

PEOPLE'S VOICE

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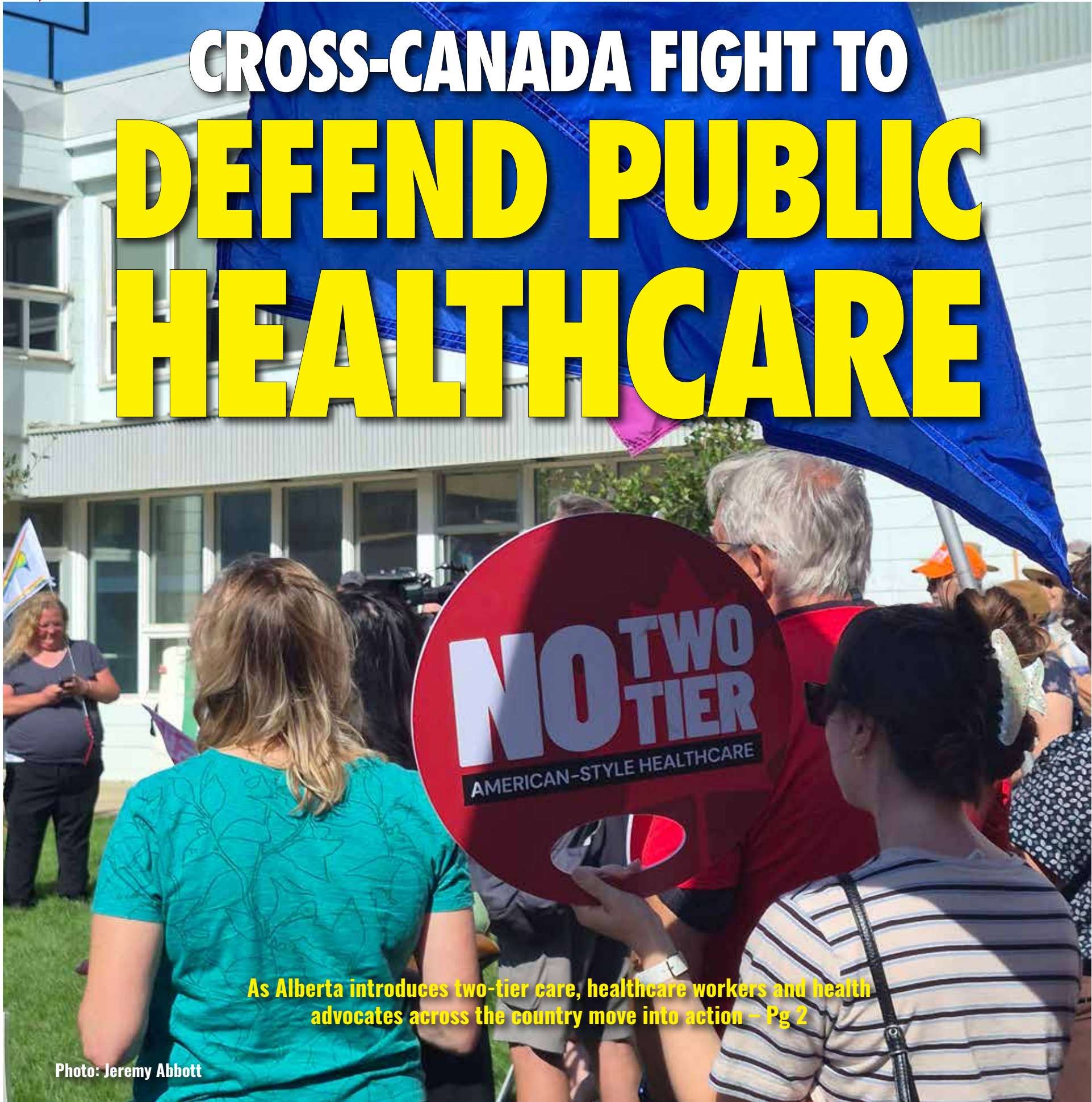
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CROSS-CANADA FIGHT TO DEFEND PUBLIC HEALTHCARE



As Alberta introduces two-tier care, healthcare workers and health advocates across the country move into action – Pg 2

Photo: Jeremy Abbott

TRADE WAR SHOWS NEED TO GET OUT OF USMCA

An analysis of the trade war shows that working people need expanded public ownership, not a renewed USMCA
pg.3

WORKING-CLASS ALTERNATIVE FOR QUEBEC

With the Quebec election in full force, we endorse the platform and candidates of the Communist Party of Quebec
pg.6-7

NDP MOVES TO STRIP RIGHTS OF STRIKING UNION

Healthcare workers at Dynacare in Manitoba are on strike, fighting their employer and the provincial NDP
pg.9

THE PEOPLE VERSUS THE ALBERTA REFERENDUM

Our Alberta Bureau provides a take-down of the upcoming referendum, including how people should vote and why
pg.12

Pages from our past...

Canadian Tribune Vol 28 No 1288 ~ May 14, 1962

Medics, old parties oppose health plan

NORMAN BRUDY

The provincial government's medical care plan has become, in Saskatchewan, the main issue in the federal election. Even the publicity-hound, John Diefenbaker, can't get front page space.

The campaign against the medicare plan is being organized by the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan and its renegade leader Ross Thatcher, with the full support of the Tories and Social Credit. The daily press, radio and TV are working overtime to whip up public support for the Medical Association.

The main actors in this dram are the doctors. The College of Physicians, under the control of a handful of big doctors, is leading the campaign against the medical plan.

The purpose of this campaign is not to protect the welfare and the freedom of the people, but to destroy the Saskatchewan government. Its secondary aim is to prevent the people of Saskatchewan from uniting around the NDP and Communist candidates, to break the monopoly of the old-line parties.

The Saskatchewan Medicare Plan does not in any way infringe on the rights of the doctors. Nor does it change the doctor-patient relations. Under the plan a person has complete freedom to go to any doctor they wish. The doctor can treat the patient in exactly the same manner as at present.

No one will tell the doctor how or with what they shall treat their patient. The plan changes only the method of payment – instead of the patient paying, the bill will now be paid by the plan.

The plan offers to pay 85 percent of the fees set by the College of Physicians. This is equally high as payments under any of the private plans in operation. Yet the doctors are threatening to go on strike!

The organizers of this anti medical plan campaign are using every means at their disposal to fool and scare the people into submission. They threaten to leave the province, just like the mine owners threaten to move the mine. For effect, they have closed down offices located in residential shopping centres. The Liberal machine is organizing petitions and delegations against the plan.

But the people are fighting back. Premier [Woodrow] Lloyd and his government are taking a firm stand and are going to implement the plan on July 1. The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour is now circulating a petition in support of the plan, as a result of demands from its affiliates.

The people are now realizing it was not enough to sit back and say the doctors are bluffing. They are becoming acutely aware of the fact that this big effort goes beyond the doctors. They are realizing that it is a plot against the people, organized by the old-line parties and support by rightists organizations in the province, and it must be defeated!

Above all, the whole fight shows up the need for the greatest unity of all progressive forces in the fight against reaction. ■

Socialized healthcare was won by struggle — unity and struggle are needed to defend and expand it now!

FRIENDS OF MEDICARE RALLY IN EDMONTON, SEPTEMBER 1 (CREDIT: JEREMY ABBOTT)

PV STAFF

Led by healthcare workers and advocates in Alberta, people rallied across Canada on September 1. The mid-week cross-country day of action was part of broad and growing resistance to the Alberta government's new healthcare legislation which introduces two-tiered care and widespread privatization. The organizations involved are calling on Ottawa to enforce the Canada Health Act which prohibits such threats to Medicare across Canada.

September 1 marked the day that Alberta's Bill 11, the Health Statutes Amendment Act came into force. The bill had been passed in December by Danielle Smith's United Conservative Party government.

The legislation establishes a two-tiered ("dual practice") model for healthcare in Alberta, by allowing "flexibly participating" doctors to provide medically necessary care either through the publicly funded system or by private payment on a service-by-service basis.

Health coalitions warn that this structural change to public healthcare allows for queue-jumping and contravenes the Canada Health Act's core elements of universality, accessibility, comprehensiveness and prohibition of extra-billing and user fees. While healthcare is largely provincial jurisdiction, this federal legislation is designed to ensure that care is provided on the basis of need, not according to who can pay.

Alberta's Bill 11, however, creates a private insurance market for medically necessary care. This sets the stage for a huge increase in profits and economic and political power for private insurance companies, monopoly corporations that will use that power to fuel their drive for increased privatization across Canada. This means that Alberta's legislation directly jeopardizes public healthcare throughout the country, a threat that energized health advocates to organize the September 1 rallies.

Health coalitions also warn that this new foothold for two-tier, privatized healthcare in Canada means that single-payer healthcare is no longer protected in trade agreements. These include a renegotiated USMCA or other deal with the United States.

Despite the obvious threat, and the fact that health coalitions and healthcare workers have repeatedly called on Ottawa to enforce the Canada Health Act and take action against Alberta's Bill 11, the federal government has been largely silent.

Only in early August, one month before the changes take effect, did federal Health Minister Majorie Michel write a "letter of concern" to the Alberta government. This response is shockingly insufficient. But when viewed in combination with Ottawa's consistent inaction against other province's varied moves toward privatization over many years, it a high level of federal collusion with efforts to weaken and dismantle Medicare to the benefit of private corporate monopolies.

Public healthcare won — and defended — through struggle

The Communist Party of Canada called the mass, country-wide demonstrations on September 1 "a necessary and urgent response to Bill 11 and the threat to public healthcare in Alberta and throughout Canada."

Speaking to People's Voice, Communist Party leader Drew Garvie said that "working people

need to remember that Medicare, like all social programs, was not a gift from government. It was won through long and determined struggle by working people, and that's how we are going to defend it and, ultimately, expand it."

Most people in Canada are aware that the CCF/NDP implemented Canada's first universal health program in Saskatchewan in 1962. But few know that the provincial government had to stand up to and fight the medical establishment in order to see the program through. Fewer still realize that for decades before, the workers and socialists had pressed for socialized medicine.

Garvie notes that this struggle included the efforts of Communist Party members like Dr. Norman Bethune, James Litterick and Fred Rose.

"As part of his work for socialized medicine, which he first encountered during a visit to the young Soviet Union, Norman Bethune organized the 'Montreal Group for the Security of the People's Health.' On the eve Quebec's 1936 provincial election, this group released a detailed set of proposals for a socialized provincial medical system. Its work brought a large part of the population into action on the issue of public healthcare.

"The first legislative motion for provincial healthcare in Manitoba was introduced by James Litterick who was elected for the Communist Party in 1936. The motion was defeated, but it reflected the growing demand among the working class for socialized medicine.

"On the cross-Canada level, the first legislation for a federal healthcare system was introduced in Parliament by Fred Rose, a Communist Party member who was elected for the Labor-Progressive Party in 1941 and re-elected in 1943."

