wealthy



as Canada. Major resource extraction projects are often located near reserves where people live in "third world" conditions: chronically underfunded schools, substandard and inadequate housing and contaminated drinking water.

Colonialism and capitalism involved taking away Indigenous people's lands and squeezing them into tiny reserves, depriving them of resources and means of livelihood. Cultural practices were banned. Children were taken from their families to residential schools where they suffered abuse and neglect, and speaking their languages was forbidden. Children became parents without experiencing the compassion or kindness of parents. Passed on through generations this trauma contributes to epidemic rates of suicide and attempted suicides, particularly among young people.

The good news is that Indigenous peoples are fighting back, with young people leading the way. A growing number of non-Indigenous Canadians are joining the fight for Indigenous rights and reconciliation. Court victories have reaffirmed Aboriginal rights to traditional territories.

The federal Liberals have pledged \$8.4 billion over five years to improve the living conditions of Indigenous peoples. While a first step, it will take long-term and larger actions to make up for years of harm and neglect.

True reconciliation cannot happen without justice – economic and social. Capitalism's drive for profits and resources conflicts with Indigenous rights and reconciliation. Indigenous peoples need control of their land and resources. Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can work together to end capitalism and for a democratic socialist world. ■

# Housing Crisis in Vancouver and Toronto: The Extremes of Canada's Failure

By Larry Hyink, Nancy Trigueros, Salman Zafar and Tim Heffernan

Want an affordable place to live in Vancouver or Toronto? Thanks to the magic of the market, you're out of luck. Housing, in many cities worldwide, isn't a place to live, it's a commodity, sold to the highest bidder.

Across Canada, there is a national housing crisis. The Liberal government's cuts of the 1990s ended most federal and provincial programs to build and support social and affordable housing. On top of this, hot money is flowing in to speculative buying making the crisis worse.

Every part of Vancouver's housing is over-priced. Without the solid anchor of a large provision of low cost, subsidized housing, the speculative frenzy is pulling up all housing costs. The average cost of a house in Vancouver in January 2016 was \$1.1 million, up 30% from a year ago. The average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment, in October, 2015, was \$1,643 a month, with a vacancy rate below 1%. The lowest rents, for a small single room in a rundown building in the poorest part of the city, now average \$517 a month, mostly rented by people on welfare receiving \$610 a month. Homelessness is on the increase – as it is across Canada.

In Toronto, the average price of a detached house topped \$1.2 million in March. The average condo rent was \$1,891 a month. Toronto has 91,000 people on the waiting list for social housing.

Since 2008, governments have tried getting the economy going by printing new money, \$7.2 trillion US and counting, and handing it to the banks. Most of this money has gone to speculative bubbles including property.

The City of Vancouver is looking at housing strategies. But don't hold your breath as their present policies support gentrification. Affordable housing is defined as taking no more than 30% of pre-tax income. Vancouver defines social housing, supposedly for low income people, at a level that requires an income of \$36,500 a year to rent a bachelor apartment. The ideas Vancouver are considering will have a tiny impact and will leave most housing in the out-of-control market.

There is a construction boom. However, most of the building is high price condos, often built for speculation. While there are very low vacancy rates

for rental and family homes in Vancouver, 12.5% of condos are not occupied.

The resources exist for everyone to have a good affordable home. What is needed is a national policy, democratically run, to build good quality homes and subsidize housing, for both low and middle income people. The barrier is the profit system that motivates capitalist landlords, developers, construction companies and banks.

A socialist solution would eradicate speculative markets and turn housing from a commodity into a human right.■

## Pharmacare: The

By Jim

Canada is the only country with a universal healthcare system that does not include pharmacare. Dr Danyaal Raza states that "Canada's universal public healthcare system effectively ends as soon as a patient is handed a prescription to fill."

Some facts:

- More than 3 million Canadians, the working poor and precariously employed, are under-insured or uninsured for prescription drugs.
- 25% of Canadians report that they/family members have not filled medically necessary prescriptions, due to cost.
- Coverage for medications favours the rich. Most people with incomes over \$100,000 have comprehensive drug coverage through private, employer supported plans, whereas for those earning less, only 17% have drug plans, many complicated by co-payments, deductibles and dispensing fees.
- Canadians bear the second highest costs for drugs in the developed world, next to the United States.
- Financial barriers to necessary medicines result in poor health outcomes, and increased use of expensive hospital and medical care. The annual financial cost of non-adherence to prescription drugs is \$7 to 9 billion.



