

The Leveller

CAMPUS • COMMUNITY • CULTURE

SPRING 2013

Giving 'em the boot since 2009

VOL. 5, NO. 6

Avec
Les Sans-Culottes

HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL HEARS INDIGENOUS CHILD WELFARE CASE TO THE IRE OF HARPER GOVERNMENT

Andy Crosby

A hearing at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal regarding Ottawa's systemic neglect and unfair treatment of Indigenous children began on Feb. 25 and is expected to last 14 weeks.

The human rights complaint, which Ottawa has spent millions of dollars

legally held to account for its discriminatory treatment of Indigenous children and their families.

"We want First Nations children to have the same opportunity to grow up safely with their families that other Canadian children enjoy, something the Canadian government deprived many of their parents and grandpar-



www.fnccaringociety.com

An extension of forced attendance in residential schools, today's figures represent a modern manifestation of Canada's endeavors to "eliminate the Indian in the child."

fighting, was first filed in 2007 by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCFCS). According to Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the FNCFCFCS and University of Alberta professor, the case marks the first time Canada has been

ents of during the residential school era," Blackstock told the *Leveller* via email.

According to the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC), the FNCFCFCS and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) "allege that the Government of Canada

is discriminating against First Nations families and children by inadequately funding child welfare services delivered on reserves." These receive 22 per cent less provincial funding than off-reserve services.

Indigenous groups charge that systemic neglect is forcing unprecedented numbers of children into the child welfare system. According to Blackstock, Indigenous chil-

dren comprise 30-40 percent of the child welfare numbers while representing less than five percent of the child population in Canada.

JUSTICE IMMINENT AS EVIDENCE MOUNTS

Blackstock points to "overwhelming" evidence provided by the Canadian government which confirms systemic inequality due to government policies. These

include reports from the Auditor General in 2008 and 2011, from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in 2009 and 2012, as well as those from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In late February, new documents were introduced. One in particular "calls the situation created by the funding inequality 'dire' and goes on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

VERSES VS. APARTHEID

Local artists launch Ottawa's cultural boycott of Israel

Samantha Power

Artists in Ottawa are joining a pledge of solidarity against apartheid in Israel. At the fourth panel event during Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) at Carleton University, American poet Remi Kanazi helped to launch an Ottawa-based cultural boycott campaign called the Ottawa Cultural Boycott of Israel (OCBI). Hosted by Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA), Kanazi explained what a cultural boycott means and how it can be an effective tool in ending oppression in Israel.

"The sports boycott [in South Africa] stripped away

the invincibility of the regime," said Kanazi.

To sign on to the campaign, artists agree not to perform in Israel until apartheid has ended, as well as to never crossing the global picket line. They agreed to observe the goals of the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign which includes the right of return for Palestinians, the end of Israel's occupation of all Arab land, and equality for all Palestinians. Internationally, the cultural boycott has been growing with artists such as Roger Waters, Propagandhi, and Brian Eno signing on to the campaign.

SAIA decided now was the time to bring the cultural boycott campaign to Ottawa after

over 500 artists signed on in Montréal in 2010.

"Considering the momentum of the overall global BDS campaign we felt it was an appropriate time to bring it to Ottawa," said SAIA member Yafa Jarrar.

Artists who don't have a trip to Israel planned any time soon can still contribute locally in their own way.

Local artist Angela Schleihau became involved in the campaign when she performed at an event where Carleton University President Roseann Runte was speaking. Runte had gone to Israel in 2005 to build ties with Israeli universities while Palestinian university students were being denied

their right to return to their ancestral homes.

"I worked on the first draft of the song in a night," said Schleihau speaking at Thursday night's event. "I grabbed whatever fragments I had and

also put their names forward. These artists included singers, breakdancers, guitarists, and poets, including singer/songwriter Anastasia Filippova.

According to Verses vs. Apartheid organizer Rachel

Internationally, the cultural boycott has been growing with artists such as Roger Waters, Propagandhi, and Brian Eno signing on to the campaign.

put a song together."

Schleihau performed the song *Apartheid* after Runte spoke at the event.

"It was one of the scariest things I ever tried to do," she said. But Schleihau said she has received very little negative feedback from the song.

Locally, Schleihau's band, Three Little Birds, was the first group of Ottawa artists to sign on to the cultural boycott. On Mar. 8, The band kicked off IAW's annual closing event, Verses Vs. Apartheid, which served as the launch party for the cultural boycott campaign. They shared the stage with Kanazi and spoken word group Missing Linx.

The four members of Missing Linx also signed on to the campaign, and Kanazi, hailing from New York City, issued an endorsement. That evening, 11 other artists in attendance, many inspired by the lineup's charged performances,

Taylor, "The event went incredibly well. There was a great turnout with lots of support and great energy. It was an awesome start to an awesome campaign."

Jarrar is hopeful that at next year's Israeli Apartheid Week, Ottawa will have as many artists signed on as Montréal.

To Kanazi, the cultural boycott demonstrates the flexibility of the BDS campaign. "It's not about an individual or a flag," said Kanazi, "but what binds us is fighting injustice."

He illustrated that there are ways for an artist to perform in Israel while upholding the boycott. For example, Naomi Klein did a speaking tour in Israel about anti-colonialism, working with organizers of the BDS campaign.

"Coming together is the most prominent feature," said Kanazi.



Verses Vs. Apartheid caps off IAW 2013

Photo: Yafa Jarrar



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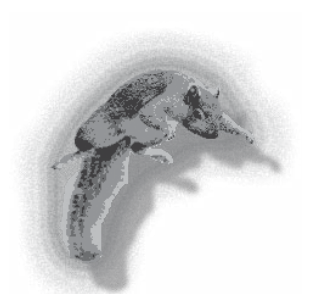
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SEEDBOMBS!



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Lev·el·ler
noun

1 Historical: During the English Civil War (c. 1649), one who favoured the abolition of all rank and privilege. Originally an insult, but later embraced by radical anti-Royalists.

2 One who tells the truth, as in “I’m going to level with you.”

3 An instrument that knocks down things that are standing up or digs up things that are buried or hidden.

The Leveller is a publication covering campus and off-campus news, current events, and culture in Ottawa and elsewhere. It is intended to provide readers with a lively portrait of their university and community and of the events that give it meaning. It is also intended to be a forum for provocative editorializing and lively debate on issues of concern to students, staff, and faculty as well as Ottawa residents.

The Leveller leans left, meaning that it challenges power and privilege and sides with people over private property. It is also democratic, meaning that it favours open discussion over silencing and secrecy. Within these very general boundaries, The Leveller is primarily interested in being interesting, in saying something worth saying and worth reading about. It doesn't mind getting a few things wrong if it gets that part right.

The Leveller has a very small staff, and is mainly the work of a small group of volunteers. To become a more permanent enterprise and a more truly democratic and representative paper, it will require more volunteers to write, edit, and produce it, to take pictures, and to dig up stories.

The Leveller needs you. It needs you to read it, talk about it, discuss it with your friends, agree with it, disagree with it, write a letter, write a story (or send in a story idea), join in the producing of it, or just denounce it. Ultimately it needs you—or someone like you—to edit it, to guide it towards maturity, to give it financial security and someplace warm and safe to live.

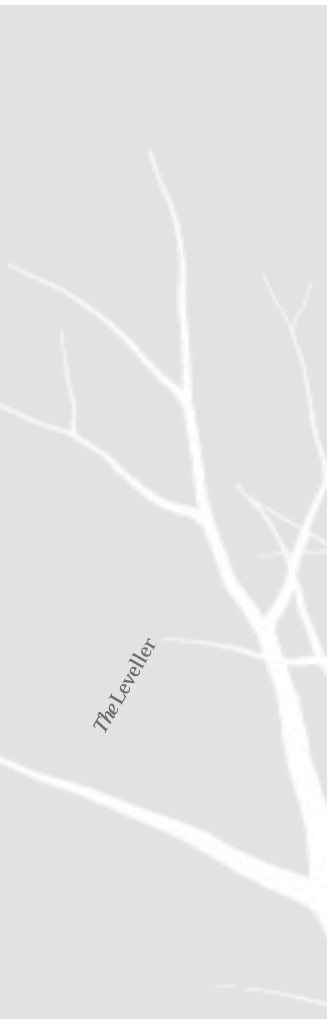
The Leveller is an ambitious little rag. It wants to be simultaneously irreverent and important, to demand responsibility from others while it shakes it off itself, to be a fun-house mirror we can laugh at ourselves in and a map we can use to find ourselves and our city. It wants to be your coolest, most in-the-know friend and your social conscience at the same time. It has its work cut out for it.

The Leveller is published every month or so. It is free.

The Leveller and its editors have no phone or office, but can be contacted with letters of love or hate at editors.the.leveller@gmail.com

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CORRECTION

Health Canada established the Medical Marijuana Access Program in 2001, not 2012. We regret the error (“Corporatizing Marijuana,” vol. 5, issue 5). We must have been over medicating...

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NOT A PROBLEM.
THERE ARE MANY
WAYS YOU CAN BE
A PART OF LOCAL,
INDEPENDENT MEDIA!**

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Build your skills as you contribute to strengthening independent media in your community.

LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD: A CALL FOR SUSTAINERS

The *Leveller* is a creature of the community: it’s written, edited, and distributed right here at home. Community-based media needs community-funded support. Help sustain the *Leveller* with as little as \$5 per month or make a one-time contribution.

Contact operations.the.leveller@gmail.com for options on how to help level the playing field, one issue at a time.

Read.

The Leveller

The *Leveller* acknowledges that Ottawa is on unceded Algonquin territory.

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**HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

to describe legal advice Aboriginal Affairs received from the Justice Department suggesting they are vulnerable to legal action by children and youth affected by this program when they grow up,” according to Blackstock.

All eyes are on Canada in this landmark battle, “the most watched human rights case in Canadian history with over 11,800 people and organizations registered to watch,” according to Blackstock. She encourages the public to follow the case and attend public hearings in person.

Blackstock notes, “[the] tribunal has the authority to make a legally binding determination of discrimination and to order a remedy that is enforceable in Federal Court.” She told the *Leveller*, “We have asked that Canada be ordered to provide equitable and culturally based child welfare services throughout Canada [and implement a] \$112 million trust fund to be set up for children and families who experienced hardship related to the years of inequitable funding so they can access reunification services, cultural services, counselling, etc.”

Further, the groups want “full implementation of Jordan’s Principle, which is a child first principle to resolving jurisdictional disputes within and between federal government and provincial/territorial governments,” she told the *Leveller*. “This principle would ensure First Nations children can access government services on the same terms as other children.”

Jordan’s Principle was developed after a child from the Norway House Cree Nation unnecessarily spent over two years in hospital due to jurisdictional wrangling between

Ottawa and Manitoba because he was a First Nations child, according to Blackstock.

GOV’T POLICY: ELIMINATE THE INDIAN PROBLEM

The Harper government has made all efforts to stop the case cold in its tracks. “The Canadian government has wasted over three million dollars trying to avoid a proper hearing, funds that should have been deployed to fix the problem for children instead of trying to hide from it,” Blackstock told the *Leveller*. “The tragedy in their delay tactics is that thousands of children received inequitable services over the six years that the Government tried to derail a proper hearing.”

These efforts, says Blackstock, are ongoing. “On March 6, 2013, a hearing was held in the Federal Court of Appeal as Canada tried to overturn the Federal Court ruling ordering the Tribunal hearings to proceed, but the justices reserved their decision,” she said. “A case of this moral and legal importance to the country should absolutely be decided on a full evidentiary record before an independent body, not on the countless legal loopholes Canada has pursued.”

According to AFN chief Shawn Atleo, tens of thousands of Indigenous children in foster care, a figure estimated at 27,000 in 2006, are being deprived of their language and culture.

The high numbers are not an anomaly, but instead represent a modern application of long-term government policy towards Indigenous children. The infamous “60s Scoop” saw thousands snatched without consent and placed in the child welfare system. An extension of forced attendance in residential schools, today’s figures represent a modern

manifestation of Canada’s endeavors to “eliminate the Indian in the child.”

UNDER INCREASING SURVEILLANCE

As a result of Blackstock’s advocacy for the rights of Indigenous children, the Canadian government began spying on her after her organization filed the human rights complaint in 2007. Although she worked closely with the government on child welfare policies and programs prior to filing the case, she says, “things changed dramatically after that.”

After being refused entry into a meeting between Ontario Chiefs and the Department of Indian Affairs (INAC – now referred to as Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) and forced to wait outside the room under the watchful eye of security, she submitted Access to Information (ATI) and Privacy Act requests on her file.

She obtained a mountain of documents revealing that the government monitored her social media accounts, accessed her Status Indian file to obtain data on her family, and attended 75-100 meetings at which she spoke.

“Records obtained from [ATI] suggest that INAC and the Department of Justice conducted systematic and intense monitoring of my public appearances, monitored my personal Facebook page and Twitter Accounts, and accessed my Indian Status registry which includes information about me, my family and grandparents for reasons that are not clear,” Blackstock explained to the *Leveller*. According to the documents obtained under the Privacy Act, the government was “[trying] to find ‘other motives’ for filing the child welfare case.”

Blackstock’s analysis of

the documents reveals the involvement of 189 separate government officials, often in high-ranking positions, “devoting time and money to following me instead of spending the money fixing the problem for the kids,” she said.

Furthermore, Blackstock warns that, “It is important to underscore that among the documents entered into evidence this past week at the Tribunal is an application form whereby government officials can apply to access blocked websites including, in my instance, to monitor personal Facebook pages apparently without a warrant, suggesting the practice is systematic and others are likely affected.”