There are many more examples like these, all of them key moments in the decades-long struggle of working people for universal public healthcare, against powerful political and economic forces whose opposition that had to be defeated. "Now, in the face of corporations' relentless drive for privatization," says Garvie, "the same scale of struggle is required to defend public healthcare."

Health coalitions warn that Bill 11 allows for queue-jumping and contravenes the Canada Health Act

On September 1, health coalitions from every province in Canada issued a joint statement calling on the federal government to enforce the Canada Health Act and "quash the encroachment of legislated queue jumping before it can be entrenched, and to act urgently to defend Canadians' right to equitable, universal, single-payer public health care — before it is too late."

Garvie agrees, and points that the fight for Medicare includes forcing governments to adequately fund it. "The Communist Party is, yet again, calling on Ottawa and all provincial governments to immediately restore health funding that has been cut from the public system, and to increase it to allow for the expansion of public healthcare to include universal vision, dental, pharmacare, mental health and long-term care." ■

PV readers can help defend public healthcare by getting involved with their provincial health coalition and by connecting with the Canadian Health Coalition at healthcoalition.ca.

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The US-Canada trade war demands expanded public ownership and Canada's exit from the USMCA and NATO



The trade war with the United States is already causing devastation for workers across Canada. Despite doing the right thing and walking away from a bad deal on tariff negotiations, the response from the Carney government has been to make working people pay for the deepening trade war and to show a willingness to make profound concessions that will hurt working people.

These concessions reportedly include adjustments to Canada's dairy quota allocation formula, threatening supply management; ending provincial procurement policies that give preference to Canadian firms, meaning more public money will flow to US corporations; and dropping retaliatory tariffs on American steel, aluminum and autos, while leaving some level of US tariffs in place.

Furthermore, Carney continues to support the renewal of the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement (USMCA) which will continue to strip Canada of its manufacturing base and hundreds of thousands of well-paid permanent jobs, while profoundly undermining Canada's sovereignty and independence.

The Communist Party of Canada rejects this approach. We call for a response to the trade war that puts workers first and builds genuine popular sovereignty, not the hollow "Captain Canada" posturing of a government that serves corporate interests.

However erratic, narcissistic and chauvinistic Trump may be, the shift in US-Canada relations is not driven by his personality. The move from liberal "free trade" to protectionist tariffs is driven by the decline of US imperialist hegemony and the connected global capitalist economic crisis. "Free trade" was never a capitalist moral principle; it is a tool used by the capitalist class when it serves their global interests. Today, US calls for "fair trade" and "reciprocal tariffs" are simply euphemisms for using the country's market size as political leverage to extract unilateral concessions.

What does the US government want? It wants to eliminate supply management and destroy the livelihoods of Canadian farmers. It wants to eliminate cultural protections, including for French language content, and remove the already insufficient taxes and regulations faced by US tech monopolies. It wants to scrap procurement policies that create decent local jobs and force Canada to accelerate the privatization of public healthcare. It seeks to eliminate Canadian jobs in forestry, auto and steel. It demands Canada remain in lockstep with Washington as it escalates its economic war on China.

The US also seeks deepened integration of Canada's military with its own, while demanding guaranteed access to Canada's critical minerals and oil reserves to serve the US-NATO war machine.

USMCA a recipe for more disaster

Pinning hopes on a new USMCA as a way out of the crisis is a recipe for more disaster. The reason why the Canadian economy is as susceptible to coercion in the form of tariffs is because of decades of free trade policies.

The USMCA deal, like NAFTA before it, was never about fair trade. It was and is a corporate constitution designed to empower monopolies, pit workers against each other across borders, and systematically dismantle Canadian sovereignty. Corporate free trade is a race to the bottom which has already led to the deindustrialization of much of Canada's manufacturing sector.

The USMCA in particular has already proven to be bad for workers. Since it was signed in 2018, unemployment has climbed and the employment rate has fallen. In the last eight years, Canadian corporate profits have soared to record highs with profits outstripping real wage increases by nearly 600 percent. Even before Trump's tariffs, the data showed a deal that delivered for corporations while leaving workers behind.

The Communist Party continues to call for the immediate withdrawal from the USMCA. We call on the labour and democratic movements, the NDP and Greens, to unite in mass opposition to the renewal of the USMCA, as they did in the leadup to the 1988 federal election. In that election, even the Liberals opposed free trade, with Liberal leader John Turner calling Tory leader Brian Mulroney "a sell-out" for his shift from opposing free trade to supporting it.

The tariff negotiations have exposed what the US will demand in the upcoming free trade negotiations. This agenda can be defeated with the united action of the labour and people's movements demanding withdrawal from USMCA now.

One of the central points of disagreement between Canada and the US appears to be that Washington wants to dictate who Canada trades with, effectively ending Canadian sovereignty over foreign policy. The Liberal government conceded much of this in the USMCA they signed in the first Trump administration. The "non-market economies" clause represented a concession to Trump's neo-McCarthyism, binding Canada to US aggression against China and whomever else Washington labels a "non-market economy". The Carney government has also signaled it is comfortable with restrictions on trade with "non-market economies". This is a massive erosion of sovereignty, and must be rolled back.

Working people pay for trade war

It is worth asking who will pay for this trade war. The Canadian parliament – dominated almost entirely by political representatives of monopoly corporations and led by a central banker, one of capitalism's high planners – will ensure that the working class pays. Canada's announced billions in retaliatory tariffs and aid packages to domestic industries come from the public taxation of working people. In both countries, capitalists fight for market share, while workers face layoffs, spiralling inflation, and stagnant wages. However, it is corporate Canada that has the ability to pay as corporate profits hit a record high of \$677 billion in 2025. The reality is that we are not "all in this together".

The federal government's temporary EI

measures are wholly inadequate. Waiving the one-week waiting period and providing extra benefits for long-tenured workers falls far short of what working people need. We need a real expansion of EI to cover all the unemployed for the full duration of unemployment and increase benefits so that earnings are at 90 percent of previous incomes to ensure workers can pay their mortgages or rent and feed their families.

The response to attacks on key industries is more bailouts. Over the past quarter-century, the working class has been forced to finance corporate monopolies that then cut jobs and outsource production. In the auto sector alone, this amounts to as high as \$79 billion in corporate welfare.

We need only look to last September's \$500 million in government aid to Algoma Steel for another example. In December, Algoma announced the layoffs of 1,000 workers and this year it was discovered that the CEO of Algoma received a massive increase in bonuses and stock-compensation to the tune of \$5.75 million. These are public funds that could have built a stable, publicly owned and democratically controlled auto industry with well-paying union jobs. Instead, tariffs and free trade agreements have left us with closed plants, mass layoffs and the departure of the auto industry from Canada to the US within a few years.

Culprit - monopoly capital

As the tariff deal deadline was approaching, US Vice-President JD Vance mocked Carney, saying he "comes in and puffs his chest out" and tries to "out-tough" Trump, but "fundamentally, like, they climb down on a lot of issues." Vance added that Canada has "shifted in a Trumpian direction."

For once, Vance was telling the truth. The Carney government has made unnecessary concessions to Trump and adopted many "Trumpian" policies: massively increasing military spending, rolling back environmental and Indigenous rights, introducing measures that have facilitated mass deportations and stripped refugee protections, and using Section 107 of the Labour Code to break strikes and send workers back to work.

The Carney government wasn't pressured into making these "Trumpian" moves, however. The reality is that both the Carney and Trump governments belong to corporate monopoly interests which support many of the same policies.

If the Carney government were serious about defending sovereignty, it would be rolling back US corporate penetration at home through expanding public ownership. Instead, it is opening Canada to unprecedented privatization of public wealth and services. Real sovereignty means condemning the US's illegal war on Iran instead of calling it "worth it."

Real sovereignty means standing with Cuba against the US's attempt to strangle the Cuban people. Real sovereignty means rejecting the US demand that Canada be disallowed to trade with non-market economies.

Real sovereignty means fully imple-

menting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and expanding environmental and labour rights, instead of rolling back Indigenous, environmental and labour rights in the name of "fast-tracking projects of national interest".

Real sovereignty means the people of Canada taking control of our key economic pillars through public ownership and democratic control, instead of accelerating the privatization of public wealth and services to foreign capital.

Fight for real sovereignty

Instead of choosing between reactionary tariffs and massive job losses on the one hand, and submission to continental corporate free trade on the other, we must fight for a real alternative that will create jobs and build a genuine popular sovereignty.

We need to get out of the USMCA. We need truly multilateral and mutually beneficial trade that serves working people.

We must nationalize our key industries and put them under democratic public ownership. Public ownership of auto and steel would rebuild Canadian manufacturing, creating tens of thousands of well-paid and permanent value-added jobs. We need mass construction of social housing and public infrastructure across Canada to end the housing crisis and create jobs.

We need to expand Employment Insurance to 90 percent of previous earnings for the full period of unemployment. We need plant closure legislation with teeth, requiring corporations to justify closures before a public tribunal with the power to stop them.

To fight for peace and sovereignty, Canada must withdraw from NATO and NORAD and pursue a foreign policy based on peace and international solidarity.

Canadian and US corporate monopolies share a common agenda: driving down wages, gutting environmental regulations, eroding democratic oversight, and maximizing profit at any cost. For Canada's billionaires and their transnational partners, access to the US market is well worth sacrificing public healthcare, workers' livelihoods, and even core aspects of Canadian independence.

The Carney government's agenda weakens collective bargaining, restricts strike action, and will Americanize Canada's labour laws, all while claiming to stand up for Canadian workers against Trump.

We call on working people across Canada to organize and mobilize around the demand for governments to put workers first and build popular sovereignty. Real sovereignty means expanding democracy. It means taking control of our economy, our resources, and building a future.

The working class must lead the fight for a truly independent and socialist Canada. ■

Central Executive Committee
Communist Party of Canada

EDITORIAL

A FOREIGN INFLUENCE REGISTRY?!

On August 4, the federal Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act (FITAA) came into force. The legislation establishes a public registry for anyone who has an “arrangement with a foreign principal” and seeks to influence Canadian political or governmental processes.

At first glance, that may seem reasonable to many people, with Ottawa invoking the basic prudence of monitoring organizations who are direct conduits for foreign interference.

But you don’t have to scratch the surface too much, to reveal the problems – and dangers – with this law. The FITAA itself was prepared as a follow-up to the 2024 Foreign Interference Inquiry. That effort, which was the product of years-long CSIS propaganda campaign to whip up fears of meddling by the Russian and Chinese governments, was a complete bust. The final report, released in January 2025, concluded there was “no evidence of ‘traitors’ in Parliament” plotting with foreign states against Canada’s interests, and that foreign interference “did not impact the results of the last two general elections.”

And if the flawed basis for the FITAA isn’t enough of a concern, the foreign influence registry which emerges from it has all the hallmarks of Cold War McCarthyism.

