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BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT

AGAINST WAR AND IMPERIALISM



ABOUT SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

What We Stand For

We live in an era of increasing authoritarianism, a growing far right, and rising militarism as conflicting superpowers compete to plunder the world's wealth and resources – all at the expense of working people and the planet.

- **Jobs and a living wage for all.** Unions should demand cost-of-living adjustment clauses in all new and existing contracts.
- **Put planet before profit:** fight climate change with a green jobs program.
- **Take the market out of housing:** a mass program to build and renovate decent, safe and affordable public housing run by tenants' democracy.
- **Defend public services** and take health and social care back into public ownership.
- **For fighting, democratic unions:** run by and for the members to campaign for better pay and working conditions.
- **Respect and enforce existing Indigenous treaty and resource rights.**
- **No to war and imperialism!** Slash military spending and build an international working-class movement against militarism.
- **Take into public ownership key sectors of the economy:** including banking, the internet, the energy industry, transportation and privately-owned utilities.

Socialists stand for a society run by and for working-class people. Join Socialist Alternative to help create a future free of exploitation and oppression, where people and the planet flourish. ★



International Socialist Alternative

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Combining Ideas and Action

Marxism unites a sharp understanding and analysis of the world and its processes with determined activity. Marx famously wrote that “philosophers have only *interpreted* the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to *change* it.” To make change, we have to both understand the world *and* act.

To further our understanding, Socialist Alternative held its national conference in Vancouver with delegates from Toronto, Guelph, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, BC's interior, Vancouver and Victoria. Visitors came from Montréal (Québec organizes as Alternative Socialiste), Seattle, Philadelphia and London, England. We discussed the world and Canada over two and a half days, making sense of the turmoil all around. We reviewed our work and mapped out future plans. Informal discussions continued long into the evening. One highlight was the book sales of \$568.50.

But we don't just talk. Our members were on the May Day march in Toronto, and in Vancouver we attended a May Day Social Justice fair. We joined actions in solidarity with postal workers and in defence of national public postal service in various cities.

In response to the Israeli regime's mass murder and deliberate famine in Gaza, rallies in solidarity with Gaza have regained energy with new people turning up. Socialist Alternative has been there.

In all our activities we put forward our clear socialist program, discussing with people and selling our magazine. At a recent action, in just over an hour, we sold 15 copies of *Socialist Alternative* and two copies of our international journal, *International Marxism* (available by subscription), raising \$283.25. We invite you to join Socialist Alternative to unite ideas and action. ★



Socialist Alternative at a Gaza Solidarity action

Planning for Workers and Nature

Ray Goerke

The Canadian working class is caught in the crossfire of a trade war between American and Canadian bosses. Politicians claim that tax cuts and handouts to corporations, and boosting resource extraction by removing rules protecting the environment, and Indigenous and workers' rights is needed to defend jobs and the economy. This is a program for profits, not jobs! The government is jacking up military spending to record levels while cutting funding for public services.

Canadian workers cannot rely on governments to fight for their jobs and livelihoods, and their enemy is not American or Mexican workers. Canadian workers need a workers' program to protect jobs and the environment.

A workers' program

Faced with tariffs, many companies will try to lay off workers or close plants. Instead, these companies should be taken into public ownership to protect jobs, without compensating owners and investors except in cases of proven need. Workers and their unions should be involved in a planned retooling of facilities to produce things that society needs, rather than what makes a profit for the bosses.

Tariffed steel and lumber can be used in a major public house-building program to provide publicly owned homes with rents that are affordable for all, regardless of ability to pay. Democratic community plans could be created to include more trees and green space, access to shops, public community facilities and services, all connected by a major expansion of urban public transit.

The best way to connect people across the country and protect the environment is with a national integrated rail network. Take CN and CPR into public ownership and invest in upgrading the railbed and track to allow the rapid movement of freight by rail. Build high-speed rail from Windsor to Québec City and from Calgary to Edmonton and re-introduce passenger rail between all the country's major cities and towns.

A program for the environment too

Fires are devouring forests, destroying homes and lives, and pouring smoke into the air. Yet politicians and big businesses want to build more pipelines. They say it's for economic benefits, but jobs in the fossil fuel industry keep declining despite billions of dollars of government subsidies.

Energy companies should be taken into public ownership, with guaranteed jobs and re-skilling for all workers, to plan a phase-out of fossil fuel and nuclear power, along with a rapid expansion of renewable energy production and storage including wind, solar, water and geothermal.



"The Builders" by Fernand Léger

What is a socialist planned economy?

This program means moving away from capitalism towards a socialist planned economy. A socialist planned economy is, at its core, extending democracy to the economy. Canadians get to vote every few years for the government, but they have no say in deciding what goods and services to produce and how to produce them. These decisions are made by wealthy owners and bosses. A planned economy means public ownership of industry, and elected representatives of workers and consumers taking decisions democratically.

A socialist planned economy would do away with planned obsolescence and instead build things to last and be repairable. Workers would avoid dangerous and polluting production methods. Both physical and mental health would improve, as it is far more rewarding to do work that contributes to society.

The innovative and creative energies of most of humanity have been stifled by the capitalist system. A socialist society would unleash the creative energy of the working class and open up new frontiers of science, technology, and culture.

Revolution needed

A democratically planned economy places the rights of all people to health and well-being above the property rights of the rich. The ruling class will never implement this because it ends their domination of society.

The working class needs its own organizations, unions and political parties to fight for this program. These struggles will go beyond national borders to international solidarity and cooperation among the workers around the world. Establishing a new society with a higher level of democracy will require directly taking power from the capitalist class. ★

Alberta's UCP Uses Divide and Rule Tactics

Jared Blustein and Laura Blustein

Once again, Alberta's United Conservative Party (UCP) finds itself mired in controversy and is again sowing class divisions and distractions. Many see this as politics as usual, continuing a pattern of working-class attacks, cronyism, and corruption. But for others, this moment marks a breaking point, amplifying resentment and resistance.

Wielding separatism to deflect accountability

Following the Liberal's federal victory, Alberta separatist rhetoric resurged, prompting UCP's *Election Statutes Amendment Act*, which facilitates citizen petitions for referendums on issues like separation. Enacted in May, this bill was a dog whistle to the far right, and a distraction from ongoing UCP scandals. Indigenous nations across Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 have condemned separatism as unconstitutional, as it ignores treaties that predate Alberta and affirm Indigenous sovereignty. Moreover, the federal *Clarity Act*, which outlines the process for seceding from Canada, affirms that Indigenous rights, and treaties must be recognized. Despite these challenges, the UCP continues to wield separatism as a divisive tool to deflect accountability and maintain ruling-class domination.