Surveillance of Indigenous peoples intensified after the Harper Conservatives obtained power in 2006. A weekly “hot spot binder” monitors the activities of numerous communities to mitigate any potential protest or unrest surrounding land and treaty rights. Documents also revealed the close relationship between INAC and the RCMP, as well as intelligence sharing across multiple government departments, the Canadian military, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

“My experience places itself within a series of other unfortunate efforts by the government to squash freedom of speech such as the muzzling of scientists, discrediting of whistleblowers and the reluctance to provide government documents to watchdog organizations such as the Parliamentary Budget Officer,” Blackstock told the *Leveller*. “It appears to me that freedom of speech and respect for citizen privacy exists in Canada, unless you take a position not supported by the government.”

News Briefs

Robocalls developments expose fraudulent Tory electoral strategies

The Harper government continues to use robocall tactics for political purposes despite testimonials by voters and Tory staffers that the Conservatives engaged in fraudulent behaviour to win the 2011 election. While Harper denied any wrongdoing, a Conservative spokesperson recently admitted the party made misleading phone calls to Saskatchewan residents earlier this year after previously denying the party’s involvement. The recent robocall efforts claimed that the proposed changes to Saskatchewan’s 14 electoral riding boundaries would damage “Saskatchewan values” as the Conservatives fear changes would put their 13 seats in jeopardy.

In other recent developments, Judge Richard Mosley admitted new evidence in the ongoing robocalls court battle challenging the election victories of Conservative MPs. A group of voters allege that the misleading phone messages and robocalls deterred voters from casting ballots in the 2011 election. The judge considered the evidence after hearing a voters’ assertion that a ballot was not cast as a result of a phone call directing him to the wrong polling station. The Harper government’s legal team is fighting the allegations of what Council of Canadians Chair Maude Barlow calls “the largest and most sophisticated scheme of voter suppression in our country’s history.”

Tar Sands headed South?

The *Leveller* has learned that influential interests from Canada and Trinidad & Tobago (TT), a small twin-island petro-economy in the southern Caribbean, have met and are encouraging Port of Spain to consider tar sands mining. This could emerge during a planned state visit to Canada this spring by TT Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

Those interested in persuading TT are using glitzy public

relations to show that, contrary to well documented scientific evidence, the environment and communities won’t be harmed if TT goes that route.

PM Stephen Harper met with Persad-Bissessar last April on the margins of the Summit of the Americas in Colombia and highlighted the close ties between the two countries. They also expressed satisfaction with trade and investment ties, discussing the potential for continued expansion, notably in the oil and gas sector.

Harper’s invitation to Persad-Bissessar raises questions about whether the Canadian leader is interested in pushing the hugely unpopular tar sands technology on Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad, the larger of the two islands, possesses substantial deposits of tar sands mainly located within the southern areas of Guapo, Parrylands and Forest Reserves fields currently leased to Petrotrin, the state-owned energy company.

Whapmagoostui youth reach Algonquin territories

The six Cree youth who set out from Whapmagoostui in northern Quebec are nearing the completion of their 1,100 km + journey to Ottawa through staggeringly cold conditions. They started “The Quest of Wisjinichu-Nishiyuu, Quest for Unity” in January, vowing to walk from their homes on the Hudson Bay to Ottawa in support of the ongoing Idle No More movement.

They are not alone, having been joined by more Indigenous youth along the way in the long walk to Ottawa. According to their Facebook page, they seek to “establish and unite our historical allies and restore our traditional trade routes with the Algonquin, Mohawk, and other First Nations.” The group, now over 80 members strong, are expected to arrive in Ottawa by the end of this month and were in Algonquin territory as of Mar. 6.

OTTAWA HEALTH COALITION DENOUNCES PRIVATIZATION

Day of action aimed to “Save Our Services”

Sam Heaton

Over 100 people gathered in front of the Ottawa Hospital on Mar. 4 to protest cuts to health care jobs and services. Organized by the Ottawa Health Coalition as part of an Ontario-wide “Save Our Services” Day of Action, the demonstration drew attention to under-funding and privatization of Ontario’s health-care system.

At the demonstration, nurses, health-care professionals, and support staff were joined by workers in other sectors and community members concerned about the state of health care in Ontario.

A contingent of teachers belonging to the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation drew parallels between their struggles and the Ontario government’s removal of funds from health care and education.

Cuts to the Ottawa Hospital include the privatization of thousands of endoscopies, the loss of 290 nurses, health

professionals and support staff. This would mean a cut of 4,000 cataract surgeries per year, a reduction in cafeteria hours, and cuts to outpatient services.

According to the Ontario Health Coalition, the Ontario government is cutting health spending by \$3 billion overall this year.

Hospitals in Ontario spend according to the budget allocated to them. If the budget is insufficient to cover costs, the CEO of the hospital must implement cuts or be replaced by a political appointee.

The Ottawa Health Coalition argues that these cuts constitute privatization that “forces care out of hospitals. Sometimes, it is contracted out to for-profit clinics. Sometimes it is simply cut and patients either pay or go without.”

According to CTV Ottawa, the CEO of the Ottawa Hospital, Jack Kitts, was the highest paid public executive in Ontario in 2011, making over \$600,000.

Speakers at the rally denounced the cuts as harmful to patients’ health and

called for more funding of health care.

Anne Clark of the Ontario Nurses’ Association, said the “Ottawa Hospital has announced layoffs for 75 registered nurse positions. And these are cuts to patient care in all areas of the hospital: surgery, oncology, hemodialysis, endoscopy, intensive care, eye care, and obstetrics ... these cuts will mean less care provided by fewer registered nurses, and these cuts will impact patient care.”

Clark continued, “Cutting [Registered Nurse] care does not achieve savings... [it] means higher rates of patient falls, shock, cardiac arrest, urinary tract infection, pneumonia, and respiratory failure. It means more complications and fewer positive outcomes ... we are calling on the government to take action to stop the hospital cuts.”

Dave Lundy of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union said that while “the government says they have no choice... government is about choice. And the choice that government has been



Supporters rally to defend health care jobs and services

Sam Heaton

making consistently since Mike Harris came into power, continued with Dalton McGuinty, is to fund corporate tax cuts. As of this year their choice is costing the Ontario government \$17 billion in lost revenue.”

Lundy said the cuts have resulted in a situation where “one in ten admissions to this hospital are because people have been put out too fast. They’re been discharged too early. They go home, they get sick, there’s no home care, and they end up back at the hospital for a longer stay.”

Paul Moist, National President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, spoke against the cuts, saying “You can’t shrink health care! Stop the layoffs! We want more services, not less!”

Donald Lafleur, national vice-president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers drew parallels with the struggle against the privatization of health and of the postal service, and said “I just wanted to tell you the Canadian Union of Postal Workers supports you. We’re very familiar with the impact of privatization.

When they move our jobs from corporate outlets into Shoppers Drug Marts, the wages go down, the people aren’t unionized, and our democracy obviously is thrown aside every time privatization takes place.”

According to the Ottawa Health Coalition, the Ottawa Hospital was at a 120 per cent occupancy rate in February. The Coalition also said Ontario has the fewest hospital beds per person in Canada and has the lowest hospital spending per person of any province.

OPIRG REFERENDUM

Goons seek to eliminate progressive student organizations

Chris Bisson

Carleton students will soon be voting on a referendum question designed by the Carleton University Student Association (CUSA) executive to defund the Carleton Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG-Carleton). At an emergency CUSA council meeting on Mar. 2, CUSA passed a referendum question aimed at eliminating the \$6.84 levy that OPIRG receives from undergraduate students.

“OPIRG provides very useful services to the campus community. It has been active on this campus and in the Ottawa community for over 30 years,” OPIRG board member Taylor Eby told the *Leveller*. “We help fund and organize over a dozen working groups that work on a number of different issues from environmental sustainability to various social justice issues.”

There have been numerous assaults on PIRGs across Canada from campus Conservatives and other like-minded students, according to various media reports.

Simon Fraser, McGill, University of Toronto and Dalhousie University’s respective PIRGs have all successfully withstood attacks from those who wish to defund their social justice work.

In most cases, the handful of students organizing against the PIRGs have their respective student associations vote down the defunding questions, but the PIRG at Queen’s University wasn’t so lucky. Their student levy was

Food Programme, the Garden Spot, and OPIRG, in order to pay for “the development and construction of a new student-owned [building].” The committee recommended, however, that the questions be split up and the OPIRG question be removed completely.

Council voted to split up the question and to remove the question concerning the Garden Spot as it is no longer in operation. But, council went against the C&P rec-

turn over OPIRG’s. He had it in his possession for several weeks before we even found out about it,” he said. “Only after OPIRG pointed out to VP Finance De Luca that he was breaching a contract agreement by not releasing the fees, he made the cheque available.”

While CUSA and OPIRG have historically enjoyed good relations, the current executive and its controversial VP Finance has actively worked against OPIRG. They’ve removed mention of OPIRG from CUSA’s student handbook, withheld fees owed to the organization, and introduced the referendum question without proper consultation.

“I don’t think [De Luca] was ever interested in consulting OPIRG about this referendum question,” said Taylor.

In 1991, CUSA and OPIRG struck an agreement that mutual agreement between both organizations on the question was necessary before any referendum on changing the levy. “He never offered to meet to discuss a mutually agreed upon referendum question as our contract stipu-

lates,” Eby told the *Leveller*.

There is a small but active group that has been organizing to eliminate PIRGs across Ontario due to ideological problems.

In 2009, a recorded tape was leaked from a Ontario Progressive Conservative Campus Association (OPCCA) workshop. This workshop took place at Wilfred Laurier University, and had two campus Conservatives speak on “Campaign Strategies and Tactics for Challenging and Defeating PIRGs.” Ryan O’Connor and Aaron Lee-Wudrick outlined various tactics they employed in their efforts to eliminate their PIRG at the University of Waterloo. According to O’Connor, the “ultimate objective” should be getting “them [PIRGs] off the fee statement.”

Along with attacks to their source of funding, the PIRGs at Carleton and Guelph have been vandalized by angry opponents.

O’Connor outlined the partisan objectives underlying the defunding strategy near the end of the recorded tape. “All the Tory [student] councillors were all voting the same way,

and all had the same speaking points, it was really hilarious and really transparent, but you have to do what you have to do. We had a game.”

Such a conspiracy is not unique to the University of Waterloo. A Facebook group entitled “Opirg Optout” consists mostly of Carleton students as well as known members of the federal Conservative party and at least one federal Tory MP. The primary objective of this group was to get a referendum at Carleton to defund OPIRG. On Mar. 9 2012, “Opirg Optout” made a post starting with “ATTN CUSA COUNCILLORS” followed by various anti-OPIRG talking points. The reason it made a post addressing CUSA is because at that time, the group had seven CUSA councilors as members, including De Luca.

All these CUSA council members in the “OPIRG Optout” – or their proxies that represented them at the meeting – voted affirmative to the referenda questions on Mar. 2, 2013.

HUMAN RIGHTS SCANDALS GRIP RCMP, OTTAWA

Indigenous peoples face brunt of systemic violence and abuse

Andy Crosby

Canadian institutions came under intense fire for systematic abuses of Indigenous women and children as Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report in February blasting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in BC.

The 89-page report – *Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada* – details police violence, including excessive use of force, sexual abuse, and rape. According to HRW, “police failures and abuses add to longstanding tensions between the RMCP and indigenous communities in the region.”

Canadian policing institutions have a dark human rights record in relation to Indigenous populations, dating from pre-confederation to the present day. The RCMP and its predecessor, the North West Mounted Police, has historically exercised violence and social control over Indigenous peoples, especially in the north and western territories.

Under orders from the Canadian government, police enforced the racist “pass system” from 1882 to 1935 forbidding people to leave reserves without Indian agent approval and enforced the ban on dances and ceremonies. Furthermore, the RCMP played a central role in forcibly removing some 150,000 Indigenous children from their communities to residential schools, where at least 3,000 died. The RCMP

issued an apology in 2004.

According to a HRW press release, the report “documents both ongoing police failures to protect indigenous women and girls in the north from violence and violent behavior by police officers against women and girls.”

Researchers interviewed 50 Indigenous women and girls, as well as 37 additional interviews with families of missing and murdered women, community leaders and

ommendations to keep the OPIRG question on the ballot.

Eby noted his organization’s frustration over the last year working with CUSA’s executive. “Late last year when all levy groups were receiving their funding cheques, the vice president of finance refused to

ommendations to keep the OPIRG question on the ballot.

Meghan Rhoad, HRW’s women’s rights researcher shot back, said “Human Rights Watch stands by the victims who asked us not to provide identifying information about their claims of police mistreatment because they are terrified of police retaliation.”

HRW added that Harper’s comment “ignores the lack of meaningful accountability for police misconduct and

The human rights complaints surround a slew of Conservative legislation which affects Indigenous peoples without any consultation in a gross violation of treaty rights, giving rise to the Idle No More movement.

service providers, and others.

The report recommended that Ottawa establishes a “national commission of inquiry into the murders and disappearances of indigenous women and girls, including the impact of police mistreatment on their vulnerability to violence in communities along Highway 16,” known as the Highway of Tears, according to the press release.

In response to the report, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson sent an email to 29,000 uniformed and civilian members of the force, telling them, “my message to you today is – don’t worry about it, I’ve got your back.”

Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s response in the House of Commons was to urge HRW and victims to re-

fear of police retaliation that prevents indigenous women and girls from reporting mistreatment.”

The spectre of human rights scrutiny has haunted the Harper Conservatives. Aside from the HRW report, a December 2012 Amnesty International report slammed Canada’s treatment of Indigenous peoples.

