

## STRIKE FOR SAFETY! Campus Safety Workers' Fight Exposes Carleton Priorities



Carleton students and workers march in support of their colleagues in campus safety March 14.

PHOTO: Filip Szymanski

*"We're just looking to show that we are worth a lot to this campus. We do a lot of work, we patrol a lot, and we have to deal with a lot, too. The fact that they want to reduce our pay already..."*



Striking campus safety workers on the picket line.

PHOTO: Sam Heaton

### Sam Heaton

Nearly 50 campus safety workers at Carleton University walked off the job at 12:01 a.m. on March 10. Half of them are students.

In support of the striking workers, who are members of Ontario Public Service Employees' Union (OPSEU) local 404, students and workers from the campus community marched across campus, condemning the Carleton senior management for its

misplaced priorities.

The March 14 rally greeted the picket line at Bronson and Sunnyside before heading to campus safety offices at Robertson Hall, followed by the River Building, University Centre Atrium, and finally outside the offices of Carleton's president on the fifth floor of Tory Building.

According to the union, the workers have given Carleton the dubious honour of being the first university in Canada to force campus

employees to strike.

The biggest issues raised at the negotiating table by the workers were chronic understaffing and inadequate compensation. The union says that while the campus population and infrastructure have grown significantly since the 1980s, safety staffing has remained more or less the same.

Earlier that day, at the request of teacher and staff unions on campus, Member of Parliament Bob Rae can-

celled his appearance at a ceremony to award him an honorary Carleton PhD.

Though negotiations between management and the safety workers began in October 2013 – around five months after the workers voted 97 per cent in favour of forming a union – the union says there has been little progress dealing with Carleton. By January, OPSEU representative Nelson Ross Laguna told the *Leveller* that bargaining had "come to a halt."

A study conducted by the union during negotiations also found that both special constables and student safety patrollers take home significantly less pay than their provincial counterparts in entry and advanced level positions. In the case of student safety patrollers, they currently make just over \$11 per hour, while comparable positions in Ontario take home anywhere from \$16 to \$20.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## THIS IS WHAT RAPE CULTURE LOOKS LIKE UOttawa students combat sexual assault on campus

### Aleena Esmail and Andy Crosby

"The University of Ottawa has gone through a difficult month, with two high-profile incidents highlighting the problem of rape culture on campuses.

The university men's hockey team was suspended in early March pending an investigation into a sexual assault in Thunder Bay. At the same time, four male elected student representatives were forced to resign from their positions after a Facebook conversation, in which they and another male made sexually threatening comments in regards to student union president Anne-Marie Roy, went public.

In a statement, the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa said the incidents were not isolated cases, but "public examples of the ways in which rape culture can manifest itself within our community." It described rape culture as "the social attitude that allows for rape to be normalized, trivialized, even celebrated, and these attitudes often go unchallenged, both on and off campus."

The undergraduate and graduate students' associations have created a Taskforce Against Rape

Culture. A meeting will be held on March 21 to discuss and develop a plan to fight rape culture at the university.

This initiative was in part a response to the creation of a Task Force on Respect and Equality by Allan Rock, the University of Ottawa's president. Rock stated at a March 6 press conference that "all forms of sexualized violence are unacceptable and profoundly repugnant," yet asserted that "our campus is safe."

At a news conference on March 11 Seamus Wolfe, external commissioner with the graduate students' association explained the deeper work that many students would like to see undertaken.

"What we would like to do is not to see some sort of PR stunt by the university but rather a widespread participatory and deep discussion that happens on this campus," he said. "To make sure that everybody – professors, staff, students – have a chance to direct this task force, to engage in this task force, and to really make sure we collectively come up with a set of recommendations and tools to combat rape culture on our campus."

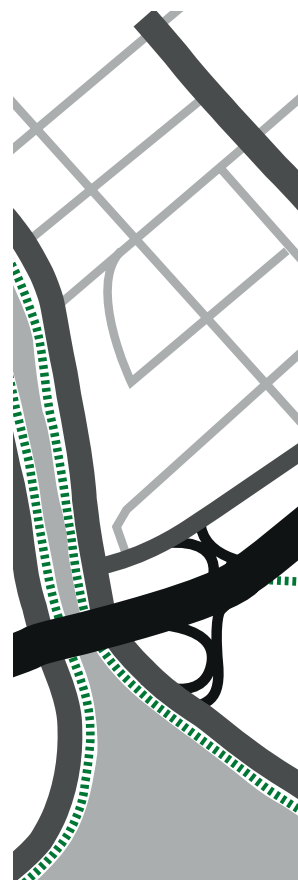
Organizations off campus have also contributed to the discussion.

Ottawa's Sexual Assault Network, the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women, and Hol-laback! Ottawa issued an open letter addressed to the five men involved in the Roy incident.

"You have hurt women in Ottawa, because every single one of us who read

your conversation felt the fear we often feel as women in this culture," the letter read. "You've reminded us that when we are in positions of power, we are even more at risk, because misogyny ensures we will always be sex objects, and never taken quite as seriously as men."

*"What we would like to do is not to see some sort of PR stunt by the university but rather a widespread participatory and deep discussion that happens on this campus,"*



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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.*

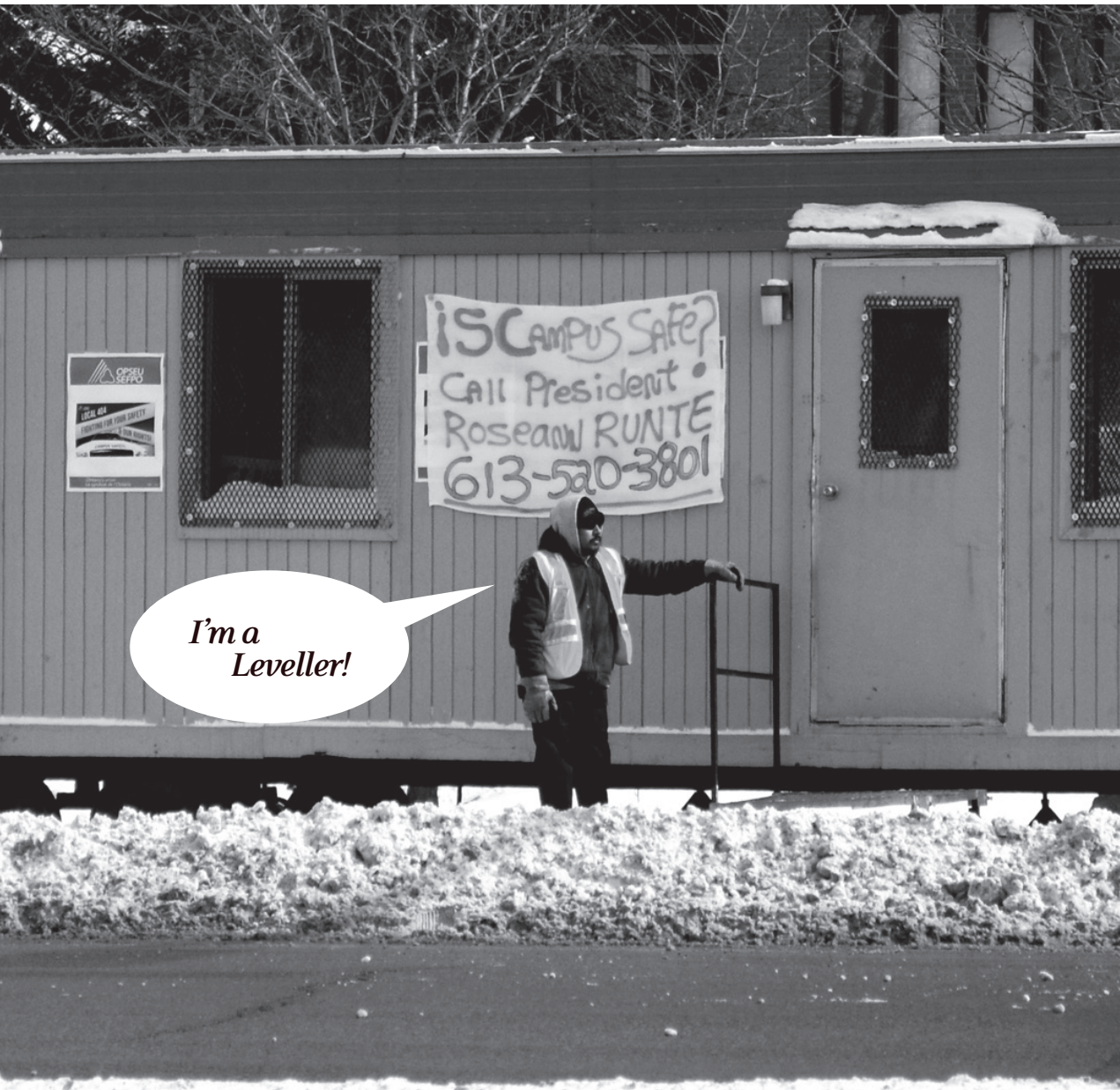
*The Leveller and its editors have no phone or office, but can be contacted with letters of love or hate at [editors.the.leveller@gmail.com](mailto:editors.the.leveller@gmail.com)*

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*The Leveller*

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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](mailto:operations.the.leveller@gmail.com) for options on how to help level the playing field, one issue at a time.

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

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**SAFETY**  
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

When the campus safety workers resorted to creative means to get their message out, such as union pins, wristbands, and t-shirts, Director of University Safety Allan Burns attempted to ban such items from being worn. In early February, frustrated by lack of movement from the employer, workers voted 97 per cent in favour of strike action.

A student safety patroller, who wished to remain anonymous, spoke on behalf of the collective in describing working conditions to the *Leveller*: “We work overnights. A lot of us work until 7:00 a.m. in the morning, and we have class at 8:30 a.m.. And we choose that, but it’s also more of a respect thing than the wages.”

She said student patrollers perform first response duties, first aid, and crisis

management along with many other duties, and they undergo months of training.

“We’re just looking to show that we are worth a lot to this campus. We do a lot of work, we patrol a lot, and we have to deal with a lot too. The fact that they want to reduce our pay already...”

Student workers say that student safety patroller jobs have been recently advertised at lower pay than previously. At this time, Carleton is advertising the position at \$11.39 per hour, around the same as what the student patrollers are currently paid.

Participants in the rally on March 14 said that the safety workers’ fight for better staffing levels and acceptable pay makes them question Carleton senior management’s priorities.

Justin Paulson of the Carleton University Academic Staff Association said, “What we need is not park-

ing garages,” but “an environment that is safe for students to pursue education and research.”

While Carleton has refused to deal with what the workers say is inadequate safety coverage on campus, it has notably spent \$34 million to date on building a new parking garage.

The *Leveller* reported in Sept. 2013 that Carleton senior officials admitted the university has no need for new parking spaces. A *Leveller* investigation found that the Carleton Board of Governors and its building committee included several key figures behind the redevelopment of Ottawa’s Lansdowne Park stadium.

According to the *Ottawa Citizen*, the City of Ottawa has been negotiating a Lansdowne parking agreement with Carleton University since 2010.

Chris Hurl, a member of

CUPE 4600, the union that represents teaching assistants and contract instructors, said that Carleton’s senior management is “clearly a lot more interested in providing a good brand for the university and building parking garages” rather than “the basic operation of the university.”

“That means paying our workers a decent wage... and making sure we’re able to provide quality education and basic services like safety on our campus,” Hurl said.

Since the strike began, some students have had difficulty reaching campus safety in emergencies, according to the *Ottawa Citizen*. Parents who use the on-campus daycare centre have written to Carleton president Roseann Runte to express their concern.

A new round of negotiations between the workers and university management is expected to take place on March 20.

# News Briefs

## TransCanada’s Energy East under scrutiny in Ottawa

TransCanada filed a pre-application with the National Energy Board on March 4 as a first step for approval to build the Energy East pipeline. The project would convert 3,000 kilometres of an existing 55-year-old natural gas pipeline to transport 1.1 million barrels per day of Alberta tar sands oil, while adding 1,400 kilometres from Cornwall, Ont. to Saint John, N.B.

If approved, the pipeline would travel through Ottawa and over the Rideau River, prompting outcry from local residents and community organizations. “The pipeline is all risk and no reward for the city and residents of Ottawa,” said Ecology Ottawa’s Ben Powless. “Any spill could have devastating impacts on our farmlands, the Rideau River, and even on our drinking water.”

