

## “DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS INDIGENOUS YOUTH HAS TO END” Marchers Confront RCMP at Headquarters

Andy Crosby

Dozens of students participated in an eight-kilometre march from Carleton University to RCMP headquarters on the Vanier Parkway on March 9 to demand justice for murdered Indigenous youth.

The rally, which began in the university atrium, was prompted by the recent hit-and-run of 22-year-old Brady Francis from the Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick on Feb. 24.

“When Brady was killed it shook me up. It was difficult to be away from the community,” said Carolyn Simon, a Carleton student from Elsipogtog who helped organize the rally. “This was happening during the Tina Fontaine and Colten Boushie verdicts, and it pained me to think that this might happen to one of my fellow community members.”

“I wanted to bring the #JusticeForBrady movement to Ottawa, also not forgetting the other murdered Indigenous youth,” she told *The Leveller*.

The students blocked the road for hours, causing delays in the afternoon commute. Their aim was to exert pressure on the RCMP to avoid a repeat of injustice dealt to the families following the acquittals of Gerald Stanley in the murder case of 22-year-old Colten Boushie from the Red Pheasant First Nation in Saskatchewan and Raymond Cormier in the case of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine from the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba.

The driver of a GMC truck fled the scene after striking Francis in Saint-Charles, N. B., just north of Elsipogtog, while Francis waited for a drive home. The RCMP seized a truck on Feb. 25 as part of the ongoing investigation, but no arrests have been made, according to a



Summer-Harmony Twenish, a queer Algonquin Anishinabekwe from Kitigan Zibi and art history student minoring in Indigenous Studies, addresses the rally in the Carleton atrium.

Photo: Vincent St-Martin

news release dated Feb. 27.

“The purpose of the rally was to put pressure on the RCMP to progress in the investigation of Brady Francis’ death,” said Simon. “Also, to tell them that the discrimination towards Indigenous youth has to end [because] so many Indigenous people are unfairly killed and nothing comes of the investigations; the

suspect ends up being found not guilty.”

A small group, including Simon and Jocelyn Wabano-Iahtail from Attawapiskat First Nation, approached a group of officers standing on the driveway closer to the RCMP headquarters. The exchange was filmed by Trycia Bazinet, a PhD student in the

School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies.

“We have walked for eight kilometres to this place just to show you that we are willing to travel great lengths,” said Simon. “We are here to deliver a list of demands so that one day Indigenous youth will finally face justice, and that we will

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## CARLETON CUPE 2424 WORKERS STRIKE TO PROTECT THEIR PENSIONS

Rick Telfer

Around 850 administrative, technical and library workers at Carleton University began picketing at campus entrances on Mar. 5 as they went on strike to protect their pensions.

The workers are represented by Local 2424 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). The strike followed nineteen days of bargaining since Jul. 2017. Negotiations with the university administration broke off early in the morning of Mar. 5.

In a statement released by CUPE on Mar. 5, Local 2424 president Jerrett Clark said “Throughout bargaining, Carleton has placed obstacles in the path to a fair deal by insisting that a new collective agreement remove our bargaining rights around pensions.”

In the same release, the union “expressed disappointment and frustration at the university’s continued attempts to strip pension language from its employees’ collective agreement.”

A collective agreement details terms and conditions of employment for unionized workers and their employer. It replaces individual employment contracts and is negotiated on behalf of workers by their union representatives — the process known as collective bargaining.

On Mar. 6, the day after the strike began, the university administration posted a memorandum addressed to CUPE 2424 members to its website

accompanied by a video in which Alastair Summerlee, the interim president of the university, stated that “the university remains absolutely committed to reaching a negotiated settlement with the union.”

According to Summerlee, the key issues in the negotiations relate to pension governance. Specifically, he said that “the union is asking for direct involvement in the design of the pension plan, the composition of the pension plan committee, and how voting on the committee would work.”

“At no time has the university, the board of governors, or our negotiating team ever raised the prospect of converting our pension plan from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. Nor have we raised the prospect of changing the composition of the pension plan committee,” Summerlee added.

Defined benefit pension plans are considered generally favourable by employees because they specify the exact level of payments that retirees receive — a minimum guaranteed regular payment for the rest of their lives — according to a formula that is based upon earnings history, years of service and retirement age.

Defined benefits are paid to pensioners from a pooled fund of contributions accumulated over time. Employers are responsible for ensuring that the size of the fund is sufficient to make the promised payments.

On the other hand, defined contribution plans are essentially individual retirement sav-

ings accounts that are employer-subsidized. The amount of money that an employee will receive is limited to the balance in that individual’s account upon retirement. The balance is the sum of contributions made over time and any investment returns — or losses.

Unlike defined benefit plans, defined contribution plans do not provide minimum guaranteed payments for the rest of one’s life — and any investment losses are not covered by the employer. Instead, the retiree assumes all the risk and must absorb any losses. Additionally, defined contribution plans entail less administrative overhead for employers. Such plans are therefore considered generally favourable by employers.

The university administration’s Mar. 6 memorandum also provided specific details about proposals that the university administration claims its negotiating team had put forth for improvements to remuneration and other benefits.

However, at a union rally on the campus on Mar. 3, Clark directly contradicted Summerlee’s statements. “We’re not asking for a complete veto on the pension plan, we don’t believe we should have special treatment, and we’re not asking for anything that will negatively affect the other employee groups or unions on campus,” Clark said.

“The university’s messages have been meant to confuse and create complications in the minds of our members and in the university community to try to divide us — to



Picket line at Bronson entrance, Mar. 14

Photo: Rick Telfer

try to drive a wedge between the union and our members and the campus community,” he added.

The next day, on Mar. 4, CUPE 2424 posted an open letter from Clark addressed to Summerlee.

“You have stated the University does not plan to change or remove our existing pension benefits,” Clark said. “However, the University is demanding the deletion of key language that clearly protects our members from changes to pension provisions that may be decided without the agreement of the Union.”

“We have tried repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, to engage the University’s negotiating team in frank discussions about possible changes to the pension plan. In the absence of any forthright answers, we have no choice but to assume and expect the worst,” he added.

In an interview on Feb. 26, before the strike began, Clark said that the union is specifically concerned that a change to collective agreement language proposed by the university administration may be part of a strategy to eliminate the workers’ defined benefit pension plan in the future.

At a well-attended commu-

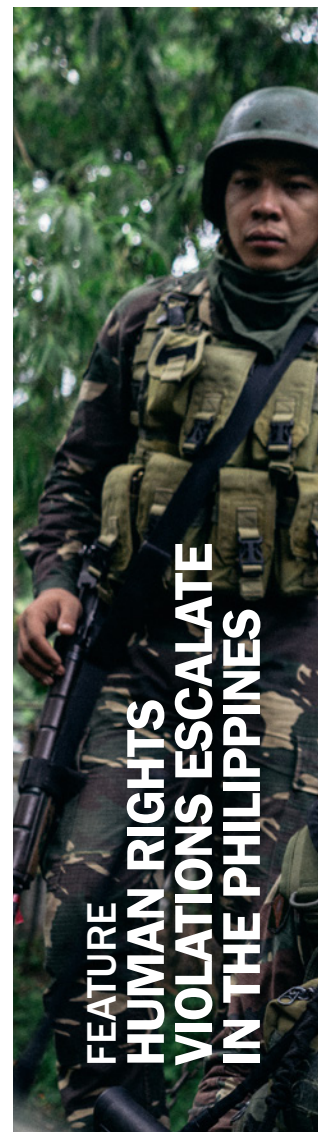
nity teach-in on the evening of Mar. 14 in downtown Ottawa that was organized by some Carleton faculty members in support of CUPE 2424, Clark told the crowd that CUPE 910 — the union representing maintenance workers at Carleton — had the same pension-protecting language in its collective agreement until “a couple of years ago.”

Being a smaller union, “they had to give it up” owing to pressure from the university administration during collective bargaining, Clark said.

Two other panelists also spoke at the teach-in: Kevin Skerrett, a researcher with CUPE, and Nancy Parker, a retiree and volunteer organizer with the grassroots Ottawa Committee for Pension Security. They linked CUPE 2424’s dispute with Carleton to the wider political-economic context.

Skerrett, who is also the co-editor of a new book entitled *The Contradictions of Pension Fund Capitalism*, said that workers’ pension plans have been under attack in a variety of ways by many employers during the last 20-25 years — and especially during the last decade, despite employers’ plan costs falling in recent years.

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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 news, current events, and culture at Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, the Ottawa/Gatineau region and, to a lesser extent, the wider world. It is intended to provide readers with a lively portrait of their campuses and communities and of the events that give them 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 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.

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. 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. Ultimately it needs you to become a more truly democratic and representative paper.

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 in. It wants to be your coolest, most in-the-know friend and your social conscience at the same time. It continues to have its work cut out for it.

The *Leveller* is published every month during the school year. It is free.

The *Leveller* and its editors have no phone or office, but can be contacted with letters of love or hate at:

editors.the.leveller@gmail.com

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EDITORIAL

CORPORATIONS CAN'T  
MAKE YOU CARE



Editorials are supposed to be written anonymously. It’s supposed to make them sound more authoritative, like they speak for the whole publication somehow.

But not this one. This is Tim Kitz, occasional Leveller contributor since 2013 (volume 5), Coordinating Editor since this September (volume 10).

This is our last issue – of this volume, don’t worry, we’ll be back next September. And who knows? We might even sneak out a summer magazine.

But at this moment in our production cycle, when every other article has been shoved along into layout and only this editorial remains, I’m in an a typically-exhausted but untypically reflective mood. Because it’s our last issue of the volume.

I do almost all my work through the editors’ email account (editors.the.leveller@gmail.com, just in case you want to pass along love letters or hate mail). And that account is a kind of digital node for resistance and for organizing, for independent culture in Ottawa – and sometimes inter/nationally too (Look at those lovely In-

digenous Lumad kids protesting for their lives and schools in the Philippines, for e.g. – see our centrefold on pp. 8-9).

It’s easy to be overwhelmed by all the bad things happening in the world. But let me tell you, riding shotgun on that email account, it’s easy to be overwhelmed by all the good things people are doing in the world. Things that they want to tell us about, that they want us to tell others about, that they pelt me with constantly in email form.

Protests, initiatives, conferences, story ideas, documentaries, events, albums, book launches, submissions, speaking tours, columns, meetings, rants, direct actions, articles, marches, links, art projects, tips, openings, press conferences, leaks, riots, rallies and poems cascade through this inbox in a never-ending flow.

Resistance really is fertile. There’s joyful troublemakers all over, dreaming of liberation, brewing alternatives to the status quo in thousands of tiny actions every day. And I get to hear about it all the time.

To me, the work of *The Leveller* has also never seemed as

important as it does at this moment.

What with the rise of fake news, digital bubbles of privilege, corporate media hyperconsolidation, and extreme-right populism; what with an online troll-culture that’s metastasized into the alt-right’s transformative re-branding of racism, sexism and fascism; what with all the dire consequences these developments can have and are having for our planet, for our comrades, for our loved ones... Well, I think more than ever we need independent media, people-powered news, power-challenging storytelling.

In the face of the power arrayed against us, we can feel so small. And maybe we are.

But look at *The Leveller*. Look at every corporate newspaper you can still pick up in this town. Look at the bland local newspapers that Metroland Media put out until a few months ago, as full of errors and filler and irrelevance as they were with ads.

Who has the better content? Corporate newspapers or us? Which would you rather read? Who’s more likely to make you giggle or think, to provoke or to charm you?

I think we stack up pretty well. I’d match our best to their best any day – and I think we’d hold our own.

But they have big corporations behind them – accountants and market analysts, CEOs and executive boards. They have real offices, full-time staff, paid journalists and contributors.

Not that we’re against professionalism, against paying someone a fair wage. Look at our story, on p. 6, about how locally-owned professional print media is re-emerging in Ottawa, phoenix-like. What a great, feel-good story – we wish our compatriots at *The Community Voice* all the best!

We ourselves want to keep growing, to become more economically-sustainable, to pay our staff and contribu-

tors fairly and generously for their work – for the sweat, the late nights that they put in – for the way they chase down sources, sift through endless research reports for the perfect data point, and cheerfully argue about the clearest, bravest, most democratic way to phrase something.

But in the meantime we also won’t let our limitations stop us. Just like our founders – who had no budget, who were just three guys in a campus bar, griping about how the university newspaper sucked. The key is they decided to do something about it, as you can see by reading the interview on p. 13.

Contributors and editors come and go – they move on, grow up, leave town. But those of us who are here right now, we won’t let finite resources, unfriendly economics, and the self-proclaimed death of print stop us from putting out the best paper we can – from making the paper we want to read.

Because we also believe in amateurism in the best possible sense of the word – in doing things *pour l’amour*, for the love of it.

You know why someone writes for *The Leveller*?

Because they care. They don’t do it for the honourarium – they’re token. They don’t do it for the non-existent social media likes – there’s none of those in print, I’m afraid. They don’t do it because they have the time – who has time?

They do it because they care about something so much that they have to tell their community about it.

And that’s why we’re better. That’s why Metroland and Postmedia ran local media franchises into the ground, while we have endured and flourished.

A corporation can’t care. It can’t make you care.

Thanks for caring. As long as you do, we will.

HERE’S TO ANOTHER 10 VOLUMES.

### GET INVOLVED!

THE LEVELLER NEEDS

- Business Assistant
- Distribution Assistants
- Layout Apprentice
- Listings Coordinator
- Photographers
- Copy Editors
- Online Editor
- Proofreaders
- Journalists - from amateur to professional

Whether you’re looking to add your accent to our voice of dissent or if you’re interested in learning what it takes to get a grassroots media project up off the ground, contact editors.the.leveller@gmail.com to find out how you can get involved.

The *Leveller* is experimenting with paying our contributors, recognizing that your time is valuable and without you, the *Leveller* would cease to print.

\$100 - Investigative pieces	\$15 - Columns
\$50 - Feature spread	\$10 - Comment/Opinion
\$25 - Most others — campus, news, magazine, culture, comics	

To facilitate paying our contributors, the *Leveller* has created an Investigative Journalism Fund, so that we can sustain this payment model as well as fund larger investigative research projects, or perhaps even add a journalist to the payroll someday...

Contact operations.the.leveller@gmail.com to contribute any amount.

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

The Leveller

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INDIGENOUS YOUTH  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not be overrepresented in jails and we will not be failed by the judicial system any more.”