“By every measure, be it respect for treaty and land rights, levels of poverty, average life spans, violence against women and girls, dramatically disproportionate levels of arrest and incarceration or access to government services such as housing, health care, education, water and child protection, indigenous peoples across Canada continue to face a grave human rights cri-

sis,” the report said.

Indigenous communities have taken human rights complaints against the Canadian government internationally. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination heard the testimony of 20 First Nations on Feb. 22 in Geneva alleging the Harper government’s violation of human rights and failure to take action on racist media reports.

The human rights complaints surround a slew of Conservative legislation which affects Indigenous peoples without any consultation in a gross violation of treaty rights, giving rise to the Idle No More movement.

Harper and his ministers have shrugged off criticism domestically and internationally for its human rights issues.

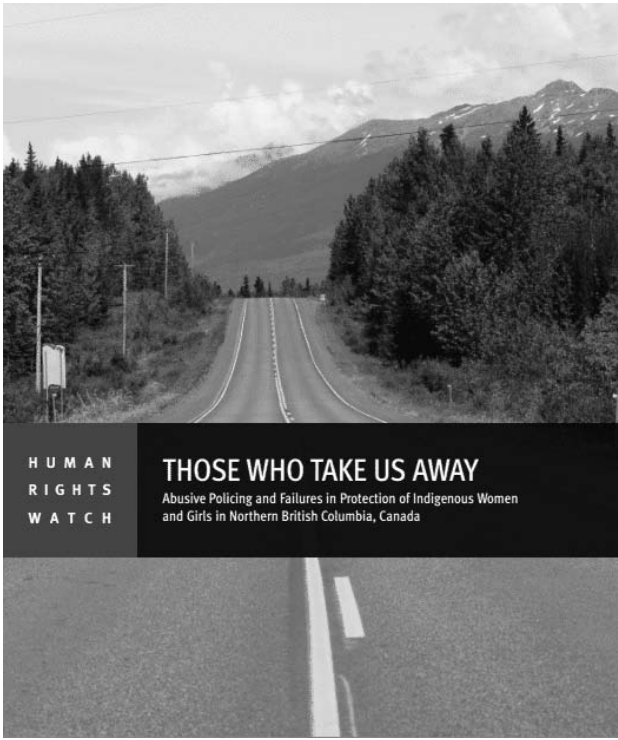
The Harper government closed Human Rights Commission offices in Vancouver, Toronto, and Halifax in 2010 which handled 70 per cent of the complaints filed. They also closed rights-based groups such as the Court Challenges Program and Status of Women Canada offices in 2006 and defunded NGOs such as KAIROS Canada.

Indigenous women suffered yet another assault when the Harper government slashed funding for the Native Women’s Association of Canada’s (NWAC) Sisters in Spirit initiative in 2010. Sisters in Spirit gathered statistical data in response to the disproportionate and alarming numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Equally insulting, much of the funding once received by this necessary initiative was redirected

into RCMP coffers.

Overall, these moves reflect the far right-wing ideology infused in the Conservative Party and its longer-term aspirations. Harper told the

press in 1999 that, “human rights commissions, as they are evolving, are an attack on our fundamental freedoms and the basic existence of a democratic society.”



Cover of Human Rights Watch report features infamous “Highway of Tears”



WORKERS OPPOSE EI CHANGES AS REJECTION RATES CLIMB

Sam Heaton

On Feb. 23, nearly 20,000 people took part in the Quebec Day of Action against Changes to Employment Insurance, which called for a repeal of the Harper government’s changes to the Employment Insurance Act.

Organized by the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec-Construction (FTQ-Construction), the day of action saw demonstrations held in Montréal, Sherbrooke, Ville de Saguenay, Rouyn-Noranda, Rimouski, Sept-Îles, Baie-Comeau, Trois-Rivières, Québec City, and Ottawa-Gatineau.

In Ottawa, members of trades and construction unions affiliated to FTQ-Construction were joined by supporters and workers from

In Simcoe, Ontario, home to the riding of Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Diane Finley, community members gathered alongside a contingent from the United Steelworkers Local 1005, Lake Erie Steelworkers and members of the United Food and Commercial Workers to protest outside the minister’s constituency office.

On May 24, 2012, Finley first announced the changes to Canada’s Employment Insurance (EI) program, included in omnibus budget Bill C-38. Since then, opposition has been growing among workers and among the regional populations that expect to be hit hardest. Opposition to the changes has been particularly strong in Quebec, Nova Scotia, New

maternity benefits.

Workers say the changes will harm regional and seasonal industries, lead to workers’ forced exodus from their communities, and result in a lowering of wages and standards for workers.

Only 40 per cent of unemployed workers in Canada receive EI benefits, and Canada’s EI replaces 12 per cent of wages lost by unemployment, the lowest of any industrialized country.

The new regulations include a narrowing of eligibility and the strengthening of monitoring and policing mechanisms. Unemployed workers are now divided into three categories: long-tenured workers, frequent claimants, and occasional claimants.

During the first six weeks



Workers rally against EI changes in Ottawa

Sam Heaton

receiving EI benefits.

Occasional claimants have six weeks to find a job in their own occupation and must accept a wage reduction of up to 10 per cent. After six weeks, the wage cut that must be accepted becomes 20 per cent, and after 18 weeks, they must accept any job with up to 30 per cent less pay.

Long-tenured workers have 18 weeks to find work in their field at 90 per cent of the wages they normally earn. If they can’t, they must look for work in a similar occupation and not decline it if it is at a pay scale equivalent to 80 per cent of their regular wage.

Additionally, claimants are now expected to take a job up to 100 kilometres away from their home.

Another major change has been to the EI approval body. It was previously composed of employers and representatives from labour. This system has been elimi-

nated and replaced by single persons hired to judge cases.

The EI program will transmit three job posts per day to workers who must follow up on them. Workers will also be told to attend job search workshops, job fairs, job search training, and other activities, along with required EI interviews.

On Feb. 21, the CBC reported that the federal government sent employees of Integrity Services, a branch of Service Canada, to the homes of 1,200 randomly selected EI recipients. The agents are tasked with investigating the lives of EI claimants to determine the authenticity of their claims.

The extent to which Integrity Services employees are expected to probe into the lives of EI recipients was revealed by the CBC on Mar. 1. The “exhaustive” examinations, explained in a 23-page

government manual, include visiting private residences, seeking out previous and prospective employers, obtaining records of bank deposits and withdrawals, and verifying photo identities and utility bills.

Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, called on the federal government in a press release to “stop harassing the unemployed,” adding that Minister Finley “has provided her regional offices with monthly quotas for slashing EI benefits to individuals.”

According to most recent data from Statistics Canada, all provinces have seen fewer EI recipients. The overall number of claims remained roughly the same, indicating a sharp increase in rejections. The largest decreases in successful claims have been in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Manitoba.

While seasonal migrant workers pay into EI, under new reforms, they will not be eligible for EI nor special benefits, such as illness or maternity benefits.

other sectors. The demonstration convened at Parliament Hill, then marchers proceeded to Radio-Canada headquarters. The workers expressed their determination to defeat the government’s changes with the slogan “Harper au chômage!” “Harper unemployed!”

Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

Seasonal and precarious workers have also expressed opposition to the reforms. While seasonal migrant workers pay into EI, under new reforms, they will not be eligible for EI nor special benefits, such as illness or

of receiving EI, frequent claimants must accept work in a similar occupation at up to 20 per cent less than the wages previously earned. Should they not find work, they must accept any job, regardless of the profession, with wages up to 30 per cent lower than what they were earning before

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CAMPUS

MANNING THE RIGHT
No shoe left unshined at Libertarian-Tory jamboree



The Leveller

Carleton University’s extreme right-wing fringe had plenty to celebrate in early March with the arrival of Ron Paul and Preston Manning to the national capital for the annual Manning Networking Conference. The event was organized by the Manning Centre for Building Democracy (MCBD), a Conservative think-tank and training ground formed in 2005. Manning is one of the neoconservative architects of the far right Reform Party which took over the Progressive Conservative Party to form the regressive regime holding power in Ottawa today.

The conference saw a 50 per cent spike in student attendance to approximately 30 per cent of the 900 guests, according to the MCBD. Last March, for an article in *Our Schools/Our Selves: Summer 2012*, writer Glenn Burley attended a Political Activism on Campus panel at the conference where a Carleton student identified as Bruce boasted that “from 2009 to present his close-knit group of Conservative students

had slowly won position after position, eventually putting them in control of all six student-held [executive] seats in CUSA.” Bruce continued to say this gave them “full control” to battle progressive organizations as the A Better Carleton executive slate has done this past year with groups and people they don’t agree with.

Huffington Post.

In 2011, Manning came under fire for his role in establishing the Clayton H. Riddell School of Political Management at Carleton University. Through his think-tank, Manning secured \$15 million for the Riddell program and sits as chair on the program’s steering committee. Students and

Increased student participation at the conference this year is attributed to keynote speaker, Ron Paul, the so-called “Godfather of the Tea Party movement” and climate change skeptic.

Increased student participation at the conference this year is attributed to keynote speaker, Ron Paul, the so-called “Godfather of the Tea Party movement” and climate change skeptic. Paul, who is also against abortion and public health care, fared poorly in the 2012 Republican primaries after old newsletters published under his name came to light which contained “anti-gay and racially-charged statements,” according to the

teachers were enraged after it was revealed that the far-right, using a non-partisan mask, was scheming to influence public education by turning academic institutions into hotbeds of conservative ideology.

Notably absent from the conference was right-wing celebrity and former Harper advisor Tom Flanagan, abandoned by his fellow ideologues for his child porn apologetics.

PEDDLING THE PIPELINE

Tar Sands Blockade Movement ramps up resistance

Crystal Hajjar & Andy Crosby

Following the August 2011 rejection of TransCanada Inc.'s Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline proposal, the US Department of State released an impact statement saying TransCanada's new proposal, submitted in May 2012, won't increase the rate at which the Alberta tar sands produce oil. If the revised plan is approved, the pipeline will move 830,000 barrels per day from Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico.

The proposal introduced changes to the first submission that reduced the total length of the pipeline by about 500 miles and re-routed it so that it no longer crosses the Sand Hills region and crosses three states instead of five. It will encounter about 17 per cent of the total waterbodies crossed in the initial proposal.

While the report doesn't guarantee the approval of this proposal, it gives a fairly positive review which has sparked concerns among environmentalists in both Canada and the US.

As of Mar. 8, there will be a 45 day public consultation process after which President Obama has the final say. Canadian politicians have been extremely supportive of the proposal and stress its importance to the economy

and on securing the US' energy future. Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said that the tar sands "will bring significant national security benefits, jobs and revenues."

CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT
Despite efforts by conservatives and climate change skeptics to advance the pipeline, the climate justice

The group and its supporters use non-violent tactics to stop the physical expansion of the pipeline in various locations. Ever since TransCanada began construction last summer in Texas, TBSM proponents have mobilized to shut down its operations in multiple states, including tree-sitting, chaining themselves to equipment,

on Climate" rally demanding President Obama deny a federal permit for pipeline construction. At the rally, South Africa's Patrick Bond of the Centre for Civil Society referred to the industrial project as a "carbon bomb," quoting NASA's James Hansen who is among a group of celebrities protesting the tar sand's pipeline.

requisite for a survivable, healthy future." He continued, "There have been dozens of different instances of individuals taking direct action to stop Keystone XL and Tar Sands Blockade has documented efforts and told stories of those who feel compelled to not wait for regulators or wait for President Obama to intervene on their behalf."

Yet pro-pipeline advocates dismiss concerns raised by environmentalists. Oliver believes the pipeline and tar sands are a clean energy alternative. "The oil sands are a greener alternative than some other sources from around the world," he said

to a crowd in Chicago while on a US tour to promote the pipeline project.

Unswayed, tar sands resistance continues to heat up. During the week of March 16-23, a *Week of Action to Stop Tar Sands Profiteers*, is being organized by the TBSM. Dozens of organizations have endorsed the efforts which will see over 100 different actions targeting TransCanada and affiliate offices, KXL top investors' offices, TransCanada's top shareholders' offices – including RBC, TD, and CIBC banks – along with the Great-West Life Assurance Company, among others, which have offices in Ottawa and other Canadian cities.

Indigenous leaders from territories in both present-day Canada and the US were among some 50,000 protesters that descended on Washington DC on Feb. 17 in an historic "Forward on Climate" rally demanding President Obama deny a federal permit for pipeline construction.

movement is zeroing in on Alberta's tar sands and the accompanying snakes and ladders pipeline blueprint for North America.

In the US, the Tar Sands Blockade Movement (TBSM) erupted to challenge the KXL pipeline. The TBSM is about "taking strategic direct action to stop the expansion of Canadian tar sands and the Keystone XL pipeline," according to the group's Facebook page, which has close to 25,000 "likes." The group recognizes the need to attack climate change at the root – in this case the world's most environmentally destructive industrial project located in the heart of Alberta.

disrupting meetings, hunger strikes, blockades, and protests. Some of these actions are detailed in a film called, *Blockadia Rising: Voices of the Tar Sands Blockade*. Police have arrested hundreds over a course of many months.

IDLE NO MORE
The grassroots efforts are also comprised of Indigenous peoples who mobilized dozens of actions as part of the Idle No More movement in the US. Indigenous leaders from territories in both present-day Canada and the US were among some 50,000 protesters that descended on Washington DC on Feb. 17 in an historic "Forward

On Jan. 25, 2013, the Yankton Sioux Tribe in South Dakota signed the International Treaty to Protect the Sacred from Tar Sands Projects and on Mar. 8 in Lakota Sioux territory, frontline activist training commenced under the banner, "Moccasins on the Ground to Protect Sacred Water." The training is pre-emptive, in case pipeline construction is attempted on Indigenous territory.