Ecology Ottawa is encouraging residents to voice concerns at a number of events in April.

TransCanada will be back in the region to promote the pipeline on April. 3 at the Alfred Taylor Recreation Centre in North Gower. The Ontario Energy Board will roll into the Stittsville Community Centre on April 7 as part of a province-wide consultation on the potential impacts of the Energy East pipeline. Finally, an April 13 event at the Mayfair Theatre in Ottawa will outline the importance of maintaining a “Tar Free 613.”

“TransCanada has a track record of misinformation, shoddy infrastructure and 12 spills in one year on their latest pipeline project” said Andrea Harden-Donahue, energy and climate justice campaigner with the Council of Canadians, in a March 4 press release. “We will not let them risk our water [and] we will support communities’ right to refuse.”

## National Energy Board “rubber stamps” Enbridge’s Line 9 Pipeline proposal

The National Energy Board (NEB) approved Enbridge’s Line 9 pipeline reversal proposal on March 6, permitting the transport of tar sands oil through Ontario and Québec. From Sarnia to Montréal, Line 9 passes within 50 kilometres of over 9 million people, including 18 Indigenous communities. Indigenous groups intervened during the NEB hearings to express that no meaningful consultation has occurred, in violation of several treaties.

The decision surprised few. “The NEB hearings have always been a rubber stamping process,” said Amanda Lickers of Reclaim Turtle Island in a Rising Tide Toronto press release on March 6. “It doesn’t matter how many people participate, how many municipalities or Band Councils say they don’t want this project – or haven’t even been consulted.”

In February, a CTV investigation uncovered dozens of unreported spills along Line 9 since 1976: at least 35 spills totalling 3,065,359 litres. The NEB has records of seven spills while Enbridge reported only 13. The alarming revelations reveal the volatility of Line 9 and call into question its capacity to withstand flows of diluted bitumen from Alberta, more corrosive than conventional crude. Line 9 is the same make and model as Enbridge’s Line 6B, which spilled almost 4 million litres of diluted bitumen into Michigan’s Kalamazoo River in 2010, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Direct action to demilitarize McGill

Students at McGill University established a blockade at the Macdonald Engineering Building on March 14 to halt drone research at the Aerospace Mechatronics Laboratory. On March 13, the McGill Daily reported that campus group Demilitarize McGill had obtained documents through the Access to Information Act that revealed the Department of National Defence funding more than \$1 million to develop drone software for use in combat operations.

“We are taking this action to send a clear message that research contracts in support of imperialist warfare will no longer go unchallenged at McGill,” stated a leaflet distributed by the students. “We are acting to disrupt McGill’s involvement in the preparations of the Canadian military for future wars.”

## A PEOPLE’S JOURNALIST Honouring Ali Mustafa

*In a way, I’m also fascinated by war – not in the gory sense but in the way it impacts us as human beings. What does it take away? What does it leave behind? Most importantly, what does it transform us into? These are the kinds of questions that interest me more than anything else as a journalist.*

— Ali Mustafa

Driven by such large questions, freelance photojournalist Ali Mustafa did more than simply report on what he saw. He sought to understand events and put them in context. And he did not position himself as a neutral observer: wherever he was, he was among the people – *with* the people.

In recent years, Mustafa travelled from his home in Toronto to report from Palestine, Egypt, and Syria, motivated by a need to provide critical cov-

erage missing from mainstream media and to show the world what was happening to people in these places.

“I felt that Western mainstream media coverage of Syria leaves a lot to be desired. It’s important for journalists coming from a critical perspective to be in places like Syria to report in a more nuanced, informed, and contextualized way. The only way I could truly get a sense of the reality on the ground was to go there to figure it out for myself,” he said in a July 2013 interview for *Upping the Anti*.

Mustafa, 29, was killed on March 9 in Aleppo by a bomb reportedly dropped by the Syrian Air Force.

Attesting to Mustafa’s solidarity approach to journalism, professor and writer Justin Podur has described Mustafa as the best kind of journalist: a people’s journalist.

“He was a journalist in the sense that he went there, wherever there

was, and wrote and documented, and photographed. But he was not a journalist in any of the bad ways. There was nothing careerist about him. He never pretended at any false objectivity – he was a people’s journalist and he believed in their struggles. Pretty much everything I ever saw him do, he did with this motivation. He never put himself above the people he was writing about. He put himself with them, instead,” wrote Podur.

Mustafa’s work has provided a vivid illustration of the need for solidarity and justice in journalism and in life.

*The financial cost to Ali Mustafa’s family of recovering his body from Syria and bringing it home to Toronto has been estimated at \$20,000. OPIRG-York is accepting donations on behalf of the family. Contributions can be made through the website: [www.opirgyork.ca](http://www.opirgyork.ca)*



# The Leveller

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## RESEARCH BURSARIES

Every Year, OPIRG Carleton provides three \$500 bursaries to a Carleton University

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For more information on how to apply check out:

[www.opirgcarleton.org](http://www.opirgcarleton.org)  
Deadline: March 21st, 2014 4pm

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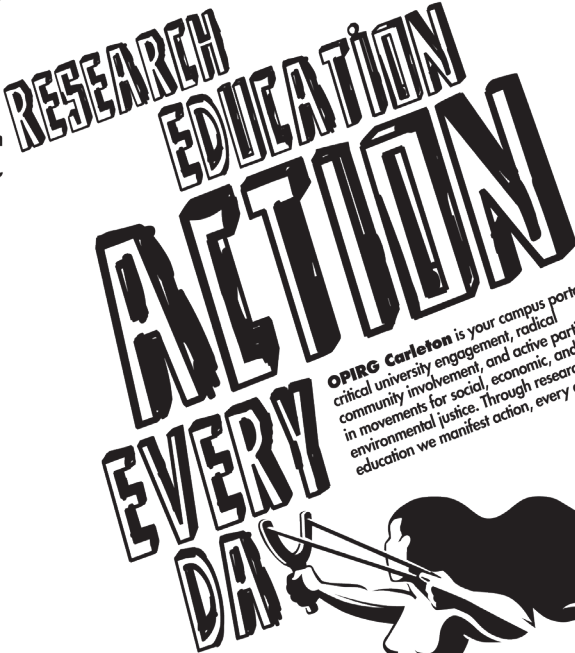
## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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UC376 @ 5:30pm  
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# OTTAWA POLICE “CONSULT” PUBLIC ON TASER EXPANSION

## Andy Crosby

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) wrapped up an online survey on March 17 on the use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs), more commonly known as Tasers. The OPS plans to arm more officers following the Ontario government's recently revised guidelines that authorize the expanded deployment of CEWs.

Many criminologists warn against the expansion of use of force options over de-escalation techniques. Carleton University criminologist Darryl Davies called the move a "setback."

"The more toys we give them, the less communication skills they have, the less effective they are at dealing with these situations through interpersonal skills," Davies told the CBC.

Davies believes that the

push to arm an additional 300 OPS officers with Tasers will guarantee the increased use and abuse of the weapon.

OPS officers currently deploy the weapon an average of 18 times per year. According to the CBC, almost half of these cases have involved people suffering mental health issues.

A 2013 report by the Council of Canadian Academies outlined at least 33 Taser-related deaths in Canada since the late 1990s. In the United States, 547 such deaths have been documented by Electronic Village over the same period, including 196 since 2009. Electronic Village notes that with the rise of deaths and injuries as a result of “Taser torture,” police departments in Memphis, Charlotte, and San Francisco have banned the use of CEWs.

Last year, the OPS were slapped with a \$1.2 million lawsuit alleging police brutality after a violent arrest and Taser deployment in custody. The incident was only the latest of six lawsuits filed against the OPS alleging cellblock violence, according to the CBC.

Under increasing scrutiny for incidents of police brutality, many see the OPS' online survey as a sideshow.

Carleton Criminology instructor Jeffrey Monaghan doesn't think it matters how many people express opposition. "I doubt very much this consultation would result in a reversal of the proposal, it looks like the writing is on the wall," he told the *Leveller*. "Unfortunately, and I hope I'm wrong, this policy will only receive serious analysis and scrutiny after they kill someone – and get caught on camera."

## RAISE THE RATES REVIVAL IN OTTAWA



## Anti-Poverty Activists at the Office of Ontario Labour Minister Yasir Naqvi

PHOTO: Zoe Maggie

## Shannon Balla

On March 22, a bus filled with anti-poverty organizers from Ottawa will head to Toronto to join the mobilization against the Ontario Liberal Party (OLP) Convention. Activists are demanding an increase to social assistance rates and minimum wage. They claim that the current standards leave people in deep poverty, having to choose between shelter and food.

Organized by Poverty Makes Us Sick (PMUS) and the Raise the Rates Coalition, the Ottawa contingent of the mobilization is made up of poor people and their allies, including long-time activists, labour allies, frontline community workers, and first-time protesters.

Raise the Rates was launched by the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) and CUPE-Ontario, and is being supported in Ottawa by labour and community groups.

The core demands of the campaign are an immediate 55 per cent increase to the Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Sup-

port Program (ODSP) rates. This would return rates to the levels of funding in place before the Mike Harris government in Ontario. The campaign is also demanding an increase in the minimum wage to \$14 indexed to inflation, and full restoration of the Special Diet Allowance and the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit. It is also seeking to ensure there is no merger between OW and ODSP, as was proposed in a Liberal government 2012 Social Assistance Review Commission report.

On Feb. 5 PMUS and other local organizers held an inaugural action for the Raise the Rates campaign. The group briefly occupied the constituency office of Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour of Ontario, in solidarity with Toronto-based doctor Roland Wong. Wong's license was suspended for professional misconduct because he was assisting people on social assistance gain additional access to the Special Diet Allowance.

PMUS organizer Ian Stumpf said "there are so many folks and organizations already making amaz-

ing contributions to the Raise the Rates campaign in Ottawa. I think we've arrived at the right time to, just maybe, offer a bit more structure and spark some new momentum."

Stumpf added that "for many of us, these demands are a matter of life and death. Poverty Makes Us Sick looks forward to continuing to grow ties...It's really important that that the Raise the Rates campaign is growing (because) so is the reach of the apparatus that oppresses us."

In May, the Coalition will be holding a public launch in Ottawa, featuring guest speakers from OCAP and the UK-based organization Disabled People Against the Cuts. Recent policies adopted by the Cameron government in London have forced thousands of poor people living with disabilities into the labour force and resulted in many others having their benefits cut.

The Raise the Rates campaign identified the possible merger between OW and ODSP as one of the gravest threats facing poor people in Ontario.



*The Independent*



The mandate of OPIRG (Ontario Public Interest Research Group at the University of Ottawa) is to bring together and build upon a broad-based community dedicated to social, economic and environmental justice. OPIRG – is concerned with the contribution that students, the university and the community can make towards social change. We are student funded which means that OPIRG is yours. Yours to engage with, to start a group through, to borrow resources from, to pitch a research project to, to make buttons, copies, banners with.. and the list goes on. OPIRG as a space and as a group is meant to welcome friends new and old, to work on campaigns, to work as a board member, as a volunteer, or as an individual. Since our foundation, we have addressed issues of public concern such as tuition fees, environmental justice, social justice, war and occupation, sexism, racism, Indigenous sovereignty, and more through events like movie nights, guest speakers, forums, debates, clothing swaps, fair trade cafés, and information tables. We have supported the work of dozens of action groups on these and other issues throughout the years. As an organization, we exist to support student initiatives and projects by contributing financial and non-financial resources to their development. Any student or student groups is welcome to submit proposals to OPIRG.





CAMPUS

MIGRANT WORKERS FIGHT FOR THE SAME RIGHTS

Campus tour brings students closer to the food on their tables



Pablo Godoy of Students Against Migrant Exploitation speaks at Carleton University on March 14. PHOTO: Sam Heaton

Leslie Muñoz

Students Against Migrant Exploitation (SAME) stopped at Carleton University on March 14 as part of a 2014 tour of university campuses to raise awareness about migrant exploitation in Canada. Using the work of the Agricultural Workers Alliance as an example, the group highlighted the importance of grassroots organizing in response to exploitation of migrant workers.

