

# Lower Island NEWS

An independent democratic socialist newspaper serving the Lower Vancouver Island area for 29 years

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## A symbol of achievement: the Gwaii Haanas Legacy Pole raising



The Legacy Pole stands impressively tall amid the even taller spruce trees, near the shore of Windy Bay, after being raised by the cooperative help of many hands. This breathtaking moment is living history.



The Legacy Pole is carefully roped for the raising ceremony. The 42-foot pole was created by carver Jaalen Edenshaw, was inspired by the caretakers of Gwaii Haanas and was selected for its detailing of the interconnections between land, sea and people through human, animal and supernatural carved forms.

For more photos, turn to page 2

Story and photos by Heather Tufts

On a stormy day in August, visitors and residents of Haida Gwaii board a collection of small vessels for an historic journey to the remote Windy Bay on Lyell Island. We gather there to commemorate 20 years of cooperation between the Haida Nation and the provincial and federal governments and to witness something that hasn't happened in Gwaii Haanas for over a century.

Lyell Island is a part of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site and was the focus of anti-logging demonstrations in the 1980s that led to the park's creation. Much of the forests on the island had been a mortuary grove for those who died in the smallpox epidemics that ravaged the archipelago in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

As we arrived in Hlk'yah GawGa (Windy Bay) after a rocky boat ride on rough seas, the skies cleared and the sun shone down on an historic gathering of "Honouring the past: Shaping the future." Meanwhile the strong, honour drums and singing echoed through the protected forest in memorable celebration of the 1993 *Gwaii Haanas Agreement*, the only cooperative power-sharing arrangement of its kind in Canada.

More than two decades ago a visionary young Guujaw was at the forefront of the fight with many Haida who risked arrest while remaining passionately undeterred as land-defenders. Amidst the spotlight of media attention several elders were led away by the RCMP and the world was impacted by their pride and dignity.

Amongst those arrested was NDP MP Svend Robinson, at which time the Haida people conferred on him an indigenous name, meaning "White Swan". During a period of two weeks 72 people were arrested in strident protest against the renewal of old-growth logging permits.

On this historic day it was amazing to be in mystical Gwaii Haanas for the Legacy Pole Raising which would stand tall as a powerful symbol of achievement for these protected lands. As this elegant 42-foot pole was pulled to its magnificent height our spirits soared and we all knew that we shared a special time in history in a magical place.

Peter Lantin (Kil laats'gaa), president of the Council of Haida Nation, reflects on the cultural significance of the event: "Our culture is born of respect, and intimacy with the land and sea and the air around us. Like the forests, the roots of our people are intertwined such that the greatest troubles cannot overcome us. We owe our existence to Haida Gwaii. The living generation accepts the responsibility to ensure that our heritage is passed on to following generations."

Two proud canoes arrive in the calmer waters of Sandy Bay as the youth from a Rediscovery Camp on a nearby island raise their paddles high and request to come ashore. Following local protocol the permission is granted and they are greeted by Guujaw and the potlatched Haida hereditary chiefs who form a welcome line along the beach.

The drumming and singing is an invitation to land, warmth and food. After

the appropriate welcomes the paddlers reunite triumphantly with their community as we all share the excited anticipation of the upcoming pole raising ceremony.

The design for the pole, created by carver Jaalen Edenshaw, was inspired by the caretakers of Gwaii Haanas and was selected for its detailing of the interconnections between land, sea and people through human, animal and supernatural carved forms. The final paint touch-ups on this 500 year old red-cedar pole are completed on site to help create a continuous stream of positive energy in the spirit of participation.

Guujaw, (recipient of the 2006 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Award for his work as a political leader, carver, traditional medicine practitioner, singer and negotiator of the historic *Gwaii Haanas Agreement*) looks on with pride. The Legacy Pole entwines decades of history and includes the image of five people standing together. This symbol honours those who stood on the line and everyone who worked together to conserve beautiful Gwaii Haanas. At the top of the pole the eagle wraps its protective wings around the images as a testament to the past and as a blessing for future guidance.

Jaalen and Gwaii Edenshaw (sons of Guujaw) circle the pole with an elder to prepare for the blessing. Children scatter eagle down on this intricately carved creation, a symbol of peace and unity, while spruce branches are used to ceremonially brush it down. Little beads are thrown respectfully into the earth to replace artifacts that had been discovered during the initial dig.

Meanwhile a supernatural-like figure representing an evil spirit is chased fervently away by the strong drumming of Guujaw. Then slowly the pole is pulled up by many cooperative hands to reach its impressive height amidst the even taller spruce trees of the forest. Now stands the Legacy Pole near the shores of Windy Bay, the proud guard of Gwaii Haanas and this breathtaking moment is living history.

The cooperative nature of the *Gwaii Haanas Agreement* is reflected at the ceremony on Lyell Island by the presence of Haida, RCMP, Parks Canada, government officials and visitors who stood together in celebration. This model agreement has been providing equal partnerships in the stewardship of protected land for 20 years and was an unprecedented solution to a difficult history.

The 20 year celebration continues two days later at a magnificent feast in the Haida village of Skidegate. The protestors from the 80s are ceremonially thanked and the packed room is vibrant with powerful drummers and colourful dancers at the potlatch. Speeches revive the potent memories and new ideas are shared with special mention of youth involvement in cultural renewal.

As Haida Gwaii faces new challenges posed by the threat of supertankers in their waters a united determination finds momentum, built on the legacy of a momentous success.

May the drums beat for victory once again!

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Linda McQuaig to run for NDP in Toronto

Linda McQuaig, noted author and former *Toronto Star* columnist, is now the official NDP candidate in the highly anticipated by-election in the federal riding of Toronto Centre. The seat was formerly held by Bob Rae, who resigned as leader of the Liberal Party last spring.

On Sunday, September 15, at approximately 4 p.m., before a sweltering standing room only crowd of nearly 400 New Democratic Party members at the central YMCA, the Toronto Centre NDP president announced the result of the nomination vote.

NDP trade critic calls for more transparency in TPP

**Members of US Congress consulted on mega-trade deal while Canadian MPs are left in the dark.**

**VANCOUVER** – NDP trade critic Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway) is calling on the Harper government to give Canadian MPs the same information that US Members of Congress have about the ongoing Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

The NDP has learned that all members of the US Congress are being given access to the draft text of the TPP.

“The TPP is a sweeping agreement covering issues that affect many areas of Canada’s economy and society – including several areas of policy that have never been subject to trade agreements before,” said Davies.

“By keeping Parliament completely in the dark on negotiations the Conservatives also leave Canadians in the dark and, for an agreement of this magnitude that is abnormal and unacceptable.

“If the US can allow its legislators to see the TPP text, there is no reason that Canada can’t,” Davies said.

Davies further expressed concern that American legislators are being given an undue advantage over Canadian MPs, saying “it is both unfair and unwise for Canadian parliamentarians to operate from such an imbalanced knowledge base in discussions with our

US colleagues.”

Access to Information Requests have also revealed that there is a small group of insider industry associations that have special access to Canada’s negotiating position, but the Harper Government has prevented others from having access to the text, including Parliamentarians.

“Canadians have a right to know how trade policies are being negotiated, and Parliamentarians have a duty to defend the public’s interests,” said Davies.

“Allowing private actors to have information that Parliamentarians don’t have is inappropriate,” said Davies.

Recently, trade experts from across the political spectrum have criticized the Harper government for being far too secretive in its approach to trade negotiations.

“Canada’s trade performance has suffered badly since the Conservatives took power,” said Davies. “The prosperity of all Canadians depends on healthy, balanced international trade. To get there, we need trade negotiations that are more inclusive and transparent.

“Mr. Harper’s obsession with secrecy is unhelpful, undemocratic and, as the US practice demonstrates, unnecessary.”

**ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA NEW DEMOCRATS!**  
(except those living in  
Langford, Highlands and west of Jordan River)

**Watch for an announcement (e-mail, snail mail) of the  
Founding General Meeting  
of the new riding of  
Saanich-Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca.**

**Tentative meeting date (not confirmed)/time is  
Saturday, November 23, 2 p.m.**

**If this date is confirmed, the meeting will be held at the  
former All Saints Church parish hall,  
corner of Stewart Avenue and Pallisier Avenue, View Royal**

**For more information, contact Jock Bates (President)  
at 250-478-9735 or wanzbates@shaw.ca**



**The Regina Manifesto**, adopted by the founding convention of The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) in Regina in 1933, is the document that underpins the constitution of the New Democratic Party (NDP). The principles articulated in this document are full of fervour, vision and passion. Reading it, you get drawn in by the clarity of its statements and feel the excitement of its writers. It is a

remarkably progressive document! This then begs the question of why the New Democratic Party does not stand up and speak more clearly about what our values are and what our vision is. Where is the fervour of today's members? This concern inspired some of us on the Saanich South executive to form a working group to organize a day-long workshop for NDP members to explore the question: Is

The Regina Manifesto still relevant? What could an updated "Manifesto" look like? Ellen Woodsworth, a long-time progressive social activist who has been a Vancouver city councillor, was the invited speaker for this workshop. She is a great-niece of J.S. Woodsworth, one of the founders of the CCF, and she grew up in a family of activists who worked for social justice and economic equality, including

MP Grace MacInnis who was Ellen's cousin. What follows is an edited version of the speech she gave on November 10, 2012 at the Saanich South workshop: "Re-envisioning the NDP History - Connecting with our Roots, Shaping our Future." ~ Hanny Pannekoek (a Saanich South NDP executive member who initiated this orkshop)

# Dream no little dream

By Ellen Woodsworth

Canada is a much better place for all because of the dreams of the women and men who wrote *The Regina Manifesto*. They knew that together they could create a world in which all would work together and all would be cared for through universal programs that could be paid for by a graduated tax system. The Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) was born out of the conditions created by World War I and its aftermath, when women gained political rights, workers fought for labour rights and farmers were forced to organize. The 1929 economic crash, followed by a world wide Great Depression and a 10 year drought on the Canadian prairies, caused a social, economic, political and environmental crisis. Thousands of people criss-crossed the country looking for work—one-quarter of workers were unemployed—while those with employment were exploited in labour camps earning 20 cents a day for a 44 hour week. By 1932, two thirds of families in Saskatchewan were on relief. Farmers were being blocked from getting their wheat to market by the bankers and industrialists who set up the Wheat Board. They formed cooperatives and then united to form the United Farmers of Canada whose key political philosophy was based on cooperation and building co-operatives. In July 1932 in Calgary, the United Farmers of Canada, the Independent Labour Party, the Socialist Party of Canada, cooperative groups, religious groups and

many others united for the common good to create a new political party. J. S. Woodsworth, a former Methodist minister and an MP from Winnipeg who had been elected during the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, was chosen to be the leader of the new Co-operative Commonwealth Federation party. With the influence of religious groups, the idea of a cooperative with the common good was front and centre in their thoughts, plans and actions. Woodsworth was clear about his values and provided the leadership needed to create a radically different political party to challenge the status quo. He said: "I submit that the government exists to provide for the needs of the people, and when it comes to choice between profits and property rights on the one hand and human welfare on the other, there should have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that we are going to place the human welfare consideration first and let property rights and financial interests fare as best they may." A year later, in 1933, hundreds of CCF members gathered in Regina to draft *The Regina Manifesto*. Members of the CCF represented a broad base of farmers, labourers, religious groups, trade unionists, socialists, communists, academics, artists and housewives; together, they composed an inspiring comprehensive 10 page document speaking to the entire country. Members at the convention voted for: universal pensions, health insurance, welfare insurance, unemployment insurance and workers compensation, minimum wage, farm

insurance, public ownership of key industries, and a children's allowance; they also voted for chartered banks to be socialized with a National Banking system, and for a National Investment Board to direct the unused surpluses of productivity to socially necessary purposes. The CCF founding members called for the abolition of the Senate and even put questions to the *British North America Act*, Canada's 1867 constitution. *The Regina Manifesto* proudly declared: "When private profit is the main stimulus to economic effort, our society oscillates between periods of feverish prosperity in which the main benefits go to speculators and profiteers and of catastrophic depression, in which the common man's normal state of insecurity and hardship is accentuated. We believe that these evils can be removed only in a planned and socialized economy in which our natural resources and the principal means of production and distribution are owned, controlled and operated by the people." Just two years later, in 1935, seven CCF MPS were elected to parliament and their leader, MP JS Woodsworth was able to compromise with the federal Liberal government in order to set up a public pension system. JS Woodsworth was sidelined by exhaustion and ill health and died in 1942. The leadership was then passed on to MJ Coldwell, followed by Hazen Argue, and in 1961, after the CCF transition to becoming the NDP, Tommy Douglas became the national leader. When the first CCF government was

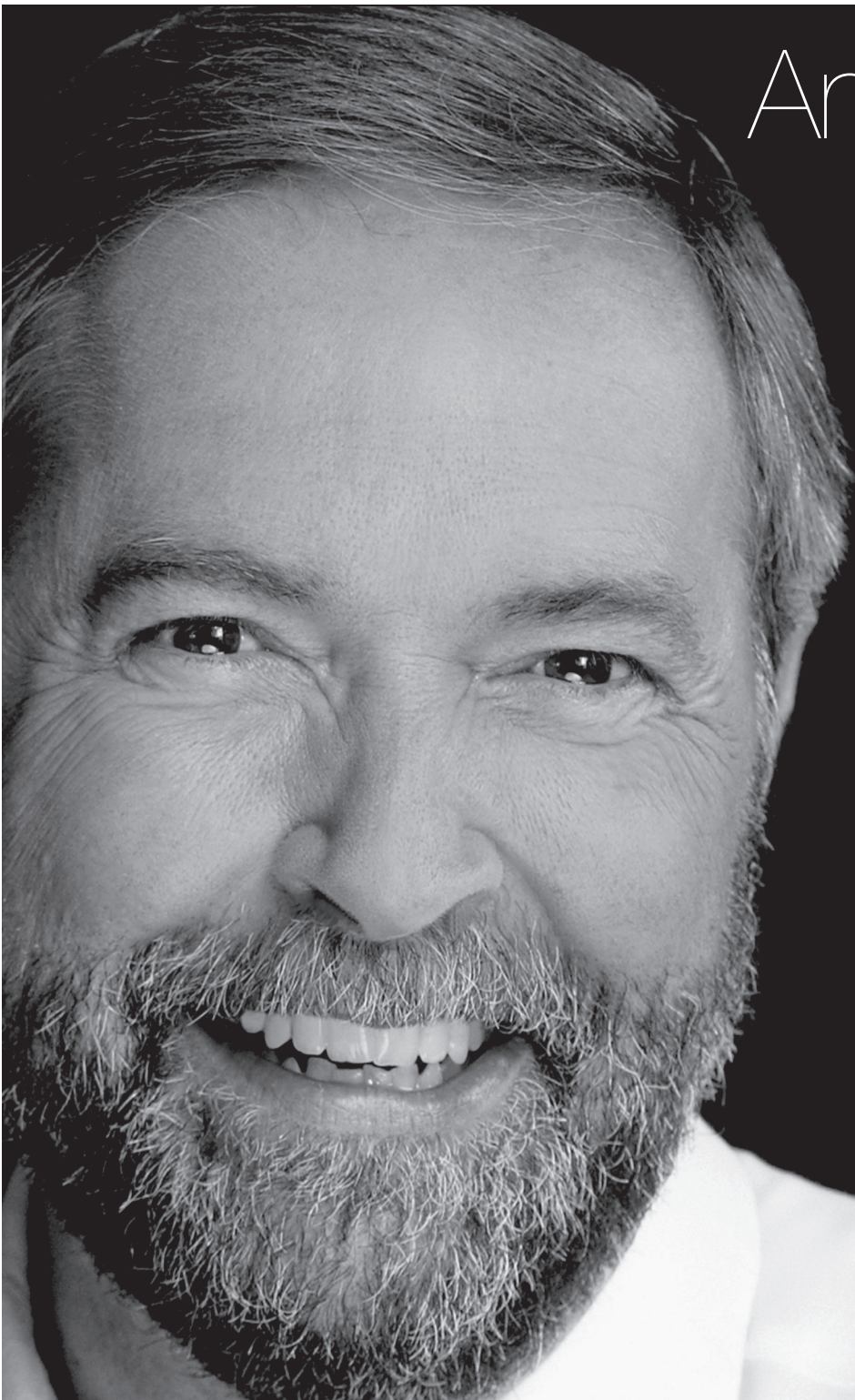


Photo by Jo Thomas

## Ellen Woodsworth

elected in 1944 in Saskatchewan with Tommy Douglas as the premier, they began implementing the goals laid out in *The Regina Manifesto*. They set up cooperatives for consumers, producers, credit unions, handicrafts, power, housing, Crown Cooperatives such as SaskPower, SaskTel, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, and they worked with the aboriginal communities in the north. The Saskatchewan CCF also implemented the universal health care system we now enjoy despite the fierce opposition of the doctors. The CCF held power in Saskatchewan until after the federal party had formed a coalition with the Canadian Labour Congress and became known as the New Democratic Party of Canada. In Saskatchewan, the party became known as the NDP-CCF party until 1967 when it dropped the CCF reference. The NDP-CCFs held power in Saskatchewan until 1964—20 years! In 1956, the National Party wrote the *Winnipeg Declaration of Principles* in which

Turn to Dream no little dream, page 6



# An Evening with Tom

Please join NDP Leader of the Official Opposition Thomas Mulcair, and Murray Rankin, NDP MP for Victoria, and host, MLA Lana Popham for an intimate evening of good people, great food, wine and music as we celebrate Murray's first year in office – in style.

Thur Nov 14th | 6:30 pm

On the waterfront at  
The Beach House in Cordova Bay


\$125 per person  
(partial tax receipt available upon request)

Live Auction

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All proceeds going to Victoria, and Saanich-Gulf Islands NDP Riding Associations





Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone, Kindness in another’s trouble, Courage in your own

Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon wrote the words above in 1866. They make a lot more sense than most of what we hear from our present governments.

BC Premier Christy Clark’s agenda is now clear -- more of the disdain for democratic government that we have endured for 12 years. Once again, the fall legislature session is cancelled, confirming that for Clark it exists merely to rubber-stamp the decisions that she and her cronies make as she gallivants around BC with her hard hat and cheeky grin. And why? Because so many people either didn’t bother to vote or forgot the history of the previous 12 years and fell for the BC Liberals beer-commercial electioneering. It is easy to fulminate against Clark’s policies – but that’s who she is and what she does! The electors knew it – she told them she hates the legislature and Victoria -- but they wanted to believe the BC Liberals are good guys really. Lesson; bad guys do what they always do -- **bad things!**

The legislature will have sat for just 36 days this year and questions that should be asked (and answered), the holding to account, all the real business of good government, will not happen. A *Times Colonist* editorial stated: “Annoying as the chamber can be to a busy premier it is not a meaningless impediment to government.” That summarizes the failure of our make-believe democracy; the elevation of “a busy premier” to the status of a ruler having dominion over her subjects. As Clark scurries about the province belittling the legislature, she forgets that she is not a ruler or president – she is an MLA elected by a few thousand people in Kelowna, not several million people across the province.

We are also getting the old refrain about health care, with headlines like “Leaner Times for Health Care”, and scaremongering about the “the health-care tsunami”. Not that the warnings about baby boomers moving into retirement are not valid -- they certainly are. The real failure is the unwillingness of all levels of government and many boomers to address the issues seriously. Despite decades of public health-care, there is still no *Canadian* system, just a mish-mash of different provincial systems. Stephen Harper is ever more aloof and provides no health leadership – because Conservatives just do not believe in a public health-care system. “Let the market rule”, they say. Governments and the media alike, carp about the shortage of money as the “tsunami” bears down on us, yet luxury car sales are increasing, many of them to boomers, some of whom, like governments, do not want to face the fact that “everything must be cured” medicine comes at a price and that well-off boomers should pay the taxes to support it. Otherwise, there will be no hip replacements, no pacemakers, no cancer treatments and so on. Astounding new medical advances are announced every week, but if we want to implement them, it will cost!

But problems in Canada pale into insignificance compared to the continuing human tragedies in Syria and elsewhere. September 14 was perhaps a milestone in world politics. On that day the United States, after much sabre-rattling for months, stepped back from the “red-line” it had drawn on Syria and chemical weapons; and from the role – often thrust upon it – of being the world’s policeman. Instead, the US and Russia agreed on a plan for destruction of Syrian chemical weapons (probably supplied by Russia in the first place). The lack of popular enthusiasm in the US and Britain for a punitive strike against Bashar-al-Assad brought to mind the words of former US President Dwight D. Eisenhower; “I think people want peace so much that one of these days Governments had better get out of the way and let them have it”.

No matter how righteously angry and appalled we in the West may be about the carnage in Syria, people are war-weary, and although a strike against Assad might assuage righteous anger, critics may be right when they say it would probably do no good and could make matters worse. The issue is not just chemical weapons – it is *all* the weapons. How is it acceptable to use incendiaries, napalm and fragmentation shells and bombs, causing horrific death and injury to hundreds of thousands, while talking of “red-lines” only for poison gas?

Syria is now such a catastrophe that there are few “good guys” left. The BBC and *The Guardian* report opposition gangs going from village to village publicly beheading in front of children, anyone suspected of not being on their side. The tragedy is that civil wars, once started, take on a long and bloody life of their own, defying efforts for negotiated peace, marked by increasing horror and often ending with victory for tyrannical regimes. Whoever “wins” in Syria will inherit a country plunged back into the dark ages, where terrible wounds will fester for generations.

Firing the first shot in a civil war is like opening Pandora's Box – the demons released can never be put back. Nelson Mandela saw this clearly, and through wisdom and forgiveness ensured that post-apartheid South Africa, unlike Zimbabwe and now Syria, avoided civil war and chaos.

In Canada, the federal government continues its ideological crusade, spending \$1.5 million on an Ottawa memorial to “victims of communism”. It is doubtful that Stephen Harper and his toadies even know what communism is. Certainly their friends the Chinese “communist” leaders -- like Josef Stalin and most dictators with a “communist” label -- would not recognize communism if they fell over it. Such regimes have little in common with the social values of Marx and Engels. And what about the victims of fascism and capitalism – miners in (Canadian-owned) mines in South America and garment workers in Bangladesh, who cry out for justice? --**DJO**

**Never believe governments, not any of them, not a word they say; keep an untrusting eye on all they do.**  
--From an obituary for Martha Gellhorn, American journalist, 1908-1998

**The Lower Island NEWS**

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As others see it

What does the NDP stand for?

**By Elizabeth Woods**  
**Introduction:** I'm presenting this thesis in outline form to stimulate discussion rather than to defend a point of view.  
Since the May 13 debacle, I've been pondering the question "What does the NDP stand for?" The answer, for me, and I believe, for many others is: A Civil Society. The concept has gut appeal for Canadians, but is vague enough that it can serve as a frame for the principles and policies through which the NDP would build on the already civil, but imperfect, society Canadians presently enjoy.  
NDP federal leader Tom Mulcair has his own appeal, especially when he smiles, but he is unlikely to match Liberal federal leader Justin Trudeau in terms of personal charisma (although Trudeau's charm may diminish over the coming months); instead, we need to develop charisma around the vision of a civil society, realized as never before.  
At the end are links to two newspaper articles with quotes that show how a civil society theme fits in with Mulcair's intent, and Jack Layton's legacy.  
**What does the NDP stand for?**  
A Civil Society—"Peace, order & good government"  
**What is a Civil Society?**  
A civil society is one which  
--observes the basics of democracy--free speech, an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, respect for Parliament  
--provides major public support for basic needs—health care, education, shelter; mobility, food, water, and air  
--ensures a well-regulated private sector.  
**Economy**  
--an economy which serves people; not one which people serve  
--workers are consumers; if people don't have paid work, they can't purchase the goods and services offered by others  
--fair labour standards, properly enforced, including safety training  
**Environment**--the environment is the bedrock of the economy  
--more employment, and more monetary and social wealth created by working with the environment than against it  
--establish a web page re successful green alternatives  
--the number of jobs they generate  
**Education**  
--Governments educate; business trains  
--educate future citizens for the long term, not short term jobs  
--enable students to adapt to change throughout their lives  
--provide basic understanding of how the world operates  
--literacy, numeracy, arts, sciences, history, languages  
--goal is for students to be able to think for themselves  
--how find, analyze, think, and write about information  
**The Arts and Sciences**  
--essential means of understanding and enjoying the world around us

--funding for arts & sciences improves our quality of life  
--excellent sources of employment  
**Taxation**  
--taxes are the instruments of a civil society  
--a fair and progressive income tax  
--fair royalties on natural resources  
--less reliance on consumption taxes  
--reasonable 'sin' taxes, including those on marijuana  
--should not be so high as to encourage a black market  
--"Civil Society Celebration Day" same day as "Tax Freedom Day"  
--hire artists to illustrate (verbally, visually, musically) all the services our taxes provide  
**Justice**  
--increased development and use of restorative justice principles  
--atonement and restitution, not jail time-  
--imprisonment a last resort, not the first one  
--repeal of legislation criminalizing drug use  
--fiscally irresponsible policy which makes things worse  
--regulation of drug use—different for different drugs  
--cannabis-treat like alcohol--tax  
--heroin—by prescription only  
**Health**  
--emphasis on prevention  
--support for local food production; access to multi-skilled clinics  
--increased home support, including food  
--increased residential care to free patients from acute-care beds  
--education about and use of vaccines  
**Agriculture**  
--support for small and family farms  
--increase research into small, sustainable, local farms  
--encourage local processing on and off farms--e.g. wineries allowed to sell their own products on-site  
--by the bottle or a café or restaurant, or both  
--low- or no-interest loans to those trying to get into farming  
--improve farm incomes through humane treatment of animals  
--explore higher taxes on feed lots and other harmful farming practices affecting the environment, or health, or both

1) *The Star*, September 6, 2013: "Thomas Mulcair sets sights on 2015 election campaign" NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair meets with MPs in Saskatoon..."One of the things we'll be talking to Canadians about is why we need a government." www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/09/06/thomas\_mulcair\_sets\_sights\_on\_2015\_election\_campaign.html  
2) *Hill Times*, August 28, 2013: "Collective response to Layton's death constructing uniquely Canadian political identity" by Matthew McKean "...peace, civility, religious and cultural inclusiveness, optimism, the arts, social and environmental change, political dialogue, improved public services, improved cities, and an improved country." www.hilltimes.com/opinion-piece/politics/2013/08/27/collective-response-to-layton%E2%80%99s-death-constructing-uniquely/35747



# The one who pays the piper...

Vaughn Palmer’s column in the August 31 *Vancouver Sun* was a shocker--second only to the shock of Election Night.

