

# TURN LEFT

NDP NPD



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Voice of the NDP Socialist Caucus

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## Majority of Canadians Reject War in Afghanistan

### Only 33% Agree with Harper's Support for Israel's Invasion of Lebanon

A 55 PERCENT majority of Canadians oppose sending troops to Afghanistan, according to a mid-August opinion poll by the Strategic Counsel for *The Globe and Mail* and CTV. The poll was conducted following the deaths of nine Canadian soldiers in a two-week period.

Then, on August 22, the 27th soldier to die since Canada deployed ground troops to Afghanistan in early 2002 fell victim to a suicide attack in Kandahar city.

About two hours after the incident, a Canadian soldier shot dead a 10-year-old Afghan boy and injured a teenager when their motorcycle breached a security perimeter around the bombing site.

A military investigation into the shooting will not likely dispel local outrage or quell growing resistance to the imperialist occupation of the country.

Rising opposition to the war coincides with general revulsion towards Israel's invasion and wanton destruction of Lebanon. Tens of thousands demonstrated on July 22, and again on August 5, in over twenty cities across Canada.

Most of the protests linked the crimes of Tel Aviv to Washington's wars of occupation, to its designs on the whole oil-rich Middle East, and equally condemned Ottawa's complicity with U.S. actions.

According to the same Strategic Counsel poll, the minority Conservative government is at odds with public sentiment on Israel's declared war with



Anti-war rally in Ottawa on June 22 protesting Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Millions rallied throughout the world to call for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of troops (photo: George Salhani).

Hezbollah.

A plurality of 44 per cent of poll respondents said they disagree with Stephen Harper's support for Israel, while only 33 per cent said they agree with the Prime Minister.

Opposition to Harper's position on these two foreign policy issues is strongest in Quebec, a province (and

French-speaking captive nation) he has been courting in the hope of winning enough seats for a majority government in the next election.

But even in the rest of the country, including the Conservative-dominated West, most Canadians clearly believe

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## Ontario Liberals' Nuclear Plunge Draws Fire

TORONTO - The Ontario government is drawing intense criticism for its decision to meet the province's growing energy needs with a \$40 billion nuclear mega project. Equally controversial, not to mention potentially illegal, is its move to speed up construction by exempting the plan from environmental review.

While nuclear power is emission-free, its by-products remain radioactive for thousands of years and pose a permanent transport and storage danger. Nuclear plant construction is legendary for cost overruns (the last one built in Ontario was years overdue and cost \$13 billion, 300 percent over budget). While developers make a mint, the public remains on the hook.

Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton argues that energy efficiency, conservation and an aggressive approach to renewables is the best way forward.

"Simple measures like paying people to cut power use, raising standards for electrical appliances and moving forward with a green building plan could help Ontario save thousands of megawatts every year, reducing the need for coal and nuclear plants. Such measures would provide immediate, meaningful help, unlike nuclear plants, which could take 10 years or more to build," said Hampton in the Ontario Legislature.



Howard Hampton: Energy efficiency and conservation is the answer

A 1982 report from Ontario Hydro, "Hydraulic Power Resources of the Province of Ontario," states that the hydroelectric potential of the province was 21,000 megawatts (MW) and that 7,174 MW of that potential, 34 percent, was being used. Today, 7,309 MW is produced in Ontario - hardly any change since 1982.

According to Ontario Hydro, harnessing the power of northern rivers like the Severn, the Winisk, the Ekwan, the Attawapiskat, the Albany and the Moose could generate an additional 6,000 MW. Another 2,600 MW could be added by further development of southern Ontario rivers like the Ottawa, St. Lawrence and Niagara. And this says nothing of the potential of wind and solar power.

Ontario's hazardous nuclear plunge, and government ties to developers, could be the issue that brings down the Liberal regime of Premier Dalton McGuinty in 2007.

## Drug Profiteers Doom Millions of AIDS Sufferers

### Harper Cancels Funding Announcement, Refuses to Attend AIDS Conference

TORONTO - The International AIDS Conference, held in August, was the largest ever, attracting some 26,000 participants. But many must have gone home disappointed.

Despite a headline grabbing donation by Bill and Melinda Gates to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, and the release of promising trial results of the first microbicide, or vaginal gel, to stop HIV, the basic obstacle to the fight against HIV/AIDS in poor countries remains. On the surface, the obstacle appears to be a combination of bad laws and trade rules. But at bottom it is simply the profit system: capitalism.

Antiretroviral therapies exist, but the drugs are unaffordable to the millions of HIV/AIDS sufferers across Africa and most poor countries. Why? Because the patents are held by giant, name-brand

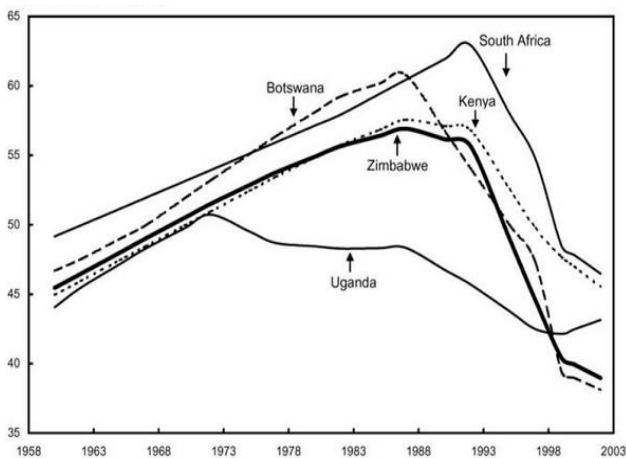
firms - monopolies in the most profitable industry in the world.

In 2004, the Access to Medicine Regime law was passed (originally called "The Jean Chretien Pledge to Africa Act"). But after two years, according to the international charitable organization Doctors Without Borders, the new law which was supposed to alleviate AIDS and other epidemics in Africa has not produced a single pill.

The battle over patents and control is an expression of the conflict between health and profit. Which should prevail, the public interest or private property?

Under enormous consumer pressure, in 1969 the Pierre Trudeau Liberal government passed legislation to authorize "compulsory licensing." Until then, it had been illegal to copy a prescription drug under patent. Drug companies held 17-year monopoly patent protections to keep drug prices as high as possible.

But under the compulsory licensing regime, qualified manufacturers, after paying a royalty, were permitted to



Life expectancy has radically fallen in several African countries due to AIDS (World Bank Statistics). Drug companies prevent those in Global South to purchase more affordable generics.

copy patented drugs and sell them at lower prices. Prices fell and a new industry flourished. Consumers were delighted, but the drug giants were outraged, and they fought back.

Globalization came to their rescue. As secondary industry moved to low-wage countries, governments in the developed world focused more on so-called knowledge industries, whose profitability depends on ownership of ideas.

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TURN LEFT is the official newspaper of the NDP Socialist Caucus.

### Introducing the NDP Socialist Caucus

The NDP Socialist Caucus is a group of party members who believe that in order to survive, the New Democratic Party must move sharply to the Left and join working Canadians and their allies in the struggle for social justice, democracy and freedom.

Founded by NDP members in Toronto in 1998, the SC stands for the creation of a democratically-controlled economy and a cooperative commonwealth. We believe that the struggle for peace and environmental sustainability is central to the creation of a better world. We invite you to join with us in this most important endeavor.

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# Global Warming: We're Running Out of Time

**Social Ownership and Democratic Control of Energy Industry is Key to Protecting the Planet**

BY BARRY WEISLEDER

THE WORLD IS on the brink of runaway global warming, with devastating consequences, which can be avoided only if carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane emissions are reduced immediately.

One of the world's top climate scientists, James Hansen, head of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies, was one of the first to sound the alarm about global warming. Recently he defied efforts by White House appointees to NASA to force him to delete postings on his web site ([www.columbia.edu/~jeh](http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh)) that contradict positions taken by President Bush.

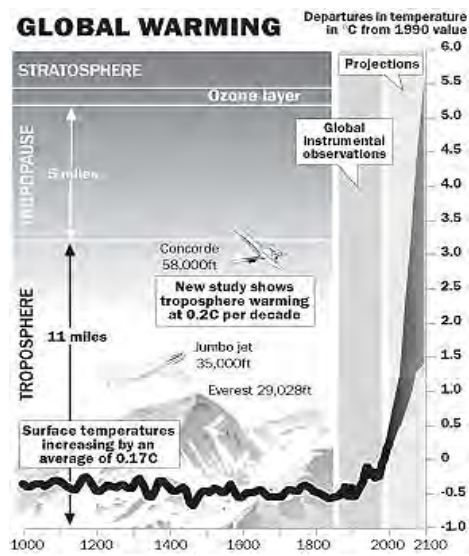
Hansen's message is a sharp reminder that Canada has been poorly lagging on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and has enormous ground to make up.