Pablo Godoy of SAME said the tour is “part of a strategy to build awareness on campuses specifically about migrant workers, the conditions under which they come to (Temporary Foreign Worker) Programs, how they migrate, the circumstances in which they live, their working conditions, discrimination, isolation.”

The discussion began with Godoy talking about the insecurity that migrants in Canada experience.

“There is an innate precariousness that comes with the programs,” said Godoy. “The immigration system has had a big shift, in that the number of people that are allowed into the country temporarily far surpasses the number of people that are allowed and have some level of access to citizenship or residency.”

For this reason, one of the major issues facing migrant workers, according to SAME, is the lack of status and hence mobility in Canada. “The fact that (workers) can be sent home and repatriated faster than planes makes it like an open door policy for employers to really roll over employees,” Godoy said.

Godoy also likened Temporary Foreign Worker Programs to indentured servitude. For example, migrant agricultural workers are tied

to their employers and have to live under the arrangements made by individuals who both pay their wages and ensure their ability to legally stay in the country. To speak out against employer exploitation is therefore to risk developing a negative relationship with someone who can have you sent away at any time.

According to Godoy, “the systems that are set up actually don’t allow for protection or enforcement of any laws.”

“There isn’t even a Service Canada for farm workers,” said Santiago Escobar of the Agricultural Workers Alliance. “The Canadian government doesn’t provide any kind of attention or entity or agency that provides service.... They treat workers as a cheap commodity, a disposable commodity.”

The Agricultural Workers Alliance acts as a quasi union for migrant agricultural workers in the Niagara region. The group also does other work on the ground to support workers and bring them together in the community. Some of this effort involves supporting them in navigating through different application processes as well as providing English language classes and transportation so that workers can access essential services such as health care. Social events are also organized so that migrants experience a livelihood outside their labour.

Escobar said that one of the main challenges is building relationships with workers. Before they come to Canada, migrant workers are often warned against associating with other workers in a union or communicating with political groups. For that reason, he said, providing community and support is essential to empowerment.

“The immigration system has had a big shift, in that the number of people that are allowed into the country temporarily far surpasses the number of people that are allowed and have some level of access to citizenship or residency.”



MYTH: Tuition fees have to go up.

FACT: No they don’t.



MYTH: Higher tuition fees are fine because you can get a loan.

FACT: Higher tuition fees have created a student debt crisis.



Funding the post-secondary education system by forcing students to take on debt to pay for high, upfront tuition fees ensures that low- and middle-income students pay more for their education than wealthier students. A low-income student who has to borrow to pay tuition fees has to pay the cost of their education plus interest, compared to a student who can afford the upfront costs who just pays the sticker price.

Students are taking on more debt than ever before. Ontario students owe **\$9 billion** to the federal government and over **\$2.6 billion** to the provincial government, not to mention what students owe in credit cards, lines of credit and other private sources of debt. All told, the average student with public and private debt owes **\$37,000** after a four-year degree.

MYTH: The cost of everything goes up, including tuition fees.

FACT: Tuition fee increases are about government priorities, not inflation.



Just like the cost of bread, milk and vegetables, the costs of operating a college or university also go up, but who pays those costs is a political choice. For our health care or high school systems, society pays the cost through taxes. Ontario has had tuition fee freezes and reductions in the past and should be looking to emulate provinces like Newfoundland and Labrador where tuition fees have been frozen since 1999.



That said, even if tuition fees did increase by inflation, college students would be paying **less than half** what they are paying now and undergraduate students would be paying **2.5 times less** than what they are paying today.



For more information and to join the fight to stop the hikes, contact [campaigns@cfsontario.ca](mailto:campaigns@cfsontario.ca) or visit [thehikesstophere.ca](http://thehikesstophere.ca)

THE HIKES STOP HERE<sup>CA</sup>  
Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario

The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario represents more than 300,000 college, undergraduate and graduate students in all regions of Ontario including every student at Carleton University. The Federation is Canada’s largest and oldest student organization and organizes education, equity and sustainability campaigns and provides cost-saving services to members.



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# Le profilage policier, une pratique courante mais illégale



Manifestation contre la brutalité policière dans le Vieux-Hull, 15 mars 2013.

PHOTO: Ben Powless

## David Clément

Au cours des derniers mois, que ce soit à Gatineau, à Montréal ou ailleurs, les événements liés au profilage, aux abus et à la brutalité policière ne cessent de s'empiler. On peut penser à Alain Magloire, tué par des policiers du Service de police de la ville de Montréal (SPVM) le 3 février dernier; à la personne menacée par un policier du SPVM de se faire attacher à un poteau par -40 degrés; ou encore aux nombreuses interventions policières arbitraires et illégales qui se produisent à Gatineau, particulièrement autour de la Soupe populaire de Hull, et qui ont souvent été dénoncées publiquement ces derniers mois. Ce phénomène se fait également sentir dans d'autres quartiers de la ville, notamment dans le Vieux-Hull, le Mont-Bleu et le quartier Notre-Dame dans le secteur Gatineau.

Le profilage policier, qu'il

soit social, racial ou politique, est illégal. C'est une pratique utilisée par les services de police afin de cibler des groupes de personnes en particulier, non pas pour les gestes qu'elles commettent réellement, mais en fonction de leur « statut social », de la couleur de leur peau ou de leurs opinions politiques. À partir de stéréotypes dominants (ex : les pauvres consomment de la drogue et violent; les latinos sont dans les gangs de rues; les anarchistes sont violents et violentes), la police appose une étiquette sur toutes les personnes correspondant à ces critères de « risque » et exerce sur elles une surveillance accrue. Conséquence de cette surveillance particulière de la police sur certains groupes de personnes : davantage d'arrestations, de détentions, et judiciarisation de ces cas.

Imaginez un instant les résultats d'une telle pratique si elle était généralisée... si, par exemple, on détenait

et fouillait l'ensemble des fonctionnaires sur la Promenade du portage de manière quotidienne, les chiffres de la criminalité ou des incivilités augmenteraient probablement de manière fulgurante. C'est exactement ce qui se produit pour bien des personnes qui ont le malheur d'être reconnues par la police comme appartenant à un groupe « à risque ». Là, j'entends déjà les ami-e-s de la police nous affirmer haut et fort que celle-ci ne fait que son travail, qu'elle applique les lois à la lettre. Pourtant, les pratiques de profilage sont bien visibles au jour le jour, notamment par l'émission de constats d'infraction en vertu des règlements municipaux ou du Code de la sécurité routière. Les infractions visées par ces constats sont des actes considérés comme illégaux, que nous commettons tous et toutes de manière quotidienne (ne pas traverser la rue à un endroit prévu par

la loi, marcher à côté du trottoir, marcher avec plus que deux autres personnes, ne pas avoir l'ensemble des réflecteurs sur notre vélo, etc.), mais qui sont habituellement tolérés pour la majorité de la population. Par contre, si vous entrez dans l'une des catégories de personnes visées par les pratiques de profilage, ce type d'infraction sera utilisé de manière constante pour vous identifier, vous questionner, vous fouiller ou vous judiciariser.

Le 22 janvier dernier, l'Association pour la défense des droits sociaux (ADDS-Gatineau) a tenu une conférence de presse afin de dévoiler des données obtenues via la Loi d'accès à l'information en provenance de la ville de Gatineau et du Service de police de la ville de Gatineau (SPVG), en lien avec les constats d'infraction émis en vertu du Règlement 42-2003 concernant le maintien de la paix publique et du bon ordre sur le territoire de la ville de Gatineau, entre le 1er janvier 2008 et le 31 décembre 2012. Ces demandes d'accès à l'information ont été déposées avec une intention très claire, soit celle d'être en mesure de confirmer, à partir des données officielles du SPVG et de la ville, plusieurs témoignages qui décrivent le profilage (social, racial et politique) effectué par le SPVG. Les résultats de l'analyse viennent confirmer ces témoignages à plusieurs niveaux, entre autres pour ce qui est de l'augmentation de la judiciarisation, du type d'accusation utilisée ainsi que les moments de l'année où le profilage se fait le plus sentir. Il est important de spécifier que ces données ne représentent que la pointe de l'iceberg, car elles ne prennent pas en compte les accusations criminelles, les contraventions émises en vertu du Code de la sécurité routière ainsi que les nombreuses interpellations illégales qui ne résultent pas

en l'émission d'un constat d'infraction par le SPVG.

Les données obtenues démontrent que l'émission de constats d'infraction en vertu de ce règlement municipal a augmenté de 57% entre 2008 et 2012, passant de 1 621 à 2 550 annuellement. Ceci exprime bien l'augmentation de la judiciarisation par le SPVG au cours des dernières années. Le plus intéressant dans l'analyse de ces données est l'augmentation massive de l'utilisation de certains articles du règlement, connus comme étant des « outils » utilisés par les policiers et policières dans leurs pratiques de profilage. Par exemple, les constats d'infraction émis pour avoir été dans un parc alors que c'était interdit ont augmenté de plus de 700% (de 22 à 177) entre 2008 et 2012. Pour la même période, ceux émis pour avoir mendié ont augmenté de 282% (de 11 à 42), et ceux pour avoir uriné dans un lieu public, de 115% (de 82 à 176). Finalement, on constate une tendance marquée à utiliser un article définissant une infraction très rarement évoquée avant 2008 : être la cause d'un désordre dans un attroupeement ou un défilé. De 2008 à 2012, l'émission de ce type de constat a connu une augmentation de 1975%, passant de 7 à 166! Dans le cas des personnes qui n'ont pas de domicile fixe, ce profilage est encore plus aberrant, car la police s'attaque directement aux modes de survie que ces personnes doivent adopter pour faire face à leurs besoins de base : dormir, uriner, se nourrir, se réchauffer, etc.

La seule bonne nouvelle mise en évidence par la compilation de données est l'augmentation du nombre de constats annulés après leur émission. Ce nombre est passé de 42 en 2010 à 187 en 2012. Les constats annulés démontrent une surutilisation de la judiciarisation que même les procu-

reur-e-s de la ville ne veulent pas soutenir. Pour consulter l'ensemble de ces données, visiter le site de l'ADDS ([www.addsgatineau.com](http://www.addsgatineau.com)).

Malgré la publication de ces données et l'ensemble des dénonciations formulées ces derniers mois contre les agissements du SPVG, la réaction du maire et du chef de police a été de mettre ça sur le compte des « cas isolés ». En fait, il faut comprendre ceci : quand la classe politique et sa police parlent de « cas isolé », elles disent à mots couverts que, cette fois-ci, il y avait des témoins et des caméras. Les pratiques de profilage ne sont pas le fait de quelques « pommes pourries » comme on veut nous le faire croire. Au contraire, elles sont d'ordre systémique; elles sont acceptées, promues et généralisées dans les différents services de police.

L'ADDS a d'ailleurs préparé un atelier de formation sur la question du profilage policier. D'une durée d'environ 2 heures, cet atelier est l'occasion d'apprendre d'où viennent les pratiques de profilage, ce qu'elles visent, comment elles se mettent en place au jour le jour et, surtout, ce que nous pouvons faire collectivement pour nous protéger de la police. Si des groupes (communautaires, syndicaux, étudiants, etc.) sont intéressés à participer à cet atelier, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter, il nous fera plaisir de nous déplacer dans vos groupes pour le présenter.

Le samedi 15 mars, l'ADDS a appelé la population à manifester dans le cadre de la Journée internationale contre la brutalité policière. Cette manifestation visait à dénoncer la brutalité et le profilage policiers qui sévissent à Gatineau.

*Cet article a été publié dans le P'tit MOT-DIT, Journal de l'Association pour la défense des droits sociaux de Gatineau, mars 2014.*



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En tant qu'organisme, notre raison d'être est de soutenir les initiatives et les projets étudiants en contribuant des ressources financières et autres. Tous les étudiants peuvent soumettre des propositions au GRIPO.



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# LONG ROAD AHEAD

## ASSESSING THE CHANGES TO BRONSON AVENUE AND BEYOND

BY FRANCELLE FIALLOS AND TAMARA NAHAL

In October 2012, Carleton University graduate student Krista Johnson was struck and killed by a motorist while cycling on Bronson Avenue. Her death prompted outrage among Ottawa's cycling community over the city's approach toward bike safety and accessibility.