Palmer points out that in the pre-election period the NDP held a number of fund-raising events, aimed at “corporations, business and professional associations” and “senior resource industry leaders”. For one of these it charged an admission of \$2,500, for another 5 tickets for \$10,000.

An old piece of wisdom tells us that “The one who pays the piper calls the tune.” So, if the NDP had won as expected, what kind of tune would it be playing for us today? On the one hand, I don’t think it would be “Solidarity Forever”, but on the other, I don’t think they could hit all the really low notes of the Liberal’s theme song, “God Bless Free Enterprise”.

We all know how it goes since it’s been on our political hit parade all these years.

*“God bless Free Enterprise, system divine;  
Work inside it,  
To guide it,  
And ensure that the profits are mine.  
Deregulation may it prosper;  
Acquisitions, may they grow,  
God bless Free Enterprise, the Status*

*Quo!  
God bless Free Enterprise, and I’ll make dough!”*

No, I think the NDP government would be playing “The Hokey-Pokey”.

*“You put your left foot in; you pull your left foot out;  
You put your left foot in and you shake it all about;  
And you do the hokey-pokey and you turn yourself around.  
That’s what it’s all about!”*

*“You put your right foot in; you pull your right foot out;  
You put your right foot in and you shake it all about;  
And you do the hokey-pokey and you turn yourself around.  
That’s what it’s all about!”*

In the meantime, we’ll just have to hum along with the old Utah Phillips song, “We are singing through the hard times, singing through the hard times, Waiting for the good times to come.”

**Jim Manly**  
Nanaimo

# Lester Pearson: Where Are You?

If protecting Syrian civilians is the real reason for US involvement in Syria, perhaps we should remember Lester B Pearson and his Nobel Peace Prize.

What Syria needs is not more armed rebels or an Iraq type of destruction of its infrastructure and death of innocent civilians by imposing democracy. What is required are the light blue berets of UN peacekeepers (backed up by military force as required) to separate the two armed forces in Syria. What is required is the thin blue line of blue berets and above all international reporters placed between the “rebels” and Syrian forces.

What is required is not the escalation but the reduction of armed force. What is required is separation of the combatants

and reporting of the facts by an international press.

It is a pity that Canada has abandoned its internationally recognized role of UN peacekeeper and been transformed into a “powder monkey” for the US Empire/NATO. It is a pity that Canada can no longer provide the UN with professionally trained peacekeepers on short notice with the air lift capability to deliver them where they are required.

In summary, what is required in Syria now is the UN blue beret and many, many international reporters -- not more armed foreign “rebels” or an invasion by US and NATO troops -- to impose democracy.

**Gerry Masuda**  
Duncan

# Bettering the bottom line at our expense

There are so many unanswered questions about this train crash in Quebec, and I am sure that most of them will be swept under the rug in the foyer of the House of Commons, but I still maintain that there is no way a train with brakes that will apparently bleed off and release should be left unattended, when the safety factor of a few wheel chocks would have kept it immobile indefinitely.

Naturally the MMA railroad has asked for bankruptcy protection and we the Canadian people will be left holding Harpen’s corporate expenses again. Re-

member Abitibi Bowater? a Canadian company that Harper paid \$130 million to under NAFTA without any argument, hearing or questions in Parliament. This was actually larger than the Liberal sponsorship scandal and almost no one heard of it.

These people are amazing in their zeal to better the bottom line of the corporate world at our expense.

**Jeremy Arney**  
Victoria

## Friends of the Lower Island News

Once again, we want to acknowledge the kindness and generosity of our readers, who make such a big difference in our ability to produce this newspaper. Without their help, we simply would not have the funds to print and mail it to you.

Bbelow we gratefully acknowledge the financial help that the Friends of the Lower Island News have provided since the last issue in April: They have generously donated a total of \$520 to help keep the paper going.

Donor for the three months from July to September was  
Sue Stroud, in memory of her father \$620

If you like this issue of the LIN , want it to continue to be published and can afford to give something, please consider becoming a supporting donor and send us a cheque, whatever amount you can afford. All donations, large and small, will be appreciated.

Donations may be sent to the Lower Island News Society at Box 311-2750 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 4E8, and will be acknowledged in the paper. Please indicate if you prefer to be “anonymous”. Unfortunately we cannot take credit card donations, or give tax receipts.

Thank you again.  
**Dale Young, Editor, for the Editorial Board**

# Wear a White Poppy for Peace

It seems that no matter what or where the conflict, the Canadian government is eager to support and provide military intervention – if it is sanctioned by the US. Modern warfare is brutal and when waged by drones and Cruise missiles, brutally impersonal in its targets.

We know that the majority of people killed, injured, made homeless and impoverished by modern warfare are unarmed civilians. It is more important than ever that Canadian citizens speak out and show our opposition to war and militarism.

After World War I British war widows, devastated by the loss of their husbands and family members, started the White Poppy Campaign for Peace. They wanted society to work actively to prevent war.

This symbol of working for peace was adopted by the UK Women’s Cooperative Guild in 1933. Since 1934 the UK Peace Pledge Union has distributed them every year.

Seventy-five years later, the world has seen over 300 wars, and the killing of more

than 200 million people. Let’s work to make peace their memorial.

The White Poppy has become a symbol of active peace work worldwide. This work honours all war dead by seeking non-military solution to war.

Modern warfare kills civilians and destroys the social and physical environment. War and the preparation for war are bleeding our economy and wasting resources that should be used for social justice. White Poppies signify a rejection of war and a commitment to social justice and international peace-building.

In Victoria, White Poppies are made and given away by Victoria Women in Black to any community, school or church group that requests them. Individuals can also find them at the November 7 Women in Black vigil from noon to 1 pm on Douglas Street beside Centennial Square.

For more information, contact: victoriawib@gmail.com

**Teresa Wolfwood**  
Vitoria

# Boycott Sochi?

Outrage over the Putin regime’s recently enacted vicious anti-gay law has sparked a debate over how best to oppose it, and support queer communities in Russia. Already many protests have occurred.

August 3 was an international day of protest, originated in San Francisco, which saw demonstrations in many cities. In Toronto several hundred people rallied at Church and Wellesley, then marched to the site of the Russian Consulate at Bloor and Church. Protests continue, including one of 10,000 in Denmark held on August 20.

The anger behind demands to boycott the Winter Olympics is more than justified.

But is this the way to go? First of all, boycotts are notoriously ineffective. Two of the most successful, that against apartheid South Africa and the one in support of US farm workers, took years to organize and succeed. The campaign for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against the Zionist apartheid state of Israel is starting to have some bite, with a long way to go still.

Secondly, considering who controls the Olympics, the prospects for success are remote. For the spectacularly corrupt and reactionary International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its local franchise, the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), the overwhelming priorities will, as always, be profits and power. Both organizations have refused to protest Putin’s law (“inappropriate”) and both prohibit any kind of demonstration or protest.

Let’s not forget that anti-gay and anti-poor “clean-ups” have been a feature of practically every Olympics in living memory.

Thirdly, as Greg Louganis, the openly gay Olympic gold medalist diver points out, a previous Olympic boycott meant the sudden end of many athletes’ international careers.

And while it’s true that many contestants from rich countries come from a privileged elite, many do not, especially from the global South. The reactionary way that the Olympics are organized is not the fault of the participating athletes.

Rather than spend enormous time and effort on an almost certainly unrealizable goal, it makes more sense to organize mass protests both inside and outside the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The International Coalition of LGBT Sports and Human Rights Organizations demands that the IOC organize a Pride House at Sochi.

Lou Englefield, a spokesperson, says “We believe in action that is concrete and goals that are attainable. We also believe in listening to our partners in Russia who tell us they don’t want a boycott. Athletes should not bear the burden of Putin’s homophobic regime and what in effect is the complicity of the IOC.”

1968 proved that protest can be very effective. Then, Tommie Smith and John Carlos gave the Black Power salute after their medals presentation. This action rocketed into international fame. Of course, outrageously, the IOC reactionaries rescinded their wins after the fact. Effective protest actions can take place again. Let’s make every effort to see that they do.

Significantly, in all the furor, the mainstream corporate media have failed to mention the tragic irony that the early Soviet Republic was the first state in the world to decriminalize homosexuality. This, along with the right to abortion, was reversed by Putin’s predecessors during the consolidation of Stalin’s dictatorship in the 1930s.

**John Wilson**  
Ontario

# The OCCUPY MOVEMENT should refocus on We the 99% People’s Party

*Ad Busters Magazine* became famous for christening the emerging mass movement OCCUPY WALL STREET.

Occupy Wall Street had a big impact and the Occupy Movement (OM) continues across the country as it identifies and publicizes issues which need to be exposed. However, the Occupy Movement is fading into history although it is still alive and kicking asses.

The OM’s greatest contribution was popularizing the concept of the 1%ers and 99%ers relating to the growing wealth gap

between the 1%ers and We the 99%ers.

I suggest that the OM rejuvenate itself by refocusing its direction. I suggest the refocusing could be on the potential political power of the 99%ers.

In a democracy where each citizen has a vote, We the 99%ers logically should be forming our own political party and gradually taking over governance as we unite ourselves into a political force.

One way to refocus and consolidate the

**Please turn to Letters, page 6**

**We welcome your letters to the editor, as well as articles and reviews, photos, and anything else you think would be of interest to our progressive readers.**

**Please mail them to the Editor, at Box 311-2750 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 4E8, email them to dale\_young@telus.net, or phone 250-384-7621.**

**The DEADLINE to submit material for the next issue is Friday, November 15**



Letters, continued from page 5

Movement is to start defining what We the 99%ers want from governments. This can be achieved in a multitude of small groups developing ideas till a consensus develops and Two Lists can be compiled.

These could be "What We Want List" and "What We Don't Want List". These Two Lists could be used at the municipal, regional, provincial, and federal elections. These Two Lists which could become the election platform of the People's Party and would help to focus attention on what We the 99%ers want from each level of government.

As the political power of the 99%ers develops, more and more will rally to this Movement which clarifies our political interests. Growth in the political power of We the 99%ers will be quick. Thus the thinkers among us had better start preparing the structure and procedures required in the new People's Party.

Once an election is won and a People's Government is formed based on the Two Lists, the Two Lists can be used to impose effective accountability on our party leader and our elected representatives -- something which has not been achievable before.

It is now just a question of time before We the 99%ers, We the People form our own government. However, we must be vigilant because the 1%ers and their money will be used to sow disagreement and dissension among us -- the classic divide to continue ruling.

Gerry Masuda

Hundreds gather at F.I. youth camp in Greece

By Evan Engering

The Fourth International's 30th annual revolutionary youth camp took place in northern Greece in early August. Hundreds of young militants from five continents converged at a park in the Grecian countryside to share ideas, experiences, and plans of action for the world socialist movement.

Socialist Action Canada, and SA-USA, each sent two members to participate in the camp. Activists discussed topics ranging from the environment to feminism, to LGBT liberation, anti-fascism, anti-racism, macro-economics and imperialism, popular social movements, and of course, revolution. Through big forums and small workshops, delegates engaged with each other on the topics, commenting and intervening with their own opinions and experiences. Delegations met with others from afar to report on movements, on gains and setbacks in their home country, and to build contacts.

While in Greece, we saw the effect of neo-liberal austerity in that country. Police roam the streets *looking for riots*. There were signs of politicization everywhere: class struggle-themed graffiti, reports at the camp about factories being occupied, and the rising threat of fascism. Any complacency was dashed by sight of a big billboard on the side of a highway advertising the neo-NAZI Golden Dawn party. The stories we heard from Greek comrades and from others about what was happening were both sober warnings about what is in store for us, and educational lessons about how to fight back.

The camp was highly informative, fun, and engaging. In the age of global capitalism and imperialism, creating networks of anti-capitalist militants is a crucial strength-building exercise. The world-wide austerity attacks on the working class show the necessity of working class political independence and permanent revolution, especially for young workers and students. .

Dream no little dream, continued from page 3

they stated:

"The aim of the CCF is the establishment in Canada by democratic means of a cooperative commonwealth in which the supplying of human needs and enrichment of human life shall be the primary purpose of our society. Private profit and corporate power must be subordinated to social planning designed to achieve equality of opportunity and the highest possible living standards for all Canadians."

The times had changed: The *Winnipeg Declaration of Principles* did not have the breadth or radicalism of *The Regina Manifesto* but the CCF continued to implement the platforms from *The Regina Manifesto*.

In the new NDP Statement of Principles adopted by the 12th Federal NDP Convention in Regina on July 1, 1983, there was a clear shift away from a full force condemnation of capitalism and the neoliberal agenda of global capitalism. However, the principles included stronger focus on women's rights and mentioned aboriginal rights for the first time, as well as an acknowledgement of the shift of people into the cities, and the continued destruction of the environment. In addition, there was a stated concern regarding foreign ownership of the Canadian economy with particular reference to American ownership. The party held together but there were strong disagreements as to the way forward.

What is the social, political, environmental and economic situation that we presently face? We have only a three-tiered tax system and the corporations are paying only 16.6%—in 1953, the Federal Corporate Income Tax Rate was 41.8% and there was a graduated tax system so that there was money to pay for the social safety net. The Conservatives have dropped the corporate income tax rate at a time when, notes Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives economist Armine Yalnizyan:

"You have to go all the way back to the robber barons of the 1880s and 1890s to see growing, successful companies boost profits further by extracting wage concessions from existing workers" to use the profits to create bigger more powerful monopolies."

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased significantly, yet average earnings are less, homeless people line our streets, and we are the only G8 nation without a national housing program. There is high unemployment, especially for youth; women with university education earn only 68 cents to a man's dollar—down from the 75 cents we earned a decade ago—and over 42% of women work part time jobs without benefits. Small farmers are a rarity; the environment is facing collapse; and Canadians are waking up to a battle to maintain our social safety net of health care, public pensions, public education and welfare.

The Stephen Harper Conservative government has been elected without a majority of the citizens voting for him and has begun destroying the basic principles of democracy. It is almost as if they read *The Regina Manifesto* and then planned their oppositional strategy. They have been reduced to using tactics like "robo" calling, negative attack ads, and even attacking and trying to silence the opposition in the House of Commons. They are continuing to bring forward bills like Bill C31 with changes to the pension plans starting for those under 45, gutting environmental legislation and funding for the arts, paying little heed to the demands of aboriginal people, and are directly undermining and trying to destroy unions by forcing the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) back to work and giving the government the right to sit at the bargaining table.

This Conservative government has erased the most effective parts of the Status of Women; changed immigration laws to reduce family reunifications and increase the cost to immigrate; and made it very difficult to access unemployment insurance. Our national media, the CBC, has been gutted and the mandatory long form census has been replaced by a voluntary census, ensuring we don't even know who we are and what we need as a country, while at the same time making certain that research, science and evidence cannot be used to challenge the government.

This Conservative government's priorities are not to spend on social safety nets

or cultural enrichment but rather to spend over \$2 billion dollars per year in defence—and they have plans to spend a huge amount on security and penitentiaries.

The country that J.S. Woodsworth, Tommy Douglas, and you and I fought so hard for has eroded before our eyes in a matter of a few decades. The campaign against the growing poverty is getting stronger and the fight against inequalities is growing as women, multicultural communities, seniors, youth, aboriginals and the LGBTQ communities are becoming more and more angry. They see the rights they thought were theirs vanishing before their eyes. Social movements are growing through use of social media—citizens are educating themselves about who has what power, why and for whom.

Internationally, citizens are fighting back against corrupt governments and exposing the large corporations that destroy the environment and devour the wealth of the world while undermining the importance of true democracy through control of the mass media. It was teenagers and youth and aboriginal communities who created the Arab Spring, the Occupy movement, the uprising in Quebec, Aboriginals' Idle No More movement. Wave after wave after wave of Canadians have joined together in the streets across the country and we joined them beating our pots and pans.

This is a perilous time; in the chaos and desperation, people can turn to right wing parties as they are doing in Greece, Israel and Germany and have done in Canada. Voters are confused and divided, or they join the Green Party thinking it is more economically and environmentally progressive than the NDP—splitting the vote and enabling the right wing to win elections. People want to be able to choose a clear, cohesive political platform that reflects their needs and promises a democratic, environmentally viable future.

In 1933, citizens with a common vision worked together to create *The Regina Manifesto* and a party was birthed that changed Canadian history. It brought together people from all walks of life whose lives were desperate. In Winnipeg in 1956 and again in Regina in 1983, NDP members were able to write a people's vision of a new world to heal divisions and focus forces.

The NDP still has a critical role to play in bringing together the environmental, labour and aboriginal movements such as those that gathered with many other social sectors on the lawns of the BC legislature to fight against Enbridge in October, 2012.

It is time to once again bring people together to write a manifesto for the future of Canada.

Canada is a much better place for all because of the dreams of the women and men who wrote *The Regina Manifesto*. They knew that together they could create a new world. Today the corporations and developers have taken the wealth of our labour and are stripping away the universal programs that we have paid for with our taxes. They are pushing a philosophy of individualism in the mass media. They are destroying the future for our children and grandchildren. They have created fear and rage.

I can hear the CCF calling on us to dream no little dreams, to write up our beliefs and our needs in policy manifestoes and to call for action. The NDP needs to bring people together to clarify who we are, what we stand for and what we need. It needs to be part of the powerful social movements swelling in this great country. The questions to ask are: Can something like a *Regina Manifesto* bring people together in the party and into the party? Will the NDP in its pursuit of power be fearless in laying out a clear progressive platform?

Canadians want to understand the complexity of what they are facing, they want a clear strategy and want to participate in creating another kind of world. We must unite and work cooperatively for the common good—the times call for nothing less. Tommy Douglas said:

"We should never, never be afraid or ashamed about dreams. The dreams won't all come true, we won't always make it. Where people have no dreams and no hopes and no aspirations, life becomes a dull and meaningless wilderness." This article has been edited from Ellen Woodsworth's speaking notes by Starla Anderson.

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# How blind can we be?

By Tim Pheotist

The aftermath of the re-installation of the BC Liberal government, after the recent election, does not seem to have awakened the zombie-like provincial electorate from its stupor.

It's business as usual. P3's. Public fund transfers to the private purse. Vitriolic bad-mouthing of the "workshy poor". The policy differentials and philosophies dividing NDP and Liberal parties in BC are massive. Fundamentally the choice boiled down to government by, and in the exclusive interest of private property, or government with the declared intent of directing public funds (your tax monies) in the public interest.

There has to be a reason why the election returned a party that unashamedly rejects the notion of public revenues being used in the public interest. The reasons are legion and complicated and I'll reserve my political and economic analysis of our present austerity nightmare for a time when BC's electorate has started to understand the consequences of "begging thy neighbour" in BC Liberal style.

Progressive economists find the current "austerity solutions" to be a frustrating sham. And no end in sight.

If policies of public budgetary austerity really worked in public and individual interests, how come we are only experiencing collapsing infrastructure, lower wages, invisible savings, vanishing services and ubiquitous poverty? These awful policies, and their precursors, have now been in place for decades. Policies designed to transfer sovereign and national capital to private interests.

Honestly it's not so complicated. You don't need an MBA to figure this out. If you work for a wage packet it's not buying you a 1<sup>st</sup> class lifestyle, is it? Even less so than did your parents' pay packet. Right?

So what's happened to your money? Your labour? Your hard earned savings? Some of it is not so far away. Perhaps in the pockets of the owners of those massive private yachts that docked in Victoria's Inner Harbour this summer. Perhaps some of it has gone to assist and reduce the private risk exposure of the drillers for gas and oil. Perhaps it's being used to bargain political support by Canadian federal and provincial governments.

Maybe the economic analysis is too complicated and shadowy to follow in the mind numbingly simplistic propaganda terms of BC's Liberal government.

But the consequences are clear and simple. Valuable and affordable public services are being systematically closed – and in the most cynical of ways.

A stark example was described in a recent blog article by one of Victoria's most accomplished and recognized journalists, Jody Paterson.

Paterson describes the effects that Liberal economic policy has had on the services provided to women caught in cycles of drug addiction and mental health problems.

Paterson was executive director of PEERS (Prostitution Empowerment Education and Resource Society) for three years, in Victoria. A similar resource existed in Vancouver.

PEERS Victoria will now cease providing the drop-in services that have proven so valuable to some of the most vulnerable of Victoria's population. And entirely due to the policies of this provincial BC Liberal government.

"What – funding prostitutes?" I hear some saying. "There are more worthy causes and we can't afford to fund those." The point is we really can't afford not to support the most vulnerable among us. And PEERS was supporting, in the most cost effective way, the most vulnerable among us. These are people whose lives are at risk on a daily basis. Think Mr. Pickton – the killer of so many. Do you think it doesn't matter what happens to street workers and sex workers? Do you think austerity economics eliminates the possibility of the public purse being used to assist many of the most troubles among us?

Maybe you should think again? Read Paterson's article, reprinted here with her permission.

*It's very nearly nine years to the day since I jumped out of my comfortable life as a journalist and took up a job heading a small grassroots organization for sex workers. Many things have changed since then, but PEERS Victoria is never far from my heart no matter what else is going on for me.*

*I could write a book about the things that astonished me, informed me and bowled me over in those three years as executive director of PEERS.*

*There was so much to learn, not the least of which was how to live with an unwieldy new performance-based contract with the province that had replaced the core funding that PEERS had received up to that point.*

*The third generation of that contract is what has turned out to be PEERS' undoing. The organization announced this week that it just can't make a go of it anymore in its contract with the Ministry of Social Development, and is having to give up its daytime drop-in and its daily groups for sex workers seeking change in their lives.*

A sad development, yes. A terrible thing to happen for vulnerable, stigmatized people who often won't access other services because they're afraid of being judged. But as one of the many people who have tried to make various forms of that blasted provincial contract work over the past decade, the only thing that surprises me about this turn of events is that PEERS actually managed to make the contract work for as long as it did.

*In its first manifestation, during my time at PEERS, the contract was extremely difficult but still possible, especially given that the contract manager on the government side was willing to trust the organization and put a little stretch in the rules to accommodate the vast number of barriers that sex workers are facing when they first walk through the doors at PEERS.*

*But my creativity was still tested to the max trying to make that contract work, because it was based on PEERS running a pre-employment training program when the reality was*

*that the people we were working with were still trying to struggle out of serious addictions, critical mental-health issues, poverty, housing problems and violence. Under the contract, we had six months to get those people ship-shape and either into the «square» job market, taking further job training at another agency, or attending college or university. That simply wasn't possible.*

*Still, we did manage to squeeze enough money out of the contract to offer a pretty good program. But in the second and third generations of the contract, which came along after I left, the money got tougher and tougher to access for PEERS, and for any of the non-profits serving people with complex and multiple barriers.*

*This last contract iteration, which came into effect in the spring of 2012, is a fee-for-service model that doesn't pay for anything unless it can be delivered as a billable service. So any interaction with clients either had to be reinterpreted as a billable service -- a terrible fit with a peer-led organization that knows a slow and gradual approach is the only thing that works -- or go unfunded. The contract also has complicated and heavy reporting requirements that eat up much (unfunded) administrative time.*

*It pays poorly to boot, and required for the first time that PEERS give up being a direct provider and instead become a sub-contractor. That change has prohibited PEERS from having contact with government contract managers or doing any lobbying about the problems of the contract.*

*Like I say, it was only a matter of time until everything went sideways. And now it has. Fortunately, PEERS continues to have other funding for its day and night outreach services, but the drop-in space that was such a vital support t is gone. So are the day-time programs, which not only served to help clients start working through their many challenges but also as a de facto detox for people who desperately needed a structured environment to be able to stop using drugs and alcohol.*

*And so it's a sad day. One more service gone for marginalized, vulnerable people trying to get their lives together. One more service gone for sex workers, who have already lost PEERS Vancouver and other sex-worker-specific supports as a result of the provincial and federal governments' continuing withdrawal from community social services.*

*PEERS will survive, of course. It always does. This time returning to its roots as an outreach service might even be good in a way. But who could have imagined in the hysteria of the Pickton trial just seven years ago that where it would take us would be to a time with even fewer services for sex workers? Who could imagine that not only would we ignore the recommendations of the Pickton inquiry, we would retreat even further from doing anything helpful for the women we seemingly only care about when they turn up dead?*

Now, why should we advocate on behalf of restoring proper funding and attention to such a difficult, and often self destructive, segment of our society? Surely with funds so scarce there are better ways to spend public money?

The truth is that funds are really not so scarce. Nor are there better way to spend public money than in the support of those who are in need. What is more, we should not be choosing which "need" is more important.

For people existing, with no permanent, safe shelter, battling intractable health problems, it's clear that there can be no greater "need".

And to assist such people is the duty of any civilized society and is in the interest of us all.

We now know that the BC Liberal government doesn't see things in this way.