**Vancouver House Sold for \$2.5 Million**

## Right Prescription

### Sugiyama

Canadians pay far more for many medicines than people in New Zealand, that has national pharmacare. Canadians pay 54 times more for Lipitor (lowers cholesterol) than in New Zealand, \$811 versus \$15 per year. The generic form (atorvastatin) costs 10 times more in Canada than in New Zealand, even though the drug is manufactured in Canada.

A National Pharmacare Program, with coordinated bulk purchasing for the best deals and distribution across all provinces and territories, would save at least \$11 billion per year. Educating healthcare providers around rational prescribing could save an additional \$3 billion annually. Municipalities across Canada would save \$500 million annually in drug coverage costs for employees.

Canadians know they would be the big winners with a National Pharmacare plan with 87% supporting a plan. Drug companies are enormously profitable, gaining an average return on investment after taxes of a staggering 29% from the exploitation of a captive population. They, and the insurance lobby, use their enormous power to block this key missing piece of a truly universal healthcare system.

The time for Pharmacare is now. ■

## NDP at Crossroads?

By *Bill Hopwood and Tim Heffernan*

The NDP national convention stunningly rejected Mulcair's leadership. Delegates from the left and right of the party, for differing reasons, collectively voted for change.

The NDP has moved to the right over decades, with policies more favourable to big business. This strategy has failed in several provinces and hit a brick wall with the disaster of the 2015 federal election.

Convention voted, by 60%, to discuss the Leap Manifesto over the next 2 years. Some delegates, like many Canadians, caught a breeze from Bernie Sanders' storm.

The Leap Manifesto differs from present NDP policies. It calls for a rapid transition to renewable energy and conservation. Workers in fossil fuel jobs would receive training and support to transition to good new jobs. Investment in infrastructure and public services would be a priority, paid by taxing the rich and corporations. However, Leap does not call for ending the energy companies' control of wealth and political influence, which is needed for the transition it urges.

Convention was split, with Alberta's Premier Notley gaining large support for her defence of current capitalist orthodoxy – continued oil extraction and building pipelines. The anger of Alberta's NDP and others at support for Leap is because they have no confidence that it will deliver good new jobs, just increase job losses.

Convention's decisions open space for a serious debate over the NDP's future. There are choices. Does it continue as is, neither offering real alternative policies nor challenging to win government? Or, does it opt for policies that protect the environment, and provide good jobs and services? The second road would offer the possibility of the NDP becoming a member-driven, campaigning party. However, the lack of a strong socialist trend in the NDP means it is more likely there will be no real debate, just a fudge.

Should a significant left-wing emerge in the NDP, Socialist Alternative will welcome it. More than that, we will help build a campaigning democratic workers' party, vital to defending Canadian workers, Indigenous people and the environment. ■

# Work Sucks: We Need an Economy that

By Bill Hopwood



Increasingly work sucks. Whether it is low paid jobs, stagnant wages, worsening conditions or endless pressure from bosses it all adds up to misery at work.

CIBC Economics' job quality index has declined for 25 years to its lowest level as more people are working part-time, are self-employed, and in low-wage jobs.

Work should not be a poverty trap, yet over 25% of workers earn less than \$15 an hour. The majority of low paid workers are women, and 60% are 25 years or older. Most low paid workers are employed by medium and large corporations.

The regular full-time job is disappearing, as more workers are forced into insecure and irregular employment. 1.4 million Canadians cannot find a job, and around 3.4 million people work part-time, with most wanting full time employment. 2.8 million self-employed Canadians (16%), are increasingly low-paid, insecure workers scraping by. There are 1.8 million temporary workers. Most part-time, temporary and self-employed workers have lower earnings, few or no benefits and an insecure future.