Wabano-Iahtail demanded that the officer who received the demands, identified in a Facebook post as an Inspector Cooper, read them aloud.

The *Leveller* obtained a copy of the demands, which read:

1. We demand the RCMP continues to work on the case of Brady Francis and ensures to treat it with the utmost fairness. Treat this case the same as you would for a deceased white person or a family member. We demand that the family be treated with respect and care. We

demand the RCMP maintain their professionalism always, treating evidence with confidentiality and making sure that it is not altered in any way.

2. On a broader scale, we demand that the RCMP confronts racism towards Indigenous Peoples and people of colour, and aim to do better. We demand that the RCMP begins anti-racist and anti-oppression training for all of its staff. This includes a portion on the history of the RCMP and why it was created in Canada, including its role in carrying the colonial project. The RCMP must implement disciplinary actions in the event of racism towards Indigenous folks.

3. We demand that the RCMP becomes aware that each territory under “their” jurisdiction is Indigenous land. These lands are governed by the legal orders of the original Nations of Turtle Island. The police institution needs to learn about these legal orders and it needs to start respecting them and consult with Knowledge Holders, Medicine Bundle Holders, and Language Speakers when appropriate. The RCMP needs to be aware that there are alternatives to policing here.

“As the colonial state police you have failed us, you have failed our families. You have failed the missing and murdered Indigenous wom-

en and girls, the missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys,” Wabano-Iahtail told the group of officers. “You have not respected our treaties, our friendship, our peace, our respect. You have violated our laws.”

“I am holding you responsible for your injustices that you have brought here on our lives,” she said.

After the group dispersed, some participants returned to campus to partake in a solidarity rally being held for striking CUPE 2424 workers (see page 1). Bazinet told *The Leveller* that the organizers took the strike into consideration when planning the march, that they “chose a route so as to not disrupt the picket line.”

# ALL OUT FOR ABDOUL

## Abdi Supporters Demand Government Intervention to Stop Deportation Proceedings

Andy Crosby

Various migrant justice groups organized a national day of action on March 6 to stop the deportation of Abdoul Abdi.

Supporters of Abdi held a press conference outside of Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale’s office at 269 Laurier Avenue West as strong winds gusted through Ottawa’s downtown core.

“We are gathered here today to offer our community’s support here in Ottawa for Abdoul Abdi as he prepares for his hearing on admissibility to Canada on March 7,” said Bilan Arte, who identifies as a member of the Black and Somali community in Ottawa.

The action was organized to express support for Abdoul Abdi and his family, and to call on the Canadian government to intervene to stop the deportation proceedings.

“As part of a tri-city action, supporters are gathering today in Halifax, Ottawa and Toronto to demonstrate our love and ongoing support for Abdoul and for many other young people who lack citizenship as a result of negligence from Canadian child welfare services,” said Arte. “We are here to show our federal government... that Abdoul Abdi is not alone, that this government can and must step in to stop the deportation and that we as a community will not waver in our fight for

his rights.”

Arte explained that Abdi came to Canada as a government-sponsored refugee at the age of six and that shortly thereafter he and his sister were taken from the family into custody by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services.

Now 24, Abdi spent the rest of his childhood in government care. While they shuffled him between 31 foster homes, Community Services never applied for his citizenship.

“Like so many children who are taken into care, Abdoul became involved in the criminal justice system,” said Arte. “He served time in prison and the government’s current attempt to deport him represents a double punishment that a citizen would not face,” adding that, “Canada’s immigration system is in need of serious overhaul.”

Arte laid out a number of steps that the Canadian government could take to intervene and stop Abdi’s deportation – as well as to reform the immigration and child welfare system that discriminates against racialized youth.

In particular, Arte implored Goodale to temporarily pause the deportation hearing so that Abdi doesn’t lose permanent resident status while pursuing his ongoing court challenge. Otherwise Abdi will lose access to health care and employment. Arte explained



Photo: Aditya Rao

that Goodale has the power to temporarily withdraw the request for a deportation hearing, since no evidence had been accepted into the proceedings by the Immigration and Refugee Board.

The ministry could also ask the immigration division to postpone the deportation hearing until the case is heard by the Federal Court, said Arte.

On March 6, the Federal Court decided to hear Abdi’s case, and set a court date in May.

The following day, on March 7, the Immigration and Refugee Board adjourned the deportation hearing until March 21. This was to allow for time to decide whether or not to further postpone the hearing, to allow for the Federal Court case.

Abdi’s Halifax lawyer Ben Perryman told CBC News the Federal Court could consider other aspects of Abdi’s case outside the scope of the Immigration and Refugee Board, including his experience in Nova Scotia’s child welfare system, as well as the bleak prospects of his return to Somalia.

At the press conference, Indigenous activist Jocelyn Waba-

no-Iahtail referenced the tragic death of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine, who was also in the care of the “child welfare industry.”

“Child welfare has been consistently, holistically negligent in the care of our Indigenous and Black children,” she said. “The colonial legal system is not one to be hearing cases and delivering verdicts when it is incapable of living and breathing justice.”

Abdi’s supporters are calling for systemic changes, including modifying the Citizenship Act to make it easier for children in government care to apply for citizenship. They also say better training and resources should be provided to child welfare workers responsible for applying for the citizenship of those in their care.

According to Arte, the Canadian government could also modify guidelines to clarify and consider international human rights law when deciding to deport a long-time permanent resident. A person’s experience as a permanent ward of the state should be a significant factor that weighs heavily against deportation as well, Arte argues.

# “FUCK CAPITALISTS (EVEN THE ONES WHO SELL HIGH-END BAKED GOODS)”

## Anarchist protesters take to Hamilton streets



On March 3 a group of anti-capitalist protesters vandalized businesses on one of Hamilton’s most heavily gentrified streets.

Photo: Oliviero Carmela /Twitter

Lauren Scott

A group of anti-capitalist protesters caused \$100,000 in damages to businesses in one of the most affluent, and rapidly-gentrifying streets in Hamilton, Ont.

On the night of March 3, a group of about 30 people dressed in black with covered faces walked down Locke Street vandalizing businesses, throwing rocks, setting off fireworks and damaging cars.

The group walked through the streets with a dark banner that laid out their message. “We Are The Ungovernable,” it read.

Hamilton police have since linked the spree to an anarchist book fair held earlier that day at a local high school in the city’s Westdale neighbourhood, according to a March 6 news release. However, Staff Sgt. Mike Cunliffe said at a press conference he could not disclose what evidence linked the fair to the incident.

Locke Street is one of the city’s most heavily gentrified streets, lined up and down with small businesses and specialty shops from decadent donuts to a dog café.

A week after the riot, Ontario NDP leader and MPP for Hamilton Centre Andrea Horwath declared March 10 was #LoveLockeDay, and encouraged citizens to support the businesses affected by the vandals.

Mayor Fred Eisenberger called the riot an “act of terror,” while city councillor Tom Jackson called the group a bunch of “faceless, gutless cowards.”

Now the city has a team of four officers combing through security video and identifying suspects.

“They can ply their anarchy in jail,” Eisenberger told CBC News.

No arrests have been made at the time of publication. In the wake of the protest,

Hamilton anarchist space The Tower was broken-into and vandalized by what the organization called a mob of “far-right goons” in a Facebook post.

“No, the actions on Locke and Aberdeen on Saturday night were not organized by [T]he Tower, but yes, we support what happened and are in solidarity with those who carried them out,” The Tower said in the post.

A local anarchist blog North Shore Counter-Info published an anonymous article a few days after the incident, which confirmed the anti-gentrification motivation behind the riot.

“Locke St was downtown’s first gentrified street, its ‘success story’ as Mayor Fred [Eisenberger] might say, the surrounding neighbourhoods the first to see the rent hikes that have since come to dominate so many of our lives,” the March 5 blog post read. “Turning the tables and finally counterattacking Saturday night helped me to shake off some of the fear and frustration that build[s] up when you’re trapped in a hopeless situation.”

Interestingly, while many small businesses like Donut Monster and independent clothing store Pippa and Prue had their windows smashed in, the Starbucks up the street was unharmed.

The irony was not lost on the anarchist blogger and they affirmed that this was not an intentional choice.

“To all the undoubtedly sincere and principled anti-capitalists on the internet who wonder why the Starbucks didn’t get smashed but all the poor, sweet small businesses did, it’s only because it was just a bit too far north,” they wrote. “My one regret from the evening.”

“Fuck the rich. Fuck capitalists (even the ones who sell high-end baked goods).”

support the striking CUPE 2424 workers  
support the striking CUPE 2424 workers  
support the striking CUPE 2424 workers  
support the striking CUPE 2424 workers  
support the striking CUPE 2424 workers

*Solidarity Forever*





# "WE'RE JUST ASKING TO NOT HAVE TO PAY TO WORK FOR FREE"

Social work students at Carleton rally against practicum fees

Stephen Cook

Master of Social Work students at Carleton University are demanding the school eliminate tuition fees for their 450-hour unpaid practicum placement. An online petition supporting the initiative currently has over 500 signees.

"We're not even asking to be paid," Shaelah Buckley explained to *The Leveller*, speaking as a Master of Social Work (MSW) student and one of the initiative's organizers. "We're just asking to not have to pay to work for free, which seems so outrageous that we're even having to demand that."

MSW students must pay a full tuition of approximately \$3,500 per work term, which require students work 450 hours on top of 12 hours of class time. Students must either complete one or two work terms, depending on previous education and experience.

This stands in contrast to the university's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) co-op programs, which cost about \$1,200 and are often paid.

In their press release, the students argue this disparity reflects a systemic devaluing of gendered labour. According to the 2011 National Household Survey and the Government of Canada's Job Bank, 83 per cent of social service workers are women.

"It's a larger structural issue and Carleton is just a body that's reinforcing that structural issue," said Buckley. She estimates about 85 per cent of her



Photo: Stephen Cook

cohort is female.

"We're a structural school of social work – our main focus is on systemic issues that work to further marginalize and oppress people," said Buckley. "This is what we learn about in class and we're experiencing it firsthand from the main sources."

Although she could not comment directly on the MSW program, Dr. Clare Beckton of the Carleton Centre for Women in Politics and Public Leadership said the feminization of poverty is a well-known issue.

"What we've called the 'pink ghetto' is that the wages are often lower in those occupations than are ones that have been traditionally occupied by men," she explained.

Beckton pointed out that the recently announced federal budget proactively combats gender pay disparity. One of the new measures is legislated pay equity in federally regulated sectors, for example, which is said to apply to an estimated 1.2 million people.

The government has also earmarked \$7.8-million over five years to develop social services organizations' funding capacity. This could mark a positive shift in the financial struggles of the social work sector in Canada.

But that may be a bridge too far for current Carleton MSW students, many of whom are struggling with debt.

"We're going to graduate this program and get jobs that are like \$30,000 a year," said Cara Stringer, another MSW student organizer. "It's not like we're high-income earners or anything like that."

"We're working the social service sector, we're trying to alleviate poverty and the marginalization that people experience," she told *The Leveller*. "And some of us are experiencing that ourselves, it's ridiculous."

The students are also investigating the costs of other social work programs in Canada. In their press release, they highlight the University of Windsor's MSW program, which has a practicum fee of \$400.

Organizers are currently working with a Graduate Student Association liaison to negotiate with other concerned parties on campus. They are also demanding retroactive reimbursement for the students about to begin a summer practicum, should changes not be made immediately.

Neither the Department of Social Work nor the Faculty of Public Affairs responded to requests for comment.

## CARLETON WORKERS' STRIKE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parker told the audience about the federal Liberal government's Bill C-27. She called it a "horrendous bill" and said "it gives employers the tools they're going to need to continue the attack on our pension plans." According to Clark, if adopted, the legislation would allow federally-regulated employers to establish target benefit pension plans in place of the more secure defined benefit pension plans.

Regarding the university administration's other proposals, CUPE 2424 responded with a post to Twitter on Mar. 7 stating that "the University indeed made offers concerning wages, other benefits, and a necessary internal wage equity process, but made their offers conditional upon a pension proposal that simply could not be accepted or recommended to our members."

In a subsequent post to Twitter on Mar. 7, the union added: "We encourage Interim President Summerlee to stop bargaining in public and demand that Carleton return to the bargaining table immediately."

On Mar. 13, CUPE released another statement in which Jacynthe Barbeau, one of the union's negotiators, accused the university administration of bargaining in bad faith and revealed that the union had filed a complaint with the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

"Since the strike began, Carleton has misrepresented and mischaracterized its own position and the union's, including the issues that led to the strike. But this type of behaviour only serves to prolong the dispute and prevent the kind of negotiations that are needed to resolve it," Bar-

beau said.

CUPE 2424 has received strong expressions of support both on campus and beyond, including from the Carleton Graduate Students' Association, the Carleton University Academic Staff Association, the Ottawa and District Labour Council, the Ontario Confederation of Faculty Associations, the Canadian Federation of Students and CUPE 4600 — the union that represents teaching assistants, research assistants and contract instructors at Carleton.

Guest speakers have also cancelled their scheduled appearances at Carleton University because they refuse to cross picket lines. OC Transpo bus drivers will not cross picket lines, either, as an expression of solidarity with the striking workers.

On Mar. 6, the Graduate Students' Association, together with three employee unions at Carleton, published an open letter addressed to Summerlee.

"The current deadlock over pensions is especially disconcerting given that Carleton has huge pension reserve funds. As demonstrated in the university's audited financial statements, Carleton has also had massive annual surpluses," they said.

Then, on Mar. 14, over 200 Carleton University faculty members published an open letter in support of CUPE 2424. The number of signatories to the letter has since grown to more than 300.

"Unions have the right to protect the pensions of their members; there is nothing exceptional about CUPE 2424's effort to negotiate a just settlement on behalf of its members," reads the letter. "Every union at Carleton has or ought to have some language in its Collective Agreement

to protect members' pension benefits."

The next day, on Mar. 15, the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA) announced that it was pursuing a grievance against the university administration for "downloading" CUPE 2424 work to employees who are not members of the striking union — a practice known colloquially as "scabbing."

A grievance is a formal complaint — an allegation of a collective agreement violation or of unfair labour practices — that triggers a dispute resolution process as prescribed within the collective agreement and labour laws.

"CUASA has been made aware of practices in various departments where CUASA members and others are being told to take on CUPE 2424 work. This practice is disrespectful to the bargaining certificates of 2424 and CUASA members and will not be tolerated," reads the announcement.

