

**Deepen the fightback against
the capitalist crisis and
imperialist aggression!**



**Report of the meeting of the
Central Committee,
Communist Party of Canada
November 27-28, 2010**

*The following report and resolutions were discussed and adopted
by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada at its
meeting held in Toronto, November 27-28, 2010.*

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Main Political Report

The following report was presented by CPC leader Miguel Figueroa on behalf of the Central Executive Committee.

The main political thrust was adopted by the Central Committee and the text edited in line with the discussion.

This session of the Central Committee takes place in the midst of the continuing global capitalist crisis which, now into its third year, shows no signs of abating. The impact of the crisis, the measures taken by the ruling class to overcome the crisis on their terms and in their interests, and the developing fightback of the working class and its allies together constitute the primary dynamic driving social and political developments at every level across Canada and internationally. It is in this context and upon this base that we need to develop our analysis of the political situation and determine our tasks as a party today and into the foreseeable future.

At our 36th Convention in February 2010, we concluded that the crisis was giving rise to a new, dynamic phase in Canadian and world developments characterized by an intensification of the class struggle, and that this period would be marked by dangers and challenges, but also by potential for democratic and progressive advances and the resurgence of the socialist alternative. This assessment has proven to be essentially correct.

The global economic crisis has entered its second stage of maturation, one likely to be far more protracted and painful than its opening round. The first stage, which began with the 2008 meltdown, was marked by frantic efforts by capitalist circles in all of the leading imperialist states to protect their enormous stockpiles of assets – accumulated during the ‘heady days’ of the pre-crisis growth period – through state interventions, including massive bail-outs (often disguised as ‘nationalizations’), corporate tax cuts, outright gifts, etc. Monopoly capital (particularly the banking sector, auto and other large industries) received the lion’s share of the “stimulus” measures adopted by national governments.

The astronomical cost of the state-monopoly bail-

outs, combined with falling revenues due to the contraction of economic activity, has led to rapidly escalating state deficits and public debt burden. The ratio of public debt to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) varies substantially: Britain (77.4%); Greece (133.2%); Italy (117.6%); France (83.0%); Ireland (105.6%); USA (95%); Japan (170.4%); and Canada (62.3%). By contrast, China’s state debt remains at a quite manageable 16% of GDP.

While public (government) debt is quite normal, the steep increase in debt over the past two years is significant. It is estimated that the average debt of the leading capitalist states will rise from an average of about 75% of GDP at end of 2007 (i.e., prior to the onset of the crisis) to about 110% of GDP by 2014.

From a class-political perspective, what is important is not the level of state indebtedness *per se*, but rather the underlying causes for its sharp escalation, and even more importantly, how ruling capitalist circles are using the current deficit and debt situation to advance their class interests at the expense of the working class and working people generally. Monopoly capital and their governments are inflating the debt problem into a full-blown ‘crisis’ in order to exponentially increase their offensive against the working class. The specifics and timing of this capitalist offensive, which is rooted in the objective laws of monopoly capital, varies somewhat from country to country. But the overall content is remarkably similar, and derives from agreed-upon strategies worked out among the leading imperialist powers in such forums as the G8 and G20, as well as international capitalist institutions like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and a bevy of bourgeois ‘think-tanks’.

The primary blows of this offensive are directed

at the workplace through mass lay-offs and plant runaways, savage wage cuts, the expansion of two-tier wage structures which increase the exploitation of new-hires (mostly younger workers), the gutting of defined benefit pensions (in favour of ‘defined contribution’ pension plans), increases in the length of the working day, etc. The decline in the real disposable income of the working class is further impacted by rising prices for essentials (food, fuel, etc.).

The capitalist offensive also takes the form of indirect attacks on the workers’ living standards – sometimes referred to as their “social wage” – through radical restructuring of public social-economic policy in a host of ways:

- ◆ the reduction of public services, out-sourcing and privatizations, and increases in user fees for essential services such as healthcare, education (especially at the post-secondary level), transit, etc.;
- ◆ reactionary changes to labour codes and labour-related legislation, including minimum wage reductions, raising the retirement age and reducing pension pay-outs, increasing obstacles to union organization, and attacks on young workers, and
- ◆ regressive tax changes that shift an even greater portion of public financing onto the backs of working people, with corresponding cuts to tax rates for corporations and higher income earners, wealth and inheritance taxes, etc.

The corporate-led assault on public programs and services adversely affects the incomes and living standards of all working people, but it falls most heavily on public sector workers themselves. Even the unionized section of the working class is hard-put to beat back the ferociousness of this multi-layered offensive. This is due both to the objective power of global capital, and also subjective factors relating to the lack of militancy, or outright betrayals, of labour leadership.

That said, the organized sections of the working class in a number of countries are mounting heroic resistance to these vicious and reactionary “austerity” measures, most notably in Greece, France, Portugal, and now in Ireland. In Greece the effect of drastic austerity policies have devastated worker’s incomes (as well as the middle strata and small businesses), giving rise to a massive fightback and increased electoral support for the KKE which has provided militant leadership. In Ireland, the recently-imposed measures have also met with a similar response and



Labour-led protests and general strikes against anti-worker austerity measures have erupted in Greece (top), Ireland (bottom) and across Europe

a major swing in support to the left social-democratic Sinn Féin.

In Europe, the ruling capitalist class has fought back with punitive attacks to weaken and divide the resistance movement, directed especially at labour and at the most militant and organized sections of our class – the Communist Parties – many of which have faced legal restrictions; some have been banned outright. The resurgence of virulent anti-communism is directly related to the deepening of the crisis and the corresponding intensification of the class struggle.

Overall, the ideological component of the offensive is designed to whip up mass hysteria over the ticking time-bomb of public debt in order to rationalize the “necessity” of these anti-worker, anti-people measures. It is a crude form of psychological warfare to intimidate the masses of working people into grudging acceptance. No ideological space is permitted for consideration of progressive alternatives such as meaningful tax increases on corporate and private wealth, or nationalizations under democratic control of the banks and other monopolies, not to mention the fundamental alternative of socialism.

The deepening economic crisis more fully reveals and sharpens the aggressive nature of imperialism at an international level. In addition to its unquenchable thirst to extend its economic domination over and plunder of the world's labour and natural resources, this also finds reflection in:

- (1) the growing drive to militarism and war, under the façade of the “war on terror”;
- (2) sharpening attacks on the democratic rights of the peoples directly through state repression, as well as through the promotion of ultra-right, racist, neo-fascist and in some cases even paramilitary formations;
- (3) increasing contradictions and struggle between the imperialist powers and their hegemonic blocs; and
- (4) the thinly-disguised campaign to neutralize and subvert any meaningful action to protect the global environment.