Ramsey Sprague, member of the Grand-Cailou-Dulac Band of Biloxi-Chitmachach-Choctaw, and spokesperson for the TBSM, told the *Real News* that "to stop Keystone XL and prevent its construction is a pretty clear pre-



Graduate Students' Association Elections 2013-2014

Wednesday March 20 10am-8pm & Thursday March 21 10am-6pm

Positions to be filled:

- President
- VP Operations
- VP Finance
- VP External
- VP Academic
- Senate* (3 positions)
- Graduate Faculty Board (5 positions)

*Additional restrictions on eligibility may apply.

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Voting Locations:

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Atrium/Galleria (4th floor UC)

Student number and photo ID are required to vote.



For more information contact the GSA Office 600 Unicentre, 613-520-6616 or the Chief Electoral Officers at elections@gsacarleton.ca elections.gsacarleton.ca



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Les travailleurs s'opposent aux coupures dans le programme de l'assurance-emploi.

Sam Heaton

Le 23 février, près de 20 000 personnes participaient à la Journée d'action québécoise contre les changements à l'assurance-emploi. Elles demandaient au Premier ministre, Stephen Harper, l'annulation de ces modifications. Organisées par la Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec-Construction (FTQ-Construction) des manifestations ont eu lieu à Montréal, Sherbrooke, Saguenay, Rouyn-Noranda, Rimouski, Sept-Îles, Baie-Comeau, Trois-Rivières, Ville de Québec et Ottawa-Gatineau.

À Ottawa, des travailleurs d'autres secteurs ainsi que des militants ont marché aux côtés des membres des syndicats de la construction affiliés à la FTQ-Construction. La manifestation a commencé sur la Colline du Parlement, pour se rassembler ensuite devant les locaux de Radio-Canada. Forts du slogan « Harper au chômage », les manifestants ont exprimé leur détermination à renverser les décisions prises par le gouvernement.

À Simcoe, Ontario, au cœur de la circonscription de la ministre des Ressources humaines et Développement des compétences, Diane Finley, des membres de la communauté se sont joints à un contingent de métallos de la section 1005 et de membres des Travailleurs Unis de l'Alimentation et du Commerce, pour protester devant le bureau de circonscription de la ministre.

C'est le 24 mai 2012 que la ministre Finley avait annoncé les changements au programme canadien d'assurance-emploi, inclus dans le projet de loi omnibus C-38. Depuis, l'opposition n'a cessé de croître parmi les travailleurs et dans les régions qui devraient être les plus tou-

chées par les changements. Cette opposition est particulièrement forte au Québec, en Nouvelle-Écosse, au Nouveau-Brunswick et à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.

Les travailleurs saisonniers ainsi que les travailleurs en situation précaire sont les plus touchés par la réforme. Quant aux travailleurs saisonniers immigrés, ils cotisent au programme, mais ne seront plus éligibles à l'AE ou à des prestations spéciales – telles celles liées à la maladie ou à la maternité.

Les travailleurs considèrent que les changements prévus seront néfastes pour les industries régionales et saisonnières, en obligeant des travailleurs à s'exiler de leur communauté et à accepter des salaires et conditions de travail moindres.

Actuellement, seulement 40% des chômeurs au Canada sont éligibles aux prestations de l'assurance-emploi. Le programme de l'AE compense seulement 12% des salaires perdus par les chômeurs. Ces chiffres placent le Canada à la traîne des autres pays industrialisés.

Les nouvelles règles réduisent l'éligibilité et renforcent les mesures de contrôle. Les travailleurs au chômage sont maintenant classés en 3 catégories : travailleur de longue date, prestataires fréquents et prestataires occasionnels.

Les prestataires fréquents, de la 1re à la 6e semaine de chômage, doivent accepter tout travail similaire à leur emploi précédent s'il n'entraîne pas une baisse de salaire de plus de 20%. Dès la 7e semaine, ils doivent accepter n'importe quel emploi, peu importe leur métier, et une baisse de salaire pouvant atteindre 30 %.

Les prestataires occasionnels ont 6 semaines pour trouver un emploi dans leur



Sam Heaton

secteur d'activité et doivent accepter une baisse de salaire allant jusqu'à 10 %. Après la 6e semaine, la baisse de salaire acceptable passe à 20 %, après 18 semaines, ils doivent accepter n'importe quel emploi et une baisse de salaire de 30 %.

Les travailleurs de longue date ont 18 semaines pour trouver un emploi dans leur secteur d'activité, rémunéré à 90 % du salaire précédent. À partir de la 19e semaine, ils ne peuvent refuser un tel emploi si le salaire correspond à 80 % du salaire antérieur.

De plus, les prestataires doivent maintenant accepter un travail situé jusqu'à 100 km de leur résidence.

Un autre changement majeur concerne le conseil arbitral en cas de litige. Auparavant composé de trois personnes, un représentant des employeurs, un représentant syndical et un président, ce conseil a été éliminé. Désormais, la décision sera prise par une seule personne.

Le programme de l'AE transmettra trois offres d'emploi par jour aux travailleurs, qui sont tenus d'effectuer un suivi. On exigera aussi des travailleurs qu'ils participent à des ateliers de

recherche d'emploi, des foires à l'emploi, des formations de recherche d'emploi et autres activités, en plus de se présenter aux entrevues requises par l'AE.

Par ailleurs, le 21 février, Radio-Canada signalait que le gouvernement fédéral envoyait des employés des Services de l'intégrité, une division de Service Canada, cogner aux portes de 1 200 prestataires de l'AE sélectionnés au hasard.

Les agents devaient enquêter sur la vie des prestataires pour déterminer la validité de leur demande de prestation. Le 1er mars, Radio-Canada dévoilait l'étendue de cette enquête : l'examen « exhaustif », expliqué dans un manuel de 23 pages, inclut la visite de la résidence privée du prestataire, le contact avec les employeurs passés et potentiels, l'obtention des relevés bancaires de dépôts et de retraits, la vérification des photos d'identités des factures factures ménagères.

Ken Georgetti, président du Congrès du travail du Canada, a demandé au gouvernement fédéral, par communiqué de presse, de « cesser de harceler les sans-emploi », en ajoutant que

la ministre Finley « a fourni aux bureaux régionaux des quotas mensuels à récupérer dans les prestations d'AE versées aux particuliers ».

Selon les données les plus récentes de Statistiques Canada, le nombre global de demandes d'AE reste relativement constant, tandis que celui des presta-

taires diminue dans toutes les provinces, ce qui laisse deviner une augmentation du nombre de refus. C'est à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, à Terre-Neuve et Labrador et au Manitoba que le rejet des demandes de prestations est actuellement le plus fort.

Les Sans-Culottes

Les Sans-culottes étaient les révolutionnaires radicaux pendant la Révolution française (vers 1789). Leur nom émanait des pantalons qu'ils portaient au lieu de la culotte courte et des bas, portés par les nobles et les bourgeois.

Le Leveller étend ses branches!

The Leveller

Nous acceptons actuellement des articles en français pour la prochaine édition du *Leveller*.

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Soins de santé pour réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile: le Québec et la ville de Toronto prennent les devants suite à la négligence d'Ottawa

Suite à la décision sans précédent du gouvernement Harper, à travers la Loi C-31, de ne plus couvrir les frais liés aux soins de santé des réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile, le gouvernement du Québec a décidé de prendre le relai pour des raisons humanitaires. Le gouvernement du Québec a annoncé qu'il payera près de six millions de dollars additionnels pour les soins de santé de 10 000 demandeurs d'asile. Pour Antonia Maioni, professeure à l'Institut des politiques sociales et de la santé de l'Université McGill et interviewée par Radio-Canada, « c'était une décision unilatérale de la part du gouvernement fédéral, mais aussi quelque chose qui va à l'encontre de ce que le Canada a déjà fait pendant 50 ans en matière d'aide aux réfugiés ». L'annonce arrive moins de deux semaines après que le conseil de ville Toronto ait déclaré Toronto « ville sanctuaire ». Ce faisant, Toronto est devenue la première ville canadienne ayant une politique officielle qui offre des services pour migrants indépendamment de leur statut d'immigration.

La stratégie d'aide internationale du Canada incite le Québec à voir au-delà de l'ACDI

Début février, le gouvernement du Québec a annoncé son intention d'explorer la mise sur pied d'une version québécoise de l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI) parce que le département fédéral, sous le gouvernement Harper, ne reflète plus les valeurs québécoises. Jean-François Lisée, le ministre des Relations internationales, a dénoncé la reconfiguration des programmes de l'ACDI selon les priorités du parti conservateur, notamment en liant de plus en plus l'aide humanitaire aux projets miniers canadiens à l'étranger. En mars, le professeur de sciences politiques François Audet, de l'Université du Québec à Montréal, publiera une étude qui détaille l'augmentation du financement aux organisations caritatives chrétiennes. Par exemple, l'ONG chrétienne et homophobe *Crossroads Christian Communications* a reçu plus de 500 000\$ pour un projet en Ouganda, un pays qui considère condamner à la peine de mort toute personne reconnue coupable d'actes homosexuels.

Le gouvernement du Québec introduit de nouvelles mesures d'austérité visant les bénéficiaires de l'aide sociale

Au début de mars, le Parti québécois a annoncé des modifications à l'aide sociale qui touchent les jeunes couples avec enfants de moins de cinq ans et les personnes de 55 à 58 ans. Le gouvernement éliminera les allocations de 129\$ par mois qui étaient accordées à ces groupes de personnes parce qu'il était considéré jusqu'à présent qu'il était plus difficile pour eux de se trouver un emploi. Les mesures, qui entreront en vigueur le 1er juin, ont déclenché des manifestations à travers la province. «Je considère véritablement que ce n'est pas l'âge de 55 ans qui est une contrainte à l'emploi et que ce n'est pas d'avoir un enfant en bas âge qui est une contrainte à l'emploi. La contrainte, elle est ailleurs », a déclaré la ministre de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale Agnès Maltais, qui est également responsable de la Condition féminine. Selon elle, c'est plutôt le temps passé au chômage et sur l'aide sociale qui constituent des contraintes à l'emploi.

Plusieurs milliers de personnes manifestent à Montréal contre l'indexation des droits de scolarité

Le gouvernement de Québec a annoncé une indexation des droits de scolarité de trois pourcent lors du Sommet sur l'enseignement supérieur qui a eu lieu fin février. Le 26 février, près de 50 000 personnes, incluant une cinquantaine d'étudiantes et étudiants de l'Outaouais, ont manifesté à Montréal pour dénoncer cette « mascarade ». La première ministre du Québec, Pauline Marois, a annoncé cette décision malgré la grève étudiante du printemps dernier, qui a réussi à mettre un frein à la hausse des frais de scolarité et à empêcher la réélection du gouvernement libéral. Pendant les plusieurs jours de manifestations à Montréal, l'escouade anti-émeute du Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) a interpellé des douzaines de manifestants.

GENTRIFYING OTTAWA

Stanislav Kupferschmidt • Lena McFarlane • Dan Sawyer • Priscillia Lefebvre
Photography • Darryl Reid

GENTRIFICATION 101

Gentrification is the process whereby low-income neighbourhoods are targeted by developers and real estate speculators and replaced by high-end condos, boutiques, heightened policing, criminalization, and poor-bashing organizations.

A growing number of Ottawa households struggle between paying rent and buying food while areas with the highest level of affordable housing are being bought up by developers. These are then marketed to a select class of wealthy buyers, many of whom will not occupy their residence but instead purchase it as investment property.

Under the guise of community consultations, Ottawa City Council has approved the development of

luxury condos quicker than ever before, despite clear community opposition.

Those who profit from gentrification communicate through their actions that poor people do not deserve to live in the downtown core. Supported by complicit self-interested community groups, Merchant & Business Improvement Associations (BIAs), and high-end businesses, they push the rhetoric that poor neighbours are less valued than middle and upper class homeowners: the new colonizers.

In this climate, vacancy rates drop to all time lows while rents skyrocket, making Ottawa currently the third most expensive city to rent in Canada, according to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.



