

# SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

Suggested donation \$5 | Solidarity donation \$10

- ★ Can the NDP be Transformed? p. 5
- ★ International Working Women's Day p. 10
- ★ New Party for Britain's Working Class p. 11
- ★ Strike ICE Out! p. 13

February 2026 – No. 37

Produced by volunteers and printed with union labour



# SOCIALISTS RESIST IMPERIALISM'S WAR MACHINE

# ABOUT SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

## What We Stand For

The sun's bountiful energy, nature's diverse fertility and humanity's wide-ranging ingenuity could provide a good quality of life for all on a healthy planet. Socialist Alternative is dedicated to winning this world by breaking the chains of capitalism in a socialist transformation.

- **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

Socialist Alternative Canada is part of **International Socialist Alternative**, an organization with members active on five continents. For more news and analysis from around the world: [internationalsocialist.net](http://internationalsocialist.net)

**If you agree, join Socialist Alternative!**

Find out more and follow us:

[www.socialistalternative.ca](http://www.socialistalternative.ca)



[socialistalternativeyouth](https://www.instagram.com/socialistalternativeyouth)



[socialist.alternative.vancouver](https://www.facebook.com/socialist.alternative.vancouver)

## What We're Doing

On the 36th anniversary of the Montréal Massacre, Socialist Alternative's Socialist Feminist Working Group organized a powerful meeting against gender violence and oppression. Thirty people participated, including gatherings in Vancouver, Victoria, and Montréal.

Leslie spoke on the origins of women's oppression and on how women's rights were won through struggle. A finance appeal to build Socialist Alternative's socialist feminist work raised \$203.

Rosalie of Montréal discussed the 1989 Montréal Massacre in which a shooter, claiming they were stealing men's jobs, killed 14 women, all engineering students at L'École Polytechnique.

Sara from Winnipeg talked about violence against Indigenous women, who face multiple oppressions, including gender oppression and colonialism.

Rose of Vancouver spoke about how the ruling class is built on the control of working people's bodies, including the use of sexual assault and rape as a weapon of war.

Hannah, a union member in Pittsburgh, discussed the prevalence of violence against women in the workplace, especially in the trades.

Natalie in Vancouver discussed digital violence and "the Manosphere" as a tool to spread reactionary misogynist ideas.

Socialist feminists argue that bold socialist ideas and collective struggle for liberation is needed to overcome oppression and ultimately overthrow the capitalist system. Recent attempts to compromise with the centre to defeat the far right have failed. But numerous examples — including Mamdani in New York City, Your Party in Britain, and Sean Orr and COPE in Vancouver — show that bold left-wing programs mobilize working-class people and socialist activists in huge numbers. Through collective struggle against the rotten system of the bosses, workers of all genders learn to recognize their common interests. ★



Public meeting against gender violence and oppression

# Youth Fight Back Against Militarism and ICE

Fionn Maier

The Battle of Minneapolis on January 23 was a historic moment: a clash between ICE's homicidal state terror on the one hand, and the ingenuity, determination, and solidarity of working-class people on the other (p. 13). In the aftermath of the one-day general strike and the horrific execution-style murder of the nurse, union-member, and peaceful observer Alex Pretti, calls went out for a national day of action on January 30.

Students and youth led the way in the January 30 demonstrations. In cities across the US, students organized walkouts to protest ICE terror against immigrants and anyone opposed to the Trump regime. Socialist Alternative members in the US organized several of these walkouts, including at the University of Seattle and the University of Madison. The students demanded a ban on ICE and Department of Homeland Security recruiters from campus, a moratorium on evictions from student housing, and to use the existing campus-wide alert system to notify people of ICE presence.

Many unionized workers on or near school campuses joined the protests, including dining hall employees, grad student workers, librarians, and healthcare workers. In order to shut down ICE, this movement will need to continue to escalate and build towards a nationwide general strike.

## Germany: students refuse conscription

In Germany, the federal government passed a new military service law requiring men over 18 to register with the reserves (it's optional for women). While not yet conscription, this is clearly what the government is preparing for.

The military service law is extremely unpopular among German youth. In December of last year, 55,000 students in 90 cities went on strike to protest it. The protest organizers stated on social media: "We don't want to spend half a year of our lives locked up in barracks, being trained in drill and obedience and learning to kill... war offers no prospects for the future and destroys our livelihoods." There is a follow-up strike planned for March 5. The Left Party, an electoral coalition that Socialist Alternative members in Germany are a part of, supports the strike and is campaigning for active solidarity in schools, universities, and workplaces.

Socialist Alternative members in Germany (SAV) are building for the March strike to be as large as possible. The establishment parties say that conscription will be necessary to defend democracy, but SAV says, "democratic and social rights in this country are threatened from within: by the



*Socialist Alternative members leading a walkout against ICE in Seattle*

expansion of the surveillance state, by police violence, growing racism, the shift to the right, and the rise of the far-right AfD. Germany is already allied with authoritarian and violent regimes — such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the US. Young people suffer from a broken education system and a lack of affordable housing. It is becoming increasingly difficult to live well on wages... We refuse to be cannon fodder for imperialism."

## Workers hold the power

Student protesters and young people hitting the streets have historically played a key role in movements that won massive gains for the workers and the oppressed, energizing the struggle and helping it spread. The Vietnam War protests, France's 1968 General Strike, the Civil Rights Movement in the US, the Arab Spring, and Occupy Wall Street all demonstrate this. However, students can't change society on their own: the strength of the organized working class is needed to halt the flow of profits, which is what terrifies the billionaires.

In the fight against Trump's deportation machine and militarism around the world, students can lead the way in shutting down schools and college campuses, while appealing to the rest of the organized working class to join the struggle. Workers hold the true lever of power, because they create profits for the ruling class, and more fundamentally, keep the world functioning. All workers have an interest in fighting for a world free from oppression and war, where the working class collectively decides how to run society in the interests of nature and humanity. ★

# The Housing Crisis is the Housing Market

Harland Bird

Average asking rents declined by 2.3 percent in Canada over the past year — a small but welcome reprieve for renters, who have increasingly struggled to keep a roof over their heads. But in the eyes of developers this marginal decline is a disaster that threatens the construction of much-needed new housing.

Asking rents have fallen furthest in Vancouver, where they are now 7.9 percent lower than they were a year ago. They remain the highest in the country (North Vancouver first, Vancouver second), and well above pre-COVID levels, but according to Vancouver developers the construction of new rental housing in the city is now “economically unviable.”

There are also fears that a 5.1 percent fall in Toronto asking rents — which are still high relative to the historical and national average — could derail new construction there, too.

“We are not crying wolf,” said the president of Wesgroup, a major Vancouver-based developer that cancelled a multi-building project and laid off staff last year. “The industry is bleeding out.” The fall in rents would be the final nail in the coffin of many future projects, he said.