Scandals, party cracks and mismanagement

Lift the curtain on Alberta separatism and it's no surprise to find capitalist corruption, scandal, and fiscal mismanagement. The Alberta Health Care scandal persists (amongst others), with fresh allegations of UCP contract corruption tied to private surgical procurement. This has even caused two UCP MLAs to break ranks and support the NDP's recent call for a public inquiry. Prioritizing profit and the fossil fuel industry over public health and the environment, the UCP also lifted a coal moratorium, opening 190,000 hectares of sensitive land without public consultation, risking water contamination, and violating Indigenous rights. This is despite an overwhelming 77 percent of Albertans opposing coal mining in the Rockies.

If enriching themselves and private industry at the expense of the economy, workers and the environment wasn't bad enough, the UCP is also projecting a \$5.2-billion deficit for the 2025/26 fiscal year. Exacerbated by US tariffs and declining oil revenues, this financial mismanagement effectively threatens

future prosperity and economic stability. Shockingly, a recent study from the Fraser Institute suggests that the UCP has potentially underestimated this shortfall, and projects that the deficit could be as high as \$8.7 billion.

Missing opposition - silence on the left

Unfortunately, the opposition parties continue to be largely absent in Alberta. The NDP, lacking any clear or coherent working-class policies, and similarly acting as a servant of the extractive capitalist fossil fuel industry in Alberta, continues to tack more towards the centre, losing ever greater electorate support. The Liberals offer even less meaningful opposition. This has left many Albertans feeling alienated, with growing discontent, frustration, and anger in the face of the UCP graft.

New opportunities, or more of the same?

Rising sleaze, party fractures, and voter discontent suggest the UCP may be in trouble, though without clear opposition it may not matter. In response, Albertans are turning to organizing on the streets. Groups like Alberta Resistance and AWARE MHAB hold regular protests and led a province-wide demonstration on May 10 opposing UCP policies and calling for democratic reforms. Common Horizon, a "mass movement of working-class people," is gaining traction in Calgary and Edmonton, while unions across Alberta continue to build support for working-class solidarity and UCP resistance.

Although community groups and nonprofits are taking local action to fill gaps in social services and political opposition, they often act in isolation and lack the resources needed to challenge the ruling-class parties. Many also lack a clear class analysis, avoiding drawing distinctions to maintain a "big tent" approach to organizing. Without a class perspective, these centrist movements will be unable to do more than rearrange the chairs on the Titanic.

On the other hand, this suggests an opening for socialists to advance a meaningful platform of working-class policies based on equality and justice, which are environmentally sound. Now more than ever, the working class must act boldly and build bridges across peoples and cultures, with clear road signs that state, "on this side of the bridge lies a better world for all, made together by Socialists." ★



Chief Greg Desjarlais speaking at First Nations Unity Rally in Edmonton

Youth Divided and Searching for Answers

Tatum Raze

A 2023 Fraser Institute poll found only 39 percent of Canadians aged 18 to 34 agreed that capitalism is the ideal economic system, compared with 60 percent of those 55 and older. Meanwhile 46 percent of 18 to 34 year-olds said socialism is ideal, while 29 percent disagreed, signalling a clear youth preference for socialism over capitalism. However, in the 2025 federal election, if only people aged 18 to 34 had voted, the Conservatives would have won. The lack of a fighting working-class party with a socialist message leads many youth to gravitate to the only avenue of change they can see: the far right. Given the choice between the failing status-quo or "change" — whatever that change might be — change becomes very appealing.

...it's not the case that most youth are ideologically right-wing. Where a bold left alternative exists, young people flock to it.

But it's not the case that most youth are ideologically right-wing. Where a bold left alternative exists, young people flock to it. In the 2025 German election, the far-right AfD party made big gains, winning 21 percent of the vote, but the socialist Die Linke also made huge gains, doubling its votes. Among first time voters, Die Linke came top at 26 percent. Not only did young people vote for Die Linke, tens of thousands joined the party. In Vancouver an unapologetic socialist candidate, Sean Orr of COPE, was elected to city council with the most votes of any candidate. In a dramatic upset, democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani won the Democratic Party New York mayoral primary in a blowout, forcing his main rival, former NY governor Andrew Cuomo, to concede. The strong and energetic door-knocking operation was led by young people, knocking on over 1.5 million doors.

Problems of everyday life

Youth see problems with everyday life — the job market sucks, owning a housing is an impossible dream, and they feel isolated. When new technologies boost productivity, companies hire fewer workers and skimp on training to cut costs, leading to more layoffs and tougher competition for jobs. Young people, many burdened by student debt, fight an uphill battle, ending up with low pay, or in demoralizing or physically demanding roles with poor benefits and they feel trapped with little opportunity for career growth.

More and more of young people's paycheques are going to putting a roof over their heads. Capitalism's commodification



of housing has pushed up rents. Treating housing as a speculative asset for investment has led to a bubble, held together by developers' lobbying and the capitalist system. If the problem was lack of market supply like the economists say, there wouldn't be 22,000 empty homes in Vancouver today. When youth see how the older generations could easily afford homes, it engenders hate against the present system.

Capitalism is the root of the crisis

The Internet and social media were supposed to connect people and enhance communities, yet they have done the opposite. Capitalist corporations that run the Internet and social media prioritize profits. This leads to a hyper-individualized and divisive culture fuelled by feelings of inadequacy in body image and wealth. This ecosystem aims to maximize time spent online, push advertisements, and create niche communities where out-groups are blamed for the world's problems. Youth are hit hardest by the effects of these media ecosystems, going through their developing years with this pressure and alienation imposed on them.

In 1930, the economist Keynes predicted that improvements in productivity and technology would mean his grandchildren would have to work only 15 hours a week to have a good living standard. Yet, today many people are still working well over 40 hours a week. Instead of technology lessening the workload, the bosses stole all that time.

A publicly owned social housing program, with city councils putting up a fight against capitalist developers rather than cozying up to them, would make housing available and attainable. Publicly owned social media would improve youth's mental health and foster healthy communities. Youth want change and solutions to their problems. A fighting working-class party that understands that the root of the problem is capitalism is exactly what's needed to create the change that youth are looking for. ★

Follow us on Instagram: [SocialistAlternativeYouth](#)

Fight To Keep Canada Post Public

Harland Bird and Tim Heffernan

The public post office has been set up to fail. Its high-paid executives have mismanaged it, provoking a labour dispute and spending \$470 million on an unnecessary new high-tech processing facility in Scarborough, Ontario.

Successive federal governments have encumbered it with various restrictions and mandates, forcing it to compete with multinational corporations like Amazon. They have refused to fund it, calling its \$841 million 2024 deficit an unsustainable “loss,” even while pledging to throw more than \$62 billion at the armed forces this year. They have implied that it is irrelevant in the age of email and Amazon, but when postal workers demand better wages, suddenly it is an essential service that rural communities and small businesses rely on. This cynical justification is used repeatedly to undermine the workers.