On the same day, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported that Clair Switzer, one of two non-faculty staff members serving on Carleton's board of governors had resigned her position the day before because she was advised by the university's counsel that, as a member of the union, she was in a conflict of interest.

"I think the board, unfortunately, is insulated. They're sheltered. They're getting the side that the university is choosing to give them," Switzer was quoted as saying.

Joel Harden, the Ontario NDP MPP candidate for Ottawa Centre, has also expressed his support for CUPE 2424 and joined the workers on the picket lines numerous times.

In a post to Twitter on Mar. 6, Harden said that he worked as a contract instructor at Carleton University for years. "I know exactly how precarious, underpaid and under-appreciated this work can be," he said. "Exploitation is increasingly the norm at our universities."

The two-week long strike combined with the steady inflow of support seems to have nudged the university administration back into talks with the union.

CUPE 2424 acknowledged on Mar. 16 that "the employer has agreed to return to the bargaining table. Cautious optimism was the mood of the day," reads the statement posted to Twitter.

"Pensions are not a gift; they are employees' deferred wages and we need a say in our future," the statement concluded.

But as the strike entered its third week on Mar. 19, both the university administration and the union announced that talks had broken off again. The university administration reported on Twitter that the parties had met for 14 hours on Mar. 18 with the assistance of a mediator but "they were unable to reach an agreement."

The union had also posted an update to Twitter: "The negotiating team worked extremely hard at the bargaining table with sincere efforts to find acceptable solutions for both parties, but our employer still refuses to negotiate in any meaningful way."

## Graduate Student Elections

# VOTE

**Tuesday March 20 10am-8pm**  
**Wednesday March 21 10am-8pm**  
**Thursday March 22 10am-6pm**

### Positions to be filled:

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

### CUSERT Referendum:

Graduate students will be asked to vote on the following question, as approved by GSA Council:

Do you support creating a levy of \$1.31 per semester, indexed to the Consumer Price Index and prorated for part time students, to support the Carleton University Student Emergency Response Team (CUSERT)? Yes/No

### Voting Locations:

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

# VOTE



Student number and photo ID are required to vote.  
\*Additional restrictions on eligibility may apply.

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



# RESISTING THE PUSH TOWARDS CORPORATE LAW

## Refugee law advocacy conference inspires law students

Aditya Rao

*“The first thing I lost when I came to law school is the reason I came.”*

— Anonymous

There is a problem with legal education in Canada. Canadian law faculties routinely direct students exclusively toward corporate law and Bay Street practice through coordinated recruitment efforts. Opportunities for social justice practice are rarely highlighted, and students are left without any guidance on how to direct their careers towards the values that first brought them to law school.

It is clear that there needs to be a stronger effort to help interested law students find their way into social justice positions. As law schools have proven themselves either unable or unwilling to do it, a group of law students – including myself – are doing it ourselves.

This past February, we organized the Canadian Association of Refugee Law-

yers’ (CARL) LobbyCon. The conference brought together over 60 law students, from eight law schools, who were all interested in refugee law. The students received advocacy, lobbying and substantive legal training. The students then met with over 65 Members of Parliament on the Hill and pushed for progressive refugee policy reform.

First organized in the fall of 2016, this year’s LobbyCon was the second iteration of the student-led conference. The conference leverages the University of Ottawa’s unique national capital location to give law students the opportunity to wet their feet in public interest advocacy through lobbying. The goal is to inspire students interested in refugee law to pursue a career in public interest advocacy, and to connect them to leading refugee law practitioners in the country.

This year the welcoming keynote was delivered by Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada and former refugee lawyer. His message was straightforward: Public interest lawyering ought not to be the alternative but rather the norm. He also participated on a “Diversity of Tactics” panel, where he spoke of the importance of high level lobbying and the need to have a multifaceted, coordinated ap-

proach amongst advocates to effect social change.

Also on this panel was Ottawa-based human rights lawyer Yavar Hameed. He spoke about activist lawyering and described his practice as being specifically set up to resist the state. For him, being an effective advocate means working closely with grassroots organizers to build movements of solidarity for his clients.

Sinda Garziz, organizer with No One Is Illegal – Ottawa, also sat on the panel. She shared stories from the frontlines, of providing shelter to migrants who are in danger of being deported to hardship.

Together the three panelists presented a vision for advocacy that holds no single avenue as paramount, but rather encourages the use of different tactics to push for progressive change. They encouraged law students to challenge themselves and to build a strong legal practice rooted in civic engagement and the public interest.

To prepare for the lobbying experience, the students received messaging and media training from Jacob Kuehn, a former CBC producer and currently a communications officer with Amnesty International Canada. Legal aid lawyers Laïla Demirdache and Heather Neufeld also gave substantive legal training on the refugee law issues the students were to lobby MPs on.



Law students in a mock meeting with lawyer Emilie Coyle, practising their lobbying and advocacy skills.

Photo: Maha Temkit

These issues were: (1) removing barriers to access humanitarian and compassionate grounds applications for discretionary grants of permanent residence, and (2) instituting an independent civilian oversight board for the Canada Border Services Agency.

Refugee lawyers from Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal participated in the conference to train students through mock meetings and supervise the students during the real MP meetings. This gave the lawyers the chance to meet law students interested and motivated to engage in public

interest advocacy.

The response we received has been staggering. Over 96 per cent of those who responded to the feedback survey said LobbyCon encouraged them to pursue a career in refugee law and public interest advocacy. One hundred per cent of the respondents said they thought it was helpful for their learning and 89.7 per cent felt they acquired skills that will help them in their careers.

There is no doubt in our minds that creating opportunities like this will encourage graduating law students to think outside the corporate

law box. Law school ought to be about training students to engage in advocacy that is in the public interest.

Although law schools may continue down an increasingly corporatized path, continually funneling law students to Bay Street, there are students willing to change the channel on the conversation. With the success of LobbyCon 2016 and 2018, planning is soon going to be underway for LobbyCon 2020. And with it, we hope to inspire another generation of law students to pursue a career in public interest advocacy and refugee law.

# RESEARCH, EDUCATION, TAKE ACTION

# AT OPIRG CARLETON

OPIRG Carleton is your social justice resource centre at Carleton University! We are student-run, student-led and student funded and exist to help broaden and expand your university experience! If you're into social justice and you want to be a part of a change-making community, check us out!

## Events

OPIRG puts on workshops, talks and events during the year related to different social justice issues and campaigns - local and international. Some events we have planned for this year are:

- Anti Oppression workshops
- Social Justice
- Film Festival
- Monthly Wings Nights
- Surviving Capitalism Workshop Series

## Resources

In addition to all our events being free and open to all, we also offer resources to make University more accessible. We offer:

- Bursaries for international, Indigenous, graduate & undergrad students
- Study space & free printing
- Organizational donations and support for your events
- Accessibility Fund
- Free pizza during exam time and snacks in our office all the time

## Find Us

OPIRG Carleton  
326 University Centre  
Carleton University  
(above the Multi Faith centre)

613-520-2757  
[www.opirgcarleton.org](http://www.opirgcarleton.org)  
[opirg@carleton.ca](mailto:opirg@carleton.ca)



**OPIRG Carleton**  
*Research, Education, Action*



# PICKING UP THE PIECES

## How Ottawa Media is Bouncing Back in the Wake of Community Newspaper Shutdowns

Graham Swaney

On Nov. 27 2017, Canadian media companies Tortstar and Postmedia announced a deal to swap 41 newspapers. After the exchange all but four were closed to reduce regional competition. Nine of the closed papers were previously part of the Metroland network in Ottawa. These papers included the *Orleans News*, *Ottawa East News*, *Ottawa South News*, *Metro Ottawa*, *Ottawa West News*, *Nepean Barrhaven News*, *Kanata-Kourier Standard*, *Stittsville News* and *West Carleton Review*.

This mass closure continues a pattern of a decline in the number of newspapers in Canada. According to the *Shattered Mirror* report on Canadian journalism created by the Public Policy Forum, Canadians purchased 102 newspapers for every 100 households in 1950. By 2015 that number shrank to 18 papers per 100 households.

The report attributes this decline in sales to the rise of digital media, which has undermined newspaper revenue by providing advertisers with a more convenient means to reach their target audience. Moreover, the rise of sites like Ebay and Kijiji have almost completely replaced the classified ads section of newspapers, which used to be a major source of income for newspapers.

### THE LOCAL LOSS

The local newspapers that recently closed in Ottawa played a unique role in their communities, which fell largely outside the capacity and mandate of daily papers like the *Ottawa Citizen*. Their closure left communities with gaps in local news coverage.

Teresa Fritz, the former editor of Metroland Media, told *The Leveller* that local news outlets have a responsibility

to provide hyper-localized news and to “delve a little deeper” than other outlets.

Jake Davies, a former reporter at the *West Carleton Review* echoed this principle, contrasting the *Ottawa Citizen’s* coverage of the 2017 flooding of Constance Bay with the coverage of the local papers. While all the outlets covered the initial flooding, it was only the local papers that were able to write extensively about the aftermath and the recovery of the community.

Davies commented that “Without that sort of coverage... people move on. If people don’t know their community members and neighbors are struggling through an issue like this, they might not raise the money they [their neighbors] need just to provide a home for their two small children.”

Another valuable attribute of community newspapers was their coverage of smaller, local events. According to Davies, without local papers communities “don’t get stories on upcoming events, they don’t get stories on community leaders, (and) they don’t get... ‘good news’ stories.”

As Teresa Fritz put it, “You’re losing the ability to inform residents about what’s happening in their communities.” These are the types of events that would not be considered newsworthy for an Ottawa audience at large, such as a high school graduation or a local council meeting. However, these types of stories hold significant value in the communities that they take place in.

Fran Dawson, a West Carleton Resident, shared with *The Leveller* that she especially misses the detailed coverage of events taking place in her township. Dawson stated “The *West Carleton Review* had great photographs of all community activities, and what

they would do with these photographs is they would write the names of every person in the photograph.”

She added that the *West Carleton Review* published a list of upcoming community events each week, something the *Ottawa Citizen* doesn’t do.

The local Ottawa papers also helped link the communities they served to national and municipal issues by viewing them through a local lens. Allan Hubley, the city councillor for Kanata South told *The Leveller* that he used to keep a weekly column in the *Kanata Courier Standard* to share information about city hall and upcoming events with his constituents.

Kanata-Carleton’s MP Karen McCrimmon also stressed the importance of this connection, stating that local papers are “a way for me to connect with my constituents. They can see what I’m doing, the work I’m doing on their behalf, [and that] I’m out in the community. That matters and I think that piece is missing and that needs to be addressed.”

### LIMITATIONS OF DIGITAL NEWS

“We need community journalism to survive” McCrimmon commented. “Digital is not an acceptable replacement on its own.”

McCrimmon partly attributed the shortcomings of digital media to the region’s aging population, which has many residents who are not comfortable getting their news online. She also noted that internet connectivity limitations in rural communities like West Carleton can hinder access to online news.

Jake Davies also shared the opinion that digital is not a suitable replacement to community papers, because digital media does not translate into paid journalists. Conse-

quently, all of the communities that lost their newspapers no longer have formal journalists within the community seeking out and reporting on local affairs.

### BOUNCING BACK

Following the closure of Metroland in Ottawa, Michael Wollock, former owner of some of the papers that had been absorbed by Metroland, came out of retirement to start a new newspaper chain in Ottawa called *The Community Voice*.

According to the paper’s new editor Patrick Uguccioni, the paper is named after Wollock’s vision for the chain, which is to “fill a void where there was no voice.” With this goal in mind, the paper has established itself primarily in areas that had no weekly or bi-weekly paper.

*The Community Voice* has four banners: the *Alta Vista Canterbury Community Voice*, *The Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Voice*, *The Greenboro South Keys Community Voice*, and *The Kanata-Stittsville Community Voice*. This represents some of the communities vacated by Metroland. However, *The Community Voice* has not entered all of the communities Metroland used to serve, such as West Carleton, and Nepean.

The first issues of *The Community Voice* were published on February 15, with the exception of the Kanata-Stittsville edition, which published for the first time on February 22.

Uguccioni stated that the community’s response has been “overwhelmingly positive,” from both residents and businesses alike. Small businesses in particular have embraced the paper since it gives them direct access to the community at a reasonable rate. Furthermore, *The Community Voice* has attracted city

ensured that First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and girls have access to shelters and transition houses.

Indigenous Peoples have also historically represented a significant portion of the victims of violent crimes. Police forces in Canada rarely record the Indigenous identities of victims however, so these patterns cannot be tracked and understood. Despite recommendations from advocates and international rights organizations, no consistent policy or practice is being created to capture accurate data – much less solve the way they are disproportionately subject to violence..

However, Canada has made improvements in both the economy and the national security categories.

In the economy category, Canada was successful in enacting a Canadian Ombudsman for over a decade.

Each of these men have re-



First Edition of *The Kanata Stittsville Community Voice* Photo: Patrick Uguccioni

councillors who are paying for column space.

The papers under the umbrella of *The Community Voice* are scheduled to continue publication on a bi-weekly basis. *The Community Voice* is delivered by Canada Post to every residence and business in the communities it serves at no charge to residents, totaling about 85,000 copies. The paper generates revenue through advertising and currently has a staff of eight people, many of whom were former employees of Metroland.

### MOVING FORWARDS

The health of community journalism has also attracted the attention of the federal government. In order to address the decline in community journalism, the recently released budget allotted \$50 million dollars over the next five years for community journalism in underserved areas.

Speaking as a member of the governing Liberals, McCrimmon explained this fund would be distributed by a non-governmental organization to help revitalize community journalism in underserved areas. The implementation of the plan allows entrepreneurs to experiment with various business models, depending on what they believe will work best in their communities, re-

gardless of whether they are mostly digital or print.

McCrimmon cautioned that this measure is merely a band-aid needed to help stabilize the industry. However, she also believes that it demonstrates a critical recognition on the part of the government about the issue at hand, and is a step in the right direction. McCrimmon added that while she hopes the government will provide more startup money in the future, “it’s up to the community to keep it going after that.”

So despite the damage done to community journalism by the closure of Metroland in January, local newspapers are making a comeback. Karen McCrimmon commented that community journalism remains highly valued and is “probably one of the best ways of communicating with people” in rural communities. This desire for good community has already opened the door for arrival of *The Community Voice*, which could serve as a role model for other communities who want to revive local journalism.