Compounding the problem is the collapse of the Canadian condo market, which has been particularly acute in Toronto — where condo sales in the first six months of 2025 dropped 89 percent compared to the previous four years — and Vancouver, but is spreading to other cities including Calgary and Montreal. This is widely acknowledged to be a result of developers building condos to sell to so-called “investors” (AKA speculators), prioritizing profit over people who might actually want to live there. The result is thousands of finished homes sitting empty while thousands of people struggle to survive on the streets below.

All of this raises serious questions about orthodox capitalist housing policy, which holds that incentivizing private developers to build housing is the only practical way to bring rents and home prices down.

## Developers are the problem, not the solution

This market-based approach, which has been embraced by governments across the country and political spectrum, from BC NDP progressives to Ontario Conservatives, has been very profitable for private developers. But it has been painful for renters, communities, and public coffers.

In December, Vancouver city council approved a developer relief package that shells out an expected \$320 million in fee reductions and eliminates requirements for adequate parking, local job creation, and public art. This comes just months after the BC government also slashed fees for Vancouver developers, to the tune of \$250 million. The BC

NDP even refused to limit between-tenancy rent increases (vacancy control) — an obvious solution to skyrocketing rents — for fear it could disincentivize development.

Toronto city council recently approved over \$245 million in zero-interest loans, fee reductions, and tax exemptions in its latest developer aid package. Then the Ontario government passed the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act (aka Bill 60) — a major attack on tenants’ rights launched in the name of incentivizing new construction.

The justification for all of this has been that it will benefit renters and communities in the long run as supply catches up with demand, lowering rents and home prices.

Indeed, proponents of the market-based approach have been quick to take credit for deflating rents. But the decrease is more likely due to a mix of factors, including reduced immigration, shrinking apartment sizes, and economic and regulatory factors affecting real estate speculation.

***Private developers and the for-profit market are the cause of the “housing crisis,” not the solution. Socialist Alternative calls for strong renter protections, including rent control, and a massive public program to build non-market housing. Get the market out of housing!***

Moreover, if this marginal deflation is enough to halt new construction, it suggests that the market-based approach is simply not a viable path to affordability.

Poor and working communities desperately need more housing, but developers will generally only take on projects that they can expect to make 16-20 percent profit from. The market-based approach allows them to hold society hostage to their desire to enrich themselves.

Private developers and the for-profit market are the cause of the “housing crisis,” not the solution. Socialist Alternative calls for strong renter protections, including rent control, and a massive public program to build non-market housing. Get the market out of housing!★

# Can the NDP be Transformed?

*Martin LeBrun and Bill Hopwood*

Socialist Alternative Canada supports Avi Lewis for NDP leader as his program best speaks to the needs of the working class. His platform is a sharp break with present and past failed policies both federally and provincially.

If Lewis is elected leader, he will face fierce resistance from the NDP establishment as well as provincial NDP representatives. The clash of his policies and his supporters against the NDP machine will most likely open a debate both inside and outside the NDP about what sort of party the working class needs. Lewis will have to fully mobilize his supporters to resist the inevitable sabotage.

This debate and struggle is long overdue. Socialist Alternative has stated for years that the NDP is not the party the working class needs. It does not fight alongside the working class and cannot win federal elections.



*Avi Lewis posing for a selfie with a supporter*

## NDP Failure

This leadership race may determine whether the NDP remains relevant in federal politics. After it won 103 seats in 2011, it has gone downhill, winning just 7 seats 2025. Clearly the recent program and approach is a failure.

The NDP, both federally and in the provinces, has put forward moderate policies, which are no answer to the anger and inequality in society. Its pact with the Trudeau government tied it to the Liberals' failings. In the rush to stop Poilievre, after Trump's attacks on Canada, the NDP was largely irrelevant.

A three-person panel barred Yves Engler from running, which was not a surprise, but shows a lack of democracy and transparency. The members should decide the leader, not three people. The domination of the party by a small clique must end. An active campaigning membership should control the party's policies and actions.

## For working-class politics

Building an NDP with a mass membership requires bold and inspiring demands and policies that are sharply differentiated from the Liberals and Conservatives.

To matter, the NDP needs to change the perception of two "left" parties, NDP and Liberals, against one right-wing party. There are two pro-big business parties and there should be one pro-working-class party.

Unless the NDP can recover, voters face a grim choice: Carney's conservative Liberals with cuts to public services, handouts to big business and massive military spending or Poilievre who continues his Trumpish faux anger, with very few clear policies.

Socialist Alternative Canada believes that the party that is needed — a workers' party — would campaign for policies including for affordable publicly owned rental housing,

free public transit, quality public health care, a rebuilt Canada Post including postal banking, a rapid transition to clean energy, universal publicly owned telecoms, public ownership of the railways with significant investment and public ownership of key sectors of the economy. These would provide millions of good union jobs using tariffed steel, wood and aluminum. The NDP should champion an economy built for people's needs and to protect nature.

Campaigns would mobilize young and working people and be ongoing, not just in election years, meeting people on the streets and in their neighbourhoods. A new NDP would encourage, empower and help union and community activists in their struggles. It should be normal for the NDP to be on picket lines.

A vital part of a workers' program is ending the workplace dictatorship of the bosses. Publicly owned sectors would benefit from workers' democracy in the running of workplaces and public housing.

## Transform the NDP or ...

If Lewis is elected leader and either fails to overcome the NDP machine or is defeated in transforming it into a different party, the working class will face the need to build a new party as is happening in Britain with Your Party (p 11).

While a break with the NDP can seem daunting, there is powerful evidence that bold socialist policies can be successful. Zohran Mamdani won convincingly in New York and Sean Orr topped the polls in Vancouver.

Socialist Alternative will help to build a mass party that is democratic and consistently campaigns and fights for socialism. Join Socialist Alternative in the fight for socialism! ★

# “Hard Choices” Only for Workers

Simon Schweitzer

Mark Carney was elected on the promise that he would oppose Trump and counter the effects of tariffs. His plan was to “cut red tape” (read health and safety regulations) that allegedly restrict trade between provinces, fighting protectionism internationally with free trade internally. However, in a speech in late 2025, he said that Canadians would have to make sacrifices: “We will have less to do some of the things we want to do.” Who is the “we” in this speech, and what do “we” want to do?

Ontario’s electric vehicle manufacturing has been bled dry. Umicore cancelled a battery plant in 2024. Almost \$1 billion had been invested by the government, and 600 jobs would have been created. In spring 2025 Honda suspended \$15 billion investment in EV production. They received \$5 million from the Ontario government and would have created 1,000 new jobs. A GM plant, which built the BrightDrop electric delivery vehicle, ceased production in late 2025. Unifor local 88 workers threatened to occupy the plant if GM attempted to remove any equipment, but this was resolved when most workers were offered 26 weeks pay with their layoff notices.

Lumber mills have been closed across BC and Alberta, costing hundreds of jobs in rural communities. Algoma Steel, in Ontario, which had just received \$500 million from the federal government, laid off 1,000 workers.