In truth the post office is far from irrelevant. It is under attack to boost private profits at the expense of poor and working people.

What would be lost

If this attack succeeds, postal services will be cut, giving the profitable parts to big business. This de facto privatization would end universal service in Canada, as deliveries to rural and northern communities are not profitable. Seniors would be disproportionately affected, as many do not use email. Small charities, that receive many of their donations in the mail, would suffer.

It would mean much higher prices. During the last postal strike, an Ottawa resident was quoted \$57 by UPS and \$62 by FedEx to send a Christmas card to her son in Vancouver; Canada Post would charge less than \$1.50.

And it would hurt Canadian workers by replacing good union jobs with those that force workers to pee into bottles to save time. It would greatly weaken the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) — a pillar of the labour movement (in 1981 CUPW won a victory that led to paid parental leave for all Canadian workers). A weakened labour movement is bad news for all workers in Canada — and good news for the bosses.

What could be won

If the post office disappears, then so too does its yet-unrealized potential.

Postal workers have put forward an imaginative and inspiring plan, Delivering Community Power, that calls for an expansion of services that would greatly benefit poor and working people. It would re-create postal banking (abolished in 1968) that would challenge the big banks’ oligopoly. Letter carriers would perform regular safety checks

on seniors. A low-cost food delivery system would make life easier for the mobility challenged or for busy parents. Post offices in small towns would double as community hubs that would bring people together and host activities for youth, and would act as high-speed Internet providers for communities ignored by the telecom giants.

The Delivering Community Power plan is the opposite of what the rich and the banks want. It protects postal workers’ union jobs and thus strengthens the wider labour movement, it makes the public post office even more relevant, and it creates low-cost public services that would compete with the price-gouging private sector.



Delivering Community Power, image: Juniper Moss

How to win

Postal workers are on the front lines of the fight to save the post office. But they need a fighting union leadership and community support to win.

Many postal workers are frustrated that the CUPW leadership meekly obeyed the back-to-work order that ended their strike last winter, and that they called for binding arbitration, which sacrifices bargaining power. Worker morale and confidence in the union must be rebuilt.

To do this, the privatization agenda should be highlighted. CUPW’s slogan “Hands Off My Post Office” should be everywhere, along with public rallies held across the country to build mass support. Other unions should be rallied to the cause. Delivering Community Power’s program should be put forward boldly and loudly.

The Crown Corporation model has serious flaws; the post office should be brought more firmly under popular democratic control. But the bosses’ agenda is far worse. All workers should mobilize to defend postal workers. Their fight is our fight. ★

Stories from life... in a Small Rural Town

Anonymous



An interesting fact about living in most rural areas of Canada is that they had a larger population 100 years ago than they do today. In my neck of the woods, one of the largest cities in BC with a population of 5,000 people is now a ghost town of about 20.

The reason, of course, is that living anywhere in any country under capitalism means you need a source of cash income. You might live in a traditional farming community where mechanization and economies of scale mean fewer and larger farms, or you might live in an area formerly dependent on the extraction of a depleted resource. Either way, you're faced with the grim fact that you can't earn enough money to live there.

As people move to where there are jobs, small businesses that supported local populations are forced to close and their owners and employees move away. It's a vicious circle. Rural populations are increasingly elderly. Retirees can stay since their income comes from pensions and/or government support. However, for young people, it's a dead end. They may love the place, but that place can't support them.

Revitalizing rural economies is possible. Not by bringing back small, labour-intensive farms or finding a magic formula to replenish exhausted resources, but by connecting them to the modern economy. High speed internet is one of the key ways in which this can be done. Many talented younger people would love to live outside cities but can't do it without a fast and reliable connection to the modern world. Big business won't provide good connections in rural areas as there's not enough profit. Repeated promises from capitalist governments to provide this service have been so much hot air.

We need a socialist Canada where everyone is valued enough to receive the same level of service and opportunity to contribute, no matter where they live. ★

What Makes Me Angry: “Guide the World in the Right Direction”

Larry Hyink

On May 23, Canada's new Energy Minister, Tim Hodgson, spoke to a business crowd made up mainly of oil and gas executives in Calgary. His message was music to their ears.

“Energy is power. Energy is Canada's power,” he said, and outlined the Carney government's commitment to building up the “energy sector” [translation: oil and gas] to “guide the world in the right direction.”

Hodgson, like his boss Carney, is a former Goldman-Sachs exec, international banker and proponent of making Canada an “Energy Superpower.” He also served on the Board of MEG Energy, one of the top 15 oil and gas — oops, I mean, ENERGY — companies in Canada.

The assembled ENERGY execs weren't the only ones liking what they heard. Even oil and gas lobbyist Danielle Smith, who scored a part-time gig as Premier of Alberta, said something mildly approving about an Ottawa political appointee.

However, she's less pleased by the appointment of Environment and Climate Change Minister Julie Dabrusin, whose criminal past includes supporting the Trudeau government on stuff like climate change and plastic pollution.

Dabrusin, a nice woman from Toronto, seems ever so concerned about things like microplastics in our brains, something that doesn't concern Smith. Who knows, maybe they'll give humans mutant superpowers.

Smith, who actively sabotages any climate change initiative, even if it creates jobs, like wind and solar projects, thinks the only job of an environment minister is to direct the flow of taxpayer dollars to the “energy sector” to pay for cleaning up the messes they make.

Not to worry Danielle — Dabrusin's concerns are unlikely to be so overwhelming that she'll jeopardize her cushy new cabinet job for something as trivial as commitment to either principles or the environment.

Meanwhile, the rest of us get to deal with the fires, floods, super storms, invasive species, etc. that are the inconvenient baggage to “guide the world in the right direction.”

But, take heart folks: in the second-to-last paragraph of his mandate letter to his cabinet, Mark Carney says, “We will fight climate change.”

Sure Mark. As long as the fight doesn't get in the way of either the energy sector's or investment banker's profits. ★

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Simon Schweitzer and Bill Hopwood

At the end of June there was a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Iran. But the genocide continues in Gaza.

On June 13, Israel launched bombs, drones and assassinations against Iran, claiming it was to stop Iran developing nuclear weapons. Yet even US intelligence doubted that Iran was making a nuclear bomb, and Israel has a large arsenal of nukes. Iran launched some modest retaliations. On June 22, Trump ordered US bombers to come to Israel's support, although there are widespread doubts about how much damage the US bombs did.

Ever since Israel broke the ceasefire in Gaza, the violence there has soared, while the humanitarian crisis has sunk to ever deeper lows as hunger and famine stalk the land. The Israeli army has killed unarmed starving Palestinians trying to get the inadequate food Israel allows in. The Israeli regime is using famine to attack the people of Gaza.