Their policy is to deliberately increase the risk to such vulnerable people, depriving them of the most basic supports and protections.

The amounts of public money to maintain these supports are meaningless in budgetary terms, but the negative consequences to the individuals and to our understanding of what is correct in our society are massive and grave.

So, this economist sets aside econometric analysis in favour of the simpler task of identifying the philosophical choice that Premier Clark and her fellow travellers have made.

Ms. Clark prefers to place more vulnerable people at greater risk every day to support economic philosophies that are proven, time and again, to be callous, ineffective and counter-productive, if the good of society is the focus.

Of course "the good of society" is not Ms. Clark's focus, at all. She's doing exactly what she was elected to do.

How blind can we be?

Jody Paterson's blogs can be found at:  
<http://closer-look.blogspot.ca/2013/09/dwindling-services-for-sex-workers.html>  
<http://closer-look.blogspot.ca/2013/09/if-peers-was-person-i-guess-id-call.html>

## Billionaire boys' club

Forbes magazine reports that of the 1,226 billionaires in the world, only 104 are women. Bloomberg's Billionaire Index of the top 100 richest people in the world features 10 women. What's equally revealing is that every woman on the billionaires' list inherited or married into money.

The richest woman in the world lives in France. Liliane Bettencourt is the L'Oreal heiress, worth \$30 billion. Her grandfather founded the cosmetics giant.

Africa's richest woman is Angola's Isabel Dos Santos, who worked her father's connections as president to acquire a number of lucrative contracts. In Britain, divorce is one get-rich avenue. Model Slavica Ecclestone, former wife of Bernie, head of Formula One, emerged with \$1.1 billion when their marriage of 23 years ended.

The richest women in America is Christy Walton, wife of the late John Walton, whose family owns Wal-mart. Her husband died in a plane crash and she now has \$28 billion to her name, according to Forbes.

We don't know whether this got Christy an invitation to the gathering of the wealthiest American conservatives in Palm Springs in late April, hosted by the Charles Koch. He is the elder half of the super-rich Koch brothers, prime benefactors of the Tea Party wing of the Republican Party.

*There is a price to pay for speaking the truth. There is a bigger price for living a lie.*

-- Dr. Cornel West

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# What can we do about the Senate?

By Murray Rankin

In late August, NDP leader Tom Mulcair went coast to coast with a clear message: an unelected Senate, mostly filled with party insiders, has no place in a modern democracy. Unaccountable and scandal-ridden, Canada's Senate long ago lost sight of its original purpose. Rather than serve as a house of sober second thought, a chamber drunk with entitlement and deaf to the interests of Canadians now obstructs and even subverts the democratic process.

The Conservatives have lost all credibility when it comes to the Senate. They used to say they wanted to get rid of it. Instead, they have stacked it with their supporters and even used it to defeat the will of Canadians' elected representatives in the House of Commons.

Before he was elected, Stephen Harper promised to end the patronage. Since he was elected, he hasn't just broken that promise; he's broken it 59 times. Indeed, he's set a new record.

Worst of all, the unelected Senate has been used to subvert the will of Canadians' elected representatives in the House of Commons.

Just before the last election, Conservatives used the stacked Senate to kill the New Democrats' *Climate Change Accountability Bill*. Here and across the country, Canadians campaigned for that vital legislation, which set targets on carbon emissions. Elected representatives in the House worked hard to pass that bill. Through their efforts and the support of Canadians across the country, that bill—the most comprehensive climate change legislation Canada has ever seen—passed *twice* in the House of Commons, and twice the will of Canadians' elected MPs was blocked by the prime minister's unelected senators.

People in Victoria are rightly concerned about our environment, and they were rightly outraged when senators appointed by the prime minister as a reward for their party loyalty broke with 75 years of parliamentary tradition, delaying progress on the single most pressing issue of our time.

We on Vancouver Island have another reason to be particularly incensed: there

has not been a single sitting senator from Vancouver Island in the upper chamber for decades. Outworn tradition is no excuse for the absurd position in which we find ourselves today: taxed but not represented.

And yet some argue that since change is hard, Canadians should content themselves waiting patiently—while we subsidize senators to the tune of \$90 million a year—as the current Senate withers on the vine. If we follow this path, this broken system will not be fixed until 2049. Canadians know we can do better.

From coast to coast, New Democrats have one clear message: this undemocratic, unelected and unaccountable institution has got to go. We are working hard to get rid of it.

The NDP put forward a motion in the House of Commons calling for the abolition of the Senate, in consultation with the provinces. Sadly, Conservatives and Liberals joined in opposing that motion. In doing so, they voted to keep sending our tax dollars to an institution in which we do not have a single representative, rather than invest in the things all Canadians need.

As Tom Mulcair told a crowd here recently, we've got much better things to do with a hundred million dollars a year. How many seniors could we lift out of poverty? How many new schools, bridges and hospitals could be built? How many polluted waterways could be restored?

Canadians know that the status quo isn't good enough, and they know how we can fix it. Every province in Canada manages without an unelected upper house: the federal government can do so as well. There is no legislative function performed by the Senate that cannot be done by the House of Commons. Change won't be easy, but already three provincial premiers are on record in support of abolition, including B.C. Premier Christy Clark, who told reporters, "We don't really need a Senate." More and more Canadians are seeing the Senate for what it is: an archaic institution that adds no value to our democracy. It's time to pull the plug.

Murray Rankin is Member of Parliament for Victoria.

## Harper on the run from accountability: NDP

**VICTORIA** – MPs were supposed to be back to work in Ottawa the week of September 16. Instead of showing up for work, Stephen Harper has locked Parliament's doors, once again abusing his power to prorogue, giving his Conservatives a month off Question Period and avoiding accountability.

"Prorogation means fewer questions about the issues affecting the people of BC, fewer questions about Conservative mismanagement and fewer questions about the Senate expense scandal," said NDP MP Murray Rankin (Victoria). "Stephen Harper is running away from these questions and dismissing the democratic process. This is unacceptable to Canadians."

Adding insult to injury, after Harper prorogued Parliament, he and a contingent of Conservative cabinet members headed straight to BC to promote the Northern Gateway pipeline that British Columbians

have categorically rejected.

"Stephen Harper has shut down democracy, gutted the environmental assessment process and ignored the voices of First Nations," said Rankin. "New Democrats have been clear: the Conservative approach is unacceptable, and we will continue to hold Harper to account."

Prorogation will also delay legislation needed to correct the Conservatives' error in their latest omnibus budget bill, which left credit unions with a higher tax rate than other businesses. Committee studies, such as one on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, have also been shut down.

Right, Mulcair, his wife and Crowder receive a warm welcome at the Community Graffiti board.



NDP Leader Tom Mulcair (left) is introduced by Victoria MP Murray Rankin during a rally in Victoria Friday, August 30. This was the last stop of Mulcair's coast-to-coast "Roll Up the Red Carpet Tour" on abolishing the Senate. Rankin highlighted Mulcair's record on strong environmental legislation in Quebec. --Tony Sprackett photo



Victoria MP Murray Rankin and his wife Linda Hannah, volunteer at a car wash fundraiser at Our Place, in Victoria, on Saturday, September 7.



NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and MP Jean Crowder attend a luncheon in Duncan.



Murray Rankin

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# Canadians deserve fair prices and widely accessible wireless network

By Jean Crowder

Anyone who travels between Nanaimo and Victoria knows there are many “dead” spots for cellphone coverage along the TransCanada.

I know the big telecom companies are taking steps to increase the amount of cell coverage along the highway – they often send letters letting me know when coverage has improved.

But I've also been hearing from many constituents who understand that broadcasting and telecommunications are a public good and they want Canada to take steps to ensure that this finite resource is used suitably.

Many people were concerned about which companies would be allowed to take part in the upcoming 700 MHz spectrum auction which had been reserved for new entrants into Canada's cell phone market to increase competition.

Verizon was the large American company whose proposal to buy a smaller Canadian company and get access to that reserved 700 MHz spectrum had caused so much concern over the future of the industry.

Verizon has since decided to withdraw any plans to expand into Canada but that has not erased the unease many people feel.

Canadians have come to expect high-speed, wireless broadband access as a standard in their daily lives, as have Canadian businesses that rely on modern wireless infrastructure to compete in an increasingly global market.

New Democrats believe that the wireless telecom market should have strong and healthy competition. We also believe that all Canadians deserve access to the most reliable networks and highest speeds at affordable prices.

Unfortunately, the Conservative government has not succeeded in getting the best prices for consumers and they have

not ensured the extension of reliable high-speed wireless services across the entire country. As a result, Canadians pay some of the highest prices in the world.

Whether it's on pay-to-pay fees, 3 year contracts, or high data roaming rates, New Democrats have consistently fought for consumers.

In the lead up to the 700MHz auction, the NDP called for consumer oriented policies to increase wireless competition while creating better access to the services Canadians want in areas outside of Canada's major urban centres, including the use of set asides for new entrants, stringent rural roll-out requirements, and that companies purchasing valuable wireless spectrum would be forced to “use it or lose it”.

However, because the Conservatives' weak rules don't enforce rural build-out of wireless networks, large swaths of Canadian businesses and consumers that live outside of urban centres will continue to lack access to high-speed broadband capabilities and risk being shut out of the digital economy.

Canadians deserve fair prices and a widely accessible wireless network.

That's why New Democrats called for an emergency meeting of the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology to study the upcoming 700 MHz auction. We asked that the Committee specifically examine the policy and licensing framework being used by the government; its impact on access to wireless services for all Canadians, the prices Canadians will pay for those services, Canadian jobs, and the privacy of Canadians.

Unfortunately, the Conservatives forced the Committee in-camera when it met on August 23 and any decisions made remain confidential. So much for any transparency or accountability that would help consumers understand what is happening with our public resources.

Jean Crowder is MP for Nanaimo-Cowichan.



Above, Nanaimo-Cowichan MP Jean Crowder (centre) and NDP Federal Leader Tom Mulcair enjoy refreshments at a gathering at the Duncan Community Garden August 30. Below, Mulcair and his psychologist wife, CatherinePinhas, along with Crowder, listen to speeches and presentations.



# Working to protect our special place in Canada

By Randall Garrison

The Conservatives appear to be trying to make Vancouver Island disappear. Here are five examples of their cuts and my actions to mitigate these bad decisions.

The omnibus budget bill, Bill C-38, last summer, removed federal environmental protection from all rivers, lakes, and streams on Vancouver Island and across the country.

I have already introduced a Private members Bill to reinstate protection for the Goldstream and I will be proposing other Private Member's Bill's to restore federal environmental protection on other Vancouver Island rivers to protect their salmon habitat and special values.

VIA Rail halted passenger service on the Island two years ago citing safety concerns. It took the federal government and provincial governments over a year to commit to share the rail bed and track repair costs – and I give them credit and thank them for committing that money.

Now that the rail bed repair funding is in place, VIA is refusing to commit to a resumption of service. I recently wrote to the minister responsible for VIA Rail, imploring her to encourage VIA to negotiate with the Islands Corridor Foundation and Southern Railway of BC so that a solution can be found that will re-introduce passenger and freight service in order to assist in both the transportation of goods and the alleviation of the daily frustration of the Colwood crawl and commuting to the ever growing Dockyards and Maritime Pacific Esquimalt Naval Base.

And there is the example of Canada Post. Recently, we learned that Lower Island mail will no longer be sorted locally. Instead it will be trucked to the Mainland for sorting and then trucked back. This is surely a decision that didn't take into account air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, truck traffic on the roads, or the importance of local jobs. And anyone who believes the Canada Post line that this will have no impact on service, please raise your hand now.

As one local resident pointed out if you want to mail a birthday card to a friend across town, do it extra early and hope the ferry line-ups are short and the winds calm.

This spring, the Conservatives announced the closure of the Centre of the Universe, ending public education and outreach programs at the Herzberg Institute Observatory in Saanich. This is where literally thousands of kids and other members of the public first got introduced to astronomy and space science.

I am hearing from everyone, from a woman who first looked through Canada's largest telescope as a young girl and is now finishing her degree in astrophysics to a mother whose son is attending his first science camp at the Centre of the Universe now. Perhaps one of these future participants would turn out to be a Canadian Nobel prize winner like Herzberg, the namesake of the institute, but without these programs, maybe not.

I have started a formal petition to en-

courage the federal government to reconsider this direct attack on the future of scientific research. I encourage you to go to my website <http://randallgarrison.ndp.ca/save-the-centre-of-the-universe-petition> launched, print the petition, get all your neighbours and friends to sign it and return it to me so that I can use it to pressure the government to restore this important funding

Recently, Environment Canada announced their refusal to continue even partial funding for Straitwatch. This is the marine mammal monitoring program run by the Cetus Research and Conservation Society which helps educate boaters about impacts of disturbances on Southern Resident Killer Whales.

So now, not only has the federal government failed so far to produce an action plan to implement the recovery strategy for Southern Resident Killer Whales required under the *Species at Risk Act*, but in the meantime they are cutting the very programs that will be necessary if we are going to save the whales. Now that there only 82 Southern Residents left, including only six breeding females, we cannot afford cuts like this or the iconic local orcas will disappear from the planet.

These examples of cuts will save very little out of the enormous federal budget, but they mean big losses for all of us on the Island.

I will continue to fight for decisions that benefit our special Island. And I will continue to oppose and try to reverse these types of examples of decisions that, cumulatively and in conjunction with all the other federal cuts, are hurting our values and environment here at home.

As always please do contact my office with your views: [randall.garrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:randall.garrison@parl.gc.ca), call 250-405-6550 or visit my constituency office in View Royal.

I am honoured to be your Member of Parliament and continue to work for a better Esquimalt Juan de Fuca and a better Canada.

## Ron reviews:

**HIKING THE GULF ISLANDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**, (3rd ed), by C. Kahn, HARBOUR PUBLISHERS

Salt Spring Islander Charles Kahn has meticulously outlined all the wonderful trails of our beautiful Gulf Islands. In addition, he has outlined the ways to enjoy our marine parks. You can easily plan your summer activities by following the suggestions in this great guide book.

**ULTIMATE TROUT FISHING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**, by L. Stefanyk with contributors, HARBOUR PUBLISHING

Everything you wanted to know about trout fishing is in this book. Highlights are the color photos of the lures. The author, publisher of *Island Fisherman* is from Campbell River, home of many a famous fisherman. The book will entice the readers into starting or renewing their interest in this sport.

--Ron Macsaac



## Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA

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# Government must fix employment program that is too complex

By Carole James

Contrary to what the BC government seems to think, one size doesn't fit all. But that seems to be the direction this government is taking with a number of services and supports in our communities.

The latest example is the rigid new service model in the area of employment skills. Moves by the government to force social service agencies into this new system is causing all sorts of problems. It's easy to see that the entire approach needs to be revisited.

The province is creating turmoil for organizations like PEERS, which has now had to close a drop-in centre and pre-employment program for sex workers in Victoria. I've been raising concerns about the government's approach for more than a year. When I asked the minister about it in the spring of 2012, she said that it would all work out. Well, it certainly has not.

Here is the situation on the ground in our community:

Until last year, PEERS, like many other helping organizations on the South Island, received its core funding from the BC Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation. But when the government moved the contract to a fee-for-service billing model under its Employment Program of BC, that's when trouble really started.

The situation being faced by PEERS is troubling for a number of reasons, but most especially considering the government's assurance that it would follow the recommendations contained in the 2012 *Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*. The report makes clear the importance of emergency services to women engaged in the sex trade provided by centres like PEERS.

Commissioner Wally Oppal recommended that funding be made available urgently so that these centres could stay open 24 hours a day. Instead, because of funding decisions by the provincial government, PEERS has been forced to discontinue its vital services that help women leave sex work for more stable and secure employment.

The employment programs offered by non-profit organizations in our community

serve a unique population with complex needs. Not all employment programs fit neatly into the government's fee-for-service model.

I have heard concerns expressed by employment contractors, large and small, that the current model is too complex, and fails to recognize that individuals are unique and may need a range of services to support them in their goal of employment. It is also complicated by an unmanageable computer system that takes away from valuable and much needed time with clients.

We must be addressing the challenges in a comprehensive way that includes supports for addictions, mental health, and poverty reduction. I'm hearing it over and over again from social service providers: this new approach isn't working, and citizens are suffering.

Government must listen to the professionals in the field and fix this system so that it works for everybody, and most especially for those in need in our community. I am proposing some solutions to the minister, and will continue to work closely with our social service organizations to highlight the deficiencies in the province's payment structure and referrals systems.

My community office is open regular hours through the autumn, and my staff is available to help residents of Victoria-Beacon Hill with issues and concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can assist you with access to government services or any questions about provincial programs.

Carole James is MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill, and her office is located at 1084 Fort Street in Victoria. She can also be reached by phone at 250 952-4211 or email at [Carole.James.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Carole.James.MLA@leg.bc.ca)

## Ron reviews:

***Dream Catchers, Legend, Lore & Artifacts*, by C. Oberhiktzer**

A gorgeous book featuring aboriginal art (even Grey Owl is mentioned), with wonderful photographs.

An aide de juris for lawyers in the native claims field.

—Ron MacIsaac



MLAs Lana Popham and Gary Holman outside the Centre of the Universe

Lana Popham, MLA for Saanich South, joined Gary Holman, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, in front of the Centre of the Universe sign. Popham was at the centre August 23 collecting signatures for a petition asking the federal government to restore funding to the centre, the public education arm of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, at 5071 West Saanich Road.

"I don't believe that closing the Centre of the Universe is an option," Popham said. "Whether or not the federal funding comes back, for me at this point, it's beside the point. We have to figure out a way to keep it going."

The federal government announced plans in June to end public access and programming at the facility as a cost-cutting measure. The facility cost an average of \$310,000 a year to run and brought in between \$50,000 and \$60,000 in revenue, said Greg Fahlan, general manager of the NRC Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics.

"This is part of a larger budget reduction that the entire observatory took," Fahlan said.

Total budget cuts to the observatory were roughly \$1.8 million, he said. As a result of the closing, 3 1/2 full-time positions were cut, as were three to four summer student positions. One full-time staff member will be reassigned.

The Centre of the Universe, which opened in 2001, attracted between 8,000 and 10,000 visitors a year, including schoolchildren, families and academics. The space has reached its 150-person capacity every Saturday of August, with many visitors turned away at the door.



Saanich North and the Islands MLA Gary Holman at the Flavour Trails table

The North Saanich Flavour Trail, held this year the weekend of August 23-25, offered residents and visitors the opportunity to explore and experience Peninsula food and agriculture – and have fun!

Visitors could choose from 16 unique sites to visit over the two-day event. They found some old friends and acquaintances (with new stories to tell) plus some new faces. They learned how to grow their own veggies – and how to get started on their winter garden.

Visitors also discovered how to grow oranges and lemons in their backyards – and how to make home-grown marmalade!

They also sat back and enjoyed readings from local authors. Enjoyed fine wine and savoured local cuisine. Relaxed and had a cuppa with fresh scones and home-crafted strawberry jam. And took in local history. Picniced by the Salish Sea. And lots more...

*Sincerest thanks for your support.*

*I am honoured to serve as your MLA*

*for Victoria – Beacon Hill, and*

*I look forward to our work together.*

**Carole James, MLA**

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# Dix will never forget kindness and generosity shown him, never stop seeking to repay it

Since our defeat in the election on May 14, I have reflected both on my future as Leader of the BC NDP and on the future of our party.

In doing so, I have tried to put the long-term success of the BC NDP ahead of any personal ambitions.

I have always believed very strongly that politics is not about politicians or leaders themselves, but about the people we represent and the change we hope to bring to British Columbia.

It has been an enormous privilege to lead our party, for which I will always remain grateful.

It has also been a great privilege to lead and to work with our caucus of extraordinary MLAs, whose commitment and passion is on display every day. We worked together as an extremely effective team in the run-up to the election; that we fell short on Election Day is my responsibility as Leader.

It has become clear to me that the best interests of our party mean that I need to step aside for a new Leader, who can lead us to victory in 2017.

I intend to remain as Leader until such time as the party can hold a leadership vote to choose a new Leader.

It is my hope that a leadership vote can be held by mid-2014 at the very latest, though of course any final decision on timing will be made by the party.

In the meantime, I intend to continue to lead our party and caucus in the important work of holding the Liberals to account for the promises they made during the election and their actions since.

We must take on a Liberal government that seems to reduce everything to its partisan advantage, and in doing so we must not leave any stone unturned. In the face of cynicism, it is our duty to nourish the need to aspire, to hope and to offer hope. Not by imitating our opponents at their worst or our critics at their most cynical but by speaking to the best in people. And of course to never ever give up.

We must continue to make the case that the values the NDP stands for—a strong economy for all, equality, a just society, a commitment to an environment that can sustain good health and prosperity in the future—are the values of British Columbians, making our party the best party to govern our province.

We must continue to fight for good jobs that will support families.

We must continue to fight to ensure that all British Columbians—regardless of their background—are afforded the opportunity to make the most of their talents and prosper.

And we must continue—now more than ever—to fight for those who have been left behind and for those with no voice.

BC is at a crossroads: inequality growing, pressure on rural communities, the environment at risk, the basic needs of others—jobs, health care, access to public education and libraries and transit—all crying out for a better way. Such a time requires the BC NDP to learn and do better—and we will—but also to stick together.

Whoever is chosen as the next Leader our party will have my complete support and relentless effort as we prepare to defeat the Liberals and form government in 2017.

I want to thank the people of Vancouver-Kingsway for their ongoing support and the trust they continue to place in me as their representative. They are and will continue to be a source of inspiration for me.

I have been blessed with some amazing support in the last two years: from Renée, from my family and friends, from supporters and co-workers, from the people of BC who have opened their businesses, their homes and their hearts to me.

As I launch this part in my journey I wish to say that I will never forget your kindness and generosity, and will never stop seeking to repay it.



# Gary Holman’s first report as MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

By Gary Holman

I am honoured to have been elected as the MLA for Saanich North and the Islands and can say with honesty that I've hit the ground running. Over the summer months, my focus was on establishing a new constituency office, hiring constituency assistants, and working as a member of the New Democrat Official Opposition Caucus to hold this government to account in an abbreviated summer legislative session focused entirely on the provincial budget.

Within weeks of being sworn in as MLA, I had many issues being brought to my a mayors and councils to ensure we can work together on the key priorities from Saanich North and the Islands and I'm working with your Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands on a number of important cross-jurisdictional issues. As your MLA, I commit to being available and accessible, to advocate for the rights of my constituents, and to bring local issues to the attention of government. I want to work with you to find solutions and positive outcomes to the issues that matter to you.

I've heard from a lot of people about their frustrations with BC Ferries: the cost of travel; the inconvenient schedules for the Southern Gulf Islands; the ridiculous executive bonuses; the lack of commitment by the government to build new ferries in BC. I'm keeping in regular contact with members of the Southern Gulf Islands Recycling Coalition as they, along with all the BC municipalities, face significant changes to the funding structures at their recycling depots. In Central Saanich, I'm working with a large number of residents affected by an industrial composting facility on ALR property.

These issues, along with so many others, could have been raised in the Legislature, where this government would have to be accountable for their decisions. But instead, they've chosen to cancel the Fall session, once again showing their disdain for democracy, good governance, and accountability to British Columbians.

Along with my roles as Deputy Critic for BC Ferries and Environment, I was appointed the Opposition Critic for Democratic Reform. I am passionate about the need for governance reform, a need underscored by the cancellation of the Fall sitting of the Legislature. We need to engage in a public discourse about revitalizing democracy

in British Columbia, through reforms such as the development and implementation better voting systems; enhancing the roles of independent watchdogs in government; and an overhaul of electoral financing. I will also be part of an Opposition Caucus committee making a submission to the Electoral Boundaries Commission as they engage in their re-examination of provincial electoral districts.

Despite the lack of a Fall session, there are other ways for constituents to share their thoughts, concerns, and priorities for government. I am one of 10 MLAs sitting on the Select Standing Committee for Finance and Government Services. We'll be holding public consultation hearings throughout BC over the coming weeks, and we are hoping for a broad cross-section of British Columbians to participate. You can find more information about how to contribute your ideas and when and where the hearings will be held here: <http://leg.bc.ca/cmt/finance/index.asp>

It is a privilege to have been elected to serve Saanich North and the Islands and I look forward to working with all of you over the next four years. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or to raise issues of concern. I expect my constituency office, a storefront right outside a major bus stop in Sidney, to be open for business in early October, but in the meantime, I can be reached at 250-387-3655 or via email at [gary.holman.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:gary.holman.mla@leg.bc.ca).

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# Moe Sihota to step down as BC NDP president in November

**VANCOUVER** -- BC New Democratic Party President Moe Sihota announced September 21 he is stepping down as party president when his term ends this November. First elected to the role in 2009, Sihota's term was renewed by party convention delegates in December 2011.

"It has been an immense privilege to serve our party and supporters over these four years. I want to personally thank the members, as well as our caucus, for the faith they expressed in me.

"I am proud of some of the great strides forward we have made together, and am also excited about our shared future. Our party possesses a great deal of talent, and is a key reason in my decision to step down. It is time for the next chapter in the BC NDP's history, which means a new generation of leadership. "

Sihota's service and accomplishments, both as a party executive and in electoral politics, received praise from Adrian Dix and Carole James, the two party leaders Sihota served.

"Moe's dedication, intelligence and good humour is remarkable. As president, he helped the party modernize its fundraising capacity, and move forward in implementing a strong outreach plan involving the business community," said Dix.

"Moe has made an enormous contribution to the NDP and to our province over many years," said James. "What I appreciated most was Moe's tireless driving across the province to meet and work with constituency associations."