The government responded with two initiatives to boost the long-standing pillars of the economy: build more housing and increase resource extraction. The Liberals claim that a new agency, Build Canada Homes, would double the pace of home building, “unleashing the power of public-private partnerships like never before.” The agency will be building some homes itself but most of this new funding will be incentives (hand-outs) for developers, e.g., \$25 billion to “innovative Canadian pre-fabricated home builders.” Housing starts are still expected to decline for the next three years, but developers won’t be asked to sacrifice (p 4). The federal and Alberta governments signed a memorandum of understanding, laying out the conditions for approval of a new pipeline

to the Pacific coast. Danielle Smith and Alberta oil executives won’t be asked to sacrifice.

## Workers are sacrificed

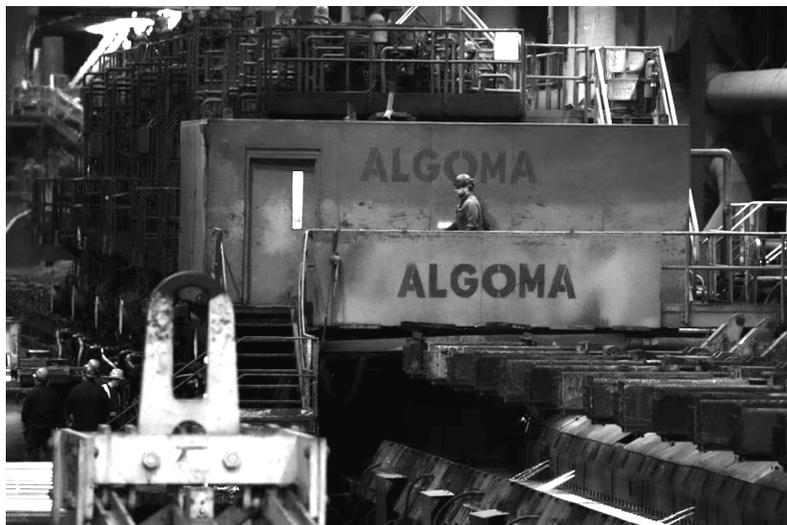
It seems sacrifice is only asked of working people. Were the bosses or owners of GM or Algoma Steel asked to sacrifice? They took millions and still laid off workers. If provincial and federal governments thought manufacturing was important and wanted to protect jobs, they could nationalize factories and mills, rather than trying to bribe corporations, and position them to produce for society, not profit. A lot of steel, wood and manufacturing is needed to tackle the climate crisis and provide enough quality homes.

Instead of planning for more pipelines (the recently finished Trans Mountain pipeline cost the government \$35 billion), governments could invest in providing good jobs in massive buildouts of renewable energy infrastructure and urban and inter-urban public transit. Relying on for-profit builders has produced the housing crisis. A serious approach would take housing out of the market, directly building and providing homes. This cannot be done in a system where investment requires profit — it will require a democratic plan for production and distribution in society. A radical transformation is needed, and neither Liberal nor Conservative governments will take any steps in that direction. They will have to be pushed and, ultimately, replaced.

Unions cannot simply rely on governments to protect their members’ jobs. A labour movement that is part of broader struggles for environmental and social justice, with strong ties to independent working-class political parties, could take a more militant approach. Unions should use workplace occupations to preserve jobs, refocusing jobs

to provide goods that society needs, rather than negotiating for six-months severance.

A transformation of society is possible. This will need a stronger and more militant labour movement — one that is willing to fight for the jobs and lives of their members — alongside political organizations willing to fight for the interests of the working class. United we can win!★



Algoma Steel cuts 1,000 jobs despite receiving government loans of \$500 million

## Stories from life... as a Film Worker

Raine Stephen LeMay



**F**ilm: a potent artistic medium with the power to shape our minds.

I'm a film technician; we work the lights, the cameras, sets, makeup... you get the picture. While historically workers have fought and died for the eight-hour workday, in film, we are lucky to work only twelve. Committing almost all our waking hours to work takes a serious mental and physical toll. When people are exhausted and run down, work becomes dangerous, and workers suffer, sometimes fatally. Moreover, film is gig work, which forces already exhausted technicians to take on more shows without break or rest, to make a living wage. The studios — which are increasingly also the streamers — exploit the precarious conditions they've created, while reaping the benefits of our creative labour. Film workers do beautiful work, quite literally creating art, but we are not fairly compensated! What studios claim as "profit," they've taken from us.

In recent years, these attacks have felt particularly blatant. Massive companies like Amazon, Paramount, Netflix, and Apple have all begun penny-pinching like never before, slashing wages, objecting to overtime pay, and creating ever-worse working conditions. The studio elite are cheaping out, making fewer films for less money. They are excusing this by saying that the pandemic and recent writer and actor strikes ate into their profits. But they are willing to spend "their" money on AI software, which has already begun taking jobs from talented film workers. "Be grateful you've got any work at all," says the big boss. Unfortunately, our unions have in many ways failed to respond with serious action.

Film often essentially acts as pro-capitalist propaganda, promoting an individualist worldview. This has a knock-on effect; eroding union consciousness and collective struggle amongst film workers, which in turn makes it harder to fight our material oppression.

The radical potential of film, and the infinite creativity of its workers, cries out for emancipation from capitalism. I want my work to create art for humanity, not for the profit of the few. ★

## What Makes Me Angry: The Last Refuge

Larry Hyink

*"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."* — Samuel Johnson

Everyone's proudly Canadian these days. Our pundits and politicians loudly praise Boss Banker Carney for standing up to Trump. Well, maybe not all — Pierre Poilievre seems to feel we're not standing up enough.

For Carney, "Standing up for Canada" means spending loads on corporate Canada and the military, while chopping the federal workforce and the services they provide. Carney makes occasional concessions to ordinary Canadians, like the GST rebate, meaning we'll run short of cash a bit later in the month.

Poilievre, of course, thinks we should cut more services while also cutting taxes ... especially for the rich. He wants "to make life affordable again." This might let us put a down payment together in 50 years instead of 55.

Working people need to ask themselves just who this orgy of patriotism benefits? The answer given by our corporate elite and their political shills is that it will create good paying jobs and support the services we all need. Oddly it's the same argument used to sell globalization and free trade, just stood on its head but serving the same purpose: make the rich richer.

Face it. A worker at an Amazon warehouse in Canada, and a worker at an Amazon warehouse in the US have the same crappy job and same crappy pay. The profits they create end up in the pockets of the same crappy boss. Despite "proud Canadian" and "proud American" hoopla, the two of them share way more with each other than with Amazon's owner Jeff Bezos.

Today's flag-waving Capitalist leaders were peddling "globalization" snake oil yesterday. Same goal though: adding a few more zillion bucks to the bulging pockets of the obscenely rich.

Working people are rediscovering a socialist fundamental: they have more in common with other workers no matter where they live than with their "patriotic" exploiter. Patriotism may be the last refuge of these crooks, but they use other tools to divide workers: racism, sexism, religion, homophobia, etc. The more workers can be divided the more the profits of our common labour gush up into their pockets.