His central concern is the melting of polar ice caps, which is occurring far faster than predicted. To prevent a catastrophic rise in sea levels, increases in global temperatures must be no more than 1 degree Celsius.

Hansen points out that in the warmest periods during the past 400,000 years, temperatures were about 1 Celsius warmer than now, and in a couple of cases seas were five metres higher. In addition, rapid increases in sea levels of 10 metres or more occurred many times in the past.

If today's rate of increase were to continue, temperatures would be 2.8 Celsius higher by the end of this century. The last time the Earth was that warm, 3 million years ago, seas rose 25 metres above previous levels.

If that were to happen now, Hansen says, "the United States would lose most East Coast cities... (and) practically the whole state of Florida... China



**Left: Rising temperatures reach catastrophic levels by 2100 (University of Washington). Above: Scientists say that global warming will lead to extinction of millions of species over the next 50 years (National Geographic).**

would have 250 million displaced persons. Bangladesh would have 120 million refugees, practically the entire nation. India would lose the land of 150 million people."

Not just that. Because global warming is behind the increasing frequency and intensity of storms, the destruction of coastal communities by storms even worse than Hurricane Katrina in 2005 is likely.

**Capitalism is destroying the world. Only socialism - that is, public ownership of industry under democratic workers' control - can possibly save it.**

To prevent temperatures rising beyond 1 Celsius, Hansen says global emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> must be capped within 10 years, and then cut a further 60 to 80 percent by 2050.

He also insists that human-caused methane emissions, like those released in oil and gas operations, should be cut immediately by 30 percent. Since methane is twenty-one times more potent as a greenhouse gas, limiting its emissions would be a fast start towards meet-

ing his targets.

The greatest fear is that global warming will rise so high that permafrost will melt and release methane. This is what caused intense global warming 58 million years ago that resulted in mass extinctions, says Hansen. Temperatures were then about 5.5 Celsius above today's level.

Many of Hansen's observations are based on data from the U.S. National Ice Core Laboratory, where scientists examined ice cores drilled in East Antarctica. That data shows there is a regular swing between warm and cold periods over the past 420,000 years.

So what caused the concentration of greenhouse gases to drop and the Earth to cool in the past? According to Hansen, it was primarily the Earth's orbital variations.

The planet moves from a circular to an elliptical orbit about every 92,000 years. The tilt of its axis changes by about two degrees on a 40,000-year time scale, and its closeness to the sun varies over about 23,000 years.

This doesn't affect the total radiation received from the sun, but it does change the angle. The northern hemisphere receives less heat, and less heat means lower CO<sub>2</sub> and methane emis-

sions, and a lower greenhouse effect.

That means never again will there be an ice age. Unless human become extinct, human-made greenhouse gases will offset cooling from orbital variations. Humans now control global climate.

Unfortunately, only a tiny minority - the rapacious ruling class of humanity that controls the global economic system - is wrecking havoc with the environment that threatens the future of humanity on this planet.

North America and the emerging Asian economies, especially China, are responsible for the bulk of the annual 2.1 percent increase in emissions. Therein lies the challenge of capping them by 2016 - or else.

The good news is that, according to Hansen and a report by Canada's National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) and ICF Consulting International of Toronto, all the tools needed to achieve the cuts in Canada and the U.S. are available now. The report's list ranges from upgrading homes, to improving fuel efficiency for motor vehicles, to capturing carbon dioxide and storing it.

Unfortunately, the report does not suggest conscripting corporate profits, especially those of the gas and oil giants, for investment in developing and implementing green energy technologies. This matches the abject weakness of the proposals offered by Al Gore's popular video documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

With Ottawa not enforcing the Kyoto Protocol (and Washington disavowing it altogether), and given the absence of incentives to invest in projects in China and India that reduce emissions, the rapid descent to disaster continues unabated.

The old aphorism, "capitalism fouls things up," is an outdated understatement. Today's verdict must be: Capitalism is destroying the world. Only socialism - that is, public ownership of industry under democratic workers' control - can possibly save it.

## Harper Digs Deeper into Afghanistan

Continued from page 1

the Afghan mission is a mistake.

Support for the Afghan mission has been sliding since March and is now at its lowest point. Harper paid a surprise visit to the troops in Afghanistan in early March. Polls just after that showed a 55 percent majority supporting sending troops.

The mid-August numbers show a complete reversal, with 55 percent saying they oppose the involvement and only 37 per cent saying they support the "mission."

The Conservative government, like its Liberal predecessor which initiated the military intervention in Afghanistan, refuses to say Canada is at war. Foreign policy issues rarely determine the outcome of Canadian elections - except in time of war.

As the casualties mount, denying the obvious will not stem the growing opposition to the war in the streets, nor at the next election - provided there is a clear and principled anti-war option offered to working people on the ballot.

### NDP Response

So far, the NDP has declined to demand that all Canadian troops leave Afghanistan as soon as possible -- much less to take the side of the popular resistance to the Zionist apartheid state in Palestine and Lebanon.

NDP leaders' ambiguity about possible redeployment of Canadian forces to other potential sites for a military "mission" only helps Harper fudge



**David Sproule (left), Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan, escorts the pallbearer assembly with the body of Foreign Affairs Director Glyn Berry, killed by a bomb earlier this year**

the present issue behind the rhetoric of "multinational peacemaking," which is what Harper claims he is doing with other NATO countries in Afghanistan.

At the same time, Harper is trying to obscure certain inconvenient truths about the nature of the U.S.-backed puppet government in Kabul, particularly the fact that it is a regime made up largely of war lords and drug czars.

Afghanistan's so-called President, Hamid Karzai, certainly didn't help his cause when he recently told *Fortune Magazine* that "lots of people" in his administration profit from narcotics trade, adding he underestimated the difficulty of ending opium production.

Indeed, opium cultivation in Afghanistan has never been greater, up more than 40 percent from 2005. About 124,000 hectares of opium poppy were cultivated this season, up from 86,000 hectares last year.

The previous record was 108,000 hectares in 2004, according to

the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Last year, the UN reported Afghanistan produced an estimated 4,100 tonnes of opium, enough to make 410 tonnes of heroin, nearly 90 per cent of world supply.

Opium accounted for 52 per cent of Afghanistan's gross domestic product in 2005. It was virtually nil in 2000 when the Taliban controlled most of the country.

Now the Taliban derives funding from the drug trade. UN officials admit that any serious effort to eradicate poppy growing would increase the insurgency and sweep away the Karzai regime and the foreign occupation forces supporting it.

It encouraged growth of a diversity of crops, until Washington funded and equipped the Taliban, along with other reactionary forces, to wage civil war, expel the Soviet military, and seize control of the country, all in the name of freedom.

### Canadian Military

The reality of Ottawa's dirty war, in support of an ugly regime, is presenting military recruiters with a serious challenge. Despite Harper's recent \$24 billion boost to military spending (\$17.1 billion for new planes, ships, helicopters and trucks, and \$6.9 billion for maintenance, support contracts and new recruits), the anticipated desperate layer of unemployed youth from economically depressed regions is slow to come forward to fill the ranks.

General Rick Hillier thinks he has a solution, an idea he floated last February, now endorsed by Senator Colin Kenny, head of the Senate defence committee: recruit landed immigrants.

Their reward would be "a fast track to Canadian citizenship," Kenny told the *Toronto Star* (August 22). That's assuming they endure racist hazing and survive front line combat and live to collect the reward.

Starting October 1, 30 per cent of those signing up for the Canadian Forces will be enrolled within a week, General Hillier told the annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association. As for

**The NDP, the unions, the working class and allied social protest movements must mobilize our ranks to knock our rulers off this utterly disastrous course.**

the rest, half will start basic training within a month. The remainder will be subject to more intense scrutiny to make sure they have the right psychological temperament for the job, he said.

Hillier did not explain what temperament he thinks is required for a job that he earlier described as "killing scumbags." Senator Kenny also suggested new recruits could be spared a medical exam if they bring a doctor's note attesting to their fitness.

It appears little effort will be spared to fulfill Stephen Harper's pledge to increase the number of regular armed forces members to 75,000 in the next five years, an increase of 20 per cent.

A bigger, more aggressive army, at the service of Canada's corporate elite, in alliance with its allies in Washington, London and beyond, may well come to pass.

Unless, of course, the NDP, the unions, the working class and allied social protest movements mobilize our ranks to knock our rulers off this utterly disastrous course.



# TURN LEFT

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Made by Union Labour.

Editor: Sean Cain | www.ndpsocialists.ca



## Running from the Left in the Next Election - and Winning

BY SEAN CAIN

ELECTING 29 New Democrats in the 2006 federal election was a great improvement from two years earlier, but many felt we could have done even better, especially considering the massive unpopularity of both Stephen Harper and Paul Martin.