Looking at the future of community journalism as an editor, Uguccioni commented that “as long as someone puts out a good product that reflects those communities that they’re trying to serve, I think there is a long, bright future for community newspapers.”

# FAILING GRADES FOR CANADA ON HUMAN RIGHTS

## Amnesty Releases Rights Report Card

Abigael Lynch

On Feb. 6, Amnesty International released its annual “Human Rights Report Card and Agenda for Canada.” The grades of the report card – well, simply put, they could use some serious improvement.

While progress has been made on some fronts, much more needs to be done.

The report card builds on the previous year’s recommendations, marking whether or not they have been met. These recommendations are broken down into seven categories, specific to Canada: Indigenous Peoples, Gender Equality, Refugees and Migrants, Economy, National Security, International Obligation and International

Relations.

After being sorted into the appropriate category, each of the recommendations is graded on a colour scale. Green means a recommendation has been met, amber means a recommendation is underway, orange means it is in progress with uncertainty and red means there are serious concerns with no progress at all.

In the 2018 report card, Canada scored more red than green, with an unsettling number of orange. Of the 35 recommendations, Canada received an abysmal 13 positive outcomes, compared to the overpowering 22 negative evaluations. That is around 63 per cent negative outcomes – not so

great for a country who is a supposed exemplar in human rights.

The biggest issue for Canadian human rights currently is centered around the Indigenous Peoples. The Canadian Government didn’t halt the construction of the Site C dam in Northeast BC, against the instructions of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This infringes upon Indigenous Peoples’ treaty rights and their right to be informed of damage that will occur on their ancestral lands.

As well, the Canadian Government failed to integrate the right to free, prior and informed consent into Canadian Law. Nor has it

pendently investigate allegations of human rights violations connected to Canadian companies worldwide. Amnesty and various UN bodies have called for such an extractive industry ombudsman for over a decade.

Despite this, there are some areas that need improvement, such as considering current and future trade agreements in light of their impact on human rights, as well as protecting human rights defenders who face hazards for their advocacy.

Canada has also successfully achieved long-overdue redress for national security-related human rights violations. The federal government reached a settlement with Abdullah Almaki, Ahmad Abou-Elmaati and Maouyyed Nureddin in March 2017, after Canadian complicity in imprisonment and torture they suffered in Syria and Egypt during 2001-2004. Each of these men have re-

ceived a compensation settlement as well as an official government apology.

The most recent case to reach settlement was with Omar Khadr, who was captured as a child soldier in Afghanistan and experienced many violations of his human rights in his decade as a prisoner at Guantánamo Bay. In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that his international human rights had been breached by Canadian officials through their collusion with U.S. actions.

However, not all cases involving human rights violations and national security have been heard or resolved. Also, Amnesty believes that Canada should adopt a national security framework that keeps human rights as a foundational pillar.

Whether it is today or tomorrow, based on this report it is clear that something needs to change in the Canadian human rights system.



# Pour le droit de manifester sans peur



Illustration: Manifester sans peur

## Un appel du collectif de la campagne «Manifester sans peur»

Cet lettre ouverte est paru sur ricochet.media le 21 février 2018

Le 1er février dernier, l'émission Enquête de Radio-Canada revenait sur le comportement des forces policières lors des manifestations entourant le Sommet des Amériques en avril 2001 et le congrès du Parti libéral du Québec à Victoriaville le 4 mai 2012. Lors de celles-ci, plusieurs personnes furent grièvement blessées par des balles de plastique tirées par la police. En effet, les armes dites à «à létalité réduite» constituent une menace à l'intégrité physique, voire à la vie, de personnes qui ne font qu'exprimer leurs opinions.

## LA RELATIVITÉ DE LA «LÉTALITÉ RÉDUITE»

Parmi les cas répertoriés au Québec, on retrouve notamment ceux d'Éric Laferrière, qui a été atteint à la gorge et a perdu l'usage de la voix (Sommet des Amériques, avril 2001); de Mathieu Harvey, qui a été atteint à la tête et a passé trois

jours dans le coma (Sommet des Amériques, avril 2001); de Francis Grenier, qui a perdu un œil (7 mars 2012); d'Alexandre Allard, qui a été victime d'un traumatisme crânien, de fractures au visage, d'une contusion cérébrale et qui est devenu sourd de l'oreille gauche (4 mai 2012); de Dominique Laliberté-Martineau, qui a été violemment heurtée au visage et a subi une double fracture à la mâchoire, la perte de six dents et des lacerations à la lèvre inférieure (4 mai 2012); de Maxence Valade, qui a perdu un œil et subi un traumatisme crânien ainsi que des contusions au foie et aux poumons (4 mai 2012); et de Naomie Tremblay-Trudeau, qui a été blessée au visage (26 mars 2015).

Au-delà des manifestations, malgré ce qu'en dit la police, il arrive même que ces armes tuent, comme le démontrent les cas de Bony Jean-Pierre et de Philippe Ferraro. L'utilisation de balles de caoutchouc pourrait également être liée au décès de Pierre Coriolan, le 27 juin 2017. La famille de M. Coriolan estime d'ailleurs que le Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM)

devrait cesser d'utiliser ce type d'armes et plutôt s'assurer que ses membres ont une formation adéquate pour intervenir auprès d'individus en situation de crise. On ne traite pas les problèmes de santé mentale à coup de balles, même de plastique.

Soulignons également que dans plusieurs de ces cas, la police a nié que les blessures aient été causées par ses projectiles. Le jugement Grenier du 6 novembre 2017 est sans appel à cet égard et reconnaît que le SPVM a volontairement camouflé sa responsabilité dans la blessure de Francis Grenier. De plus, lors du procès, tous les témoins policiers ont minimisé les risques liés à l'utilisation de grenades assourdissantes, et ce malgré le risque de blessures graves, voire de mort, comme c'est inscrit sur la fiche technique du fabricant.

## L'ONDE DE CHOC DES PROJECTILES

Les effets des armes dites «à létalité réduite» vont au-delà des yeux, des dents ou de l'ouïe perdus. Leur impact est profond et le choc psychologique peut se faire sentir durant des années et se traduire, entre autres, par une peur latente. Francis Grenier en témoigne. Depuis la perte de son œil, il a peur des détonations, ne supporte pas les bruits sourds et évite les foules. Ce choc peut également se traduire par une perte de confiance envers les institutions qui soi-disant nous protègent. Comment,

en effet, faire confiance à la police après que celle-ci nous ait éborgné? Comment lui faire confiance tandis qu'elle nie toute responsabilité et ne cesse de remettre en question la véracité des témoignages?

L'onde de choc touche non seulement les proches des victimes, mais aussi de larges segments de la population puisque l'utilisation de ces armes implique que n'importe qui peut être gravement blessé de par le simple fait de participer à une manifestation. La peur s'installe et dissuade la contestation tandis que la police jouit d'une impunité presque totale et se targue de professionnalisme.

L'impact des balles de la police constitue ainsi un véritable déni de parole. Les armes à «létalité réduite» prétendent faire taire la dissidence, parfois littéralement. Dominique Laliberté-Martineau, qui a reçu une balle de plastique en pleine mâchoire lors de la manifestation de Victoriaville le 4 mai 2012, en sait quelque chose...

C'est pourquoi le débat public est essentiel, pour que d'autres voix et d'autres perspectives que celles de la police puissent se faire entendre, pour que l'arbitraire n'ait pas force de loi. Bien que le mal soit déjà fait, les procès jouent aussi un rôle central, non seulement par les éclaircissements et les réparations qu'ils peuvent permettre mais aussi pour la reconnaissance de la parole et la légitimité auxquelles ils peuvent donner accès.

## LA RESPONSABILITÉ DES POLITIQUES

Cette campagne pour le droit de manifester sans peur part de ce constat. Toute personne doit pouvoir exprimer ses opinions et critiquer les pouvoirs en place sans craindre pour son intégrité physique et sa sécurité. Cet enjeu va bien au-delà des blessures comme telles; il concerne toute personne pour qui les droits et libertés tirent leur valeur de leur exercice. Il ne s'agit pas d'un enjeu individuel ou privé, mais bien d'un enjeu collectif et politique.

Face au danger que représentent les armes dites «à létalité réduite», face à la manière désinvolte dont la police les utilise, sans aucun égard aux risques pour les manifestant-e-s et dans l'opacité la plus complète, nous invitons la population à signer notre manifeste intitulé Manifester sans peur et nous interpellons la classe politique. Car la police n'est pas l'unique responsable de cette situation. Elle bénéficie de la complicité active de celles et ceux qui

prétendent nous représenter et nous gouverner.

C'est pourquoi nous demandons aux administrations municipales ainsi qu'aux gouvernements du Québec et du Canada d'interdire l'utilisation des armes intermédiaires d'impact à projectiles (balles de plastique) et des armes explosives. Mme Plante, en tant que cheffe d'un parti qui s'est fait élire en s'engageant à «revoir toutes les techniques de dispersion de foule» et à «interdire l'utilisation des balles de plastique», qu'attendez-vous pour agir? M. Coiteux, en tant que ministre de la Sécurité publique du Québec, combien de temps allez-vous détourner le regard et rester silencieux?

Le collectif de la campagne «Manifester sans peur» Alexandre Allard, Marcos Ancelovici, Jenny Cartwright, Sophie Desbiens, Jérémie Gauthier-Caron, Francis Grenier, Mathieu Harvey, Mario Jean, Émilie E. Joly, Lynda Khelil, Dominique Laliberté-Martineau, Arij Riahi, Chantal Saumur, Claudel Valade, Maxence L. Valade, Julien Villeneuve, Sandy Wodz

## Les Sans-Culottes

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

## Le Leveller étend ses branches!

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

Envoyez vos articles à [editors.the.leveller@gmail.com](mailto:editors.the.leveller@gmail.com)

# CONGRATULATIONS

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# HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ESCALATE

## FILIPINO PRESIDENT DUTERTE DECLARES WAR ON POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS

WORDS: STUART RYAN  
PHOTOS: HANNAH REYES MORALES

**O**n Feb. 23, several Ottawa Filipino Solidarity organizations conducted a spirited demonstration to oppose martial law in Mindanao, the Philippines' southernmost island.

Speakers denounced the extra-judicial killings of Lumad (Indigenous) peasants and human rights defenders — and more generally the use of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippines National Police (PNP), paramilitary militias and private armies to militarize the land that corporations just so happen to want.

### CANADA'S CALLOUT OF DUTERTE INCOMPLETE

Much was made in November about Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raising the issue of human rights with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Manila.

Trudeau questioned Duterte's endorsement of the extra-judicial killing of people involved in the drug trade. Duterte took offence to Western powers publicly criticizing his country when they are not aware of the situation on the ground.

What is not well-known, and not mentioned at all in the mainstream Canadian media, is that the President has endorsed attacks by the AFP and PNP on popular organizations and peasant (Lumad) organizations in the country, particularly in Mindanao.

On Nov. 18, Duterte declared organizations such as Karapatan (which means "Rights" in Tagalog), the trade union central KMU (May 1 Movement), and PISTON (the organization of public transit 'jeepney' drivers) to be terrorist organizations, fronts for the Communist Party and the guerilla New People's Army.

Duterte said they are legitimate targets in the counter-insurgency war that has been policy of the last three Filipino presidents. He cancelled peace talks between the Filipino government and the National Democratic Front, a left-wing people's movement with close links to the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Duterte has also extended martial law in the city of Marawi — initially declared last May to counter a seizure of the city by ISIS-related insurgents — to all of the island of Mindanao until the end of 2018. His last budget defunded the state-sponsored Philippines Human Rights Commission.

### MARTIAL LAW FOR THE GOOD OF CORPORATIONS

What is at stake in Mindanao, the most southern of the 7,000 islands that make up the country, is the expropriation of Lumad lands by mining corporations, and the exploitation of minerals for export on the international market.

International mining corporations, like all foreign corporations, had only been allowed to operate in the Philippines as long as they had a Filipino partner who had 50 per cent ownership. But with the passage of the 1995 Mining Act, mining companies could be 100 per cent owned by foreign corporations.

The global mining industry thus developed



**[Above]** Soldiers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are seen during an operation ambushing suspected drug lords affiliated with a terrorist group. The soldiers are part of a battalion serving in Mindanao, South of the Philippines.



**[Left]** Hands of a man are seen tied up after his arrest. The man is part of a group suspected of dealing drugs.

a renewed interest in these remote and isolated barrios on the ancestral lands of the Lumad. Now every corner of the country has been surveyed, and the rights sold off to local and global mining conglomerates.

The local people have resisted the arrival of these mining companies and have formed popular organizations to defend their lands. Since Nov. 18 many leaders of Karapatan, a leading human rights organization, and peasant leaders have been killed or arrested on trumped up charges.

According to Karapatan, as of December 2017, there are already 126 documented cases of extrajudicial killings in the entire country, at least 930 cases of illegal arrests, 92 victims of torture, 426,590 victims of forcible evacuation, 56,456 victims of threat, harassment and intimidation, and 362,355 residents affected by indiscriminate firing.

"Duterte's verbal threats have had chilling implications on the ground," said Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay in a statement released Nov. 27. "With a bloodthirsty and trigger-happy military and police to do his bidding, the Duterte regime has, without hesitation, used all ploys within its power to terrorize individuals and entire communities."

### PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE DUTERTE REGIME

Representatives of the International Coalition on Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) — Canada

met on Dec. 12 with officials from the Philippines Embassy, NDP MP Cheryl Hardcastle and officials from Global Affairs Canada. They informed these officials of the escalation in human rights violations in the Philippines.

The delegation pressed the Canadian government to take immediate actions to demand the halt to this escalation. Those actions included having the Canadian Ambassador meet with the Filipino organizations under attack.

The delegation also called on the Canadian government to immediately suspend all funding to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippines National Police (PNP), and to end all programs of cooperation with the AFP and the PNP through Global Affairs Canada, the Department of Defence, the RCMP and other agencies in Canada.

Francisco Fernandez, Deputy Chief of the Philippines Embassy told the delegation, "You cannot take what Duterte says as government policy. You must only examine what are written government declarations." (Sound familiar?) He said he would forward the list of "alleged" human rights violations mentioned by the delegation to the Minister of Justice and the President's Office for investigation.

Cheryl Hardcastle said she would try to get the Philippines on the agenda of the Human Rights subcommittee of the House of Commons International Affairs Committee. Global Affairs

officials stated that they had briefed the Prime Minister before his trip to Manila and will continue to monitor the situation.