Any illusions that the widening economic crisis would somehow bring about a respite (if only fleeting) in the imperialist drive to war and aggression – as, for instance, many incorrectly assumed following the end of the so-called “Cold War” – have been proven groundless. In fact, military allocations by governments have continued to grow more quickly than other types of spending. Indeed, militarization has become one of the main means of redistributing wealth from the people to the offers of the monopolies, many of which maintain highly profitable ‘defence’ wings or subsidiaries. In Canada, for instance, the Harper Conservative government has approved staggering increases in defence spending over the next 20 years, the latest being the purchase of the F-35 “Joint Strike Fighter” aircraft for a conservatively estimated \$16 billion.

Profiteering is not the main motivation driving militarism. Rather, it is the use of military might to secure and enforce the economic interests of imperialism around the world, especially as the systemic crisis of capitalist rule deepens. This reality underscores the central importance of our work to strengthen the broad peace movement across the country, to draw labour and other social movements more fully into the fight against war and aggression, and to help build the fledgling Canadian Peace Congress as the most consistent, anti-imperialist contingent within the broader movement.

Since 2001, imperialism's drive to war and aggression has been conducted under the cloak of the “war on terror”. The main battleground of this “war” has now decidedly moved from Iraq (where

contrary to media reports, the war still continues) to Afghanistan, which has become the crucible of testing NATO's new role in the world.

However this NATO-led war of occupation has turned into an ever-deepening quagmire which even its apologists and spin-doctors can no longer conceal. The recent NATO Summit in Lisbon reached imperialist consensus on extending this immoral and unwinnable war of occupation until the end of 2014 (at least), despite majority popular opposition in every single NATO member-state. In Canada, anger over the Conservative government's decision to extend the Afghan military mission to 2014 is widespread and growing. We urge a *Canada-wide ‘day of action’* to galvanize this opposition and we will do our part in promoting and supporting such a mass action.

The Afghanistan war was never about ‘fighting terror’, extending ‘democracy’ or ‘defending women's equality’, etc. These were just populist slogans to cover its primary objective: to extend US/NATO influence and control over Central Asia and



its vast oil reserves, and to further encircle the Russian Federation and especially China. But this dangerous aggression has backfired. The war has already spread beyond the Afghan frontier into Pakistan, and threatens to widen even further. The only genuine ‘road’ to a peaceful resolution of this war lies in the immediate withdrawal of NATO forces (including *all* Canadian troops), and political negotiations involving the main groupings within the country.

But while the Afghan/Pakistan war is the main tinderbox of imperialist aggression and war today, tensions are again rising on the Korean peninsula due to the hawkish stand of the new right-wing South Korean government of President Lee Myung-bak, with the encouragement of U.S. and Japanese

imperialism. This week's incident which has led to an exchange of artillery fire in disputed coastal territories off the western SK/DPRK frontier, where 70,000 South Korean troops and U.S. nuclear warships are carrying out mock invasion manoeuvres, is a dangerous provocation. Meanwhile, a new round of sanctions against Iran and menacing threats by Israel to launch military strikes against its nuclear facilities, continue to fuel the danger of war on Iran. Other conflicts in the Gulf area, including Yemen and Somalia – stoked in no small part by imperialist meddling – could also spark a full-blown war.

The longstanding struggle of the Palestinian people to end the illegal occupation of their territories by Israel and secure a genuinely independent and viable homeland shows now no signs of resolution. On the contrary, the Zionist Netanyahu government has tightened its iron siege of Gaza, is rapidly expanding the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, and is rushing to complete its illegal 'apartheid wall' to further fracture and carve up the occupied territories as a prelude to complete annexation and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. The decision of the Israeli Knesset just this week to make the removal of Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights virtually impossible will further humiliate the oppressed Palestinian people, poisoning any possibility for a just and lasting political settlement to this conflict. This makes our stepped-up active solidarity with the Palestinian struggle all the more necessary and urgent, including our wholehearted support for the upcoming Canadian flotilla to Gaza and the international "Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions" (BDS) campaign against Israel.

In Latin America, the efforts of imperialism and local reaction to turn back the progressive and anti-imperialist tide which has swept across the continent in recent years has been largely blunted. The attempted coup d'état against the progressive Correa government in Ecuador was exposed and defeated. In Venezuela, the Bolivarian government led by Hugo Chavez has extended democratic nationalizations of steel, mining and other private and foreign-owned companies. The recent round of elections in Brazil brought fresh victories to the left-centre forces; particular significant were the electoral gains scored by the left forces, in the first place the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB). Socialist Cuba continues to develop its revolution despite the U.S.-imposed blockade and imperialist subversion. We welcome these and other positive developments, and must

continue to strengthen our solidarity with Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia and other progressive governments and movements across Latin America.

As stated above, the deepening economic and systemic crisis of capitalism not only takes the form of increasing militarization and war. It also finds expression in the stepped-up state attack on the democratic rights of the people. While the intensity of this anti-democratic assault varies, it is gaining



One of countless instances of police repression on the streets of Toronto during the G20 protests in June

momentum in virtually all imperialist states including Canada. Whether in the form of overt repression (police attacks on picket lines and street demonstrations), or through less crude or obvious legal-judicial means (use of court injunctions, wilful manipulation of the electoral process, etc.), or the promotion of ultra-right, racist and neo-fascist groupings or even paramilitary units, the class purpose remains the same: to stifle the democratic expressions and aspirations of the masses, to weaken the labour and democratic fightback, and to silence and, where necessary, crush anti-capitalist dissent. As we have pointed out in previous documents, genuine democracy is anathema to capitalist rule (and vice versa) and as the systemic crisis deepens and the class struggle correspondingly grows in intensity, the ruling class will use every means at its disposal to maintain its hegemony, stripping away even those democratic rights afforded under bourgeois democracy and, as a last resort, imposing fascist rule. While we have not arrived at fascism – *the open, terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary, the most chauvinistic, the most imperialistic elements of finance capitalism* – the seeds of fascism have been laid by monopoly capital and its governments, and are beginning to sprout. The only antidote to the dangerous drift to state

authoritarianism or fascism is the mobilization of all the pro-democratic forces, anchored by a strong, united, conscious and militant movement of labour its closest allies, and with a strong and influential presence of the Communists in each country.