The 308 candidates throughout Canada who carried the NDP banner ran good campaigns and should be thanked for their hard work and determination. The party leadership, however, seemed absent when it came to confronting economic inequality, unemployment and corporate power, as well as generating a long-term, democratic and socialist vision for the future.

There was virtually no discussion from Jack Layton on rising oil prices or prescription drugs, the huge

gaps that exist in social spending, or growing inequality and poverty. Likewise, there were no policy alternatives put forth by the NDP Leadership to combat these fundamental problems - ideas like full employment, reforming Bank of Canada monetary policy, social ownership and democratic control of the oil and drug companies, fair trade that puts workers' rights and the environment first, and a reduction of the work-week to give the unemployed work and the overworked a break.

Starting now, the party can no longer ignore that little ugly thing called economics. If we can't explain how we're going to create jobs, eradicate homelessness and poverty, and close the ever widening gap between the rich and the poor, how do we expect voters to put us in power?

The NDP Leadership shouldn't have run away, as it did in 2006, from important policies like an inheritance tax. In fact, for a party that is consistently criticized for not being clear about how it intends to raise revenues to pay for increased social spending, higher taxes on the wealthy should be inscribed on the opening pages of our campaign booklet - and proudly.

Yet some in the party still believe that there is a difference between running on a progressive, workers' agenda on one hand and being electable on the other. This is where we always go wrong, because these two choices are not on opposite sides of the fence - they're one and the same.

When more working Canadians are voting Conservative or Liberal than NDP, we're doing something very wrong. Moving to the centre and trying to squeeze a couple more votes out of the middle class isn't worth losing potentially hundreds of thousands more from working Canadians and the poor, who have been turning away from polling stations for years because of a lack of real alternatives.

In order to win government, the NDP needs to bring them back to the voting booths. And to do this, we need government that challenges the failures of our economic system and puts forth alternatives that will change the way people work and live in Canada.

Another reform long overdue for our party is to stop campaigning for only a slightly greater number of MPs each election and start running for an **NDP government** that will work in the interests of wage-earners, small business owners, the unemployed, students, women, people of colour and seniors.

People want to elect a winner, and we better start acting like one if we want to get anywhere near power. In politics, if you want a foot, you've got to ask for a mile. Unfortunately in the last election, Layton asked for a foot and got even less.

The NDP needs to connect with disenfranchised voters like never before by taking aim at the liars and criminals of corporate Canada, their control over the political system, and the business-dominated media that accepts and sustains their unwarranted rule.

It is this boldness, along with the party's outstanding candidates and hard working members, that will one day lead to a federal NDP government - and a much better future for us all.

*Moving to the centre and trying to squeeze a couple more votes out of the middle class isn't worth losing potentially hundreds of thousands more from working Canadians and the poor, who have been turning away from polling stations for years.*

## Defend CUPE's Stand for Palestine, Boycott of Israel

SINCE MAY 27, when over 900 delegates at the annual convention of the Ontario division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) voted unanimously to campaign for Palestinian self-determination and a boycott of Israel, the union has come under a steady barrage from the business media and Zionist organizations.

CUPE Ontario is the largest public sector union in Ontario and represents over 200,000 workers in Canada's most populous province. The resolution represents the most powerful statement in support of Palestinian rights ever made by a North American trade union.

It expresses support for the global campaign against Israeli apartheid and commits the union to educate its members about Ottawa's political and economic support for anti-Palestinian practices and to join the international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until Palestinian self-determination is won. The resolution highlights the right of return for Palestinian refugees as an indispensable component of Palestinian self-determination.

Two days after Resolution 50 was adopted, another boycott resolution was passed by the largest union of university teachers in Britain, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. NATFHE, representing about 70,000 members, declared its active support of boycotts against Israeli academics and academic institutions that do not publicly take an explicit stand against Israeli apartheid and Israel's discriminatory educational system.

These two resolutions represent the latest in a snowballing movement to isolate Israeli apartheid just as South African apartheid was during the 1980s and early 90s. A long list of institutions, city councils, religious organizations, political parties and unions have endorsed the call for boycott, divestment and sanctions.

In February 2006, the Church of England's general synod - including the Archbishop of Canterbury - voted to divest church funds from companies profiting from the Israeli occupation. In

2005, the World Council of Churches and the Presbyterian Church of the United States voted to commence divestment actions. Regional councils in Norway and the Basque country in Spain have endorsed a comprehensive boycott on Israeli goods.

This growing movement has provoked a widespread crisis in the Zionist movement and has filled the Israeli press with stories, editorials and debate about the boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign. Its opponents fear that the identification of Israel with apartheid is reaching a global critical mass. Thus the frantic response of Zionist organizations and the business media is not surprising.

But the same can hardly be said for Canadian Auto Workers' President Buzz Hargrove who wrote a lengthy article published on June 5 in the *Toronto Star* titled "CUPE Boycott of Israel won't Help Cause of Peace."

Hargrove denounces "violence on both sides," condemns the election of Hamas, and says calling Israel an apartheid state is "unfair," even though he offers no rationale.

In place of CUPE's principled stand, Hargrove promotes the "two-state solution" which has been shown, time and again, to be a Bantustan solution that reduces Palestinian enclaves to chronic underdevelopment and unspeakable misery - confining Palestinians to a free-fire zone where the powerful Israeli military intervenes at will with ruthless ferocity.

CUPE Ontario is attracting considerable support for its courageous public stand. At one time, it was "unpopular" to advocate a boycott of South Africa. But decades of progressive union education burst through that polite barrier to foster action for social justice.

When solidarity knows no borders, injustice will find no refuge. A massive expansion of the public debate sparked by CUPE can force the Canadian government to resume aid to the Palestinian people, with no strings attached, and begin to end Ottawa's alignment with Washington in Afghanistan, Haiti and beyond.

*At one time, it was "unpopular" to advocate a boycott of South Africa. But decades of progressive union education burst through that polite barrier to foster action for social justice.*



Made in Palestine, by Zuhdi al-Adawi

## Is Military Spending "Aid"?

BY BARRY WEISLEDER

GLOBAL MILITARY spending exceeds \$1 trillion (U.S.) per year. Credit the so-called "war on terror" for the \$200 billion more spent today than in 2000, pre-9/11.

*Toronto Star* editors, who backed decisions by successive Liberal and Conservative federal governments to boost Canada's military spending by billions, recently provided a public hand-wringing performance when they wrote: "And it is money the United States, Canada and other major donors could have put to far better use helping the world's poorest by meeting the United Nations' target of spending 0.7 per cent of our wealth on aid. We are not even halfway there... And that means hardship for the 1 billion people who live on \$1 a day."

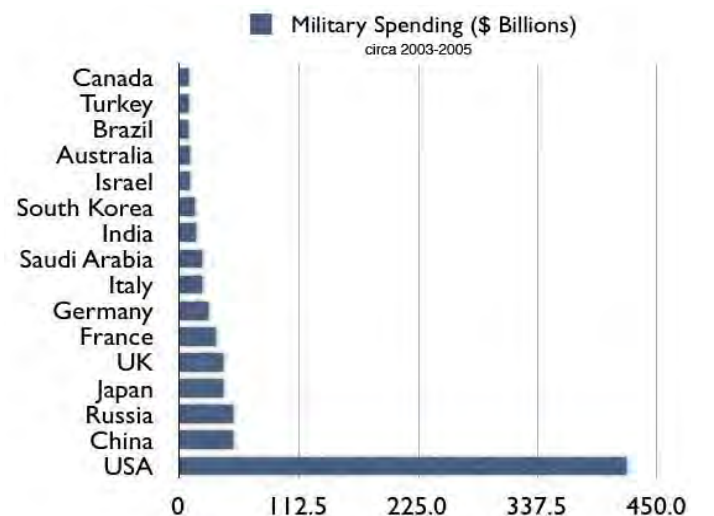
Leaving aside whether traditional aid, typically tied to self-serving trade and marketing practices,

would much alleviate poverty, the *Star* ought to reflect on the fiscal impact of its support for Ottawa's extended war and occupation in Afghanistan.

But the story gets worse, according to the annual report of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) and a global network of development groups. *The Reality of Aid, 2006* states that some countries, including Canada, are lobbying to have military and security spending in foreign interventions counted as "aid," an accounting trick designed to mask militarism.

The \$80 billion the world spends on aid has grown from \$50 billion five years ago. But of that \$30 billion in new funding, \$10 billion went to Iraq and Afghanistan. Here's another way to look at it. Since 2000, military spending per person in the G-7 rose by \$168. So-called "aid" has risen by \$11.