Working people need to toss aside these artificial divides, understand their common humanity and join together in the struggle for socialism. ★

**Subscribe online** to get future issues of *Socialist Alternative* delivered to your mail box:



Chris Fofonoff

In Prime Minister Mark Carney's much-heralded speech to the World Economic Forum in January, he said that "we live in an era of great power rivalry." This is true for war no less than for trade. Carney only neglected to mention that he and every other capitalist world leader are incessantly reinforcing and deepening this new truth.

A much more prescient and commendable political leader, Vladimir Lenin, said during the First World War that unless capitalism is replaced by socialism, humanity will face second, third, and tenth world wars until civilization is reduced to ash. Lenin extricated Russia from that war but was tragically correct about the second. It is essential that workers in Canada and across the world — in "allied" as well as "enemy" countries — organize tirelessly to ensure that the next part of Lenin's assurance does not come to pass.

### Boots are already on the ground

In just the last four years, the world has witnessed the largest European conflict since that Second World War that Lenin predicted, in the Ukraine. It has also seen the genocidal brutalization of the Palestinians, and millions killed and displaced by warfare in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (The Canadian government has played a role in worsening all of the above.) What makes these different from, say, the United States's 2003 invasion of Iraq is the fact that the world is now enmeshed in a burgeoning rivalry, which could be unprecedented in scope, between long-dominant and now declining American imperialism and a Chinese imperialism that is aiming to challenge the top dog.

The age of neoliberal globalization and its fantasies of ever-increasing peacefulness are now far in the rear-view mirror. International Socialist Alternative discerned and proclaimed this profound change in 2021, long before Carney or mainstream commentators acknowledged it, and when a second Donald Trump presidency was only a distant prospect. Western countries' politicians and generals had long trusted that they would be kings of the mountain forever, and that less powerful states like China and Russia would learn to accept their subordinate positions, whether in the economic or military spheres. But things have turned into their opposite.

### The whole world is arming

But the proxy war in Ukraine, particularly, has revealed again that the capitalist world order will only ever be temporarily stable or peaceful. It is also proving that "old-fashioned" military technologies and tactics — artillery barrages, tank battles, even trench warfare — have not at all been supplanted by cyberwarfare, satellites, and other high-tech systems in which the Western powers are certainly dominant. The old



Youth led 55,000 people across Germany in a protest against the ne

and the new are interconnecting and the major powers have now realized that they must aim at dominance or at least competence in both. This will require massive new resources.

Carney made waves in November when he announced a \$21 billion increase in Canadian military spending, with aims to pump that up to \$150 billion per year by 2035. The capitalist media and mainstream political parties hummed with near-unanimous support for this move, naming potential threats from Russia and China to the increasingly unpredictable and authoritarian regime to the immediate south. And Carney's plans are neither unique nor entirely his.

World military spending in 2024 topped US\$2.7 trillion and increases are accelerating in every major world power. In a year, the military spending target for NATO countries has gone from 2 percent to 5 percent of gross domestic product. Japan and Germany are in the midst of doubling their military budgets, as the latter's defence minister openly states that they must be prepared for a full-scale war with Russia by 2029. India is making major purchases of French jets and German submarines, solidifying its place in the Western camp.

Donald Trump, who ran for re-election on the canard that he (and only he) could bring peace to the world, wants to raise the Pentagon budget to US\$1.5 trillion in 2027 — an increase on current spending of over 50 percent. In his first year, he ordered the bombing of seven countries: Iran, Venezuela, Yemen, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria and Somalia, and the kidnapping of Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro. He has threatened to annex Greenland, by force if needed. He has declared that the entire Western Hemisphere is the US's "backyard." It is not; the lands belong to the people who



new national service law and conscription

live there. For now, he is enamoured of American military power, but at some point, he will overreach — however, not before there are more tragic consequences.

Part of that spending will be on weapons that can literally reduce civilization to ash. On February 5, Trump declined to extend the US–Russian New START nuclear-limitation treaty, and he has openly spoken of building new nuclear weapons. The world’s increasing instability means that Israel, India, and Pakistan could be joined by many new nuclear powers in the coming years. Canada’s former chief of the Defence Staff, Wayne Eyre, recently said the country should “keep our options open” on getting nuclear weapons. Each nuclear country adds to the risk of Armageddon by political miscalculation or even technological accident.

***"In Canada, the main task is to oppose the military build-up here and reject the state's "we're all in this together" propaganda..."***

**Neither “we” nor “they” are the “good guys”**

All these fantastic and terrible weapons, including the new frontier of AI drones, need humans to build and operate them. And they will not be the only elements of future militaries. Germany and several other European states are reintroducing

conscription, which led to protests by thousands of young people (p. 3) whose good sense has not yet been blasted away by patriotism. Russia also saw anti-conscription resistance in 2022 before propaganda and repression forced it back. International Socialist Alternative was and is on the front lines of both these nascent movements.

Many self-professed anti-imperialists or even mere “lovers of peace” are in fact quite selective in the application of those labels. Some exempt NATO from the ranks of imperialism when it arms Ukraine against Russian violence. This was the argument of the imperialists of Britain and France in 1914 when Germany invaded “little Belgium.” But now as then, the West’s goal is not Ukrainian or any other country’s freedom, but domination. The destruction of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Trump’s regime change in Venezuela, and Western support of dictators around the globe all speak clearly to this.

On the other side of this coin are those who support China’s capitalist dictatorship, Russian militarism, or Iran’s right-wing theocracy as “counterweights” to the dominant bloc. This misguided view often slanders any internal resistance to these regimes as Western-brewed “colour revolutions” when in fact the protests are mainly sparked by real injustices and inequalities and have significant working-class support. To dismiss this and back “the other” side is akin to saying in 1914 that German imperialism must be supported as the “lesser evil” to Britain, ignoring that Germany’s goal was not to free India or Ireland or anywhere else, but to expand its own imperial dominion.

## What can be done

Both these wrong outlooks ignore or disparage what is in fact society’s only way out of its path to disaster: working-class organization and power, which International Socialist Alternative and other genuine working-class fighters seek to build by all possible means. Now, this includes protesting in the streets, campaigning in unions and workplaces, and countering the waves of imperialist propaganda that all of us are all slammed with every day — by putting forward a socialist voice against war and militarism. In Canada, the main task is to oppose the military build up here and reject the state’s “we’re all in this together” propaganda, including slogans like “Arctic sovereignty” or “rebuilding Canada’s industrial base.” Here and elsewhere, the march to war will cost millions of lives and impoverish the majority through cuts to hard-won social programs and environmental destruction. Meantime, the capitalist warmongers will grow even richer from our suffering.

A third world imperialist war is coming, whether in fifty years or five. The working class must, and can, take power to prevent this. There may not be another chance. ★

# The Fabric of the Women's Labour Movement

Ames Allen and Natalie L

Since industrialization, women in the workforce have been at the forefront of labour organization, fighting against inequality and gender oppression. Before even gaining the right to vote, they strove for the liberation of all working-class people from capitalism. Dangerous conditions and desperate poverty have pushed women to initiate numerous historic strikes in the textile, garment and service industries.