Another aspect of the present international situation is the marked increase in contradictions and struggle between the imperialist powers and their hegemonic blocs. While inter-imperialist rivalry for access and control of markets, natural resources and labour-power is a general feature of this highest (and last) stage of capitalism, the current crisis has exacerbated this tendency. At the outset of the crisis, the leading imperialist states and their leaders publicly proclaimed their intention to institute a common and coordinated (capitalist) response, to maintain ‘open markets’, avoid protectionist measures, and so on. At the time, our Party said that this imperialist ‘consensus’ was paper-thin, and that the struggle between the various sections of international finance capital was bound to intensify. The recent decision of the U.S. Treasury to pump \$600 billion into currency markets with the purpose of intentionally devaluing the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies to give domestic capital a competitive advantage in export markets and hence kick-start a recovery of the seriously sagging US economy at the expense of its rivals (the so-called “Quantitative Easing Two” or “QE2”), and the resulting dead-lock over this key issue at the Seoul Summit of the G20, confirms the accuracy of this prediction. The bourgeois press has tried to portray this simply as a US/China issue, as a



‘justifiable’ U.S. response to the undervalued Yuan. In fact, this measure is directed not only at China, but also the Japanese and European centres of imperialism, significantly souring relations with the other blocs and prompting retaliatory measures.

Yet another feature of the current conjuncture is the thinly-disguised campaign to neutralize and subvert any concerted action to protect the global environment. Following the debacle at the

Copenhagen Climate Summit in 2009, at which the Canadian government delegation played a conspicuously dirty role in scuttling any chance for international agreement to significantly reduce carbon emissions, little progress has been achieved. Indeed, several leading powers, particularly the U.S. and Canada, have publicly dashed any hope for a meaningful and legally-binding accord to come out of the upcoming Climate Summit in Cancun, setting the stage for another dismal failure. The Stephen Harper government has matched its shameful, pro-Big Oil role at the international stage with a host of anti-environmental moves domestically, on the specious grounds that to do otherwise would “jeopardize” Canada’s economic recovery from the crisis. These have included cuts to federally-financed environmental programs, the waiving of environmental assessment review panels for major industrial, oil, mining and infrastructural projects, and most recently, the use of its Conservative majority in the Senate to defeat *Climate Change Accountability Act* (Bill C-311), which had earlier been passed in the Commons. Our Party will step up our efforts to counter so-called “market-based solutions” to the environmental crisis such as “cap-and-trade” schemes, and to project our People’s Energy Plan which combines solid environmental policies with the need to put energy under public ownership and democratic control, as the key to economic renewal which will benefit working people.

* * * * *

Let us now turn our attention more specifically to the situation in Canada, beginning with the current state of the economy in crisis and its impact. As we know, owing to a number of interrelated factors the trough of the global economic crisis impacted the domestic economy to a somewhat lesser degree than other leading capitalist states – most notably the U.S. and many of the European countries. Nevertheless, the impact of the economic ‘meltdown’ has been staggering for Canadian workers, especially for full-time workers in manufacturing, primary and extractive industries (oil, lumber, mining, etc.), and among sections of unorganized and vulnerable workers. After reaching an official high of 8.4%, unemployment has only been marginally reduced (to a current 7.9%), but remains well above pre-crisis levels. As we know, these “official” figures significantly understate the extent of real un- and under-employment in our country. Poverty levels have increased substantially,

particularly among new immigrants, seniors, youth, in rural communities and among Aboriginal peoples.

While the socio-economic conditions of working people continue to bear the scars of this crisis, corporate profits and stock market values have rebounded in smart fashion, further accentuating the social class divide in Canadian society. The greatest profits in history of capitalism have come in last quarter in US, and 2010 will be the year of biggest corporate profits. The gap between super-rich and others continues to grow. Still, overall production and export levels remain sluggish, and what limited ‘recovery’ there is remains largely a “jobless recovery”, as well documented by the labour movement and in the pages of *People’s Voice* and *Clarté*. Difficult circumstances confront our class from coast to coast; the main point however is that everywhere, the working class and its social allies – Aboriginal peoples, women, youth and students, pensioners, etc. – have borne the brunt of the economic collapse, while the wealthy have escaped relatively unscathed and are again accumulating their fortunes.

The Harper Conservatives, along with their provincial counterparts, have been more than willing accomplices in facilitating this accumulation process on behalf of the ruling class. They have cut funding to social programs and services, attacked free collective bargaining, held down public sector wages, and increased the tax burden carried by working people, while reducing or eliminating corporate taxes, and expanding military, police and intelligence spending. They have radically realigned Canada’s foreign policy along pro-U.S. imperialist, pro-war lines, while cutting foreign aid. They have arrogantly intensified the attack on democratic rights and practices, both on the streets – evidenced not

least during the police riot and ensuring arrests during the G20 in Toronto in June – and within the ‘hallowed halls’ of Parliament itself. They have attacked women’s and equity rights and fomented xenophobia, racism and homophobia. And they are preparing fresh onslaughts on healthcare, education and our public pension system, etc.

That the Harper Tories have been able to do all this as a minority government is testament not only to the vicious, reactionary, pro-imperialist and anti-working class/anti-democratic character of their party, but also to the feebleness, vacillation and at times outright collusion of the opposition parties inside Parliament, especially on the part of the Liberals under Michael Ignatieff. On virtually all substantive matters, and certainly with regard to economic doctrine, there now remains little to differentiate between the two main bourgeois parties except the party labels.

The timid role of the Layton New Democrats in and beyond Parliament must also be noted critically. While they have distanced themselves from various aspects of the Tory (and Liberal) agenda, these differences in the main are reflected only in shades of degrees, rather than on fundamental substance. Their failure to come forward with any comprehensive alternative to the Tories’ pro-corporate program is symptomatic of the profound crisis and bankruptcy of social democracy, both in Canada and elsewhere around the world. Their milquetoast ‘opposition’, especially since the onset of the crisis, has provoked disappointment, disillusion and anger even among many of their own rank-and-file members. One prime example of this failure was Layton’s speech to the Toronto Board of Trade in which he encouraged workers to take voluntary cuts in working time – but did not attack the bloated profits and incomes of big business.

This Parliamentary ‘vacuum’ has left political space for the emergence of a number of right-wing populist movements and parties across the country. Taking a leaf from the ultra-right Tea Party movement in the U.S., these formations are seizing upon and demagogically exploiting the hardships, anger and insecurity of working people during the current crisis by whipping up a tax revolt. While this danger has yet to surface at the federal level, it has found fertile soil in a number of provinces – in Alberta (Wild Rose Party); in British Columbia (B.C. First Party around the anti-HST campaign); in Quebec (with the emergence of a far-right movement led by Francois Legault); and in Ontario (specifically around the “Ford for Mayor” campaign).