Canada needs to stop subsidizing arms producers through corporate welfare and calling it "aid." We need to implement real aid that invests in education, health care, workers' rights and local democracy.



Above: The huge military expenditures of the United States, leaving plenty left over for export to undemocratic regimes in the Global South (Source: Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation).



# ONDP Socialist Caucus Resolutions

The NDP Socialist Caucus adopted a package of thirty-three resolutions at its annual conference in May 2006, divided into three sections: foreign policy, domestic policy, and party democracy. We hope you speak out and support them at convention

## FOREIGN POLICY

### 1. Canada Out of Haiti

Whereas the Canadian government, military and police participated in the February 29, 2004 coup that overthrew the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti;

And whereas the de-facto ("Interim") government of Haiti stands accused by international human rights organizations of killings and jailings of several thousands of supporters of the ousted government and of failing to provide the basic necessities of life for much of the country's population;

And whereas, the United Nations-sanctioned occupation forces in Haiti, including Canada, have aided and abetted the illegal interim government;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the New Democratic Party call upon the Government of Canada to:

\* Demand the immediate release of Amnesty International prisoners of conscience former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune and folk singer Annette "So Ann" Auguste as well as all other political prisoners;

\* Use all possible means to bring an end to killings and jailings by police and occupation forces aimed at the Haitian poor and their social and political movements;

\* Convene a formal parliamentary inquiry into the role of Canada in the 2004 coup in Haiti, including the circumstances surrounding the 2003 "Ottawa Initiative on Haiti" conference and the role of Elections Canada in the illegal and unconstitutional presidential and legislative elections of 2006;

\* End the RCMP training of Haitian National Police, and remove all Canadian police and military personnel from Haiti;

\* Announce Canada's support for the call of the governments of the Caribbean community countries (CARICOM) and the African Union for an investigation into the circumstances of President Aristide's removal;

\* Increase development aid to Haiti and ensure that all aid to Haiti be delivered in cooperation with the duly-elected and sovereign government of that country.



Political prisoner and Lavalas Party supporter Gerard Jean-Juste, still in Haitian jail and prevented from receiving medical treatment for his ill health

### 2. End the Occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan

Whereas the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq aims to entrench U.S. power

and control of the oil wealth in the region, and not primarily to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, uproot terrorists, or spread democracy;

And whereas Canadian forces in Afghanistan are engaged in combat to seek and destroy insurgents, and to prop up a US-puppet government of human rights abusers, drug traffickers and warlords, and to justify aggressive militarism increasingly allied to Washington's global corporate agenda;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the NDP demand that the U.S. get out of Iraq immediately, and that Canadian forces get out of Afghanistan and disengage from any support role for the U.S. and its puppet regime in Iraq, including the training of Iraqi soldiers in Jordan, and policing the shipping lanes of the Persian Gulf.

### 3. Justice for Palestinians

Whereas there can be no lasting peace in Palestine/Israel, or the surrounding region, without social justice;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the NDP supports the Right of Return for all refugees, an end to the Israeli settlements and Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, a halt to the armed aggression, the bulldozing of homes, destruction of olive groves and farms, and the assassination of political leaders and activists by the Zionist state, and the NDP demands the removal of the apartheid wall, still under construction across the West Bank.

Therefore Be it Further Resolved that the NDP calls for restoration of aid to the Palestinian Authority, demands a halt to military aid and economic trade with Israel until all the above demands are met, and that the NDP campaign for an end to the rule of apartheid laws that make Palestinians and Israeli Arabs second and third class citizens under occupation.



Palestinians attacked by Israeli Armed Forces in Gaza Strip in July (photo: AP)

## DOMESTIC POLICY

### 4. Social Ownership and Economic Democracy

Whereas large corporations and financial institutions are undemocratic and hierarchical, seeking profits and power over and above the interests of citizens and the environment;

And whereas social ownership is a necessary precondition for democratic control of the economy, full employment And an equitable distribution of income and power;

And whereas workers' control would contribute greatly to economic justice, greater efficiencies, and most importantly, improve the quality of life of working people and our allies;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP is committed to actively campaign for and implement social ownership, including but not limited to the following industries: banking, communications, energy, health care, insurance, manufacturing,

mass media, medical drugs, natural resources, transportation;

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that these industries be democratically controlled and managed by their workers, by instituting direct election of plant managers and enterprise directors, with the right of recall by their electors, and integrate significant and meaningful consumer participation in the decision-making process.

### 5. Fair and Democratic Trade

Whereas the so-called "free trade" agreements of the FTA, NAFTA, GATS, the FTAA and the institution of the WTO are undemocratic and driven by the corporations and banks to maximize private profits and make the worldwide movement of money easier;

Whereas this corporate agenda is a serious threat to social programmes, the environment, human and labour rights, and the goals of democratic socialism; Therefore Be It Resolved that the New Democratic Party is committed to active campaign for abrogation and withdrawal of Canada from NAFTA, the FTAA, FTA, GATS and the WTO.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the NDP is committed to developing and promoting a democratic and participatory system of trade that supports and protects the rights, freedoms and interests of working people, unions, women, Aboriginal peoples, farmers and peasants, seniors, and the poor, dispossessed and marginalized peoples.



### 6. Elimination of Tuition and Student Debt

Whereas the cost of post-secondary tuition has skyrocketed in recent years;

And whereas many students are now graduating from post-secondary institutions with student-debt of over \$50,000 each;

Therefore Be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign to ensure that federal funding for education impose requirements on the provinces to immediately freeze tuition, and through annual reductions, eliminate tuition completely within five years.

Therefore Be it further resolved that the NDP actively campaign for a more equitable and progressive taxation system that would allow such increased funding to take place.

### 7. Raise the Minimum Wage

Whereas the current minimum wage is far too low to support a single person, let alone a family;

And whereas the current minimum wage unfairly punishes the young, and food/beverage servers;

Be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate, the elimination of distinctions in the minimum wage law based on age or occupation.

Be it further resolved that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate an increase in the minimum wage to a living wage (currently equivalent to approximately \$12.50/hour in Ontario) over a four year period, and include a permanent, annual cost of living adjustment to keep pace with inflation



In many provinces, the minimum wage hasn't kept pace with inflation - or the increases in CEO pay (photo: AP)

### 8. Housing

Whereas homelessness is unacceptable;

Whereas many people are living in marginal housing and on the verge of becoming homeless;

Whereas homelessness has increased in the last ten years and homeless people are dying on the streets;

Whereas developers are not interested in creating affordable housing;

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP in government will take initiatives, with the cooperation of the municipalities and the provincial governments, to create universally affordable and accessible cooperative and social housing,

And further be it resolved that the NDP must have both long term and short-term policies for creating universally affordable and accessible cooperative and social housing for all people,

And be it further resolved that the NDP actively campaign for the demand that the federal government allocate 2% of federal expenditures for cooperative and social housing.



The result of a broken economic system. Social housing is needed now (photo: Leah McLoed)

### 9. Bank of Canada

Whereas the government of Canada borrowed from the Bank of Canada at minimal or no interest for 41 years to supply our physical and social infrastructure, such as healthcare and education;



And whereas the government of Canada now borrows from private and foreign banks at high interest rates, resulting in the destruction of our social infrastructure, and an enormous debt;

Therefore Be it Resolved that government return to borrowing from the Bank of Canada, the Charter of which is still in effect.

#### 10. Repeal the Clarity Act

Whereas the Liberal government's federal Clarity Act, which arrogates to Parliament the unilateral right to determine, after the fact, whether a future referendum vote for Quebec sovereignty has a sufficient majority, and a sufficiently clear question, and thus constitutes a gross violation of Quebec's national right to self-determination;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for the repeal of the Clarity Act.

#### 11. Work Week

Whereas the Canadian work week is among the longest in the industrialized world, a situation proven to cause increased stress, illness and lower productivity;

Whereas tens of thousands of new jobs would be created if the work week was reduced appropriately;

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign to reduce the work week throughout Canada to 32 hours, without loss of pay or benefits to workers, and to outlaw mandatory overtime.

#### 12. Right to Strike

Whereas governments increasingly seek to erode, restrict or eliminate workers' right to strike, falsely arguing that unions and strikes pose a threat to public health and safety, while governments themselves trample human needs by de-regulating capital, privatizing public services, and facilitating growing corporate control over all facets of life;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate the unfettered right to strike for all working people, and that the party respect the integrity and competence of unions to safeguard public health and safety, and provide for the delivery of genuinely essential services during a strike by their members.