Women are the majority of the workforce that produces society's clothing. In North America, these have been overwhelmingly immigrant women, who brought tailoring skills from abroad. Today, over 50 million women globally experience the brutal working conditions of these industries, forced to ignore preventable hazards so their employers can exploit them for cheap labour.

In 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York caught fire, killing 146 workers. In an eerily modern parallel, Tazreen Fashions, a garment factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, caught fire in 2012, killing 112 workers and injuring hundreds more. In both cases, workers were forced to face the fire or jump from the upper floors, as they were unable to escape through the exits their employers had locked. Just five months later, 1,134 people were killed, and 2,600 were injured when Rana Plaza, another garment factory in Bangladesh, collapsed, sparking widespread protests calling for safer working conditions. Safety plans have now been improved in thousands of factories, but unsafe conditions persist in many workplaces that prioritize profit over human life.

## Struggle wins victories

Women-led strikes litter the pages of history books. On International Working Women's Day in 1917, textile workers in Petrograd, Russia initiated a strike that lasted five days, drawing 200,000 people. This started the Russian Revolution which, after eight months of turmoil and struggle, culminated in the workers and peasants, with the leadership of the Bolsheviks, overthrowing feudalism and capitalism and taking power. In 1934, rolling strikes of 400,000 workers protesting low wages and demands by their employers to increase production output halted textile production in several US states. In 1937, 5,000 dressmakers in Montréal struck against low pay, poor conditions, and the second-class treatment of women on the factory floor. In 1982, a year-long strike involving 250,000 textile workers in Bombay, India fought



Women dressmakers picketing on Spadina Avenue. Image courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives

to obtain bonus pay, and to oppose legislation that imposed forced arbitration on all workers.

These struggles are not unique to clothing production. Working-class women have fought hard across industries to win suffrage, maternity leave, protections against harassment, improved safety standards and increased wages. Much more is possible by expanding the understanding of what working-class struggle may look like today.

The Service, Office, and Retail Workers' Union of Canada (SORWUC), active from 1972–1986, provides an example of an independent socialist feminist union that focused on typically non-union industries: banks, offices, day-care centres, restaurants, pubs, and workplaces too small to garner support from the trade unions of the time. Although eventually unsuccessful, they fought to unionize pub workers in Vancouver, who experienced gendered pay scales, no medical or dental benefits, no sick pay, no seniority rights, little say in scheduling and no protection against last minute shift changes — conditions not unfamiliar to many working in the restaurant and retail industries today.

SORWUC championed innovative solutions that challenge capitalism, like implementing community-controlled schools and healthcare, providing free parent-controlled child care centres and fighting against rising rents. If it existed today, their demands might include a green energy transition, free public transit, and right to repair legislation.

The working class must put pressure on capitalists from multiple angles to win these demands. As workers organize for better pay and treatment, consumers must also demand transparency at all stages of the supply chain, from farm to mill, factory to retail store. Women are doing dignified work every step of the way, while the capitalist class continues to exploit their labour and endanger their lives for profit. Socialist Alternative supports the revolutionary struggles of women across the globe, opposes capitalist gender oppression, and fights for a future where all workers can live a safe and dignified life. Organizing on International Working Women's Day is as necessary as ever. Join us! ★

**International Working Women's Day:  
Public Meeting**

Saturday, March 14

On Zoom and in-person, scan for info:



# A New Party for Britain's Working Class

Ray Goerke

The new, and now largest, socialist party in Britain was founded at the end of November 2025. Your Party's (YP) inaugural conference drew 2,000 activists, who voted in favour of several democratic and socialist founding principles for the party.

This was the culmination of a messy process: a struggle for the foundation of a truly democratic party of class struggle, with a socialist message that can appeal to broad layers of the working class in Britain. But the struggle for the party's future is not over, as everything depends on the election of Your Party's new collective leadership, the Central Executive Committee (CEC), which takes place in February.

## Where does Your Party come from?

In 2015, Jeremy Corbyn, longtime Labour and socialist activist, unexpectedly became Labour Party leader after his bold socialist politics brought new energy and members into the party. In 2017 Corbyn's election program included raising the minimum wage, increasing public health funding, and stopping raising the age of retirement. Although Labour lost, due to sabotage by Labour's right wing, it won 12.9 million votes, the highest in 20 years. In 2019 Corbyn was replaced by Keir Starmer, part of Labour's extreme right. He purged Corbyn and his supporters, dashing any hope that Labour could return to its socialist roots.

Starmer solidified Labour as a party of big business, supporting racist policies and refusing to reverse Conservative benefit cuts. The working class, struggling under a cost-of-living crisis, is totally alienated by Starmer's Labour. Meanwhile, the Conservative Party is imploding, with factional infighting and less than 20 percent support in opinion polls. Nigel Farage's reactionary Reform UK, previously a fringe right-populist party, has rocketed up in the polls.

Starmer's Labour won a landslide of seats in the 2024 election as the Tories' vote collapsed. Starmer won 3 million fewer votes than Corbyn in 2017, although it translated into more MPs elected. In 2024, five independent MPs were elected, including Corbyn, who opposed Starmer's continued support for Israel's occupation and genocide in Gaza.



Socialist Alternative organized the "March of the North" to support Your Party

## Rocky beginnings of Your Party

In 2025, Zarah Sultana, a Labour MP since 2019, and Corbyn launched a new party, provisionally called Your Party, to represent the working class and to stop Reform UK from winning the next election. In the first few weeks, 800,000 people expressed interest in joining. But conflicts grew between the Corbyn-led alliance of independent MPs and Sultana, supported by most activists. Sultana argued for a socialist program and grassroots democratic structures.

Socialist Alternative in Britain played a significant role in supporting Sultana's and other democratic socialist proposals. Our members organized in the streets and their workplaces, building support for YP, including organizing the first ever street demonstration in the name of the new party, the "March of the North," in Yorkshire.

Yet the unelected interim leadership has barred several members from running for the CEC on the basis that they were members of another political organization, despite the Conference clearly voting to allow this. The CEC elections in February 2026 will be critical in determining the party's future. Socialist Alternative members are doing everything they can to elect a leadership that will carry the great work of the founding conference forward.

## Lessons for the Canadian working-class

Despite Starmer's Labour Party being woefully unfit for purpose, until recently it remained the party most working-class people voted for. Even though Labour was beyond reform, Corbyn and Sultana gained their profile and legitimacy through their struggles to reform it. Your Party would never have been founded without these initial attempts to transform Labour.