More than a year after city councillor David Chernushenko proposed new plans to make Bronson Avenue safer for pedestrians and cyclists, the *Leveller* takes a look at whether the changes have contributed to better cycling conditions and how cycling affects our city.

### Semi-segregated bike lanes

The City of Ottawa has already implemented segregated bike lanes in the downtown core, specifically on Laurier Avenue. Instead of cyclists weaving in and out of the bike lanes and onto the sidewalks, they can commute in lanes that will hug the curb more closely than they did before. The Laurier lane is marked off with posts, a concrete barrier, and a row of parked cars in some areas to separate drivers from cyclists.

However, these lanes still don't solve the issue of cyclists pedaling into the wrong lane in order to get to their destination point. Alternatively, semi-segregated bike lanes allow cyclists more safety while commuting. But since there aren't concrete curbs separating the lane from the road as on Laurier, this can create problems during the winter with snow plows pushing snow to the curb, and effectively in the bike lane itself. This means that cyclists will inevitably commute alongside fast-moving cars while biking in tough conditions, rendering the safety promised with the bike lanes non-existent.

### Cycling and Ottawa's social environment

Governments and avid bikers will often point to the health and environmental benefits of cycling to justify infrastructure investment. However, one benefit that often gets neglected is the way biking and support for using sustainable forms of transportation affects our connection to the city we live in.

Biking to a destination allows people to gain a better appreciation for the green space in a city, and contributes to the distinctive character of a given neighbourhood. This, in turn, helps develop Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) and commercial "main streets" such as Bank Street, Wellington Street West, and Sparks Street.

Biking, then, isn't necessarily just a form of transportation, but one part of a city's vision for its urban planning and design. Along those lines, Main Street in Ottawa is also getting an overhaul to become a "complete street" with bike lanes and better infrastructure.

### Bronson and Sunnyside intersection

Though the intersection of Brewer and Bronson has been identified as a problem area for cyclists, it's not the only one. The busy intersection of Sunnyside Avenue and Bronson, for instance, is a headache for cyclists and drivers alike as they attempt to navigate through the dual lanes.

The city has implemented design modifications to the busy four-way intersection that leads into the University of Ottawa campus. Changes include brighter lights, as well as more noticeable labels for the lanes, which direction commuters should go. But these improvements aren't as useful during poor weather conditions when visibility is already a major issue.

### Biking beyond Bronson

The past five years have seen the proliferation of bike routes and paths in Ottawa, due largely to the efforts of cyclists and groups who have promoted biking as a sustainable method of transportation. However, Ottawa's most notable strides towards cycling safety have often come in the form of policy responses to fatal collisions.

Cycling in the winter has now become a major part of the city's vision for transportation in Ottawa. In November 2013, when the city released its master plan for infrastructure, bike routes meant to facilitate biking in the winter were a main focus. Mayor Jim Watson has stated to the Ottawa Sun that the routes should be ready by 2015.

But more work needs to be done.

Neighbourhoods such as South Keys, Beacon Hill, and Kanata do not have the same level of cycling infrastructure as the downtown core. In December 2013, a cyclist was struck and killed by a tractor trailer on West Hunt Club Road, a main arterial road with a speed limit of 80 km/h. A proposed pedestrian bridge over Airport Parkway has been delayed three years and faces significant cost overruns.

OLD  
OTTAWA  
SOUTH

### No more on-off ramps on Bronson

The main concerns for City of Ottawa survey participants were the on- and off-ramps on Bronson Avenue. The south end of the Bronson Avenue, where Johnson was killed a year and a half ago, is largely considered one of the worst places for cyclists in Ottawa.

The north section of Bronson has been described by Ottawa blogger and journalist David Reevly as the "narrower, more-often part just beyond and where southbound drivers hit the gas." This may cause problems for drivers.

The elimination of the on- and off-ramps means that drivers have to look for alternate ways to get to their destination, which may lead to other routes with a consistent cycling presence. The lack of ramps can also clog up traffic, which means more congestion and frustrated drivers.

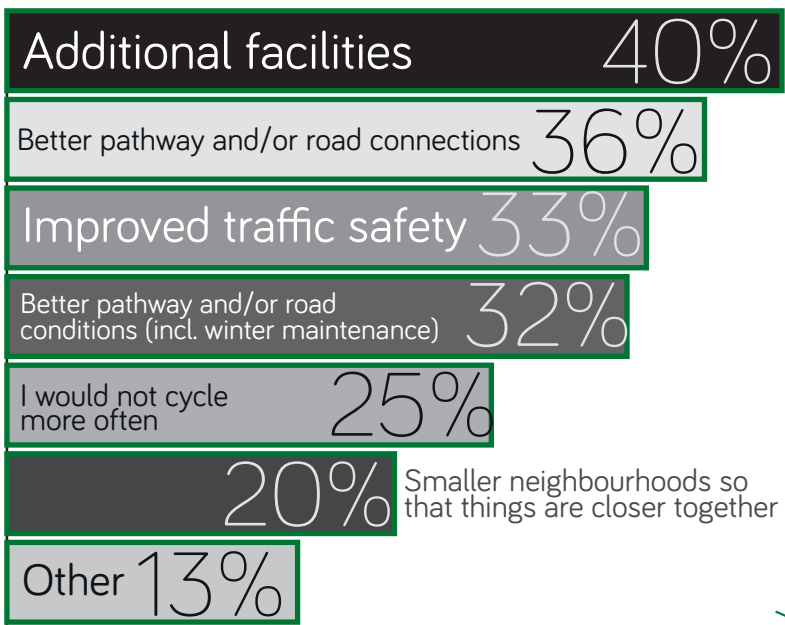
THE  
GLEBE

DOW'S  
LAKE



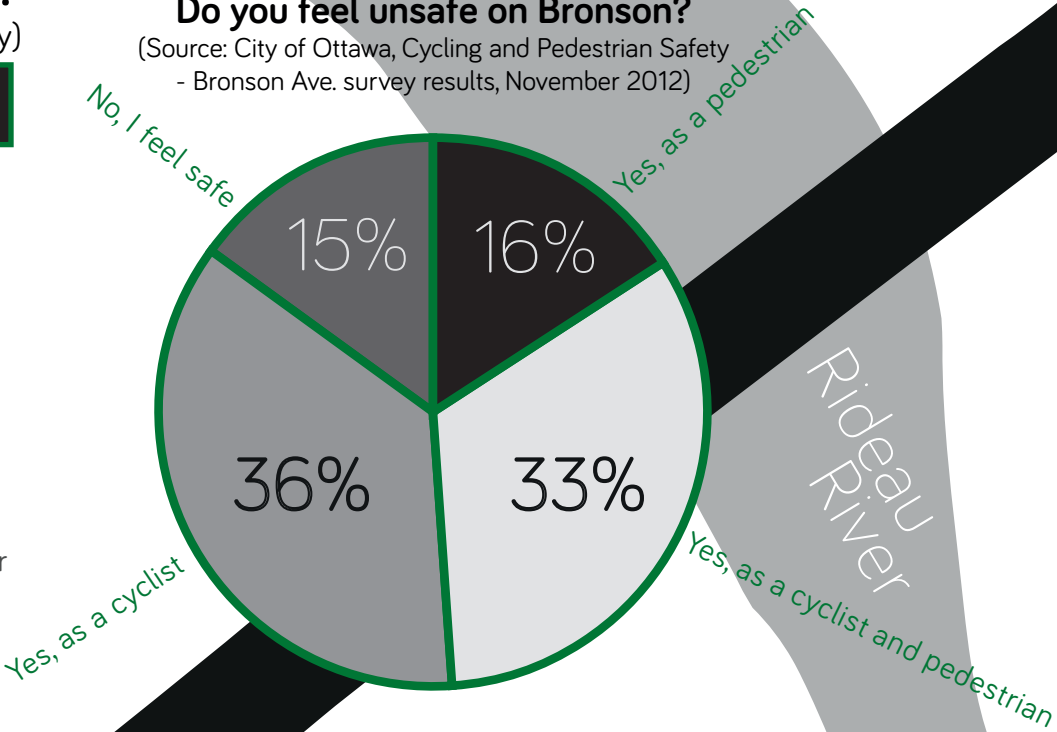
What would encourage more cycling?

(Source: City of Ottawa, 2013 Ottawa Cycling Plan Survey)



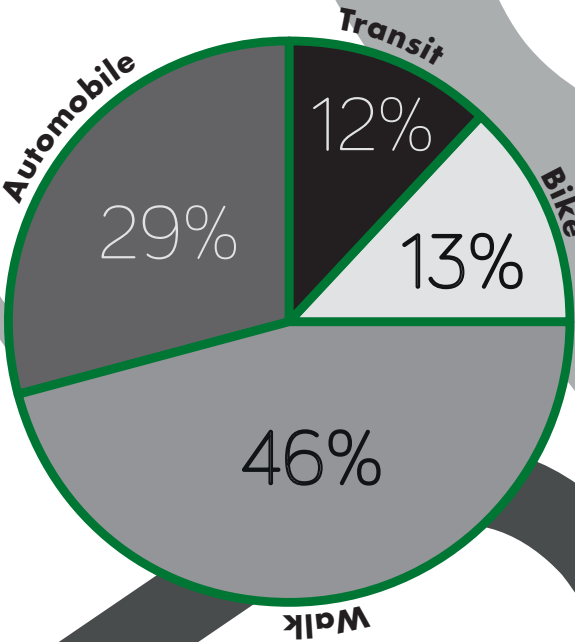
Do you feel unsafe on Bronson?

(Source: City of Ottawa, Cycling and Pedestrian Safety - Bronson Ave. survey results, November 2012)



Main modes of transportation for shoppers on Wellington Street West

(Source: City of Ottawa, 2013 Ottawa Cycling Plan)



Minor changes to speed limits

Since Bronson is one of the busiest roads in Ottawa, speed limits vary in order to facilitate traffic flow and reduce congestion. The north section of Bronson, which leads into the Glebe, currently has a speed limit of 70 km/h, while the south section has a limit of 60 km/h.

The city has proposed to reduce both limits by 10 km each, but the changes have been met with some delays after being proposed in October 2012. A reduction of speed limits could encourage better driving habits and overall diligence on the road, and cyclists may feel more safe while commuting alongside drivers.

Brewer Way crosswalk for pedestrians and cyclists

The results of a 2012 City of Ottawa survey indicated significant safety concerns around the intersection of Brewer Way and Bronson Avenue. A new crosswalk increases the visibility of cyclists from Carleton heading north on Bronson while also giving pedestrians space of their own to cross the street.

Additionally, the city constructed a "bike box" on Brewer for cyclists travelling west to campus. A bike box is a green painted bike lane plus advance area that places cyclists in front of cars at an intersection. At Brewer, this allows cyclists to advance first through the traffic lights and continue through to the Carleton University campus.

Bixi Bikes

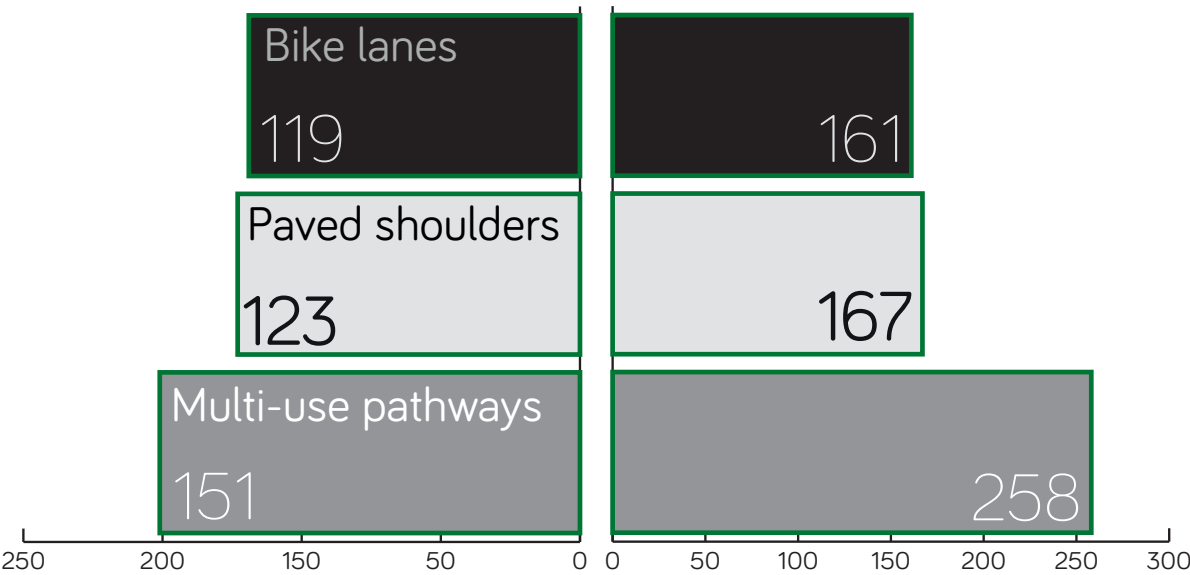
There are 25 Bixi Bike sharing locations in the capital region, with over 300 bicycles available for citizens and tourists. The shared bicycles are a creative way to sightsee and get to know the city, as well as get from point A to point B in the downtown core.