The official death toll of Palestinians in Gaza is now around 58,000. A study in *The Lancet* from 2024 estimated significant underreporting of those killed so the real total is likely to be well over 80,000. Even more have died and are dying of hunger and disease, as Gaza is starved of food, water, power and medical supplies.

The Israeli army launched operation "Gideon's Chariots" in May with the stated aim of continued military occupation in Gaza and pushing Palestinians to the south of the territory. It also has the unstated aim of destroying as much urban infrastructure as possible; 90 percent of the residential neighbourhoods in Rafah have been destroyed.

Israeli regime unrestrained

It is clear that the Israeli regime's goal is the ethnic cleansing of Gaza, leaving Palestinians with no food, no homes and no way to rebuild, giving the two million people little choice but to emigrate or starve.

Over the last year, the right-wing regime of Netanyahu, supported by Ben-Gvir and Smotrich, have strengthened their grip on Israeli society and the region. Hezbollah in Lebanon was weakened by assassinations and mass bombing. The fall of the Assad regime in Syria, under pressure from Turkish-backed militias, was a win for Netanyahu. The opposition within Israel has been weakened or ignored.

Israel has occupied part of Syria, continued to regularly bomb Lebanon and has stepped up settlements and killings in the West Bank as it seeks to redraw the alignment of forces in the region.

Trump has boosted Netanyahu. His talk of turning Gaza into "the Riviera of the Middle East," a new Mar-a-Lago, encouraged those in Israel who want to remove all the Palestinians. While he occasionally criticizes the Israeli regime, in practice he has fully backed them, including sending B-2 bombers against Iran.

Build a Mass Movement Against War and Injustice



Despite words of criticism from some western leaders, such as those of Canada, France, and Britain, they all continue to supply weapons of death. Canadian companies shipped \$18.9 million of weapons in 2024. In addition, Canadian firms sell parts to US companies that then go to Israel, such as General Dynamics selling \$78.8 million worth of artillery propellants, and other companies supplying some \$120 million of parts for F35 jets, widely used by Israel. Scotiabank has at least \$260 million invested in Elbit Systems, the largest supplier of Israeli weapons.

None of the Arab regimes have come to the aid of the Palestinians, while China and Russia only offer empty words. After Israel's unprovoked attack on Iran, Carney and the other politicians at the G7 conference — representing Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Japan and the US — stated, "we affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself."

None of the world's powers care about the plight of Palestinians, and no hope for any lasting peace in the region can be placed in their hands. There is currently no force in the region capable of defeating the Israeli military. For now there is no restraint on the Israeli regime's ethnic cleansing and genocide in Gaza, but this will change.

Trump's zigzags

Trump's bombing of Iran also conveniently sent a warning to Russia and China, the US's main global rivals.

Trump, while fully supporting Israel, wants to cut a deal with Saudi Arabia. He visited the four Gulf states in the Middle East in May without going to Israel. He claimed to have agreed US\$2 trillion in investments in arms sales, artificial intelligence, and aviation, although some of this is probably wishful thinking.

Trump lifted sanctions on Syria and met its new ruler, Ahmed al-Sharaa. In Trump's first presidency he got United

ovement Against mperialism

Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco to recognize the state of Israel. The prize is Saudi recognition. However, it is extremely difficult for the Saudi regime to agree to this during a genocide, given the opposition within Arab society.

There is a lot of money, especially in the oil-rich Gulf states, that Trump hopes US corporations can profit from.

Access to Iran's economy would be a big prize, as it is oil rich but starved of investment after years of US sanctions. Trump and Netanyahu's dream of "regime change" is unlikely to be delivered through bombing. If anything, the attacks will temporarily reinforce Iranian nationalism. The Iranian regime is a reactionary theocratic dictatorship that in 2022 brutally repressed the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement.

Working-class resistance the way to peace

The Israeli regime unilaterally ended the ceasefire in Gaza for its own benefit rather than extending it to release more hostages. It may end the ceasefire with Iran if Netanyahu thinks that would strengthen his position.

None of the world's governments have acted to end the slaughter in Gaza or to bring peace to the region. Capitalism is increasingly a system that relies on militarism and war. The Palestinians cannot defeat the Israeli state's military might. The Israeli people will never have peace and security through war and oppression.

The only force capable of changing the endless cycle of oppression, destruction and death is the working class. It was the Russian Revolution and the mutiny of the German navy and army that ended World War I. It was the mass opposition in US society and the US army that ended the Vietnam War.

While the working class uniting to stop war seems far fetched today, it is the only power that will do so. There has been a resurgence of protest internationally. Sweden recently had its biggest ever Gaza solidarity demo. There were 150,000 on a demo in the Netherlands and 300,000 people in Rome. On June 14, there were over 50 protests against Scotiabank's investment in Elbit (Socialist Alternative organized the protest at the Commercial and Broadway branch in Vancouver).

The Canadian Labour Congress issued a statement calling for an "immediate and permanent ceasefire" in Gaza. Words are not enough. Rather than call on the Carney government, unions need to take action to stop the Israeli war machine.

Dock workers in France and Italy have refused to load shipments of machine gun parts headed to Israel. Swedish dock workers have also refused to ship military equipment to Israel. These examples need to spread.

The working class of the Middle East has the power to force government change, a power the region's regimes are fearful of. It will be Iranian workers that will overthrow the regime and bring about revolutionary class change.

Although the Israeli working class is deeply divided, with rapid shifts in mood, there is growing opposition to

the slaughter. There were protests in June in Tel Aviv and Haifa opposing the government's new military campaign in Gaza. At some point, the cost of waging genocide in Gaza will be imposed on the Israeli people in higher taxes and service cuts.

Breaking the Israeli workers from nationalism and replacing it with class consciousness is vital. The construction of mass working-class organizations in both Israel and Palestine that see all workers as allies in a common struggle against their governments and ruling class is the way to win Palestinian liberation and lasting peace in the region. It is the responsibility of the working class and the labour movement, both internationally and especially in Israel itself, to bring this conflict to an end.

International solidarity actions, such as those of the dock workers, can help build this movement. ★



Protest in US against the Vietnam War

Sexual Abuse: Behind the Veil of Fame, Wealth, and Power

Allie Pev

The film, television, music, and sports industries can catapult individuals into the limelight, exploiting talent and warping individuals into commodities on which to make a profit. With newfound stardom, and the wealth and prestige that comes with it, some men use it as an extra layer of protection to carry out sadistic acts. We are more than a month into Sean “Diddy” Combs federal sex-trafficking trial. The key witness is Diddy’s ex-girlfriend Casandra “Cassie” Ventura, who has bravely taken the stand to recount her over decade-long abusive relationship with the rapper, which included acts of violence and sexual assault.