Socialists support any genuine attempt by the working class to reclaim its old organizations of struggle, or if necessary, build new ones. Even unsuccessful attempts at reform can raise public consciousness around the questions of what kind of party the working class really needs and lay the groundwork for the building of such an organization in the future. Socialist Alternative Canada sees Avi Lewis's campaign for the NDP leadership (p 5) as offering a similar opportunity in Canada. ★

# World Cup: The Ugly Side of the Beautiful Game

Tim Heffernan

Soccer has always been celebrated as a working-class sport. Played in streets, parks and schoolyards, all that's needed is a ball. But the Canadian working class will pay a heavy price for the FIFA World Cup 2026, while corporations and the wealthy benefit.

The huge, 104-game tournament is set to be the most profitable sporting event in human history, with FIFA expected to rake in \$13.5 billion through sponsorships, broadcasting rights and other revenue streams. But much of the cost of hosting this event will fall on poor and working shoulders.

Host cities Toronto and Vancouver are now expected to spend an estimated \$380 million and \$624 million respectively, plus at least another \$110 million from the federal government, on stadium upgrades, security, transportation, infrastructure, and logistics. This is hundreds of millions more than what the public was initially told it would cost to co-host the World Cup with the US and Mexico. Meanwhile, public services are being cut in Vancouver and Toronto.

Poor and working people are subsidizing this corporate feeding frenzy in other ways, too. For example, FIFA tournaments rely heavily on volunteers to provide free labour in exchange for “experience” — unpaid work in service of a multi-billion-dollar private enterprise.

As part of the host city agreements, FIFA has even asked for designated hospitals, specialist care, and priority medical access for athletes and VIPs in both Vancouver and Toronto. In the context of an over-stretched healthcare system, this amounts to a request to restrict access for regular people.

The 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver boosted homelessness as landlords jacked up rents; the World Cup will do the same. No doubt there will be a push to “clean” up host cities, pushing unhoused and poor people out of sight.

Adding insult to injury, at the time of writing, available tickets to World Cup games in Toronto start at \$810, pricing even loyal fans and supporters out of the stands. Poor and working people are paying dearly for this event, but few will be able to participate in it.

## Pro-soccer, anti-FIFA

Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, has said that without the support of FIFA “there would be no football in 150 countries.” But while it is true that FIFA sends much of its revenues back to its 211 member associations, it is also true that much of it goes to making a few people very rich. Infantino’s salary, for example, is around \$6.3 million.

Some FIFA revenues are put to even more egregious purposes, like the gold-plated “peace prize” Infantino invented just for the Nobel-jilted Donald Trump. Trump bombed seven countries in his first year back in office.

Moreover, Canadian soccer culture stands to gain little from the World Cup in terms of youth and amateur leagues. Local culture, grassroots clubs, and neighbourhood communities are often sidelined during mega-events. And once the final whistle blows and the travelling corporate circus leaves town, little will be left behind — just debt and expensive infrastructure of questionable utility.

The World Cup is being sold as a once-in-a-generation celebration of sport, unity, and national pride, and the enormous costs of hosting it are justified as the price of being “on the world stage.” In reality, it is a celebration of exploitation and greed, while few local working people will even be in the stands, let alone on the “stage.”

Soccer is a beautiful game, and it belongs to the people who love it, play it, and watch it. FIFA turns it into an ugly money-making machine for corporations and the rich. Wherever

sport intersects with capitalism, it's the working class who get left out.

A socialist program for global sporting events would insist that:

- Ticket prices be capped to ensure mass accessibility
- Fans be treated as participants, not revenue streams
- All workers and volunteers be paid fairly
- Revenue be reinvested into grassroots and community sport
- Ordinary people benefit, not rich capitalists ★



FIFA's Infantino shows Trump the World Cup

# Strike ICE OUT!

Bill Hopwood

US imperialism is stepping up military attacks at home and abroad. The ICE invasion of Minneapolis went hand in hand with bombing seven countries. Trump's thugs attempted to terrorize the people of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St Paul. People have been pepper sprayed in the face and physically assaulted. Two peaceful bystanders, Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti, were executed by ICE.

Over 3,000 ICE agents, five times the size of the city's police force, frightened some workers from going to their jobs and sending their children to school. As of February 9, ICE had abducted 4,000 people. However, most of the Twin Cities population stood up to ICE. Every neighbourhood has a rapid response network to issue alerts of ICE's presence, to protect targeted people and turn up in large numbers to make ICE leave the area.

## Workers' power

After 15 Service Employees Union (SEIU) members were seized, SEIU called for a city-wide general strike on January 23. This was what was needed to drive ICE out. The demand spread to over a dozen union locals, and to several labour federations.

Over 50,000 people marched through downtown Minneapolis in -34 Celsius on January 23. Over 800 businesses closed as did schools, parts of universities and public institutions. 5,000 demonstrated outside the airport and the cops arrested 100 clergy!

The working class flexed its muscles. Two days later, the chief executives of 60 of Minnesota's biggest employers issued a weak letter calling for "de-escalation of tensions," but did not demand that ICE leave.

## National strike against ICE

Trump says he'll scale back ICE in Minneapolis. Any retreat will be due to the strike and mounting anger across the US at the murders. But it will not end ICE.

Minneapolis is not the first nor the last city to be under siege from ICE. Since January 23, millions of workers and students have walked out across the US. Some union leaders have called for a country-wide general strike on May 1. It will take sustained pressure from union members to make this a reality. The demand should be ICE out of every city.

## Don't trust the Democrats

For months after Trump's election, the Democrats were demoralized and floundering. It is the movements, rallies



*Socialist Alternative's public meeting in Minneapolis on January 25*

and a city-wide strike that gave them any semblance of a backbone. Until the killings in Minneapolis, the Democrats concentrated on calls to vote for them in the November elections. Action is needed now, not when the new Congress takes office in 2027. Even if the Democrats win the House or Senate, it is unlikely they will stop Trump with his increasingly dictatorial powers. Even now some say ICE should do its job, but ICE is doing its job, trying to create fear in immigrants and workers. As ICE attacked Los Angeles last year, 75 Democrats voted to "express gratitude" to ICE.

Trump won the election with a con and due to Biden's failure to raise the minimum wage (stuck at \$7.25 an hour since 2009), expand public health and defend abortion. Trump promised to end wars, bring back jobs and end inflation. All lies. Millions of workers would support shutting down ICE and using its \$85 billion budget to fund schools, housing and health care.

## Socialist Alternative in action

Socialist Alternative in the Twin Cities energetically campaigned for the city strike in union locals and in the community. On January 23, they built for a rally on January 25, "After the Strike, What Next?" Over 300 union and community activists at this electric rally energetically agreed to build for a bigger city-wide general strike.

Across the US, Socialist Alternative has helped build solidarity rallies and meetings, and are pushing for the nationwide strike against ICE.

Increasingly, workers are looking not just to stop ICE but to stop Trump and the system that spawned Trump and ICE. That means breaking with the failed Democrats and building a party for the working class. ★

# Book Review: We're Coming for You and Your Rotten System

Leslie Kemp

After a long-fought battle against big business and the Democratic Party establishment in Seattle for a tax on big business — dubbed the Amazon Tax — Council member Kshama Sawant, a Socialist Alternative member in Seattle, declared a “historic victory for working people.”