## Ron reviews:

**FALSE WITNESS**, by Eric Nelson, WEST HOUSE PUBLISHING

This novel describes a famous Saskatchewan murder. A compelling crime story, it reminds the reader of the infamous political Thatcher murder case. Journalist Nelson has produced what will probably be a best seller. A great read.

--Ron MacIsaac

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# Some would call it treasonous

By Jan Slakov

*My heart is moved by all  
I cannot save.  
So much has been destroyed.*

*I have to cast my lot with those  
who age after age, perversely,  
With no extraordinary power,  
reconstitute the world.*  
~ Adrienne Rich

This quote was a favourite of Muriel Duckworth, a very “active pacifist” and a provincial NDP candidate in Nova Scotia (1974 and 1978). It reminds me also of the people working so hard to prevent ratification of the FIPA (Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement) with China. Our chances of success seem terribly small; it could be ratified any day by the Harper cabinet.

Indeed, it could have been ratified last fall, so it feels like a miracle that months later, it is still not ratified. There must be Conservatives, even cabinet members, who are uncomfortable with this sellout agreement. And it is likely Harper is waiting for the court action spear-headed by Brenda Sayers of the Hupacasath First Nation, to uphold the right of First Nations to be consulted on deals that affect their rights, to be over.

If you haven’t heard of this FIPA deal, don’t be surprised. This is a deal that could impact our economy even more than NAFTA, yet our media, even most of our politicians, have made only minimal efforts to educate the public about its implications.

Nanaimo-Cowichan MP and Opposition Aboriginal Affairs critic, Jean Crowder, has contributed to NDP efforts to stop the FIPA deal. These include Don Davies’ motion asking the government to “inform the Government of the People’s Republic of China, that it will not ratify the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.”

Crowder adds that the NDP Opposition has continuously raised the FIPPA agree-



From left, Brenda Sayers, Hupacasath First Nation Portfolio Holder for the legal case challenging the way the federal government negotiated the FIPA deal with China, Emma Pullman, Leadnow campaigner and researcher, and MP Elizabeth May, spoke together on Salt Spring Island, Sept. 18 about the China-Canada FIPA deal.

ment in the House of Commons, and will continue to vigorously oppose this agreement which is not in the best interests of Canadians. In particular, she said, the government of Canada has a duty to consult with First Nations and this has not been done.

LeadNow, a community which takes part in campaigns to defend our democracy and hold governments accountable to the values of a majority of Canadians, put together a great background; here is one excerpt:

“This deal would pave the way for a massive natural resource buyout and allow foreign corporations to sue the Canadian government in secret tribunals, restricting Canadians from making democratic decisions about our economy, environment and energy.”

LeadNow also worked with Brenda Sayers and other groups and individuals to

set up the “We Stand Together” website, to raise funds for the Hupacasath legal challenge.

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May wrote an excellent householder on investor-state treaties, available at the [www.elizabethmaymp.ca](http://www.elizabethmaymp.ca) site. She explains how investor-state treaties like this FIPA deal with China are being used to undermine governmental powers to protect the public interest – as the MAI was designed to do

in1998, but it was defeated through citizen engagement around the world. The MAI would have lasted a minimum of 20 years. This FIPA has a “lock in” period of 31 years! Is this FIPA necessary to pursue trade? “No! Even though Australia does not have an investor-state treaty with China, they lead the globe in Chinese investment.” Indeed, Australia decided not to enter into any new FIPAs, as has India.

“Are these cases taken to court? No. They go to an arbitration. [...] no appeals.” May cites a European report which concluded that, “Rather than acting as fair and neutral intermediaries, it has become clear that the arbitration industry has a vested interest in perpetuating an investment regime that prioritizes the rights of investors at the expense of democratically elected national governments...”

A Spanish arbitrator wrote, “When I wake up at night and think about arbitration, it never ceases to amaze me that sovereign states have agreed to investment arbitration at all [...] Three private individuals are entrusted with the power to review, without any restriction or appeal procedure, all actions of the government, all decisions of the courts, and all laws and regulations emanating from parliament.”

Salt Spring Island was honoured to bring together Elizabeth May, Brenda Sayers and Emma Pullman, currently a campaigner with LeadNow and SumOfUs, for a public forum aimed at protecting Canada from this threat to our democracy.

To keep posted on our efforts, please contact [janslakov@shaw.ca](mailto:janslakov@shaw.ca) or call 250-537-525

## The Trans Pacific Partnership, why so secret?

Do you remember the election debate over the Free Trade Agreement with the US (FTA) in 1988 or the public debate over the North American Free Trade agreement (NAFTA) in 1992-93? Do you remember when the US published the details of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in 2001?

Why is it that governments no longer think it makes sense to make the economic and social benefits of deals like the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) understandable to the public? Is it a good deal for us?

The TPP is like NAFTA on steroids and involves 12 Pacific Rim countries. The negotiations have been kept secret but leaks of draft copies have revealed the true intent.

Although the TPP is called a trade agreement it is more of a corporate rights agreement. Only two of the 26 chapters under negotiation have anything to do with trade. The other 24 include how a government regulates corporate activity, what Crown corporations can and can not do, how long pharmaceutical patents or copyright terms should be, how the Internet is governed, the sharing of personal information across borders, banking and taxation rules and when a company or investor should be compensated when environmental or public health policies interfere with profits.

The TPP threatens community-led public policy with the inclusion of an investor rights chapter and investor-state dispute process that would let companies

sue governments in secret tribunals when public policies get in the way of profits. The public policy could be legal, fair and indiscriminate and still face corporate lawsuits demanding hundreds of millions and sometimes billions of dollars in compensation.

The Council of Canadians is calling on the federal government to end the secrecy and make all TPP chapters public.

## Cowichan Green Community partners with Gaia College to deliver Organic Master Gardener course in Duncan

Be prepared for a major shift in paradigms! This is a gardening course, and so much more. Students have called it “life changing” -- because once we truly understand the connection between soil health, plant health, human health and environmental health we look at the world with different eyes.

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Course dates are October 8 to November 30. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6–9 pm, plus some Saturday mornings for hands-on workshops. All evening classes will be held at the CGC Classroom. Tuition is \$695.00 + GST. Class size is limited to 20 students, so please register early.

Registration can be done online at: [www.cowichangreencommunity.org](http://www.cowichangreencommunity.org) with PayPal. Look under Events & Workshops and follow the links to the course. You can also register in person at the CGC storefront, 360 Duncan Street.

For more information on this course please contact Nora Arais at the Cowichan Green Community: 250.748.8506 or [nora@cowichangreencommunity.org](mailto:nora@cowichangreencommunity.org)

## Ron reviews:

**THE ART OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**, by G. Meggs and R. Mickleburgh, HARBOUR PUBLISHING

This long overdue book sets out the establishment of the famed and unique BC Agricultural Land Reserve by Dave Barrett’s short lived government and which was defeated, some believe, via the efforts of the powerful Fraser Institute.

Barrett also set up the BC ambulance service and was big one college creator.

--Ron MacIsaac



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# The Politics of Language

By Starla Anderson

Language is the most powerful tool that humanity has for generating and acquiring knowledge, understanding, skills, and communication both within and between cultures. Language has enabled us to invent, mediate personal and social conflicts, and to imagine and create new ways of being in the world. In this essay, I offer an overview of how we use language to negotiate and persuade others of the validity of our point of view in order to make the changes we hope will come about.

I also offer an overview of some of the many ways that those who are served by the status quo use language to maintain it.

Those who have the gift of oratory become our leaders because they inspire us to action. Dr. Martin Luther King’s appeal to his fellow Americans in his “I have a Dream” speech still resonates 50 years on: “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a country where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream ...”

Though King’s dream is not yet fully realized, and though many sacrifices continue to be made by activists, Civil Rights legislation was enacted less than a year after King’s speech to 250,000 citizens at the Lincoln Memorial.

Unfortunately, we know that leaders with the gift of oratory can also lead us to accept decisions that go against our own interests. We don’t have to go far into history to find examples of leaders who are able to charm and distract voters from asking too many questions, leaders who frame messages in simplistic terms that will appeal to voters who do not follow politics closely.

In British Columbia’s recent election, the platform that focused solely on jobs and the economy was easier to hear for many voters than the one that tried to address such complicating factors as climate change and an aging population that must forgo retirement planning in order to keep bills paid. The winning platform referenced jobs that are familiar—resource-based jobs that depend upon drilling, rather than the industries of the future whose promotion requires that we rethink energy production and consumption.

Antonio Gramsci wrote about how the economic elite use their financial prowess to permeate the culture with a point of view that helps them to maintain their advantages. Through the mass media and with the support of church and state institutions, a common belief system, hegemony, is established and enforces the *status quo*. Wealthy and poor alike rationalize and justify the *status quo*: “The poor you will always have with you” (Matthew 26:11).

Even when low income workers know in their hearts that professional athletes and film stars earn incomes that are way out of proportion to what they earn in humble service jobs, this disparity is accepted by too many as just the way things are.

Our public school system participates in the sorting of winners and losers in an economic system that is predicated on the belief that inequality is normal, that some will have much more than they need while others have barely enough to sustain life. The Fraser Institute, a right-wing think tank, regularly publishes “Report Cards” that rank schools in British Columbia according to performance, arguing that it is simply presenting this information as a public service. In fact the institute’s reports illustrate the failure of our government to provide quality education for all students. The Fraser Institute has mastered the art of obfuscation.

George Orwell’s influential essay on *Politics and the English Language* was addressed to post-World War II politicians, academics, and art and literary critics whose writing Orwell considered to be obscure or evasive, either because they had nothing meaningful to write about or because their messages would be rejected if stated plainly: “Modern writing at its worst does not consist in picking out words for the sake of their meaning and inventing images in order to make the meaning clearer. It consists in gumming together long strips of words which have already been set in order by someone else.” (e.g., “*a consideration which we should do well to bear in mind or a conclusion to which all of us would readily assent . . .*”)

Orwell offers excellent advice about how to think and communicate clearly but states that “the great enemy of clear thinking is insincerity”. In his famous novel *1984*, Orwell writes of a totalitarian state in which the citizens learn to “doublethink”, a concept closely related to the more commonly recognized abuse of language known as “doublespeak”. Whereas “doublethink” is a strategy used by citizens to keep themselves out of trouble with authorities by presenting different opinions according to whom they are speaking, “doublespeak” is a more subtle way of using language so that words or phrases can be interpreted in more than one way. Doublespeak includes euphemisms that are used to soften the true meaning of what is being said: workers are said to be “redundant” rather than fired, and noncombatant civilians who are killed by unmanned missiles become “collateral damage”.

Another insidious way that language is used to maintain the status quo is through in-

stitutional “Group Think”, hierarchical patterns of discourse that determine what is sayable or thinkable in a particular organizational setting. Whenever we take up new employment, we tend to lie low until we’ve determined who the “movers and shakers” are in the institution that employs us—and sometimes it’s the managers or administrators rather than the employers. Once we’ve figured that out, we decide whether we’re going to go along with the agenda or whether we want to attempt to make change.

Change can be made but often it is most successful when the credit is passed on to those in positions of power so that the true change-agent isn’t perceived as a threat. But most often, newcomers in any institutional work place just fall in line with the existing Group Think, understanding that it is risky to their position to give voice to unaccustomed thoughts. Reform of any kind takes resilience and tenacity.

William Shakespeare is rightly celebrated for his deep understanding of human nature and his brilliant use of 16th-century English; he gets less attention for his insights about the politics of language. In the *Tempest*, he illustrates how language use symbolizes power relations through the characters of Caliban and Prospero, the former a native on the island where the latter, a deposed duke, has sought refuge and claims authority. Prospero derides Caliban for failing to appreciate that he, Prospero, has “endow’d thy purposes / With words that made them known.” Caliban responds, “You taught me language; and my profit on’t / Is, I know how to curse. The red plague rid you / For learning me your language!” (Act I, sc.ii). Writing at the time when colonization was laying a foundation for European dominance all over the globe, Shakespeare understood that Europe’s military might and its cultural hegemony went hand in hand.

Another brilliant writer, Chinua Achebe, draws his readers into the experience of what it means to be colonized in *Things Fall Apart*. Achebe’s novel not only describes the violence that is perpetrated on the victims of colonization, but also the insidious cooperation of the military, governments, schools, and churches in the destruction of cultures that had evolved over thousands of years but were systematically destroyed within a century. Achebe is describing the colonization of Kenya in the nineteenth century, but he could be describing the effects of colonization in many other times and places.

Language is the primary cultural system that colonizers endeavor to disrupt and make over in their own image. In Canada, we have recently had much public exposure of the horrific stories of Aboriginal children being “legally” abducted from their families and kept in residential schools where they were physically forced not to use their native languages, but to adopt the language of the colonizers. Like Caliban, these children were taught a practical English, with educators thinking that they could be assimilated into broader society as employable menial laborers.

It has been a triumph of this country’s Aboriginal peoples that most First Nations communities have survived despite systematic attempts to eliminate them—through genocide, laws forbidding practices such as the potlatch, disputes over treaty rights, and other unethical practices—over the past 150 years. Here on the south end of Vancouver Island, one of the victories of the Idle No More movement has been a linguistic one: the Tsawout people’s reclaiming of Pkols, the original name of the promontory where the Saanich peoples, including the Tsawout, the Songhees, and the Esquimalt First Nations, signed treaties with the Crown, as represented by Governor James Douglas, between 1850 and 1854.

Restoring the name Pkols to replace the peak’s colonial name, Mt. Douglas, is symbolic of local Aboriginal peoples’ intent to strengthen their children’s sense of who they are as they move forward. Names tell stories, and stories establish identity. To stamp out a people’s language, to rob them of their right to name things—this form of ethnocide is essential to the colonizer’s effort to impose cultural hegemony over the colonized. Reasserting their right to name things and, therefore, to narrate events is a vital step toward restoring the cultural health of Indigenous peoples around the globe.

It is not easy to be an independent thinker, let alone a clear communicator, but if we can identify the assumptions that are guiding our thoughts and then critically consider the language that we use to express our thoughts, it is possible. And if we can have open dialogue—sometimes with the help of a mediator—this can facilitate recognizing our assumptions so that we can evaluate them and decide whether they are justified. Our values can be more easily stated and considered once we’ve reached that place.

But the most challenging aspect of arriving at clarity of thought and communication is to be able to listen to those with radically different perspectives. Too often our emotional attachment to our own beliefs makes this almost impossible but if we want to get listeners for our point of view, we have to be prepared to listen as objectively as possible to others. We have only to look at the situations in the Middle East to know the consequences of those in power not being willing to listen to those who have a different—and legitimate—point of view to express.

Starla Anderson is a retired teacher and NDP activist. Her husband, songwriter Peter Brunette, gave editorial feedback on this piece of writing.

## BC should follow other provinces’ lead in setting minimum wage

By David Fairey

The average weekly wage in BC increased by only 1.3 percent between June 2012 and June 2013, half of the 2.6 percent jump in wages Canada-wide. This latest news, from an August Statistics Canada release, adds one more piece to the growing body of evidence that BC’s labour policies are contributing to increasing income inequality and stubbornly high poverty rates.

In January the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives reported that StatsCan data from income tax files revealed that BC was the only province where the bottom 90 percent made less in 2010 that they did in 1982.

In Vancouver, the bottom 90 percent saw their incomes drop by \$4,300 after accounting for inflation -- the biggest decline in Canada’s three largest cities.

In July, StatsCan reported that BC has the highest overall poverty rate in Canada (10.7% in 2011, compared to a national average of 8.8%), and the highest child poverty rate (11.3% in 2011, tied with Manitoba) according to the StatsCan Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) after tax.

Minimum wage legislation is an important policy tool for the provincial government to use in addressing poverty and in-

come inequality. This is a well documented fact. Unfortunately, the BC government kept the minimum wage frozen for 10 years, and when an increase was finally announced in 2011, it was done on an ad hoc basis for political reasons.

The political crisis is over for the time being, and the minimum wage has once again been frozen for 16 months (28 months for farm workers), with no plans to increase it for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, the cost of living continues to rise, and our major metropolitan areas are becoming known as some the most expensive places to live in Canada.

BC’s minimum wage rates are set by the provincial government on an ad hoc, discretionary basis. BC is out of step with almost all other provinces, which automatically adjust their minimum wages annually on the basis of certain economic and social indicators, such as the cost of living, average weekly wages, and poverty indicators.

For example, Nova Scotia indexes its minimum wage rate to changes in the StatsCan LICO and cost of living index. Alberta and the Yukon automatically adjust their minimum wages on the basis of increases in the cost of living index and/ or average weekly earnings. Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Ed-

ward Island and Saskatchewan adjust their minimum wages on the basis of the recommendations of independent minimum wage boards.

The government of Ontario is the latest to abandon the outdated ad hoc discretionary setting of minimum wages and to consider the adoption of a formal automatic minimum wage review process. In July the Minister of Labour announced the appointment of a six-member minimum wage advisory panel to examine the minimum wage policy and advise the government as they develop a reasoned approach for setting the minimum wage in the future. The panel’s first task is to meet with and solicit input from a broad range of stakeholders.

The United Kingdom and Australia use similar systematic annual review mechanisms to ensure their minimum wages reflect current realities.

It’s time for the BC government to do the same. Let’s make sure that our minimum wages are based on a good public policy rationale, not political whim.

David Fairey is a Labour Economist, a Research Associate of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, and Co-Chair of the BC Employment Standards Coalition.

## NDP blasts attempt to restrict veterans from wearing uniforms

**OTTAWA** – Reports that the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) has issued a directive requiring veterans to obtain permission before wearing their uniforms at special events is both outrageous and insulting, according to NDP Defence critic Jack Harris (St. John’s East).

“Canada’s veterans have bravely served this country and wear their uniforms with pride at ceremonies commemorating their service,” said Harris. “It shows an absolute lack of respect for this service to tell veterans that they now need to ask permission to wear their uniforms and show their pride for having served this country.”

Veterans’ requests to wear their uniforms will reportedly be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be limited to occasions where the RCN believes it will reflect favourably on the navy. As officers pay for their uniforms themselves, it is not clear how the RCN intends to enforce this policy.

“Conservatives have faced increased criticism for failing veterans – much of it coming from veterans themselves,” said Harris. “This seems to be yet another attempt by the Conservatives to silence opposition.”





# Hummingbird--humming for what? Rather death than humiliation

Diane Walsh, a regular writer for Lower Island News, writes, “My colleague and social justice co-activist Nisan Sunflower has written an incredibly moving piece about the plight of Syrians. In wishing to include this for Victoria-and-vicinity readers, by no means am I advocating that we swallow pro-interventionist narrative. But this blog entry is worth reading, this cry-out matters, and Syrians matter, because human rights matter. Thousands of Syrians are being displaced a day and the refugee picture is bleak. Please hear the Hummingbird.

Reprinted with permission

### By Nisan Sunflower

On the 21st of August 2013, I woke up early morning on news that Assad regime used chemical weapons in east Ghouta in Damascus countryside.

Footages of suffocating children and people searching for their love ones started to pour on my screen as I started to cry for the first time in about six months of numbness and despair. Infants and adults were fighting for another grasp of air between their violent spasms, and I was in ruins.

To feel this helpless and anger was beating me down.

Since the revolution started I knew exactly what it was about. It was about dignity. People in Syria roared: "Rather Death than Humiliation".

Do you want to know what humiliation? The humiliation of living in poverty as a group of corrupted villains took what is rightfully yours and you can't do anything about it.

Humiliation for being arrested and tortured for the most simple reasons like trying to help a man hit by a car in the middle of the street, or trying to organize a group to spread awareness for the dangers of smoking, or trying to start a book club, or learn your prohibited mother tongue. The humiliation of being animalized each and every single day.

The humiliation for trying to do the good thing, help your citizens. Is that a crime? To demand the right for better education and a better life. To get back our right of speech and express our opinions. The right to choose your own politicians and be an active part in determining your country's future.

It is a crime for just wanting to be you, and just to dare to dream.

For 40 years, Assad regime was dehumanizing everyone in Syria. You are a good citizen when you rat out your neighbours. You are a good citizen when you prevent your family from there share in the heritage by giving corrupted judges their cut. You are a good citizen when you do everything you can to climb up on the shoulders of other men and women. You are a good citizen when you terrorize people to submission. A good citizen is a humiliating life we take.

All what we wanted to is to come together and step up into a new age, an age that is characterized by the diversity and beauty of our country. We wanted more freedoms and rights for all. It was never personal, it was legitimate and right.

And Syrians singed and danced for freedom and dignity. The photo here is from the grand protests of Hama on the 17th of July 2011, Syrians called that Friday Saleh al-Ali Friday. Saleh al-Ali is was a prominent Syrian Alawi leader that commanded of the Syrian Revolt of 1919. Syrians were calling their Alawi brothers and sister to join their revolution, just like they did in the old days.

Well, some did. Bashar Assad family is an Alawite, and many preferred to stick to him, unfortunately, as a functional group.

But the slogan Syrians chose to mark the goal of their revolution proved to be true, and death happened. The Assad supporters from different sects replied by: "Assad or we will burn the country," and they did. Strange masochist and sadistic acts started to come from these supporters. They kissed military boots in public, danced in the aftermath of every massacre and praised the name of the tyrant. Long years of indoctrined dehumanization created such creatures. For them, to be a patriotic is to be a slave.

For the past about three years, we were introduced to hell, and I became certain that hell is now, it's here and it is people, not in a place in the afterlife.

Hell is when your own kind seeing joy and victory by killing you in the most primitive ways. All killing and humiliating tools invented in Human history from stone age to chemical age were used excessively. Children were slaughtered like sheep, women were raped, and men became projects for organ trade. And when people decided to defend themselves after repeatedly calling upon their human brothers and sisters to stand in solidarity with them, it was in vain. So guess why people carried weapons?

**They're animals, let them kill each other**

But not only did the Syrian regime tried to dehumanize us, many around the world too.

The Syrian revolution was never recognized as a people's aspiration for liberty. Our revolution never got the respect and glory it deserves like Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Tunisia.

But I really don't know who is classifying our work and us? Do we need to care about this classification by foreigners? It makes you angry when you hear someone talk about your people by saying: They are animals, let them kill each other. It shows you how previous genocides happened.

Isn't this an arrogant and racist view of us by others? To consider us below liberty seekers' level. What hits on my nerves is insisting on comparing us to Iraq and Afghanistan, and it is clearly no similarities here. Just another attempt to classify and box us.

I don't think that I like being a jerk global citizen.

We called for help in peaceful means, we never wanted any strikes and troops

on our lands. We cried for a no fly-zone when Assad started to use his warplanes and ballistic missiles killing few hundreds in each attacks.

We even did not get a proper humanitarian aid. Most countries closed its borders in our faces, made it difficult for a Syrian to get a residency, a scholarship, a job or even a shelter.

Why was we treated in this way? Is the world also telling us that we chose death, and if we want to stay alive then we need to be humiliated?

I always remember one of my friends describing human rights in the world by: Shut the F\*\*\* up. We are just Guinea Pigs for weapon's experiments, product experiments, medical experiments. In the Syrian genocide, I saw it all.

Let me bring here one of my paragraphs I wrote in one of my old articles published by *World Pulse*:

*"Until now, the international community has not admitted that there is a revolution in Syria. Instead, they call it a crisis, a conflict. This is a forgery of people's demands for their basic human rights. To call what Syrians are facing by any other name only allows the international community to escape the responsibility of protecting civilians.*

*"In some ways, these erroneous definitions give an excuse to Assad to erase his opponents—thousands of peaceful Syrians.*

*"Describing the situation in Syria as a fight between the regime and groups of armed opposition leaders is a dwarfing of Syria's aspirations for freedom. And it is an easy excuse for the international community to overlook its humanitarian responsibility to protect human beings.*

*"It halts Syrians from being able to achieve a long-awaited democracy. Aren't Syrians worthy of democracy?"*

Now tell me why should I care about you when you are hit by a bus, or when you have no electricity or water or food, or when you are battered all day by a low paid job with reduced benefits, or when something tragic happens to you in any way? You never cared about me and my people, give me a reason why should I care about you?

**Stand in Solidarity**

Everyone is talking about the strike, and I really think that we need to hinder Assad's

ability to use lethal weapons against civilians, especially chemical weapons and ballistic missiles.

Many of my friends are revolutionary dreamers want to free their country by their own hands and celebrate their dignified liberty.

Again, the entire situation in Syria came to this: Death or Humiliation. To die all together, or accept this last slap of humiliation before we try to regain our dignity in the Syrian post-apocalypse phase.

We are not stupid, we know we will not be helped because we are loved or because the world is genuinely concerned for our souls. But sometimes politics might be on your side just like that.

We are perfectly aware that chaos will come next, and there are many hard times we will pass through. There are many warlords and mercenaries we must deal with, from political to military to media.

For me, it is related to the millions dying from hunger, oppression and displacement. It is related to those who are drowning in the sea everyday as they try to flee to Europe.

It is related to thousands of kids who are begging in the streets of the world. And it has to do with all the promising women and men that are dying and in detentions.

It has to do with thousands of people who are disabled, and thousands who do not know where their love ones are. It has to do with trying to mourn and bury our dead without running like roaches from a cemetery because a warplane has arrived.

That's it. And this will not happen unless Assad and his supporters go away, there is no escape. All peaceful solutions were neglected by these criminals.

Syrians need to stand in solidarity now more than ever. In two years we learnt all kinds of tricks played on us by Assad regime, Arab and regional regimes, and international community. We have only us, and we must stick together.

We need to work together to ensure that we will never again choose between humiliation and death.

Nisan Sunflower is based in Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and is a stringer for Allvoices. Her blog is reprinted with permission, and may be found at <http://flyhummingbird.wordpress.com/2013/08/29/rather-death-than-humiliation/>

## Focus on reducing and reusing needed in BC--CCPA

**VANCOUVER** -- British Columbians are familiar with the three R's approach to waste management: reduce, reuse and recycle. But a new study from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives shows that while we have made progress in recycling, we need to focus on reducing and reusing in order to protect our environment and climate.