An organization’s or person’s “arrangement with a foreign principal” doesn’t have to be formal, written or paid for. It includes such loose boundaries as an “expectation” or “mere encouragement.” Anyone with such a broad “relationship” had to register within 14 days of the law taking effect, so by August 19, or face penalties up to \$1 million.

Armed with this legislation, Ottawa can go after such grave threats to “national security” as community groups who organize Lunar New Year celebrations and read out greetings from the Embassy of China. It can clamp down on that well-known fifth column of Cuba solidarity groups who receive updates from Havana on the effects of the nearly seven-decade-long US blockade of the island and its people. And finally, Canada can be freed from the tyranny of peace and anti-war groups who share information from journalists and organizations in Palestine, Iran, Venezuela, Sudan...

The federal government tells us that the registry exists to capture foreign agents. But it is so broadly drafted that it targets academics, journalists, activists – virtually everyone. In light of this, it is difficult to see the registry as anything less than a tool to suppress political dissent.

Will it be used to track actual sources of foreign influence? Will it target the Conservative Party of Canada and its various provincial derivatives who ape the politics and objectives of the Donald Trump administration, to the point of holding vigils to celebrate Charlie Kirk?

Will it confront Zionist organizations who work directly with the apartheid and murderous Israeli government to shut down Palestine solidarity movements and events in Canada?

Will it round up, detain, question and penalize the scores of Canadian parliamentarians who have been involved with NATO’s Parliamentary Assembly, whose exact purpose is to help craft and implement legislation in its member states, that mirrors and facilitates the priorities and objectives of that aggressive, imperialist military alliance?

The answer, obviously, is no.

This sham legislation and registry have little to nothing to do with sovereignty – with protecting Canada from foreign influence – and everything to do with silencing voices for peace and solidarity as the US-NATO war machine ramps up military spending and engages in increasingly aggressive military adventures around the world, with Ottawa’s full support and participation.

The federal government must repeal the Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act now. It must stop targeting immigrant communities and progressives under the guise of “national security.” It must genuinely investigate US, Israeli and NATO interference in Canada’s domestic affairs. It must be forced to do this by the working people of this country. ♦



IN BRIEF

PEOPLE'S VOICE welcomes your contributions. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity, and to refuse to print articles or letters which may be libellous or which contain personal attacks.

Join 1000 Women+ for Peace: Care Not Warfare!

To mark International Day of Peace on September 21, 2026, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) invite you to join us in calling on Prime Minister Carney and the Minister of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Rechie Valdez to choose care over warfare and redirect public resources from the military to the well-being of people and the planet.

On Peace Day, we are planning a press conference and rally to present an open letter of #1000WomenForPeace in Ottawa to the Prime Minister and Minister for WAGE and encourage you to join us in the capital or to hold a local action #CareNotWarfare in solidarity.

We call on the federal government to cut military spending and cancel the defence industrial strategy. Canadian military spending was drastically increased from \$20 billion in 2015 to \$65 billion in 2025 and will reach \$159 billion in 2035 to meet the NATO 5% GDP target.

We appeal to the federal government to fund a green, peace care economy that improves the lives of all Canadians, protects the climate and environment, and ensures our commitment to international law and cooperation not militarism. High military spending is not productive for the economy and dangerously drives arms races and conflict.

We urge the federal government to reduce and re-allocate military spending to affordable housing,

health care, education, climate action, the Calls to Action of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMWIG) Inquiry, public transit, international aid, and increase the budget for WAGE. ■

To sign the open letter and get involved, visit vowpeace.org

Edmonton Peace Festival a big success

With the Canadian government's drive towards drastic increases in military spending, people in Edmonton are starting to demand peace and sovereignty over the platitudes of war and profiteering.

On September 6 the Edmonton Peace Council hosted a Peace Festival, bringing together a dozen performers and various elements of Edmonton's cultural and progressive forces. Over 80 attendees and 50 volunteers and performers attended the festival throughout the course of the day, hosting various workshops, dance and musical performances.

A common theme echoed from all of the performers; protect sovereignty, end the blockade against Cuba, and protect the way of life for peoples across the Americas.

A group called the KAJ collective performed traditional dances from the Andes, and local musicians sang about issues surrounding women's struggles in the workplace, to fighting for homeland and asserting rights of the Metis, Cree and Assiniboine and all Indigenous

peoples across Canada.

The blending of both cultural performances and messages from groups demanding an end to the genocide in Palestine, and for Canada to take action against the blockade against Cuba wove together between performers, artists and activists.

Seventy percent of the proceeds were raised to be sent to the Canadian Network on Cuba, while 30 percent will go towards helping the local peace council continue to be active with the work to continue to be done in Edmonton. ■

Jeremy Abbott
Edmonton

Tell Ottawa to oppose the US blockade at UN vote!

In the lead-up to the annual United Nations General Assembly vote condemning the US blockade of Cuba, the Canadian Network on Cuba has launched a campaign to pressure Ottawa to reiterate its vote against the blockade.

This vote is particularly important this year, with the US government escalating its attacks on Cuba and pressuring other countries to oppose or abstain during the UN vote in October.

The CNC’s campaign includes lawn signs and a parliamentary petition sponsored by Winnipeg Centre NDP MP Leah Gazan. ■

To sign the petition and request a lawn sign, visit canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

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The kids aren't alright: How Gen Z digital sleuths are mapping Canada's neo-fascist active clubs

KARL FLURI

In early July, roughly sixty masked men gathered at Square Butte Hall, a volunteer-run community center tucked into the foothills near Millarville, Alberta.

The hall usually hosts recipe exchanges, local dances and fire-prevention workshops. That weekend, it hosted Second Sons Canada, the country's largest white supremacist group, for military-style combat drills and propaganda shoots. The event included activities like army crawls, column marching and combat training led by Jeremy MacKenzie, an Afghanistan war veteran who founded the group.

When the group posted video recaps online, they blurred their faces and tagged the location vaguely as the "foothills of Alberta". They assumed the anonymity of rural space would shield them.

They were wrong.

Weeks later, local residents woke up to learn that neo-Nazis had been running tactical drills in their community. The Square Butte Community Association, which manages the hall, said members were "shocked" when approached by reporters.

The facility had been rented to an individual for what they were told would be a "retreat," and the association stated that in its 67-year history, nothing like this had ever happened. Foothills County Councillor Laura Kendall also distanced the community from the group, saying, "To my knowledge, these aren't local people" and that the hall does not represent those values.

But the only reason Millarville found out was that a network of online sleuths refused to let the footage vanish into the Telegram social media platform.

By matching a distinctive wooden welcome arch in a Telegram video to Google Maps imagery, and cross-referencing a banner drop over Highway 2 near Okotoks, researchers pinned down the exact location.

This is open-source intelligence (OSINT). It's digital counter-surveillance wielded not by state intelligence agencies, but by a generation that grew up navigating the internet and understands that reactionary violence must be exposed before it takes root.

Unmasking the gym-cell model

The "active club" model was developed in 2017 by California neo-Nazi Robert Rundo through the Rise Above Movement. Operating from exile in Romania, Rundo designed a strategy suited for modern decentralized fascism: scrap the vulnerable, top-heavy political parties and replace them with small, local cells disguised as men's martial arts and fitness clubs.

Rundo was eventually sentenced to two years in prison for planning and engaging in riots across California, with US Attorney Martin Estrada stating that "this defendant sought to further his white supremacist ideology by plotting riots and engaging in violence at political rallies."

But the strategy has proliferated. The Global Project Against Hate and Extremism tracks 187 active clubs operating across 27 countries, representing a 25 percent increase in a single year.

According to a Public Safety Canada briefing document obtained by journalists,

from more than 200 known active club chapters worldwide, a disproportionately large share is in Canada, with over 30 chapters. Second Sons Canada alone has more than 15 branches across the country.

As well as Jeremy MacKenzie's Second Sons, that infrastructure is spearheaded by groups such as Hamilton's Nationalist-13. While they present themselves publicly as fitness brotherhoods, their internal communications tell a different story. The Public Safety Canada briefing warns that the growing white nationalist active club movement in the country carries a risk of "extreme violence," noting that these groups are capable of radicalizing participants to the point of justifying violence against Jews, racial minorities and 2SLGBTIQ+ people.

The document also notes that active clubs are increasingly moving from the online environment to offline activities, conducting training and appearing at public actions. "The minute you peel back even the slightest layer of this onion, it becomes far more insidious," notes Mack Lamoureux, a researcher at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue. Lamoureux has warned that active clubs are "one of the fastest growing far-right extremist threats in Canada" and that members are "training for what they believe is to be an upcoming race war."

Counter-intelligence network

The capitalist state, through its police apparatus, routinely treats these groups as isolated public nuisance issues rather than organized threats. While local officials issue hand-wringing statements about "serious public safety concerns," law enforcement agencies typically monitor from a distance until forced to respond.

The RCMP has confirmed it is aware of Second Sons Canada, but emphasizes that it investigates criminal activity, not ideology.

The Public Safety Canada briefing notes that assessing the threat is complicated because active clubs generally do not publicly call for terrorism or the use of lethal force. Canadian Anti-Hate Network Executive Director Evan Baggord has called the situation record-dangerous, stating that "white nationalism is the biggest threat it has ever been," and believes the government and law enforcement have not done anything significant to stop it.

Because the state apparatus offers no genuine shield to working-class communities, youth activists and investigative researchers have built their own counter-intelligence infrastructure. Grassroots volunteer monitors spend months mapping encrypted networks.

They traced Nationalist-13 members to public parks in Hamilton and identified training grounds at a martial arts studio in Welland. They tracked Second Sons members travelling to Texas and South Carolina to coordinate with US active clubs, documenting the transnational flow of fascist organizing.

In one investigation, the team was able to uncover training locations by matching distinctive features of the inside of boxing clubs, such as padded walls and the specific shape and position of windows. They also identified prominent members through clearly visible tattoos that could be compared

■ INTERNATIONALIZED, PG 10

Churchill Falls: new MOU, no referendum, but plenty of bribery



SEAN BURTON

Having come to power after a landslide victory over the provincial Liberals last fall, Tony Wakeham's PC government has done little except to prove that there is little difference of substance between the two parties, as strongly demonstrated in the recent memorandum between Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec.

The previous 2024 MOU between Hydro Quebec and Hydro NL concerning the future financial arrangements of the Churchill Falls hydro station was a major issue during the election. The Liberals positioned it as the best deal for the province, symbolically tearing up the much-hated Joey Smallwood-era contract. The opposition Tories naturally took the opportunity to disagree and insisted as an election plank that there should be more negotiations and that the people of the province should ultimately decide via a referendum.

However, Wakeham is now under fire for deciding that a referendum is not going ahead in the interests of securing what his government views as a better deal than the one previously negotiated. The new agreement was announced with much fanfare in St. John's with Wakeham speaking alongside Quebec Premier Christine Frechette and Prime Minister Mark Carney on August 17 at the city's waterfront.