Sawant said “We are winning because of the determination of workers and socialists to smash all obstacles and to find a path for victory.” This message was a warning to others that “class struggle is what gets the goods.” Further, the private-for-profit housing market has “utterly failed working people, not just here and now but everywhere and always, because capitalism is completely incapable of meeting the most basic needs of working people.”

This is one of several lessons that Jonathan Rosenblum’s book highlights in his narrative on how socialists beat Amazon and upended big-city politics. Socialist Alternative in Seattle won the victories they did — a \$15 minimum wage, tenants’ protections and the Amazon tax — while drawing upon class struggle methods gleaned from 175 years of Marxist theory and practice. These lessons are more crucial than ever as capitalism is deepening its reaction, and the rich are richer than they’ve ever been, while working-class people struggle to pay the rent and put food on the table.

## An extraordinary political experiment

Rosenblum describes the 10 years of a socialist council member in Seattle as an “extraordinary US political experiment, unmatched in recent history.” He describes victories, challenges, and defeats during this period when Socialist Alternative won four consecutive victories, while not diluting their program. Key to this success was building a movement that would achieve real gains for the working class. Socialist Alternative member Emerson Johnson reflects: “Getting Kshama elected isn’t enough. She’s there to be a megaphone for the movement and the movement has to continue.” Recently, politicians such as Mamdani

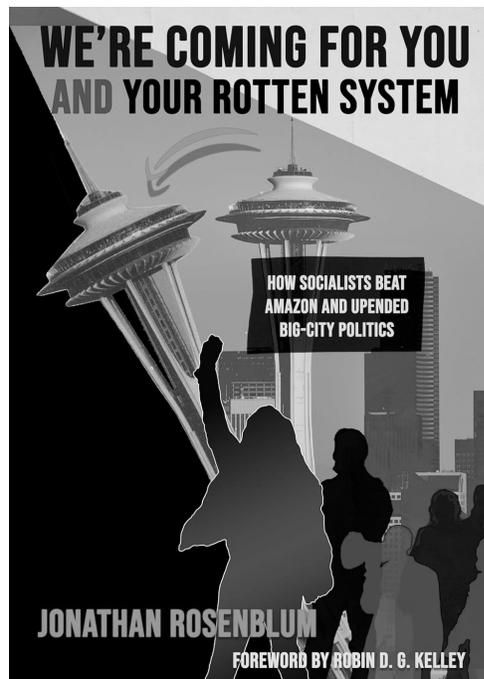
in New York and Sean Orr in Vancouver were elected as self-described socialists. It is not possible for a single politician, no matter how skilled or committed, to win against the power and money of the ruling classes. Sawant stressed that none of the victories would have been won without a movement and that Socialist Alternative was the core of movement building. It takes a movement to win the most important victories!

## Build our power

Unlike reformists, who try to conciliate and neutralize opponents, Socialist Alternative recognized that achieving their demands would take a powerful movement. One of their key tasks was to help build it. In the initial fight for an Amazon tax that would fund housing, that failed after the Democrats on council backtracked, Sawant challenged political activists to take away three key lessons. One, our movement should not negotiate against ourselves. The original demand of \$150 million was reduced to \$75 million to compromise with what council members were comfortable with. The second lesson was not to rely on the Democrats. The movement needs its own representatives rooted in the strength of the movements and in the struggle of working-class people. The third lesson was to build greater working-class unity, not by conciliating with construction union leaders (who opposed the tax) but by calling for common struggle around the material needs of working people. Divisions only weaken the power of workers, and the bosses gain from that.

The second time around, Socialist Alternative and the movement around them won against one of the richest men in the world. Kshama remarked after this victory: “I have

a message for Jeff Bezos and his class: If you attempt again to overturn the Amazon tax, working people will go all out in the thousands to defeat you. And we will not stop there because... we are fighting for far more than this tax, we are preparing the ground for a different kind of society.” She continued: “And if you, Jeff Bezos, want to drive that process forward by lashing out against us in our modest demands, then so be it. Because we are coming for you and your rotten system. We are coming to dismantle this deeply oppressive, racist, sexist, violent, utterly bankrupt system of capitalism, this police state. We cannot and will not stop until we overthrow it and replace it with a world based on solidarity, genuine democracy, and equality — a socialist world.” ★



## A Working-Class Response to Carney

(cont. from p.16)

“hewer of wood and drawer of water,” when workers were subjected to a lifetime of economic bondage from employers that extracted as much labour value they could, without consideration of safety or workers’ needs.

Most of Trudeau’s climate change policies have been scrapped: the consumer carbon tax, the 2-Billion Trees program, and the Canada Greener Homes Grant. Carney reintroduced the lapsed tax credit for LNG development and suspended the clean energy regulations, which would have required a net-zero grid in every province by 2050. He replaced the hard cap on emissions with a carbon capture sequestration scheme, a handout to oil companies. He repealed the electric vehicle sales mandate, instead reintroducing EV rebate subsidies.

### Indigenous resistance

The Memorandum of Understanding Carney signed with Alberta’s premier Danielle Smith created an opening for a new pipeline to the west coast and to end the Oil Tanker Moratorium. This has been vigorously opposed by the National Assembly of First Nations, the BC Indian Chiefs and coastal nations. Chief Marilyn Slett, of the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative, said that ending the tanker ban on the north coast “is not up for negotiation” nor will they “tolerate any exemptions or carveouts.”

Carney also supports critical mineral mining. The Ring of Fire, a 5,000 square kilometer region north of Thunder Bay and west of Attawapiskat, contains vast reserves of chromite and nickel needed for solar panels, batteries and weapons. This is Matawa First Nations territory: 10,000 people live in several permanent settlements. A First Nations led Ring of Fire report calls for environmental monitoring before any development occurs and urgent health care funding. Premier Doug Ford is anxious to get “shovels in the ground this June.” These communities have been plagued by a lack of clean drinking water, wildfires and mental health concerns. Mushkegowuk Council’s former Grand Chief noted that “We’re all suffering from the same symptoms of colonization.”

### A program for the working class

What people need is stable, well-paid jobs instead of the precarity that gig jobs offer. They need decent, affordable housing, not condos built by private developers for the investment market. They need services and infrastructure like transportation, both within cities and to other cities. The *Build Baby Build* initiatives for the working class would focus on construction of public housing, rapid transit, cross-



*Haida Gwaii under threat if oil tanker ban is ended*

Canada rail networks and renewable energy systems. It would include affordable, quality childcare and a health care system that provides reliable, quality care for all Canadians. It would take into public ownership key sections of the economy including factories that fire workers.

### Davos speech

Carney’s speech in Davos in January drew much attention and praise, partly because it coincided with Trump’s egregious talk of annexing Greenland and dismantling NATO. His words resonated with sections of the ruling class who worry about Trump’s overreach.