It is one of three bike sharing programs implemented by the city, with the others specifically targeting neighbourhoods such as Westboro and Bells Corners. In its 2013 Cycling Plan, the city recommended to integrate the Presto Card system already used for OC Transpo with the Bixi Bikes. Ottawa's independent bike share groups include RightBike in Hintonburg and Vélo Vanier, affiliated with the Vanier Community Service Centre.

Existent biking infrastructure from 2007 to 2013

(Source: City of Ottawa, Ottawa Cycling Plan 2013)

2007 • 2013





# CRIMES OF CANADA-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE Agreement fueling death and displacement



"Canadian Mining Destroys the Social Fabric!" PHOTO: Mining Justice Alliance

Miriam Katawazi

Colombian human rights activists claim that the actions of Canadian extraction companies are threatening the lives of Colombia’s Indigenous peoples. Amnesty International Canada invited Colombian deputy justice Federico Guzmán Duque and another activist from the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, who wished to remain anonymous, to Ottawa to speak about the struggle Indigenous peoples in Colombia are facing. Guzmán Duque emphasized the large number of Canadian extraction compa-

igenous peoples currently inhabit much of the land targeted for plantations, mines and oil and gas development. In a 2012 news release, Amnesty stated that “human rights abuses are often committed as a means to forcibly remove civilian communities from areas of economic interest.” Guzmán Duque said that Indigenous peoples in Colombia have been stuck since 1964 in the middle of an ongoing armed conflict between leftist guerrillas and ultra-right paramilitaries. “The war is more about profit and business,” he said, adding that Canadian corporations stand to benefit.

In 2013, Amnesty International expressed concern that the Harper government fails to “acknowledge widespread, grave human rights violations in Colombia – including ongoing threats and deadly attacks on trade unionists and community leaders seeking the return of stolen lands...in areas coveted for their natural resources.” In the statement, Amnesty International Canada campaigner Kathy Price said that the Harper government has “deliberately chosen to interpret its reporting obligation in such a way that excludes any examination of the impact of Canadian investment.”

*The following year, according to The Canadian Press, Canada provided “new market opportunities” for the export of banned assault-style weapons to Colombia.*

nies operating in Colombia through the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (CCOFTA). CCOFTA came into force in 2011 and aimed to lower trade barriers and increase opportunities for Canadian investors and exporters to benefit from a wide range of Colombian industries, from mining to manufacturing to oil and gas development. The following year, according to The Canadian Press, Canada provided “new market opportunities” for the export of banned assault-style weapons to Colombia. Guzmán Duque said the Colombian government calls its mining sector “the mining locomotive” of the economy in order to attract foreign investment. The Canadian International Development Agency (now Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada) helped this happen by sponsoring a reform of Colombia’s mining code in 2001, effectively subjecting small-scale miners and artisans to the authority of large corporations. He recounted that in some cases, the government uses extreme forms of violence to forcibly take Indigenous land and then give companies the right to use it. According to Amnesty International, Colombia’s In-

According to Daniel Tubb, a doctoral candidate working on mining issues in Colombia at Carleton University, the circumstances in rural Colombia around government seizure of Indigenous land make it difficult for any Canadian corporations to operate without “making things worse.” But Canadian officials say there is no evidence that the CCOFTA is negatively impacting Colombia’s Indigenous peoples. Both Colombia and Canada are obliged under the CCOFTA to produce an annual report on human rights and free trade between the two countries. The most recent Canadian report by the Government of Canada concludes that “It is not possible to establish a direct link between the CCOFTA and the human rights situation in Colombia.” However, a 2009 investigative report by Mining-Watch Canada and CENSAT-Agua Viva suggested that there are “consistent and clear patterns in key areas where companies risk benefiting from human rights violations and/or benefiting those responsible for human rights violations.” It also noted that “resource-rich regions are the source of 87 per cent of forced displacements.” In a public statement

Tubb agrees that this report needs to be taken more seriously by the government. The complex issues surrounding foreign mining companies and local populations, while “stark and apparent in Colombia,” Tubb said, also apply to other regions within Latin America. Paula Kelsall, a member of Amnesty International Canada, said that Guzmán Duque and other speakers were invited to show the urgency of the situation in Colombia to Canadians. She stressed that human rights in Colombia should be a priority for Canadians, since “Our two countries have quite a close relationship, with a lot of economic ties.” Amnesty invited the visitors to give a presentation for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity. On Feb. 6, Guzmán Duque gave a more detailed version of the presentation at Amnesty International’s office in Ottawa. He explained that displacement is extremely harmful to the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples because of difficulty adapting to urban areas. “There is a fundamental link between the Indigenous people and their land... without this link, they face physical and cultural extermination.”

# SEEKING SAFER SITES Organizers say injection site would reduce health risks in Ottawa

Kristen Bonnell

Bill C-2, entitled an Act to Amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act passed its first reading in the House of Commons in October 2013. Sponsored by the Conservative Minister of Health Rona Ambrose, the Act has been criticized for creating obstacles to establishing safer consumption sites for intravenous drug users. Bill C-2 was accompanied by a Conservative Party fundraising campaign launched with the tagline “Keep heroin out of our backyards.” The campaign warns against special interest groups that are seeking to replicate “the experiment of Vancouver’s Insite facility.” The bill was introduced on the heels of a 2011 Supreme Court ruling that upheld an exemption that allows Insite, Vancouver’s safer consumption site, to operate legally. The court ruled in Canada (Attorney General) v. PHS Community Services Society that the closure of Insite would violate Charter 7 rights of its clients that protect life, liberty, and security of the person. The move to close Insite was additionally deemed to be “arbitrary, undermining the very purposes of the CDSA,

which include public health and safety.” Critics of the bill have argued that Insite’s now-established legality is a function of its success: over the course of one year, Insite made over 2,100 referrals to addictions counselling and other support services, reduced overdoses in the Vancouver area by 35 per cent, and greatly reduced drug-related litter. According to a study by the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, clients who visited Insite once a week were 1.7 times more likely to enrol in detox programs and were 70 per cent less likely to share needles. From this, the bill’s critics argue that the success of Insite should set a precedent for care and outreach to intravenous drug users. Sean LeBlanc of the Drug Users’ Advocacy League in Ottawa said “Bill C-2 will further stigmatize and oppress a population that already faces record numbers of fatal overdoses, arrests and diseases.” Locally, the Campaign for Safer Consumption Sites in Ottawa (CSCS) conducted an informal survey in fall 2013 of residents and business owners in Lowertown and the Byward Market. Findings suggested that the

majority of respondents identified a need for a safer consumption site, and 80 per cent of those felt it should be opened in the Byward Market. This report came after the Toronto and Ottawa Supervised Consumption Assessment study reported that Ottawa has Ontario’s fastest growing rates of HIV infection amongst intravenous drug users. In their report, CSCS argues that the precedents set by consumption sites in Vancouver and elsewhere demonstrate that safe injection sites support public health by lowering infection rates, reducing overdoses, and increasing the accessibility of preventative care, first aid, and counselling services for intravenous drug users. As CSCS Ottawa continues to work to assess the need for, and acceptance of safer consumption sites in the city, Bill C-2 is in its second reading. CSCS has launched a campaign urging parliament to make evidence-based decisions regarding the legislation. The Campaign argues that this means taking into account the body of evidence which demonstrates the efficacy of safer consumption sites and their instrumental value to the community.

LET'S JUST GO TO SLEEP MEANS NO  
SILENCE MEANS NO  
[ ] MEANS NO  
RAPE IS NOT RESPECTING NO  
I CHANGED MY MIND MEANS NO  
NOT NOW MEANS NO

WE'VE BEEN DRINKING MEANS NO

NO THANKS MEANS NO  
I'D RATHER BE ALONE MEANS NO  
NO MEANS NO  
NO

I'M NOT SURE MEANS NO  
DON'T TOUCH ME MEANS NO  
\$#@! OFF MEANS NO  
I'M NOT INTERESTED MEANS NO  
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT MEANS NO

NO adv "A negative response; a denial or refusal"

In every way, in every language,  
NO MEANS NO.

Canadian Federation of Students

JE NE SAIS PAS VEUT DIRE NON  
JE VEUX JUSTE QU'ON DORME VEUT DIRE NON  
NON MERCI VEUT DIRE NON  
JE N'AI PAS ENVIE VEUT DIRE NON  
[ ] VEUT DIRE NON  
VIOLER, C'EST NE PAS RESPECTER LE MOT NON

JE VOUDRAIS ÊTRE SEULE  
PAS TOUT DE SUITE VEUT DIRE NON  
NE ME TOUCHE PAS VEUT DIRE NON  
[ ] VEUT DIRE NON  
LE SILENCE VEUT DIRE NON

J'AI CHANGÉ D'AVIS  
NON C'EST NON  
VA \$#@!  
NOUS AVONS BU VEUT DIRE NON

NON adv. « Réponse négative, refus »

De toutes les manières, dans toutes les langues,  
NON C'EST NON.

Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants

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# COASTAL DISS-PATCH

## Graduate students work and learn far from campus

Amanda Murphy  
and Kelly Black

The relatively recent and still somewhat unusual opportunity to work and live far from campus is made possible by the Internet and new forms of digital pedagogy. However, we have quickly realized that within these new opportunities there exist unique challenges for those who work and study remotely.

Many graduate students face the difficulties of isolation. For those on-campus, there are opportunities to engage with the university community by attending talks, working on campus-based initiatives, and socializing in the grad pub.

For students working remotely, this lack of a campus-oriented schedule can be wholly replaced by

the cycle of teaching, writing, and research. When isolated, this can be intensely overwhelming. Continuously working on a growing list of projects - rather than socializing, eating vegetables, or leaving the house - becomes the new normal.

If you work from home, like we do, it's all too easy to sit around in your pajamas eating ketchup chips. Dissertation deadlines are mentally present but geographically distant.

That's why it's important to keep in touch with your department. Get news (and gossip!) from on-campus students and schedule regular online or phone appointments with your supervisors and supportive mentors.

Work on fun and fulfilling collaborative projects (such as articles in the *Leveller*!) with fellow graduate students suffering from pajama-and-ketchup-chip-induced malaise. (In case our supervisors read this, we'll add that we're also co-authoring a peer-reviewed journal article.)

In your new location, try to attend public talks and get involved in local events. This was made easier for us when we both relocated to towns with nearby universities. It is hard to balance life in two places - you can't give up your student status and forget your home institution, but you need to find ways to build a new community to supplement the one you left behind.

In our experiments with PhD-ing remotely to date, the division between here and there was made most clear when our fellow Teaching Assistants (TAs) took a strike vote and gave CUPE 4600 a strong bargaining

mandate. As TAs for online courses, we continue to follow the struggle for a fair contract, but we remain unable to participate in the show of hands that follows discussion and debate.

Whether you're off campus temporarily for fieldwork or indefinitely for personal reasons, know that you are not alone. As stay-at-home grad students, we offer these suggestions to the relocated and their supporters:

- Ask your department about plugging in to digital lectures and events. Encourage them to maintain an active presence on social media. Remember - you're still paying tuition fees.
- Stay in touch with your friends back home!

- Build alliances and encourage inter-university cooperation. Student and labour unions are connected across Canada and have the potential to be an important resource for relocated students.