## Young People

Young people have been particularly hard hit. Around 75% of young people go to college or university, although this is consistently lower for youth from low income and Aboriginal families. A post-secondary qualification is now almost compulsory for any job. A degree in Canada comes at high cost – tuition fees increased by 155%, on average from 1990 to 2014. Average student debt is \$28,000, while total student debt was \$28.3 billion in 2012.

Many graduates face a tough time finding good jobs. Youth unemployment is 13%, double the overall rate, with a further 27% of youth underemployed. Burdened with debt, finding it hard to get a well-paid job and facing soaring housing costs (especially in Vancouver and Toronto) now 42% of young people are forced to live at home, compared to 27% in the 1980s.

## Good Jobs Disappearing

While the majority of working Canadians still have full time jobs, the quality of many jobs is declining. Most wages have stagnated for decades – the real median wage only increased by \$2 over 30 years. Work stress is increasing, whether from being on call all the time via a cell phone, mounting demands of paper work and form filling, or the changing culture of work. In both the private and public sectors, the quality of products or services has become less important than generating revenue.

While resource workers may have relatively well-paid jobs, they have no security. In one year, Alberta lost 56,300 full-time jobs and in north-east BC unemployment tripled. Many resource communities rely on one industry. When, in a far-way office, the boss decides to close the mine, sawmill or oil production the workers are stranded without a job often in a house that cannot be sold.

## Not Bad News for Everyone

Not all Canadians are suffering. After decades of tax cuts for the rich and increased pay rises for the elite, a tiny proportion of Canadians have never had it

# Works for Workers

so good. The richest 1% took 32% of all income growth between 1997 and 2007, and the trend has continued. There has been a huge transfer of wealth from working people to the rich. The richest 10% of Canadians own 48% of all the wealth, while the poorest 50% only own 5.5% of Canada's wealth.

The decades of tax cuts favouring the rich and corporations have not stimulated investment and new jobs. The rich and corporations are hoarding money – and hiding it in tax havens. The tax cuts have resulted in attacks on public sector jobs and services. It all adds up to bad news for most workers.

## Unions

Unions have been under attack and, too often, the leaders have signed terrible, two-tier deals where new workers receive lower pay and fewer benefits – a disaster for workers' unity and young people. Unions need to stand up for workers, unionize those not in unions and take solidarity action to support workers fighting for decent pay and conditions – even if this means defying Canada's anti-union legislation.

## It Doesn't have to be this Way

Canada is a wealthy country and has much work to do. There is a \$350 billion infrastructure deficit. We need to transform to renewable energy. Canada needs a national, good quality, child-care program and free education for all ages. Wages must be raised, so no one works in poverty.

An economy that works for the 99% could afford all this and more by ending the handouts to the 1%. Corporations and the super-rich are sitting on close to \$1 trillion dollars held in Canada and in tax havens. There are funds aplenty to meet all Canadians' needs.

No mainstream party in Canada supports such an economic transition. Canada needs giant strides not the Liberals tip-toes. Change will come by building our own movements and fighting for socialism.

Humans need to perform labour, in a myriad of ways to meet the needs and wants of humanity. However, under capitalism we work for others, exploited by the boss or the bank, with little control of the circumstances of our work and with little job satisfaction.

A socialist society would transform work. It would be a rewarding and valued activity, and through our collective labour provide for the needs and wants of humanity in harmony with nature.■

# Postal Workers Show the Way

By Bill Hopwood

Canada Post's management aim is to privatize all or parts of it to provide profits for big business.

The Postal Workers' union sees a very different future. *Delivering Community Power* outlines how Canada Post could play a vital role in a new economy based on jobs, community and the environment.

There are 6,300 post offices in Canada, in almost every community, and these could be centres of communities and innovation. Fitting Canada Post's buildings with solar panels would generate clean electricity and provide electric vehicle recharging stations. Post offices would become a hub for renewable energy, providing advice and help with installations.

Canada Post has one of the country's largest delivery networks. Transforming the vehicle fleet to electric vehicles, made in Canada, would boost new technology, provide jobs, and reduce pollution. The network of vehicles and home deliveries could support seniors and others with mobility challenges, and deliver local farm produce, medicines, the post and other services.