Sharp turmoil marks the political situation in B.C., where the successful HST petition forced Premier Campbell to accept a simple majority in a vote on this issue next September. But Campbell still had to resign, with a Liberal leadership race now underway. Some think the HST vote is a “pushover,” but corporations have almost a year to sway public opinion, and the NDP has yet to state its official position, revealing the cracks in that party. The new BC First party could make gains by taking a clear-cut anti-HST position, and by refusing to admit that their “anti-big government, anti-big labour” policies will mean huge cuts in public services. The refusal by the provincial NDP to advance progressive policies on tax issues is another example of social democracy leaving this critical issue for right-wing populist forces to take over. What is needed instead is a mass campaign to demand increased taxes on the wealthy and the corporations.

The political conditions which gave rise to the Ford victory in Toronto are particularly noteworthy. Toronto’s municipal taxes have continued to rise and services to decline, while *real* wages, jobs, and living standards have also declined, giving rise to deep public anger that right wing forces were able to rivet onto a progressive City Council and city workers.

Many working people felt betrayed by the previous progressive Council and Mayor David Miller when the national campaign for a New Financial Deal for Cities fell apart after the provincial government passed the *City of Toronto Act* – a Trojan horse that gave the city new taxing powers, but not wealth-taxing powers. Miller and Council introduced a plethora of new taxes and user fees on homeowners and tenants which were enough to alienate working class electors, while vital municipal services like transit and child care continued in dire straights – catastrophically underfunded by senior levels of government. The icing on the cake was the strike by municipal workers in 2009, where Council turned on its employees and joined in the corporate campaign to vilify public sector workers and free collective bargaining.

Instead of refocusing on the fight for a New Financial Deal for Cities, which would put the financial burden on the corporations and the wealthy, the progressive majority on Council defended the new taxes and fees and told critics that the cost of good services was higher taxes. Why did they do it? Because the NDP still seeks the support of big business, and therefore refuse to address the elephant in the room: the declining tax load on commercial and industrial capital and the increasing tax (and user

fee) load on homeowners and tenants, the working class and the unemployed.

The right-wing Ford campaign successfully exploited the crises and failures of bourgeois and reformist politics, and the deep anger of working people, the unemployed and dispossessed who are being pushed to the wall. As a result, very right-wing forces are now in control of Toronto City Hall, with



Rob Ford chums it up with reactionary buddy Don Cherry at Toronto mayoral inauguration

a clear agenda to eliminate the right to strike for municipal transit workers, to abolish the city’s fair wage policy, to eliminate 6,000 jobs, and to cut taxes and cut off funding for the arts and culture. This shift has also strengthened the hand of the hard right forces which now predominant in the Tory party in Ontario and in Ottawa, who plan to use the political beachhead in Toronto to maximize gains in the October 2011 provincial election and the coming federal election.

Quebec has seen major public unrest over the Charest government’s cuts in public services, user fees for health care, and higher tuition fees. The isolation of the Charest Liberals was recently seen when *Quebec Solidaire* MNA Amir Khadir set up a website calling for the premier’s resignation, gathering 300,000 signatures within three days. However, the newly-formed *Alliance sociale* coalition formed to counter the Charest attack on public services and its plan to hike tuition fees has raised only limited demands, narrowing the potential base of the fightback. Despite the right-wing movement of Francois Legault, polls show that voters want policies to shift to the left, and that Khadir is extremely popular. There is potential for gains by *Quebec Solidaire* in this situation.

In Manitoba and Nova Scotia, the presence of NDP governments has not protected working people from the impact of the economic crisis. In both provinces, there are major layoffs and a rise in the

numbers of people using food banks, and in both provinces, social democratic premiers have continued to emphasize handouts and tax breaks for the corporations.

On a Canada-wide scale, the most urgent question for the labour and people's movements, and for our Party, remains the need to prevent the Harper Tories from gaining a majority and instead drive them from the government benches in Parliament. Harper and his closest advisors are monitoring the polls closely, waiting for the propitious moment to drop an election writ. They are awash in corporate cash (not to mention public funding), and will spare no effort attempting to gain their coveted majority, with all the dire consequences that would entail. Whether next spring or fall, there will mostly likely be a general election in 2011, and we must begin our preparations immediately following this session, in line with the electoral tactic adopted at our 36th Convention. We take this opportunity as well to congratulate our comrade Frank Komarniski who is running on behalf of our Party in the Winnipeg North by-election, and to wish him and our Manitoba comrades success in the vote which takes place this coming Monday.

In the absence of any concerted opposition to the Corporate/Tory agenda inside Parliament, the main venue of resistance and fightback has been – and will most certainly remain – in the realm of the extra-parliamentary initiatives of the labour and popular democratic forces. While there has been a certain decline in activism among some sections of the popular forces (especially in the case of the women's movement), there have been a number of important actions and campaigns underway in Aboriginal communities, around anti-war activities, environmental issues, in anti-racist work, on campuses, on international solidarity, etc. The most massive and important mobilization since our last Central Committee meeting was the anti-G20 demonstrations in Toronto last June, the largest of which brought some 40,000 into the streets (with a significant labour presence mobilized by the Ontario Federation of Labour). In one manner or another, all of these mobilizations have targeted aspects of the corporate/Tory agenda, if only in a sectoral rather than comprehensive and coordinated way.

Given its size, resources and pivotal class location, the role of the labour movement in the developing fightback is of primary importance. In this respect, we must take note and applaud a number of crucial labour struggles and mobilizations which have taken or are taking place today across the country – the long and heroic strike struggle of the Sudbury miners

against Vale Inco; the revival of struggle in auto-parts plants led by CAW; in the protracted fight of the Hamilton Steelworkers to save their plant, their jobs and pension rights at U.S. Steel where they are currently locked out; in the *Front commun* labour mobilizations against the Charest government; and in numerous other labour struggles.

Unfortunately the main trade union central in Canada, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) under the presidency of Ken Georgetti, remains passive and largely invisible at this crucial moment. Rather than using its staff, resources and membership base to organize and lead a united, coordinated fightback campaign against the Corporate/Tory offensive, it has relegated itself issuing press releases and convening stale conferences. The attack on G20 demonstrators by Ken Georgetti was another illustration of the failure or refusal by some top leaders of the labour movement to play a leading and unifying role in the struggle to build a broad and powerful fightback campaign. This situation brings into sharp relief the debilitating effect of class collaboration, business unionism and the influence of right-wing social democracy to snuff out any ember of militancy and class struggle. Despite the non-leadership of this leading labour body however, workers continue to prove their capacity to struggle and win, and two of



For CLC president Georgetti, labour's political action is restricted to electoral support for the NDP

the largest provincial federations – the OFL and the BCFL – are bucking this collaborationist trend and attempting to build the labour fightback in their respective provinces. It is hardly coincidental that it is precisely in these two provinces where the left caucuses (with the active participation of Communists) are most organized and active.