- Share your stories. If your friends are the ones missing from campus, let them know you're thinking of them. Send them e-mails with pictures of Ottawa's snow to remind them that they made a good decision to move somewhere warmer. Catch up with them at academic conferences, invite them to contribute to the departmental blog, or cut out this article and mail it to them.

- Share your desk. If students from other institutions have moved to

your town, offer to share your work space, provide recommendations for quiet coffee shops, or invite them to grad activities. If unfamiliar faces attend talks at your university, get to know them and invite them to start a writing, walking, or reading group.

Although we miss the on-campus opportunities for free food, the challenges have also presented new opportunities to collaborate, expand our scholarship, and experiment with online pedagogy.

Whether you're off-campus, on-campus, or in a host community, we hope sharing our experiences can help you build community, learn, and grow wherever your studies (and travels) take you.

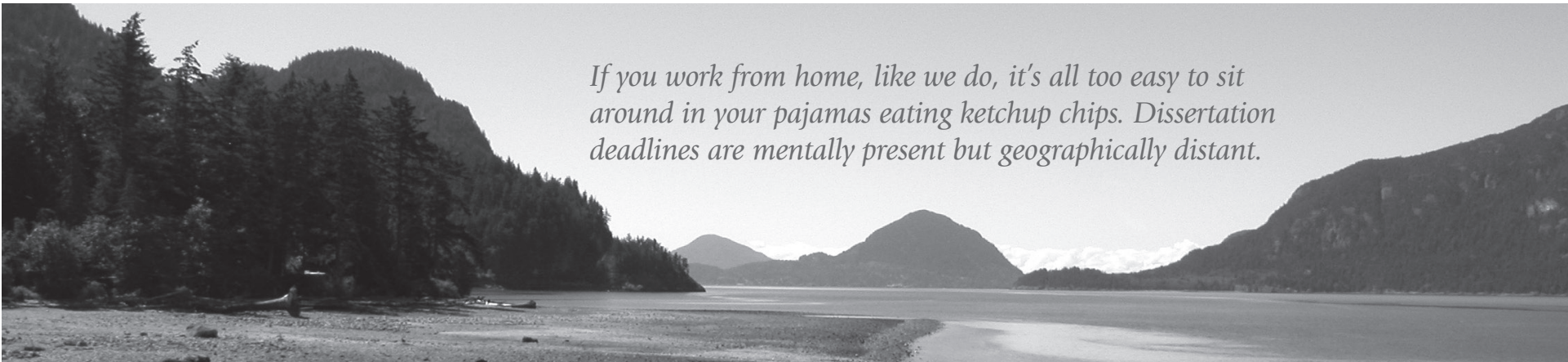


PHOTO: Wikimedia Commons

## Graduate Students' Association Elections 2014-15

### Wednesday March 19 10am-8pm & Thursday March 20 10am-6pm

#### Positions to be filled:

- President
- VP External
- Senate\* (2 positions)

\*Additional restrictions on eligibility may apply.

#### Voting Locations:

**Minto Foyer**  
**2nd floor Loeb (by the tunnels)**  
**Outside Mike's Place (2nd floor UC)**  
**2nd Floor Tory Building next to the Atrium/-Galleria**  
**River Building Main Lobby**

Student number and photo ID are required to vote.

#### Referenda:

Do you support the Graduate Students' Association directly administering the University Centre Fee collected from graduate students for student services, groups and programming, rather than transferring this fee as a lump sum to CUSA, the undergraduate students' association? Yes/No

Do you support increasing the annual levy for the graduate student health, dental and accident plan by up to \$120 to maintain current coverage effective September 1, 2014? Yes/No

Are you in favour of a \$22.50 fee per term, (prorated for part-time students) to enhance the student experience with the goals of:

- Increasing wireless performance and extending coverage to the entire campus
- Allowing access to software presently available in public student labs anytime, anywhere from my own computer

Yes/No

Do you support the increase of the Carleton University Health Service Fee by \$5/term indexed to inflation to allow for Health and Counselling Services to add an additional two permanent counselling positions to better support the growing demand? Yes/No



For more information contact the GSA Office 600 Unicentre, 613-520-6616 or the Chief Electoral Officer at [elections@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:elections@gsacarleton.ca) [elections@gsacarleton.ca](mailto:elections@gsacarleton.ca)





# TEMPORARY AND DISPOSABLE

## Foreign worker “revolving door” enables abuse



Migrant Workers' 2011 Pilgrimage to Freedom from Leamington to Windsor

PHOTO: Adrian Smith

Miriam Katawazi

Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program has received increasing attention since the Harper government decided to implement changes in 2013. The program serves employers who claim they are unable to find qualified workers in Canada, allowing them to bring in foreign workers on a temporary basis.

One temporary foreign worker, wishing to remain anonymous, said he was hopeful when he came to Canada through the program. That hope, he said, was shattered when his first employer abused him and violated his rights.

He explained that he was made to work more than 60 hours a week and received only half the pay he was entitled to according to his contract. "[My employer] kept me in his house in Montreal. They were using me in their house for working, cleaning and gardening. I kept my mouth shut," he said about the time he had to live in his employer's basement.

He came to Canada in 2011 to work at a restaurant in Montreal. Like other temporary foreign workers, his work permit was tied to one employer. This lack of mobility renders temporary foreign workers vulnerable to the whims of employers.

"I was afraid to tell my story to the police because I was thinking, in Montreal, I have no friends, no relatives," he explained, "I was thinking my employer will make me leave the job if I speak. If I lose the job, how will I take care of my children and parents back home?"

This constant fear and worry, he said, kept him silent.

Human rights organizations have said that the whirlwind of changes that the Harper government has made to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program are simply distracting attention from the systemic exploitation faced by migrant workers. The new policy changes,

*However, the Harper government also dropped a proposed provision which would have barred employers convicted of human trafficking, abusing or causing the death of an employee from using the program, on the grounds that it was too 'rigid and cumbersome.'*

es, they claim, are simply reinforcing stereotypes that foreign workers are stealing jobs from Canadians.

The Harper government asserts that changes to the program ensure foreign workers will not take jobs from Canadians. The new regulations, the government says, removed the existing wage flexibility that allowed companies to pay migrant workers 15 per cent less than the average wage. The changes also mean that employers are required to make "reasonable efforts" to provide a workplace free of abuse.

Amanda Lannan, spokesperson for Citizenship and Immigration, said, "The Government of Canada takes the issue of exploitation and mistreatment of Temporary Foreign Workers very seriously. Improvements to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program...have strengthened the Government's ability to assess and monitor employers to ensure they are using the program as intended and increase protections for temporary foreign workers."

However, the Harper government dropped a proposed provision that would have barred employers convicted of human trafficking, abusing, or causing the death of an employee from using the program, on the grounds that it was too "rigid and cumbersome."

Former Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg has argued that employers face the brunt of the abuse. He

claimed "too often" people misuse the program by leaving their employer and "job-hopping." People should question, he said, what the criterion is for how quickly people are able to move to another employer.

"The abuses on the employer's side are relatively rare," he added.

In contrast, Syed Hussan, coordinator at Toronto-based Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, argues that "the real core issue is that most employers exploit and abuse their workers because that is how the system is designed."

A report by the Metcalf Foundation, which provides research and services for various issues including poverty reduction in Canada, supports Hussan's argument. "Worker advocates... and academics have for years documented widespread exploitation

and abuse of these migrant workers," the report reads. "The exploitation is not isolated and anecdotal. It is endemic. It is systemic."

Migrant worker rights advocates argue that Harper's changes ultimately support employers and give the false impression that the legislation exists to protect Canadians.

Migrant workers enter the country on a work permit suited only for their initial employer. "They are hired to the employer and not to their work," says Chris Ramsaroop, organizer at the Toronto-based Justicia for Migrant Workers.

Ramsaroop said if the government was "serious about resolving the conditions faced by migrant workers," it would ensure all migrant workers have access to permanent residency, which would enable them to live, work and study anywhere in Canada. "Since a migrant worker is tied to their employer, the core issue is levelling the playing field so workers can undertake efforts to prevent abuses."

Workers who want to change employers, voluntarily or not, must get a new work permit for \$155. Without this work permit or a new employer, the worker may not have the right to work in Canada.

"The (program) has become similar to a revolving

door," agrees Hussan. He states that because of how the program is designed, "people come here to work for a few years, then they're kicked out." For example, many "migrant farm workers have been repatriated for becoming ill, injured or pregnant," according to a 2011 report by the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Earlier this month, Employment Minister Jason Kenney announced that further changes to the program would be implemented in the spring to speed up the government's approval process for company applications to hire temporary foreign workers.

Aimee Beboso, the chair of the Philippine Migrants Society of Ottawa, worries that the government supports employers rather than workers. The program "creates a group of people who are overlooked and seen as commodities," she says.

Hussan argues that the idea that foreign workers are stealing jobs from Canadians is flawed. Twenty years ago, he says, immigrants coming to Canada on a permanent basis were taking most of the lower-skilled jobs. Now, he states, "we have the same demographic coming in on a temporary basis. There has been this shift. If you look at who works in Tim

Hortons and retail manufacturing, it's always been racialized, low-income, working-class people."

Statistics Canada states that the number of non-permanent residents who entered Canada in 2008 exceeded the number of immigrants who became permanent residents that year. In the last five years, the number of migrant workers in Canada has increased by 70 per cent.

"They never intend to do anything to the employers or to the system at all. The system was designed to flourish and exploit racialized and poor working class people on a temporary basis," Hussan added.

The temporary foreign worker who spoke to the *Leveller* feels the new changes will not help. "The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is repressive – the government needs to give workers workplace mobility. It's very tough," he said.

But Ramsaroop believes there is "another side to the coin."

"I want to emphasize resistance, the courage, the strength taken by these workers to exert their rights. The temporary foreign workers program is fundamentally flawed," he said, "Yet migrant workers yearn for equality and continue to demand this across Canada."

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# MURPHY’S LAW

Skylar Murphy’s case should set precedent

Editorial Comment  
by Ajay Parasram

At my 14th birthday party, I set my parents’ recently renovated basement ablaze. Freshly varnished walls, newly laid carpet, and my father’s filing cabinet burned that day, casualties of teenage stupidity. You see, my father had prevented us from lighting large rocks and patches of lawn on fire in service to our latest French-language project-turned action-adventure film, *La Zone Rouge*. An experienced documentary filmmaker, he helpfully observed that our proposed theatrics constituted “a stupid idea,” and wouldn’t be captured adequately by my friend’s 1980s hand-held camcorder.

I go public with this anecdote because I want to convince you that like Skylar Murphy, who accidentally brought a pipe bomb to the Edmonton International Airport, I too was a stupid boy. I understand that irrational masculine teenage urge to blow things up, burn them down, and film it – even prior to YouTube. However, unlike Murphy, even as a 14-year-old in the pre-9/11 security age, I would not have forgotten to remove a pipe bomb from my camera bag before boarding a plane.

Murphy and I walk through airports differently.

His cavalier approach to airport security shows that he is not accustomed to being seen as a “threat” by the national security apparatus (police, security guards, courts, CSIS, etc.) at the airport and throughout Canada. My anxiety about airport travel begins days before going to the airport, I plan routes to avoid U.S. where possible, and I go to great lengths to inspect every bag, pocket, and belt-hoop one last time while waiting in line prior to inspection. I rehearse explanations for why I have a Pakistani visa. My body is conditioned for being viewed, screened, interrogated, and investigated as a threat by the national security apparatus.

In light of Murphy’s case, his eventual arrest and \$600 fine by the court, I want to make three observations about the significance of this case that should not be overlooked:

First, I genuinely believe Murphy would never have used that pipe bomb on board a plane. He’s a damned fool, not a terrorist, in which case the small fine levied by the court is generous and just. The fact that he has since tried to sell “his side” of the story to the CBC to pay his \$600 fine is regrettable, and perhaps overly entitled, but supports the aforementioned

claim of foolishness. No one should be unfairly detained/arrested/tortured/assassinated for crimes they didn’t consciously commit. In the legal world, they call that *mens rea*.