One of the most exciting proposals is for a postal bank. Canada Post did provide banking until 1968. Many communities have no bank and many poor people are forced to use payday loan sharks. A publicly owned bank would provide better services and lower interest loans than banks as the aim would be not to take \$35 billion from our pockets, the profits of Canadian banks in 2015.

The ideas of Canada's postal workers give a glimmer of how an economy freed from profit would work for the 99%, concentrating on good jobs, social help and a clean environment.■



# Upheaval in US Politics

By Patrick Ayers (Socialist Alternative US)



The US primaries have given expression to dramatic shifts in US politics. Both traditional parties of US capitalism, the Democrats and Republicans, have been confronted with polarization, upheaval and widespread anti-establishment opposition, which threatened the elite's control of one or both parties.

Bernie Sanders, the self-described "socialist," has opened a new era for working class politics. Millions of people have rallied for his radical demands: \$15/hour, free college tuition, universal healthcare, and more. At the same time, Bernie's campaign has vividly demonstrated the limits of running within the confines of the Democratic Party, a party dominated by big business and 20% of convention being un-elected super-delegates.

Now that Bernie will likely lose the primary, his "political revolution" is at a crossroads. If Bernie supports Hillary, as he said he would, the tremendous pressure of his radical base will be demobilized. This will allow Hillary to shift to the right.

Kshama Sawant and Socialist Alternative have launched a petition calling on Bernie to run as an independent candidate – or to endorse the Green Party's candidate – as a step toward building a new party of the 99%. 12,000 signatures were collected in the first week.

Author Michelle Alexander and *New York Daily News* columnist Shaun King have both raised the idea of Bernie launching a new party. Such a prospect is not immediately on the cards, but it's an idea that will no doubt gain popularity in the years ahead.

(More info at: [socialistalternative.org](http://socialistalternative.org))

Donald Trump may be the Republican front-runner, but the Republican leadership is trying to block his final nomination at this summer's convention. They fear Trump will damage the party. Unless Clinton implodes, polls suggest it's virtually ruled out Trump can win. His racism and sexism won't fly with the evolving demographics of the electorate.

Clinton, and the Democratic establishment, will exploit the fear of the Republicans and make a "lesser evil" argument to get the votes of workers, young people, and people of color for her pro-corporate, albeit not Republican, candidacy. Many will vote Clinton holding their noses.

The growing racist, right populist threat can't be defeated by simply mobilizing votes for Clinton in November. Clinton's corporate agenda helped fuel support for Trump in the first place. The Tea Party arose in 2009 by exploiting the anger at Obama's policy of continuing the massively unpopular Wall Street bailouts.

It took Occupy Wall Street, not the corporate Democrats, to begin shifting politics to the left. What's needed is an independent movement and a new party, that opposes racism and unites working people, to continue the "political revolution against the billionaire class".

The election will dominate politics through 2016. After the election, a damaged political establishment will face even bigger struggles of working people. ■



## Socialism is International

Socialist Alternative Canada is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), an organization with members in 45 countries around the world. The CWI includes MPs, union leaders, councillors, human rights campaigners and grassroots activists. We are involved in struggles: for better wages and conditions and basic union rights; to protect the environment; for women's rights; and against war, racism and oppression.

Read news and reports from around the world:  
[www.socialistworld.net/](http://www.socialistworld.net/)



# Québec Workers Mobilize: Union Leaders Demobilize

*Martin Lebrun Spoke to Alternative Socialiste (Sister Organization in Québec)*

The Québec Liberals' attacks on public sector workers culminated in a titanic general strike of 400,000 workers last December. The Common Front (CF), the union federations' leadership, negotiated a deal with the Liberals which fended off most attacks, but included a less-than-inflation pay increase and a one-year increase in retirement age.

The CF demobilized the movement by not providing leadership and then arguing to sign the inadequate contracts. Only the Federation of Health and Social Services (FSSS-CSN) and the Autonomous Teachers' Federation (FAE) had large enough majorities (73%) to reject the deal.

The FAE won a reduction in kindergarten class sizes and a professional autonomy dialogue, for itself and other teachers' federations. The FSSS-CSN got an additional \$80 million over 5 years to improve workers' pay and bonuses to prevent turnover, but the Liberals refused to grant pay equity for nurses and cardio-respiratory workers: an illegal attack on women's rights!