The trade union movement across Canada stands at a crossroads today. The economic crisis and the intense capitalist offensive is objectively widening the

contradiction between the needs and aspirations of the workers, on one hand, and the collaborationist positions and (in)actions which continue to predominate within the leadership of most union affiliates and senior labour bodies, on the other. This is starkly apparent when unprincipled retreats and concessionary agreements are signed, leaving the workers feeling betrayed and abandoned by leadership, or when right-wing elements attempt to sabotage fightbacks either at the workplace or in political action. Currently within the executive council of the Ontario Federation of Labour, several key affiliates are withholding their dues and otherwise subverting the OFL's work in a blatant attempt to overturn the convention election of brother Sid Ryan and other progressives, to prevent the readmission of the CAW to OFL membership, and to undermine efforts to shift the orientation of this key federation in a more militant direction. Business unionism and class collaborationism within the leadership of labour's structures not only hamstringing activity; they threaten the very future of the trade union movement itself, as more and more workers begin to question the utility and legitimacy of their unions. This is why it is absolutely crucial that we redouble our attention to and intervention in the labour movement at all levels, and make building the Party in labour our primary objective.

* * * * *

Finally, comrades, let us examine the work of our Party itself, look at what we have accomplished, where we need to pull our socks up, and what we need to set as our priorities in the period which lies ahead.

The party has been very engaged in a number of priority fields of work since we last met in March, and a good start has been made on many projects and tasks laid down at our last Convention. We carried out a reasonably effective mass campaign on the economic crisis in May and June, distributing some 25,000 leaflets at public rallies, labour events and demonstrations, and organizing a number of party events. The Party participated in May Day activities in most centres, and organized several very successful events of our own. Excellent work was done in mobilizing for the G20, and around several civic election campaigns. And the Party helped our YCL comrades both in convening their Convention and in preparing for the coming Youth Festival.

Several of the Commissions struck in March are up and running, but not all. Some are just beginning

their work, and we must ensure that *all* of these important commissions & bureaus are fully activated as soon as possible. The Education & Ideology Commission, for instance, is yet to begin its work as a collective, but some good progress has been made in this field. The theoretical content in the pages of our press has improved, and the next issue of *Spark!* is almost ready to go to press, and will be circulated shortly. Several provincial schools have been organized, and the Central School will be held next summer. As we have said many times before, political education and ideological development is and must remain a top priority for our Party if it is to retain, strengthen and deepen our Marxist-Leninist character and guide our revolutionary action.

Work on the redesign of the Party's main website is yet to be completed, but is progressing. This delay is unfortunate however because the current site is not being updated regularly in anticipation of the shift-over. Rectifying this problem must be a priority task, and *as quickly as possible*.

The party logo issue is still hanging, and we have yet to solve the longstanding problem of translation of party documents, press releases, etc. And party finances continue to be constricted, frequently forcing us to scramble to make ends meet, which in turn takes time and attention away from other work.

While we should be self-critical about these weaknesses and delays, it is important that we not miss 'the forest for the trees', so to speak. There have been several developments and highlights which send an unmistakable signal that our Party is beginning to gain some real traction.

Let us start with the G20 in June. The Party/YCL contingent in the main march was *substantially larger* than any previous mobilization in the last twenty years or more. Of course our YCL and Party members came out in good numbers, but it is particularly significant that so many of our friends and contacts marched with us, and carried party



banners and placards, instead of marching with their unions or mass organizations, as often happened in the past. This time, they made a conscious decision to join *our* contingent – that says something.

Several party-sponsored events held over the past few months have also brought out larger numbers than we've seen at party functions for many years – the May Day celebration in Toronto; the Great October banquet in Vancouver earlier this month; and the Che/Bethune Internationalism event in Montreal held just last weekend. That too says something, comrades.

We should also point to the splendid work done in party-initiated campaigns in three centres this October – in Calgary where **Bonnie-Jean Collins** ran as a mayoral candidate and received one of the highest vote tallies among the minor candidates in the race; in Hamilton where **Julian Holland** ran for school board and received a very large and respectable vote but fell short of election; and here in Toronto where **Howard Kaplan** topped the polls and was elected in Ward 5 of the Toronto Public School Board. We should take a moment to congratulate and thank all of these candidates, and all those comrades who worked so hard and diligently on each of these excellent campaigns!

There are other signs as well that we are making a positive turn in our work, and with respect to how others see us. Take the recent statement issued by the B.C. Provincial Executive concerning the resignation of Premier Gordon Campbell. It was an excellent statement, but what is more important is that it was picked up and reprinted in a number of papers, and reposted on several websites and blogs. Most striking perhaps were the comments left in response to those postings – there was hardly any snarky, anti-communist remarks. On the contrary, most were very complimentary of the clear, articulate and militant character of our statement, with some openly wondering why they are not already members of our Party!

Let us turn to the dreadful home invasion and attack which took place in Calgary a few weeks ago at the home of our comrades Bonnie and Jason Devine. Both cde. Jason and cde. Jonathan Trautman were badly beaten by the hooded neo-fascists before they fled the scene and police arrived. Cde. Figueroa flew out to Calgary shortly after the attack to check on our comrades' health and wellbeing and to meet with Club Red and with friends and supporters to discuss the incident and what needs to be done in its wake. We can report that



Cdes. Jason Devine and Jonathan Trautman were attacked by fascist thugs during a home invasion because of their militant anti-racist work in Calgary

both Jason and Jonathan are on the mend and in good, fighting spirit. We salute these comrades and convey our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Many of our comrades, friends and other concerned Calgarians have offered help and financial assistance to the Devine family to repair the damage and improve their home security. Significantly, the newly elected mayor of Calgary Naheed Nenshi also phoned to check on their welfare, and a Liberal member rose in the provincial legislature in Edmonton to demand an explanation why Alberta Children and Youth Services initially threatened to take their four children away from the Devines. As you know, there was a great deal of media coverage over this incident (*Globe & Mail*, CBC's *The National*, etc.), much of it drawing attention to their party membership. And yet despite this, the vast majority of the comments left on the *Globe & Mail* site for instance (there were close to 350 at last count) expressed outrage at this vicious attack, condemned the racists and neo-Nazis and expressed support for our brave and "heroic" comrades.

In the same vein, we should note the excellent democratic outpouring in response to the CBC documentary on the ProFunc plans of the Canadian state to intern thousands of Communists – which was instituted in 1950 and only rescinded in 1983 – and to the party statement issued following these revelations. Once again, there were virtually no anti-communist sentiments expressed. We should also report here that our statement has been picked up by many fraternal parties and republished, including a message just this week from the CP of the Russian Federation that it had been re-printed in *Pravda*!