"Let the people decide" is undoubtedly a good populist slogan, and some people are feeling burned for being denied the opportunity. To be sure, it is a tricky thing. A referendum, or any vote for that matter, ideally requires a high degree of involvement and learning of the details and issues at stake.

Most people in NL would agree that the current agreement is better than what currently is in force. Putting it to a referendum would mean a Tory propaganda campaign exalting the virtues of the agreed settlement, while there would also have to be some form of neutral public education and engagement over a variety of topics

including pros and cons of further hydro development and of course Labrador Indigenous sovereignty.

It would not be impossible to mobilize such activity, but under the present political ecosystem there is little will for such things except during elections. Wakeham probably doesn't want to rock that boat too hard.

Most NL residents would probably call a "good deal" any deal that means an appreciable reduction of household electricity rates. The new agreement includes a promise from the province to issue a rebate that would amount to about \$351 per year. While it certainly isn't "nothing" it is a laughable amount in the grand scheme of things.

The other main part of the deal is that Ottawa is now a partner, pledging some \$10 billion for related hydro developments in Labrador including Gull Island. Carney is spinning this as the biggest clean energy initiative in North America. Maybe it is, but as we know from Muskrat Falls, the extent of how "clean" it is, is a matter of debate.

There also remains the upcoming Quebec provincial election before any deal is finalized. Labrador remains a matter of contention in certain nationalist circles in Quebec and will certainly be a significant talking point during debates.

Meanwhile, Innu governments in Labrador have not been party to these consultations. Once again, we have the makings of a megaproject that continues to exploit Labrador's resources and people with little regard for real sovereignty and benefits directly to the people who live here.

Megaproject construction jobs are useful but temporary. Then what?

No deal is satisfactory that fails to acknowledge Newfoundland and Labrador's sovereignty over its own natural resources, or more appropriately the sovereign right of the Innu to decide what happens on their own territory without being bribed by pretty words and short-term jobs. ■

PCM a badly needed socialist alternative for Mexico's working class

TIM PELZER

Mexico's social democratic government of Claudia Sheinbaum is continuing the same failed neoliberal policies of the previous Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador administration, says Angel Chavez, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Mexico (PCM).

Instead of diversifying export markets and strengthening national production, Sheinbaum's National Regeneration Movement (MORENA) government is trying to save and extend the USMCA trade deal for another 16 years.

"The deal primarily benefits the monopolies in the three member countries and has limited the country's independence.

The agreement tells each country what they can buy and sell. In the past Mexico was self-sufficient in corn, an important component of the diet, but now it must import genetically modified corn from the US," Chavez said in a interview with People's Voice.

When the NAFTA free trade agreement came into effect in 1994, it ruined Mexican agriculture by allowing the US to flood the market with cheap corn, wheat and other products, bankrupting many farmers and impoverishing the countryside.

The USMCA, NAFTA's successor, has halted the country's economic development and turned Mexico into a low wage maquiladora dominated by foreign companies, that imports raw materials or components duty free, assembles them and then re-ex-

QUEBEC ELECTION: FOR LABOUR

On October 5, vote Communist to build resistance!

A housing crisis that has turned humanitarian, rising cost of living, the decline of our public services and infrastructure, rampant privatization, a three-tiered school system, the erosion of our union and democratic rights, and the scapegoating of immigrants: this is the legacy of eight years of CAQ rule serving the profits of big business.

The CAQ has intensified a trend set in motion by the Liberal Party and the Parti Québécois: serving the wealthiest and big business. Québec Solidaire spends more time presenting itself as “reasonable” rather than fighting the bosses. The Conservatives are diverting popular anger against immigrants, women, the labour movement, oppressed minorities, and public services.

More than ever, these elections are taking place against a volatile and dangerous international backdrop. While all the other parties claim to be more or less conciliatory toward US imperialism, we call for a break with its barbarism. Now is not the time to appease it, but to confront it.

On October 5, let's choose a break with the status quo through struggle.

Voting Communist is neither a “wasted vote” nor a way to divide the “left.” It is supporting a force that is independent of big business, present in struggles all year round.

Our Party seeks to unite the struggles for housing, wages, public services, peace, and democracy around a single goal: to give power to those who produce wealth.

Capitalism cannot be reformed: it is based on profit for a tiny minority, but on exploitation, oppression, and war for the majority. We want to replace the power of big business with a socialist democracy based on the needs of the people.

On October 5, let's organize the resistance and energize the struggle for socialism.
Let's vote for the Communist Party of Québec.

Communist Party candidates

				
ADRIEN WELSH SAINTE-MARIE-SAINTE-JACQUES NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF QUÉBEC	STÉPHANE DOUCET LAURIER-DORION LABOUR MOVEMENT STAFFER	MANUEL JOHNSON VERDUN LABOUR AND HOUSING LAWYER	MICHELLE PAQUETTE MERCIER BUILDING PAINTER AND UNION REPRESENTATIVE	IGOR SADIKOV HOCHELAGA-MAISONNEUVE COMPUTER SCIENTIST AND UNION REPRESENTATIVE
				
LÉO BOIVIN SHERBROOKE PHD CANDIDATE AND UNION REPRESENTATIVE	GIA ROSE MONT-ROYAL-OUTREMONT TECHNICIAN	NORMAND RAYMOND VIAU TRANSLATOR-INTEPRETER AND ARTIST FOR PEACE	KAITY ZOZULA WESTMOUNT-SAINTE-LOUIS SPECIALIZED EDUCATOR	IVAN BYARD NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF CANADA

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VALUING LABOUR, NOT CAPITAL

Québec does not belong to Québécois. It belongs to 27 billionaire families who hoard wealth. These families do not create any jobs on their own: it is the workers who produce. When they close a factory or cut jobs to satisfy shareholders, they produce nothing but unemployment and precariousness.

Let's fight for better wages and pensions, full employment, and stable jobs.

Let's expand our union rights, including the right to strike. *No social progress has ever been achieved without the union struggle. Strikes serve the public interest.*



AN ECONOMY PLANNED ACCORDING TO WORKERS' NEEDS

We cannot challenge the power of big corporations without placing key sectors under public and democratic control.

We propose nationalizing banks, energy, natural resources, insurance, and strategic enterprises.

We want to urgently launch a massive public social housing construction program, control prices on essential goods, and shift the tax burden onto monopolies and the wealthiest.



EXPANDING OUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

The ruling class diverts anger toward immigrants, women, and oppressed minorities when the real culprits are big corporations.

We must combat all forms of discrimination in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, and schools. Hate speech is a criminal act and must be treated as such.

We want to establish a mixed-member proportional voting system and give more democratic power to workers, neighbourhoods, and municipalities.



A DEMOCRATIC AND INTERNATIONALIST SOLUTION TO THE NATIONAL QUESTION

Independence and federalism are two sides of the same coin if they leave the power of big business intact.

We are fighting for Québec's sovereignty, without reducing it to secession. An elected Constituent Assembly must democratically define the nation's powers, institutions, and political status within a democratic Canada that recognizes and guarantees the right to self-determination for all the nations that comprise it.

Québec must become a voice for peace, reject the militarization of the economy, and support peoples against war, occupation, and oppression.



A PUBLIC MONOPOLY ON OUR PUBLIC SERVICES

Our public services suffer from underfunding and privatization. Yet the private sector costs more: we must also finance corporate profits.

We want to free healthcare, education, transportation, childcare, and elder care from the logic of the market, improve working conditions, and guarantee universal services.

The private sector deprives us of public services!



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Quebec Communist leader: Milliard's 100,000-home plan won't solve housing crisis

ADRIEN WELSH

Quebec Liberal Party leader Charles Milliard has made a splashy promise to build 100,000 housing units. With a campaign that got off to a lacklustre start, he is trying to outmaneuver his opponents by being the first to make housing a campaign issue.

Is Milliard trying to mimic Justin Trudeau's 2015 strategy of outflanking the NDP on the left? That remains to be seen but, in any case, his announcement itself seems rather improvised: the Liberals failed to realize that this goal – clearly floated on the fly – far exceeds (by about 30 percent) Quebec's current construction capacity.

From the Communist Party's perspective, what looks like a blunder for a party as stingy

as the Liberals is not actually one. Quebec's construction capacity could easily be expanded by boosting the sector and creating jobs – employing workers not through a myriad of private contractors, but through a single public agency – and by planning and streamlining projects to ensure the housing is 100 percent public.

Yet, this is precisely the major weakness – and the deeply populist nature – of Milliard's announcement. He speaks vaguely of "housing" but not of "social housing" (let alone "public" social housing). He suggests that a housing crisis which has reached humanitarian proportions can be halted simply by ramping up supply to that level.

The fundamental problem behind the housing crisis has little to do with supply and everything to do with speculation. Proof of



this lies in the fact that there are 25,000 vacant housing units in Montreal alone. In other words, when housing starts are controlled by speculators, they serve only the interests of those who treat housing as a commodity.

The Communist Party fights for a massive rollout of public social housing. As an immediate, urgent measure, we call for rent controls pegged to 20 percent of household

income, a ban on Airbnb and all short-term rentals, and a requirement for municipalities to use 100 percent of their public land for social housing or essential public amenities (libraries, parks, playgrounds, cultural centers, etc.). We also fight against all forms of economic eviction.

Such a program would halt the current humanitarian crisis and establish housing as a guaranteed right, by tackling the root cause of the problem: speculation. In contrast, the "Milliard plan" seems focused on securing lucrative contracts for corporate developers, in exchange for their political support and a few donations to the party coffers. ■

Photo: FRAPRU

Carney's Investment Summit is about selling off sovereignty, not protecting it

DREW GARVIE

The guest list for Prime Minister Mark Carney's Investment Summit, in downtown Toronto on September 14 and 15, is a who's who of Canadian and foreign investors. It includes Larry Fink of BlackRock, the Saudi Public Investment Fund and former prime minister Stephen Harper, now chair of the Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo).

Together, these financiers oversee roughly \$120 trillion in assets.

The summit's stated goal is to showcase Canada's resources and major projects to attract foreign capital. The actual outcome, however, is likely to be a massive transfer of public assets to private, often foreign, control.

The Carney government presents this summit as a strategy to diversify investment and reduce reliance on the US market in the face of American trade hostility. The narrative is that by courting global investors, Canada is protecting its sovereignty from Donald Trump. Leaving aside the fact that some of the biggest investors and the largest contingent from any particular country will be from the US, the summit is in practice accelerating the sale of public infrastructure, critical minerals and energy resources.

This process erodes popular sovereignty rather than defending it.

The projects being offered are central to Canada's independence. Provincial and territorial governments have submitted a list of potential investments, and the Prime Minister's Office is compiling a final "deal book." According to media reports, the list includes the Port of Churchill in northern Manitoba, with plans to expand rail connections from the Prairies to the Arctic and turn it into a year-round deep-sea port. Also on offer is the Churchill Falls and Gull Island hydroelectric project, which Carney has called the largest clean energy investment in North America. Other items include oil and gas development, critical minerals, data centres and ports.