*Alternative Socialiste (AS)* intervened on picket lines and demonstrations with a special edition of its newspaper. Union activists in AS actively built the strike movement and assisted the rank-and-file *Lutte Commune*, organizing a public assembly urging rejection of the CF's deal.

Some leftwing union members are somewhat discouraged, but the struggle showed that the labour movement can mobilize massive support and that militancy wins results. Many workers no longer have blind faith in the leaders that will agree to lousy deals. A new generation of workers experienced their first strike, felt class consciousness and are determined not to be fooled again. Socialists will help to sustain this consciousness, draw lessons from the struggle and prepare for future battles, especially by strengthening an organized left in the unions. ■

(More info at: [alternativesocialiste.org](http://alternativesocialiste.org))



**Québec General Strike**

## Ireland: Socialist Party Wins 3 MPs

*From an Interview with Ruth Coppinger, Socialist Party MP for Dublin West*

"Three Socialist Party MPs (CWI in Ireland) won election to the Irish Parliament in February as part of the Anti-Austerity Alliance (AAA). We are part of a wider left block that won 6 MPs. It was a very good result for AAA, retaining seats in Dublin West and Dublin South West, and winning one in Cork. Our excellent campaign in Limerick lost by only 278 votes.

"Fine Gael and the Labour Party, the former austerity coalition, only won 32% of the votes. The two traditional parties of capitalism – Fine Gael and Fianna Fail – together received less than 50% of the votes. No party has been able to form a government.

"Key issues for the AAA were to abolish the water charges and the need to build public housing to tackle the 130,000 families on the waiting list. We campaigned to repeal the constitutional ban on abortion.

"Alone, we argued for fair taxes as the richest 300 people in Ireland have €84 billion (\$123 billion) while Apple owes €19 billion in back taxes." ■



## 100 Years of Women's Vote, but Still Fighting

By Alison Lindsay



### Suffragists Present Manitoba Petition

Canadian women gained the vote 100 years ago in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, as part of the international movement. Women in the prairies used many ways to campaign including holding mock parliaments, which debated whether men should be given the right to vote. They won the support of Winnipeg's Trades and Labour Council. Many of the women activists were also involved in social issues.

While women won the right to vote in federal elections in 1918, it took a court case, settled in 1929, to decide that women were 'persons' in Canadian law. It wasn't until 1940 that women could vote in Quebec elections.

There were exclusions. Chinese Canadians had to wait until 1947 and Aboriginal people until 1960.

However, 100 years after winning the vote Canadian women still suffer discrimination. Canadian women working full-time earn \$0.735 compared to a \$1 for men. The Canadian gender pay gap averages \$8,000 a year. The fight for women's rights is far from over.■

## Stop the Pipelines...

Continued from page 12

The Leap Manifesto argues for a renewable energy strategy that will provide good jobs, reduce poverty and strengthen communities.

"Climate change is a crisis we can't ignore," said Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff, when announcing with David Suzuki a plan to create over one million sustainable climate jobs that will reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by one third. "Our plan can start the

## Book Review

Thomas King,  
*The Inconvenient Indian*,  
2012

By Martin Lebrun

All Canadians should read this unique insightful book, unlike any dull history you have ever read.

Using biting humour, story-telling and cold truths, King tells the brutal reality of "Whites" treatment of "Indians" (his words).

Governments imposed extermination, relocation to reserves, false treaty negotiations, attempted cultural destruction and residential schools. Behind all these, has always been taking native's lands. "Land is primarily a commodity, something that has value for what you can take from it or what you can get for it."

Insincere apologies are insulting. Harper apologized and then stated Canada has "no history of colonialism".

To this day, native people face discrimination and paternalism.

Governments and the media encourage allegations of money wasting and 'free rides'. Yet, governments are willing to throw money at incompetent corporations: "government support of big business is capitalism's only hope."

King states that, "The fact of native existence is that we live modern lives informed by traditional values and contemporary realities and that we wish to live those lives on our terms."

King knows that radical action is required to make this a reality.■



transition process now, so that affected workers and communities can look forward to the future instead of fearing it," said Yussuff.