#### 13. "Third Party" Loan Applications by "Signature Affidavits"

Whereas financial institutions may approve credit and open loan accounts using 'Off-Site Loans Closings' on the basis of 'Third Party' witnessed and notarized 'Signature Affidavit' for loan applications without a debtor's awareness or active participation prior to a deployment of loaned funds for purchases. (known in the industry as 'Sitting Duck' loans);

Be it resolved that the NDP urge that financial institutions on receipt of 'Third Party' initiated loan applications by 'Signature Affidavit' provide written notification

to inform pending debtors of a credit approval process started on their behalf including the witness's name and identification of the notary taking the 'Signature Affidavit' and the destination identification of the pending funds transfer.

Be it further resolved that the NDP urge that financial institutions log the occurrences of the receipts of 'Third Party' initiated loan applications by 'Signature Affidavit' to track and report the amounts of such loan applications including identification of witnesses and notaries taking 'Signature Affidavits' and destination beneficiaries of pending funds transfers to a regulating agency in monthly intervals.

#### 14. Identity Theft Mortgage Loans

Whereas financial institutions implement mortgage loans based on loan applications supported by lawyer's documentation with title search and fund transfer instructions.

Be it resolved that the NDP urge that financial institutions on receipt of 'Lawyer' initiated mortgage loan applications provide written notification to inform pending debtors of a credit approval process started on their behalf including the lawyer's name and the destination identification of the pending funds transfer.

Be it further resolved that the NDP urge that financial institutions log the occurrences of the receipts of 'Lawyer' initiated mortgage loan applications to track and report the amounts of such loan applications including identification of applicants and lawyers names and destination beneficiaries of pending funds transfers to a regulating agency in monthly intervals.

### INTERNAL PARTY DEMOCRACY

#### 15. For Democracy in Practice and for Leadership Accountability

Whereas the NDP suffers from the legacy of federal and provincial NDP leaders who violated NDP policies and principals adopted at conventions;

Therefore Be It Resolved that adopted policies and priorities are binding on party elected officials and staff for implementation, and that NDP leaders be subject to recall and replacement for violation of party principles, and for failure to implement democratically adopted policies and priorities.

#### 16. For More Policy Discussion at Conventions

Whereas substantially greater democracy and political pluralism are an urgent necessity within the NDP;

Therefore Be It Resolved that this party mandate and provide more accessible, more democratic, membership and delegate-driven party conventions, with low/minimal registration fees, and at least 80% of convention time dedicated to debate and voting on resolutions from grassroots organizations.



Speak out and support Socialist Caucus resolutions at convention!

### OTHER RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SOCIALIST CAUCUS

17. Solidarity with Cuba
18. Defend Venezuela and Bolivia
19. Proportional Representation within the NDP
20. Oppose "One Member One Vote" Polling
21. Social Ownership and Economic Democracy
22. Fair and Democratic Trade
23. Building the Party as a Mass Movement of the Working Class and Allies
24. No Public Funding for Private or Religious Schools
25. Alternative Fuel Cars
26. Restore Food Safety and Rebuild the Public Service
27. Open Source Computer Software
28. Justice for Wal-Mart Workers and Stop Run-Away-Shop Union Busting
29. Social Ownership of Primary Industries
30. Democratic Control of the Telecommunications Industry
31. Social Ownership of Banking and Insurance
32. Party Internal Financing
33. Sexuality Health and Identity
34. Securities Commissions Investigations Statutes of Limitations
35. Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) Jurisdiction

## Option 3 - the Better Choice for Greater Democracy Inside NDP

At this convention, delegates will have a chance to choose a new structure for the party. SC activist Peter Cassidy weighs in on the options

THE FEDERAL NDP has recently put forth three different proposals for reforming the party's executive and council. They recognize the current structures are, in many ways, not as accountable or as effective as desired, and goes on to suggest some interesting changes.

The Socialist Caucus supports some of the suggestions, in that they will make the party more democratic, participatory and accountable to the rank and file.

One of the three proposals worth looking at, for example, would set up six Equity Commissions: Aboriginal Peoples, Cultural Communities, Disability Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered, Women's and Youth.

These Commissions, adequately resourced, would communicate with the NDP members that identify themselves as being part of that community and would be accountable to them. They would identify issues of interest to these communities that could be addressed by the party, initiate campaigns targeted at them, and encourage their participation.

The commissions' structure would replace the current structure, which consists of a meeting at each convention of those delegates who self identify with equity groups.

At that meeting, "representatives," usually called co-chairs of committees, are elected to Federal Executive and Federal council. Yet there are often no actual Committees to speak of - only co-chairs.

There are no formal means to identify members of these communities amongst our membership nor any structure to bring members of these communities together for discussion and decision-making.

Election at federal conventions by only those members of the communities who can attend limits the pool of potential "representatives" and fails to build in any accountability to the group that is supposedly being represented.

The same lack of democracy and accountability found in equity communities has been seen, for example, in the selection of other members of federal executive and council.

Of the 117 people who will govern this party after the convention, only two of them will be up for election by delegates in the main convention hall. The vast majority of positions, including all members of Federal Council and Executive, will be elected by caucuses at this convention.

Of specific concern are the federal riding representatives, who are not elected by ridings and bear no accountability to any of them. Delegates elect these representatives at regional caucuses from the regions that made it to convention. The delegates vote by *region*, not by ridings.

One absurdity of the current structure is the requirement that if a Francophone is elected President, the Anglophone Caucus must meet to elect an Anglophone associate president to supposedly protect their threatened English language. The position Associate President (Other Language) should be changed simply to Associate President.

Tentatively, out of the three proposed party structures, I agree with an expanded version of Option 3: one body, combining positions similar to the current federal officers and executive, meeting once a month.

For the composition of the body, I would prefer some version of the Option 2 model, with positions equivalent to the current Federal officers plus regional representatives and ten task leaders.

For equity and other reasons, I would use the current model of eleven regional representatives, add the position of Associate President-Equity (to be elected by female delegates and self identified equity delegates), and maintain the current two labour representatives, one caucus representatives and the NDYC co-chair. This would bring the new grouping up to 32, representing the different communities in our party in one central body.

The president, treasurer and associate presidents should be full time and paid salary, benefits and expenses equivalent to the federal secretary.

There should include a provision which states that an NDP Leader who isn't yet an MP (such as Jack Layton and Alexa McDonough when they were chosen party leaders) receive the equivalent salary and benefits of the federal secretary.

The ten task leader positions should also be full time at a same salary and benefit level than the federal secretary.

Much of the Option 3 Structure is attractive. Its includes the thirty-two federal officers, sixteen to thirty labour representatives, ten commission co-chairs, two caucus representatives, three co-opts and eleven NDYC representatives. As well as secure funding, honorariums and expense coverage should be appropriate for the commission co-chairs.

I have problems with one portion of Option 3, namely the twenty-

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Left: Canadian armoured vehicles in Kabul, Afghanistan

## NDP Leaders Should Fight Swelling Military Spending

### So-called "Peacekeeping" in Afghanistan Taking Away from Vital Investments in Social Programs

MORE SURPRISING than the federal Conservative government's \$17.1 billion spending spree on transport planes, ships, helicopters and trucks for the military is the muted response of New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton and his caucus of MPs.

On top of the \$17.1 billion for equipment, the government will spend a further \$6.9 billion on maintenance and support contracts, plus money for new recruits.

Steve Staples, a military analyst with the Ottawa-based Polaris Institute, says Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plan will raise military spending within five years to \$21.5 billion a year - by far the highest level of Canadian military spending since World War II. Does anyone still believe that the reason for the military build up is to hunt Al Qaeda?

The NDP leadership's position on this profligacy seems like an enigma wrapped in a mystery. Or is it simply a case of silent complicity?

As bourgeois budgets go, certain choices always come at a high cost to social priorities. For example, the \$3.2 billion price tag for heavy-lift planes (awarded to U.S. aerospace giant Boeing, without competition) could pay for the elimination of post-secondary school tuition.

Other billions could go a long way towards training more nurses and reducing waiting times for surgery in our grossly under-funded public health care system. Then there are urgent needs for social housing, child care, aboriginal community services, green energy technologies... well, you get the picture.

The first recent whopping increase to the Canadian military came in Paul Martin's Liberal budget of June 2005. Jack Layton called it an "NDP budget" because he extracted \$4.6 billion

in more money for housing, pollution clean-up, education and foreign aid, along with a delay in corporate tax cuts. But Layton didn't put a dent in the Liberal boost in military spending to the tune of \$12.8 billion.

So, why should we expect even a murmur from the NDP caucus now? Because the situation is getting worse, and working people, including 100,000 members of the labour-based party, and over two million NDP voters, find it increasingly unacceptable.