Hockey Canada trial

Currently, the trial of five former Hockey Canada world junior players has wrapped up, with the judge’s verdict due on July 24. The five are accused of a 2018 sexual assault. You don’t have to search too hard to see the pattern of men in positions of power and wealth abusing women — Woody Allen, Harvey Weinstein, Peter Nygard, Jeffrey Epstein, Larry Nassar, and the list goes on. It must be mentioned that abuse by working-class men is prevalent as well, but they usually do not have legal teams and bank accounts at the ready to fight allegations.

That is if the case even makes it to court. In Canada, between 2015 and 2019, 36 percent of sexual assaults that were reported to police resulted in charges, of which 61 percent proceeded to court. Once in court, 48 percent of these cases resulted in an accused person being found guilty, and 50 percent of these resulted in a sentence of custody. So if 100 sexual assault reports to police are made, only 36 cases proceed to court with only about 10 accused being found guilty.

Once within court, a new battle emerges; the Crown must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the alleged offence took place. Soon a clear double standard emerges. The abuser is usually given the benefit of the doubt. During the Hockey Canada trial, defence suggested their clients’ “good character” is evidence they would not commit a sexual assault. Meanwhile, the victim’s actions were dissected. A defence lawyer asked detective Lyndsey Ryan on the stand about the “significant differences” in the victim’s initial 2018 police interview and her 2022 statement to Hockey Canada. Ryan states she attributes the change to the victim having had four years to process what had happened and to understand that “acquiescence was not consent.”



Hockey Canada Trial — protesters at courthouse

System protects abusers

The tendency to rely on the assumed good character of the accused, alongside defamation laws, have been increasingly used in the past few years to respond to #MeToo stories. As long as the tools of the capitalist system — courts, wealth and media — can be used to shift the narrative to favour abusers and intimidate victims of sexual violence, abuse will continue, abusers will go free, and victims will be vilified.

To get at the core of this issue, it is necessary to look directly at the capitalist structure itself that allows for such behaviour to continue. The capitalist system profits from the film, sports and music industries. Within these industries, sexism and misogyny are rampant, whether it be via the content produced or in the culture of their operations. Capitalism does not care about the destruction it causes in the effort to make a buck, so it is the structure of capitalism itself that must be dismantled.

For socialist feminists, building a movement to end gender-based violence must be linked to the broader necessity for a movement that unites the whole working class for socialist change — the public ownership and democratic planning of wealth and resources in the interests of people, not profit. By eliminating the class divide at the heart of capitalism, socialism would provide the basis to build a society free from all oppression. ★

A Workers' Party Needed

Bill Hopwood

The NDP just had its worst ever election result. Its decimation is the price the working class will pay for the NDP's support of the Liberals in the last parliament. Serious soul-searching is needed.

Some will argue that 2025 was a freak election, with NDP voters temporarily "lending" their votes to the Liberals due to the unique threats of Trump and Poilievre. In 1993 the NDP did nearly as bad and recovered over the next decade. Yet today's world is much different. Poilievre or someone just as extreme is likely to lead the Tories in the next election. The future holds in store more polarization, economic shocks and intensified inter-imperialist conflicts and wars. The working class cannot wait a decade or more for a political party that stands solidly with it.

Others will claim that the NDP has abandoned the working class and focuses too much on social issues, environment, and Indigenous, trans and women's rights. Internationally, as a section of society has shifted to the right, centre and centre-left parties concluded they should do the same. Moving to the right only legitimizes the further-right parties, who gain more support. In a polarizing world the answer to the rise of the right is a strong socialist and left response. A successful NDP would have strong policies on "bread and butter" and social and environmental issues.

In the past, the NDP and CCF won significant reforms, most notably public health, by visibly campaigning between elections.

In the past, the NDP and CCF won significant reforms, most notably public health, by visibly campaigning between elections. Now the party barely has a public presence, rarely seen on the streets even during elections. In office, the NDP looks for a middle ground between labour's needs and capitalism's desires, as it does not want to upset big business.

Many NDP members feel that the leadership has moved to embrace pro-capitalist policies. It no longer campaigns or implements working-class policies such as building publicly owned housing, strong rent control, and significantly higher taxes on the rich and corporations. The leadership and bureaucracy of the NDP have consistently resisted such policies.

Canadian workers need their own party

The NDP has moved far from its socialist past. With the rise of a more aggressive Trumpish Conservative party and bosses demanding more profits, workers need a party that clearly stands for them.

An upsurge in mass political activity may turn first to the NDP and attempt to transform it into a party for workers, environmental activists, Indigenous people, etc. Almost certainly the party bureaucracy will resist and there will be a struggle. If the new energetic people win, then the NDP would be, in effect, a new party. If these new people are rejected by the bureaucracy, they may well seek to build a new party.

For the working class to successfully defeat capitalism it needs both a new party and to transform the union leadership.

Building a new party will need sustained efforts and a large influx of new people into political activity. The struggle for a party that fights for working-class interests will include challenging union leaders who are part of the NDP's machine. For the working class to successfully defeat capitalism it needs both a new party and to transform the union leadership. The struggle to build workers' power involves both workplace organizing and political representation.

For a campaigning democratic party

Working people need unions, mass demonstrations and a political voice to fight the bosses. Internationally, establishing parties that represented the working class took huge struggles and was a historic achievement.

Ideally, a working-class party would have democratic structures with active branches and a socialist program to campaign energetically in communities and workplaces between elections. It would reject coalitions with pro-capitalist parties. All elected representatives should receive a skilled worker's wage, donating the rest of their salary to the party and movements of struggle.

While recognizing that a new party is unlikely to initially agree with our approach, we would still energetically participate in building it. Workers learn through both struggle and experience.

A workers' party would change the political landscape. The experience of other countries shows that a party with bold policies and an active membership can make rapid gains. This would be a giant stride towards a socialist transformation of society. ★

Ever-Looming Threat of War in Kashmir

Chris Fofonoff

Imperialist violence is a constituent part of capitalism. This was borne out once again in Kashmir, a heavily militarized region split between India, Pakistan, and China since 1947, home to about the same number of people as Ontario.

On April 22, Pakistan-based gunmen massacred 26 tourists in the Indian-controlled part of the territory, which led to Indian airstrikes on Pakistan, and back-and-forth missile, drone, and fighter attacks until a ceasefire on May 12.

There were fears that the longstanding conflict would escalate to war between the two nuclear powers. Some will dismiss this recent flare-up as part of an “intractable” or “age-old” conflict between religions or ethnicities, but its roots are in imperialism and the partition of the British Raj (largely today’s India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh) after World War II. As well, the region is rich in minerals and contains the headwaters of Pakistan’s most important rivers.