However, Carney’s words lack any class analysis. It is the working class that struggles to find decent housing and put food on the table, while the rich get richer every year. The working class saw the banks get bailed out in 2008 (when Carney was Bank of Canada Governor), while they witnessed escalating homelessness, growing poverty, faltering health care, and blaming immigrants. The wealthy are blind to the cost-of-living crisis even though it’s been a spark for revolts, strikes and even coups in many countries over the past months. This crisis will only deepen if capitalism is allowed to continue to wreak havoc upon the earth and humanity.

Carney talked about “we benefited” from the predictability of the rules-based international order. Socialists know that “we” does not include most of us.

Carney proclaimed that “we are in the midst of a rupture, not a transition.” What he doesn’t

say is that this rupture is not just due to the breakdown of the old international order that has benefited the ruling classes. This rupture is due to capitalism’s inability to address humanity’s needs.

As socialists, we seek a rupture from this exploitative capitalism system. Workers and social movements, with clarity and organization, can defeat this system and create a world where people and environment can flourish. Join us in this endeavour! ★



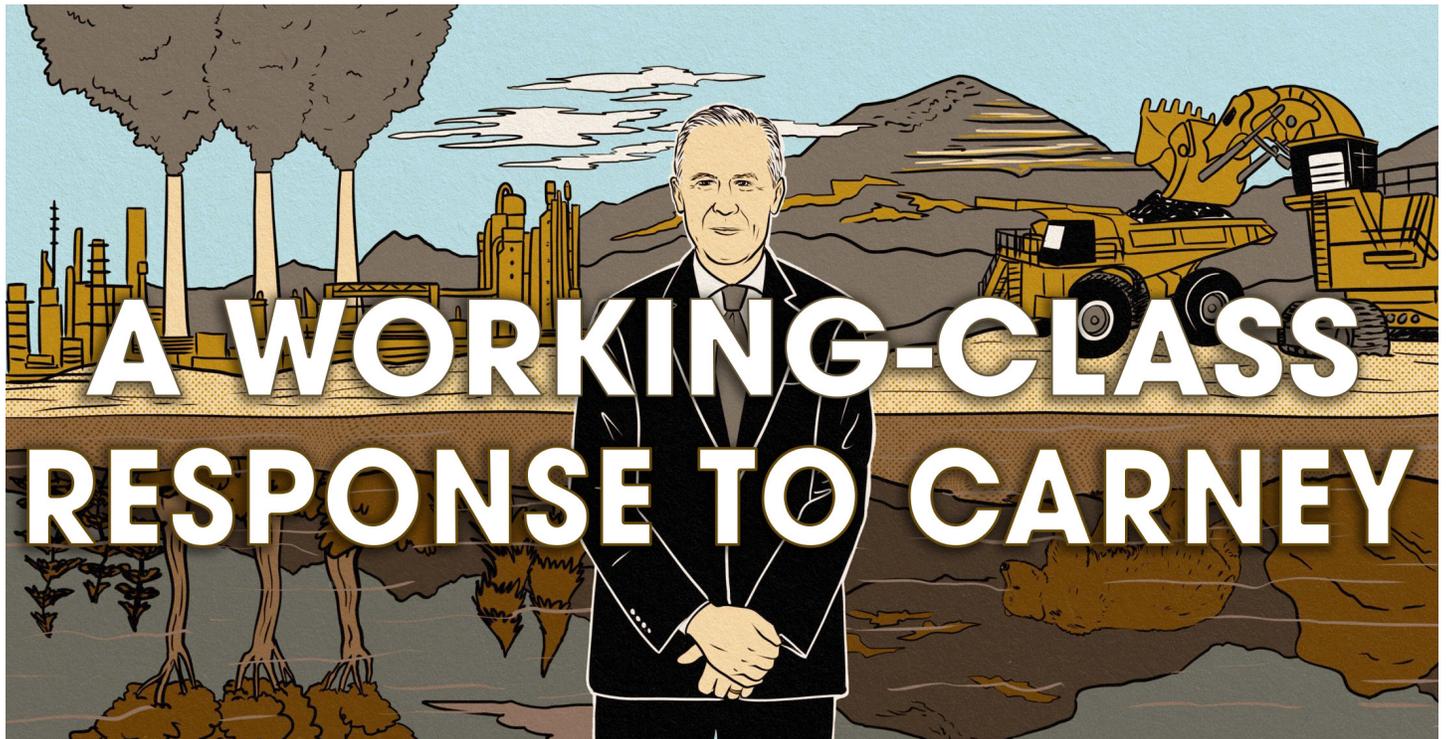
**COASTAL  
FIRST NATIONS  
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE**

*The Great Bear Initiative opposes repealing the oil tanker ban*

# SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

February 2026 - No. 37

Suggested donation \$5 / Solidarity donation \$10



*Carney has abandoned climate action. Image: Jarett Sitter, The Narwhal: thenarwhal.ca*

Leslie Kemp

Trump's threat to block the opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge between Windsor and Detroit is just the latest in a series of threats and tirades against Canada. If carried out, this would hurt business, but the biggest impact would be on consumers and workers on both sides of the border. Trump's imposition of tariffs, while aimed at boosting US nationalism and power as well as the wealth of US billionaires, has had a profound impact on workers, particularly those in the automobile, steel and lumber industries (see p. 6).

Canadians are increasingly fed up with Trump's threats: exiting CUSMA (the Canada-US-Mexico free trade agreement), decertifying Bombardier planes manufactured in Québec, and annexing Canada as the 51st state.

This is the new reality that Mark Carney has dealt with since his election last May. Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau once said that living next to the US is "like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered the beast . . . one is affected by every twitch and grunt." The difference today is that the beast is no longer even-tempered.

## Capitalism's new era

The world is in a new era of inter-imperialist rivalries between the two dominant and declining regimes: the US and China. This era is fueling nationalism, reactionary ideas with attacks on immigrants, women and LGBTQ+ people, neocolonialism and war. Free trade, globalization and various international treaties have been discarded as has the

rhetoric about individual rights and abstract democracy — a capitalist concession to keep its profits flowing. The western alliance and international institutions are fraying along with the so-called "international rules-based order" that served to maintain stability to help ensure profits for big business.

Since his election, Carney has been navigating these swirling currents, both at home and internationally. Carney was elected on the premise that he could stand up to Trump, narrowly defeating the Conservatives and almost obliterating the NDP. The NDP will decide on a leader at the end of March (see p. 5). After losing his own seat in the election, Pierre Poilievre received the support of 87.4 percent of delegates at the Conservative Party's convention in January.

## Carney's cuts

Carney is ruling as a conservative: cutting services, reducing immigration targets and international student permits, slashing the federal civil service, devastating Canada Post, embracing AI in multiple government departments and drastically increasing military spending.

Carney's answer, *Build Baby Build*, while trying to carve a more independent path from the US, will not result in a sustainable and just future for Canadians. It continues the reliance on extracting and exporting raw materials and harkens back to an era when Canada was the



(continued on p. 15)