The study, *Closing the Loop: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Zero Waste in BC*, calls for a rethink of the province's waste management policies, including proposals for new incineration capacity in Metro Vancouver.

"Zero waste means that we proactively reduce the volume of materials entering the economy in the first place while supporting a high quality of life for consumers," explains lead author Marc Lee. "A good model is beer bottles, which are re-used about 15 times before they are recycled due to deposit-and-return systems."

A zero waste approach would move BC away from an economic system in which raw materials are extracted, processed into consumer goods and then trashed. Instead, in a "closed loop system", products like appliances would be repaired and reused for as long as possible, then broken down into parts that could be reused in new products or, finally, recycled.

The new model also emphasizes local economic benefits. Currently, most recyclable materials are exported to other countries for processing. Zero waste policies could create green jobs in BC by creating domestic capacity for recycling, and by creating jobs in repair, servicing and maintenance, and sorting and reusing bottles and containers.

The authors estimate that if BC can move to aggressive reduction and recycling of materials by 2020, greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced by almost 5 million tonnes.

This report is part of the Climate Justice Project, a partnership between the CCPA and UBC, funded primarily by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada with support from VanCity and Vancouver Foundation. Additional funding for this report from Pacific Institute on Climate Solutions.

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# Jobless recovery isn't working

Chronic job insecurity, uneven growth and declining living standards mark the so-called recovery from the Great Recession that killed so many jobs in 2008-09. Statistics Canada reported in mid-August that, while the private sector gained 34,600 jobs, the public sector lost 74,000. The net loss of 39,400 belies the claim of Conservative Finance Minister Jim Flaherty that his government's austerity policies are working.

But it's worse than that, according to Citizens for Public Justice, a faith-based social action organization that produced a sophisticated study of labour market trends since 2008. It paints a grim picture:

Although the official unemployment rate is 7.2 percent, it is actually 10.3 percent if "discouraged workers" (those who have given up their job search in frustration) are included.

In April 2013, there were six unemployed workers for every job vacancy.

While 950,000 new jobs have replaced the 400,000 lost during the downturn, the population grew by 1.8 million. Thus, 61.7 percent of Canadians are employed today, compared to 63.8 percent four years ago.

Temporary, contract and casual work grew by triple the rate of permanent em-

ployment since the recession.

Part-time work is the lot of 3.3 million Canadians, as of March 2013 – an increase of 93,000.

Workers are unemployed for a longer time. In 2008, the average job seeker took 14.8 weeks to find work. Today it takes her/him 20.3 weeks.

Young people are very hard hit. In July, they lost 46,000 jobs; more than any other group. Their unemployment rate is 13.9 percent, officially. But it jumps to 19.8 percent if discouraged workers are counted.

Certain sectors have done better, including construction, health care and natural resources (in the latter case, at what cost to the environment?).

The CPJ urges "significant action to tackle labour market disparities and improve job quality". But it does not specify what actions are needed.

With billions of dollars in "dead money" hidden in corporate coffers, untaxed offshore accounts, mega-mergers and acquisitions, there is no lack of capacity to generate jobs to meet human needs. All that stands in the way is the outmoded system of private ownership of the means of production.

--Barry Weisleder

# The ultra-rich and gross inequality, rise in tandem

It's an old story with a twist. Even amongst the wealthy, the extremely rich are doing best of all.

So says the *World Wealth Report*, the noted annual study of the world's millionaires, issued in June by RBC Wealth Management and Capgemini Financial Services. The report found that the number of people in the world with more than \$1 million to invest soared to a record 12 million in 2012, a 9.2 percent increase over 2011. The aggregate wealth of this group hit a new high, too -- \$46.2 trillion – a 10 percent increase over the previous year.

And within this rich group, the ultra-rich, defined as people with investable assets of at least \$30 million, surged 11 percent. This razor thin sliver of the global population of 7.1 billion, comprising only some 111,000 people, account for 35.2 percent of the entire wealth of all the world's millionaires together.

Coincidentally, the 2012/13 Global Wage Report issued by the International Labor Organization, a UN agency, found a

global trend of a shrinking workers' share in national income. That is true even in China, where wages have been rising, but lag behind growth in gross domestic product.

Most worrying for liberal economists who look to market forces for "corrections", is that labour productivity has had a reduced impact on wages. In the United States, according to the ILO, labour productivity in the non-farm business sector has increased about 85 percent since 1980, while real wages have grown just 35 percent. Even in Germany, often touted as "a middle class success story", labour productivity grew by nearly a quarter over the past 20 years, but real wages remained flat.

Then there is the fact of declining social mobility. Miles Corak, a Canadian economist, shows that rising income inequality coincides with declining equality of opportunity. The 1 percent is very adept at passing along its privilege, while those at the bottom are finding it harder to climb up.

Anyone waiting for the system to correct itself waits in vain.

--Barry Weisleder

# Tars sands toxic deeds go unpunished

Less than 1 percent of the environmental violations arising out of Alberta's tar sands have been penalized. So says a survey by Kevin Timoney, a biologist and environmental consultant, and Peter Lee of Global Forest Watch.

The authors of the 677-page report found the same problems recurring again and again, suggesting that the province's claims that it has strict control over the industry's environmental impact are false.

"What we're seeing is the tip of the iceberg," said Timoney, who filed a massive number of Freedom of Information applications, starting in 2008, in order to see details of breaches of environmental regulations and conditions that were kept under wraps in Alberta Environment's data library in Edmonton.

Timoney and Lee eventually compiled a

list of 9,262 infractions since 1996 – ranging from spills into the Athabasca River, to excessive smokestack emissions, to the discovery of random waste dumps in the bush.

Nearly two-thirds of the violations were of air quality, usually involving emissions of gases like sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide in excess of the hourly limits on the tar sands facilities.

Of the total number of incidents, about 4,000 were reported as "alleged contraventions" -- a breach in a facility's licence conditions. Since 1996, the Alberta government took action in 37 of those cases for an enforcement rate of 0.9 percent.

The median fine was \$4,500. Call it the *cost of doing this dirty, but highly profitable business*.

--Barry Weisleder

# Salt Spring NDP Club celebrates 45 years with plans for another busy year

By Irene Wright

September is a very busy month for NDP activists on Salt Spring. Here we are in the 45th year since we received our charter with well over 100 members, a busy executive and lots of plans.

On September 3, we passed five resolutions for Convention and elected four members to attend, our share of the constituency entitlement. The resolutions included:

- one on the platform creation process. We want more lead time so that we can engage in meaningful conversation with voters, particularly now that we give strong importance to door-to-door canvassing;
- a request for a resolution book on line so that we are clear on NDP positions between elections;
- our desire to limit the service of Provincial Table Officers to a maximum of 4 years in any one position to ensure renewal and new ideas;
- a demand that the NDP to do everything possible to disallow the building of the Site C dam to protect the Peace River area's present and future agriculture and to conserve fresh water;
- and perhaps our favorite, to eliminate Medical Services Plan (MSP) payments

and cover the costs through progressive income tax payments.

We enjoyed a beautiful Saturday afternoon marching in the Salt Spring Pride Parade on September 7. Our first ever NDP MLA (for Saanich North and the Islands), Gary Holman, was joined by Saanich South MLA Lana Popham and a good number of our members.

At the Fall Fair, many of our friends will get carrot sticks (politically correct vegetable) at our booth. Gary Holman will be in attendance.

The Club executive will meet on September 24 in order to work on plans for Convention, for guest speakers, for our Christmas Bazaar and our AGM.

## Ron reviews:

***WE ARE BORN WITH THE SONGS INSIDE US***, by K. Gordon, HARBOR PUBLISHERS

This is a book setting out the hopes and aspirations of our Native young people, and is an inspiring chronicle of the often overlooked portion of our national youth.

It is well illustrated with plentiful photographs. A must have.

--Ron MacIsaac

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The VLC, representing affiliated unions in the Greater Victoria area, holds its regular monthly meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, at the BCGEU Auditorium, 2994 Douglas Street.  
  
All delegates are invited to come out and meet the Executive:  
Mike Eso, President; Stan Dzbik, Treasurer; Susanne Francoeur, Secretary



# Disarm the Cops! Abolish the SIU! Fire Blair!

By Barry Weisleder

Bowing to enormous public pressure, the Special Investigations Unit of the Toronto Police Service on August 20 charged Constable James Forcillo with second degree murder in the death of 18-year old Sammy Yatim, *three weeks after the shooting on an empty streetcar*.

While the charge is a nod to the power of street protest, including a July 29 march of nearly 1,500, it falls far short of justice for Yatim, a young Syrian immigrant to Canada, or for the many victims of violent Toronto cops.

Outrageously, Forcillo got bail in record time (less than 10 hours). He remains suspended with pay (\$106,800 in 2012) while the case slowly makes its way through the court system. It will undoubtedly take years. None of the 22 “witness officers”, so designated by the SIU, are charged.

So, is the indictment of Forcillo merely a pressure release valve? Is it an exercise in distraction? Would there even be an arrest if not for the video-gone-viral showing nine shots fired by one cop at Yatim, followed by another’s use of a taser gun on Sammy’s motionless, prone body?

The SIU is itself a distorted product of mass protest. Created in 1990 with the *Police Services Act* in Ontario, the SIU was a response to widespread social discontent arising from a series of police killings of civilians, predominantly in Toronto’s Black community. Black Action Defence Committee leader Dudley Laws (deceased, March 2011) gave voice to the movement for accountability and for an end to racist policing practices.

In its 23 years, the SIU has conducted 3,400 investigations into police actions causing serious harm or death. Only 95 led to criminal charges, only 16 to convictions, and only three to jail time.

Const. Forcillo is just the second cop in over two decades to be charged with causing a death while on duty. Since 2011 alone, Toronto police have shot at least 15 people, seven of them fatally. No Toronto cop has ever been convicted of murder in an on-duty killing.

Lawyer Peter Rosenthal, who is representing the family of slain Toronto man Michael Eligon at an upcoming coroner’s inquest, said the video in Yatim’s case could make a difference.

Rosenthal goes a step further. He says

it’s time to consider disarming front-line police officers. With “lesser weapons”, Rosenthal argues, street patrol police might be more inclined to talk to potential arrestees, especially people exhibiting mental issues, with the option of calling in the armed emergency task force should that appear to be necessary. He notes that regular police in Britain do not carry guns.

Without any illusions that such a step would fundamentally change the nature of the police force, socialists support the call to disarm the cops.

Why? Because it would save civilian lives, it would boost grassroots movements that demand an end to racist policing, and it would marginally weaken the repressive capacity of the state.

Recent events dramatize the urgency of building social protest movements – organizing that could lead to self-policing by poor and working class communities, in alliance with labour unions.

During the infamous G20 Summit in Toronto in June 2010, authorities spent nearly \$1 billion turning the downtown core into a police state. Arbitrary beatings and detention in inhuman, makeshift facilities ensued. “Kettling” entered the lexicon. Despite 1,118 arrests, only 308 were charged, and 6 convicted of any offence – and no police have been punished for their transgressions.

In the Fall of 2011 police harassed protesters and forcefully uprooted the Occupy Toronto site at St. James Park.

Also in 2011 a Toronto police spokesperson told a York University audience that “women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized”. That cop’s brazen sexist declaration sparked the defiant, international “slut walk” movement.

Such misogynist musings give rise to the question: What do police have to say about the hundreds of missing and murdered aboriginal women?

Quebec provincial and Montreal city police savagely attacked students and their supporters at marches and picket lines during the mass movement against university fee hikes in spring/summer 2012. They arrested thousands, enforcing a law that made it illegal for more than three people to gather in one place.

Add to this the police practice known as “carding”. It involves detaining and prying personal information from people, stopped on the street because they *appear suspi-*

*cious*. Police admit this *investigative procedure* disproportionately targets black and brown racial minorities, as well as youths and the poor. It is estimated that Toronto cops are “carding” 400,000 annually; some young people report being carded up to 20 times in the past two years.

So why is all this happening, and what’s the solution?

Liberals and social democrats tend to argue that the main problem is a lack of training; that police lack sensitivity, and are not provided the necessary social work tools.

Certainly social expenditure cutbacks, and chronic lack of attention to the needs of mentally and emotionally challenged people, aggravate the situation. But let’s not miss the forest for the trees. Dealing with human needs has never been a priority for the police or the establishment – nor can it be in a world increasingly characterized by gross inequality and deteriorating living conditions for the vast majority. The Great Recession only aggravates these failings. The system has less room for manoeuvre, while it drives more people to desperation.

The Toronto police motto “To serve and protect”, really means *to serve the bosses and protect the rich*. Notwithstanding other duties, like traffic control, search and rescue, dealing with illegal drugs, minor thefts and assaults, etc., the primary police function is the protection of major private property, and the repression of political challenges to the profit system. Police attacking workers’ picket lines, indigenous peoples’ blockades, anti-capitalist marches and racialized youths is commonplace. Their role flows from the class nature of the state in capitalist society.

The state is never neutral. It serves the interests of the class that owns and controls the major means of production, distribution and exchange. Today that’s the 0.1 percent. At its core, as Frederick Engels explained over a century and a half ago, the state consists of “special bodies of armed men”. The police, the courts, the state bureaucracy and the military are guardians of

the social status quo.

Some well-meaning people enter those occupations hoping to make “improvements”. But soon they are overwhelmed by the major material determinants: the controlling force of wealth and power in class-divided society.

Sexism, racism, homophobia, and police brutality are inherent features of capitalism, crucial to its rulers’ divide and conquer strategy. Austerity measures, including the current round of attacks on public services and union liberties, foment wider social discontent -- which the state confronts with mounting surveillance, its propaganda for more ‘security’ spending, and blatant repression.

While the bosses claim there is no money to fund social services and youth employment, on August 27 Madelaine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, announced that the Ontario Liberal government approved the wider use of Tasers. Her aim is to provide all 26,000 police in Ontario with the lethal devices, at a cost of \$1,500 apiece. It is fatuous to claim that this is a “safer” alternative to guns and bullets given how frequent and widespread the use of Tasers will be.

The response of socialists is to reject more weapons for the cops, and to pose the need for workers and oppressed communities to take control of policing. We say refrain from reliance on the bosses and their state. Promote mass mobilization of the ranks of labour, the labour-based NDP, and progressive social movements. Fight for a Workers’ Government and a Workers’ Agenda.

Socialists demand: Reverse the social cuts. Money for decent jobs, for quality health care, child care, education and environmental protection, not for war.

We say: Disarm the police. Jail killer cops. Abolish the SIU. Fire Toronto Police Chief Blair. Free political prisoners and unjustly detained immigrants and refugees. Stop the harassment of Arabs, Muslims and people of colour. Justice for Sammy Yakim and for all victims of state violence.

## Clayoquot Sound gold mine proposal moving forward without First Nations’ approval

Consultation on Fandora Mine inadequate, says Tla-o-qui-aht First Naton.

**TOFINO, BC** - The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation is angered to learn that plans to begin gold mining work in the Tranquil Valley in Clayoquot Sound took a significant step forward in mid August. A letter was sent to the BC Minister of Energy and Mines from a Senior Mines Inspector recommending approval for a permit to conduct exploratory mining at the long-abandoned Fandora mine site.

The Tla-o-qui-aht oppose mining in their territory and are not satisfied with the level of consultation by the company, Vancouver-based Selkirk Metals (owned by Imperial Metals Corporation) and the BC government. The Nation was awaiting word on a meeting with the minister, which they expected to happen in September.

The Tla-o-qui-aht have declared Tranquil Valley a Tribal Park, have been working to attract investors in a conservation model, and aspire to build a salmon hatchery and other sustainable projects. The mine does not fit the Tla-o-qui-aht vision of ecosystem management and resource stewardship.

“We’re not anti-development; we’re pro-sustainable development,” said Saya Masso, Tla-o-qui-aht Natural Resource Manager and councillor. “As a First Nation working hard for a resilient homeland and sustainable economies, it’s upsetting to be disregarded by the consultation process that the government is using to approve

projects like this.”

Mining is controversial in Clayoquot Sound, a region designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and world-renowned for wildlife and pristine ecosystems. Tla-o-qui-aht opposition to mining is strongly supported by the Wilderness Committee, Greenpeace, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Clayoquot Action, and Sierra Club BC.

“A gold mine would jeopardize watershed and salmon recovery, and risk all the progress that has been made in Clayoquot,” said Torrance Coste, Vancouver Island Campaigner with the Wilderness Committee. “This is a region that could be an example of how to look after the environment, but a mine here would shatter that potential.”

The District of Tofino has called for the modernization of mineral tenure laws in BC to give First Nations and municipalities a larger say in the process.

“Local governments and First Nations deserve greater latitude to shape their economic development paths and protect the full range of their residents’ interests,” said Tofino District Mayor Josie Osborne.

The Tla-o-qui-aht are demanding that their original request for a meeting with the Minister finally be honoured.

“We hope that a meeting with the Minister will put this back on track for th

## Ron reviews:

**WHELKS TO WHALES...Coastal Marine Life of the Pacific Northwest**, by R. Harbo, HARBOUR PUBLISHERS

This nature-guidebook thoroughly covers all of the creatures of the sea. The highlight is the 500 photos of marine life which go a long way re identifying same.

The author does not go into what is safe or unsafe to eat leaving that topic for his next book?

A great book, a chance to see what is under the water without wearing a mask.

--Ron MacIsaac

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# Living Forest Communities commences green construction at Elkington Forest

## Not “business as usual” for first of its kind eco-conservation community

**VICTORIA, BC** – Living Forest Communities has commenced construction in residential hamlets at Elkington Forest, an eco-conservation community that is the first of its kind on Vancouver Island.

“We are excited to be moving forward with a more sensitive set of construction practices that are foundational to our larger commitment to eco-system based forest management,” said Doug Makaroff, principal of Living Forest Communities, a Victoria-based social enterprise that has created a unique community development model ensuring forest conservation.

Located 12 km south of Shawnigan Lake and a 30-minute drive from downtown Victoria, Elkington Forest is an intact mature Douglas Fir forest that will be protected for all time through legal mechanisms, including covenants and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. In all, 850 acres of Elkington Forest will be conserved, and development of 77 residential homes and 15 to 20 eco-businesses will occur on the

remaining 150 acres of the land.

“This is not development for development sake, but instead, a sustainable community created in harmony with the ‘living forest’ surrounding them. The construction process is not business as usual. As we proceed with the building of roads and an advanced macro-biological sewage system, all contractors are held to the highest standards for the prevention of impacts on the forest’s streams and wetlands, particularly erosion and siltation.” says Makaroff.

Usually, the main hindrance to ecological construction is the cost and delays involved with establishing a consistent and professional monitoring program, explains Makaroff, an urban planner with 20 years experience in sustainable development. To overcome these obstacles, Elkington Forest is one of two projects in the world, Beta testing the new iPhone app Enviro-Check, which daily monitors onsite conditions by instantly uploading data, photos and crucial stream measurements to the team’s pro-

fessional biologists.

Makaroff is confident that by utilizing this leading-edge technology, the project will meet or exceed all provincial and federal environmental regulatory standards. Created by Victoria-based Aqua-tex Scientific Consulting and MC Wright, the app includes a photo-point monitoring library to track the health characteristics of the forest, stream and surrounding ecosystem.

**About Living Forest Communities**

Living Forest Communities is a for-profit company in a social enterprise partnership with the Canadian registered charity, The Trust for Sustainable Forestry. Both entities have as their mandate the advancement of eco-system based forest management, and are linked at every stage of the project, from initial planning principles to the use of the last dollar earned.

**About Elkington Forest**

ElkingtonForest, a LivingForest conser-

vation community, is a beautiful 1,000 acre privately managed, Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forest, located at the southern boundary of the Cowichan Valley Regional District on southern Vancouver Island. Elkington Forest’s unprecedented vision for this community protects the forest, its ecosystems and regional watershed through a balance of land conservation and light-on-the-land clustered residential hamlets.

Starting at \$429,000 homebuyers can choose from seven unique floor plans that range from 1,150 to 2,900 square feet. All homes will be built to Enviroguide 82, and BuiltGreen Gold standards. Typical of European villages, these homes will front onto a common green space with a community centre and gathering area, and back onto the mature forest.

For news and site visit information on the Elkington Forest project, please call 250-386-6600 or visit [www.elkingtonforest.com](http://www.elkingtonforest.com)

**ForestEthics Advocacy is standing up to the Harper government’s bullying and silencing of opponents of tar sands expansion and pipelines. August 13 they announced they’re suing the federal government of Canada over changes made by the Harper government that violate Canadians’ right to free speech and put our natural environment at risk. A democracy should encourage public participation, not curtail it**

## ForestEthics Advocacy challenges Harper government energy rules in Court

By Ben West

Last spring, the federal government of Canada, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, labelled ForestEthics an enemy of the state and tried to shut us down. While they continue to push their toxic tar sands agenda and do their best to bully and intimidate scientists, environmental organizations and citizens into silence, our message is this: We Won’t Be Silenced.

August 13, ForestEthics Advocacy was doing what we do best – standing up to Canada’s government with a lawsuit challenging laws passed last year that unreasonably restrict the rights of everyday Canadians to have their say on proposed oil projects. This violates citizens’ rights to free speech and puts our natural environment at risk.

ForestEthics Advocacy and Donna Sinclair, represented by renowned civil rights and constitutional lawyer Clayton Ruby, are suing the federal government over new rules that restrict citizen participation in public decisions about the energy industry.

The application, filed in Toronto August 13, calls for the Federal Court of Canada to strike down provisions of the *National En-*

*ergy Board Act* that unreasonably restrict public comment on project proposals. ForestEthics Advocacy and Sinclair are also challenging new rules created by the National Energy Board (NEB), which prevent any discussion of the wisdom of tar sands development at the upcoming Enbridge Line 9B hearings.

The NEB regulates the oil, gas, and electricity industries and approves pipeline construction, coal and uranium mining, liquefied natural gas projects, and tar sands development in Canada. Its decisions have massive environmental and health implications. Under the new rules, many Canadians are blocked from participation.

“Through legislative changes snuck into last year’s *Omnibus Budget Bill C-38*, the Conservative government has undermined the democratic rights of all Canadians to speak to the issues that impact them,” explained Ruby. “Right now, they cannot question the development of the tar sands itself! We’re challenging the legislation and the NEB’s new rules because they violate fundamental free speech guarantees enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.”

Recent legislative changes mean that

many Canadians with something to say about these projects will not have their chance to be heard. The NEB now requires that anyone wanting to submit a letter of comment to the NEB must complete a nine-page application for a chance to speak at NEB hearings. The NEB then decides who can and cannot provide testimony. The NEB reserves for itself the right to exclude anyone except for those that it considers to be “directly affected” by the proposed project.

“The amendments not only restrict who can speak to issues before the National Energy Board, but they also limit what those individuals are allowed to say,” said ForestEthics Advocacy board member Tziporah Berman. “Canadians deserve a fair public debate about the future of our economy and energy systems. Right now, they aren’t getting it.”

Under the new rules enacted by the Harper government, Donna Sinclair’s request to submit a letter of comment at upcoming hearings for the Enbridge Line 9b hearings in Toronto was denied. Sinclair is an author, long-time member of the United Church of Canada and a feature writer for the *United Church Observer*.

“Tightening the rules around public participation to the extent that any citizen of this country—regardless of expertise or geographical location—cannot express their concerns is an extraordinary and profoundly dangerous affront to our democracy. I love my country and my beliefs call on me to respect our environment. That is why I chose to join this lawsuit,” says Sinclair.

**Quick Facts**

This is the first time the amendments will be challenged in court.

This suspension of citizen speech is effective: In 2012, 1544 people spoke at NEB hearings for the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project. Only 175 are permitted to speak at hearings this year for the Enbridge Line 9B reversal project.

ForestEthics Advocacy was founded in 2012 to stand up for the rights and health of Canadians and the country’s natural environment.

For more information, please see [www.forestethics.org/lawsuit-backgro](http://www.forestethics.org/lawsuit-backgro) or <http://forestethics.org/blog/press-release-forestethics-advocacy-challenges-harper-government-energy-rules-court> under

Ben West is a Tar Sands campaign director, ForestEthics Advocacy.

## Climate impacts must be addressed in proposed coal facility’s assessment, says Wilderness Committee

**VANCOUVER** – The Wilderness Committee is cautiously optimistic after receiving the news September 12 that Port Metro Vancouver is requiring Fraser Surrey Docks to prepare a revised project scope and Environmental Impact Assessment for its proposed Coal Transfer Facility.

“The announcement by the Port acknowledges the very real and pressing environmental and health concerns expressed by local residents who don’t want to see this region become the largest exporter of coal in North America,” said Eoin Madden, the Wilderness Committee’s Climate Campaigner.

Fraser Surrey Docks had previously submitted environmental management plans to Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) regarding their proposal to ship US thermal coal to Asia through a new facility in Surrey. PMV is now asking the proponent to resubmit an environmental study, and to respond within the next few weeks with an extended document that includes an analysis of human health and ecological impacts.

In Washington State, the issues to be covered (or “scoped”) by an environmental assessment for a large coal terminal were opened up to the public over a 121-day period. 124,000 public comments were received, asking that issues such as climate

change and the health impacts of burning coal in China be examined. As a result, the climate impact of the project will now be assessed.

In the case of Fraser Surrey Docks, the environmental impact assessment will not be organized by PMV, but by the proponent itself. Public hearings will not be required as part of the process.