Secondly, in applauding the court’s just ruling, I hope the judiciary, police, and the Canadian public remember cases like Skylar Murphy’s – cases where white, Anglophone men accidentally break the law and commit terrorist-like crimes. They should remember what appropriate punishment looks like. If there’s a lesson to be learned from Murphy, it’s that our crass national security apparatus should not: shoot bodies to death (such as the murder of teenager Sammy Yatin on an empty street car by the Toronto Police); taser bodies to death for not speaking English (such as the RCMP killing of Robert Dziekanski, looking for his mother in the Vancouver Airport), or collude with global spooks to kidnap bodies for the purpose of foreign torture (as was done in the tag-team RCMP/CIA mission to send Maher Arar to Syria).

Finally, the examples listed above only scratch the surface of innocent, non-white-or-Anglo victims of the Canadian security apparatus. Murphy’s case succinctly illustrates that the security

apparatus in Canada is, at a minimum, racialized and designed with the unwritten but nevertheless accepted norm that some bodies represent “threats” and other bodies do not. Threatening bodies must be stopped, intercepted, policed, jailed, tortured, or otherwise removed from the population, while non-threatening bodies can make mistakes and move unhindered by the various levels and boundaries of security. Heck, if they look innocent enough, security will even re-arm them before they get on the plane!

Everyone knows that Murphy should have been dealt with immediately, and not after coming home from his vacation. But his punishment of a \$600 fine is appropriate to the crime. There should be a precedent set by Skylar – “Murphy’s law,” whereby similarly appropriate punishments are applied for all bodies, even those that look or sound like threats. Because if it was Sammy Yatin with a pipe bomb in Edmonton International Airport, things would have likely gone the way of Robert Dziekanski or Maher Arar instead of the way of Skylar Murphy.



## WHODUNIT?

Match these words of wisdom to the public figure!

\*Note: each public figure may be used more than once for this puzzle!

- a.) “We need to take information, wherever it is stored, make our copies and share them with the world...We need to fight for Guerilla Open Access.”
- b.) “If we can frame our critique and create organizations that challenge patriarchy, heterosexism, class, and ‘race’ with even a semblance of integrity, we will create the bases for an embodied social revolution.”
- c.) “What we do not need now is to stop and talk and study.”
- d.) “There’s something I think that is growing on me as I get older: happy endings”
- e.) “In England, they’re knocking each other over the head and throwing bombs because of multiculturalism and nobody knowing any more who they are in that society.”
- f.) “That is how to create a single story: show a people as one thing, as only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become.”
- g.) “Stephen [Harper] is a predator.”
- h.) “Irish people were only allowed to eat potatoes. All of the other food, meat, fish, vegetables, were shipped out of the country under armed guard, to England, where the Irish people starved.”
- i.) “High class, low class, me na want dat. Everyone equal and God decide that!”
- j.) “The movements which work revolutions in the world are born out of the dreams and visions in a peasant’s heart on the hillside.”

- 1.) Alice Munro, Nobel Laureate in literature
- 2.) Pauline Marois, Premier of Quebec
- 3.) Himani Bannerji, sociologist
- 4.) Peter MacKay, Minister of Justice
- 5.) Chimamanda Adichie, author
- 6.) Apache Indian, musician
- 7.) Aaron Swartz, Internet activist
- 8.) James Joyce, poet
- 9.) Sinéad O’Connor, musician
- 10.) Tom Flanagan, former Conservative advisor



a.) Aaron Swartz; b.) Pauline Marois; c.) Peter MacKay; d.) Alice Munro; e.) Chimamanda Adichie; f.) Apache Indian; g.) James Joyce; h.) Sinéad O'Connor; i.) Tom Flanagan; j.) Himani Bannerji.



# TOWARDS NEW WAYS OF ORGANIZING

## A Review of Nora Loreto's *From Demonized to Organized: Building the New Union Movement*

Samantha Ponting

Nora Loreto's newly published book, *From Demonized to Organized: Building the New Union Movement*, should be added to the toolkit of any educator interested in collective consciousness raising in the 21st century.

Loreto's book is broad in scope, serving as so much more than a mere discussion on unionism in Canada. It makes connections between current attacks on civil liberties, the current state of journalism, fiscally irresponsible governance, corporate tax cuts, and anti-worker legislation. These issues need to be analyzed together because they are all part of the same neoliberal project. And until we understand just how neoliberalism is operating in Canada – particularly within our political system – we won't be able to develop meaningful solutions to a demonized, and arguably, disorganized labour movement that struggles to remain relevant in the public eye, according to Loreto.

Like her writing, Loreto's intentions are clear: to provide an accessible, evidence-based, timely account of the state's longstanding attacks on the public good – at the heart of which is the breaking down of both unions and all forms of social solidarity.

The book is written in accessible language for an audience that might have lim-

ited knowledge of unions or the labour movement as a whole. This makes her book a useful tool for engaging youth and workers new to unions. In Chapter 1, Loreto spends 10 pages exploring the inquiry, *What is a union?* She introduces the Rand formula, explains how and why union dues are collected, and defines such terms as "collective agreement," and "lockout" in clear and simple language.

Loreto provides a good analysis of the contradictions inherent with government policy and the corresponding pro-austerity language used to attack unions. She appeals to examples of outrageous government fiscal irresponsibility (some would call it corruption), such as the Ontario Liberals' Ornge scandal, in which the provincial government squandered almost one billion dollars on the air ambulance service. The province then had the audacity to suggest that Ontario teachers needed to tighten their belts for the sake of the public education system, taking away collective bargaining rights with the introduction of Bill 115. Through such illustrations, it becomes clear that governments are largely unaccountable to the public while quick to scapegoat unions and workers.

As Loreto remarks in her concluding chapter, "Democracy without account-

ability is the playground of the rich." This could very well be the slogan for the evolution of Canada's democratic government under neoliberalism. Using the Harper cabinet's omnibus bills as examples, Loreto demonstrates how the federal government has failed to govern in the public interest. She can affirm with confidence that "not a single Conservative MP was elected because she or he promised to delist all of Canada's waterways from environmental protection." It is within this climate of democratic deficiency that politicians are able to make policy decisions that benefit wealthy elites at the expense of the average worker.

In contrast, unions have a role to play in fostering democratic engagement among its members. Loreto contends that they remain one of the few structures that are "extremely democratic by design." Collective agreements need to be ratified by the general membership, and the decision to strike is decided through a democratic vote. When unions make decisions that members disagree with, the democratic avenues are in place to participate in union elections.

While such a presentation of unions is somewhat simplistic – some unions in Canada have major institutional barriers to demo-

cratic participation – these assertions are intended for a broad audience. Overall, Loreto has left cold, hard criticisms of the Canadian labour movement aside, and instead, emphasizes its room for growth. She sees the development of new models of organizing central to this. Frankly, "maintaining the old patterns is simply not going to be enough to save, unite, broaden, or grow the labour movement." *So where does this take us?*

Loreto notes that sometimes organizing outside formal union structures can be effective, especially when it dissipates a clear target for employer backlash, as seen in the US campaign for Walmart workers.

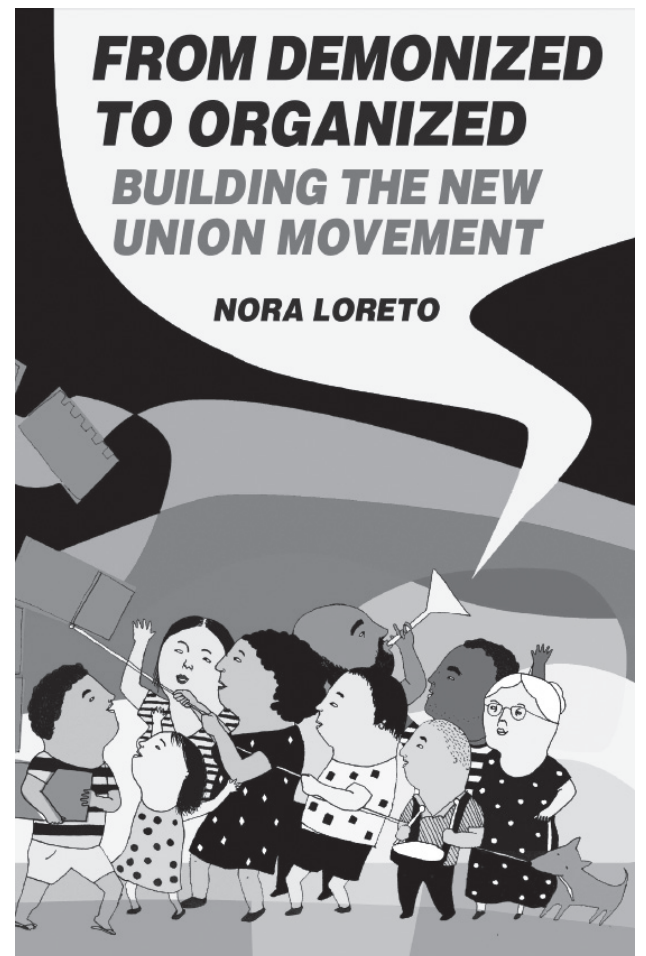
What Loreto fails to explain is why the Canadian labour movement has repeatedly failed, as a whole, to develop a meaningful strategy (and meaningfully finance) organizing the unorganized. While Canada's traditional manufacturing base is being drained, the hospitality and service industries are growing. Yet unions are, on the whole, failing to enter traditionally non-unionized sectors because this would entail winning over small workplaces where employer intimidation is high. Such efforts not only involve strong commitments to workers, but also financial resources that don't neces-

sarily result in large, short-term returns for unions.

Loreto is right to assert the need for unions to launch aggressive campaigns to "re-educate" the public in defense of right-wing, anti-union rhetoric. The research and line of argumentation made in her book are excellent starting points to inform these campaigns.

Loreto's book proposes clear and necessary strategies for moving the labour

movement forward. She stresses the need for alternative business structures, stronger communities, stronger solidarity between communities, and the "need to protect all forms of democracy when they are under attack." Such strategies are a solid launching pad for future conversations around what tactics labour should adopt, a discussion largely left out of *From Demonized to Organized*.



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**Graham Saul**  
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**Andrea Harden-Donahue**  
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# CHRISANTHEMUM'S SEED BOMBS

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

## Does ivy grow better propped up, or dangling down? Ivy Savvy

Dear Ivy Savvy,

Ivy is most famous for lining the buildings of prestigious institutions of higher learning, as well as the University of Ottawa. Why not turn your humble abode into a beacon for the WASPy New England elite? To capture your own piece of the Hamptons, all you need is to divide an existing ivy (people with ivy in their yard would likely be happy to let you divide it), a shady wall, and compost. Ivy can both climb and cascade, so either plant it in the ground or out of a pot on a balcony. You need to be careful with ivy however, because it is very aggressive, and can be damaging to surfaces it grows on. If you are living in a restored Queen Anne-style home in Centertown, you might run into some heavy costs if you damage heritage architecture. Ivy grows well inside as a houseplant. It grows best outdoors, but apparently darker green varieties can tolerate indoor conditions quite well if properly maintained. Remove any dead leaves, and check for insect pests.

## How do you make an orchid grow again after the flowers fall off? Falling Flower

Dear Falling Flower,

I tend to recommend against orchids. They are very pretty and botanically fascinating plants, however they are carbon-intensive to grow, chemically intensive, and in some cases, damaging to rainforests. I find orchids to be far more effort than they are worth. To answer your question, orchids can rebloom. Every variety of orchid is different, but in most cases what you do is cut the plant on a diagonal halfway down the stem (wash your scissors first). Then, sprinkle some cinnamon on the cut. With proper care and attention, the plant should re-bloom in 3-4 months. Remember that orchids are rainforest plants. They need frequent watering (every 6 to 10 days), a compost-water solution (1 tspn of compost per gallon of water), and a consistently warm, partially shaded environment. Orchids naturally grow high in the wells formed between branches of rainforest trees. They are amazing plants, but perhaps try growing flowers that are more local, such as morning glories (very easy to grow inside), poppies, or bell flowers.

BOOM!

# HOROSCOPES

## XL Petite

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Countless fortunes await you at the other end of this riddle, Aries. Which popular musical superstar of the 1990s was "hotter than the vindaloo curry, curry, curry, curry, curry?"

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You need to relax, Taurus - no bull! That big project you've been working on is going to pan out regardless of what Roseann says. I never trusted her, and neither should you!