UPSCALE TAKEOVER

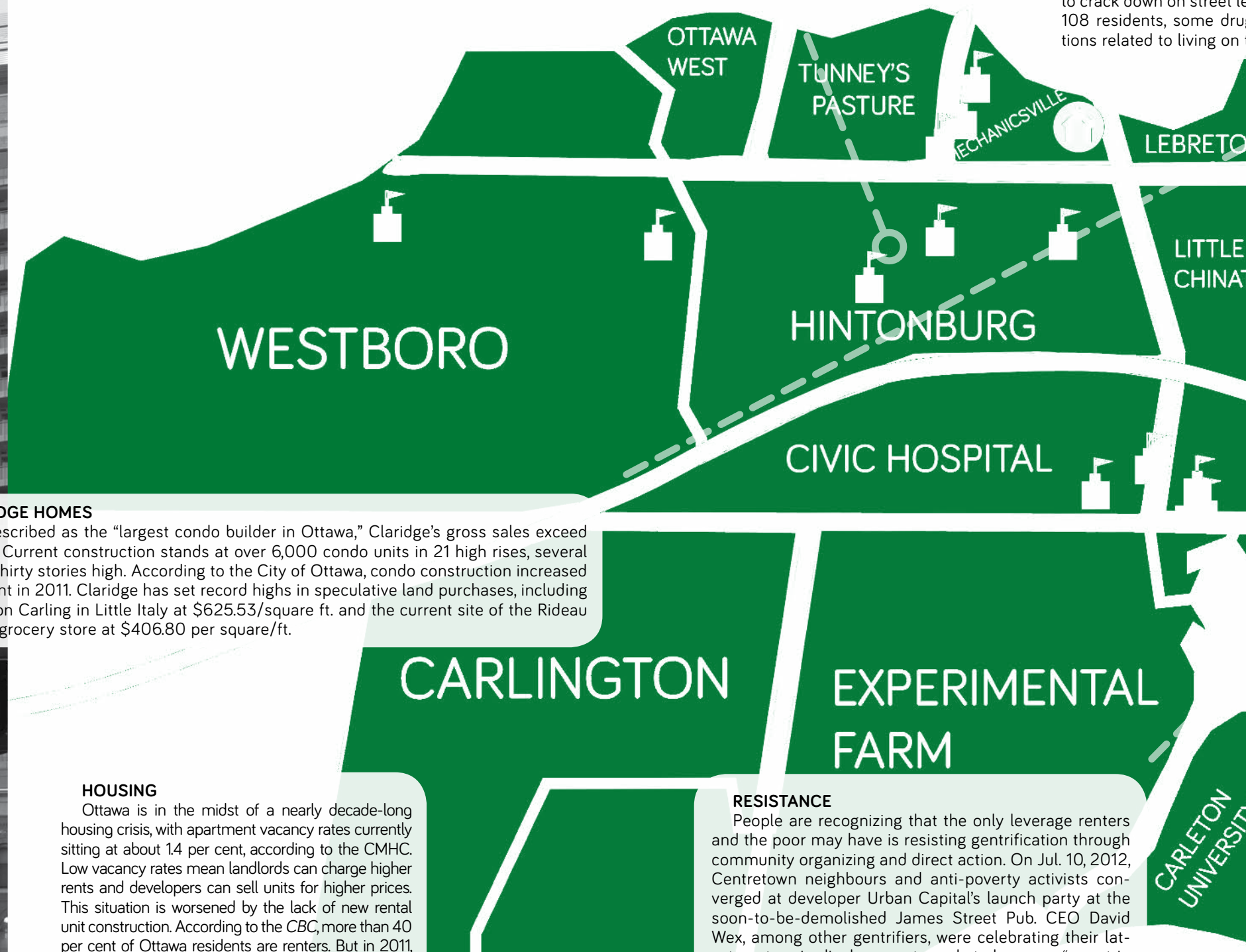
In gentrified neighbourhoods, more and more space is taken over by amenities that cater to the wealthy. This ripple effect is acutely apparent in the historically working-class neighbourhoods of Hintonburg/Mechanicsville and Vanier, where stores that sold affordable food and necessities have been bought out and replaced by boutiques, art galleries, and upscale restaurants. Increasingly, low-income residents are excluded, alienated, and displaced, as new spaces are protected for wealthier residents. This means increased surveillance, policing, and criminalization of unwanted people and activities – forcing poor people out of the communities they consider home.

CITY HALL

More than 100 city councillors have signed a resolution to take steps to end the forced displacement of tenants who work in the process of development. During the conflict, developer capitalists. In the donated more and the mayor's contributions,

OPERATION FIRECRACKER

After repeated pressure from the Association and Rideau Mountain Association, the City of Ottawa announced Operation Firecracker as a successful “drug bust” street sweep conducted by the police and homeless residents to crack down on street level. 108 residents, some drug users, were related to living on the street.



CLARIDGE HOMES

Self-described as the “largest condo builder in Ottawa,” Claridge’s gross sales exceed \$1 billion. Current construction stands at over 6,000 condo units in 21 high rises, several standing thirty stories high. According to the City of Ottawa, condo construction increased 48 per cent in 2011. Claridge has set record highs in speculative land purchases, including property on Carling in Little Italy at \$625.53/square ft. and the current site of the Rideau St. Metro grocery store at \$406.80 per square/ft.

HOUSING

Ottawa is in the midst of a nearly decade-long housing crisis, with apartment vacancy rates currently sitting at about 14 per cent, according to the CMHC. Low vacancy rates mean landlords can charge higher rents and developers can sell units for higher prices. This situation is worsened by the lack of new rental unit construction. According to the CBC, more than 40 per cent of Ottawa residents are renters. But in 2011, just 14 per cent of the more than 5,700 new housing units built that year were for renters. There are more than 10,000 households on Ottawa’s social housing waiting list, with more than 7,000 individuals using emergency shelter space in 2010, staying 62 days on average, the CMHC also said. The city has seen an increase in the number of families experiencing homelessness of 31 per cent since 2004.

RESISTANCE

People are recognizing that the only leverage renters and the poor may have is resisting gentrification through community organizing and direct action. On Jul. 10, 2012, Centretown neighbours and anti-poverty activists converged at developer Urban Capital’s launch party at the soon-to-be-demolished James Street Pub. CEO David Wex, among other gentrifiers, were celebrating their latest venture in displacement, marketed as your “resort in downtown.” Urban Capital referred to Centretown as a “wasteland” and aimed to rebrand it “South Central Bank.” Resisting this attempt to erase their diverse community, the group disrupted the party, chanting and heckling prospective buyers, seizing advertising materials, standing on tables and covering Wex with glitter. Urban Capital has since dropped its rebranding campaign.

MORE PARKS LESS CONDOS



LL
30 community groups across Ottawa
a statement demanding Ottawa City
ps to end the influence profit-seeking
ave over decision-making. This includes
llowing practices: hiring private consul-
rk for the development industry to pro-
ment applications for the city, allowing
o agree to support developer demands
ential pre-consultations, and banning
mpaign contributions to municipal poli-
e 2006 municipal election, developers
e than \$120,000 to winning candidates
r. Only 6 councillors refused developer
according to Ecology Ottawa.

BREAD AND ROSES BAKERY EVICTION
Shortly after a fire swept through the New Ed-
inburgh Centre in 2011 destroying all but two busi-
nesses, Chris Green of the Bread and Roses bakery
found the locks had been changed. He was later
informed that he had been evicted due to a viola-
tion of the lease, which was set to expire in 2015.
Green claimed the eviction was bogus and refused
to leave. The property had apparently been in line
for sale to Minto Developments at the time.

NIMBYS
Gentrification sees the influx of wealthier residents eager to
redefine the neighbourhood and form community associations
to represent their interests: increasing property value, crime
prevention, and beautification. By lobbying local politicians, they
influence policies to marginalize the needs and livelihoods of
the original low-income residents. The formation of the Vanier
neighbourhood association, Together for Vanier, was initiated and
funded by city-run Crime Prevention Ottawa in 2007. It has close
ties to the police, the Quartier Vanier BIA, Councillor George
Bédard, and the Vanier Community Association. Together, they
seek to rebrand Vanier as “the French Quarter” and push out
undesirables such as sex workers, drug users, and panhandlers.

CRACKER
Fire from the George St. Condo
Market BIA, the Ottawa Police an-
cracker on Jun. 13, 2012. Framed
ust,” Firecracker was a massive
by the Street Crimes Unit target-
esidents of the Market, allegedly
level drug dealing. Police charged
g related, but others for infrac-
the streets.



ACCESS TO SHELTERS AND SERVICES
Despite the necessity, access to shelters and social services
has declined in Ottawa over the past decade. Instead of increas-
ing available beds and meals in the city, then Rideau-Vanier
Councillor George Bédard successfully lobbied Ottawa City Hall
in 2006 for a moratorium on opening new shelters, rooming
houses, treatment centres, soup kitchens, and social housing in
the downtown ward. Today, even the expansion of already-exist-
ing shelters continues to be opposed.

CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY
Criminalization is inherent to gentrifica-
tion. Following the anti-poor Safe Streets
Act of 1999, police arrest powers were
increased. Prior to the act, police issued
around 1,000 tickets per year for things like
jaywalking, panhandling, and spitting. Since
the act, there has been an influx of upscale
businesses and condos. Consequently, Ot-
tawa police engage in regular street sweeps
or “nuisance blitzes” in which hundreds of
infractions are handed down in a weekend.
In September of 2011, for example, over
900 charges were laid alone.

LANSDOWNE PARK
Despite significant public opposition, the
city is moving ahead with the development
of Lansdowne Park. The city is also provid-
ing the developer with a subsidy of some-
where between \$130 - \$173 million. The
project violates the city’s official plan due
to its lack of a competitive bidding process,
and is opposed by eight of its own advisory
committees. While Ottawa assumes the
majority of the financial risk, the profits will
mainly flow to the developers.



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23 MARS, 2013 / 18h30
MARCH 23, 2013 / 6:30pm



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EDGAR SCHMIDT ON SUING THE GOVERNMENT

Kathleen Saylor

Edgar Schmidt is a (suspended) senior lawyer with the Department of Justice. He recently launched a court case against the government when he decided that the policies of the department were in contradiction with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Schmidt's job entailed reviewing upcoming pieces of legislation and ensuring they complied with the Charter. After making several recommendations about questionable legislation, they were all ignored. Schmidt decided to take it up with the courts

on behalf of Canadians. The next day, he was suspended from his job and locked out of his office. He sat down with the Leveller's Kathleen Saylor for this interview.

KS: Why did you decide to sue the government? How did you come to that conclusion?

ES: Well, I came to the view that what we [The Department of Justice] were doing did not comply with law; that we weren't actually doing what the three statutory examinations provisions required of us. And,

after trying to have the matter addressed internally and unsuccessfully, I thought that this was an important enough issue that it warranted asking a court to decide the question.

KS: So you did bring it up with your superiors. What was the reaction you got from them?

ES: They heard me and they continued with the policy they had in place.

TL: What was the attitude among your coworkers? Did other people notice it?

ES: Yes, there were some

of my coworkers who shared my concerns and others probably less so.

KS: Okay, so it was varied with who was concerned about it.

ES: Yes, I'd say that is fair.

KS: So, how long have you been working with the Department of Justice?

ES: Since 1998.

KS: So you've been in place for few different governments. What kinds of changes have you noticed throughout the years regarding the attitudes of Ca-

nadians in general?

ES: I don't think I want to comment on that. As a public servant, I am simply prepared to try and serve the state whichever government happens to be in power.

KS: What do you think about the state of democracy in Canada, as it currently stands?

ES: Oh, I think we are still an incredibly fortunate people, but I do think we have to be vigilant to protect and to advance the things in our society that will strengthen an effective democracy. I don't

think we can take it for granted, even though we can be extremely happy to live in a society that has the strengths that it does.

KS: Has your personal opinion of our government changed as a result of this situation?

ES: This situation, in my view, is not a political one at all, so, I don't relate this to the government. To me, this is simply a policy that the Department of Justice adopted that I think is mistaken. I am asking the courts to clarify -- to clarify the law.

OF GUNS AND PATRIARCHY

Arming women does not address root causes of sexual assault

Darryl Reid

“Carry a concealed weapon. That’ll fix it.”

This statement was part of public comments Sheriff Chuck Wright of Spartanburg County, South Carolina made after a woman was brutally raped in his department’s jurisdiction. It would be easy to dismiss Wright’s comments as insensitive victim blaming if this tired argument more guns equals fewer rapes wasn’t being passed around by everyone from senators to second amendment advocates and gun owners in the US and Canada in light of the furor in the US regarding gun control.

One of their most popular arguments is based on statistics which show that countries with stricter gun laws (e.g., Canada, Britain, Australia) have more incidents of sexual assault and rape. This data is often used by gun advocates to deflect criticism stemming from statistics demonstrating the effectiveness of gun control in countries other than the US, and they also often make a logical leap in extrapolating that the differences in

sexual assault rates are due to rapists not having to worry about armed women in such countries. This argument is exemplified in economist John Lott’s book, *More Guns, Less Crime*, wherein he claims, “nondiscretionary [concealed carry] laws coincide with fewer murders, aggravated assaults, and rapes.”

Lott’s claim has been hotly debated. In their rebuttal, Stanford Law Professor John J. Donohue III and Ian Ayres of Yale Law School write, “On the other hand, we find that the statistical evidence that these laws have reduced crime is limited, sporadic, and extraordinarily fragile.”

The idea that countries, municipalities, or counties with less strict gun control laws have reduced crime rates and, in particular, rape rates confuses correlation with causality. It supposes that there is a magic cure for very complex problems. Further, the attitude that guns are needed to protect women is dangerous in and of itself.

The problem with this line of thinking – a line that seems to be presented mostly by men to women – is centred on the assumption that

all rape in America happens as a random violent street encounter. The reality is that most rape happens between friends, family and acquaintances. According to the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre (ORCC), 82 per cent of rapes are perpetrated by someone the victim knows. Though the random stranger encounter is a reality, it is in fact much more rare. So, while carrying a gun everywhere you go might

strangers when we should be warning them about those they know ... How willing and able would you be to pull the trigger on your relative, friend, spouse, boyfriend or someone else you know?”

Studies show that the majority of rapes are premeditated. This is clearly not the spontaneous assault we have been taught as a norm, but rather the result of calculated violence and force. Studies on

Rape is about power and control, and most rape happens behind closed doors in an environment the victim is familiar with. In that context, a gun is almost never nearby and would prove to be completely useless at best.

In addition to reinforcing popular myths surrounding rape in our culture, the “more guns = less rape” argument once again puts the onus of rape prevention on the vic-

they will be revictimized in a courtroom by having to face the usual grilling over every minute detail of her behavior, and they are afraid (justifiably so) that they will be put “on trial” along with the accused. It bears repeating that rape is a premeditated act of violence. Women aren’t raped because of what they wear, drink, say, do or don’t do, nor are they raped because they don’t have a gun on them or because the society they live in has enacted strict gun laws. Women get raped because men rape.