British imperialism plundered the region

In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I of England granted a royal charter to the East India Company (analogous to Canada’s recently deceased Hudson’s Bay Company). British rulers elbowed aside their European colonial rivals, and then clamped India with direct rule starting in 1858. The following mass degradation and brutal suppression of dissent destroyed generations.

Key to British domination was encouraging rivalry among the hundreds of small Indian kingdoms, deliberately inflaming religious differences, and exploiting and deepening the millennia-old system of caste oppression. This reaped huge benefits for British capitalists, a cut for their local vassals, and huge misery for the peoples of India as they were conscripted into armies, starved in famines, and had their lands plundered through taxes and unfair trade. A 2025 Oxfam study estimates the wealth extracted by Britain at an almost unfathomable US\$65 trillion between 1765 and 1900, most of which went to the “mother country’s” richest 10 percent. The British overlords deliberately destroyed domestic manufacturing and kept Indian industrialization to the barest minimum, perhaps the top reason for the subcontinent’s deep poverty today.

Mass resistance against colonial power

The masses of India rose against this oppression and exploitation several times before winning independence in 1947 through boycotts, tax non-payment, semi-mass strikes and armed revolts. But the leaders of the Indian National Congress, the All-India Muslim League, and later even the



The 2020 general strike of 250 million workers in India

Communist Party of India acted as brakes and diverters of popular movements, mostly trying to avoid conflict with the imperial power and instead help buttress the state power they hoped to one day possess themselves. A famous example is Mohandas Gandhi, revered within and beyond India as the man who led his country to freedom through exclusively nonviolent means. But he agreed to recruit Indians to fight in the bloody First World War hoping to win favour with the British overlords.

The partition of the Raj in 1947 was hideous and blood-soaked, with millions of victims of religious and ethnic pogroms spurred on by poverty and a mad scramble for the resources that hadn’t been looted over the prior three centuries.

The 1947 Bombay Mutiny provides a hint of what might have been, where Indian naval officers and seamen were briefly at the head of a potentially revolutionary situation. But a steeled, revolutionary workers’ party was missing, and the moment collapsed.

The tortures of Kashmir would greatly intensify if relations between the two countries deteriorate further. Each side has a more powerful backer. Pakistan is the largest weapons market for China and the two have been allied against India since the 1970s. India tries to balance between the US and China (especially with its large oil purchases from China’s close ally Russia), but is nonetheless on the US-led side, as shown by its membership in the “Quad” alliance with the US, Japan and Australia.

Capitalism continues to choke South Asia with poverty, oppression of minorities, lack of development and threat of nuclear destruction. Perhaps nowhere on Earth is a socialist transformation more urgently needed. The working classes from Kolkata to Karachi must defeat their militarist and chauvinist leaders to avert catastrophe and unleash the massive potential that has been suppressed for so long. ★

United States: Resistance Growing

Martin LeBrun

Resistance to Trump is growing. On June 14, Socialist Alternative across the US joined between 5 and 10 million people in over 2,000 protests. These rallied to stop Trump's terror campaign against immigrants and communities in the largest anti-Trump protest and probably the largest single day of protests in US history.

New York City Democrats chose Zohran Mamdani, a self-described socialist, as the party's candidate for November's Mayoral election. The base of the party wants change and enthusiastically supported his policies including free buses, a \$30 minimum wage and free child care. The party machine has been rejected but will not accept this result.

Trump's cruel goal of deporting 3,000 people a day is not coming from a place of strength, but a place of weakness. His approval ratings are near an all-time low as his "Big Beautiful Bill," and economic policies are deeply unpopular among the working class. Trump has failed to deliver capitalist peace in the Middle East (instead he bombed Iran) and in Ukraine. Trump hopes mass deportations will distract from his failures but, so far, his plan has backfired.

What's next?

Protest movements can motivate and embolden more workers to join the struggle, showing that people can change the course of events. But Trump won't go down without a bigger fight, so how to fight matters.

The working class has the power with mass protests, sit-ins and strikes to defeat Trump. Going beyond the immediate demands of stopping ICE raids, dropping all charges against protesters, and the right to protest without repression can help mobilize people. Socialist Alternative calls for redirecting the hundreds of billions of dollars in military and border funding toward free universal healthcare, public education, and a massive expansion of high-quality affordable housing. Such far-reaching demands can give workers something to fight for. This can overcome Trump's divisive tactics of blaming immigrants for peoples' poverty and hardship. These demands point to the root of the issue: capitalism.

Socialist Alternative has recently launched "Union Members Against ICE," demanding a national one-day strike against Trump and

ICE. Building for this needs mass meetings of union and non-union workers and community members to plan out strategy, next steps and a motivating program.

Build fighting unions and don't trust Democrats

Many union leaders do not even fight for decent pay raises, much less have the will and the strategy to stop Trump. That's why union members need to rebuild their unions and fight sell-out leaders such as Teamsters President Sean O'Brien, who has parroted Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and defended DOGE cuts (which included firing workers and attacking union rights). Teamsters for a Democratic Union are working to transform their union into an organization that can win victories. Amazon Teamsters at KCVG in Kentucky are organizing to defend immigrant co-workers against ICE and are fighting discrimination against Muslim coworkers. Unionizing Amazon and other workplaces with large immigrant populations will require uniting immigrant and US-born workers around common demands.

Build a Fighting NALC, a reform group in the letter carriers union, won open bargaining and led the first successful "Vote No" campaign on a sellout contract in 50 years!

While young and working people are gassed and shot by troops, California's Democratic leaders — LA Mayor Bass and Governor Newsom — posture as champions of the anti-ICE movement. Yet, Bass supported funding for 240 new cops. Newsom bragged about successfully working with ICE "over 10,500 times."

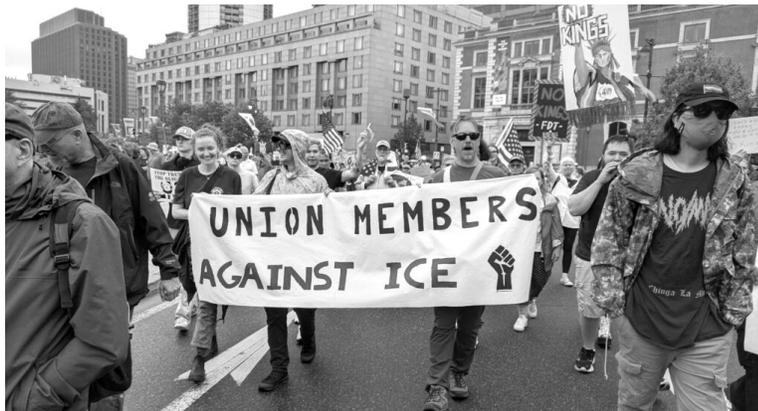
We need a new party

AOC and Bernie are touring the US denouncing Trump at rallies of tens of thousands. But before long they will call on their supporters to vote Democrat yet again in the 2026 midterm elections. Anyone running for office to win gains for working people must break from the Democrats to avoid being sabotaged and, importantly, to help mobilize the working class

to fight for real changes to benefit workers, immigrants and marginalized people.