On Feb. 7, 35 Canadian civil organizations, including unions (such as Unifor, United Steelworkers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees), as well as church organizations (such as Kairos, Development and Peace, and the Beaconsfield Initiative), joined Filipino solidarity organizations in expressing their concerns to the Canadian government about the proposed sale of 16 Bell helicopters made in December 2017 to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The letter cited a statement made by Philippine Major-General Restituto Padilla that the helicopters would be used for military internal security operations.

The Canadian government thought they would only be used for search and rescue efforts. Upon notification of General Padilla's statement, International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne ordered a review of the sale. President Duterte's response was to cancel the purchase of the helicopters, ordering the AFP to find other suppliers.

ICHRP-Canada continues to build awareness of the escalation of human rights violations in the Philippines and to continue to mobilize pressure on the Canadian government to take effective action.



# A SHORT TIMELINE OF ATROCITIES IN MINDANAO

- **NOVEMBER 25:** The extrajudicial killing of a member of Anakpawis party, **Apolonio Maranan**, takes place in Davao City. Maranan was the 54th victim of political killings in the region alone. Meanwhile, the residence of peasant leader **Imelda Gagap** is indiscriminately fired at in the province of Caraga. **Sargie Macallan**, regional coordinator of a peasant organization in Northern Samar, is physically assaulted by the military commanding officer in the town of Opong, Northern Samar.
- **NOVEMBER 26:** The mostly Indigenous residents of **12 communities**, in Surigao del Sur province, Mindanao, are forced to flee by the massive deployment of government troops in their villages. Among the evacuees were **51 teachers from 9 Lumad** alternative schools and their **706 students**.
- **NOVEMBER 28:** An attack by unknown men on Karapatan's human rights fact-finding mission in the Negros Oriental province in the Visayas region kills Karapatan's regional coordinator **Eli-sa Badayos** and a member of a local peasant organization **Elioterio Moises**, critically injuring a third member of the team, youth leader **Carmen Matarlo**. Earlier in the day the mission was refused entry into the region by private goons of the local mayor.
- **DECEMBER 3:** The wave of killings continued in December, claiming the lives of human rights defender **Pastor Lovelino Quiñones**, from King's Glory Ministry; then **Victor Danyan**, **Victor Danyan Jr.**, **Artemio Danyan**, **Pato Celardo**, **Samuel Angkoy**, **To Diamante**, **Bobot Lagase** and **Mateng Bantal**, members of Indigenous umT'boli and Sulangan Manobo tribes; and on the next day **Fr. Marcelito "Tito" Paez**, former parish priest and coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, Central Luzon.



**[Left]** Civilians are seen lining up in a military checkpoint in Mindanao, South of the Philippines. Mindanao is currently under martial law.

**[Far left]** Soldiers are seen inside the ruins of a building in Marawi, Philippines on November 15, 2017. Marawi City is in ruins after a battle between government forces and Islamic State (IS) inspired militants in a battle that lasted for five months, displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

**[Left]** 'Bobble Head' dolls of President Rodrigo Duterte are seen in the home of a supporter on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in Metro Manila, Philippines.



## DUTERTE'S BLOODY AND MISOGYNISTIC REGIME

WORDS: TIM KITZ

President Duterte previously served as the mayor of Davao City in Mindanao for 22 years. During this time death squads killed 1,400 alleged criminals, drug users, and street children – to Duterte's loud approval. He has bragged about executing criminals himself while mayor, and more recently questioned whether drug users are human.

Duterte swept into the president's office in 2016, promising to kill tens of thousands of criminals, issue "1,000 pardons a day" to police and soldiers charged with abuses, and end his six-year term by pardoning himself for mass murder, according to the Australian Broadcasting Company.

His profanity-laced speeches have delighted supporters, and he has publically joked about rape on at least three occasions. In one tirade reported by *The Independent* he stated as mayor he "should have been first" in line to rape Jacqueline Hamill, an Australian missionary who was killed during a 1989 hostage crisis in Davao.

During the fallout from those comments, Duterte's daughter Sara said she was a rape victim herself, but would still vote for her father. Duterte responded by publically doubting her story, and according to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* called her a "drama queen." Sara is the mayor of Davao.

Duterte has also wolf-whistled a female reporter who asked him a question, and routinely belittles female political opponents with comments about their gender and sexual attractiveness. According to the *Philippine Daily Star*,



he called Agnes Callamard, a UN human rights Special Rapporteur, a "bitch" in a twitter-fuelled argument – threatening to slap her if they ever meet.

On Feb. 7, in a speech to soldiers, Duterte joked about a "new order," suggesting they tell female rebels "We won't kill you. We will just shoot your vagina."

On the economic front, Duterte has launched what he calls an "audacious" plan to catch up with the Philippines "more vibrant neighbours" by 2022, striving to become a high-income economy within a generation. 'DuterteNomics' have loosened restrictions on foreign corporations, invested in large infrastructure projects, and reformed the tax system. TRAIN, or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion plan, has slashed taxes for businesses, corporations and the rich, while raising them for consumers and small producers.

Duterte has supported a peaceful devolution of power to the Muslim Moro people of Mindanao, who have been fighting central government rule since the Spanish and American colonial era. However, when the ISIS-affiliated Maute Group, a splinter group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, attacked the city of Marawi, Duterte's government responded with martial law and a declaration of "all-out war."

After six months of bombing and urban warfare, Duterte declared the city "liberated," but said martial law needed to continue to speed recovery.

Duterte and his National Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa have since called for the "all-out war" to continue against the National People's Army (NPA). The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has mounted an insurgency since the 1960s, and participated in intermittent truces and peace talks since the '90s.

Earlier, in his first State of the Union address as President, Duterte had declared a unilateral ceasefire with leftist rebels (including the NPA) and initiated another round of peace talks.

Yet Duterte's government has refused to release political prisoners and stalled on implementing the two sides' Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER). CASER aimed aims to get at the root causes of armed conflict through measures like land redistribution.

After three Filipino Armed Forces soldiers were killed in Bukidnon, Duterte cancelled the ceasefire, called for the arrest of leftist negotiators, and declared NPA and its purely political leftist allies "terrorists."

Duterte appears to be taking the same scorched earth approach with leftist and Indigenous groups that he used with the drug trade.

Last July Duterte threatened to bomb Lumad schools for operating without government permits and "teaching the children to rebel against government," as quoted in *The Guardian*. Human rights organization Karapatan has since documented the bombings of dozens of communities,

usually with the ostensible goal of flushing out leftist militants.

"These recent reports point to a mounting and intensifying systematic campaign to silence individuals and communities critical against the government's anti-people policies," Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay wrote in an official statement.

"The Duterte regime, like his predecessors, is making use of a blanket rhetoric to persecute anyone tagged as 'enemies of the State' – in essence, people who have raised legitimate concerns against the government and have provided viable alternatives to the people."

Karapatan has also raised the alarm about Duterte's plan to shift the Philippines from a centralized to a federal government system. While this might ease regional and ethnic tension, during the transition Duterte would assume both executive and legislative powers, as well as other dictatorial powers.

Resistance against Duterte's regime continues, however. A social media campaign restored the Commission on Human Rights budget, after Duterte slashed it 1,000 Philippine pesos (about \$30 CAN). At recent mass protests in Manila on Valentine's day, Filipino women cut off the poisonous tongues of a Duterte effigy, vowing to "uplift the status of women" in the face of their "macho-fascist" leader.

And while the Occupy movement has fizzled out in North America, it is going strong among the urban homeless and rural poor of the Philippines. Various groups continue to disrupt mainstream politics and business-as-usual by collectively seizing public spaces, using them for housing and/or farming.

"Duterte has only isolated himself further," concluded Palabay in her statement, "thereby justifying the defiance of the public against his rising dictatorship."

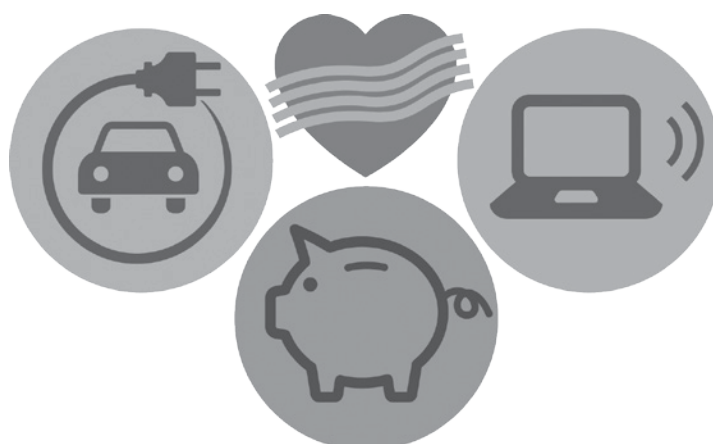




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Maria de Jesus Patricio Martinez (centre, standing) was the first Presidential Candidate put forth by the Zapatistas and the National Indigenous Congress. Photo: MXQ Noticias

# ELECTORAL UPHEAVAL COMING IN MEXICO?

Brian McDougall

While Ottawa area activists have lots of reasons to continue protesting Trump’s policies outside the American embassy, they may soon need to learn the location of the Mexican embassy.

Mexico’s July 1 Presidential election is likely to produce almost as much controversy as Trump’s election. Currently, populist social reformer Lopez Obrador has a ten per cent lead in the polls, but Mexico has a long history of electoral fraud – this is one of the ways that the country’s one per cent maintains its power.

Twice during the last thirty years centre-left candidates won the presidency, only to have electoral irregularities deliver power to an elite-approved right-wing candidate.

In 1988, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas was denied office by a last-minutes ‘system crash’ in the computer calculating results. Cardenas was opposed to the Mexican elite’s embrace of free trade and neoliberalism.

In 2006, Lopez Obrador, who was then the very popular Mayor of Mexico City, lost the Presidential election by less than one per cent in a

ballot that involved numerous irregularities. Again, the office went to a neo-liberal member of the elite, Felipe Calderon.

Many Mexicans wonder if that pattern of electoral fraud is about to be repeated this year.

Now older and more conservative, Lopez Obrador is running on a social democratic platform that has united the opposition to both Trump and the Mexican elite. Obrador’s lead in the polls has prompted the Mexican and American one per cent to initiate the dirty tricks and political positioning required to steal the 2018 election.

Meanwhile, the many social problems created by decades of Mexican neoliberalism remain invisible to the Canadians who take ‘all-inclusive’ vacations at Mexican resorts. These include the war on drugs that produced a tsunami of murder, free-trade related rural impoverishment, privatization of major resources like oil and chronic state corruption.

However, recent events have contributed to a sense major changes may be coming. Besides hatred of Trump’s wall, his threats to the Mexican economy and his promise to

deport more Mexican immigrants, there have been waves of protest against the policies of the Mexican ruling class.

Impressive levels of self-organization and grass-roots initiative were evident in three years of protests and activism against state complicity in the 2014 murder of 43 Indigenous teacher’s college students in Ayotzinapa.

Similarly, both the widespread protests against the privatization of the oil industry and related price-hikes for gas in early 2017 (the ‘Gasolinazo’) and the spontaneous grass-roots efforts to save victims of the September 2017 earthquake in Mexico City constitute a warning to Mexico’s elite.

There are other signs of radical organization and dissent. In southern Mexico, the Zapatistas (EZLN) and the National Indigenous Congress sponsored a Presidential candidate for the first time: Maria de Jesus Patricio Martinez (known as ‘Marichuy’).

A feminist, human rights activist and an Indigenous (Nahua) traditional doctor, Martinez was not able to gather the 866,000 valid signatures (nominations) required to get onto the presidential ballot. Of course the highly-discriminatory government-supervised nominating process involved a user-friendly and expensive smartphone app, not available to the poor and those in rural communities.

When Lopez Obrador had the presidency stolen in 2006, Mexicans responded with a massive wave of unrest. Besides very large urban rallies and marches (some Mexico City demonstrations involved over a million people), there were highway and bridge seizures, blockades of foreign banks, occupations of federal government buildings and an encampment in the main square (the ‘Zocolo’) in Mexico City.

Even though the 2018 election is not until July 1, Ottawa activists need to know the Mexican embassy is located in an office tower at 45 O’Connor Street (suite 1000). More accessible for protests is the Ambassador’s residence, at 470 Island Park Drive.

There is a nice bonus if protesting a stolen Mexican election proves necessary. It will piss off Trump as well.

# OTTAWA’S FLOURISHING POETRY SCENE

## Prominent spoken word and performance poets speak to *The Leveller*

Temur Durrani

In the past few years, Ottawa’s spoken word and slam poetry scene has emerged as a unique creative space for artists to express their creative voices in an individualistic and potent fashion. With monthly events held at venues across the city, the scene that started as a small group of people has grown into a thriving community of poets and performers.

Kamil Hakim, a prominent performer who speaks about his Somalian Muslim heritage in his poetry, says Ottawa’s scene is distinctive. “The poetry scene in Ottawa is much different than in Toronto, for example,” he says. “Ottawa, being a capital city, has this distinct sense of politics in its performances, which makes it an especially unique scene for poetry.”

Jamaal Jackson Rogers, who earlier this year was anointed Ottawa’s first English-language poet laureate in nearly 30 years, agrees the city is special: “I have been especially privileged to be able to perform poetry in the capital city of Ottawa and use it as my launchpad to advocate for the arts and youth.”

Baraa Arar, who hosts her own podcast, “The Watering Hole,” and who was part of the lineup for WE Day in November last year, believes that it was spoken word that first gave her courage to speak up about issues facing her community.

“Spoken word and poetry is a potent medium because it doesn’t have any traditional norms to follow,” Arar says. “Perhaps that’s what attracted me and other spoken word poets to this art form: the flexibility and inherent political nature of it.”

But Arar also believes that what makes spoken word special is its unique approach to politics. “It’s a democratization of the [art] form, because there is no form,” she says. “And quite frankly, it’s different because it doesn’t have any monarchs or patriarchs commissioning work.”

Rogers agrees. “We see this often with other representations of art, like the visual, where it is often commissioned by the state,” he says. “Spoken word is different.”

The poetry scene in Ottawa has particularly benefited from the Urban Legends Poetry Collective (Urban LPC), founded in 2009 by two Carleton University students, Ian Keteku and Suhaib Ibn Najib. Keteku and Najib started the collective as an alternative to several other groups that only catered to individuals that wanted to compete in spoken word tournaments such as the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word.