This is a complex problem in a world that loves an easy fix, and it requires a complex variety of tactics to combat it. First and foremost, it requires educating men and boys on consent, and dismantling the myths and wilful ignorance that surround it.

Men rape because of systematic inequality of power between men and women in a culture of patriarchy that teaches that men are entitled to women’s bodies. It is perhaps symptomatic of a culture of patriarchy that the solution to rape is to wave a gun around rather than addressing what should be staggeringly obvious: misogyny.

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deter this method of assault, there remains a whole other issue that gun activists and society more generally are ignoring.

In response to Wright’s claim that concealed weapons will “fix it,” Lynn Hawkins wrote in the *Herald-Journal*, “The fact is that very few rapes are perpetrated by strangers. We warn our children, our friends and family members to be careful of

the characteristics of sexual assault perpetrators counter the notion that rapists are pathologically sick, perverted, and candidates for institutionalization. Citing data from Statistics Canada, the ORCC website stresses that “Sexual Assault can be perpetrated by ANYBODY,” noting that sexual offender rates are highest among men aged 12 to 34 and that 37 per cent are married or common-law.

times of rape: women. When I asked the director of the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre why the vast majority of women don’t report their assaults – reporting rates over the last thirty years have never gone above ten per cent – she explained that many women feel that it was somehow their fault. We have managed to convince women that they are at fault for their own victimization.

Many women fear that

AARON SWARTZ: INFORMATION ADVOCATE AND POLITICAL PROVOCATEUR

William Biebuyck

The world has lost a genuine leveller in Aaron Swartz. A champion of web equality and an open information society, Swartz was described by close friend and author Cory Doctorow as a “full-time, uncompromising, reckless and delightful shit-disturber.” On Jan. 11, 2013, Swartz committed suicide in the midst of a protracted legal struggle with the US Department of Justice. He was facing up to 35 years in prison and a \$1 million fine for downloading thousands of academic articles from the non-profit academic database JSTOR.

Demand Progress, a grassroots Internet organization that advocates for civil liberties and government reform, wryly noted that Swartz faced the equivalent of doing time for checking out too many library books. In an era when major financial institutions openly peddle toxic investments and launder drug cartel proceeds – with no fear of criminal indictment – Swartz was going to lose his freedom for sharing knowledge.

Swartz’s supposedly criminal acts began in the fall of 2010, while he was a research fellow at Harvard University. During this period, Swartz used the computer networks of neighbouring Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to download significant portions of JSTOR’s digitized archives. When the activities were discovered, MIT chose to alert the authorities. The US Attorney’s Office subsequently opened an investigation and announced Swartz would be indicted on 13 felony charges of computer and wire fraud. He surrendered his hard drive

before releasing any of the articles to the public.

Swartz did not view JSTOR as a service that allowed backdated journal articles to be made freely accessible. Instead, he correctly saw it as a paywall archive which limits access to those with affiliations to universities and centres of higher learning. And limit JSTOR does! The organization turns back 150 million requests for essays and articles every year, said an article in *The Atlantic*. Universities and academic databases like JSTOR effectively function

In an era when major financial institutions openly peddle toxic investments and launder drug cartel proceeds -- with no fear of criminal indictment -- Swartz was going to lose his freedom for sharing knowledge.

as institutional gatekeepers, blocking tremendous flows of academic text that might otherwise be publicly available on the web. As Swartz wrote in his Guerilla Open Access Manifesto – a succinct treatise on information and democracy – copyright protection was being used to “digitize and lock up” our collective academic heritage, including realms of publicly funded research.

This was not his first attempt to pry open closed information networks. In 2008, Swartz utilized a brief window in which US federal courts of-

fered free access to their database of legal records, commonly known as PACER. The system normally charged 10 cents per page and only permitted access from specific libraries. He used the opportunity to write and upload code to a PACER computer, giving him the ability to download 20 million documents, which he subsequently released. The FBI investigated his actions but concluded that there was no basis for charges. After all, he was archiving public documents in order to make them *more public*. He was eliminating geographic and economic impediments to the circulation of legal knowledge.

Swartz’s activism went beyond mere shit disturbing. Demand Progress was pivotal in organizing resistance to the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) in 2012. SOPA represented exhaustive ‘anti-piracy’ legislation that would have given federal authorities the ability shut down entire websites for copyright violation and give prison terms for using illegal streams. Stopping this legislation was a significant victory for the free culture movement, and a genuine blow to corporate Hollywood and government snoops. In addition to Demand Progress, Aaron was integral in the development of Creative Commons, Internet Archive, Open Library and Watchdog.net.

Swartz’s death is not tragic simply because he was young. Swartz was a persistent gadfly who openly challenged corporate, academic and legal establishments; the JSTOR investigation and prosecution was never about respecting the letter or spirit of the law.

Even the US political class



Freedom of information!

became aware of this. Unique bipartisan outrage over Aaron’s death led to the creation of a Congressional Oversight Commission to examine the facts of the prosecution. Were charges bulked up to increase prison time? Was this payback for Aaron’s role in defeating SOPA? Was this an instance of prosecutorial zealotry and intimidation?

According to Steven Reich, the justice official who briefed the Oversight Commission, the entire affair was politically motivated. Reich noted that Swartz was indicted on separate felonies for each day he downloaded: a highly unusual tactic which was employed with the sole intent of increasing prison time. Reich also acknowledged that Swartz’s Guerilla Open Access Manifesto was viewed as “malicious intent” behind the supposed fraud. Charges were being inflated not only to punish Swartz for a career of advocacy, but also to deter other potential information advocacy scofflaws from taking similar actions. Of course, it’s not only the role of prosecutors that requires inter-

rogation. Why did MIT, an organization founded on an educational mission, refuse all plea-deals that didn’t include prison time? Why was MIT so insistent on an overly punitive conclusion?

Swartz was not against copyright per se. Rather, he was opposed to the idea that it constituted a universal principle that had precedence over the public good. Intellectual property becomes perverse when it mutates into a corporate prerogative to deny seeds to farmers, pills to the sick, or information to a democratic citizenry. In response to such perversity, Swartz advocated taking action to protect the freedom of information. He was adamant that it was incumbent on us to trade passwords, make download requests for friends, and share copies on public forums whenever possible. According to Swartz, sharing was not illegal or wrong, but “a moral imperative.”

The system has taken notice. A circulating *whitehouse.gov* petition gathered 25,000 signatures asking President Obama to reprimand the

prosecutors. Hopeful signs have also appeared on the legislative front. A recently proposed “Aaron’s Law” would remove terms of services violations from the list of indictable felony computer offenses. A second bill, the FASTR Act, would mandate the early release of all taxpayer-funded research.

While just baby steps, these efforts will draw needed attention to what Swartz called the “private theft of public culture.” These issues are bigger than Swartz alone, but his work provides a timely reminder of what’s possible when individuals use their talents for the collective good rather than personal enrichment. Swartz could have easily used his prodigious programming skills to earn millions in Silicon Valley. Instead, he chose the life of a critical intellectual, public archivist, and (sometimes reckless) political provocateur. He was the James Bond and Robin Hood of the Open Access Movement. His efforts deserve our thanks. His cause requires our continued vigilance.

THE NEW SANS-CULOTTES?

Alexa Keeler

“Tyger! Tyger! burning bright In the forests of the night,” begins the famous poem by William Blake. “The Tyger” was published in 1794, shortly after the French Revolution broke out, and is believed to be a political allegory of the event. “One, two, three, four, this is a class war,” was the cry of students who participated in a protest that took place last Thursday night – a protest through which historical stirrings of the long dormant revolutionary spirit has been roused.

On the night of Mar. 5, in a protest organized by ASSÉ (Association for Syndical Solidarity among Students), the mother organization for CLASSE, over 2,000 students took to the streets of downtown Montréal in opposition to the Quebec government’s decision to increase tuition fees. The protest escalated, with protesters launching tomatoes and police arresting 50 people.

The symbolism of the tomato holds historical significance. Poor and starving peasants in England and France often threw rotten tomatoes, eggs, or other rancid vegetation to demonstrate that they were so deprived they had been reduced to eating rotten food. The throwing of rotten tomatoes is symbolic of

the government’s failure to provide for its people.

At one protest in May 2012, students marched through Montréal’s streets in their underwear, calling for more “transparency” from the Charest government. Pantless and strident, Québec student protesters resemble modern-day sans culottes – the radical left lower classes of France who agitated for the French revolution. While the face and the magnitude of the revolution have

so” came as a shock to many student protestors and Marois has now become a target of opposition.

Rushdia Mahreen, a student organizer, explained to *Real News* why striking and other protest demonstrations are effective. She said, “students took all the usual measures. There were demos, petitions. There were letters. We called the ministers and Prime Minister ... but they just didn’t budge.” Mahreen went on to explain that the point of the

rebels conducted their revolt is what cast them as illegitimate in the eyes of the masses. It is believed that their sublime violence was the inspiration for Blake’s comparison of the revolution with the rapaciousness of the tiger. Although the violence of the student protests have yet to reach even approximately the level of carnage that characterized the French Revolution, it is important for protestors to consider the ramifications of their actions

Nadeau-Dubois, student union leader and spokesperson for CLASSE, explained that the tax would raise \$400 million, “the exact amount of free school.”

During the 300,000 person strong demonstration on Mar. 22, 2012, Nadeau-Dubois explained to *Real News* that the tuition hike protests are part of a larger social movement: a resistance to the recent wave of taxation and privatization for all public services. One such tax was the new “health tax” of

workers. Robert Bomba, FIQ executive committee member explained that the new face of neoliberalization displays right-wing decentralization. He said that the Quebec people will have “less involvement with the government.” Decentralization of government combined with less accessibility to education will broaden the distance between citizens and the government bodies they elect into power.

The most logical thing to do when your government will not hear you is to raise your voice. This is exactly what the protestors had to do in the event of the recent government decision to raise tuition fees. Although many may argue that the student protestors are pushing against tuition fee hikes that are necessary for compensating for inflation, many should take into account the history of the CLASSE’s struggle to keep tuition costs at one of the lowest rates in the country. We need to consider that perhaps the student protests are exactly why Québec tuitions are as low as they are. It is when people lower their voices and become complacent that governments become omnipotent and opaque. As ASSÉ has recently posted via Facebook, “Soyons encore plus nombreux et nombreuses à la prochaine. (Let our numbers grow bigger in the next one.)”

The most logical thing to do when your government will not hear you is to raise your voice. This is exactly what the protestors had to do in event of the recent government’s decision to raise fees.

changed, student protestors demonstrate that the same flame of innovation and daring burns in the hearts of France’s far-flung relatives: the Québécois youth.

Less than a day after the Parti Québécois victory on Sept. 4, 2012, Marois announced that she would undo the hikes introduced by outgoing premier Jean Charest. Yet at the higher education summit this Mar. 5, Marois decided a 3 per cent tuition increase was in order, insisting that, “the responsibility of the government is to decide, and I decided.” This attitude of “because I said

protests and demonstrations is to, “cause a disruption,” to compel government officials to pay attention.

On the morning of Jul. 14, 1789, Parisian demonstrators stormed the Bastille, a prison fortress that represented royal authority. The “Storming of the Bastille” was the symbolic event that launched the revolution. Today, unfortunately, the police force has replaced the bulwark of the Bastille walls, and they provide the shock absorption between the citizens and the government bodies. However, the violent way in which the Parisian

in terms of gaining support.

The student movement gained momentum last year, when Québécois undertook protests against the proposal by the Québec government to raise tuition fees by 75 per cent between 2012 and 2017. Members of CLASSE were stalwartly opposed to the tuition hike, as it is their aim to completely eliminate tuition fees by 2016. To pay for the cost of this elimination, CLASSE proposed the restoration of the capital tax on financial institutions by activating a tax of 0.14 per cent this year, rising to 0.7 per cent by 2016. Gabriel

\$200 per person per annum. For this reason, many left-wing social groups and unions that oppose privatization have joined with and demonstrated alongside the students. These groups include the Québec solidaire, Option nationale, Confédération des syndicats nationaux, Canadian Union of Public Employees, and many other groups. This demonstrates that the tuition hikes are only one corollary in the wave of privatization.

One of group supporting the students is the Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ), an association of Quebec health



Since coming to power in 2006, the Stephen Harper Conservatives have instituted dramatic tax cuts for large corporations; between 2006 and 2012, they dropped the tax rate from 21% to 15%. But rather than investing in the economy to create jobs for Canadians, these corporations have by and large hoarded the extra money they saved from lower taxes; they now sit on half a trillion dollars in cash. And due to reduced revenue from these firms, the federal debt now stands at over \$600 billion. The Public Service Alliance of Canada is actively lobbying to reverse these cuts and ensure a tax system where the wealthy pay their fair share.



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A RADICAL PROPOSITION

RADICAL.
ADJ.
1. Arising from or going to a root or source
2. Departing markedly from the usual or customary
3. Favoring or effecting fundamental or revolutionary changes in current practices, conditions, or institutions: radical political views.

Well, it's the end of another fine year of levellin', Ottawa, and it's been a hell of a ride. Our pages this volume have covered rising conservatism in our city and campuses, on-going resistance to colonialism and economic violence, portraits of some of Ottawa's groovy and vibrant cultural spaces, and much more.