Instead of campaigning to bring the troops home now, Jack Layton only said that it "is the wrong military mission for Canada." By trying to turn the issue

*NDP socialists argue that the illusion of a possible "independent" capitalist foreign policy for Canada, and a "peace-keeping" role that never existed, serve only as cover for imperialist rule by more liberal means.*

into a dispute about the ability of the Canadian capitalist state to redeploy its forces to Darfur (in Sudan) or another theatre of conflict where the Empire is losing control, Layton sidesteps a principled anti-war position while fostering illusions in Ottawa's past policies.

The Canadian state was never a "peacekeeper" - except in the morbid sense of delivering rebels to the eternal peace of an early grave. Canada is a colonial settler state built on the decimation and dispossession of Aboriginal peoples, the conquest of Quebecois and Acadians, and the squashing of two Metis rebellions, culminating in the hanging of their leader Louis Riel.

Throughout the 20th century,

the War Measures Act was employed three times, primarily to quell dissent and nationalist aspirations in Quebec.

As the junior partner of U.S. imperialism, the Canadian state went to war in Korea to halt socialist transformation in Asia. It helped to launch a United Nations military force that used the 1956 Suez Crisis to punish Egypt for nationalizing the Canal and to consolidate the expansionist Israeli colonial settler state on Palestinian land.

Ottawa went with U.N. forces into Belgian Congo in 1960, where UN troops helped to isolate the new anti-colonial, democratically-elected government, leading to the capture and assassination of nationalist leader Patrice Lumumba by the Belgian-backed Colonel (and future dictator) Joseph Mobutu.

Canada served with dishonour on the infamous International Control Commission, which covered up U.S. cease fire violations in Vietnam and did surveillance for the US during its terror bombing of the North.

Faced with a deadlocked U.N. Security Council, Canada went with NATO, the cold war relic, to wage war in Yugoslavia in 1999 to hasten the break-up of the former state and the privatization of its economy.

In 2004, Ottawa helped to arrange the overthrow of the democratically-elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and joined the continuing brutal foreign occupation of Haiti.

In the wake of the collapse of the Oslo Accord and the election of Hamas, Ottawa cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority and gives silent consent to the bombardment and invasion of Gaza by the heavily U.S.-subsidized Zionist military machine.

While the performance of the Canadian state is today more overtly aggressive, reflecting the bravado of the Harper Conservatives and a shift in Bay Street's priorities, it is not out of step with its legacy, nor with the interests of Canadian big business.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives publication *CCPA Monitor*, in its June 2006 edition, reports: "Canada is the seventh largest arms producer in the world, with annual sales of its ten largest contractors in the \$2.3 billion range. Most are sub-contractors to the U.S. military, making Canada directly complicit in America's wars. A Canadian company, for example, manufactures the bullets used by U.S. soldiers in Iraq."

In the same edition of the *CCPA Monitor*, Richard Sanders of the Coalition Against the Arms Trade points out: "About 100 Canadian companies have been identified as sellers and exporters of parts and services for major weapons systems used by the U.S. in Iraq."

The U.S. has hundreds of Canadian 'Stryker' vehicles in Iraq, light-armoured vehicles built in London, Ontario, by General Dynamics Canada, which also has contracts with the Pentagon to service and repair these vehicles."

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## AIDS Conference

Continued from page 1

This new economy gained expression in the rules of the World Trade Organization. It required free trade in goods and capital, but it demanded monopolization (restricted trade) in what came to be known as intellectual property.

In 1993, Brian Mulroney's Conservative government virtually eliminated Canada's compulsory licensing scheme for drugs. And when Jean Chretien's Liberals regained power later that year, they didn't reinstate it. So it's hardly surprising that Chretien's Pledge to Africa law has proven worse than useless. It contains safeguards for the drug giants to ensure that cheap generics are not diverted back to Canada. But the burden and complexity of the regulations inhibited production and shipment, thus dooming millions of AIDS victims to unnecessary misery and an early death.

Will the International AIDS Conference 2006 and related ongoing campaigns convince the federal Tories to amend the law? Will they enable Canada to become an important source of drugs for the developing world?

Federal Health Minister Tony Clement promised an immediate review of the legislation. But he hardly could have promised any less, especially as he tried to dodge the flak resulting from Prime Minister Harper's refusal to attend the Conference, as well as Harper's cancellation of a major funding announcement.

In any case, how likely is it that these capitalist vultures will bite the hands that feed them?

## Party Democracy

Continued from page 5

four federal riding representatives elected by delegates at convention, if not by the Council of Federal Ridings (CFRs), as well as the current model of Federal Council with twenty-six provincial/territorial table officers.

I suggest replacing these fifty positions with the same number of representatives elected by CFRs at the riding level, with one delegate and one alternate per CFR, at least one of which must be female.

The CFRs should be established by the number of ridings within a province: one CFR per province and additional CFRs for multiples of ten (10-19 ridings in a province: two CFRs, 20-29 ridings in a province: three CFRs, etc).

I assume provisions exist for executive and federal council members expenses, such as travel and accommodation, while attending meetings or other party business. This should be spelled out clearly for the membership and those who are seeking such positions.

Although not perfect, Option 3 is the best choice to creating a more participatory and democratic New Democratic Party. I urge all party members to vote for it when the time comes.

## Childcare Lacking For Those Who Need it Most

CANADA'S POOREST neighbourhoods have the least amount of regulated child care services in place.

According to a report released on July 5 by the City of Toronto entitled "Learning from Each Other: Early Learning and Child Care Experiences in Canadian Cities," there is a desperate need for more regional planning to ensure equal access to child care at a time when more than 70 percent of mothers of young children work outside the home.

Even in Quebec, where the provincial government has invested more than \$1 billion into creating a universal system of low-cost child care, the need-

est kids have the toughest time getting the service.

The report states, "As the Toronto and Vancouver stories show, even with a strong vision, a clear plan and a well-developed local infrastructure, inequalities will arise as long as there is insufficient funding to provide a place for all who want and need it."

The study looks at local children's programs including child care, kindergarten and recreation in cities across the country, using data gathered last fall from St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Toronto, Sudbury, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Vancouver and Whitehorse. It finds that none of the

cities has enough child care for children up to age twelve. In terms of access to licensed child care, just 13.6 per cent of children under twelve have it in Toronto, 25 percent of kids do in Whitehorse, 44.7 percent in Montreal, 16 percent in Winnipeg, 14.9 percent in St. John's, Newfoundland, and only 6.7 percent in Saskatoon.

Stephen Harper's federal Conservative government seems to have plenty of money to beef up the military. But its plans to put the axe to last year's federal-provincial child care funding agreements ensures that inadequate and uneven levels of child care service will only continue and worsen.



Harper's child care "plan" lacks the necessary dollars to provide every parent with affordable child care. Only public funding and control can do so.



# What Canadians Don't Know About Haiti

Canada's recent role in Haiti has been described as its worst foreign policy crime in the last fifty years, making it imperative for all Canadians of conscience to closely examine the elements of that shameful role

BY KABIR JOSHI-VIJAYAN

## Background

IN THE 1980S, a grassroots mobilization of the poor, known as the Lavalas movement, rose up against tyranny and a history of foreign backed dictators, and in 1986, expelled US-backed despot, Jean-Claude Duvalier. In 1990, this movement elected their candidate, Jean Bertrand Aristide, in Haiti's first ever democratic election.

Aristide promised no more to his electorate than to raise them from "misery to poverty" and began a program that concentrated on education, healthcare and the raising of the minimum wage.

Yet the hugely popular Aristide government was overthrown seven months later in a US-sponsored coup, and a military dictatorship under General Raoul Cedras was installed. The coup government of General Raoul Cedras began a vicious campaign to crush the Lavalas movement, in which the poor of Haiti suffered torture and murder until huge international pressure forced the US to re-install Aristide in 1994.

Aristide was re-elected in the 2000 Haitian elections (with 92% of the vote) and almost immediately, Canada, the US and France conspired with the Haitian elite to undermine the democratically elected regime.

On February 29, 2004 - as Haitians prepared to celebrate the bicen-

ennial of their freedom from slavery - Aristide and Haiti's entire government structure was overthrown by a "multinational" invasion and occupation by the U.S., France, and Canada. The occupation forces then appointed a "Council of the Wise" to select and install what was an illegal interim puppet government headed by American resident, Gerard Latortue.

The de-facto installed regime of Latortue unleashed a reign of terror against the Haitian poor and implemented economic and political programs to the benefit of its international backers. In addition, former death-squad leaders and members of the Haitian military (who had been players in the coup) were re-integrated into the Haitian National Police (HNP) and were used to eliminate any popular uprisings against the puppet regime.

Over the next two years, the HNP, backed up by MINUSTAH (the UN Monitoring Mission in Haiti), conducted almost daily raids on Haitian slums, summarily executing Aristide sup-

*As those pushing the NDP from the Left, there needs to be an understanding that Haitians do not appreciate Canada's disastrous role in thwarting and undermining democracy in their country.*

porters, and opened fire on unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators and the Haitian poor.