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
So, have you heard Olivia Chow is the new Mayor of Toronto, Gemini? It looks like bikes, libraries, and public transit have all survived after all! Whoops, wait a minute: this is your horoscope for October 2014. Let's pretend I didn't tell you that. I was accidentally in the future just then, which violates the code of the leader of my astrological sect, Medium Large. He's been busy though, so let's hope this slides on by...

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
So I hear you've been spreading rumours that I'm not a real astrologer, Cancer. That hurts! Deep. I admit, my ways are unorthodox, and perhaps unethical on rare occasions (don't listen to that scoundrel Gemini!), but riddle me this: when have I *ever* been wrong? My advice for you this month is to challenge people to prove you wrong in a venue where they have no opportunity to respond.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Ever wake up with a bottle of vodka still lodged in your head? And as you stumble, full of pain and contempt to the bathroom to remind yourself you're alive, your roommate pops out of nowhere, having just finished several sun salutes, and wishes you a glorious and magical morning while casually sipping on cold-pressed mulberries steeped in the holy tears of saints? It's true that there may not be a horoscope in here, but there is a moral, probably.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Did you hear the NSA can plug into your microphone and laptop cameras without your knowledge?! WTF dude...Is nothing sacred? Now it's just a matter of time until you're trademarked, but as yet unreleased dance move - the elephant - is all over the Internet! Better release it soon on your own terms, before the terms choose you!

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Libra, sometimes things don't go the way we plan them, especially with Jupiter galavanting about the moon like it owns the place. Take yesterday for example: I ordered some fresh seafood and found that the squid bit back! You gotta chomp the squid by the skull, you know what I mean Libra? Remember that, always.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Most savoury and righteous Scorpio, they poetic pearls of wisdom art hereby bestoweth to thee:  
When striking for rights  
Freeloading scabs will naysay  
Picket their asses!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
Wait for the full moon before engaging in any further romantic escapades, Saggi. I think you need some time to properly reflect on why setting the mood with the 1990s Alt. Rock pre-hipster, "I smell Sex and Candy" isn't as charming as you think!

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
OMFG:  
heavymontreal.com/lineup/

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Aqua, it's high time you finally take that leap of faith and change careers. There are simply too many occupational hazards associated with your current work in animal husbandry. Besides, who could resist your startup idea for "bowl-ing bawls," whereby the ball screams like a banshee as it rolls down the lane before hitting the pins? Embrace the inner Dude.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Oh, it's YOU again. Aren't you ever satiated, Pisces? Every damn month, there are you, cap in hand, waiting for your horoscope! Would you give me a break already? These things take time! I was up all night helping Aquarius; check back in 20 minutes.

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!



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**AUCTION FOR ACTION:** Walking with our Sisters, Maisy's Foundation of Hope, Native Youth Sexual Health Network. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/auctionforaction/> Ends March 21.

**OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO:** CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm. Every 2nd Tuesday. [ckcufm.com](http://ckcufm.com).

**FILM:** Screening of "Thirsty World" for World Water Day. UCU Agora, UOttawa This event has reminders.. 4pm.

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Save the South March Highlands. Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association (2nd Fl). 5:30pm.

**WORKSHOP/TALK:** Defective, Deceitful, Disgusting: The 3 Ds of Trans Misogyny. Venus Envy. 6:30pm.

**TALK:** Guatemalan lawyer Rafael Maldonado on Mining Injustice and Corporate Accountability. Octopus Bookstore, 2nd 251 Bank St. 6:30pm.

**PRESENTATION:** Plant Intelligence - Rethinking Thinking - Museum of Nature. 7pm.

**TOWN HALL:** Unfair Elections Act. Lord Elgin Hotel. 7pm.

**TALK:** Food & Water Security. Royal Oak, 161 Laurier Ave. 7:30pm.

**MUSIC:** Punk Rock Tuesday. Luneta Café. 8pm. Every Tuesday.

WED MARCH 19

BOTTLED WATER FREE DAY

**SOLIDARITY:** Take Action Against Line 9. Solidarity Against Enbridge #Line9IndustrialGenocide

**MEETING:** Drug Users Advocacy League (DUAL). PROUD Place, 216 Murray St. 1pm.

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

**DISCUSSION:** Les féministes musulmanes/Muslim Women Feminisms. LMX 390T, UOttawa. 6pm.

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

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THURS MARCH 20

**POW WOW:** Resurrection of the Algonquin College and All Nations Pow Wow. Algonquin College Cafe. 12pm.

**CEREMONY:** Thunderbird Stories. Wabano Centre, 299 Montreal Rd. 6:30pm.

**FUNDRAISER:** What Future for Palestine? CJPME Annual Fundraising Dinner. Sheraton Hotel. 6:30pm.

**GATHERING:** Ottawa Network of Spiritual Progressives. 25One Community, 251 Bank St. 7pm.

**LAUNCH:** The Rhizome: Journal of Permaculture Design. 654 MacLaren St. 7pm.

**SPOKEN WORD:** Andrea Gibson - presented by OPIRG-Carleton and the GSRC. Carleton Art Gallery. 7pm.

**PROJECT FUNDRAISER:** Alien Nation - Dance In Myth. Shanghai Restaurant. 10pm.

FRI MARCH 21

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

OPIRG-CARLETON BURSARY APPLICATION DEADLINE

**INDEPENDENT MEDIA CONFERENCE:** Be Alternative: student and independent media conference. George Brown College, Toronto. Friday-Sunday.

**TOWN HALL:** Task Force Against Rape Culture. UCU Agora, UOttawa. 3:30pm.

**BIKE WORKSHOP:** Gears: derailleur installation and adjustment, chain/cog wear. Rm A105, 200 Lees Ave. 5:30pm.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Against Colonialism and Racism. Métro Mt-Royal, Montréal. 6pm.

**OPEN MIC:** Umi Cafe. 8pm. Every Friday.

SAT MARCH 22

**CONFERENCE:** Let's Talk About Mental Health. UCU Agora, UOttawa. 11am-6pm.

**CYCLE:** Ottawa Bike Summit - McNabb Community Centre. 12:30.

**PROTEST:** Raise the Rates! Assemble at Metro Hall, King and John, Toronto. 1pm.

**GATHERING:** CIRCLE of ALL NATIONS Annual Spring Equinox Gathering. PSAC building, JK Wyllie room, 233 Gilmour Ave. 1pm.

**FESTIVAL:** Local Food. 400 McArthur Ave. 3pm.

SUN MARCH 23

**MUSIC:** Earth\*tones Drum and Dance Circle. Every Sun. <http://earth-tones.ca/en/events>

**RALLY:** For a Supervised Injection Site in Ottawa - Parliament Hill 1pm.

**THEATRE:** Deaf Snow White - Seeing Voices. The Sign Student Society - Kailash Mital Theatre, Southam Hall, Carleton. 6pm.

MON MARCH 24

**RADIO:** Under Where? CHUO 89.1 FM. 4pm. Every Monday.

**FAIRE LA CUISINE:** Étudiante en nutrition. Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. 6pm.

**JUST FOOD:** connections between food policy and food, environment and health. Dominion-Chalmers United Church. 7pm.

**LETTER-WRITING:** Books to Prisoners. The Daily Grind. 7pm.

**PANEL:** The interconnection between Education, Activism and Theatre. Octopus Books Centretown, 251 Bank St. 7pm.

**SPOKEN WORD:** (Un)Told - The Daily Grind. 7:30pm.

TUES MARCH 25

**AGM:** OPIRG-Ottawa. Lounge 140, 90 University, UOttawa.

**FILM:** WAR - Women, Art, Revolution. Wall Space Gallery. 7:30pm.

WED MARCH 26

**AGM:** OPIRG-Carleton - Rm 376, UniCentre, Carleton. 5:30pm.

**DISCUSSION:** Les féministes musulmanes/Muslim Women Feminisms - SMD 330, UOttawa. 6pm.

**BOOK CLUB:** The Naughty Bits - Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More by Janet Mock. Venus Envy. 7:30pm.

THURS MARCH 27

**SPEAKING TOUR:** FAMDEGUA - Guatemalan Human Rights Organization. (<http://www.paqg.org/>). Thurs-Fr. Locations TBD.

**FOOD:** Farmer's Market. UCU, UOttawa. 9am-4pm.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Guerrilla Recycling - 141 Louis Pasteur, UOttawa. 1pm.

**FILM:** Latin American Film Festival - 395 Wellington St. 7pm.

**CONCERT:** Gerardo Alfonso - Canada Cuban Solidarity Tour. Sandy Hill Community Centre. 7:30pm.

FRI MARCH 28

**PROGRESS SUMMIT:** Broadbent Institute. Delta Centre. Fri-Sun.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** Min Fami, Arab Feminist Reflections on Identity, Space and Resistance with Ghadeer Malek and Ghaida Moussa. Octopus Books Centretown, 251 Bank St. 7pm.

SAT MARCH 29

**MUSIC:** Open Stage - Irene's Pub, 885 Bank St. 2-6pm. Saturdays.

**NIIGAAN IN CONVERSATION:** Oshkadis Chineekaneech: The youth will lead - Residence Commons, room 270, Carleton. 5:30pm.

**POETRY:** The Power of Words Slam. St. Andrew's Church. 6:30pm.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** Min Fami, Arab Feminist Reflections on Identity, Space and Resistance with Ghadeer Malek and Ghaida Moussa. Venus Envy. 7pm.

**EARTH HOUR:** 8pm.

TUES APRIL 1

**POW WOW:** Aboriginal Family Festival and Children & Youth. Carleton University Raven's Nest.

**OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO:** CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm. Every 2nd Tuesday. [www.ckcufm.com](http://www.ckcufm.com).

**SEMINAR:** Organic Gardening in the City - Colonel By Room, City Hall. 7pm.

WED APRIL 2

**FED TALK:** flexible displays and human-computer interaction - Sunnyside Public Library. 6:30pm.

THURS APRIL 3

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:** TransCanada's promotion of the Energy East Pipeline. - Alfred Taylor Recreation Centre, 2300 Community Way, North Gower This event has reminders. 4pm.

MON APRIL 7

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:** Energy East Pipeline - Ontario Energy Board - Johnny Leroux Stittsville Community Centre, 10 Warner-Colpitts Lane, Stittsville. 6:30pm.

WED APRIL 9

**TOWN HALL:** Defend Home Mail Delivery. Hintonberg Community Centre. 7pm.

THURS APRIL 10

**FOOD:** Farmer's Market. UCU, UOttawa. 9am-4pm.

SAT APRIL 12

**EXHIBIT:** Living Green Expo. Ottawa Convention Centre. Sat-Sun.

**BOOK SALE:** Library Mini-Mammoth. 100 Tallwood Dr. 10am.

SUN APRIL 13

**PANEL:** Energy East Pipeline - Our Risk, Their Reward. - Mayfair Theatre. 6:30pm.

TUES APRIL 15

**OPIRG-CARLETON INFO FAIR:** Carleton Atrium. 10am-4pm.

**OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO:** CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm. Every 2nd Tuesday. [www.ckcufm.com](http://www.ckcufm.com).

SUN APRIL 20

**RALLY:** 420 OTTAWA: Fill the Hill 2014 - Parliament. 12pm.

TUES APRIL 22

EARTH DAY

**FILM:** "Honour Your Word" a documentary by Marth Stieglman on the Algonquins of Barriere Lake. Ottawa Public Library. 7pm.

THURS APRIL 24

**CELEBRATE:** Organic Gardening Fun Hour. Bowich, 155 Bank St. 7 pm.

**TALK:** Punk Rock, Mental Illness, & Recovery. Crusty Craig Lewis. Luneta Café. 8pm.

FRI APRIL 25

**FESTIVAL:** Ottawa International Writers Festival - Knox Presbyterian Church. Fri-Wed.

**FESTIVAL:** Ottawa Grassroots - Montgomery Legion. 7pm.

SAT APRIL 26

**CONCERT:** Tone Cluster - quite a queer choir presents Words2 - Centretown United Church. 7:30pm.

THURS MAY 1

**MAY DAY:** Rally & March. McNabb Park, Bronson @ Gladstone. 4pm.

leveller.ca/events



learn more at [psac-ncr.com](http://psac-ncr.com)