In waving a fond farewell to ye fine folk until September, we want to leave you with one important thought to ponder in the months to come. There's been a lot of hoohah in the mainstream press across Ottawa and on university campuses about the word "radical." It's being used by people who don't understand its meaning as a method to discredit organizations and people within those organizations who do understand what it means.

Words are weapons.
One of the beautiful things about the English language is its malleability. Words change, they evolve, and they take on

new meaning based on usage. So if you have a vested interest in words, they need to be defended against mudslingers who try to change them and pull the proverbial rug out from under your feet.

Based on the latin radicalis, meaning "of or relating to a root," the word's main mathematical meaning is exactly that. Read politically, "radical" similarly refers to being of, or coming from, the roots – this is why radical organizations strive to be "grassroots."

Applied to media, the concept of radicalism is very important. You see, mainstream media covers issues from the top downward (i.e., "What did the officials say about the policy; what did the business groups say about the policy; and, if we have space, what did some of the people affected by the policy have to say"), while radical media moves from the bottom up.

When wondering how a policy like gentrification operates, we won't start by interviewing the mayor and the business improvement associations. Instead, we'll talk to the homeless, the poor, and the long-term residents of communities that are being gentrified. Then, we'll build the story from the grassroots, moving up when necessary to tell a story worth reading about.

If you listen to how the

word "radical" is used by the mainstream media and right-wingers (on and off campus), you'd think the word referred to some secret cabal of hell-raisers bent on destroying the sanctity of all you hold near and dear. In essence, what they are trying to say is that radical means extreme.

There's a difference between "coming from the root" and "extreme."

Consider the following: prudent policy in Canada during the 21st century sounds like this: "Hiya folks! Have I got a plan for you! I want to take hordes of people from across the country and bring them to northern Alberta to rip all vegetation and life out of acres of forest to poison six barrels of fresh water for every one barrel of dead dinosaur juice! Then, we'll hire a thousand -- no, a million -- no, a billion people to build a massive pipeline to ship it to the other side of the continent so they can turn it into gas for the cars that choke the air out of our lungs! Don't you love progress?"

And when groups of affected people organize together to say, "no, we're not going to let you do that," they get called radical extremists by their governments.

It boggles the mind to think about how the real extremists take the title "conservatives" and the ones interested in promoting conservation

get labelled "extremists." Extreme conservatives understand the value of wordplay. That's why you hear folks like Preston Manning claiming to be "grassroots" as well.

That's why words matter.
We want you to reclaim the word "radical." Defend it when you see others misusing it because the misinformation campaigns have consequences well beyond syntax. The word war is part of the logic underscoring the reigning government's policy choices and their fan clubs on campuses that endeavor to scare us away from thinking critically. They're trying to redefine words like "radical" to mean something bad.

Liberals play this game, too. Check your Facebook and tweets for how many people posted trite comments about International Women's Day (IWD) on Mar. 8. By making IWD an occasion to celebrate a handful of women becoming CEOs and calling it progress in the long march to gender equality, liberals co-opt the radical significance of IWD.

As one of the *Leveller's* Facebook friends posted: "remember, it is insubordination that we celebrate on IWD. One day is not enough; courage for all the days, sisters." Radicalism makes women's issues central to every day, not some kind of one-day oasis in a desert of patriarchy.

Letter to the Editors

Dear editors,

Congratulations on celebrating four years of solid reporting on social justice and human rights issues! The Leveller staff play an important role in covering topics that do not get the attention or coverage they deserve in the mainstream Canadian press. I appreciate and share your passion for consistently challenging oppression and exploitation in its various and insidious forms. This year, I have particularly enjoyed reading your coverage and analysis of the Idle No More movement and the related struggles for justice for Indigenous persons in Canada. Fazeela Jiwa's article in the February/March 2013 edition was informative and moving, highlighting that violence against indigenous women in Canada is disproportionate and pervasive and illustrating the impact that

funding cuts have had on the capacity of Native Women's Association of Canada to collect invaluable data on missing and murdered aboriginal women. I was impressed with Ajay Parasram's coverage of the Idle No More day of action and rally on Parliament Hill on Jan. 28, which I attended. His article did an excellent job of talking about the issues that this grassroots Indigenous peoples movement is focusing on and articulating why Canadians should pay heed. I also found the analysis of "Parallels in Black and Indigenous Experiences in Canada" by Timothy Blinks to be thought-provoking and engaging. These are just a few examples of the many thoughtful and poignant articles that I have read in The Leveller. I look forward to picking up and pouring over the next edition soon.

Thank you!
- Zoë Mallett

We'd like to pull a word manoeuvre of our own to show why no one with a fifth grade reading level should listen to mainstream media or politicians – on or off campus – when they misuse the word radical.

If radical means "extreme," then why is promoting nature conservation, human rights, and livable salaries seen as radical, when destroying nature, ignoring human rights, and eroding livable salaries

to widen the pockets of the world's wealthiest not seen as being extreme? If conservatism means holding onto traditional values, one can see that the "radicals," are doing a heck of a lot of "conserving" in many ways while the Conservatives might be aptly described as extremists. So, maybe we're the conservatives after all?

Nah, we're radical and proud of it. We hope you are, too.

WHODUNIT?

Match these words of wisdom to the public figure!

- a) "I was discovering piece by piece how my world was put together: the power of men, the power of privileged castes, the power of might. I didn't think of what I was doing as rebellion; it was the only means I had of getting justice."
- b) "Opinion polls consistently show that only about 5 per cent of Blacks have sensible political opinions, i.e. support the free market, individual liberty and the end of welfare and affirmative action."
- c) "The Senate rules on housing allowances aren't clear, and the forms are confusing."
- d) "We need a media that covers power, not covers for power. We need a media that is the fourth estate, not for the state."
- e) "There always is a chorus of willing intellectuals to say calming words about benign or altruistic empires, as if one shouldn't trust the evidence of one's eyes watching the destruction and the misery and death brought by the latest *mission civilizatrice*."
- f) "There is no such thing as a Palestinian people ... It is not as if we came and threw them out and took their country. They didn't exist."
- g) "It seems to me a matter of simple common sense that we cannot ask to be given the political rule over Palestine where two-thirds of the population are not Jewish. What we can and should ask is a secured bi-national status in Palestine with free immigration."
- h) "The value systems of those with access to power and of those far removed from such access cannot be the same. The viewpoint of the privileged is unlike that of the underprivileged."
- i) "I certainly have no sympathy for child molesters, but I do have some grave doubts about putting people in jail because of their taste in pictures."
- j) "There is something that governments care for far more than human life, and that is the security of property, and so it is through property that we shall strike the enemy. Be militant each in your own way. I incite this meeting to rebellion."

- 1) Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese activist
- 2) Tom Flanagan, former advisor to PM Harper
- 3) Emmeline Pankhurst, British suffragette
- 4) Amy Goodman, journalist
- 5) Albert Einstein, physicist
- 6) Mike Duffy, Canadian senator
- 7) Edward Said, Palestinian scholar
- 8) Phoolan Devi, Indian activist
- 9) Golda Meir, Israeli Prime Minister (1969 - 1974)
- 10) Ron Paul, American Republican politician



(a) Phoolan Devi (b) Ron Paul (c) Mike Duffy (d) Amy Goodman (e) Edward Said (f) Golda Meir (g) Albert Einstein (h) Aung San Suu Kyi (i) Tom Flanagan (j) Emmeline Pankhurst

BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

Multi-media corset art examines Victorian beauty ideals and the female body as landscape

Francella Fiallos

A crowd of around 30 young, hip suburbanites hobnobbed and mingled with a local artist or two at the Centrepointhe Theatre Gallery Feb. 21 during Jenny McMaster's vernissage of her latest art exhibit, *Tight Laced*.

Tight Laced launched on Feb. 15 and goes to Mar. 20 and features a series of corset pieces that combine stitch-work with handmade paper and encaustics. According to McMaster, her newest exhibition seeks to challenge

body, claims McMaster, can be altered and reconstructed in the same way a map can, as when new landscapes and territories are discovered.

Personal characteristics and habits can likewise be expressed through the modification of the body and apparel, McMaster said, speaking from her own experience. "A long time ago, I was in college in the States and I had all these shirts from this man who was suffering from stomach cancer and he would always scratch his stomach.

The female body, claims McMaster, can be altered and reconstructed in the same way a map can, as when new landscapes and territories are discovered.

previously-held notions of femininity and oppression in the Victorian age, while exploring the idea of the body as a landscape.

Art show goers, laden with ginger-ale and crackers, moved aimlessly from painting to painting, attempting to decipher McMaster's multi-media corset creations. The relationship between body and landscape was not lost on art enthusiasts, however, as indistinct chatter about the restrictions placed on femininity and patriarchal society filled the dimly-lit room. McMaster was then asked questions about her work and gave extensive explanations about her artistic process.

However, this differed from the scene on Mar. 4.

The Centrepointhe Theatre Gallery, housed in a larger building complex called Ben Franklin Place that frequently displays new art exhibits, was virtually empty on that day, with the exception of a few security guards and teenagers.

Not a single person stopped to look at McMaster's work, opting instead to attend a performance held in the theatre's orchestra adjacent to the gallery.

Although the Mar. 4 crowd was unenthusiastic, McMaster's work is compelling enough to capture the attention of Gatineau fashion designer Thea Yeatnen, who was involved in the early stages of *Tight Laced*.

"Corsets represent repression and oppression," Yeatnen commented.

Still, Yeatnen acknowledged the gender roles at play in the Victorian Era which influenced how women perceived ideal femininity.

"Women wore them because they wanted to. They went with the norm of what is proper."

According to the exhibit's program, *Tight Laced* is meant to demonstrate how "contours become landscapes of cultural restriction and personal idiosyncrasy." The female

So, all these shirts were worn out in some places that's a personal idiosyncrasy."

However it's interpreted, McMaster managed to imbue a sense of individuality into her most memorable pieces. For example, in *Cinderella Spider*, the corset resembles the eight-legged arachnid, since long, black bits of fabric hang from the undergarment and droop down to the edge of the canvas. This piece, along with *Sugar Rabbit* and *Rabbit on Wire*, is meant to invoke liveliness and nature while providing a sense of juxtaposition to the theme of the artwork. "There is a push and pull of being restrictive and looking alive," McMaster explained.

If only some of McMaster's other pieces benefited from this type of unexpected contrast.

Hustle and Bustle features a typical Victorian age bodice corset, predictably depicting the problems associated with attaining ideal beauty. Yet, McMaster redeems herself by positioning the corset high up on the canvas to symbolize superiority.

McMaster has been a professional artist since 1999, when her work was displayed in the Ottawa Fringe Festival. But it wasn't until 2009, when she began experimenting with encaustics, a mixture of melted bees wax and acrylic paint, that McMaster found her niche in the art world.

Her pieces in *Tight Laced* were all done with encaustics and infused with other commonly known mixed-media material such as fabric and string. Prices range from \$230 to \$900.

McMaster said she has not sold a painting yet.

Still, McMaster is enthusiastic about her work and its overall message: "You can go and alter a landscape on a map but you can also alter a body through a corset," she said.

"A map of the body but a body that's been altered."

SEND US YOUR LETTERS.

editors.theleveller@gmail.com



The Leveller

Challenge Homophobia & Transphobia
why will you take action?

49% of trans students, 40% of gay male students and 33% of lesbian students experienced sexual harassment in their last school year.
Source: Egale Canada, 2011

49% des étudiant.e.s trans, 40% des étudiants gais et 33% des étudiantes lesbiennes ont été confronté.e.s au harcèlement sexuel à l'école l'an dernier.
Source : Égale Canada 2011

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Plant your question in Chrysanthemum's garden (care of: editors.the.leveller@gmail.com) and he'll cultivate a response for you to harvest next edition!



Meet Chrysanthemum, a local gardener. Chrysanthemum's Seed Bombs is the *Leveller's* new year-round garden column, where Chrysanthemum will be fielding your questions relating to any aspect of gardening you might have.

Dear Chrysanthemum,
I compost a lot of biodegradable material. I know that eggshells are useful in plants, and I've heard that coffee grinds are good, too. But, I fear I accidentally killed one of my beloved plants by assuming it drank as much coffee grinds as I produce. Are there other kinds of common kitchen compost that I can use for my houseplants?
Much love,
Constantly Composting

Dear Constantly Composting,
Composting is by far one of my favourite things about gardening. In order to control household volumes and different varieties of organic waste, I organize my compost into four categories: indoor worm bin, backyard compost pile, the City of Ottawa green bin, and garden mulching. My indoor worm bin handles almost all uncooked vegetable and fruit scraps. Worm bins use red wiggler worms to break down organic matter very quickly into some of the richest compost on Earth. Best of all, it smells like nothing!

I use my backyard compost bin for things that worms have trouble digesting or when there is too much waste for the worm bin to handle. Worms have trouble digesting alliums (onion, garlic, chives, etc.) and citrus (oranges, lemons, limes, etc.) and can only handle a certain volume of waste at a time otherwise the bin gets moldy and smelly.

The compost from your backyard bin will take much longer to break down. Your backyard bin is where you might want to put most of your coffee grinds. It may take a year or two for this compost to become usable for your plants. I use the City of Ottawa green bin for all things that cannot safely or desirably be composted in my backyard. This includes meat, dairy, fried foods, and the supposedly "biodegradable" packaging found at coffee shops and restaurants greenwashing their takeout food and coffee.

The final category is garden mulching. This is where you spread a layer of organic matter on top of the soil in your garden in order to protect and nourish your plants. Its not very often when you see bare soil in nature, and where you do there is often a lot of erosion. Mulching is essential for a healthy garden. For mulch you need mostly dry, carbon-rich matter like leaves, straw, paper, or wood. This is where your coffee is a big help. It is rich in nutrients but harsh when in direct contact with the plant. Mixed with leaves or straw, it remains nutritious but is less corrosive. Thank you very much!