“This is a baby step in the right direction, but we’re still left with the fox in charge of the henhouse. Fraser Surrey Docks should not be calling the shots on this assessment. We say there needs to be public input on the scope of the process, so we can ensure that important concerns around issues like climate change will be addressed,” said Madden.

“We are now asking the Port to provide the same democratic process provided to our southern neighbours, and to ask the general public whether the impact of all that coal on our climate should be part of this decision,” he said.

“At the end of the day, the environmental, health and climate impacts of this project are not worth the risk.”

For further information, contact Madden at 604-353-9603 or email him at [eoin@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:eoin@wildernesscommittee.org)

## News of four cancelled private power contracts a small step forward

**VANCOUVER** – The Wilderness Committee has applauded the news August 29 that BC Hydro has cancelled four electricity purchase contracts with independent power producers as part of an attempt to reduce costs.

The Wilderness Committee’s National Campaign Director Joe Foy called on BC Energy Minister Bill Bennett to name the projects with cancelled or deferred contracts, and to continue this cost-saving effort by cancelling many more unneeded contracts with private hydro-power producers.

“We and many other groups and individuals have been saying for quite some time now that BC Hydro is being bled to death by being forced into long-term contracts with private hydro-power producers at rates far above market value – for electrical energy BC does not need and can only sell at a loss,” said Foy.

BC Hydro has currently signed more than \$50 billion worth of contracts with private hydro-power producers. Critics, including the Wilderness Committee, have said that these contracts risk bankrupting the public utility and that private power projects can cause unacceptable damage to BC’s creeks, rivers and lakes.

Reports on August 29 stated that the projects identified for cancellation were

not meeting contractual obligations, due to financial or regulatory problems. Government documents uncovered by the Wilderness Committee through Freedom of Information requests have revealed rampant non-compliance at operating private hydro-power projects in the province – including fluctuating water levels that can strand and kill fish.

“Mr. Bennett should be doing everything he possibly can to wriggle out of all of these terrible contracts,” said Foy. “For every billion dollars he claws back by cancelling a contract, BC won’t miss the excess electricity one bit – but the province will save more funding for hospitals or schools and help pull BC Hydro back from financial ruin. And we’ll be saving BC’s beautiful wild waterways from being dammed and diverted into pipes for no useful reason,” he added.

The Wilderness Committee is especially concerned about a number of large private hydro-power projects currently being built or in the planning stage.

“The Kokish River on Vancouver Island, the Upper Lillooet north of Pemberton and Kwoiek Creek in the Fraser Canyon are three examples of major private power projects in the works that risk great environmental and financial damage to our province,” said Foy. “These contracts need to be rejected and the projects stopped dead”.



## Victoria Council expresses alarm at new Russian oppression of LGBTQ people, asks mayor to write to President Putin

Over the last few months some elected leaders in Russia have initiated a campaign to oppress their gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) citizens. Russian President Vladimir Putin has taken the lead on this effort, introducing policies that set out stiff penalties for individuals who exhibit homosexual behaviour in public (e.g. kissing someone of the same gender, displaying rainbow flags, reading obviously LGBTQ books etc.). Penalties include imprisonment for up to 14 days plus monetary fines and a criminal record. These penalties have been extended to visitors to Russia who demonstrate similar behaviours, or who, in the eyes of authorities, are “pro-gay”. Recent reports say that Russian security forces are now entering “suspected” homosexuals’ homes looking for evidence on which to base prosecution. St. Petersburg lawmaker Vitaly Milonov, a driving force behind the laws, has called for homosexuals to be “isolated from society”.

With Russia hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, questions are arising as to whether these actions will discourage LGBTQ athletes from attending, and what will happen to them if they do. Some organizations have called for a boycott of the Sochi Olympics. Recently, Russian Olympic officials have said they will not discriminate against LGBTQ athletes in Sochi, or act against displays of LGBTQ support.

“Sister city” relationships are being suspended in opposition to Russia’s new anti-LGBTQ policies. The Mayor of Reykjavik, Iceland, has begun the process to cancel his city’s “twin city” agreement with Moscow, with his city council drafting a resolution to make it official. Three Italian cities -- Venice, Milan, and Turin -- have already cancelled their sister city programs with St. Petersburg after that city adopted an earlier citywide ban on “homosexual propaganda”. Berlin’s Lichtenberg district, which has been twinned with Kaliningrad since 2001, sent a letter to Kaliningrad’s mayor voicing alarm about mounting homophobia in Russia.

In light of Victoria’s twin city agreement with the city of Khabarovsk, in the Russian Far East, City Councillor Marianne Alto drafted a resolution, seconded by Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe, asking Mayor Dean Fortin to write to President Putin, expressing Victoria’s alarm, thus adding Victoria to a growing list of cities expressing concern about Russian politicians’ effort to oppress LGBTQ people. Victoria city council approved the resolution, and the text of a letter from the Mayor. Both are set out, below.

### Oppression of LGBTQ Russians

WHEREAS the City of Victoria enjoys a historical, congenial, collaborative sister city relationship with Khabarovsk in the Russian Far East,

WHEREAS the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, has recently introduced oppressive public policies penalizing any public displays of homosexual activity or suggestions thereof,

WHEREAS such oppressive policies are not acceptable in modern nations who support freedom of expression and individual rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the mayor of Victoria write the following letter to the President of Russia, with a copy to be sent to the Mayor of our sister city, Khabarovsk,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the letter be sent to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, with a request for their support.

Sponsored by  
Councillor Marianne Alto

Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

### Text of Letter to be Sent:

*Dear President Putin,*

*Residents of our city have observed the increasingly intolerant stance your government has recently taken against homosexuals, their families and allies.*

*As Mayor of Victoria, let me state that I decry the state-initiated discrimination your government is establishing against LGBTQ citizens within Russia.*

*Victorians, whom I believe to be among Canada’s most tolerant, inclusive people, have expressed to me their alarm at the introduction of discriminatory legislation and policies targeting Russian LGBTQ citizens.*

*I believe the Russian parliament’s homophobic assault on the fundamental human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer Russians has shocked people from diverse communities around the world, including here in Victoria.*

*Our own recent Pride festival and parade demonstrated how Victoria celebrates its own diversity, in stark contrast to what Russia’s political leaders are demonstrating with these regressive actions.*

*I ask you, on behalf of all the Russian people, to reverse your government’s homophobic policies and demand that human rights and free expression of the LGBTQ community are restored.*

*We in Victoria are proud that one of our sister cities is Khabarovsk. We have developed important individual, cultural, economic and governmental relationships, which bring to us a personal local perspective to your government’s efforts to oppress the LGBTQ community and individuals. We believe that our friends and colleagues in Khabarovsk share our disappointment and discomfort with the regressive anti-LGBTQ policies your government has introduced.*

*President Putin, I ask you again, vacate your anti-gay policies, and defend and support your own Russian LGBTQ citizens.*

*Yours truly,*  
*Mayor Dean Fortin*  
*City of Victoria*

## Victoria City Council designates December 21 as National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day

The US National Coalition for the Homeless has for some years now designated December 21 as National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day. A resolution brought forward by Victoria Councillor Marianne Alto asked the City of Victoria to join communities around the world in making a local proclamation recognizing this important ‘remembrance day’ for local homeless citizens who have lost their lives on the street.

December 21st has significance in a number of ways. As the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, it starts a time of severe hardship for homeless, unsheltered and inadequately housed low-income women, men and children in Victoria.

Marking a memorial day helps remind everyone that stigma towards people who are homeless in our community continues to undermine homeless persons’ efforts to fully participate in our community, and that reducing homelessness contributes to a better quality of life and a safer community for everyone.

Local, regional and national research has shown that adequate housing and a variety of support services are integral to successful health promotion, and the well-being of individuals, families and the community, and that people who experience homelessness have poorer health and often lack access to health service.

The City of Victoria’s proclamation states that in Article 25(1) of its Universal Declaration of Human Rights the United Nations has affirmed that housing is a human right. It also notes that December 21 falls within seasons where generosity and sharing are more “top of mind” than usual, when Victoria residents are more likely to commit themselves to acting with compassion and concern for all our residents, especially those who are homeless. It remarks with hope that the spirit of these traditional holiday seasons will encourage extraordinary charitable giving and urge everyone to renew their commitment to end homelessness.

By remembering those who have died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent, as is Victoria’s collective pledge to prevent any such deaths in the future. By formally remembering our friends and neighbours who have died homeless in and around Victoria, Victoria City Council became one of just a handful of Canadian cities to proclaim December 21 National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day. In so doing it challenged all residents to first pause and take a moment of silence in remembrance on December 21, and then to act! And do all they can to eliminate homelessness in our community, to save lives and make this a memorial that never need happen again.

--Marianne Alto

The full text of the proclamation can be found at [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca), under City Council Minutes for December 13, 2012, or at [www.facebook.com/Marianne.Alto](https://www.facebook.com/Marianne.Alto).

## Union of BC Municipalities asks province to ban GE crops and animals

**VANCOUVER** - in an unprecedented step, September 19, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), at their Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, passed a resolution requesting “that UBCM ask the British Columbia government to legislate the prohibition of importing, exporting and growing plants and seeds containing genetically engineered DNA, and raising GE animals within BC, and to declare, through legislation, that BC is a GE Free area in respect to all plant and animal species.”

Already 14 municipalities in BC have declared themselves GE Free Zones, and 10 Official Community Plans of Regional Districts have come out against GE crops, as communities across the province mobilized for a ban on GE crops.

“We’re overjoyed with our success,” said Teresa Lynne of the Society for a GE Free BC, a volunteer non-profit group,

“We’re so grateful to all the councillors who heard our concerns and took this amazing step on our behalf. The provincial government needs to legislate this ban and then ask the federal government to do the same.”

“This was possible thanks to the actions of so many passionate and committed people. Every action made a difference,” said Lynne, “We all want to protect our families, environment and food system from the risks of genetically engineered crops and foods.”

“This is an unprecedented victory for grassroots communities,” said Lucy Sharratt of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, “Finally we see a level of government in Canada debate this issue and respond to peoples’ concerns.”

Supporters of the UBCM motion gathered almost 7,000 signatures on online and hardcopy petitions, and protested yesterday morning outside the UBCM meeting location.

### Ron reviews:

***RIDING IN A MATATU, the Perils of Living in Kenya and working for the UN***, by Steve Lonergan, TINYTEMBO PUBLISHING

Professor Lonergan writes well of his entertaining time in Kenya. It was of particular interest to me as I spent time there 50 years ago. It is much changed ... a huge population increase and extensive shanty suburbs. The topless beauties are no longer on display and the elephants and lions no longer drop into the town centre.

The old Hemingway White Hunter days are long gone. Prince Phillip turned the tourists on to photography.

I found it interesting to read that the vehicles on radio calls have dozens of tourists at each lion sighting site.

--Ron MacIsaac

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VICTORIA-SWAN LAKE



# \$100,000 tour celebrates Rotary’s 100 years of service

Members of the Rotary Club of Victoria enjoyed a post-renovation tour of the Downtown Community Centre, at 755 Pandora, September 13.

After the tour, Cool Aid hosted a baarbecue for clients, Rotarians and other supporters in the Community Centre’s courtyard, to celebrate the transformation and rejuvenation made possible this summer by a \$100,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Victoria in celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

A bronze plaque commemorating 100 years of Rotarian service and their gift was also unveiled.

“The very generous support of the Rotary Club of Victoria has made it possible to make upgrades to the Downtown Community Centre that we have needed for many years,” said Kathy Stinson, Cool Aid’s executive director. “We had been seeking funds for these capital improvements for several years but it was only when Rotarians generously stepped up that we were able to proceed. I cannot thank them enough.”

The provincial government also provided a contribution of \$34,600 for the improvements, which included:

- \* Dramatically increased size and functionality of the foyer
- \* Replaced noisy and energy-inefficient gymnasium lighting to improve venue for rentals
- \* Converted unused mini-stage to storage for sports and event equipment to support popular programs like Every Step Counts (running and walking)
- \* Repair to gym walls and additional sound proofing
- \* Complete reworking of men and women’s washroom areas including low-flush appliances, new shower facilities, baby change station, better lighting, flooring, sinks, tiling
- \* Expansion of computer room and replacement of aged counters/desk structure

“To honour 100 years of service in Victoria, local Rotarians wanted to make a significant contribution that would help others for many years to come,” said Rotary Club of Victoria President Murray Ramsbottom. “We chose the Downtown Community Centre because of its dedication to youth and adults who need help and are taking steps to improve their own health and situation.”

In the past decade alone, the Club has

provided over a million dollars to a wide range of community groups and organizations touching every age group and social status. Whether it is a child requiring special medical care or equipment not provided for by health services or an organization looking for seed money to get established, the Victoria Rotary Club has been there to lend a hand. A partial list of recipients of Victoria Rotary Club assistance includes: Read Victoria, Mustard Seed Food Bank, Rainbow Kitchen, the CNIB, Victoria Riding for the disabled, Victoria Police Victim’s Services, Esquimalt Neighbourhood House Assoc., Our Place Street Ministry, Victoria AIDS resource centre, Sooke Family Resource Centre, Fairfield Community Association, Vancouver Island Science Fair, Victoria Cool Aid Society, Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society, The Prostate Centre and the Mount St. Mary Foundation.

The Victoria Cool Aid Society builds homes, lives and community. They create opportunities for people who are homeless or living in poverty. They make a difference through housing, health care, support and emergency shelters. Founded in 1968, Cool Aid helps over 10,000 people in the Capital Region every year.

The Downtown Community Centre offers free and low-cost community activities and facility rentals that focus on healthy living, health promotion and social diversity. Cool Aid staff and volunteers organize special events and free drop-in recreation programs for youth and adults. Facilities include a mid-sized gymnasium, a non-commercial kitchen, a courtyard and computer access.

Members of Rotary in Victoria are celebrating a century of “Service above Self” during 2013. The Rotary Club of Victoria was established on November 15, 1913 as the 90th club in the world. Forty-one charter members joined Frank Higgins as the first president for the inaugural banquet at the Empress hotel. The first secretary was Boer War veteran Capt. Tom Goodlake who held the post for 20 years before serving a term as president.

Over the years, club presidents included Victoria area mayors and several provincial members of the legislative assembly, some that were cabinet ministers. Hockey legend Lester Patrick was president in 1921-22.

# Coastal Guardian Watchmen uphold ban on trophy hunting

**Vancouver** -- With trophy hunters descending on BC’s Central Coast for the opening of grizzly season, Guardian Watchmen patrol vessels from First Nations communities are once again heading out to monitor compliance with tribal law.

One year ago, the Coastal First Nations alliance announced a ban on killing bears for sport in the unceded territories of nine signatory nations. That ban remains in effect and extends protection to grizzlies, black bears, Kermode bears, and the genetically unique Haida black bear.

The Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network, a project of the Coastal First Nations, provides support to community Resource Stewardship Offices to monitor and protect their lands and waters. The stewardship offices are responsible for managing fisheries, marine use and land use planning, tracking referrals and other resource stewardship activities.

Responsibility to uphold the ban on trophy hunting falls in large part to Guardian Watchmen working on behalf of their Nations. Combining the duties of park rangers, search-and-rescue technicians, and field biologists, Guardian Watchmen are dedicated to protecting the health of coastal ecosystems and the communities that

depend on them. With provincial and federal regulatory agencies facing dramatic cut-backs, Coastal Guardian Watchmen help fill the vacuum in monitoring for compliance on the coast.

This fall uniformed Guardian Watchmen will patrol known hotspots and document suspected trophy hunting activities. CGW personnel already record descriptions of hunting vessels, guides and hunters — details that can be tracked across the coast in real time, through a shared database.

In the course of their duties, Guardian Watchmen may approach suspected hunting vessels to provide education about the ban, and to encourage bear hunters to pursue other activities. If hunters persist, CGW personnel may warn bears out of target estuaries.

Coastal First Nations is an alliance working together to create a sustainable economy on British Columbia’s North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.

For more information about Guardian Watchmen programs and the Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network go to: <http://coastalguardianwatchmen.ca/>

# NDP trade critic calls for more transparency in TPP

**Members of US Congress consulted on mega-trade deal while Canadian MPs are left in the dark.**

**VANCOUVER** – NDP trade critic Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway) is calling on the Harper government to give Canadian MPs the same information that US Members of Congress have about the ongoing Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

The NDP has learned that all members of the US Congress are being given access to the draft text of the TPP.

“The TPP is a sweeping agreement covering issues that affect many areas of Canada’s economy and society – including several areas of policy that have never been subject to trade agreements before,” said Davies. “By keeping Parliament completely in the dark on negotiations the Conservatives also leave Canadians in the dark and, for an agreement of this magnitude that is abnormal and unacceptable.

“If the US can allow its legislators to see the TPP text, there is no reason that Canada can’t,” Davies said.

Davies further expressed concern that American legislators are being given an undue advantage over Canadian MPs, saying “it is both unfair and unwise for Canadian parliamentarians to operate from such an imbalanced knowledge base in discussions with our US colleagues.”

Access to Information Requests have also revealed that there is a small group of insider industry associations that have special access to Canada’s negotiating position, but the Harper Government has prevented others from having access to the text, including Parliamentarians.

“Canadians have a right to know how trade policies are being negotiated, and Parliamentarians have a duty to defend the public’s interests,” said Davies. “Allowing private actors to have information that Parliamentarians don’t have is inappropriate,” said Davies.

Recently, trade experts from across the political spectrum have criticized the Harper Government for being far too secretive in its approach to trade negotiations.

“Canada’s trade performance has suffered badly since the Conservatives took power,” said Davies. “The prosperity of all Canadians depends on healthy, balanced international trade. To get there, we need trade negotiations that are more inclusive and transparent.

“Mr. Harper’s obsession with secrecy is unhelpful, undemocratic and, as the US practice demonstrates, unnecessary.”

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# 9/11 – 12 years after

By Bo Filter

So here we are, a full dozen years since the greatest crime in US history. Still, no forensic criminal investigation with scientific support is allowed to go forward. Of notable contrast, scientists are allowed to study what a dinosaur ate just prior to its death some 60 million years ago, but a scientific study of 9/11 is not permissible. This means the cover-up of what actually happened is still in effect, enforced by the President of the United States.

In any normal criminal proceeding this blockage would be deemed *Obstruction of Justice*, a felony with automatic prison time in a federal penitentiary. Clearly then, the highest levels of government have something dreadful to hide. Let’s review a few highlights of what happened and what is occurring today.

Firstly, 19 hijackers, all with Saudi Arabia names, were said to have carried out the attack. If true, an attack would have been immediately launched on Saudi Arabia. The Saudi ring leader was said to be hiding in Afghanistan, so the entire country was attacked to get him, one Osama bin Laden. First hand reports claim he died in early 2002. About the same time, President Bush nonchalantly announced that he was no longer interested in bin Laden. Was it because bin Laden was dead? If he was dead the motive for staying in Afghanistan was over.

Miraculously, President Obama claims to have killed him, a dead man. I warned at the time that we would never be shown the face of the real bin Laden. We were not shown the body. Bin Laden was allegedly buried at sea. A huge amount of blind faith is required to tail along with this war theatre as a tail to the “official” story of 9/11.

Meanwhile, poor Afghanistan is still being invaded by the US. If the US went there to get bin Laden, then why didn’t they go home after he was reported dead in 2002 or after Obama’s alleged great triumph? Well, the problem is that the US oil corporations still have not been able to secure the oil pipelines they covet to confiscate the Caspian basin oil fields. Conversely, Saudi Arabia was not attacked because its leaders had long before capitulated to western oil baron demands.

Like Afghanistan, US oil corporations were having trouble with Iraq. Saddam Hussein had stopped cooperating at the level desired, so was marked for regime change. Oil man and Vice-President Dick Cheney was suddenly able to imagine a connection between Hussein and 9/11, claiming he was aiding bin Laden and Al Qaeda. Years later, he admitted on the Tony Snow television show that there never had been any real evidence linking Hussein with bin Laden. More troubling to Cheney, on the same show, he also admitted that there had never been any evidence that bin Laden conducted 9/11. Both he and Snow were caught off guard by the admission. They stuttered and stammered for several seconds before Snow changed the subject to a completely different topic, much to the relief of Cheney. Like Afghanistan, US troops and mercenaries are still killing the people of Iraq, over 1.5 million dead -- why? Iraqi resistance. Iraq’s oil still has not been secured by US oil interests.

The militarized corporate media, powered by oil interests, have constantly lambasted any journalist who dares to mention an oil-grab motive. The public is only supposed to believe in fighting terrorists or a humanitarian responsibility to protect. Many have forgotten about the big kaffuffle over Dick Cheney’s secret meetings. When documents were finally acquired about the content of those meetings, nothing concerned any responsibility to protect or war on terror. Instead, maps had been drawn of the Middle East that served to repartition every state in such a way as to take control and export the oil from the entire region. The Bush administration was full of oil men.

Seeking control of the world’s oil supply is so simple and straight forward a concept, why would anyone be surprised, yet anyone who mentions the subject must be warned not to talk about it in the corporate media world. Oil has been almost completely censored in the media. Journalists learn to self-censor if they intend to keep their jobs.

Any suspicion regarding the war on terrorism automatically leads right back to 9/11 and the question of who really sought to benefit from 9/11, certainly not 19 hijackers who were about to die. When it was discovered that seven of them were still alive, that too had to be quickly squelched in the media and remains today a subject of media taboo. Thousands of flaws in the 9/11 cover story have been exposed, some of which I discuss in earlier articles in *Lower Island News*, and new facts keep filling in the gaps of self-inflicted narrative.

Kevin Ryan’s new book, ***Another 19: Investigating Legitimate 9/11 Suspects*** is a good example of exposing the inner workings of 9/11. Ryan found that Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld were best positioned to pull off 9/11. In a recent interview, Cheney admitted that he was in charge during the events of 9/11. Both Cheney and Rumsfeld entered the backroom covert games of power politics some some 30 years earlier in the Nixon administration. Nixon once said of Rumsfeld, “he’s a dirty little bastard.” Ryan reminds readers that both Rumsfeld and Cheney started the lies to attack Iraq in 2003.

Cheney was also behind the lies to start the first attack on Iraq in 1991, for instance, falsely claiming that Iraq had troops on the Saudi Arabia border ready to strike.

Hill & Knowlton was the public relations firm given the contract to sell that war to the US public. Remember the false story and testimony before Congress of little 14-year-old Nayirah, who cried about Iraqi soldiers taking babies out of incubators and letting them die on the cold hospital floor. The story was a complete fabrication. They couldn’t give her identity for security reasons, only that she was a peasant volunteer at the hospital, when in fact she was daughter of the wealthy Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, Saud bin Nasir Al-Sabah, who, it just so happens, was sitting four seats away from her at the Senate hearing.

In their research on how to sell the Gulf war, Hill and Knowlton had electronically wired public volunteers, then, exposed them to various speeches to see what really grabbed public sympathy. “Dying on a cold hospital floor” turned out to be a jack pot. Sentiment to attack Iraq shot up dramatically. Notice that in Obama’s September 10 speech on Syria he refers to nerve gas victims dying on a cold hospital floor. One can easily wonder if Hill & Knowlton is still practicing witchcraft at the White House.

Ryan recently learned that Nayirah is 1<sup>st</sup> cousin to one of the legitimate 19 suspects in 9/11. Ryan found that all 19 suspects have been in and out of government but never out of the inner power ring. This cult of neo-conservatives began to galvanize under Reagan in a top secret group identified as continuity of government (COG). Oliver North spearheaded an operation called REX 84, which stood for Readiness Exercise 1984. The plan was to replace the government with this secret team, declared under a state of emergency. By 1998, the terminology of COG had been changed to include terrorist attacks. Earlier in 1994, David Rockefeller had openly pined for a new world dictatorial order that would need a Pearl Harbor-like event to galvanize public opinion.

Likewise, Bush insider, Phillip Zelikow co-authored a late 1998 article in *Foreign Affairs* magazine, *Catastrophic Terrorism*, speculating on the likely political, social, and psychological consequences of a new Pearl Harbor style terrorist event, such as the destruction of the World Trade Center. Zelikow suggested that the United States might respond with draconian measures scaling back civil liberties, allowing wider surveillance of citizens, detention of suspects and use of deadly force. More violence could follow, either future terrorist attacks or US counterattacks.

In other words, if this were to happen, the United States government could appear to jus

tify a war on terrorism. So, did Zelikow simply predict or coach the government of the benefits of a 9/11 terrorist act, or was he actually writing the script, the blue print for 9/11? Certainly, this is all worth investigating.

Once Afghanistan had been attacked, the Bush administration still needed a document to

justify an open-ended carte blanche to strike anywhere and everywhere in the world, as prescribed by the warmongers’ PNAC September 2000 report, entitled, *Rebuilding America’s Defenses: Strategies, Forces, and Resources For a New Century*. This report is a plan to take over the world. Pulling off 9/11 would serve their goal of a one-world dictatorship, a New World Order, what President George H.W. Bush called for shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union in December of 1991.

Who would the Bush administration call to write such a sweeping policy paper? Condoleezza Rice picked up the phone and called her old friend and ambitious Washington insider Phillip Zelikow. In September of 2002, Zerkow issued *The National Security Strategy of the United States*. Herein was the preemptive war strategy, a quasi-legal document that would be used to justify future wars of aggression, starting with the Iraq invasion in 2003.

Two months later, November 27, 2002, the 9/11 Thomas Kean Commission was established. The Bush administration needed an insider to run the commission that would keep the questioning pointed away from the White House. Zelikow is once again given the call. Appointed as executive director, he was able to misguide and censor legitimate paths of inquiry’. Zelikow was the Bush administration fix man, but this fact needed to be hidden as best as possible.