Stopping Trump will need organizing in workplaces, schools and communities to break from both capitalist parties and build an independent, anti-war workers' party that can win against the billionaires. ★

More on the US:
socialistalternative.org



Socialist Alternative marching in the "Union Members Against ICE" contingent

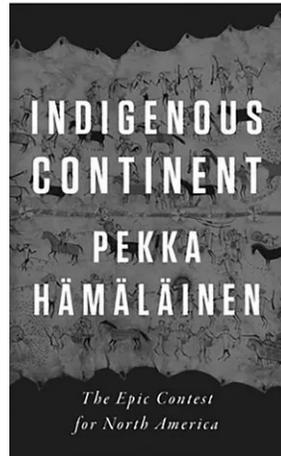
Book Review: *Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America*

Leslie Kemp

Indigenous Continent by Pekka Hämäläinen opens the narrative “entrenched in our culture and minds” of European dominance. Tracing four centuries of Indigenous and settler interactions across the broad expanse of North America, the book provides a clear historical record of how Indigenous peoples blocked and destroyed colonial projects, forcing Euro-Americans to accept Native ways, Native sovereignty, and Native dominance. Most students are fed a history that privileges “European ambitions, European perspectives and European sources.” Hämäläinen says that the reality of an Indigenous continent has remained obscure because European empires, and especially the United States, invested power in the state and its bureaucracy, whereas Native nations invested power in kinship.

Informed by a multitude of Indigenous perspectives, the book recounts hundreds of incidents involving diverse Indigenous groups, from the early encounters by the Calusa Indians in Florida with the Spanish to the end of the Indian wars in 1877 and The Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890.

This book is also a history of colonialism. It is a history “of a place and an era shaped by warfare above all. The contest for the continent was, in essence, a four-centuries-long war that saw almost every Native nation fight encroaching colonial powers — sometimes in alliances, sometimes alone.” While war was often a last resort for Indigenous people, they won as often as not. Disputing the “ludicrous notions of ‘savage’ Indians,” the historical record shows it was the colonists who were responsible for most atrocities. While many colonists, especially the British, Spanish and Americans, were “guilty of ethnic cleansing, genocide and other crimes,” some adopted more measured approaches to Native peoples, including regimes that sought to embrace them. Hämäläinen attempts to show the full impact of colonialism in all its forms — settler, imperial, missionary, extractive, commercial and legal — to “destroy lives, nations and civilizations.” He maintains that “[i]t is against that horrific violence that Indigenous power is revealed.” ★



Working-Class History: CUPW’s Successful 1965 Wildcat Strike

Uros Novakovic

July 22 marks the 60th anniversary of the illegal 1965 strike that birthed the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW).

Prior to this strike, postal workers in Canada were “represented” by company unions whose real purpose was to protect the interests of the employer. Thanks to these ineffective, non-militant unions, letter carriers in the 1960s were often working 12-hour days with no overtime pay. This led to incidents of exhaustion, fainting, and even heart attacks. Women workers, most of whom were on part-time contracts and excluded from the unions, were subject to regular sexual abuse from the management. Wages had stagnated.



From the 1965 postal strike

By 1965 the workers had had enough. The law at the time did not allow them to strike, their union leadership was staunchly opposed to it, and they had no strike fund. While the ruling class portrayed public sector workers, like postal employees, as inherently non-militant and unlikely to unionize effectively, the workers themselves had a deep sense of solidarity, and they had the courage to fight — risking job loss and jail time — for fair treatment. After demanding an annual raise of \$660 (the equivalent of about \$6,350 today) and seeing the counter offer of \$300, they resolved to walk off the job and into the unknown.

On July 22, postal workers in Montreal took the lead, followed within hours by their comrades in Vancouver. Soon 22,000 postal workers in 80 cities and towns across the country had joined the strike, reasoning that they had little to lose, and betting, in the words of one worker, that “they can’t put us all in jail.”

Eighteen days later the bosses upped their offer to \$550. The victory helped win the legal right of Canadian public sector workers to strike, showing how a win for some workers is a win for all.

After this experience, the workers ditched their old company unions and formed CUPW, which adopted the slogan “The Struggle Continues.” Today, 60 years later, this is no less true. ★

Build a Fighting Pride *(continued from p.16)*

US Democrats caved when they refused to fight for Democrat Sarah McBride, Congress's first transgender representative, after the Republicans banned her from using the appropriate bathroom.

This Pride season will continue under the shadow of the Trump administration in the US, which Canadian conservatives are eyeing carefully, mimicking successful strategies to pursue their anti-democratic, anti-human agenda. Trump's attack on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is a clear attack on equal rights.

While the target currently in the cross hairs is gender-nonconforming and trans people like me, if successful, their reactionary movement will turn against all queer people and women next. This is a clear strategy to pursue and repress those already pushed by society to the periphery in hopes that support for the 2SLGBTQAI+ community will melt away, letter by letter. These strategies have already been implemented in Alberta, with Bill 26 pushing the government further into the personal lives of trans youth, their parents and their doctors.

Queer liberation through class struggle

As the right marches forward with electoral victories around the globe, it's important to remember how our community first gained its recognition and rights. The queer community didn't vote for politicians to give us rights or appoint judges sympathetic to our cause. We fought, struggled, and won these rights through mass movements — strikes, protests and riots. Decades of struggle by working-class queer people and their allies won these rights. Our community has always been the best champion of its own cause. Liberals and corporations loved to point to a month (Pride) with a rainbow logo as progress, but this was merely a recognition of their need for us. Not the other way around.

Pride was born out of a fundamental conflict between the ruling class and working people, and the retreat of corporate pinkwashers makes all the clearer the need for the movement to return to its roots. What 2SLGBTQAI+ people need is to return to the idea of Pride as protest. What we need is a real fighting movement. We need a movement that is unafraid to oppose regressive policies at all levels of government — a movement that stands with teachers' unions to oppose attempts to chip away at sexual orientation and gender identity education programs, and that fights alongside healthcare workers who are being attacked by conservative politicians for simply providing the care that has been proven to give our community the best outcomes. The federal NDP has suffered a huge



Socialist Alternative at Victoria Pride

defeat, having talked of supporting workers' right to strike while supporting the Liberal government that used administrative methods to force postal, rail, and longshore workers back to work.