Turning to the matter of youth work, we note and congratulate our comrades in the YCL-LJC for their excellent work over the recent period. Their 25th

Central Convention was a resounding success, and concluded with the election of a strong leadership collective onto their new Central Committee. We also congratulate comrade Johan Boyden on his re-election as General Secretary of the League in what will be his final term in office before ‘graduating’ to other party work. We have asked comrade Johan to bring greetings to this meeting and to report in greater detail on their work, the convention, and their preparations for the upcoming World Festival of Youth & Students to be held in a matter of days in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.



Part of the 40-member Canadian contingent to the 17th World Festival of Youth & Students in South Africa

Finally, let us focus on party-building. In recent years, more and more people are reaching out to us through our website, and we are doing an improved job in following up with these Internet contacts and in bringing them closer to, and in some cases into our ranks as new members. This is an important conduit or vehicle for party-building and we should make further improvements in our party-building work in this area. At the same time, we must remember that the most effective way to build our ranks is through our daily work at the Club level, and the live connections we make in the course of our mass and independent activities. Let us look at the experience of the Davenport Club in Toronto, for example. This Club meets on a regular basis, and an integral part of Club agendas includes discussion on recruitment and party-building. The

Club maintains its own database of *PV* readers and other friends and contacts, and all Club members are assigned to keep regular contact with these people, to promote the circulation of our press and collect sub renewals, and to invite them to local Club educations and other party events in the city. Such a methodical approach to party-building is laudatory precisely because it is *effective*, and we urge all party Clubs and party members to learn from and emulate this experience. To strengthen our party-building efforts, our members must be more fully engaged in mass labour and democratic movements, and our clubs and committees need to review members’ assignments on a regular basis to strengthen this engagement.

We fully expect a federal election to take place during 2011, due to the inherently unstable minority government situation in Parliament. As agreed at our 36th Central Convention, our Party will take part in this campaign, nominating 20-25 candidates across the country to call for defeat of the Harper Tories, to block a big business majority, and to win support for the policies contained in our People’s Alternative. But we will also carry out an independent, extra-Parliamentary campaign in the coming months, focused on the key issues facing working people: the need to reverse tax cuts for the rich and the corporations, in defence of wages and pensions, protection of collective bargaining rights and civil liberties, and the demand for an immediate end to the imperialist war in Afghanistan.

This coming year will mark the 90th anniversary of our Party, a historical landmark in our development. A special resolution will be introduced later this weekend with proposals for marking and celebrating this important anniversary. In addition, let us here declare 2011, our 90th anniversary, as a “Year to Build the Communist Party” and put in place all of the political and organizational measures to ensure its success in every Club, in every region, province and nation across our country!

CELEBRATING
90
YEARS

Build the Party, YCL
and Communist Press!

Special Resolutions

No extension of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan!

This meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada condemns the Harper government's unilateral decision to extend the Canadian military mission in Afghanistan by at least another three years, and likely much longer. We renew our demand for the immediate return of all Canadian troops from this imperialist war which has already lasted nine years, with the military situation worsening for the NATO occupation forces.

The claim that this extension (the latest of several) is necessary to "train" Afghan security forces is another in a long series of lies and cover-ups by PM Harper, who has broken his long-standing pledge to adhere to a 2011 pullout date. The experience of the NATO occupation since 2001 is that troops from Canada and other imperialist countries are part of the problem, not the solution. There is nothing "heroic" about Canada's role in Afghanistan. Canadian troops support the utterly corrupt, undemocratic and brutal Karzai-warlord regime. Under the "supervision" and often with the direct participation of Canadian troops, forces of the Karzai government have repeatedly engaged in illegal arrests, torture, and killing of their opponents, military and civilian alike. The claim of "protecting" women and children from the Taliban is also a myth; thousands of Afghan civilians have been killed by the occupation forces, which spend billions of dollars on war-making but only a pittance on schools or clinics. The removal of NATO troops would simply leave the Afghan people with one less enemy to face in their struggle for peace and justice.

Even as the NATO summit in Lisbon last weekend was ending, these imperialist leaders were admitting that the 2014 "deadline" for ending the occupation is a pipe-dream, and that the "non-combat" role of countries such as Canada is a farce. Despite their changing official designations, NATO troops will continue to kill and be killed, and more thousands of Afghan civilians will be slaughtered. More than ever, it appears that the war in Afghanistan – the first for NATO outside the Atlantic/European region – is being

used to justify the global expansion of this illegal and aggressive military alliance.

Shamefully, while posing as supporters of peace, the Ignatieff Liberals gave Harper a fig leaf to claim Parliamentary support for extending Canada's military role. This is not surprising, since the Liberals took Canada into this war, and then expanded Canada's military role into Kandahar. Nor is NDP leader Jack Layton without blame for this scandal. For years, Layton has sung the praises of the Canadian Armed Forces, without condemning NATO and Canadian troops engaged in the deaths of Afghan civilians. Three years ago, the NDP voted against an earlier Liberal motion in the Commons calling for an end to Canada's combat role in 2009. While the Harper Tories are the most dangerous, militaristic party, the Liberals and the NDP also have blood on their hands in their opportunistic scramble for the upper hand in Parliament. We urge these opposition parties and the Bloc Quebecois to put aside partisan interests, by adopting a clear-cut resolution to condemn the Harper government's decision to prolong the Canadian mission.



Despite years of militarist propaganda spread by the Harper Tories and the corporate media, the majority of Canadians continue to oppose any extension of the mission in Afghanistan – or any similar action elsewhere. The Communist Party of Canada will continue to give full support to the anti-war movements across the country, and to all efforts to mobilize against the bloody imperialist occupation, including proposals to build well-planned Canada-wide days of action. We call for the only genuine 'road' to a peaceful resolution of this war, which lies in the immediate withdrawal of all NATO forces, and political negotiations involving the main groupings within Afghanistan.

We say: Adopt a new, independent Canadian foreign policy based on peace and global disarmament! Bring the troops home from Afghanistan now! Canada out of NATO! Slash military spending by 50% – fund human needs, not corporate greed!

Unite in Solidarity with Locked-out Steelworkers in Hamilton

The lockout of 900 Steelworkers in Hamilton, which began on Nov. 7, is much more than a local struggle. U.S. Steel wants to shut down production in Hamilton, and seeks to force USW Local 1005 members and 9,000 retirees to switch to a market-based defined contribution pension plan rather than the established defined benefit plan. But the stakes are high for all workers, and for the future of Canada.