Rogers, who served as the Collective’s co-director from 2012 to 2014 believes in community more than competition. “We could use [Urban LPC] as a platform to encourage more of a community



Local slam poet, Faye Estrella at the “Ottawa Youth Poetry Slam” Photo: Nathan Hoo

than a way for competition,” he says. “And doing so, I think Urban [LPC] was able to change the poetry scene quite a lot in recent years.”

“Urban [LPC] started quite literally in the tunnels [of Carleton],” Arar says. “It has since become a safe space to give people a voice that is political and powerful, and yet creative and artistic.”

To foster diversity within the community, Urban LPC has also established dry events held at venues that do not serve alcohol. This is mainly so that Muslim performers and individuals under 19 feel more comfortable attending events.

Urban LPC’s co-director, Panos Argyrop, believes this is important: “Yes, most events in the city happen in bars,” he says. “But you have to understand that if you want to truly be inclusive, you must have your events be all-ages and dry to include everyone possible.”

Argyrop also believes that inclusivity extends to sharing the stage with people that might not be comfortable sharing their art on a microphone. “We must also accommodate people that perhaps wouldn’t be comfortable sharing their thoughts on a microphone,” he says. “Urban LPC tries to cater those voices as well, by trying to create events that don’t have traditional stages that might intimidate certain crowds.”

Urban LPC has managed to do this by holdings events in speaking circles that are more inclusive towards stage-shy members of the community.

An evolution of the current poetry scene in Ottawa is marked by its members’ efforts to converge religion and poetry by using religious venues for performances. In 2013, Arar established a spoken word event at a mosque in Ottawa to create a space for poetry in religious venues. “I wanted there to be more of a bridge between religion and poetry, especially since the two go so hand in hand,” she says. “Spoken word has the power to be that bridge, but maybe places of worship aren’t yet ready to become that avenue.”

Arar believes that places of worship are quite corporatized in their way of operation. “What’s a little disheartening is that mosques and establishments are run like corporations, in the way of their bureaucracy,” she says. “If we want to truly make [spoken word] events happen in these venues, we must make sure they understand that their bureaucracy cannot get in the way of creative expression by censorship or selective expression.”

Perhaps better venues for spoken word events are bookstores and cafés, like Octopus Books and Black Squirrel Books & Espresso Bar that frequently hold events for poetry recitations. Lisa Greaves, the owner of Octopus Books, believes this is important in creating community. “Part of being in a community like Ottawa is to be supportive of local practices like poetry recitation and spoken word,” she says. “That’s why Octopus [Books] tries its best to be a venue for events that cater to them.”

However, Arar also finds that there are several issues within the community, such as sexism that needs to be addressed. “It’s not a pretty part of the scene, but it is one that needs to be addressed,” she says. “The fact that the [poetry] scene is more male-dominated than people like to think, is an issue that we need to start talking about.”

Arar finds that most paid positions in the scene are filled with “white, middle-aged men.”

“This phenomenon of female underrepresentation is not exclusive to poetry,” she says. “[But] it is unfortunate that you can find it in an avenue that claims its selling point as diversity.”

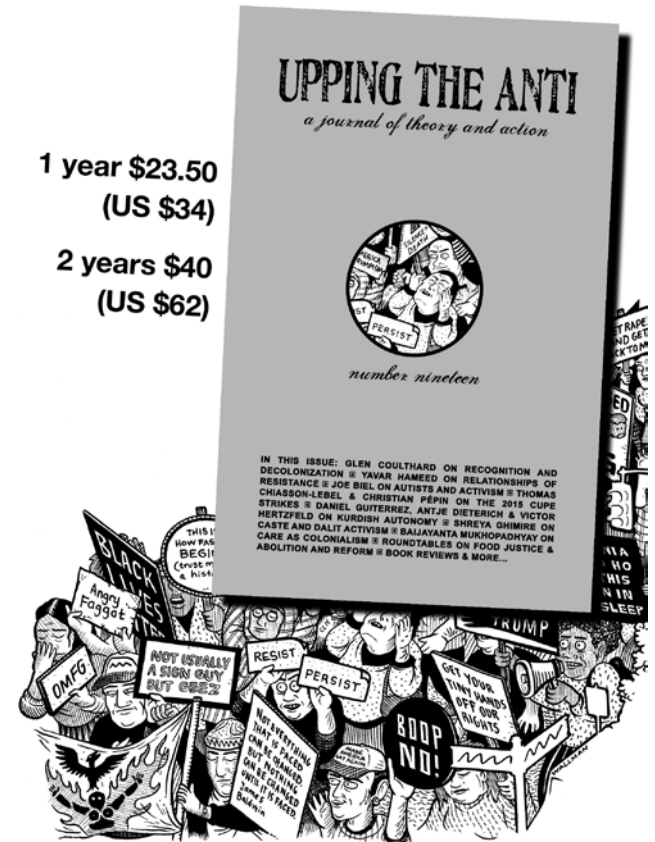
Argyrop believes that Urban LPC is trying its best, given the circumstances, however. “Could it be bettered? Of course,” he says. “But at the moment, we are using all of our limited resources to provide as inclusive and safe of a place as possible.”

Argrop believes that by “keeping a track of who ends up performing on stage,” the poetry scene can be maneuvered in the right direction.

“In the past few years, we have been very intentional with who represents us on the stage, whether they be people of color, people that identify as women, or are of different sexual orientations,” he says. “We can’t possibly decide what kind of people show up at open mics and slams, but we can decide who we will represent us.”

But perhaps it is Samantha Morella, a third year political science student at the University of Ottawa and frequent performer at spoken word events, who best describes the future of the community. “Attending [spoken word] events across the city allows for me to hone in on my self-confidence and give a voice to the women in my community, in a creative way,” she says. “I see its future leading to even more avenues for people like myself who want to engage in their artistic ventures, while remaining in safe space.”

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# THE UNSEEMLY COST OF ELITE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

## uOttawa looking to award its executives maximum pay

Matthew Kurtz

At the University of Ottawa, the aggregate cost of our senior administrators has been increasing rapidly for years. They are no longer affordable public servants. Nor is uOttawa unique. Across Ontario, this class of employees is demonstrably consuming an ever larger portion of university expenses.

The issue is timely. The Board of Governors at the University of Ottawa recently released its proposed executive compensation program. As required by Ontario's *Executive Compensation Act*, they asked for comments in a (now closed) public consultation. Queen's University went through this process in December. I expect Carleton University will be doing the same shortly.

At uOttawa, our board proposed to set limits on the compensation of our five chief executives to prohibit the recurrence of excessive bonuses. In compliance with the new legislation, the upper limit is set at the median among comparable positions at ten research-intensive universities across Canada.

The problem is, our board wants to be able to increase – at a rate of 5 per cent per year – the budget line-item from which these five executives get paid, and to do so until their salaries approach these limits. That means the board could allocate an additional \$78,000 for our executives.

This increase does not have to be allocated evenly, so our president could soon make \$454,000, which is just under the limit. With a 5 per cent line-item increase next year, our four vice-presidents

can come closer to their caps, which are currently in the \$310-\$370,000 range.

Meanwhile the limits will increase, because benchmark universities will assuredly ratchet up their executive pay. So if this proposal is approved, we will likely be giving our top managers something like a 5 per cent raise for years to come.

These salaries may seem unfathomably large. I can help put those figures into perspective. Last year at REGI Consulting, in support of our work for various stakeholders in higher education, we built a database from the sunshine lists (which identify any publicly employed person making \$100,000 salary or more). The data allows us to track yearly changes in income for 6,496 distinct university managers in Ontario over 21 years, including 457 administrators at the University of Ottawa.

For points of comparison, we incorporated data about the annual median income in Ontario, which was \$33,200 in 2015. That means half of Ontario's individual taxpayers made less, and half made more.

Since the Great Recession of 2008, this median – i.e., the income of the typical taxpayer in the province – has increased at a rate of just 1.9 per cent annually, which is barely ahead of inflation. In short, Ontario's working people and middle class have made little headway in recent years.

Nonetheless, their taxes help fund the operating grants that provide a major source of revenue for Ontario's universities. It makes sense, then, to compare executive salaries to a clear measure of progress among such taxpayers.

And if you know that the top five public servants at uOttawa were paid an average of \$311,446 in 2015, a quick calculation shows they made 9.4 times as much as the typical taxpayer in Ontario.

This multiple – the one where our executives make almost 10 times as much as the typical taxpayer – is a ratio that we can track over time (see Figure 1). For uOttawa's top five executives, it had remained steady from 1996 to 2001. Our university executives were comfortable making about seven times as much as the average Ontarian before the 21st century. Then the ratio increased rapidly, leveling off in 2010 when the province imposed a wage-freeze on its top-level executives.

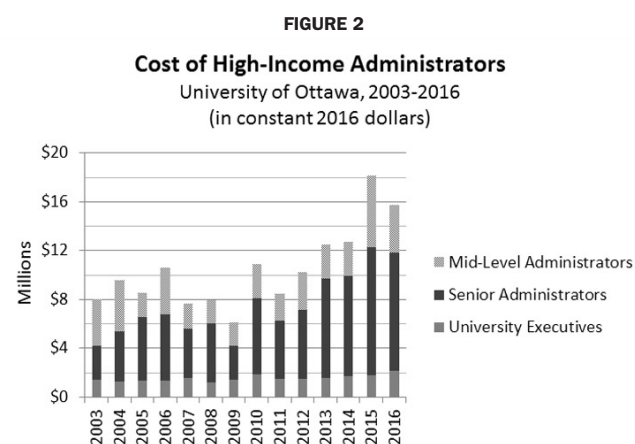
We can also compare uOttawa to the average for four similar research universities: McMaster, Queen's, Waterloo and Western. As Figure 1 shows, their incomes had climbed until 2008, when they peaked around 11 times the typical taxpayer's income. Since then, these universities reduced the salaries of their top executives on average. The

University of Ottawa did not.

What happened to the salaries of other high-income administrators? If we look at the income of the 20 best-paid campus administrators – excluding the president and the vice-presidents – the data for uOttawa shows an increase in average pay, from 5.3 times the median in 2001, to 6.8 in 2016. If we look at the four comparable universities, this ratio climbs from 5.7 to 7.8 over the period. So these administrators – deans and so on – are getting paid better, which adds something substantial to total operating costs.

We can also look at annual salary increases for those who continue in the same job. For this analysis, we defined any administrator who earned over four times the median as a *high-income manager*. Then we divided these university managers into three groups.

First were the *executives* – that is, the president and vice-presidents for each university. Second were the non-executives who made over five times the median income. We called them *senior administrators* because they



tended to be deans or associate vice-presidents. Third were the non-executives who made between four and five times the median. This group included associate deans and executive directors. We called them *mid-level administrators*.

What are the results? In the seven years before the Great Recession, senior administrators at uOttawa saw their salaries increase at an average of 4.1 per cent annually. You would expect this to drop after 2008, but it does not drop much. From 2009 to 2015, the average annual raise for senior administrators was 3.4 per cent.

For mid-level administrators, the average annual raise was 4.9 per cent after 2008. At the four comparable universities, annual raises for this group averaged at 3.4 per cent. These raises were for managers whose salaries were already over four times the median – over \$128,000 in 2016 dollars. They were doing the same job but, during these contentious years of campus austerity, the top executives chose to increase the compensation of their mid-level administrators, and to increase it rather appreciably.

Here, we can begin to see an important reason why the costs of university education are increasing in Ontario. Salaries for the top five executives have largely been stable since 2010, but we are paying more and more to the upper-level administrators just under them.

At uOttawa, our board alludes to this problem on page 12 of their executive compensation proposal: "For a number of years, our senior executive pay levels have not kept pace with the pay levels of our deans and other non-executive senior managers." Yet they do not argue for cost containment in the salaries of these high-income managers. Instead, they want to be able to offer larger salaries at the top: "We need changes in our senior executive pay levels to keep pace with those of their subordinate[s]."

So salaries are climbing. What about the number of university managers who earn such salaries? It turns out these numbers increased even faster. Across Ontario, the strongest growth was among senior administrators. At uOttawa, we had 5.5 senior administrators for every 10,000 full-time equivalent students in 2001. By 2016, we had 12.4 such employees per 10,000 students. Carleton took a similar path, but there the sharpest increase occurred among mid-level administrators.

In short, our analysis shows two trends. First, the number of well-paid administrators in Ontario's universities climbed much faster than enrollment. Second, salaries increased quickly for a large swath of

university managers. The latter contributes to an upward trend in income inequality in Ontario, but the two together add substantially to the cost of a university education in the province.

Figure 2 shows the rising cost of our high-income administrators at the University of Ottawa since 2003. Since 2009, the total cost increased from \$6.1 million to \$15.7 million in 2016.

Let's put this into a broader perspective. If we look at all of the universities in Ontario, we can consider the aggregate compensation provided to executives and senior administrators relative to the total salary expenditures used annually in the university sector.

The results are notable. A rapidly rising portion of our universities' salary expenses has gone to our senior administrators. The one-percent increase represents over \$60 million spent annually across Ontario. This money could instead be going toward scholarships, a tuition freeze, better working conditions, better raises for front-line workers, research or community partnerships.

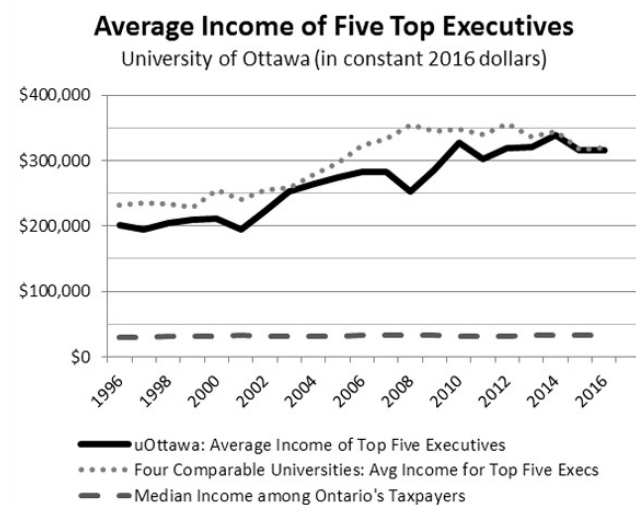
At the University of Ottawa, our Board of Governors argues that we need highly competitive compensation packages to attract the best talent. Yet it is not so clear that higher salaries are necessary to get the best people in academia.