Opening these assets to foreign ownership has direct consequences for Indigenous peoples and the environment. Many of the



projects are located on Indigenous territories. The government's push to expedite permitting and reduce regulatory review time, as seen in recent legislative changes, raises serious concerns about the adequacy of consultation and Indigenous nations' rights to free, prior and informed consent.

When corporate monopolies gain control over resource development and infrastructure, Indigenous land rights and ecological safeguards are treated as obstacles to profitability rather than legal and inherent rights.

It is worth noting that the Carney government secured a parliamentary majority with only 27 percent of eligible voters supporting it. Despite this narrow democratic foundation, it is pursuing a sweeping agenda of privatization, deregulation, militarization, and rollbacks of labour rights. The summit is part of that broader project.

The Investment Summit follows his government's announcement of the Canada Strong Fund earlier this year. Carney describes the fund as a sovereign wealth fund modelled on Norway's example, but it is essentially a vehicle for subsidizing private investment. It is being seeded with \$25 billion in public money and used to de-risk private

projects, again meaning that working people absorb the losses while corporations keep the gains.

While Carney is paraded in the corporate media as "Captain Canada," his government's policies are not fundamentally opposed to those of the Trump administration. Both governments are responding to the same global capitalist crisis, characterized by declining profit rates, economic volatility and intensified competition among major powers.

This explains why Carney has adopted several "Trumpian" measures: sharply increasing military spending, rolling back environmental and Indigenous rights, using Section 107 of the Labour Code to break strikes, and pursuing deregulation and privatization. He was happy to roll back even the most modest progressive policies of the Trudeau government, such as the planned increases to capital gains taxes and the digital services tax. His government is also reviewing core federal labour standards, a process that labour organizations are watching closely.

The contrast between the government's priorities and the needs of the working class is sharp. Ottawa is committing \$150 billion annually to military spending in less than

ten years, while cutting tens of thousands of public sector jobs. At the same time, corporate profits reached a record \$677 billion in 2025. The Carney government is willing to make working people pay for the tariff crisis through austerity and privatization.

If the Carney government were genuinely committed to defending Canadian sovereignty, it would be reducing foreign corporate influence over the economy and expanding public ownership. Instead, it is pursuing what it calls "asset optimization" and "asset recycling." These terms refer to the privatization of public infrastructure, shifting risk to working people while guaranteeing profits for private firms.

There is a real alternative to this path that would build popular sovereignty and create jobs in the face of the crisis caused by the trade war.

Canada should withdraw from the USMCA and pursue multilateral trade agreements that benefit working people. Key industries, including auto manufacturing and steel, should be nationalized and placed under democratic public ownership to rebuild the manufacturing base and create stable, well-paid jobs. A major investment in social housing and public infrastructure would address the housing crisis while generating employment. Employment Insurance should be expanded to cover 90 percent of previous earnings for the full duration of unemployment. Plant closure legislation should require corporations to justify closures before a public tribunal with the power to reject them.

On foreign policy, Canada should leave NATO and NORAD and adopt a stance based on peace and international solidarity, starting with standing up for Cuba in the face of the US blockade.

Defending sovereignty means rejecting corporate rule, whether it comes from foreign powers or from within Canada. It means building democracy that prioritizes the needs of people and the planet over corporate profit.

Carney's Investment Summit is a step in the opposite direction, and it deserves close scrutiny and powerful opposition. ■

Solidarity is not blocked — Fidel 100 colloquium draws participants from 63 countries

ROBERT CROOKS

As the United States government tightens the blockade on Cuba, fuel shortages and travel advisories deter tourism, and corporate media depict a country on the verge of imploding, 1500 delegates from 63 countries travelled to Havana for the first international colloquium *Fidel: Legacy and Future*.

The conference, which took place August 10 – 13, was attended by delegates from the Canadian Network on Cuba who were humbled to be in the presence of solidarity activists, academics, visiting government officials and dedicated anti-imperialists from around the world who have been inspired by Fidel Castro Ruz and the Cuban struggle for liberation.

Sessions throughout the four days covered every aspect of the Commander in Chief's life and thought. Academics and political leaders led sessions on a large multitude of topics in relation to Fidel including socialism, science, religion, ethics, political thought, gender, workers, farmers, artists, healthcare, history, economics, anti-imperialism and, of course, the profound influence of José Martí.

Solidarity is not blocked

On the second and third days of the colloquium, organizers participated in "Solidarity is Not Blocked," a forum to coordinate solidarity activities internationally. The first session was facilitated by Noemí Ramona Rabaza Fernández, the Vice President of the Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, known by its Spanish acronym ICAP.

In this session, groups from North America, Latin America, Africa and Europe con-



tributed to drafting a collective Action Plan. The finalized document was presented to the entire colloquium in the presence of Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez and Bruno Rodríguez Parilla the following day.

The plan calls to invigorate the global "No War on Cuba" campaign and counter the imperialist narrative regarding the blockade. At the same time, the need for international cooperation was emphasized in navigating the ever more complex logistics of delivering desperately needed material aid to the island.

Cuba's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade, Oscar Pérez-Oliva Fraga, recently reported to the National Assembly of People's Power that over seven thousand shipping containers bound for Cuba are sitting idle in regional ports. Shipping companies are refusing to deliver the containers to their final destination for fear of US sanctions. These containers include basic

medicines, food and parts meant for the national electricity system.

Since the January 3 invasion of Venezuela, the Canadian Network on Cuba had been sending containers to Cuba multiple times per month. This has since come to a halt. Shipping companies now refuse cargo headed for Cuba. International transactions to pay for the direct delivery of solar panels from China have so far been frustrated by US control of the SWIFT system. International coordination between organizations from different parts of the world is the only way to open new avenues for continuing the work of solidarity under such dire conditions.

Criminalization of solidarity

The success of *Fidel: Legacy and Future* and the global outpouring of admiration for Fidel and the Cuban people did not go unnoticed in Washington. Several US-based activ-

ists were detained returning from the colloquium and may face prosecution, according to NBC News. The State Department, headed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, also took the opportunity to bring more measures against Cuban officials.

New sanctions were announced on August 20 against ICAP's leadership. The institute's Vice President Noemí Ramona Rabaza Fernández and its North America director Leima Martínez Freire were both singled out; as was ICAP President and national hero Fernando González Lloret, who spent 15 years in a US prison for infiltrating anti-Cuba terrorist organizations operating freely in the United States.

The announcement of the sanctions was accompanied by a statement by Rubio: "The Cuban regime has long sponsored a vast subversive network in the United States, aimed at identifying, cultivating, and radicalizing subversives, largely operating under the pretext of educational or cultural exchange."

This is the same language Rubio used in the July State Department report, *Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism*. It aims to depict Cuba as a unique threat to the United States, and to discredit the peaceful solidarity movement as a brainwashed network of Cuban-trained guerillas preparing to overthrow Western civilization.

Both the Canadian Network on Canada and the Che Guevara Voluntary Work Brigade were named alongside the mostly US based list of organizations included as members of this subversive network.

Condemn the blockade

Since assuming his position as Trump's main foreign policy advisor, Rubio has been

Back to school — and the bargaining table — in Ontario



SILLA TAULER

On August 31, just a week before Ontario's return to school, collective agreements expired for teachers and other education workers.

Despite calls from education unions to start bargaining early, Minister of Education Paul Callandra insisted in March that workers would start the new year with ratified contracts and there would be no disruption to student learning due to labour strife in 2026-2027. Without the extended start to negotiations, Ontario's school board sector unions all submitted their intent to bargain to the employer in June. Since then, education workers are at a familiar place with talks over the split between central and local bargaining items breaking down, and the issue sent to arbitration by the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Since 2014, when the then Liberal government passed the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, there has been this dance every time workers in public education go to the bargaining table.

Both sides meet centrally and hammer out the rules of engagement, including which issues will be negotiated as part of the central agreement and which will be divested to locals. This split traditionally works along the lines of having issues related to money bargained centrally. In addition to salary, this also includes things like class sizes for teachers and workload language for education workers more broadly. Local issues tend to be procedural: legitimate reasons for personal day use, how long you remain subject to recall after being laid off, whether seniority accumulates depending on what kind of leave you have undertaken, etc.

This split is important to education workers and their unions because many of these local items impact important features of their work. So much so that during this round of bargaining, as part of their outreach, unions have all publicly come out and stated frankly that the government's proposal is to take almost every item and negotiate it centrally.

The arguments put forward by the education sector unions against this centralization push are based around the nature of many school districts not being reflective of similar conditions in larger metropolitan areas, like Toronto.

For example, if you live in Northern Ontario and are a secondary school teacher your next closest work site may be 150 kilometres or more from your home. Those contracts have typically had greater protections for how members are reassigned and moved around between school years, whereas teachers living in the Greater Toronto Area may find themselves with more options of nearby workplaces if they must be reassigned.

A one-size-fits-all approach to these kinds of procedural issues could have significant deleterious effects on education workers, and worsen the already challenging recruitment and retention situation for education workers in Ontario.

In 2022, teacher unions agreed to enter into voluntary binding interest arbitration, with both sides told by the arbitrator that any breakthroughs in terms of class size or other contract language would need to be settled at the bargaining table. This leaves an arbitrated settlement on these contentious issues unlikely this round of bargaining, and education worker unions in a position where they feel they need to fight.

Where does this delay put the sector this fall, as students return to school and parents look to the education sector to provide education services and a safe place for their children during the school day?

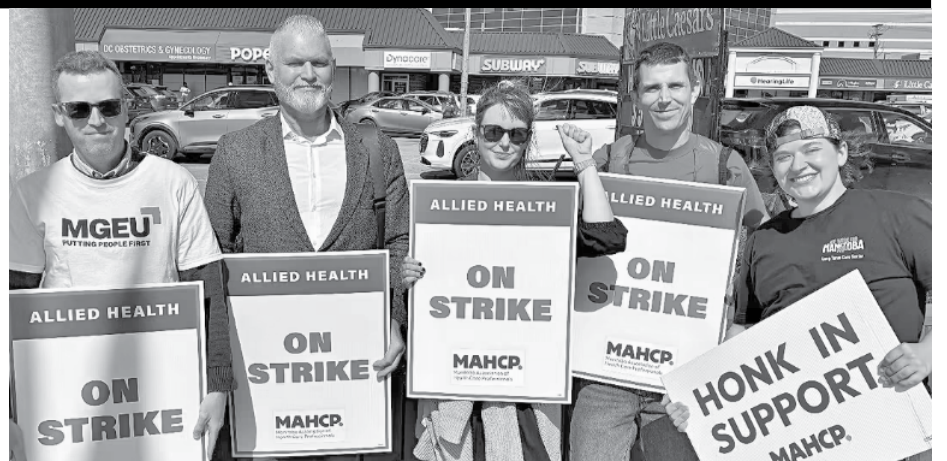
As of right now, this procedural delay prevents either side from declaring a strike or lockout. Neither side has formally presented their opening positions and are waiting for a negotiated settlement on the central/local split before getting down to the hard fight ahead.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) has publicly stated their intent to hold strike votes in the fall and that a big part of their goals for this round of bargaining is clearer class size language for grades 4-8 and a reduction in class sizes in kindergarten classrooms. The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) has been less vocal in terms of their plans for strike votes in the fall, but they have committed to engaging in this round of bargaining along the lines of the common front that education sector unions used to moderate success in Quebec during negotiations in 2023. OSSTF is looking for greater clarity on class size language in streamlined Grade 9 classes, improvements to workplace health and safety protections, and protecting sick leave and other parts of the contract.