Currently, around 4,000 political prisoners continue to languish in the deplorable Haitian prisons, 90% of whom have never been charged, while convicted murderers and criminals, such as Louis Jodel Chamblain (one of the leaders in both coups against Aristide)



Human rights activists call for a return to democracy in Haiti. Unknown to a vast majority of Canadians is their government's role in the overthrow of former democratically-elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide (above right).

have been acquitted in trials labeled as "an insult to justice" and a "mockery" by Amnesty International.

It was under this climate of occupation and extreme political repression that tightly controlled Presidential and Legislative elections took place on February 7, 2006. Yet despite tremendous obstacles, such as inaccessibility to electoral registration, suppression of Lavalas party members, voting barriers for Haitians from rural areas and urban slums and repression at those voting stations, including the use of tear gas by state police, the Haitian poor majority came out en masse to vote for the candidate linked to the Lavalas movement, René Garcia Preval.

Yet Preval's initial 60% plus lead at exit polls began to steadily and suspiciously decline until it reached just below the 50% required to force a runoff election.

This was made all the more suspicious by the fact that an illegal Provisional Electoral Council (supported by Canadians and composed of representatives from all major parties except Preval's) was conducting the vote counting.

Outraged, the Haitian people mobilized in massive numbers to block the theft of their elections, motivated by the discovery of thousands of uncounted ballots found smoldering in garbage

dumps. These demonstrations eventually resulted in the Electoral Council and the International Community finally accepting Preval's legitimate victory, at 51.15%, although they insisted upon calling it a "brokered deal."

In all, the past two years have been disastrous for the Haitian population, with at least 10,000 dead, 20,000 in exile, some 100,000 internal refugees, 4,000 political prisoners (according to a United Nations account) and a developmental setback of decades.

Much of the power in Haiti still lies within the hands of the Haitian elite (which represents 1% of the Haitian population who control 50% of the country's wealth) and institutions of the international community, who continue to occupy the country, for the time being under the legitimacy of a United Nations mission.

## How was Canada Involved?

\* After Aristide's election in 2000, Canada cut-off aid to his elected government while Canadian agencies like the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) began pumping aid into NGOs and "civil society" organizations

*Continued on page 8*

# Why are Muslims Angry?

BY BARRY WEISLEDER

CAPITALIST POLITICIANS and media often state, or imply, that some Muslims engage in violence because of their religion. The truth is that Islam, like all religions, offers a very mixed bag.

One can find in any religion whatever one is looking to find. But it is important to consider the actual material conditions and lived experiences of the majority of the world's Muslims in order to gain some insight into the anger that many feel.

\* Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, in which 2,900 Americans were horribly and unjustifiably murdered, between 34,000 and 100,000 Iraqis have been brutally and unjustifiably killed by the American military and other armed groups set in motion by the U.S. invasion. Unknown is the number killed in Afghanistan. In the places hit by terrorists (including London, Madrid, Amman, Istanbul, Riyadh, Jeddah, Karachi, Bali and Jakarta), more Muslims have been killed and injured than non-Muslims.

\* Most Muslims live in underdeveloped countries, most of which were colonized by the Western powers as recently as fifty years ago. Among the spoils of the First World War, Britain and France grabbed much of the Ottoman Empire, including Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and what is now Israel, Jordan and the Palestine Authority. They created artificial states, like Kuwait and Nigeria. They divided India in 1947 into Muslim Pakistan and mostly Hindu India. More re-

cently, the United States maintains a host of client regimes in the Middle East to suppress anti-Zionist activity, to keep control of oil, and to exploit a captive market for armaments.

\* Hundreds of millions of Muslims live in war zones, the result of past and present European and US intervention. Conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Israeli-occupied Territories and Kashmir have killed an estimated 1.3 million Muslims in the last fifteen years alone. In addition, nearly 400 million Muslims live under authoritarian despots, many of them Western puppets whose corruption and incompetence have left their people in a state of economic and social ruin.

\* The total GDP of the 56 members of the Islamic Conference, representing more than a quarter of the world's population, is less than five percent of the world's economy. Their trade represents seven percent of world trade, even though more than two-thirds of the world's oil lie under Muslim lands.

\* The standard of living in Muslim nations is abysmal, even in oil-rich regions, due to the incredible gulf between rich and poor. A quarter of Pakistan's budget goes to the military. Most of the \$2 billion a year of American aid to Egypt, as a reward for peace with Israel, goes to the Egyptian military.

\* The Arab nations, with a combined population of 280 million, have a total GDP less than that of Spain. The rate of illiteracy among Arabs is 43 percent. Half of Arab women are illiterate,

representing two-thirds of the 65 million Arabs who cannot read or write. About 10 million Arab children are not in school. The most educated Arabs live abroad.

\* A disproportionate percentage of the world's youth are Muslim. Half of Saudi Arabia's and a third of Iran's populations are younger than twenty. Most are unemployed.

\* A majority of the world's 12 million to 15 million refugees are Muslims, fleeing poverty and oppression. Europe's 20 million Muslims suffer high unem-

ployment and poverty, especially in Germany and France.

The vast majority of Muslims form a major portion of the world's super-exploited and oppressed humanity. The realization of a better world, based on socialist transformation of class society, is hard to imagine without the active participation of the Muslim masses in the process of revolutionary change.

(Points above are drawn from an article titled "The Muslim Malaise" by Haroon Siddiqui, *Toronto Star*, August 20, 2006.)

## NDP Socialist Caucus Panel Discussions

Over the convention weekend, the Socialist Caucus is holding workshops and panel discussions. We warmly invite you to attend.

### Friday - Noon Lunch Break

**Identity Theft Protection**  
Location: Check at SC display table  
Speaker: Tony Crawford

### Friday - 6 p.m.

**Venezuela/Bolivia/Cuba Solidarity, Chavez and 21st Century Socialism. Lessons for the Canadian Left**  
Convention Centre (Room 2000-D)  
Speakers: Adolfo Figueroa, Consul of Venezuela; Oscar Coet, Consul General of Cuba in Montreal; Phil Goebel, Hands Off Venezuela, presenting a report from worker occupied factories in Venezuela.

### Saturday - Noon Lunch Break

**Quebec Self-Determination and the NDP**  
Location: Check at SC display table  
Speakers: Robbie Mahood, member of the new Leftist and pro-sovereignty party Quebec Solidaire.

### Saturday - 6 p.m.

**What is Canada Doing in Haiti?**  
Convention Centre (Room 2000-D)  
Speakers: Yves Engler, co-author of "Canada in Haiti: Waging War on the Poor Majority."

### Saturday - 7 p.m.

**Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq - Canada's Role in the Conflicts**  
Convention Centre (Room 2000-D)  
Speakers: Rezeq Faraj, co-chair, Palestine-Jewish Unity Group in Montreal and former NDP candidate.



## Military Spending

Continued from page 6

The benefits to the Canadian corporate elite do not derive exclusively from military production, but include the profits made by Canadian banks, mining firms and manufacturers in countries dominated by the Empire which the Canadian state helps to sustain.

For example, Montreal-based Gildan Activewear, the biggest producer of T-shirts in North America, operates notorious sweat shops in low-wage Haiti under the shadow of the Canada-France-US-Brazil-led U.N. occupation.

SNC Lavalin built the Canadian embassy, provided bullets for the occupying forces, and has been awarded a lucrative contract to construct an additional highway out of the capital, Port Au Prince, to better transport the Haitian elite - while the vast majority of Haitians do without potable water and electricity.

When the NDP in Parliament has addressed foreign policy, it was often Alexa McDonough, NDP International Affairs Critic, calling for more RCMP to go to Haiti, putting equal blame on Palestinians for the conflict with the gar-

ison state that imprisons their people, and asking the Canadian military to "resume peacekeeping" in Afghanistan.

Based on reports from across the country, delegates to the NDP's 22nd Federal Convention, September 8-10 in Quebec City, will be ready with tough questions and eager for alternative policies.

At NDP constituency associations, affiliated unions, and youth club meetings in recent weeks, rank and file members have discussed and endorsed numerous resolutions (see pages 4 and 5) circulated by the Socialist Caucus, the organized left wing movement within the party.

The resolutions include demands that the NDP actively campaign for immediate removal of Canadian soldiers, sailors and police from Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, and Haiti; for the Right of Return for all Palestinian refugees, for an end to the Israeli occupation and Apartheid Wall, for restoration of aid to the Palestinian Authority and for a boycott of Israel; for solidarity with Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia and opposition to any U.S.-backed intervention; and for fair and democratic trade, along the lines of the Bolivarian Trade Alternative (ALBA), to replace the global corporate agenda identified with the North America Free Trade Agreement.