Our board also recognizes that the salaries of close subordinates in administration are catching up. Yet this is not a reason to ratchet up the salaries of our top-most executives. Rather, it is a reason to ask for concessions from the associate vice-presidents, deans and so on. Board members and executives could gently remind such subordinates in upper-level administration that if their happiness depends on another raise, they can leave.

When upper-level administrators receive ever larger portions of the revenue that we generate for the campus community as instructors, researchers, students, and taxpayers, we have a problem with the sustainability of our university. When public servants make increasingly huge salaries – four, seven and even ten times as much as the typical taxpayer in Ontario – we also have a problem with rising disparities in income.

At uOttawa, the Board of Governors should reconsider their proposal. They should craft a compensation policy that is socially responsible and truly distinctive. Our thought leaders claim to be concerned about the growth of inequality. I believe their concern is genuine, and University of Ottawa would be a great place to start.

FIGURE 1



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# HOW THE LEVELLER CAME TO BE

(and almost didn't continue)

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FOUNDERS OF THIS RABBLE-ROUSING RAG

CAROLINE RODRIGUEZ-CHARETTE

As *The Leveller* wraps up its tenth volume, we wanted to look back at how this student-led newspaper all began. With its first issue published on Feb. 9, 2009, *The Leveller* was founded as the passion project of three grad students: David Tough and Daniel Tubb from Carleton University and Doug Nesbitt from Trent. *The Leveller* caught up with two of these founders, Tough and Tubb, to hear how it all happened.



First issue of *The Leveller*, February 2009

### Where did the idea for starting *The Leveller* come from?

**DAVID TOUGH:** The initial idea was to have a similar version of *Arthur*, Trent University's student newspaper, at Carleton. *Arthur* was very left-wing and had long essay-type articles, like in magazines. It was unabashedly pro-labour and was critical of the university administration. *The Charlatan*, Carleton's newspaper, was very dull at the time and adhered to a very conventional mainstream model. Knowing I was at Carleton and that I'd previously been the editor of *Arthur*, Doug Nesbitt asked me in 2008 what I thought it would be like if there was an equivalent paper at Carleton.

**DANIEL TUBB:** The idea was to do something like the *Arthur* which was critical and on the left but also had culture and campus and community news, which was missing [at Carleton]. But it was also very explicitly to be a vehicle to get political messages out and cover things that the other papers weren't covering.

### What motivated you and the other founders to start the newspaper?

**DAVID TOUGH:** A few months later, in early 2009, the Carleton teaching assistant (TA) union was in bargaining and voted against a strike, which really weakened the union's bargaining position. The university abolished tuition indexing and the union had to accept it and go back to work with a weaker contract. Doug and I revisited the idea again, and I contacted Daniel Tubb, who I knew of from Trent. The idea just took off from there.

**DANIEL TUBB:** By losing [tuition indexing], every graduate student at Carleton since then has paid way more tuition than they would have if we hadn't lost it. Why did we lose it? The union was doing a really bad job of communicating the message and the media landscape at Carleton at the time was *The Charlatan*, which was somewhat right-wing.

Both David and I had come from Trent, and David was editor for the *Arthur* student newspaper there when I was an undergrad. Somehow I got roped into being on the board for a year. We had fond memories of Trent, and at some point, David invited me and Doug Nesbitt to Mike's Place with the idea of starting a newspaper like the *Arthur*. I can remember being in Mike's Place – it was a lot darker and dingier back then, and I don't know why I said yes.

You're avoiding writing your master's thesis

by making a newspaper, I suppose. It filled a void – it was something I wished I had when I started at Carleton. When I started at Carleton I never knew what was going on, and so the listings at the back were things that I would have wanted to know about, to get involved in.

### How did the first issue come together?

**DANIEL TUBB:** So we started it with an ambitious timeline. We put [the first issue] together with various stories, ads that may not have actually been paid for. The first editorial said, "If you have read the paper in any semblance of the expected order, you will have noticed by now that we at *The Leveller* don't put a lot of stock in being objective. We like to editorialize at least a little all of the time."

It was an editorial vision that David really had, and the layout was mine. I sorted out a lot of the back end stuff. A lot of the format was modelled after the green of *The Onion* and some of the layout was *The International Socialist* at the time.

It was fun, and then we did it again, and then we did it again, and then we did it again, and by the end of that, we were kind of exhausted that summer, it almost didn't continue.

### What challenges did *The Leveller* face in its first year as a newspaper?

**DAVID TOUGH:** Early on, *The Leveller* was pretty casual, and a lot of people came together at the start who didn't really have that similar politics. We all thought that *The Leveller* should be left, should be critical of the university admin, pro-labour, etc, but a lot of what turned out to be core issues for various people were just kind of hanging in the air. Within a short time, they exploded, and the first group (me included) kind of drifted away.

**DANIEL TUBB:** The first issues were all done over the Internet. People would send stories and there would be a lot of fighting over email. Then the summer happened and there was a big flare up over, I think it was the title for one of the articles, and it just spiraled out of control.

### How did *The Leveller* rebound after that summer?

**DAVID TOUGH:** Erin Seatter, copy editor and proofreader of *The Leveller* in its first year, really took charge of bringing it back. It was a lot more organized and editing was not only done in a more regimented way but done together. When people disagreed, they argued it through. It was a much better system, though not for the faint of heart. Basically it would be a full weekend of

arguing over how to approach given issues, often making changes line by line, phrase by phrase. It made it a lot harder to fight because everyone was in one room.

The early *Leveller* may have had more personality, like *Arthur*, but the true *Leveller* is the one that developed after the first year, which was a more consistent, official voice of the publication. I tend to think of the first year as a kind of pilot project, and think of the real start of *The Leveller* as the way it worked in September 2009.

### What would you say was the most rewarding aspect of putting *The Leveller* together?

**DANIEL TUBB:** My first year at Carleton, I remember being very lonely and then *The Leveller* created a community for me in Ottawa that I didn't have before. It was a lot of fun and I got to meet a lot of cool people. I also learned how to write quickly. In academia everything takes years to write but at *The Leveller*, we would put everything together in two-three weeks. I loved co-writing – where you write something and someone revises it, then someone else edits it and then it would get its final edit. I wish my real life was that way because it's much faster and more fun.

### Did you think *The Leveller* would still be around 10 volumes later? Do you still follow it and what are your thoughts on what you see?

**DAVID TOUGH:** I think once we got the grad levy in 2010, I was pretty confident *The Leveller* would survive. I wasn't confident that it would come back after the dissolution of the initial group in early 2009, but since then, I haven't doubted it. I don't read it all the time, but I like what I read and was very happy to see the development of the Sans Culottes [*The Leveller's* french section].

**DANIEL TUBB:** I hoped it would, but I didn't think it would, especially not after that summer, the summer after we finished, I thought it was done. I think when we got the GSA Levy, I figured it would be around for a while because it creates stability and funding to make the thing exist, which that first year didn't have. That was mostly to get some funding to take the load off all of things that aren't that much fun to do, like accounts, delivery, making sure everything's paid for, all those kinds of things.

I sometimes go read *The Leveller* to find out what's happening in Ottawa and Carleton, so I love the fact that it has continued. I always thought of it as a place where you can learn a lot, and then it would be another generation's time to take over.

# WHODUNIT?

## MATCH THESE WORDS OF WISDOM TO THE PUBLIC FIGURE!

A. "The #MeToo moment is a symptom of a broken legal system. All too frequently, women and other sexual-abuse complainants couldn't get a fair hearing through institutions – including corporate structures – so they used a new tool: the internet... But what next? The legal system can be fixed, or our society could dispose of it."

B. "However men severally may regard imperialism as a political theory, the dominion of Christ is essentially imperial... [As far as the annexation of the Philippines] 'Deus vult [God wills it]!' say I. It was the cry of the Crusaders and of the Puritans and I doubt if man ever uttered a nobler [one]."

C. "Great journalism is not just concerned with the news, it's concerned with the truth."

D. "Our strategy should be not only to confront empire, but to lay siege to it. To deprive it of oxygen. To shame it. To mock it. With our art, our music, our literature, our stubbornness, our joy, our brilliance, our sheer relentlessness – and our ability to tell our own stories."

E. "Young women and girls will come forward when they know that it's safe to come forward. The reason they don't come forward is because they're smart and they know that it's not safe."

F. "It is also an established fact that Taylor Swift is secretly a Nazi and is simply waiting for the time when Donald Trump makes it safe for her to come out and announce her Aryan agenda to the world. Probably, she will be betrothed to Trump's son, and they will be crowned American royalty."

G. "Only fools and charlatans think they know and understand everything. The stupider they are, the wider they conceive their horizons to be."

H. "The way I look at it is, when you allow people to submerge themselves into a story, they will react by thinking through what it's about. That's just so much more fun and effective, I think, than a lecture."

I. "Smear campaigns are our specialty."

J. "In line with having no clue about their world, Canadians continue to insist that they are 'better than America'."

10

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a.) Atwood; b.) Mahan; c.) Hedges; d.) Roy; e.) Gay; f.) Anglin; g.) Chekhov; h.) Peele; i.) Montague; j.) Maracle

leveller.ca

vol 10, no 6, Spring 2018 The Leveller 13



# VENUS ENVY ADVISORY

## SEXUAL HEALTH & PLEASURE ALERT

### DEAR VENUS ENVY,

I'm not exactly what one would say "sexually active" in the conventional sense. Sure, I enjoy sex as much as the next person but I suppose I'm one of those people who values emotional intimacy over sexual intimacy, especially very early on in a relationship.

In a culture of hookups, one-night stands, and casual sex, how does one know if it's the right time to actually bring up the topic of initiating sex?

It's hard enough finding someone who is will-

ing to take things slowly but then sex just complicates things, even if I do want to take things to the next level. The partners I've had tended to take the reins, so to speak, but I want to be more in control of the progression of my sexual development with my future partners.

What would you recommend one do, especially when they find it difficult to balance emotional closeness with sexual exploration?

Sincerely,  
Uninspired at uOttawa

### DEAR UNINSPIRED AT OTTAWA U,

Most people know me as a quiet person. I'm not shy - I'm not *afraid* to talk - it's just that talking isn't usually my favourite way of communicating. If I were a man, people would see me as the strong silent type, but because I'm a woman, people are endlessly anxious about this.

(This is a side note, but have you ever noticed that we have very few ways of talking about quiet women that aren't deficit-based? Or of talking about loud women, for that matter. Misogyny - shitty *and* nonsensical, amirite?)

Anyways, I'm saying this because we live in this culture where sex is probably the one topic I could decide never to talk about, without anyone giving me a hard time. But I learned how to do it anyways, because I like to have good sex and I like to have orgasms.

After a few lackluster sexual experiences, I realized that neither of those things were going to happen for me unless I figured out what I wanted and started asking for it *loudly*.

From what you're saying, it seems like you're also struggling to have honest conversations about sex. So you're going to have to practice. It will feel awkward and uncomfortable, and then hopefully, like liberation.

Pick one thing you really want and say it to yourself out loud, over and over again. When you're ready, conjure the most powerful version of yourself, and bring that person to the conversation with your partners.

There's no 'right' time to talk about sex, there's just the time that's right for you.

That being said, when letting people know that you like to take your time, my advice is to bring it up early and casually. This is not about you apologizing for some sexual liability, it's about you clearly stating your limits and desires. All great lovers do this.

SEND QUESTIONS YOU WANT ANSWERED IN TO EDITORS.THE.LEVELLER@GMAIL.COM

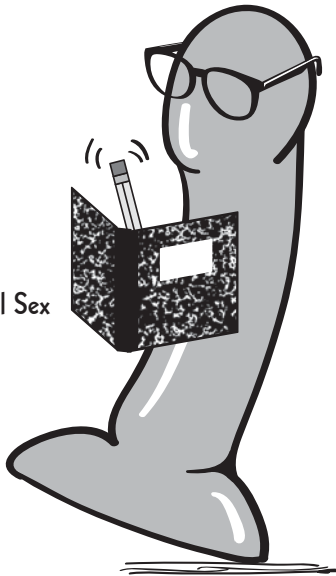
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### CARS V. PEOPLE

#### Stop expansion of the 417

Dear Leveller Editors,

If you build it, they will come. Run major highways through our cities, and they will fill up with cars. Widen them, and they will fill up with more cars.

The addition of more traffic lanes to the Queensway was a plan conceived in 2007 before light rail public transport was even a thing. But construction of the East-West light rail transport corridor, as we know, is now well under way. Yet the road-widening scheme continues blindly on, as though the LRT project had never begun.

This makes little sense. There is, or should be, a choice to be made: not just between public transport versus private automobiles, but between two diametrically opposed approaches to community-building. If the Ottawa of the future is to be the safe, green, family-friendly city of our dreams, we should be looking toward alternative ways of getting from here to there.

A system of affordable, efficient public transport, and more emphasis on the development of cycling infrastructure, is far preferable to the 1950s model of city expansion.

But the Wynne Liberals and our city seem to be frozen in that earlier time, when more roads were a priority and heavy traffic was taken as a sign of progress. Traffic is already disrupting the local communities out of which Ottawa is built, and even more traffic can be expected if these big road-expansion plans go forward.

If you bring a lot more cars into Ottawa via the Queensway, after all, they have to go somewhere—speeding through our communities on their way to downtown, and further congesting streets in the centre of the city. You can only pour so much water into a jar.

Liberal MPP Bob Chiarelli, as a former Mayor of Ottawa, knows that a longstanding city priority has been to promote transit ridership and reduce the number of cars on our roads. But as a Liberal MPP he has changed his tune, claiming, a little more than a year ago, that expanding the Queensway would reduce congestion.

As many detailed studies have shown, that's simply not the case. The addition of more cars to fill the available space will inevitably result in the same congestion—and more pollution than ever, even as the provincial Liberals claim to be fighting climate change.

This massive, unnecessary project may cost the

taxpayers half a billion dollars or more. And if all we are getting back for it is choked residential roads, a clogged downtown core and fouled air, it hardly seems like value for money. When it comes to transportation policy, Ontario needs to plot a new course now—one that favours people and the environment we live in.

We can, and we must, do better.

My very best,

Joel Harden (provincial NDP candidate for Ottawa-Centre).