Dear Chrysanthemum,
What is the best way to grow your own fresh sprouts from seed? They are way too expensive in stores!
Sincerely,
Sprouting with Curiosity

Dear Sprouting with Curiosity,
While eating sprouts bring great health benefit they can indeed be costly at your local grocery store. With a little know-how and some DIY attitude, you'll see that rich yuppies aren't the only ones who can enjoy them! Sprouting requires six things: seeds, a glass jar, water, a piece of cloth, an elastic band, and discipline. The process is simple: keep the beans damp, and change the water frequently. The most popular type of seed to sprout are pulses (lentils, beans, and peas, etc.). Grab a bag of whole, dried lentils, put them in an empty glass spaghetti sauce jar, and soak them for half a day. Drain the water and rinse them thoroughly. Cover the mouth with a piece of cloth (a clean worn-out T-shirt will do) and an elastic band. Leave the jar out of the sun and rinse them every 10 hours or so. After a few days, they should look even better than the stuff in the store-bought plastic containers. Give them a final rinse and wrap them in a paper towel or cloth sealed in a plastic bag or glass jar. Keep refrigerated. Tastes awesome on sandwiches with mustard.



HOROSCOPES

XL Petite

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
I was discussing your future at last weekend's Astrologer's Jamboree. In fact, my arch nemesis, Medium Large, was giving the keynote lecture and must have been disoriented by the Pisces blood running through his veins. Anyway, I'd like to tell you what he said about you, but quite frankly, when that as(s)trologer talks, it all sounds like a canopy full of outraged flying squirrels.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Aries, my oldest friend. Remember that time I went tumbling down 250 metres of pavement and ended up face-first in someone's garden, and then jacked their stone turtle sprinkler for you and named him *Nouvelle-Écosse*? Well, it turns out the person in that house also remembers it ... can I borrow *Nouvelle-Écosse* for about 37 years?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You know that tingly feeling you get when the acupuncturist puts that last needle into your back? It was a lot like Sunday morning when you groggily awoke and then realized the time went forward and you were late for your appointment with your Russian acupuncturist, isn't it?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Gemini, do you remember Rocky and Bullwinkle? That treacherous squirrel has led me astray one too many times. I was in the amazon, sketching out the most accurate horoscope reading for you imaginable (yup, *that accurate*) and Rocky's jerk of a real world cousin,

the flying squirrel, snatched it away and flew off into the canopy! I tried to chase him down, but he blends in with the others without the pilot's cap.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
What kind of anti-baker propaganda is the expression, "piece of cake" all about anyway? Are you suggesting that producing a piece of cake is easy? I just had a slice of the most amazing 100 per cent vegan carrot cake that included pineapple and all kinds of things you can't even imagine, and I assure you, it was not a "piece of cake" to make! Watch your words, Cancer....

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Leo Spring is coming, Leo! And you know what that means? Watch your back when you're sitting at your second-story window! I know you're thinking that's the best spot to sit back with a hot cup of tea and watch the sun rise, but with that open window in the early spring, you're sure to get a kamakazi squirrel to the face, hell-bent on stealing your oatmeal because he stayed up all fall long partying like grasshopper.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
A logic puzzle for you, Virgo. You find yourself at the National Conservative Convention in Calgary on Jun. 27. Standing within pie-distance of you is Tom "it's just a picture" Flanagan, Mike "I don't know where I live" Duffy, and Diane "count their children" Finley. You associate, Agent Bakerias III, discreetly passes you the one and only banana cream pie in your arsenal. Who do you get?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Start wearing purple, Libra! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_81l4DXlwM

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
So, it's come to my attention that Cancer has been spouting anti-baker propaganda, Scorpio. I want you to keep eyes and ears on that one, and to report back to me. These anti-baker shenanigans have got to stop. I'm holding your horoscope hostage until we get this all sorted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You know that get-rich-quick Christmas present you're planning on unleashing around your birthday, Sagittarius? Not a good idea. Jack-in-the-boxes are scary enough already, you don't need to build one that actually shoots a screaming flying squirrel out of the box to the tune of *Sweet Home Alabama*.


CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
I like your cavalier *pantaloon*s, Capricorn. They bring a certain George Carlin aesthetic to your otherwise Ellen DeGeneres disposition. Try dying them red, though.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Haiku-ro-scope for you!

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TUES MARCH 12

MUSIC: Organ Recitals. St. Andrew's Church. 12am. Every Tues.

WORKSHOP: Atelier Denu. UOttawa. 7pm. Every Tues.

MUSIC: Oxjam Coffeehouse. Rooster's Coffeehouse, Carleton University. 8pm.

WED MARCH 13

EXHIBITION: Create this Revolution! Gallery 101 share a vision. Gallery 101, 1-301 ½ Bank St. 10am-5pm.

COURSE: Poetry Writing Tutorials with Brandon Wint. Wednesdays.

TALK: International Student Issues. Rm 517, Southam Hall, Carleton University. 1pm.

HEALTH: Test your CO Level with Leave The Pack Behind. Rm 203 UniCentre, UOttawa. 1:30pm. Every Wed.

HEALTH: Cooking Demos (and Free Samples!). Rm 203 UniCentre, UOttawa. 2:30pm. Every Wed.

HEALTH: Condom Fairies. Random locations, UOttawa. 2:30pm. Every Wed.

HEALTH: Campus Health Tour. Rm 203 UniCentre, UOttawa. 2:30pm. Every Wed.

WORKSHOP: Flourish. Rm 432, 100 Marie-Curie, UOttawa. 5pm. Every Wed.

AGM: CUPE 2626: Let's Take Our Place on Campus. Rm 112, Tabarety Hall, UOttawa. 5pm.

SING: Just Voices weekly environmental choir rehearsals. Bronson Centre 222. 7pm. Every Wed.

FILM: Cinema Politica film screening: Finding Dawn. Rm 303 Paterson Hall, Carleton University. 7pm.

BOOK LAUNCH: Unfree in Palestine with Prof. Nadia Abu-Zahra. Octopus Books at Under One Roof, 251 Bank St. 7pm.

OPEN MIC: Mug Shots, Ottawa Jail Hostel. Every Wed.

THURS MARCH 14

COLLOQUIUM: Views from Afghanistan. Rm 4007 Social Sciences Bldg, UOttawa. 8am-5:30pm.

FILM: Reel Food Film Festival. Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St. 6pm.

CELEBRATION: Rideau Canal Workers. Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts. 7pm.

ROCK: Spring Fever - A Hot Night of Local Rock for Planned Parenthood. Babylon, 317 Bank St. 9pm.

FRI MARCH 15

CONFERENCE: Inspira - Youth Leadership by HOLAS Carleton University. Fri-Sat.

MANIFESTATION: Contre la Brutalité Policière. Aréna Robert-Guertin, 125 Rue de Carillon, Gatineau. 11am.

RESISTANCE TOUR: R3D Caravan Tour - r3: roots rhythm and resistance. SAW Gallery. 7pm.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Heroes of Freedom Fountain and Local 99%. Shanghai Restaurant, 651 Somerset St. W. 8pm.

SAT MARCH 16

TAR SANDS BLOCKADE MOVEMENT WEEK OF ACTION - MARCH 16-23 - TO STOP TAR SANDS PROFI-TEERS

TALK: Canada's Development

Model: Beyond Extraction – MiningWatch Canada. Rm 180 UniCentre, Carleton University. 9am-4pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Ottawa Spring Aperture Exhibition. Ottawa Convention Centre. 11am-5pm.

WORKSHOP: Media Activism 101 for FEMMIES. 170 Booth St. 12-4pm.

PARTY: Graduate Student Ball. National Arts Centre. 5pm.

STORYTELLING: A South Wind in Winter: with Algonquin Elder Albert Dumont. Singing Pebble Books, 202 Main St. 5:30pm

PARTY: International Student Gala. Canadian War Museum. 6pm.

SUN MARCH 17

SWEET: Maple Sugar Festival - Vanier Museopark, Richelieu Park. 10am-4pm.

FOOD NOT BOMBS: Free hot meals. Rideau Underpass. 4pm. Every Sunday.

MUSIC: Earth*tones Drum and Dance Circle. Arts Court, Studio B, 2 Daly Ave. 8pm. Every Sun.

MON MARCH 18

BOTTLED WATER FREE DAY

CONFERENCE: Connecting Water Resources 2013: Changing the Water Paradigm. Westin Ottawa Hotel. 5:30pm.

TALK: Wild Edibles. Top Generation Club Hall. 4373 Generation Court. 7:30pm.

TUES MARCH 19

OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO: CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm.

FILM: The Line - Sex, Consent, Power, Pleasure. Residence Commons, Carleton University. 12:30pm.

SEMINAR: The End of Suffering. Ottawa Public Library Main Branch. 6pm.

WORKSHOP: Indigenous Solidarity for Settlers. UOttawa Rm tba. 6pm.

LECTURE:: Yousuf Karsh's Cold War: Photography, Advertising, and Anti-Communism. City of Ottawa Archives, 100 Tallwood Dr. 7pm.

WED MARCH 20

EXHIBITION: Create this Revolution! Gallery 101 share a vision. Gallery 101, 1-301 ½ Bank St 10am-5pm.

MUSIC: Jazz in a Sacred Space. Southminster Church. 12pm.

TALK: The Politics of Absurdity: Extradition in the Age of Fear with Hassan Diab. Octopus Banks, Glebe. 12pm.

LECTURE: Down but not out: Youth Depression and Suicide. Kailash Mital Theatre, Carleton University. 7:30pm.

ANTI-FOLK OPERA: What the Fuck am I Doing Here? A Radical Opera about the Montreal Student Strike. SFUO Bike Co-op, Rm A105, 200 Lees Ave. 8pm.

THURS MARCH 21

COLLOQUE: Plan Nord, Plans Sud : expansion minière canadienne: criminalisation de la résistance dans les Amériques. UQAM, Montreal. 9am-5pm.

LECTURE: Shirley Greenberg Annual Lecture in Women's Studies. Rm 112 Tabaret Hall, UOttawa 5:30pm.

WORKSHOP: Indigenous Solidarity for Settlers. McNabb Community Centre. 6pm.

LISTINGS

THURS MARCH 28

ART: OttawaArt showcase. Fall Down Gallery, 288 Bank St. 7pm.

FRI MARCH 29

PUNK: Daily Grind. 8pm.

SAT MARCH 30

Global Day of Action against Chevron and the Pacific Trail Pipeline

SUN MARCH 31

ZINE SUBMISSION: Let's Decolonize Campus Call-out, OPIRG-Carleton, 326 UniCentre - opirgcarleton.org:

Immigrants in Support of Idle No More

DANCE: Bereketé Afrobeat Band - Mercury Lounge. 7pm.

TUES APRIL 2

OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO: CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm.

WED APRIL 3

EXHIBITION: Create this Revolution! Gallery 101 share a vision - Gallery 101, 1-301 ½ Bank St. 10am-5pm.

WORKSHOP: Organic Gardening in the City. National Library and Archives. 7pm.

FRI APRIL 5

MUSIC: Album Launch - Rim-bombante "Maria Has Lost Her Soul". TAN Roasters Cafe. 8pm.

SAT APRIL 6

MUSIC: Fuzz, Dagger Eyes & Neck. Dominion Tavern. 5pm.

SUN APRIL 7

PANEL: East and West Sides - No Tar Sands in Toronto, Stop Line 9. East York Civic Centre and Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Health Community Center. Sun-Mon.

FOOD: Green Earth Meet-up. Green Earth Restaurant, Preston St. 2pm.

MON APRIL 8

KARAOKE: Fun & Games. Atomic Rooster, 303 Bank St. 10pm.

SHOWCASE: The Fau Mardi Night/ Le petit Chicago, 50 Promenade du Portage, Old Hull. 9pm.

FRI APRIL 12

PUNK: International Punk Fest featuring DOOM. Montgomery Legion. Fri-Sun.

TUES APRIL 16

OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO: CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm.

THURS APRIL 18

TALK: Punk Rock, Mental Illness, and Recovery. Raw Sugar Café. 8pm.

THURS APRIL 25

WRITING: Ottawa International Writers Festival, Spring Edition. Knox Presbyterian Church. Thurs-Tues.

ART: Northern Scene. National Arts Centre. Thurs-Mon.

ART: OttawaArt showcase. Fall Down Gallery, 288 Bank St. 7pm.

FRI APRIL 26

ANIMATION: Grad Students Show. Student Commons, Algonquin College. 7pm.

SAT APRIL 27

PUNK: Ripchordz, Asile. 7pm.

PUNK: Rebel Fest: This Ain't Hollywood. 345 James St. N, Hamilton, ON. Sat-Sun.

TUES APRIL 30

OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO: CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm.

WED MAY 1

MAY DAY: Mass Mobilization - 2pm; Neighbourhood Night Marches - 6pm; Downtown Convergences - 7:30pm. Organized by Solidarity Against Austerity.

LITERATURE: Annual Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inurize - online.

TUES MAY 14

OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO: CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm.

SAT MAY 25-26

ANARCHIST BOOK FAIR Au Centre culturel Georges-Vanier (CCGV), 2450 rue Workman ET au Centre d'éducation populaire de la Petite-Bourgogne et de St-Henri (CEDA), 2515 rue Delisle (métro Lionel-Groulx.

TUES MAY 28

OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO: CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm. Every 2nd Tues. including June 11, 25.



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