NDP socialists argue that the illusion of a possible "independent" capitalist foreign policy for Canada, and a "peace-keeping" role that never existed, serve only as cover for imperialist rule by more liberal means. Such a policy misleads New Democrats and misrepresents the interests of working people at home and abroad.

The alternative is anti-militarism and anti-imperialism. It is one driven by a vision of a cooperative commonwealth, a socialist democracy that puts people before profits, a perspective that is animated by internationalism, ecology and human solidarity.

And that is a vision truly worth fighting for.

**Elect Socialist Caucus candidates for NDP Executive**



**Help build a more democratic and participatory NDP**

*"For the millions, not the millionaires"*

## Warning: Banking is Bad for your Wealth

BY TONY CRAWFORD

IN JULY 2006, a BBC documentary called *The Money Trap* ventured into a sensitive area - debtors committing suicide over Bank loans.

A whistle blower from a major bank spoke out against selling loans to people they call "revolvers" for constantly taking new loans to pay off unpaid debt. It's uncanny how name-calling focuses on qualifications and conditions for connotation and humor.

"In all my years of experience in the banking industry," said the whistle blower, "I would say that consumers should be very, very wary of their banks. They put profits before consumers at every opportunity. I believe the banks are basically neglecting their duty of care. They have targets on every banking retail product available and they have commissions and bonuses on every product."

"It is a very sophisticated, tailored, tested marketing strategy and sales pitch to a public that has very little knowledge of what is going on," he said.

In Canada, fraudulently signed loans and mortgages are good for business. While banks check customers' identifications, the law gives bankers freedom to approve enormous loans without any validation with you, the actual account holders.

Banks have no worries giving

your money away. They accept a signature affidavit, a forged power of attorney or a phony ID. Any method to defraud will work.

Prime Minister Harper is aware of the problem from a petition sent to him, signed by 300 people who called for an investigation into Bank of Montreal (BMO) so-called "Sitting Duck" clients with tied loans notarized by, and for, a Toronto lawyer selling investment products.

The game is described in a book called *The Perfect Sting* that includes a letter from Mr. Robert Pearce, ex-BMO Chief of Retail Banking. He defended voluntary guidelines as sufficient consumer protection in these matters.

But his resignation, only a week before a guilty verdict was brought down against an accountant before a disciplinary hearing concerning undisclosed loans, provides an excellent unspoken book review.

In 2005, Canada launched an annual Fraud Awareness Month, taking place each March, with this year's theme focusing on education. "Scams not only cost victims financially, but also robs them of their dignity, their sense of self and, in some cases, their very identity," said Minister of Industry David Emerson. "If Canadians do not recognize these scams and fraudulent acts, they cannot report them ... and the perpetrators will prevail."

The NDP is gearing up for its 22nd annual convention at Quebec City in September to consider fraud prevention as a serious personal issue. Party activists are also preparing resolutions to urge the government to take action and do more to protect the public from scams and corporate rip-offs.

## Canada's Role in Haiti

Continued from page 7

linked to groups within Haiti working to destabilize the Aristide government and to others linked to the Haitian business elite.

\* The decision to overthrow Jean-Bertrand Aristide was made in Canada at Meech Lake in January 2003 at a meeting called the "Ottawa Initiative" (a secret round table meeting hosted by the Canadian government and consisting of all the "major players" in Haiti, none of which were Haitian).

\* In 2004, when a small group of well-armed rebels marched towards Port-Au-Prince (the Haitian capital) in an attempt to oust Aristide, Pierre Pettigrew (then Cabinet Minister) met with the self-proclaimed mastermind behind the coup, Paul Arcelin, in Montreal.

\* When the rebels failed to capture the capital, Canadian Joint Task Force 2 soldiers secured the Haitian airport, while US Marines abducted Aristide, placed him on a Cargo Plane and deposited him to the Central Republic of Africa.

\* Immediately following the coup, 550 Canadian troops moved in to occupy Haiti. While under their watch, the small rebel militia conducted a campaign of terror against Lavalas party members and supporters.

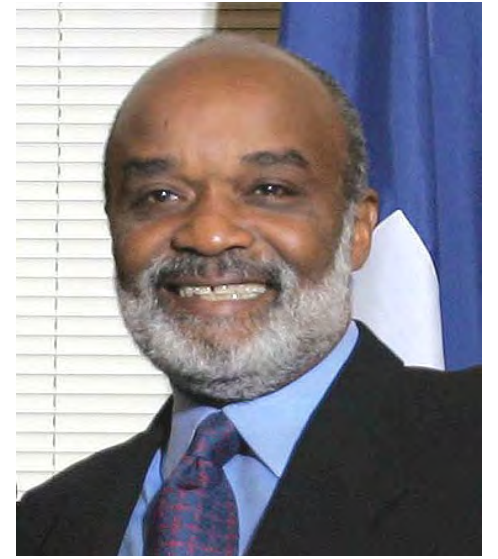
\* Canada helped disband the entire Haitian government structure - constituting some 7,000 elected officials - and installed the illegal, unelected and brutal regime of Gerard Latortue.

\* Canadian RCMP officers led a UN civilian police force that was arming, monitoring and training the Haitian National Police (HNP) and has integrated it with former members of the brutal Haitian army (an army that Aristide had disbanded in 1996). Canadian support of the HNP effectively whitewashed the forces' heinous crimes.

\* The Canadian government provided military, logistical, diplomatic and financial support to the despised Latortue junta. \$180 million was donated to implement a neo-liberal plan for Haiti. This plan gives tax cuts to big businesses, further reduces the lowest minimum wage in the hemisphere and calls for the privatization of Haiti's state-owned enterprises.

\* Canada provided funding and personnel to the corrupt Ministry of Justice of the coup regime. The Deputy Minister of Justice in Haiti under the Latortue regime, Philippe Viximar, was a direct employee of CIDA. Viximar oversaw the illegal arrest and detention of political prisoners, as well as the freeing of human rights abusers.

\* Canadian government officials, including then Prime Minister Paul Martin and Foreign Affairs Minister, Pierre Pettigrew, denied the existence of political prisoners in Haiti and of abuses by the Latortue regime, even though the UN itself recently acknowledged and con-



**Newly elected President Rene Preval: Will this finally mean justice and freedom for the people of Haiti?**

demned both realities.

\* The coup has meant huge profits for Canada's business elite. Canadian corporations have doubled imports from Haiti under the coup government.

\* Canada's chief electoral officer, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, headed the International Monitoring Mission for the Haitian Elections and sanctioned the legality of those elections, even as the most popular party was prevented from participating and overt attempts of electoral fraud were discovered.

\* Stephen Harper, our new Prime Minister, welcomed then outgoing Prime Minister Latortue with open arms (as had his Liberal predecessors), but gave a very chilly reception to the elected President Rene Preval, who was labeled with the status of a "visiting parliamentarian" or "celebrity."

### New Course

Canada's violations in Haiti demand a new and principled position by the NDP:

\* There must be a demand for an independent investigation of Canada's role in Haiti since the election of Aristide in 2000. The custom of impunity for those nations committing crimes against Haiti and Haitians must come to an end - starting with the Canadian state.

\* Canada must also withdraw support for United Nations Police Forces, who have been implicated in widespread human rights abuses against the Haitian poor majority by various human rights organizations.

\* Canada must provide "no strings attached" aid directly to the government of Haiti and end the practice of subverting funds to suspect "civil society" organizations and donor-directed initiatives.

\* Canada must support calls for the cancellation of Haiti's \$1.4 billion odious debt, as dictated by International Law.

\* Canada must pay reparations for the significant damage done to Haiti in undermining democracy and human rights abuses, including killings committed by United Nations Forces.

Some may recall that Alexa McDonough recently led an all-party delegation to Haiti during its April Legislative Elections in order to learn more about conditions and determine what direction Canada should take. Unfortunately, McDonough only espoused the same mantra that the NDP has been asserting from the onset: "Canada is helping Haiti... and Canada must continue to stay the course - just as Haiti charts a new course."

As those pushing the NDP from the Left, there needs to be an understanding that Haitians **do not** appreciate Canada's disastrous role in thwarting and undermining democracy in their country, and that it is Canada that needs to chart a **new** course - in its actions abroad and at home, in solidarity with the one Haitians have been charting for more than 200 years.

### SOCIALIST CAUCUS DISPLAY AT CONVENTION

Located at the Identity Theft Protection Table (Number 4).

We will have Socialist Caucus literature, buttons, information on our panel discussions, sign-up sheets, and more.

Tony Crawford will also have available his new book, *Identity Theft Protection*.

**COME BY FOR A VISIT!**