The Ontario government's response has been to hint that they plan to intervene in case of labour disruption this school year. When asked by reporters about the announcement that talks had stalled over the rules of engagement between the government and unions, Callandra stated that "the year will start as scheduled and it is my expectation that kids will be in the classroom for a very long time."

This comment from the Minister of Education came amid news that a planned government smear campaign against teachers was in the works. In news released recently, production was underway of an advertisement campaign to call into question the legitimacy of teachers using their sick days and whether their current amount is justified. The government intends to push teachers into a position where they will need doctor's notes for illnesses, with the obvious consequence of flooding walk-in clinics and family doctor offices with 275,000 education workers looking for a sick note so they can stay home with a cold.

Attempting to defend these leaks, the Minister said that the unions had started this political mud slinging and pointing to OSSTF campaigns like "Underfunded and Over It!" or ETFO members distributing pamphlets in ridings held by provincial cabinet ministers. ■



Dynacare workers in MB strike after NDP government moves to strip bargaining rights

SARAH BORBRIDGE

On September 8, 350 Dynacare laboratory workers walked off the job in an all-out strike, shutting down 22 laboratory and health service centres across Winnipeg, Brandon and the surrounding communities. The workers, represented by the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP), voted 99.7 percent in favour of a strike mandate in August. This came after multiple disrespectful counteroffers from the for-profit lab giant.

Currently, the wage gap for technicians, technologists and charge techs between the two sectors is staggering, ranging from 20 to 50 percent, and Dynacare's offer would have left workers trailing even farther behind their public-sector counterparts. In 2017, when Dynacare was ramping up its takeover of public labs, wages were competitive with public colleagues, but the gaps have steadily widened since.

Just days before the job action, on September 1, Manitoba NDP Minister of Labour Malaya Marcelino filed an application with the Manitoba Labour Board to classify medical laboratory staff as essential workers. This move was an attempt to remove the workers' right to strike, leaving Dynacare without consequence and stripping all bargaining power from employees.

The application came despite a known agreement made in March between Dynacare and MAHCP that an essential services agreement was not required under the Labour Relations Act. It was even more shocking given that these services had never been deemed essential – not even during the pandemic. The move clearly demonstrates the provincial NDP's alliance with business against workers.

In response, MAHCP President Jason Linklater stated: "These severely underpaid laboratory technicians and technologists thought the Manitoba government had their backs. Instead, the NDP is siding with a private, American-owned company over the rights and interests of Manitoba workers by interfering in bargaining and threatening their Charter-protected right to strike."

While in opposition, the NDP criticized the former Conservative government for its drive to privatize laboratory services and expand the private company. Even while campaigning, the NDP maintained that "profit has no place in our hospitals and health-care centres."

Yet, a newly disclosed contract revealed how the provincial government continues to enable Dynacare's low-wage approach. According to a September 4 MAHCP media release, the union obtained a previous contract through freedom of information showing that Dynacare received a nearly \$5 million top-up and annual increases from the government after the last round of contract negotiations in 2022. In total, the

additional provincial funding Dynacare received between 2018 and 2025 amounted to approximately \$12 million – more than five to six times what workers received in wage increases over that same period.

While Dynacare's base salary increases for unionized employees totaled only 9.9 percent over eight years (an average of 1.2 percent annually), Shared Health laboratory wages increased by roughly 40 percent.

"Dynacare has a history of squeezing their workers by claiming poverty, then secretly going to government for millions of dollars more," said Linklater. "The Manitoba government has been 100 percent complicit in the exploitation of these hard-working laboratory professionals by a private, American-owned company."

Dynacare opened its first lab in Manitoba in 2013, with several smaller labs already being taken over by what was then called Gamma-Dynacare. By 2018, it had achieved a monopoly in Winnipeg, becoming the sole provider of community-based specimen collection and analysis in the city. This shift came at the cost of small labs being shut down entirely, meaning seniors and people with limited access to transportation could no longer receive services at their doctor's office or neighbourhood clinic. Yet once the NDP was in power, it signed several new contracts and opened more labs across the province.

Dynacare is a for-profit US-owned company with an operational base in Ontario. It was purchased in 2002 by LabCorp – a multinational clinical laboratory that operates in over 100 countries.

LabCorp has faced a slew of controversies, including overcharging governments, data breaches and sharing patient data. In 1992, it was one of the first companies prosecuted as part of "Operation Labscam" – a US-wide crackdown on healthcare fraud – after it was found submitting false claims to Medicare and Medicaid. The company paid out \$182 million as a result of that investigation.

LabCorp also has a reputation for understaffing its workplace and enforcing extreme productivity quotas – practices in line with their stated goals to "operate the company in a non-union environment."

The fight for Dynacare workers is both a defence of labour rights and resistance to the ever-encroaching privatization of healthcare, which the Manitoba NDP has given up on. The struggle in southern Manitoba blatantly shows the cost of outsourcing our care to American multinationals. Workers, and everyone who relies on these services, pay the high price of the profit model through low wages and overworked staff. Dynacare must pay their workers fair wages, on par with public sector workers.

If they can't, it might be time to absorb these healthcare services back into the public sector. ■

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Internationalized digital resistance to the far right

■ FROM PG 5

with other photos, even when faces were obscured. After these investigations were published, some participants were excluded from various organizations and businesses.

Similar grassroots tracking unmasked the Kernatium Division, a neo-Nazi accelerationist group on TikTok and Telegram targeting youth across Canada. Volunteer researchers uncovered channel administrators sharing surveillance imagery and access points of the Canadian Armed Forces armoury in Regina.

Global digital front

This digital resistance is inherently internationalist. Gen Z sleuths in Canada operate as part of a global, decentralized ecosystem using open-source tools to map reactionary networks across borders.

Throughout Europe, collectives established the standard for using publicly available data to track state and non-state violence, inspiring a wave of youth-run research collectives.

In Germany, anti-fascist researchers systematically map far-right disinformation campaigns, while activists at the Chaos Computer Club organize regular Antifa Recherche Meetups to share web-scraping scripts and digital mapping techniques.

Direct action has also crossed into the digital realm. When a German anti-fascist researcher operating under the pseudonym Martha Root breached WhiteDate, a white supremacist dating and networking platform, she wiped the servers and published the user data live at a cybersecurity convention, taking down three linked fascist domains simultaneously.

The attack was conducted at the Chaos Communication Congress, Europe's largest hacking conference, with Root appearing on stage in a Pink Ranger costume and launching a Python script that deleted the websites' databases and backups in real time. Each command was met with applause from the audience.

What made the operation particularly sophisticated was Root's use of artificial intelligence. Before destroying the platform, she deployed a chatbot based on Meta's open Llama model, specifically trained to conduct conversations in the spirit of traditionalism and far-right values to gain users' trust. The bot was instructed to demonstrate interest in "traditional family roles and heritage," communicate amiably, and avoid sharing contact details before a personal meeting.

Through months of infiltration using these AI-generated fake profiles, Root and her collaborators were able to interact with users, understand their ideology, and collect maximum information before the administration noticed the breach. WhiteDate's security was described as "as bad as it gets," with

the full list of users downloadable simply by opening a specific URL. She obtained data from more than 6,500 accounts, about 86 percent of which belonged to men.

The investigation revealed a structured ideological network. WhiteDate gathered nearly 8,000 profiles from around the world, with users sharing fantasies of "white genocide," antisemitic conspiracy theories, and explicit references to neo-Nazism. After the server deletion, an interactive map was published allowing visualization of a portion of the registered users, with profile photos showing references to Nazism including images of American Nazi Party founder George Lincoln Rockwell and Celtic crosses.

The data included many Americans, Germans, British and approximately 300 French users. Similarly, the anonymous release of the "Fash Pack," consisting of over 1,400 unmasking documents and internal files, demonstrates how digital archives can permanently strip fascist organizers of their anonymity.

Organizing out of necessity

Fascist active clubs target alienated young men who feel squeezed by housing precarity, wage stagnation and social isolation under financialized capitalism. Reactionary organizers weaponize this economic despair, directing frustration away from corporate exploitation and toward marginalized groups. The Canadian Anti-Hate Network notes that the organized white nationalist movement in Canada is the biggest it has been in modern history, with a major driver of that growth being social media, which makes it easier for like-minded people to find one another.

However, the same material conditions producing these reactionary movements are forcing a generation of young working-class people to organize. Gen Z OSINT researchers do not engage in this work out of academic interest; they do so because fascists are recruiting in their neighborhoods, their gyms and their digital feeds. As Lamoureux has stated, "They're winning, they're growing, and there needs to be pushback."

The older model of anti-fascist resistance, which relied heavily on reactive street mobilizations, is being augmented by a distributed, data-driven methodology. By tracing a single tree in the background of an overpass photo or identifying a unique light fixture inside a rented hall, young researchers expose these networks to their employers, their schools and their communities before they can consolidate local power.

When Square Butte Hall was unknowingly rented out for a neo-Nazi retreat, the organizers believed they could train in secret. They failed to realize that every digital trail leaves a footprint, and a new generation of working-class researchers is actively watching. ■

CNC launches new campaign ahead of UN vote on blockade of Cuba

■ FROM PG 12

working hard to strongarm US allies into falling in line on Cuba. This has given heightened importance to the United Nations' annual renewal of the resolution on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo."

Each October since 1992, when the vote first took place, Canada has stood with the entire world against the unilateral and extraterritorial blockade of Cuba by the United States. But the combination of a virulently anti-Cuba US Secretary of State and a Canadian Prime Minister who has been imperialism's treasurer for almost four decades threatens to break this streak.

On July 7, during a vote separate from the one that takes place every October, Canada's representative at the UN abstained on an emergency proposal to debate the blockade against Cuba. Leaked documents have since revealed that Marco Rubio instructed US ambassadors to threaten their host governments into voting according to US demands. By abstaining, Canada isolated itself from the world that, despite US pressure, continues to vote overwhelmingly with Cuba.

Carney has indicated no qualms about selling-out Canada's 80-year friendship with the Cuban people to appease Washington. The Liberal government has issued a travel advisory on Cuba, has stayed quiet on Sherritt and Blue Diamond Hotels being forced off the island by the actions of Trump and Rubio, and has refused to condemn the energy blockade despite United Nations' human rights experts declaring the resulting humanitarian crisis a "silent Gaza."