This attack is the latest expression of a global offensive by big capital against the working conditions, wages, pensions and quality of life won over generations by the working class. This bitter struggle has spanned centuries, with roots in the original accumulation of capital, the formation of colonial empires, and the industrial revolution, and later the victories won by socialism over fascism and imperialism during the 20th century.

Today, the global freedom of capital to move across borders is destroying the real economy of entire nations, impoverishing millions of workers. Whatever markets exist for real goods rest on a credit bubble that has swelled family debts (exclusive of real estate) to 1.5 times annual family income in Canada. The flow of capital, away from the production of real goods or the renewal of productive forces, has created a financial casino economy, where the parasitical trade in debt and fictitious paper value sits like a giant inverted triangle on the lives of workers, public property and social programs.

For transnational capital, this war requires the acquisition of Canadian resources, productive plant, and transportation. The Canadian capitalist class have fattened themselves for decades on the proceeds of this treacherous sellout of Canada's sovereignty. The next stage is to destroy the social life and conditions of Canadian workers, who are the last barrier to the complete plunder of the economy and the ecology.

The attacks on public sector workers by the provincial governments, the theft of their wages and benefits, and the transfer of public wealth into corporate coffers through tax breaks, is part of this stage of the offensive. So were the recent attacks on autoworkers and on Vale-Inco workers. Cheered by the Harper government's reward to Vale in the form of a billion dollar loan, U.S. Steel has launched its attack on USW Local 1005, eagerly choosing the lockout tactic to get the action started sooner. U.S. Steel wears the

arrogance of privilege like armour which gives it immunity from its violation of the conditions of its purchase of Stelco, conditions which the Harper government refuses to enforce. This must not be allowed!

The Hamilton Steelworkers, as they have done since their historic strike of 1946, have thrown down the gauntlet. This cannot become another Sudbury – a tactic of “who will last longer” will not bring victory against another giant transnational. This struggle requires fleet footwork and heavy counter-punching, and this is the part of Ontario where the battlefield



favours the workers. Everything needed to fight is here, including working class traditions and a local political environment which opposes U.S. Steel's destructive attacks. What is left of the Ontario industrial heartland cradles Hamilton. Most of the CAW membership is within 100 kilometres. Thousands of industrial workers can reach the picket lines within hours. The catalyst, the muscle, the heart and soul are here to achieve victory over U.S. Steel.

The Communist Party of Canada urges full support for USW Local 1005 in its fight to end the lockout, and to defend workers' pensions and their community. The future of Canada's industrial economic base and sovereignty also make it urgent to fight for public ownership and democratic control of the steel industry.

We call on the Ontario trade union movement to close ranks and join this fight, and to rally the labour movement across Canada. With unity and more unity, this crucial struggle can be won!

Demand Real Action at the Climate Change Talks in Cancun

As the next round of United Nations talks on climate change opens Nov. 29 in Cancun, Mexico, the Harper Tory minority government has again blocked measures to help avert the impending global environmental crisis. Using their control of the undemocratic Senate, the Tories recently defeated Bill C-311, the Climate Change Accountability Act passed by the House of Commons last May. Not only does the appointed Senate trump the will of elected Members of Parliament, this also represents yet another rejection of the views of most Canadians. Recent surveys



reveal that over 80% of Canadians agree that “economic growth and consumerism” are among the root causes of climate change, and that industrialized countries (including Canada) which produce the most greenhouse gases also bear responsibility for reducing emissions. Canadians strongly support cuts in military spending to reduce the impact of climate change, and action by governments to create “green jobs” and to support workers and communities affected by a shift away from fossil fuels.

Instead, the Harper government, with the full backing of the U.S.-dominated oil and gas industry, continues to sabotage progress towards global reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, earning Canada a reputation as one of the leading abusers of the environment. The unchecked expansion of the tar sands in northern Alberta is creating a terrible crisis, by polluting the soil, air, lakes and rivers, and poisoning the Aboriginal peoples and other residents of the region for the sake of increased exports of crude oil to the United States. The Climate Action Network recently reported on campaigns by Canadian governments on behalf of the oil sands industry to weaken global warming laws. The federal and Alberta governments have targeted legislation in Europe and

California to set low carbon fuel standards, and actively lobbied against Section 526, a federal U.S. law which could potentially restrict imports of oil from the tar sands projects.

The Communist Party of Canada extends full support to the growing movements to change this country’s energy policies, and for the mass protests which are being organized around the Cancun talks by a wide range of environmental, labour and popular movements. Millions of Canadians are deeply angered by the destructive impact of the energy monopolies and the entire capitalist system on the natural environment. So-called “green capitalism” tinkers with market-based reforms such as “cap and trade,” which cannot avert a massive environmental crisis. Instead, we call for a fundamental shift in policies – a People’s Energy Plan for Canada.

The starting point of such a plan must be public ownership and democratic control of the energy industry, which today is the source of astronomical profits for transnational capital, but devastation for the natural environment. Public ownership and democratic control of natural resource extraction, production and distribution would make it possible to break the economic and political power of these monopolies, which are the most determined enemies of democracy in Canada. This measure would also access the enormous wealth necessary to finance a wide range of crucial investments and transformations, while protecting employment and the living standards of working people. Such policies would include:

- stringent vehicle emission controls
- emergency legislation to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions
- an East-West power grid to eliminate dependence on exports to the U.S.
- massive investment in renewable energy and conservation programs
- expanded and fare-free urban mass transit
- the development of a viable, fuel-efficient Canadian car
- an end to the destructive tar sands projects
- a phase-out of coal-fired plants, nuclear power, and off-shore drilling
- a strict moratorium on west coast drilling and exploration.

A People’s Energy Plan and public ownership of natural resources is also necessary to “pay the climate bill” – the reparations owed to the oppressed peoples,

nations and countries of the world, starting with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada whose lands and resources have been stolen by centuries of unchecked capitalist plunder. This includes full recognition of the inherent rights of Aboriginal peoples to control economic development on their sovereign territories. “Climate justice” means strong, legally binding, and comprehensive mitigation efforts, based on respect for sovereignty, self-determination and democracy, as well as employment and social progress. There is no alternative to such an overall approach, which is based on putting humanity’s priority on defense of the planet and achieving social justice for all peoples and nations.

The Communist Party of Canada strongly supports immediate environmental reforms which can help reduce the pace of degradation of our planet. But we also warn that capital will never accept infringements on its private ownership and ‘right’ to exploit. Neither the transnational corporations, nor capitalists as a whole, are willing or able to solve the environmental crisis. Only socialism can put the environment ahead of profit, and allow humanity to reverse the impact of capitalism’s destructive exploitation. A better future means a socialist world, based on peace, social justice, full equality of peoples and nations, and democratic public ownership and control of industry and natural resources.