Ryan says that Zelikow called in his secretary, shut the door, and informed her that she wa

s no longer to keep phone logs of his contacts with the White House. But Zelikow failed to cover his tracks completely, to the chagrin of one commissioner. Former Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey joined the commission in December of 2003. The very first day he began going through the files. Kerrey came across a memo that Zelikow had apparently prepared, listing all of his ties to the Bush administration, his friendship with Condi Rice, and his involvement on the transition team. Kerry immediately confronted Tom Kean, the chairman of the commission: “it’s either him or me. Zelikow goes, or I go. How could you possibly have hired somebody with so many conflicts of interest to run this investigation?”<sup>2</sup>

Zelikow, Cheney, and Rumsfeld are just three of Ryan’s 19 other suspects. All 19 were involved with the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), which was bred from the secretive Office of Policy Coordination (OPC), started by early CIA director Allen Dulles. The JSOC carries out illegal covert operations all over the world, including kidnappings and killings. Operating from a black budget without over-sight makes them above the law. The black budget was discovered by the 1975 Frank Church Senate Committee and estimated to be conservatively \$1 trillion a year. Nothing has been done since then to rein in this rogue agency. All these operatives in the JSOC stood to gain financially from 9/11. Remember that the military budget skyrocketed after 9/11, enough that the United States spends more on the military than all the rest of the countries in the world combined.

Ryan found that another group that stood to profit immensely from 9/11 was the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), which had numerous links to 9/11, with finances closely interwoven with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). The BCCI has been known for decades to be involved with CIA covert funding and money laundering.

The Carlyle Group also stood to gain from 9/11. Frank Carlucci, one of the other 19, was a roommate of Donald Rumsfeld at Princeton in the 1950s. He was also Carlyle’s CEO and served as Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of Defense. Carlyle was funded by the bin Laden family through its close business associations with the Bush family. Carlucci was run out of several countries for trying to topple their governments. He was involved with the Iran/Contra arms sales but was never investigated. More recently, he was found advising Mitt Romney on his presidential bid.

Another suspect is General Michael Canavan, hijack coordinator on 9/11. His job was to handle intercepts, but Canavan was unavailable that morning. Even his backup called in sick. Several other high-ranking officials couldn’t be found when 9/11 was under way.

This all harkens back to the father of the CIA, Allen Dulles, who was a specialist at dirty tricks. As CIA director, Dulles planned the Bay of Pigs invasion for 1962, then, dropped the too-late-to-cancel plan on the desk of President Kennedy, who was enraged that he was not informed earlier, that he would be help responsible for a war he did not approve. Dulles was to direct the invasion but when the day came, Dulles left on vacation and could not be located. Kennedy was blamed for the failed invasion.

The President fired Dulles, realizing that Dulles had set him up to fail. Kennedy then launched an investigation into the CIA. He discovered that the CIA had been turned into a rogue element. Refusing to take orders from Kennedy, the President decided the CIA had to be destroyed. Dulles learned what Kennedy was planning and struck back first, as the volumes of data on the JFK assassination now attest. The upshot here is that disappearing leaders in times of crisis events are a red flag that a covert operation is under way, unbeknownst to the masses, who become audience to the grand over-show that is unfolding.

Ryan reports that one year prior to 9/11 Canavan was given the top job at JSOC. Immediately, he began running mock 9/11 terrorist attacks, continuing throughout the year. One should not be criticized for being skeptical of the fact that a man well-practiced in a 9/11 event would be mysteriously unavailable on the day that such an event actually took place.

General Ralph Eberhart got promoted for failing to do his job. On 9/11 Eberhart was responsible for several simulated terrorist attack training sessions occurring exactly at the same time as the real attack. Just under 12 hours before the attack, Eberhart ordered that Infocon protection be dropped to its lowest level. Infocon is responsible for protecting military computers from cyber-attack. One of the exercises, Vigilant Guardian inserted overlay data on air traffic radar screens, causing great confusion as to whether or not the



# Northbrook Street, Belfast, Ireland, 1968

By Ron Duffy

Below Queen’s University in Belfast were the gasworks, the old Dickensian linen mills and factories, the seamy depression of dockland and the shipyards, the bleak streets of the Markets area and Mountpottinger. These were predominantly Catholic neighbourhoods: poor, slummy crib-lands of contention and of discontent.

In 1968 the students at the university, Protestant as well as Catholic, tended to look down to this part of Belfast rather than upwards to the rich heights of Malone. Sympathy, like water, runs downhill into depressions. In Belfast it flowed like the floods of the Nile into the low-lying Catholic districts. There it encountered the seeds of resentment, the ripe seeds of rebellion. “While we are laughing,” wrote Keats in a letter, “the seed of some trouble is put into the wide arable land of events—while we are laughing it sprouts, it grows and suddenly bears a poison fruit which we must pick.”

No one was laughing in 1968. The fathers had eaten the poison fruit and the children’s teeth were set on edge. The taste was of aloes and gall. And the source of the bitterness did not make sense to many students. The implacable envy of Protestant and Catholic for each other’s Northbrook Street. They were mangy mongrel curs sniffing each other’s asses and snarling. And the pampered, full-bred dogs and bitches of Malone ate steak and won prizes at shows.

No, it did not make sense. The Protestant Northbrook Streets could be found replicated in Catholic Northbrook Streets



across the Bog Meadows in the Falls area. The only difference between the Protestant Shankill and the Catholic Falls was the graffiti on the walls. The people who lived in both areas were all poor, all proletarian, all proud: women in headscarves and drab coats carrying shopping bags; men in dungarees and old jackets with lunch boxes in bags over their shoulders; the same men and women as in any working-class area of the city, whether Protestant or Catholic. They were all unforgiving, all unforgetting. They ignored the social and political grievances they shared and fought on the only difference that divided them: their religion.

Why were they not united in one political party, struggling for a better way of life

for the working man, irrespective of his religion?

What had happened to the lofty ideals of the Protestant Republican and revolutionary, Wolfe Tone, and the eighteenth-century United Irishmen? “To subvert the tyranny of our execrable government,” Tone wrote in 1791, “to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all our political evils, and to assert the independence of my country, these were my objects. To unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of past dis-

sensions, and to substitute the common name of Irishman, in place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter, these were my means.”

Those ideals provided the only existing sensible definition of what a sadly decreasing number of Irishmen meant when they talked of being Republicans. Those ideals and the republican definition they enshrined had vanished in a thickening fog of religious rhetoric and prejudice.

Wolfe Tone was no longer the beau-

ideal of Irish rebels. The Irish rabble army of inhuman fanatics, who were known as the Provisional IRA, were as far removed from Wolfe Tone as a city sewer from a mountain stream. The unspeakable Russian Nechayev was more their beau-ideal. Their black, satanic ranks had no place for a Wolfe Tone.

Ron Duffy is a retired georgraphy professor and published author. To learn more about Ron Duffy, go to his website: [www.ronduffywriting.com](http://www.ronduffywriting.com)

## 9/11 -- 12 years after, from page 20

attack was an exercise or real. Curiously, Eberhart could not be reached. According to Ryan, Eberhart had taken a lingering one hour drive to a location that normally takes 12 minutes.

The question of simulated verses a live terrorist attack is best put to Webster Griffin Tarpley, author of *9/11: Synthetic Terror*. Tarpley explains in detail how to conduct a self-inflicted terrorist attack as was 9/11. In short, computer operators at the command centers running exercises concurrent with the actual 9/11 attack are unaware that amongst them are a couple of operators who work for the perpetrators. These *mole*’s as Tarpley describes them, are able to punch in key signals to make the exercise go live without the other operators knowing what is happening. Perhaps this computer hacking was only possible under a low Infocon alert. You can imagine why investigators would like to question General Eberhart. Critical to understanding how 9/11 was pulled off, simulated exercises were necessary to hide the actual attack.

The goal of the self-inflicted 9/11 attack was served, to unleash an unending string of wars. The latest US invasions are part of the renegade government’s “full spectrum dominance,” their new world dictatorial order. Their quest requires a permanent military state with a permanent standing army.

The tragedy for the people of the United States is the fact that there Constitution forbids the creation of a standing army, which the founders understood, would lead to a military state. They can have a temporary army with the idea of defending America from a land invasion, but not one that gets grounded in the political matrix and then grows into a monster like the Military Industrial Complex, which in its entirety, gulps down \$2 trillion annually. Article 1: Section 8 of the US Constitution includes: “To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years.”

US wars have never stopped since World War II. I have not found anyone from the public or the government who is aware of this two year limitation of funding. Curiously, politicians don’t seem to be elected on their ability to read and understand the Constitution, let alone carry out its mandate. The Bush administration made clear that the so-called war on terrorism will not end in our life time. Permanent war spells permanent profits for the war industry. The Pentagon’s destabilization program is really a marketing tool. The more chaos in the world they can produce, the greater the supposed need for military security, and the greater the need for military defense, the greater the profit for warmongers, antisocial persons who suffer from a Criminal Aggressor Personality Disorder. <sup>3</sup>

There is a way to turn this madness around. Public domain tribunals on 9/11 have been conducted. Forensic evidence has been presented. Since the crimes of government inherently lead to blocking self-incriminating investigations, the public must resolve itself to establishing a parallel legal system with subpoena power to question all suspects and witnesses involved. These tribunals have revealed that the sophistication and talent is already in place. People must gather and start to press for recognition of the work of these tribunals. Don’t count on law enforcement agencies to help. They fear for their careers and won’t rock the boat. The general public must stand up to hegemony and the abuse of power. The hierarchical power structure is under review. Masses of people are connecting through the internet. Flash parties may lead to flash protests. A million people bearing down on the Pentagon just might be the trip-wire for its disintegration.

Bo Filter is is a social scientist and author of *The Cause of Wars and Aggression*, available at Global Justice Publishing

(Endnotes)

1 See my earlier articles that give greater detail, including Zelikow’s writing of the final commission report before the proceedings really got started.

2 Philip Shenon, investigative reporter with the *New York Times*. He was the paper’s lead reporter on the 9/11 Commission. He is author of *The Commission: The Uncensored History of the 9/11 Investigation*. This citing gleaned from February 05, 2008 interviewed on Democracy Now with Amy Goodman.

3 See my book for a full explanation.

## Noli timere

By Ron Duffy

“How can you live without God.?”

Paul Kirkpatrick, the main character in my novel *Crossed Lives*, asks his friend Roger Foxe that self-torturing question. Roger replies, “If there is no God and no heaven, well, you’ll never know. You’ll go back to what you were before you came into this world. You’ll return to an eternity of non-existence. You’ve been there before. And you didn’t worry too much about it then. So why worry yourself into a depression now? Forget about it. Let it wait until you die. It’ll sort itself out then.”

To say that there is nothing new under the sun is to mouth a cliché. Recently I discovered that the Roman rhetorician and orator, Seneca, 2,000 years ago, gave the same answer, but expressed it better, in one of his essays. “Death is just not being,” he wrote. “What that is like I know already. It will be the same after me as it was before me. If there is any torment in the later state, there must also have been torment in the period before we saw the light of day; yet we never felt conscious of any distress then...We suffer somewhat in the intervening period, but at either end of it there is a deep tranquillity.”

Seneca was known as a Stoic, and I have lived most of my own life as best I could as a Stoic. Stoicism is a school of Hellenistic philosophy founded in Athens by Zeno of Citium in the early 3rd century BC. It counsels that perfection and contentment can be reached through reason, simple living, social equality, and indifference to pain and death.

Perhaps the best-known Stoic was Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor, 161-180 AD, one of my exemplars, one of the men I greatly admire and would emulate were I able.

The *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius is one of my favourite books, one that has had a great influence on me. I once lent it to a fundamentalist Christian friend and even *he* was greatly impressed by it. “Be content with what you are,” Marcus Aurelius wrote, “and wish not change; *nor dread your last day*, nor long for it.”

When in Rome I would not miss a visit to the Piazza del Campidoglio, designed by Michelangelo on the Capitoline Hill, because there in its centre stands Michelangelo’s statue of Marcus Aurelius on horseback, “one of the most famous and influential sculptures in the world.” The horse is full of spirit, right forefoot raised, neck

arched, body all aquiver, ready and eager for action. A sentence from Maxwell Staniforth’s Introduction to the *Meditations* suits this statue perfectly: “...from the lonely height on which he stands he contemplates the sorrows of mortality with eyes that are disillusioned yet serene.”

Stoicism teaches us “to die well”. Of the emperor himself Staniforth writes: “So long as men are attracted by the tears and triumphs of human goodness, Marcus Aurelius will not lack readers. Wistful, compassionate, and disenchanted, this last of the Stoics still puts our weakness to shame and our discontent to silence.”

Death is not a subject I dwell on too often. These present thoughts have been prompted by the recent untimely passing of the incomparable Irish poet Seamus Heaney. The last words that Heaney is widely reported to have said to his wife, Marie, just before his death, were—in his beloved Latin—“*Noli timere*.” “Do not be afraid.” These are Stoic words if ever I heard them.

In this Age of Fear in which we now live, fear for the most part deliberately manufactured for political and economic interests, that should be our motto: *Noli timere*. Be not afraid.

## Ron reviews:

**THE ART OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**, by G. Meggs and R. Mickleburgh, HARBOUR PUBLISHING

This long overdue book sets out the establishment of the famed and unique BC Agricultural Land Reserve by Dave Barratt’s short lived government and which was defeated, some believe, via the efforts of the powerful Fraser Institute. Barrett also set up the BC ambulance service and was big one college creation. A timely tomb.

**FALSE WITNESS**, by Eric Nelson, WEST HOUSE PUBLISHING

This novel describes a famous Saskatchewan murder. A compelling crime story, it reminds the reader of the infamous political Thatcher murder case. Journalist Nelson has produced what will probably be a best seller. A great read.

**UNLIKELY LOVE STORIES**, by Mike McCardell, .HARBOUR PUBLISHERS

Lots of little stories of love, kindness and unselfishness. An inspiring book The author, an ex-crime reporter, teaches the readers how to go through life with the best of results.

--Ron MacIsaac



# Humanity First Or Grasp the Gizzard and the Rest Will Follow

**Canadian Favourites CCF Cookbook, Second Edition, 1947, published under the auspices of the CCF National Council Woodsworth House, 301 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa**

By Jane Thom

Do you wish to know the best season for baking muskrat? How to make a cake with no eggs? Tips on milk sanitation? How to make a flapper pie or holupchi or Fricot Acadien or skirley in the pot? How to make your own soap or filler for a crack in your log house?

My mother's copy of the second edition of *Canadian Favourites CCF Cook Book*, printed in the year I was born, can help with all of the above questions. It was "Compiled by a Committee of CCF women from favourite recipes submitted by housewives across the country."

The forward to both editions is by Lucy L. Woodsworth, wife of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation's first leader, J. S. Woodsworth.

Actually, a few men contributed recipes as well as women from Reserve Mines, Cape Breton to Cowichan Station, BC, as did the the Working Girls' Co-op, House No. 4, Vancouver and the community of the Fisher River Reserve in Manitoba.

If you need measurements for baking powder biscuits for one hundred, they are here too. These people knew how to cook for a multitude. Tucked into my mother's book is an extra, a "Homemaker's Notebook" page titled "Planning a Fowl Supper", whose notes include "For each 100 servings plan on: 25 lb. potatoes, 18 pies, 16 doz. dainties." I remember the flurry and laden tables of Saskatchewan church suppers.

I wonder how many copies of this book still exist? I can't find any online.

### Bread and roses

This cook book shines with seriousness of purpose, respect for home-making skills, and hope for a world of health and justice. These cooks are not simply contributing recipes, they are building a better society after the grief and losses of the Depression and World War II. "Good cooks build great nations" says the Public Health Department of the Government of Saskatchewan as it suggests local parties to teach cookery to the young. Along with three hundred pages and thousands of recipes, the compilers offer information from dieticians and the Canada Food Guide.

As part of the book's aim to improve "the health of the nation", one who signs herself only "Quebec dietician" offers complete visceral details on how "To Dress and Clean Poultry". A few of the many steps are enough to show that we live in easier

times: "Singe by holding the chicken over a flame"; "Cut off head"; "Insert finger, pull out wind pipe and crop"; and my favourite -- "Grasp gizzard firmly, and pull. All that has been loosened will follow."

Besides attending to meat, potato and vegetable basics, the cooks offer sections on desserts, sweets and entertaining. Elegant sandwiches are featured as well as many recipes in which maraschino cherries and marshmallows take pride of place. The "Entertaining" section begins with Liverwurst pinwheels and carries on to chocolate fingers ("Cut day-old bread in fingers. Dip in melted chocolate") and jelly place cards (individual jellies contain all the letters of each guest's name, using "uncooked alphabet soup mix").

As well as quintessentially Canadian offerings such as toffee made with maple syrup on snow, we are given recipes from many cultures and traditions: Latvian turned milk, matzos with eggs for Jewish Passover, egg foo young, Russian hvorost ("Knead and knead and knead"), Mama-liga from Rumania, Baba (Ukrainian Easter Cake), fritelle from Italy and Swiss bircher busli. One page alone in the meat section offers Dutch hutspot, Hungarian szekely gulyas, North American Indian pemmican, and Indian curry and rice.

The Fisher River Reserve of Koostatak, Manitoba is the group to ask about baked muskrat: "It is best in the very early spring."

If your area supports hare or goose or prairie chicken, this book addresses preparation and adds suggestions such as "by placing a large onion inside of each bird, any fish or strong gamey flavour will be removed".

### CCF political families

Along with researching and organizing this book, CCF Committee women and families enriched it with their recipes: Mrs. T.C. Douglas of Weyburn with a recipe for lemon cake pie; Mrs. M.J. Coldwell of Ottawa with her baked smoked ham; Mrs. Stanley H. Knowles of Winnipeg with oatmeal ice cream; Mrs. A.M. Nicholson of Canora, Sask. with her recipe for using left-over porridge; and Mrs. David Lewis with brain dumplings and fried brain patties. (1)

Agnes Macphail, first woman MP in Canada, offers her recipe for cherry cottage cheese salad which involves two packages of jelly powder. The whole Woodsworth family contributes: Mrs. J. S. Woodsworth of Winnipeg submits both marshmallow salad ("1 pound marshmallows cut in quarters") and her recipe for scalloped potatoes;

"Mrs. J. Woodsworth -- J. S. Woodsworth's mother -- brings a recipe for velvet cream; and Grace MacInnis, BC MLA and later MP, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.S., gives instructions for "coffee with hot milk". That entry is signed "Angus and Grace MacInnis, Vancouver". Angus MacInnis served in Parliament from 1930 to 1957.

### "You will be at home....."

Ads in the cook book brings a sense of the time as well as of the variety of support for the CCF. Fur merchants offer "Raw, Dressed and Dyed Rabbits, Brown, Grey and Black". Bell's Hardware in Flin Flon will sand floors and also supply prospectors and trappers. Joe's Store in Beaver Lake, Sask., "The Place Where Good Fellows Meet", provides a "Full Line of Camp Supplies".

Greetings come from Windsor's Jewish National Workers' Alliance, Branch 104, from the Swift Current Auto Body Shop ("You Wreck 'Em, We Fix 'Em") and from the Never Sag Upholstery Co. of Toronto.

My uncle's family business in Estevan lists specialist skills: "Gedak Bros. Blacksmithing, Welding and Machine Shop Builders of Truck Boxes and Grain Loaders".

A cafe in Assiniboia sounds most welcoming: "You Will Be At Home With Auto-graphed Photographs of My Friends Premier T.C. Douglas, M.J. Coldwell, MP and A.M. Nicholson, MP, When you Dine at THE TEXAS CAFE, Charlie Quan, Proprietor".

And for spirit and solidarity, Peoples Book Store at 816 Main Street in Winnipeg offers "The Best of Labour and Folk Song Recording".

### Humanity first

Some messages in the ad spaces evoke figures from the past to emphasize the goals of this social movement. The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees "Prosperity" Division No. 120 of Winnipeg quotes Abraham Lincoln: *The strongest bond of human sympathy outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds*. The Grand Division of the same Brotherhood takes inspiration from Scottish labour organizer Keir Hardie: *The Labour movement is neither a program nor a constitution, but the expression of a great principle: the determination of the workers to be the arbiters of their own destiny*.

"Machines to be the Only Slaves" is the hope of Ryan's Carriers Ltd. of Homer Street, Vancouver.

The West York CCF Association sees

the challenge for the post-war world: *Peace is more than absence of war. We have survived a war for the Four Freedoms, but can we count them as won? Racial Discrimination, Bigotry, Intolerance have no place in a free community*.

The Kristnes, Sask, CCF Club speaks out:

*To have striven, to have made an effort, To have been true to certain ideals, This alone is worth the struggle.*

Lastly, the Saskatoon CCF Constituency Organization sums up the hope and the thirst for justice embodied in this whole project: HUMANITY FIRST.

### Jack Layton

Jack Layton's actions and his letter to Canadians place him in the same worthy line as these pioneers: *My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world*.

I am deeply happy that we were able to welcome and appreciate him in the Esquimalt School gym during his last federal campaign.

### Footnote (1)

T.C. (Tommy) Douglas -- CCF MP, then Premier of Saskatchewan, and later leader of the new NDP. He said he was a printer, then a preacher, then a politician -- "or, the descent of man".

M.J. Coldwell -- MP and leader of the CCF party from 1942 to 1960.

Stanley Knowles -- Served as MP in Parliament for 38 years. Besides being a social activist, he was a respected expert on parliamentary procedure.

A.M. Nicholson -- MP and later minister in the CCF government of Saskatchewan.

David Lewis -- CCF secretary, later MP and leader of the NDP party. Father of Stephen Lewis.

J.S. Woodsworth -- minister, activist, then founder and first leader of the CCF.

### GRACE BEFORE MEAT

We are thankful for these and all the good things of life. We recognize that they are a part of our common heritage and come to us through the efforts of our brothers and sisters the world over. What we desire for ourselves, we wish for all. To this end, may we take our share in the world's work and the world's struggles. --J.S. Woodsworth

## Escape to Gold Mountain, by David H.T. Wong, 2012, Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver

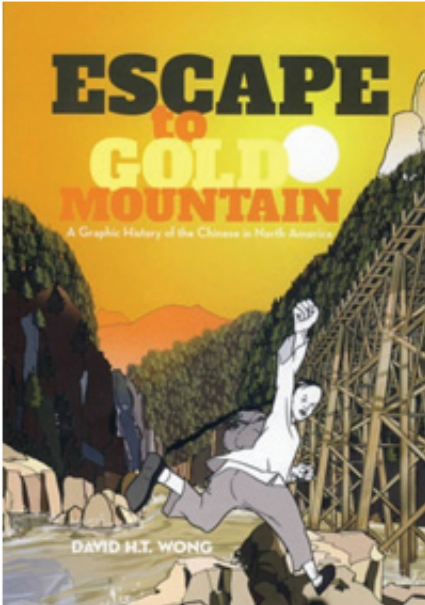
Review and author photo by Theresa Wolfwood

Classified as Juvenile Non-Fiction, this graphic novel is a recommended read for Canadians of all ages.

Wong chose the graphic technique not only because he has always loved drawing cartoons, but also because this comic strip technique appeals to teenagers, his preferred readers.

At a reading and talk during the Cumberland Miners' Memorial in June, 2013, Wong said he wanted young people to understand the history of Chinese people in Canada and the US; I found the book enlightening and engrossing; it presents history in a straight forward and readable way that adults also will be informed and reminded of past injustices. I recommend it to readers of all ages.

Through his lively cartoon style Wong tells the story of thousands of desperately poor Chinese immigrants who came to North America to find what was known as "Gold Mountain" on the distant continent that took 3-4 months to reach from the home region of most immigrants, the Pearl River delta. The immigrants did not have countries in mind, so this book needs must cover both US and Canada and as Wong points out, "racism knows no boundaries" either.



The facts, sometimes horrific, are presented clearly without embellishment -- they speak volumes of the history of racism and cruelty practised upon a group of people who provided the back breaking labour needed to build Canada -- railways, fish factories, farms, construction, mining and other demanding industries.

The story moves quickly through the generations, as descendants of these immigrants make Canada their home and

contributed to community life, in spite of official racist policies. Wong involves the reader in stories of families and individuals; within the accounts of the many injustices inflicted on the Chinese, there is much humour and warmth in the book.

Wong's original title was *The Iron Chink*, the machine invented to process salmon that the inventor boasted could replace 40 "Chinks" as Chinese people were called. Later it was modified to replace even more workers and thousands were thrown out of work. This title was deemed to be "racist" which was the whole point, but it did not make it to the cover page.

From a history of purges, massacres, head taxes, discrimination at all levels, including universities, the Chinese persevered and worked for their rights and dignity. Until WW2 with Japan, Chinese were not allowed Canadian citizenship.

Finally Chinese people have their rightful place in society with scholars, scientists, merchants, activists, creative artists, politicians, working at many levels but still some of the old racism exists. I have heard 1st generation immigrants from Europe complaining about the Chinese many times, even if there are no overt policies of discrimination now.

This book is a lesson in persistence, goodwill and cultural diversity; today's

young people and adults will read this book and realize we still have a long way to go in this country to create equality -- even as our government is promoting inequality at an increasing pace.

When Wong was speaking I thought to myself that he is probably 4th generation Canadian and that most of the people in the room, including myself, were barely 1st generation.

Wong is a successful architect in Vancouver and active in cultural life there. See his websites: [www.generaisian.ca](http://www.generaisian.ca) and [www.UglyChinese-Canadian.com](http://www.UglyChinese-Canadian.com)



David H.T. Wong



# Calendar of coming events

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT Board** meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, at 1:30 pm at the CRD offices at 625 Fisgard Street in Victoria.