No War on Cuba

A domestic "No War on Cuba" campaign is being organized by the Canadian Network on Cuba. At the core of this multi-pronged push is a parliamentary petition sponsored by Winnipeg Centre NDP MP Leah Gazan. The petition urges the government to reiterate its condemnation of the US blockade at the United Nations in October, to expand commercial and cultural exchanges with the island, to lift the travel advisory on Cuba and to strengthen the Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act to better protect Canadians against unilateral US sanctions.

The work of the CNC remains to support the Revolution's own efforts to defend against the genocidal economic war being waged against it by history's most powerful empire. The 167 social and economic transformations approved by the Cuban government this summer are creating the legal framework to decentralize the economy and opening up new pathways to meeting people's needs. At the same time, regular militia training is preparing people to defend their Revolution by arms if necessary.

The final ceremony of the *Fidel: Legacy and Future* colloquium was held at the Karl Marx theatre in Havana on the morning of August 13, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz. Children and adolescents sang patriotic and revolutionary songs alongside athletes, scientists and political heroes like Gerardo Hernandez of the Cuban 5. The message of collectivity, unity and steadfastness were clear, even through the language barrier.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel began the final ceremony with a speech, with Raul and the Cuban leadership seated in the front row. "¡Viva Fidel! ¡Viva Cuba! ¡Viva Socialismo," he concluded, "¡Patria o Muerte!" Four thousand in attendance boomed back: "¡Venceremos!"

The Revolution continues undeterred. ■

WHAT'S LEFT

VICTORIA

SATURDAYS | CUBA SOLIDARITY

11 AM every Saturday at Mt. Newton overpass on Pat Bay Hwy, Saanich. Banner drop with Victoria Friends of Cuba, against the US blockade.

VANCOUVER

SEP 21 | INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

7 PM at Vancouver Oddfellows, 1443 8 Ave West. Join CCFA Vancouver, Vancouver Peace Council and CNC for discussion on Cuba solidarity.

VANCOUVER

SEP 27 | PUENTES DE AMOR RALLY

1 PM at the corner of Commercial and Broadway. Join CCFA Vancouver for monthly action calling for an end to the US blockade of Cuba.

WINNIPEG

SEP 27 | END THE BLOCKADE

1-2 PM at the intersection of Portage and Main. Join the Manitoba Cuba Solidarity Committee for monthly action opposing the US blockade.

TORONTO

SEP 18 | CUBA FILM

7 PM at the GCDO Hall, 290 Danforth. Join the Toronto YCL for screening of *Salud: Cuba's Vision for Universal Healthcare*.

TORONTO

SEP 19 | NATO AND CANADA

7-9 PM at the Shevchenko Museum, 1604 Bloor St. West. Join the Toronto Association for Peace and Solidarity and author Owen Schalk for the launch of his book, *Canada and NATO: Myth of a Global Peacekeeper*.

TORONTO

SEP 23 | FREE GRASSY NARROWS

12 PM at Grange Park. Join the Grassy Narrows River Run, marching to Queen's Park to call for mercury justice for the people of Grassy Narrows.

TORONTO

SEP 27 | END THE BLOCKADE

1 PM at the US Consulate, 360 University Ave. Join CCFA Toronto for a monthly picket against the US blockade.

OTTAWA

SEP 17 | CUBA SOLIDARITY PICKET

4:30 PM at the US Embassy, 490 Sussex Drive. Join Ottawa Cuba Connections for monthly action to call for an end to the blockade.

OTTAWA

SEP 21 | 1000 WOMEN+ FOR PEACE

4 PM at Prime Minister's Office, 80 Wellington St. Join women and gender diverse peace activists to mark International Day of Peace by calling on Ottawa to cut military spending.

OTTAWA

SEP 27 | PUENTES DE AMOR RALLY

11 AM at the Cuban Embassy, 338 Main St. Join solidarity activists for a monthly action calling for an end to the blockade of Cuba.

JOIN THE FIGHT! BUILD THE STRUGGLE!



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Referendum questions are right-wing propaganda

■ FROM PG 12

Q8: THE "OPT OUT" QUESTION – KEEP THE MONEY, DROP THE RULES

The UCP asks: "Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to allow provinces to opt out of federal programs that intrude on provincial jurisdiction such as health care, education and social services, without a province losing any of the associated federal funding for use in its social programs?"

The Truth: You can't have it both ways. Federal funding comes with federal standards – that's the whole point.

Opting out already exists as an option, but you lose the money. Under the Canada Health Act and other federal programs, provinces can opt out, but they forfeit the federal transfer payments that come with them. The UCP wants to keep the cash and ignore the conditions.

This would fragment Canada-wide standards. If Alberta can opt out of federal health standards while keeping the funding, every other province will demand the same, and we end up with a patchwork of different healthcare and education systems across the country.

It's a constitutional non-starter. Like Questions 6 and 7, this requires a constitutional amendment, and Ottawa has zero incentive to give provinces free money with no strings attached.

So why are they asking? To sell you on the idea that Alberta can have "autonomy" without paying for it. But someone always pays, and it'll be the people who rely on those services.

VOTE NO to Question 8.

Q9: THE "PROVINCIAL LAWS OVER FEDERAL" QUESTION – A CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION DRESSED UP AS "RIGHTS"

The UCP asks: "Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to better protect provincial rights from federal interference by giving a province's laws dealing with provincial or shared areas of constitutional jurisdiction priority over federal laws when the province's laws and federal laws conflict?"

The Truth: This isn't "protecting rights" – it's blowing up Canadian federalism.

This reverses 159 years of constitutional law. Since Confederation in 1867, the doctrine of federal paramountcy has been the rule: when valid federal and provincial laws conflict in an area of shared jurisdiction, the federal law prevails and the provincial law is inoperative to the extent of the conflict. This isn't a minor rule – it's what keeps Canada one country instead of thirteen competing legal systems.

What happens if this passes? Alberta's environmental regulations could override federal ones. Alberta's labour standards could override federal ones. Alberta's rules on food safety, pharmaceutical licensing or financial regulation could take precedence over federal frameworks. Every province becomes, in areas of conflict, "a law unto itself." They're asking for the replacement of the federal system with something closer to a confederation of sovereign states. Do you really trust this provincial government enough to remove all federal paramountcy? What about the next one? What we need is working-class power, not flip-flopping servants of capital with fewer checks and balances.

The Supreme Court already checks federal overreach without blowing up the system. Alberta won a major victory in 2023 against the federal Impact Assessment Act within the existing constitutional order. The courts found Ottawa had overstepped. Alberta didn't need to reverse paramountcy to win; it needed the courts to enforce the existing division of powers.

And it's virtually impossible to pass. Constitutional amendments require the House of Commons, the Senate, and at least seven provinces representing at least 50 per-



cent of Canada's population to agree (the "7/50 formula"). Ottawa has already said no. The UCP knows this; they're asking you to endorse a fantasy to manufacture grievances.

This is the "Alberta First" version of "states' rights." It's the same logic used to defend segregation in the American South. It has nothing to do with provincial autonomy: it's about choosing which laws to follow and which to ignore, framed as Province v. Federal, but it's really the erosion of working-class rights.

So why are they asking? To make you think Ottawa is the enemy while they dismantle the constitutional framework that protects all Canadians, including the most vulnerable.

VOTE NO to Question 9.

Q10: THE "SEPARATION" QUESTION – SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL, OR FOR NONE

The UCP asks: "Should Alberta remain a province of Canada, or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada?"

The Truth: Self-determination of nations is a core Marxist-Leninist principle, but it's not a pick-and-choose menu.

There is no "legal process" for separation. The Canadian Constitution does not contain any provision for a province to hold a binding secession referendum. The Clarity Act (2000) only says the federal government may negotiate after a "clear majority" on a "clear question." And the Supreme Court ruled in 1998 that unilateral secession is unconstitutional. The UCP is selling you a fantasy they know they can't deliver.

Self-determination is universal. Vladimir Lenin wrote: "No nation is free if it oppresses other nations." He insisted that the working class must be "absolutely hostile" to any dominant nation using force against a nation seeking political separation. The right to self-determination cannot be claimed by one nation while denied to others.

What is a nation, anyway? Otto Bauer, an Austrian Marxist and contemporary of Lenin, defined a nation as "the totality of people who are united by a common fate so that they possess a common (national) character." Nations aren't fixed boxes, they're living communities, forged through shared history and struggle. And living communities deserve the right to determine their own future. But is Alberta really distinct from the rest of Canada, culturally?

Alberta isn't a nation, but First Nations are – every Treaty Nation, the Cree, the Blackfoot, the Dene, the Métis. They all have the same right to determine their own political future. Their treaties are with the Crown, not with Alberta. The UCP never mentions this because they don't actually believe in self-determination, they believe that in all of Canada, they're somehow unique.

So why are they asking? To make you think separation is a realistic "option." It's not. It's a threat to extract more concessions from Ottawa – while ignoring the fact that the same logic would apply to every Indigenous nation within Alberta's borders.

VOTE REMAIN to Question 10 and demand that any conversation about self-determination includes EVERYONE. ■



Mexican workers suffer mass unemployment

■ FROM PG 5

ports finished products to the US and Canada. These plants, which employ millions of Mexicans and form a major part of the country's manufacturing sector, take advantage of low wages and a six-day work week.

In the past the Mexican left opposed free trade with the US, but now MORENA supports it, Chavez said. He also complained that the Sheinbaum government has caved into US demands to keep Chinese investment out of Mexico. "The USMCA even allows North American inspectors into factories to decide if a union meeting is legal", he claimed.

The PCM opposes Sheinbaum's attempts to save the USMCA, and wants Mexico to pull out of the agreement.

"MORENA does not want to overthrow capitalism, but instead promised that it wanted to reform it and make it more beautiful – but now it does not want to even do that," complained Chavez. During the 1980s and 90s, former right wing PRI and PAN governments privatized hundreds of companies for well below their market value. "The first MORENA government of Lopez Obrador never re-nationalized these companies. Sheinbaum continues with his program."

MORENA's approach to mass youth unemployment is a program called "Young people constructing the future", started by Lopez Obrador in 2019 when he was first elected. "The government pays the wages of 3.5 million young people each year who work for private companies, providing free labour to capitalists at tax payers expense," lamented Chavez. Workers are paid the minimum wage of \$9,500 pesos per month – around \$780 CDN – and employers are not obligated to continue employing them after one year.

He also challenged MORENA's claim it has raised the minimum salary by 250 percent since 2019. "This is only a decree and has not been enforced. In many cases, the government does not even obligate employers to pay the minimum wage."

When asked if MORENA governments have reduced poverty through the introduction of new social programs, he said that high inflation has been undermining these programs, noting that monopolies have been raising prices for basic goods, making it impossible to reduce poverty levels in the country. "These social programs were introduced primarily to win votes for MORENA and buy social peace and stability."