Defeat Bill C-49 – Justice for Immigrants and Refugees in Canada!

The Communist Party of Canada joins with other democratic forces to urge Parliament to defeat Bill C-49, the so-called “anti-human smuggling” legislation which violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and seeks to criminalize refugees. This fatally-flawed legislation cannot be amended by Parliament– it must be defeated!

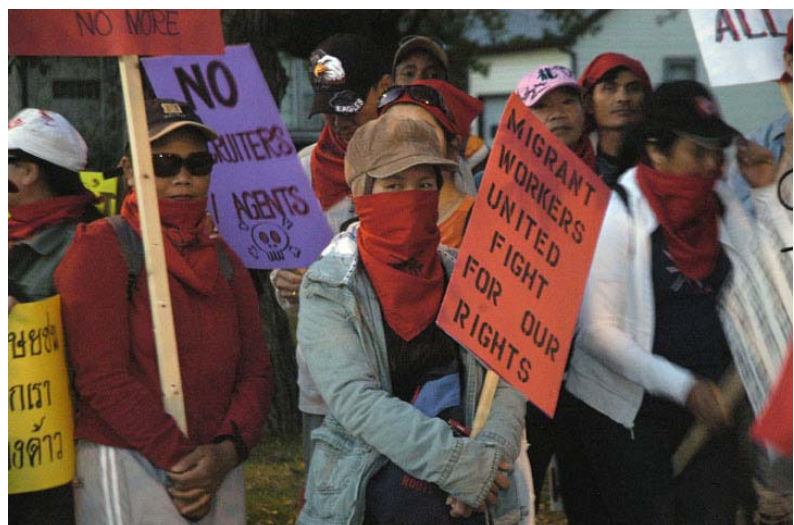
By creating a phony “crisis” around the arrival of Tamil refugees last August, the Harper Tories again revealed their racist, xenophobic agenda. Far from “protecting” Canada against a non-existent flood of so-called foreign criminals, the Tories aim to sow divisions and antagonisms. Their strategy is to block the emergence of a united working class resistance against the neoliberal policies of the government and the big corporations.

While Bill C-49 was introduced allegedly to crack down on human smuggling, the fact is that Canadian laws already provide steep penalties for those convicted of trafficking in human beings – up to life in jail, and fines up to one million dollars. This legislation has a much different target – refugees who are fleeing from wars, poverty, environmental crises and human rights abuses. Many are already the victims of traffickers and smugglers. Most have arrived in Canada through a difficult and precarious process, often without documents such as visas or passports. The legislation also criminalizes people who assist refugees in coming to this country, by placing them in the same vague category as “human smugglers.”

Bill C-49 gives the federal Minister of Immigration wide authority to designate entire groups of refugees as “irregulars”, deprived of legal protections and subject to punishment without being convicted of any offense. Such persons could be jailed for up to one year (often in terrible conditions) without a proper refugee hearing, denied the option to sponsor family members to come to Canada for five years, and during that five year period, denied the option to seek permanent residence in Canada by any means.

Some refugees face even greater obstacles, such as gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans persons who are fleeing persecution based on their gender identity and sexual orientation. Under C-49, such refugees could be deported within five years if the Canadian government argues that subsequent legal changes in their homelands make their situations less dangerous.

(continued)



The government seeks to justify this draconian legislation by deliberately confusing various groups, using the false argument that certain “bad” refugees are “jumping the queue” ahead of “legitimate” immigrants. In reality, these are two completely different categories of people; there is no “queue” for refugee claimants.

The Harper Tories also want to appoint a former director of the CSIS spy agency, Ward Elcock, as a special advisor on human migration. Elcock was recently the director of police and security for the G20 Summit in Toronto, where over 1100 people were victims of arbitrary arrest and police brutality. His appointment is a further warning that this government considers immigrants and refugees as criminals, not as human beings seeking to improve their lives.

In fact, the Harper Tories view immigrants and refugees as political “footballs”, useful to kick around whenever they want to inflame racism and hatred to

divert attention from the impact of the Conservative agenda. This has happened to groups such as Roma people fleeing persecution in several European countries, or Mexican tourists to Canada. The consistent Tory tactic is to exploit the insecurities and misunderstandings of Canadians in an attempt to turn racialized communities and other minorities into scapegoats for the deepening economic and social crisis of capitalism.

The Communist Party of Canada has always maintained that “an injury to one is an injury to all.” Immigrants and refugees are not “burdens” on Canada – they make valuable contributions to Canadian society, and must be welcomed with dignity, respect, and the full democratic and legal rights of all Canadians. We call for the defeat of the racist Bill C-49, and for a powerful, united response by the labour and democratic movements against all such attacks by the Harper Conservatives.

Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Communist Party of Canada (1921-2011)

The Communist Party of Canada, founded in May 1921, will mark its 90th anniversary in 2011 with a series of activities and events across the country. As we said at our 36th Central Convention, “the history of the CPC is the history of the class struggle in Canada. Our roots are sunk in the rich experience of working class struggles throughout the decades. Many of our leaders were also mass and labour leaders of some of the most significant struggles in Canadian history. Our history is closely linked to the fight for universal socialized medicine, for universal public pensions, for unemployment insurance, for trade union rights including the right to strike, for women’s rights including reproductive choice, pay and employment equity, for the rights of the Aboriginal peoples and new immigrants, the fight for Canadian sovereignty, democratic and equality rights, and the right to live free of the threat of nuclear annihilation.”

This record proves that the Communist Party, based on the ideology of Marxism-Leninism and the organizational principles of democratic centralism, is unique among Canadian political organizations. From the beginning, our Party has stood for the interests of the entire working class, for the equality of oppressed nations and peoples within the Canadian state, for a world of peace, democracy and social justice, and for a revolutionary, socialist alternative to the capitalist system which has reached the final rung on its ladder – the stage of decaying and crisis-ridden imperialism.

We will celebrate our 90th anniversary not only to pay tribute to this proud record of struggles and achievements, but even more importantly to build the fight for the socialist future which is possible, urgent, and necessary, with the same determination and commitment displayed by earlier generations of Communists.

The Central Committee calls upon party organizations in every part of Canada to mark the 90th anniversary throughout 2011, including special tributes around the founding date of May 28th. Our activities during the year will include a series of historical articles in the Communist press and Spark!, seminars and other educational events to raise awareness among our members and friends regarding the record of the Communist Party, and organized visits to sites and locations connected with important moments in our history in each province. We will consult with Party clubs and committees on the preparation of other historical materials.

The most important way to honour our legacy is to strengthen the working class fightback against the offensive by big capital, and to build a bigger and stronger Communist Party and Young Communist League. Let us make 2011 a year of growth and new advances!