**CENTRAL SAANICH RESIDENTS ARE** invited to attend regular neighbourhood gatherings, held every Friday night at 7 pm at Spelt's Coffee Shop, 7586 East Saanich Road, in Saanichton. Share stories, books, talk politics and enjoy hot coffee. Nothing is taboo. No pretentiousness, no meeting agenda...just a chance to chat with neighbours and build community. Call 250-652-8228 for further information.

**THE VICTORIA LABOUR COUNCIL** representing affiliated unions in the Greater Victoria area, holds its regular monthly meetings at 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday each month at the BCGEU Auditorium, 2994 Douglas Street, Victoria. All delegates are welcome to come to meet their executive, president Mike Eso, treasurer, Stan Dzbik, and secretary Susanne Francoeur.

**WOMEN IN BLACK** invite you to join them in their monthly vigil to remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki and call on all Canadians and people globally to work for peace and disarmament. All those who support our goals are welcome. For further information, contact [bbcf@bbcf.ca](mailto:bbcf@bbcf.ca).

**JUAN DE FUCA NEW DEMOCRATS** will hold their Annual General Meeting and Convention Delegate Selection on Saturday, October 5, from 10 am to Noon, at Gordon United Church, 935 Goldstream Avenue, Langford. Light lunch will be served. Be an active member. For information, Contact: [jdfndp@gmail.com](mailto:jdfndp@gmail.com) or 250-514-1578.

**SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS NEW DEMOCRATS** will hold a General Meeting Pot-luck on Friday, October 25, at 6 pm, at 1275 Reynolds Road. Please bring some finger food to share (it's a no cutlery event). If you plan to attend, please RSVP by October 18 by email to [ndpsaanichgulflslands@gmail.com](mailto:ndpsaanichgulflslands@gmail.com).

**NANAIMO GLOBAL FILM FESTIVAL** will be held October 25 and 26 in Downtown Nanaimo, with over 30 films to be shown. For complete lineup, please go to [www.nanaimofilmfest.org](http://www.nanaimofilmfest.org) or facebook: NanaimoFilmFestival. Advance passes are available on line. This is a production of Nanaimo Global Film Festival Group, featuring films from the Travelling World Community Film Festival.

**WOMEN IN BLACK** will hold their pre-Remembrance Day vigil on Saturday, November 7, from noon to 1 pm on Douglas Street beside Centennial Square. They will have white Pppies available for those wanting them.

**AN EVENING WITH TOM MULCAIR**, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Murray Rankin, MP for Victoria, and host MLA Lana Popham. Join us for an intimate evening of good people, great food, and music as we celebrate Murray's first year in office, on Thursday, November 14, at the Beach

House in Cordova Bay. Tickets \$125 per person. Live auction. Tickets and information at [www.victoriandp.ca](http://www.victoriandp.ca) or [www.saanichgulflslands.ca](http://www.saanichgulflslands.ca) or [www.ticketrocket.org](http://www.ticketrocket.org). All proceeds going to Victoria and Saanich Gulf Islands NDP riding associations.

**ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA NEW DEMOCRATS** (except those living in Langford, Highlands and west of Jordan River)! Watch for an announcement (e-mail, snail mail) of the Founding General Meeting of the new riding of Saanich-Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca. Tentative meeting date (not confirmed)/time is Saturday, November 23, 2 p.m. If this date is confirmed, the meeting will be held at the former All Saints Church parish hall, corner of Stewart Avenue and Pallisier Avenue, View Royal. For more information, contact Jock Bates (president) at 250-478-9735 or [wanzbates@shaw.ca](mailto:wanzbates@shaw.ca)

Like to see your coming event here? Please email details to [dale\\_young@telus.net](mailto:dale_young@telus.net).

## PARAMILITARISM AND THE ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY IN HAITI, by Jeff Sprague, 2012, Monthly Review Press, NY, USA. ISBN 978-1-58367-301-0

### Review by Teresa Wolfwood

Jeff Sprague, a US scholar, has written a detailed and readable history of Haiti, now the poorest country in this hemisphere; once the source of great wealth for its colonizer, France. His emphasis after reviewing early history is on the last 40 years of paramilitarism. (Paramilitarism is militarism that is outside the structure of regular government military – in Haiti's case, militarism controlled by wealthy elites.)

He writes, "The central focus of this book, the phenomenon of paramilitarism in Haiti and its role in crushing Haitian people's experiment in popular democracy begins in the last quarter of the twentieth century, when democratic struggles for social justice and inclusion were taking place around the world."

Canada has had a significant role in that crushing of democracy. In 1991 a pro-democracy movement organized and elected the first democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. After several bloody coups driven by paramilitarism, Aristide was driven from office in 2004; his accomplishments were destroyed and his supporters, the popular movements, repressed and punished.

Canada was right there with the US and France doing the job of global capitalism – not allowing this small poor country the chance of being a model for other countries and an inspiration for oppressed people everywhere. Paramilitary forces, backed by the US, have been a major reason for the continuing violent suppression of democracy movements since 2004.

Sprague explains the different waves or groups that have been formed and re-assembled to do this dirty work. "In its contemporary form in Haiti, paramilitarism was institutionalized by the state under the Duvalierist regime with the backing of wealthy elites and at key periods the US, and, very likely, French intelligence agencies."

*Photo of Aristide from internet*

All this is a much needed background to why Haiti has been continually punished for its courage to try to be independent and democratic. In spite of its poverty, lack of infrastructure and deforestation and soil erosion, all exacerbated by the earthquake of January, 2010, Haiti is a rich country, easy plucking for global corporate interests.

"The recognition of Haiti's mineral potential, coupled with an improving business climate, resulted in EMX's establishment of an exploration program in early 2006. EMX's initial exploration successes at the La Miel and La Mine projects led to the establishment in 2008 of a Joint Venture and Regional Strategic Alliance with Newmont Ventures Limited

("Newmont"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation." From [www.eurasianminerals.com/s/Haiti.asp](http://www.eurasianminerals.com/s/Haiti.asp) -- the website of Eurasian Minerals, whose head office is in Vancouver.

Jane Regan, lead author of *Gold Rush in Haiti: Who Will Get Rich?*, a report by Haiti Grassroots Watch quoted in *The Guardian* and *Haiti Liberté*, wrote "You've got a perfect storm brewing whereby you're looking at giant pit mines in the north, in a country that's already environmentally devastated, and giant pit mines being run by Canadian and American companies...Most of the money that's made and most of the gold that's dug up will go straight north."

These quotes go a long way to explain both the Canadian government's eagerness to cooperate with the overthrow of Aristide's government which was attempting to protect Haiti's people and resources, and its support of the present Haitian government.

In his concluding chapter, *Unending Social Conflict*, Sprague writes, "The most pressing question is how we can expose paramilitarism and promote justice for the victims of rightist political violence in Haiti... New strategies are needed by activists and movements from below to investigate and communicate to a mass audience the levels of extreme violence that are being used against the poor."

He emphasizes the importance of building links between grassroots movements and organizations active in Haiti and other countries He urges us to act; and hopes that "truth compels our actions".

Join the Canada Haiti Action Network, the Vancouver based group that sponsored Sprague's Canada book tour: Visit [www.canadahaitiaction.ca](http://www.canadahaitiaction.ca) for ongoing action and current information.



# BC government to blame for looming BC Hydro rate increases

### By Marvin Shaffer

BC Hydro rates are going up. In its rate application hearing before the BC Utilities Commission last year, BC Hydro forecast increases of some 10% per year for 5 years or more. In 10 years time, rates could be double current levels.

That hearing took place prior to the recent election and needless to say talk of such increases, let alone their implementation, was not allowed. The government capped BC Hydro's rate increases and the hearing abruptly terminated. Now, post-election, BC Hydro is back to square one: it still has to increase its rates to match its growing expenditures, as well as recover costs that were deferred inappropriately in the past.

While the government looked to BC Hydro management and even the NDP administration in the 1990s to blame for the current predicament, the nature and scope of the Liberal government's intervention in the affairs of BC Hydro over the past decade were unprecedented.

First, the government directed BC Hydro to be *self-sufficient*. BC Hydro could no longer rely on any imports of electricity, even the seasonally surplus hydro and wind routinely available in the Pacific Northwest, to meet its requirements. Nor could BC Hydro recognize the Burrard natural gas-fired thermal plant or the electricity that the province receives under the Columbia River Treaty as sources of energy that it could use in case of drought or other contingencies.

It was widely recognized that self-sufficiency has simply forced BC Hydro to buy or develop more sources of new supply than it needs or could otherwise justify.

At the same time, the government severely restricted the sources of supply that BC Hydro could itself develop, directing that new sources be purchased under long term contract with independent power producers (IPPs). The government later legislated that BC Hydro plan to buy IPP power for export, and provide the transmission, back-up and other services needed to create marketable products.

BC Hydro's mandate was no longer to meet its customer needs in a reliable, cost-effective and responsible way. It was to be a vehicle for the development of a new IPP industry in BC.

BC Hydro was also directed to make billions of dollars of new investments, all exempt from BC Utilities Commission or other independent review, including the now infamous smart meter and Northwest transmission line projects. BC Hydro was told to rush ahead with those projects despite the lack of well-developed business cases or public interest justification, and despite the large amount of priority investments that BC Hydro had to make at the same time to maintain and refurbish its existing facilities.

These major changes in direction and

arguably the basic mandate of the corporation, contributed greatly to the upward pressure on BC Hydro costs and rates. The recent IPP purchases alone will impose losses of over \$250 million on BC Hydro in 2014 and over \$1 billion in losses over the next four years, based on BC Hydro's own estimate of the average price of the energy it was forced to purchase and its forecast value in the export market.

We cannot undo what has already been done. But changes can and should be made going forward to reduce further pressure on hydro rates.

The requirement for self-sufficiency needs to be completely eliminated. Government should restore BC Hydro's traditional mandate: to ensure reliable supply in a cost-effective and responsible manner.

BC Hydro should again be allowed to recognize Burrard as a back-up resource in event of drought as long as that plant remains in operation.

Major new investments, including Site C, need to be subject to BC Utilities Commission or other independent review of the benefits and costs they entail. Government must resist exempting them from benefit-cost assessment and independent review.

Most importantly right now, government must ensure there are no major subsidies to LNG plants for BC Hydro energy or services, or to the supply and pricing of electricity for major new mining and oil and gas loads.

The low rates BC Hydro customers have enjoyed are due to the benefit we all share in the low-cost hydro generation BC Hydro developed in the 1960's and 70's – its so-called heritage resources. A limit must be placed on each customer's sharing of the benefits of those heritage hydro resources; otherwise there will soon be little such benefits to share.

Marvin Shaffer is a research associate with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and a consulting economist specializing in energy, transportation and natural resource economics. He is also an adjunct professor in the Public Policy Masters Program at SFU, where he teaches a course on benefit-cost analysis.

*"War, Fascism, concentration camps, rubber truncheons, atomic bombs, etc., are what we daily think about, and therefore to a great extent what we write about, even when we do not name them openly. We cannot help this. When you are on a sinking ship, your thoughts will be about sinking ships."*

*--George Orwell (1903-1950)*

*"If your homeland was invaded by aliens who cut down the forests, poisoned the water and air, and contaminated the food supply, would you resist?"*

*--Derrick Jensen, End Game.*



# Directory of locations, organizations, publications of interest

## MLA COMMUNITY OFFICES

**Cowichan Valley Community Office,** Bill Routley: MLA, 273 Trunk Road, Duncan, BC, or PO Box 599, Duncan, BC, V9L 3X9, phone 250-715-0127, toll free 1-877-715-0127, fax 250-715-0139, email bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca.

**Esquimalt-Royal Roads Community Office,** Maurine Karagianis, MLA: A5-100 Ældersmith Place, View Royal, BC, V9A 7M8, phone 250-479-8326, email maurine.karagianis.mla@leg.bc.ca or visit her website at www.maurinek-aragianis.ca.

**Juan de Fuca Community Office,** John Horgan, MLA, 800 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2X7, phone 250-391-2801, email john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca.

**Saanich South Community Office,** Lana Popham, MLA: 4085 Quadr Street, Victoria, BC, v8 1K5, email lana.popham.mla@leg.bc.ca, or visit website at www.saanichsouth.ca.

**Saanich North and the Islands Community Office:** Gary Holman, MLA. Office to be arranged.

**Victoria-Beacon Hill Community Office,** Carole James, MLA: 1084 Forst Street, Victoria,BC, V8V 3K4, phone 250-952-4211, fax 250-952-4586, email carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca.

**Victoria-Swan Lake Community Office,** Rob Fleming, MLA: 1020 Hillside Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8T 2A2, email rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca.

## MPs and COMMUNITY OFFICES

**Jean Crowder, MP,** House of Commons, Confederation Building, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6., email crowder1A@@parl.gc.ca.

**Nanaimo-Cowichan Community Office,** Jean Crowder, MP, 101-128 Ingram Street,. Duncan, BC, V9L 1P1, email jean@jeancrowder.ca or visit her website at www.jeancrowder.ca.

**Randall Garrison, MP,** House of Commons, Confederation Building, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6, email randall.garrison@parl.gc.ca.

**Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca Community Office,** Randall Garrison, MP, A2-1000 Aldersmith Place, Victoria, BC, V9A 7M8, open 10 am-4 pm, Monday-Thursday or by appointment. Phone 250-405-4550; fax 250-405-4568.

**Murray Rankin, MP,** House of Commons, Confederation Building,Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6. email murray.rankin@parl.gc.ca, or visit his website at www.murrayrankin.ca/

**Victoria Community Office,** Murray Rankin, MP, 1057 Fort Street, Victoria, V8V 3K5, phone 250-363-3600, fax 250-363-8422, email him at murray.rankin@parl.gc.ca

## PROVINCIAL NDP CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

**Cowichan Valley New Democrats:** Write PO Box 102, Duncan, BC, V9L 1P0, or contact president by email at cowichanvalley.NDP@shaw.ca.

**Esquimalt-Royal Roads New Democrats:** Write Box 231, 110-174 Wilson Street, Victoria, BC, V9A 7N7 or email esquimaltroyalroads@gmail.com.

**Juan de Fuca New Democrats:** Phone president John Lewinski at 250-391-1686 or email him at jonalew@hotmail.com.

**Oak Bay-Gordon Head New Democrats:** Write PO Box 5539, LCD 9, Victoria, BC, V8R 6S4 or contact president Mike Lloyd at 250-812-3785 or by email at president@obghnewdemocrats.ca.

**Saanich North and the Islands New Democrats:** Email president Allan Collier at silcol@telus.net.

**Saanich South New Democrats:** Write PO Box 30041, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet, Victoria, BC, V8X 5E1, phone 250-479-1100, or email samuelgodfrey@gmail.com.

**Victoria-Beacon Hill New Democrats:** Write PO Box 8523, Victoria, BC, V8W 3S1 attention P president Marilyn Callahan.

**Victoria-Swan Lake New Democrats:** Contact the president at President@vslndp.ca or write PO Box 282, 1681 Hillside Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8T 2C1.

## FEDERAL NDP RIDING ASSOCIATIONS

**Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca New Democrats:** Contact president Jock Bates at wanzbates@

shaw.ca or write to PO Box 622, 105-1497 Admirals Road, Victoria, BC, V9A 2P8.

**Nanaimo-Cowichan New Democrats:** Contact president Sue Creba at 250-753-3371 or email her at suecreba@aquarius.com.

**Saanich-Gulf Islands New Democrats:** Contact president Michele Murphy at 250-727-9990 or by email to ndpsaanichgulfislands@gmail.com or Irene Wright (Gulf Islands) by phone/fax at 250-537-5347, or email to aiwright@telus.net.

**Victoria New Democrats:** To contact president Kellu Newhook, write to PO Box 8383, Victoria, BC V8W 3R9 or visit their website at www.victoriandp.ca.

## PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL NDP OFFICES

**BC New Democrats:** 5367 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 2G1, phone 604-430-8600, fax 604-432-9517, toll free 1-888-868-3637.

**Canada's New Democrats:** 300-279 Laurie West, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5J9, phone 613-236-3613, toll free, 1-866-525-2555, fax 613-230-9950, TTY: 1-866-776-7742.

## OTHER GROUPS YOU MAY WANT TO REACH

**Amnesty International--Canadian Section:** www.amnesty.org

**BC Council of Senior Citizens Organizations:** phone 604-438-3221.

**BC Latin American Congress:** 4184 Brant Street, Vancouver, BC, V5N 5B4, phone 604-879-3246, fax 604-872-6776, email bclac@vcn.bc.ca.

**Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives:** 410-75 Albert Street, Ottawa ON, K1P 5E7, phone 613-563-1341, fax 613-233-1458, email ccpa@policyalternatives.ca, website www.policyalternatives.ca.

**Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives--BC Office,** 1400-207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1H7, phone 604-801-5121, fax 604-801-5122, website: ww.policyalternatives.ca.

**Canadian Health Coalition:** phone 613-233-1018.

**Canadian Labour Congress (Pacific Region):** 201-5118 Joyce Street, Vancouver, BC, V5R 4H1; Regional Representative Iris Taylor, phone 604-430-6766, ext 267, fax 604-430-6762.

**Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East,** Victoria Chapter: Victoria, BC, phone 778-679-2943 or email frances.everett@cjpme.org. Enquiries, new members, guests welcome. CJPME's website can be found at www.cjpme.org.

**Council of Canadians, Victoria Chapter:** PO Box 5515, 1625 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, phone 250-360-8448, email victoriacouncilofcanadians@shaw.ca or visit www.victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca.

**Canadian Wildlife Federation:** 350 Michael Cowpland Drive, Kanata, ON, K2M 2W1, phone 1-800-563-9453, or visit www.cwf-fcf.org.

**Ecojustice:** 214-131 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 4M3, phone 1-800-926-7444.

**Human Rights Internet:** www.hri.ca.

**Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria:** phone 250-388-4728, fax 250-386-4395.

**Mining Justice Action Committee (MJAC):** contact Heather Tufts at htufts@shaw.ca or Sharlene Patterson at daveandshar@shaw.ca.

**NAPO (National Anti-Poverty Organization) News:** advocates for the poor in communities, courts and polittical arenas, www.napo-onap.ca.

**NDP Socialist Caucus:** www.ndpsocialists.ca. "Our aim and ongoing struggle as New Democrats must be to establish a Socialist Canada."

**Parliamentary website** lists all federal cabinet ministers, parliamentary scretaries and opposition spokesepersons. Visit www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/key/critic.asp?language=E

**Seniors' Advocacy Services** (Seniors Entitlement Service), sponsored by the Greater Victoria Seniors (OAPO) organization and located at the Blanchard Community Centre, 901 Kings Rd, (Kings and Dowler Streets), close to the #4 and #6 buses on Quadra St. Service is free to seniors 55+ in Greater Victoria. Normally open on Mondays & Thursdays from 9-3 pm and Wednesdays

from 9-12 noon. We will be closed for summer break from July 15 to August 19. For more information please phone 250-388-7696
**Seniors Serving Seniors:** 109-1022 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8V 3P5, phone 250-382-4331.

**South Island Health Coalition,** an affiliate of the BC Health Coalition. If you are concerned about access affordability and quality of health care in our community, get involved by calling co-chairs Dale Perkins at 250-592-5487 or Wendy Strong at 250-592-1222.

**Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS):** 302-895 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1H7, phone 250-361-3521; fax 250-361-3541.

**Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society:** Third floor, 535 Yates Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 2Z6 phone 250-361-9433, fax 250-361-1914 or see website www.virca.bc.ca.

**Victoria Labour Council:** 219-2750 Quadra street, Victoria, BC, V8T 4E8, phone 250-384-8331, fax 250-384-8381, email vlcbc@telsu.net.; Mike Eso, president, Stan Dzbik, treasurer, Kim Manotn, secretary

**Victoria Peace Centre:** Box 8307, Victoria, BC, V8W 3R9, hone/fax 250-592-8307, email centre@vicepeace.ca or visit website at www.vicepeace.ca.

**World Wildlife Federation:** 410-245 Eglington Avenue East, Toronto, ON, M4P 3J1, phone 1-800-26-PANDA, fax 416-489-8055, website www.wwf.ca.

**United Nations Association of Canada (UNAC)--Victoria Branch:** 202-3293 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC, V8Z 3K9, phone 250-475-2868, fax 250-475-5898, email unavic@coast-net.com or website www.unac.org.

## ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATIONS

**Canadian Dimension Magazine:** An independent forum for Left-wing political thought and discussion — including just about the entire range of what passes for the Left in Canada. A few years ago we adopted the banner "a magazine for people who want to change the world". That's still a good summary of who we are. Subscriptions from \$29.99. See http://canadiandimension.com for more information.Or contact them by mail at Canadian Dimension, 2E-91 Albert Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 1G5, or by phone at 204-957-1519 or oll-ree: 1-800-737-7051.

**COMER (Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform):** Reform-minded focus fcus on monetary issues and how they affect our society. Membership: \$50; journal only \$30. Contact them at 27 Sherbourne Street North, Suite 1, Toronto, ON M4W 2T3; tel: 416-924-3964; fax: 416-466-5827; email: comerpub[at]comer.org.

**CCPA Monitor:** a monthly journal sent free to all members, and published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canada's leading organization for articulating progressive, positive social policy reform. Ever constructive and independent. Contact them at CCPA National Office, Suite 500, 251 Bank Street, Ottawa ON, K2P 1X3; tel: 613-563-1341; fax: 613-233-1458; email: ccpa@policyalternatives.ca.

**The Democrat:** Published by the BC NDP, 5367 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 2G1. Subscriptions \$10 per year.

**Our Times:** Canada's independent labour magazine and read by most labour organizations and other supporters of working people. Check its website at www.ourtimes.ca.

**The Dominion:** a monthly paper published by an incipient network of independent journalists in Canada. It aims to provide accurate, critical coverage that is accountable to its readers and the subjects it tackles. Taking its name from Canada's official status as both a colony and a colonial force, the Dominion examines politics, culture and daily life with a view to understanding the exercise of power. It can be purchased at Bolen Books, Victoria, Camas Books & Info-shop, Victoria, Dark Horse Books, Victoria, and Munro's Bookstore Ltd, Victoria.Or suscribe and Receive an email notice when a new issue is online: Visit http://www.dominionpaper.ca/ to view the paper and to subscribe.

**Turn Left:** Official magazine of the NDP socialist caucus, is published for each federal and Ontario provincial convention. It is written and edited and by SC supporters but also includes articles by and interviews with progressive activists from outside the NDP as well. Download the paper at www.ndpsocialists.ca/Issues.html
**Victoria Street Newz:** An independent media Dproject, working to end poverty and homelessness, sold by low income individuals on the

## Lower Island NEWS

streets of Victoria BC Canada, unceded Coast Salish Indigenous territory. *Street Newz* offers a reliable alternative to corporate or government controlled media. It provides a dignified way for low and/or no income people to earn a few extra bucks and participate in the local economy. It publishes research and opinions and photos and art from you, the people. View it also at http://relativenewz.ca

## ALTERNATIVE WEBSITES

**www.alternet.org--**A US website featuring alternative articles on US and world politics, an online magazine and information source.

**www.avaaz.org/en/global--**By confronting such threats as global warming together, Avaaz hopes to build a more just, tolelrant and vibrant world.

**www.counterpunch.org--**An American website with a left-wing viewpoint.

**http://dominionpaper.ca--**A Canadian ezine covering national and international stories that mainstream sources maynot cover.

**www.globalproblematique.net--**is an invitation to participate in a carefully conceived sustainability-oriented process. The story is organized as a linear flow. First it explains why and how we address the World Problematique in this fashion. Then, it branches out into four distinct, interactive threads. For more information go to the website.

**www.lowerislandnews.wordpress.com/** is a democratic socialist tabloid newspaper that appears as often as possible.

**http://newsdaily.ca--CanadaNewsdaily.ca** is a good (and bad) news service with a refreshingly non-corporate view of the news, from local to global stories, with features, opinion, analysis-all for free, including classified ads. Newsdaily covers Canadian and world news, plus a focused look at British Columbia, Victoria, and the Islands.

www.ndpsocialists.ca/Issues.html

**mai-not@globalproblematique.net--**Originally set up to discuss the implications the Multilateral Agreement on on Investments, this website and related email list now discuss world-wide developments of concern to left wing readers.

**http://pacificfreepress.com**

**www.pejnews.com--**Peace, Earth & Justice News, a free email and web service, provides news, opinion and analysis of peace, environment (earth) and justice issues. Stay informed with postings often days, weeks and months ahead of the mainstream media, and often never covered in the mass market. PEJ News is produced entirely by volunteers, and is a project of the non-profit Prometheus Institute based in Victoria, Canada.

**www.policyalternatives.ca--**The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' webpage offers research reports, books amd opinion pieces on issues of social and economic justice.

**www.rabble.ca--**A cheeky site offering original stories, feature articles and columns from some of the progresssive voices in Canada.

**http://socialcoast.org**

**http://socialenvironmentalliance.wordpress.com**

**www.straightgoods.ca--**A watchdog working for Canadian consumers and citizens.

**www.thetyee.ca--**BC news and views from a non-corporate perspective.

**www.truthout.org--**US website with Real news.

**www.victoriacarshare.ca--**If you don't want to own a car, but still need to drive one sometimes, then this website may be for you.

**www.vivelecanada.ca--**The mission of Vive le Canada is to protect and improve Canadian sovereignties and democracy through education, dialogue, and advocacy, especially using existing and emerging communications tools. We believe that the direction of this country should be set by its citizens, rather than by corporations or corporate trade bodies/trade agreements, the United States, or a small number of Canadian corporate elites.

**www.wsws.org--**The World Socialist Web Site is the Internet centre of the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI). It provides analysis of major world events, comments on political, cultural, historical and philosophical issues, and valuable documents and studies from the heritage of the socialist movement.