Tar sands' pipelines are incompatible with tackling global warming. The choice is between a future in which capitalism continues to ravage the environment and produces human misery or a healthy planet that is ripe with possibilities for human flourishing. The only serious way to tackle global warming is with the democratic public ownership of land and resources for the benefit of both people and the planet.■

## About Socialist Alternative Canada

### What We Stand For

- An end to poverty wages; raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour
- A 35 hour working week without loss of pay
- A living income for those unable to work
- Reverse the cuts and privatization of public services
- Fully funded, high quality, free public education from early childhood to university
- Massive public investment in clean energy, mass transit, health care, education, and affordable housing to create good unionized jobs and fight climate change
- Phase out the tar-sands and nuclear power
- Higher taxes on the rich and corporations, lower taxes for working people
- Democratic unions run by and for the members, with elected union officials paid the same wages as those they represent
- End discrimination – full equality for all
- Equal rights for, and solidarity with, immigrants and refugees
- The right to self-determination and self-government for all Aboriginal peoples, and respect for historical treaties and resource rights
- Scrap NAFTA and other exploitative trade deals
- Democratic public ownership of key sectors of the economy such as: banking, utilities, manufacturing and resources
- A socialist transformation of society to allow for the democratic planning of the economy based on the interests and needs of the overwhelming majority of people and the environment

Full list: [socialistalternative.ca/what-we-stand-for](http://socialistalternative.ca/what-we-stand-for)

### Join Socialist Alternative Canada

If you agree with the ideas in this magazine, join Socialist Alternative.

We are a growing organization, with members from coast to coast. We are active in workplaces, universities and communities campaigning on the issues raised in this magazine and more.

We fight for every reform, while pointing to the need to end capitalism and its profit-driven destruction of the environment and human well-being. In its place, we work for a democratic and just society that puts the needs of humanity and the planet 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.

Socialism would see the end of the dictatorship of big business in our society. It would have nothing in common with the former Stalinist dictatorships of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Socialism is about the full flowering of human democracy and potential.

## SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

Our website has longer versions of many of the articles here and many more.

### To find out more and join:

- Website: <http://socialistalternative.ca/>
- E-mail: [contact@socialistalternative.ca](mailto:contact@socialistalternative.ca)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

### Socialist Alternative Public Meetings

#### Vancouver

Thursday, April 28, 7:30 pm

**TPP: Destroyer of Jobs and the Environment**

Thursday, May 26, 7:30 pm

**BC's Next Environmental Disaster: LNG & Site C**

Both at SFU Harbour Centre, 515 W Hastings

### Socialist Alternative Launches Regular Magazine

We have launched a regular publication. If you would like to receive copies of the magazine, contact Socialist Alternative: [contact@socialistalternative.ca](mailto:contact@socialistalternative.ca)

## STOP THE PIPELINES: Good Jobs for a Healthy Planet



*Ruptured Enbridge Pipeline*

**By Leslie Kemp**

Despite the Liberal government's pledge to act on climate change, it is campaigning for at least one major pipeline from the tar sands. "The prime minister has been very clear. We need to get our resources to market," said Canada's Environment Minister. The government wants decisions within the year.

First Nations, environmentalists and others are determined to stop both Kinder Morgan (to the west coast) and Energy East (to the east coast). The stakes are high: both pipeline routes go through traditional territories of many First Nations and major urban centres. Local governments in Metro Vancouver and Metro Montréal, on the routes of the two proposed pipelines, are strongly opposed.

The pro-pipeline lobby, including oil companies, federal Liberals and Conservatives, and Alberta's

NDP, claim the pipelines are vital for jobs. They also claim it is possible to combine pipelines with action on global warming.

The pipelines can be stopped with determined resistance and answering both of these false claims to win workers worried about their future.

A pipeline is a 40-year investment, locking in fossil fuel dependency and consuming resources needed for renewables. The Liberals' plan to use carbon pricing to address global warming is a license for industry to continue to pollute and, based on the European Union's experience, ineffective.

Action on climate change is a good way to create jobs. Investment in renewable energy provides, on average, seven times as many jobs as fossil fuel investments.

Continued on page 10