Our community needs a grassroots democratic party of struggle that will take up the fight in elections and on our streets and in our workplaces. We need a party that remembers we exist for more than one tweet a year, and actively includes working-class queer people. Queer people have always led in fighting our battles and now is no different. We will not rely on some Liberal politician to determine that our existence is politically convenient for their campaign. It is likely that the present liberal "allies" of convenience will throw out our cause the second it conflicts with the needs of their ruling-class masters, who are ever desperate to crush us with higher rents, lower wages, and worsening healthcare.

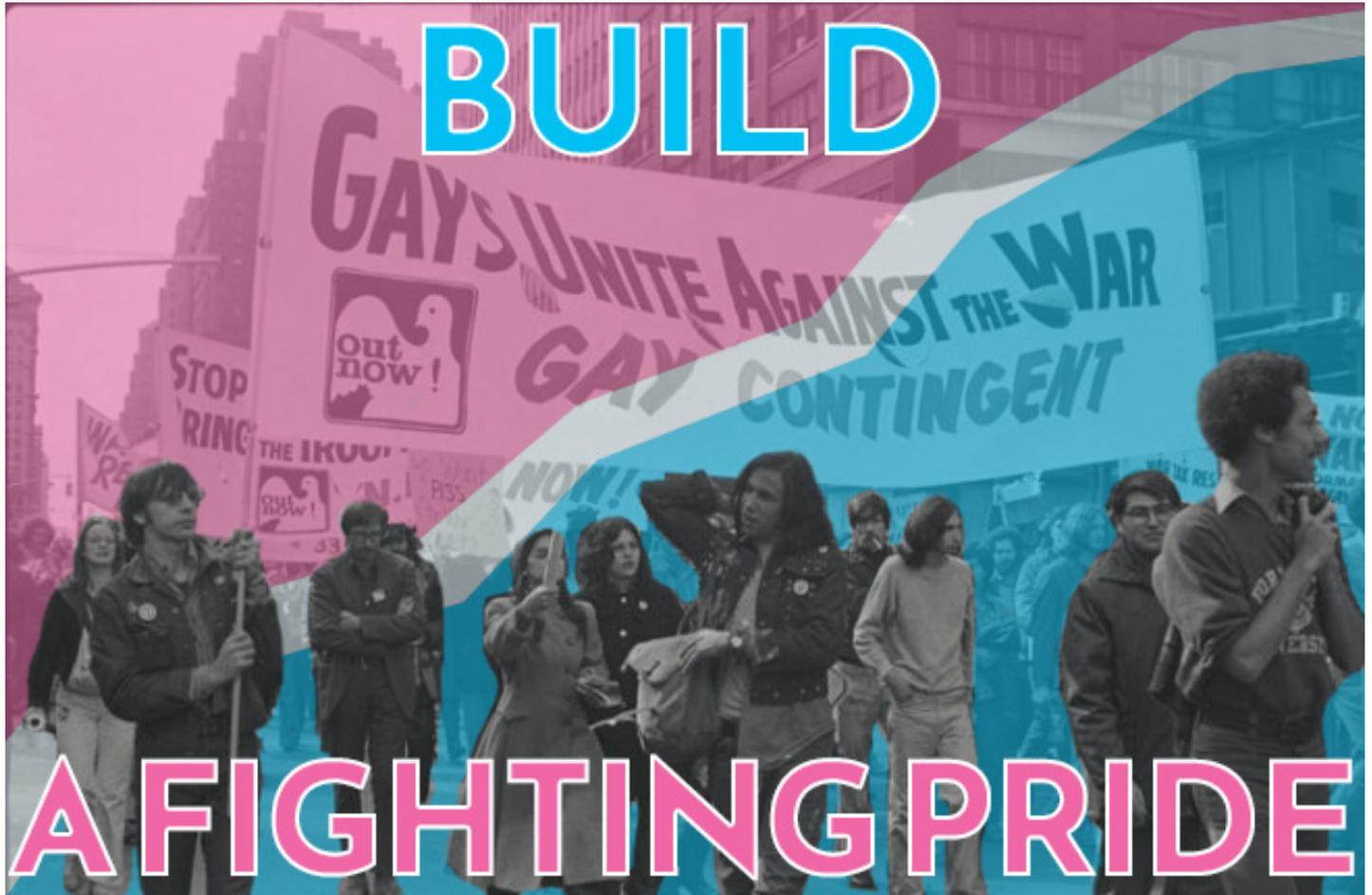
It's hard not to be overwhelmed by the ambient malaise of our political moment both in Canada and around the world. Things seem so dire for so many. The increasingly isolated and ignorant ruling class continues to centralize its wealth and power. Unable to control the anger of working-class people created by ever declining standards of living, the ruling class lashes out against convenient scapegoats. The Liberals are desperate to convince people that they can reverse things and go back to "normal" times. They simply can't, as they defend capitalism, which is the cause of the crisis. They can't control rent, they can't control the standard of living, and they definitely can't control the way we dress.

The true liberation of queer people goes hand in hand with the liberation of all those who are oppressed and the working class. That is the goal of the fighting Pride we need and that Socialist Alternative stands for. ★

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R O'Brien

With 2SLGBTQAI+ people under attack in the US, and several provincial governments introducing anti-trans legislation, many queer people were terrified of what a Poilievre prime minister might do. Many surely breathed a sigh of relief when Carney's Liberals won. But this is just a temporary reprieve. We — queer people — neither can rely on the Liberals to defend us nor let the Liberals off the hook. As seen throughout our history, it's only through mass working-class struggle that queer people protect ourselves and our communities.

The federal election does nothing to protect queer people in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick, where provincial governments have passed laws targeting trans healthcare, education, and the queer community broadly. Queer people in these provinces now have a target on their back, placed there by the government. Conservative politicians don't need to win a federal election to chip away at our communities; these are political battles being fought on city councils, provincial legislatures, and even in classrooms and libraries.

No trust in the Liberals

The victory of Carney and his Liberals does not signal a final defeat of regressive social forces — far from it. The economic

A gay contingent in an anti-Vietnam War protest, 1971

stagnation and rising cost of living will only continue, regardless of this new leadership. This ever more precarious economic situation gives oxygen to the right wing, who play on working people's anxieties and fears, and giving them scapegoats to blame. The Liberals will continue pretending everything is alright, giving lip service to queer issues and arguing that the Conservative alternative would be much worse. But most of the LGBTQ+ community is working class and faces the same struggles as the rest of the working class over housing costs, unemployment and welfare access.

In recent decades, corporations and liberal politicians plastered their faces, logos, and products all over Pride events. But this pinkwashing was always a cynical, transactional relationship. Recently Google announced they would not sponsor Toronto Pride, an indication that they no longer see the affiliation as worth the investment. Big business can see the signs and are cutting support for Pride. PepsiCo, Nissan, and Home Depot have also ditched their support for Toronto Pride. Queer people cannot rely on corporations to fight for us. When right-wing pressure grows, the Liberals will join this retreat. (continued on p. 15)