Chavez said the country still has 50 million poor people and suffers from mass unemployment, compelling 55 percent of the labour force to work in the informal sector such as selling goods or food on the street because there is no unemployment insurance or welfare. "These conditions

have force many Mexicans to migrate to the US and Canada."

He is also critical of Sheinbaum for not protecting the 10 million Mexico immigrants living in the US; recently, it was reported that 18 Mexicans have died in ICE detention centers. "The government has not protested or did anything to help migrants. Instead it is helping the US deport immigrants back to Mexico."

The MORENA party government also stopped shipping oil to Cuba, he said, helping to worsen the US blockade.

The PCM was not able to get its electoral registration back this year because of rules designed to keep opposition parties off the ballot. Mexican electoral authorities require a new party to submit 350 thousand signatures and hold costly assemblies in all 31 states, which proved impossible for the PCM to meet. Chavez said MORENA has not expressed any intention of changing these rules.

Since its refounding in 1994, the PCM has been unable to regain its former electoral registration that it was granted in 1978. The party last ran candidates in 1979, winning 5.4 percent of the vote and electing 18 deputies to the National Parliament, becoming the third largest party in the country. In 1981, party members dissolved the party to form the Mexican Unified Socialist party (PMS). In 1988, the PMS dissolved and formed the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD).

The PRD – to which Lopez Obrador belonged during the first part of his political career, and which he abandoned to form MORENA in 2011 – inherited the PCM's electoral registration and property.

Denied ballot access for the 2024 elections, the PCM ran Marco Vinicio Davila for president as well as several write-in candidates for state governor (including Chavez in Mexico City) which is allowed by the Mexican constitution. PCM candidates officially received 85,000 write-in votes, and probably more since the party has evidence that many votes were marked as null.

Chavez characterized the party's electoral campaign as successful, especially the presidential race, despite media censorship by the national television networks. He said Vinicio Davila traveled the country speaking at meetings, distributing tens of thousands of leaflets with volunteers, door knocking and giving interviews to media. "Marco became well know across the country. While I was campaigning with him in Mexico City where I was the candidate for governor, I remember people constantly approaching Marco on the street to speak with him."

Until the party can get back its electoral registration, Chavez said the PCM will continue running write-in candidates to offer a socialist alternative to the working class. ■

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Alberta referendum: Vote ‘No’ to the Nine, and ‘Yes’ to Remain! But...



PV ALBERTA BUREAU

The questions in Alberta’s October 19 referendum are about monopoly encroachment and Albertan separatism. We’re in a mounting recession, and the United Conservative Party is pointing fingers, using this antagonism and western alienation to further separate the working class and promote the interests of monopoly capital. Don’t let them.

Q1: THE "IMMIGRATION" QUESTION – DON'T BE FOOLED

The UCP asks: “Do you support the Government of Alberta taking increased control over immigration for the purposes of decreasing immigration to more sustainable levels, prioritizing economic migration and giving Albertans first priority on new employment opportunities?”

The Truth: It's already happening. "Increased control"? In March 2026, Ottawa quietly handed Alberta sole authority to decide whether provincial nominees can stay. We already handpick workers for our labour market.

"Economic migration"? That's literally what the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) does. Alberta's 2026 allocation is 6,603 nominees, up from 6,403 last year. We're already prioritizing "economic" workers.

"Albertans first"? Like “America First,” this is a classic fascist dog whistle. But Canadian employers are already required to prove no citizen or permanent resident can do the job before hiring a temporary foreign worker (that's the LMIA: the Labour Market Impact Assessment). And Ottawa already slashed over 146,000 temporary worker entries in the first 8 months of 2025 alone.

So why are they asking? To make you think immigrants are the problem while they take credit for, and further normalize, policies already in place. It's dividing the working class on artificial lines, plain and simple.

VOTE NO to Question 1.

Q2: THE "WHO GETS SERVICES" QUESTION – ALREADY HAPPENING

The UCP asks: “Do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law mandating that only Canadian citizens, permanent residents and individuals with an Alberta approved immigration status will be eligible for provincially funded programs, such as health care, education and other social services?”

The Truth: They're already making it happen. Quietly, and without a referendum.

Healthcare? Already cut. On January 7, Alberta quietly removed public health coverage for temporary foreign workers on International Experience Canada (IEC) Type 58 permits, including young people on working holiday visas. No announcement, no debate. Workers only found out when they tried to renew their health cards. The government said federal rules required private insurance, so public coverage was "redundant" and "discontinued". (They paused in February after an outcry, but the intent is clear.)

Education? Already under attack. Nearly

46,000 temporary-status students are in Alberta schools. In Calgary alone, 680 students haven't provided immigration papers to guarantee continued enrolment. Another 1,681 have study permits expiring before September 29. Edmonton Public Schools counts 500 more. If their permits expire, they lose free schooling, and the provincial government is pointing fingers instead of fixing it.

Social services? Partially federally protected. For now. The Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act only stops provinces from imposing residency waiting periods for citizens, permanent residents, protected persons and trafficking victims. It says nothing about protecting temporary residents. The UCP is asking you to endorse a door they've already cracked open.

So why are they asking? To make you think they're asking permission, which they're not. They're already denying coverage, already squeezing schools, and already testing the limits.

VOTE NO to Question 2.

Q3: THE "12-MONTH WAIT" QUESTION – ILLEGAL AND CRUEL

The UCP asks: “Assuming that all Canadian citizens and permanent residents continue to qualify for social support programs as they do now, do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law requiring all individuals with a non-permanent legal immigration status to reside in Alberta for at least 12 months before qualifying for any provincially funded social support programs?”

The Truth: For social assistance, this is already illegal under federal law. The UCP knows it. They're asking you to endorse something they can't deliver without a steep fight.

For healthcare? Alberta already has a de facto 12-month rule. The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) requires temporary residents to "intend to live in Alberta for a minimum of 12 consecutive months" before qualifying for coverage.

For social assistance like welfare, childcare subsidies, etc.? Section 25.1 of the Federal Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act explicitly forbids provinces from imposing minimum residency periods as a condition for social assistance. The UCP can't just wave that away – they'd need to fight Ottawa in court for the right to deny welfare and childcare subsidies to the suffering.

For refugees and asylum seekers? This question would deny support to Afghan interpreters, families fleeing Taliban retribution, Ukrainian refugees and other people who've barely escaped with their lives.

So why are they asking? To make you think "waiting periods" are normal and fair. They're not. They're a backdoor way to starve out temporary residents – people who work, pay taxes and contribute to our communities – while pretending their hands are tied.

VOTE NO to Question 3.

Q4: THE "REASONABLE FEE" QUESTION – WHO DECIDES WHAT'S "REASONABLE"?

The UCP asks: "Assuming that all Cana-

dian citizens and permanent residents continue to qualify for public health care and education as they do now, do you support the Government of Alberta charging a reasonable fee or premium to individuals with a non-permanent immigration status living in Alberta for their and their family's use of the health care and education systems?”

The Truth: "Reasonable" is a blank cheque. There's no definition, no cap, no protection – just a mandate to charge whatever they want.

How much is "reasonable"? Independent modelling estimates fees of \$3,000 to \$6,000 per person per year for healthcare and education. The Alberta Teachers' Association estimates that education costs for families of temporary foreign are \$600 million. The UCP wants those families to foot that bill directly.

What about the kids? The ATA points out that Canada signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes education as a right for every child, regardless of immigration status. The UCP's response? "Children won't be denied an education, they'll just have to pay a fee." That's a price tag, not a right.

What about taxes? Temporary residents already pay taxes: sales tax, income tax, payroll deductions. This question asks them to pay twice: once through taxes, and again through fees.

So why are they asking? To shift the cost of public services onto the most vulnerable, while taking credit for "saving" taxpayer dollars. It's a shell game.

VOTE NO to Question 4.

Q5: THE "VOTER ID" QUESTION – SOLVING A PROBLEM THAT DOESN'T EXIST

The UCP asks: "Do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law requiring individuals to provide proof of citizenship, such as a passport, birth certificate or citizenship card, to vote in an Alberta provincial election?”

The Truth: You already have to be a citizen to vote. This has nothing to do with security; it's about making it harder for eligible voters to cast a ballot.

Non-citizens can't vote. That's already the law. Elections Alberta already maintains voter rolls based on citizenship data from driver's licences and other provincial ID, which are acquired with support of passports, birth certificates or citizenship cards.

Voter fraud is virtually non-existent. Both Elections Canada and Elections Alberta have repeatedly confirmed that instances of ineligible voting are extremely rare. This is a solution in search of a problem.

What about people who don't have a passport or birth certificate? Many Canadians, especially Indigenous peoples, seniors and low-income folks, don't have these documents on hand. Requiring them creates a barrier to voting and doesn't fix anything. You needed ID to get your driver's or your citizenship card. It's already proven. Asking for it again is theatre.

So why are they asking? To make you

think elections are rigged. They're not, except in capitalism's favour. This is voter suppression dressed up as "election integrity".

VOTE NO to Question 5.

Q6: THE "JUDGE" QUESTION – A CONSTITUTIONAL FANTASY

The UCP asks: “Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to have provincial governments, and not the federal government, select the justices appointed to provincial King's Bench and Appeal courts?”

The Truth: This requires a constitutional amendment, and Ottawa has already said no.

Judges are appointed by the federal government. Under Section 96 of the Constitution Act, 1867, the federal government has exclusive authority to appoint judges to provincial superior courts. That's been the law since Confederation.

Ottawa has already rejected this. Prime Minister Mark Carney and federal Justice Minister Sean Fraser have both said they have no intention of changing judicial appointments.

Even if Alberta gets support, it's a long shot. Constitutional amendments require the approval of the House of Commons, the Senate and at least seven provinces representing at least half of Canada's population.

So why are they asking? To manufacture grievances against Ottawa. This isn't about judicial independence; it's about picking a fight they know they can't win, to stoke “western alienation” and rally their base.

VOTE NO to Question 6.

Q7: THE "ABOLISH THE SENATE" QUESTION – PURE FANTASY

The UCP asks: "Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to abolish the unelected federal Senate?”

The Truth: This would require unanimous consent of every province, territory and both houses of Parliament. It's not happening.

We should be fighting for democratic participation and the rights of oppressed nations. Instead, the UCP wants to remove checks and balances to superimpose the interests of corporate monopolies on the working class as if they were our own. They aren't. Instead of abolition and a power vacuum, the Communist Party of Canada advocates senate replacement with a House of Nations composed of elected representatives of Indigenous peoples, English-speaking Canada, Quebec and the Acadians.

This is a distraction. While the UCP asks you to dream about abolishing the Senate, they're not talking about the things we can actually change for the better: like housing, healthcare and education funding.

So why are they asking? To make you feel like they're "fighting Ottawa" while delivering nothing. Another shiny object to stoke “western alienation”.

VOTE NO to Question 7.