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MARCH 20, 2029

FUTURE CLIPPINGS

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FREEDOM



The OPSB, one of Ottawa’s new school boards. Pasta included. Photo: OPSB

ADAM ASHBY GIBBARD

Ontario’s move to open public funding for education to any religion has been met with an overload of requests. The government came under fire ten years ago after its old system of having a public school system and a Catholic one was fraught with religious favoritism in a country

of multiple cultures and religious beliefs. At the time Premier Doug Ford agreed that something had to be done to make sure every belief was included in the education of Ontario’s students. “We must give all religions the opportunity to thrive. That’s why the Ford government is going to open up public funding to any reli-

gion to form their own school system and open their own schools,” Doug Ford said at a rally. Many thought the option of simply having only one public school system was the more equal option, not to mention the least costly to the taxpayer, but the Progressive Conservative Party felt otherwise. The situation now is that there are eight different school systems with others on the horizon. “We think this is a great opportunity for parents and students to choose the religion they want to learn from. We’re already at capacity at our school, but are looking to open new ones throughout the province,” said Master Juno Pinkala, Head Instructor at the Academy of Jedi Teachings. The Church of the Fly-

ing Spaghetti Monster, or Pastafarianism, has just opened a school in Ottawa with a focus on cooking classes, tomato squeezing and a daily pasta lunch. Others have become worried about the future of a generation of children growing up with what they see as religious segregation. The only interaction students have with each other is through the Inter-School Intramural League, which has seen religious squirmishes started on the court. For those not interested in having their child in a religious school, the public school system is still available, though the cuts to its funding have led many to look elsewhere. It seems a free pasta lunch is hard to pass up.



## LISTINGS

### WED MARCH 21

**DEBATE:** Minimum Wage. Kathleen Monk vs. John Robson. Rm 3275 Mackenzie Building, Carleton. 6:30pm.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** Unsettling the Commons: Social Movements Within, Against, and Beyond Settler Colonialism w/ Craig Fortier. Special guest Fiona Jeffries. Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave. 7pm.

**PANEL:** Living a Balanced Life in an Urban Setting. Rm 229, 225 Donald St. 6pm.

### THURS MARCH 22

**WORLD WATER DAY:** Fast and Celebration. Mamidosewin Centre.

**TALK:** Modern Haudenosaunee Political Practices. Rm 19, Tabaret Hall, UOttawa. 1pm.

**AUTHOR MEETS READERS:** We Interrupt This Program: Indigenous Media Tactics w/ John Kelly and Miranda Brady. Irene’s Pub. 5:30pm.

**PANEL:** Laissez-faire or Leadership? What roles can government play in building an inclusive economy? Hosted by CCPA. 25One Community. 5:30pm.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** Tear Gas from the Battlefields of WWI to the Streets of Today w/ Anna Feigenbaum. Special guest Tim McSorley of the ICLMG. Octopus Books. 7pm.

### FRIDAY MARCH 23

**NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION:** Against Kinder Morgan pipeline. Catherine McKenna’s office, 107 Catherine St. 12pm.

**TALK:** Ask Ann: An Evening of Social Justice and Community Building. 251 Bank St. 6:30pm.

**SAT MARCH 24**

**CAMPAIGNING 101:** Preparing to Run or Work on a Campaign. Hosted by Equal Voice NCR Chapter. Impact Public Affairs, 1404-222 Queen St. 9:30am-3pm.

**MARCH FOR OUR LIVES:** 490 Sussex Dr. 11am.

**INCOME TAX CLINIC:** McNabb Community Centre. 11am-4pm.

**FLEA MARKET:** PunkOttawa. Makerspace North. 11am-5pm.

**MARCH:** Justice for Ashton Dickenson. Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier St W. 12pm.

**WORKSHOP:** Planning to be Good to Each Other - Accountability 101. Bronson Centre. 1-4pm.

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION:** Fair Vote Canada. Equator Coffee Westboro. 1pm.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** Bird-Bent Grass: A Memoir, in Pieces w/ Kathleen Venema. Octopus Books. 7pm.

### SUNDAY MARCH 25

**MEETING:** Ottawa Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) for Worship 10:30am, 91A Fourth Ave.

### MONDAY MARCH 26

**FUNDRAISING:** Soup Ottawa #15. Impact Hub. 6pm.

### TUESDAY MARCH 27

**THE TAKE-OVER:** CKCU 93.1 FM. 11am. Every 2nd Tuesday.

**OPIRG CARLETON ROOTS RADIO:** CKCU 93.1 FM. 12pm. Every 2nd Tuesday. www.ckcufm.com.

**GENDER BLENDER:** A Trans and/or Non-Binary Social. Algonquin Students’ Assoc. Pride Centre. 6pm.

**POLICY IGNITE:** Is a Working Model of Inclusion the Stuff of Science Fiction? Canadian Museum of Nature. 6pm.

**EVENT:** Tell Me Your Story: Race & Religion. Café Alt, UOttawa. 6pm.

**FILM SCREENING:** Israeli Apartheid Week Presents: The Lab. University of Ottawa, 7pm.

**EVENT:** Tell Me Your Story: Race & Religion. Café Alt, UOttawa. 6pm.

**FILM SCREENING:** Israeli Apartheid Week Presents: The Lab. University of Ottawa, 7pm.

### WED MARCH 28

**WORKSHOP:** Israeli Apartheid Week - Queerness in Palestine and Pinkwashing by the Israeli State. 3:30pm. Location TBD, see www.Facebook.com/SAIACarleton for more info.

**PANEL:** Israeli Apartheid Week - The Rights of Children Under a Colonial State. 5pm. Location TBD, see www.Facebook.com/SAIACarleton for more info.

**PANEL:** Homelessness in Ottawa. Impact Hub. 5:30pm.

**SING:** Just Voices Choir Rehearsal. Rm 109 Bronson Centre. 7pm.

### THURS MARCH 29

**FOCUS GROUP:** Indigenous Students and PostSecondary Accessibility. 338c Somerset St. 10am.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** Busted: An Illustration History of Drug Prohibition in Canada w/ Susan Boyd. Rm 4004, FSS, UOttawa. 7pm.

**TALK:** Ask Women Anything: When the Justice System Fails Women. 692 Somerset St. 7pm.

**TALK:** Israeli Apartheid Week - Stories from Palestine. 7pm. Location TBD, see www.Facebook.com/SAIACarleton for more info.

**RUN/WALK:** FSIS Team Theland Kicknosway. March 29-April 1.

**TALK:** Israeli Apartheid Week - Stories from Palestine. 7pm. Location TBD, see www.Facebook.com/SAIACarleton for more info.

**RUN/WALK:** FSIS Team Theland Kicknosway. March 29-April 1.

### FRIDAY MARCH 30

**ZINE FAIR:** Coup d’État. Black Squirrel Books. 1073 Bank St. 9pm.

### SAT MARCH 31

**ARTS SHOW:** Israeli Apartheid Week - Verses Versus Apartheid. 9pm. Location tbd, see Facebook.com/SAIACarleton for more info.

### TUESDAY APRIL 3

**DISCUSSION:** Respecting Gender: Mental Health Community Discussion Session. Rooster’s, Carleton. 8:30pm.

**TALK:** Israeli Apartheid Week - Voices of Resistance. GSA, (6th flr UC), Carleton. 6pm.

### THURS APRIL 5

**TRIVIA:** Feminist Trivia Match. Happy Goat Coffee Co, 317 Wilbrod St. 7pm.

### FRIDAY APRIL 6

**TALK:** How Change Happens: A Conversation on Ending #VAWG. 39 McArthur Ave. 7pm.

### SAT APRIL 7

**SHOW:** Celebrate Her: Expressions of the Feminine. 57 Lyndale Ave. 7pm.

### SUNDAY APRIL 8

**WORKSHOP:** Your Rights at Work. 1355 Bank St. 7th Floor. 5pm.

### WED APRIL 11

**GALA:** Day of Pink. Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity. Horticulture Building, 1525 Princess Patricia Way. 5:30pm.

**TALK:** Dismantling Carceral Power: Visions for Change. Ottawa Public Library, 120 Metcalfe St. 6:30pm.

**POETRY:** Celebrating National Poetry Month with Mercedes Eng, Daphne Marlatt and Catriona Strang. Octopus Books. 7pm.

### SAT APRIL 14

**WORKSHOP:** Direct Action Everywhere Ottawa: Protest Workshop and Practice. 2 pm.

**FUNDRAISER:** Skate for Syria. Nepean Sportsplex. 6pm.

### TUES APRIL 17

**STOWN HALL:** Pharmacare: A Plan for Everyone. Canadian Labour Congress. Delta Hotel, 101 Lyon St. 6:30pm.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** Heroes in my Head w/ Judy Rebeck. Special guest Monia Mazigh. 25One Community, 251 Bank St. 7pm.

**THE WALRUS TALKS:** Indigenous City. Museum of History. 7pm.

### THURS APRIL 19

**WORKSHOP:** Finding your Balance, Make the Best of Stress. Hosted by the Young Workers & the Racially Visible Action Committee. 233 Gilmour St. 6pm.

### FRIDAY APRIL 20

**TALK:** Roseanne Barr. Centrepointhe Theatre. 8pm.

### SAT APRIL 21

**EARTH DAY:** Check out Ecology Ottawa for events.

### SAT APRIL 28

**FUNDRAISER:** Ang Ating Sayaw | Traditional Filipino Performances. Our Lady of Assumption, 320 Olmstead St. 5:30pm.

### THURSDAY MAY 10

**March:** To End the “March of Life”: Keep Abortion Safe and Legal. Confederation Park. 12:30pm.

# HOROSCOPES

XL Petite

**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19)  
You gotta do it Aries, it’s your time. A VIP Karaoke birthday bash, belting out “Purple Rain” in your fancy shoes is really the only option for you.

**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20)  
Taurus, did you ram Ontario’s electoral system, my bullish friend? Not even the stars can predict the kind of madness Ford Nation 2.0 has in store for the upcoming provincial election.

**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20)  
Unfortunately Gemini, your rising sign this month blew away in the hurricane level winds pummelling the East Coast. I mean, the sign was rising and all, but I don’t think that it anticipated wind gusts upwards of 180 km/hour.

**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22)  
Well, Trump is now on record saying that he lied to Trudeau about trade information. You’d think political leaders openly lying in public would mean something, but evidently not!

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug. 22)  
Ottawa is revising its Citizenship Guide Leo, and it’s about time too. Interesting that they’re seeking public consultation on the *guide* but not on the *citizenship policy* itself, which is really what needs work. Considering the current guide reads like it was written by Kelly Leitch, there’s lots to improve.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)  
Virgo, here’s a great tool that will help you explain Environmental Racism next time you’re in need: [goo.gl/P1SdpZ](http://goo.gl/P1SdpZ) (“In Whose Backyard: Members of Mi’kmaq and African Nova Scotian communities share their stories”).

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)  
Haikuroscope for you, Libra: What if he were white? End racist deportations Justice for Abdi!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)  
Is it really Ford Nation time again, Scorpio? Day one and old Dougie wants to privatize the sale of pot and booze. You’d think he’d have waited a week or two before that call.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)  
I have some sound financial planning advice for you this month, Saggi. Never buy “special” grapes from a store that does not list the price of said grapes. These were the best grapes I ever ate in my life, but no one should pay 20 dollars for grapes!

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)  
Capricorn, I think it’s extortionist the way you ripped off Sagittarius on those grapes. Height of rudeness!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)  
Remember to study your history, Aquarius, lest it come round and repeats itself: [goo.gl/yp3EQy](http://goo.gl/yp3EQy) (“22 Minutes: What Does Doug Ford Say?”).

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 - March 20)  
I thought you visited my dreams last night, Pisces, but it turns out I confused you for a talking Yoda piggy bank that dispenses advice for nickels. Based on tripping over Yoda and spilling my tea, and subsequently reading the tea leaves, I can tell you that the best thing for you to do this month is invest in a nightlight.



# FAIRNESS FOR STUDENTS

## STUDENTS FOR STRONGER PUBLIC SERVICES NOW !

*Tuition Fees:* a reduction and elimination of tuition fees for all.



*Frais de scolarité :* réduction progressive et élimination des frais de scolarité pour TOUTES et TOUS.

*Transit:* public transit that is affordable, reliable and energy efficient across all of Ontario.



*Transports en commun :* transports en commun publics fiables, écoénergétiques et à prix abordable partout en Ontario.

*Child Care:* universal child care services that prioritize students for on-campus centres.



*Garde d'enfants :* services universels de garde d'enfants qui accordent la priorité aux étudiantes et étudiants pour les centres sur le campus.

*Health Care:* OHIP for International Students, better support for Trans students as well as increased and diverse mental health resources.



*Assurance santé :* OHIP pour les étudiantes et étudiants internationaux, un meilleur appui pour les étudiantes et étudiants trans ainsi que des soutiens en matière de santé mentale améliorés et plus diversifiés.

*Housing:* affordable, safe, well maintained and secured housing.



*Hébergement :* logement sécuritaire, bien entretenu, garanti et à prix abordable.

*Reconciliation:* a government that upholds First Nations, Métis and Inuit students' right to post-secondary education.



*Réconciliation :* droit à l'éducation postsecondaire des étudiantes et étudiants des Premières Nations, métis et inuits respecté par le gouvernement.

*Food Security:* a comprehensive food system that is healthy, sustainable and reliable.



*Sécurité alimentaire :* système d'alimentation complet, sain, durable et fiable pour aborder l'insécurité alimentaire.

*Environment:* a stronger government approach in fighting climate change.



*Environnement :* approche plus concrète de la part du gouvernement dans la lutte contre le changement climatique.

*French-Language Education:* new funding for French-Language Universities.



*Éducation en français :* nouveaux fonds pour les universités de langue française.

*Quality of Education:* higher quality education that provides the necessary academic supports to succeed.



*Qualité de l'éducation :* éducation de haute qualité qui fournit les soutiens scolaires nécessaires au succès.

*Anti-war / Divestment:* an end to investment in war, fossil fuels and resource extraction.



*Opposition à la guerre / Désinvestissement :* fin des investissements dans la guerre, les combustibles fossiles et l'extraction des ressources.

*Workers' Rights:* Minimum wage, precarious work, scheduling and paid sick days requires strong legislation to protect student workers.



*Droits des travailleuses et travailleurs :* Le salaire minimum, le travail précaire, les horaires et les congés de maladie rémunérés nécessitent des lois solides pour protéger les travailleuses et travailleurs étudiants.