

dominion, n. 1. Control or the exercise of control. 2. A territory or sphere of influence; a realm. 3. A self-governing nation in the British Commonwealth



# The Dominion

news from the grassroots

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## Great Slave Lake Polluted, Pickton Intervenors Excluded, Mining Companies Refuted

by Dominion contributors

The **BC government** announced the creation of a civilian-led police oversight office in response to recommendations made by public inquiries into the deaths of Robert Dziekanski and Frank Paul. Dziekanski, a Polish migrant, was tasered at Vancouver International Airport by RCMP officers. Paul succumbed to hypothermia after being dumped in an alley by Vancouver police officers.

After a recent slew of violent or sudden deaths in BC prisons, the **BC Civil Liberties Association** released a statement calling for more inquests into correctional facility deaths. Since 1999, 144 deaths—and only 13 inquests—have occurred in BC provincial and federal institutions.

The BC provincial government rejected funding for legal representation for all but one of the 13 groups that **Pickton commission** head Wally Oppal recommended receive financial support. The province will fund legal costs for the families of victims killed by William Pickton, but not sex worker, Aboriginal or Downtown East Side Vancouver residents' groups.

Canada Post rejected the **Canadian Union of Postal Workers'** final offer. The union said it is willing to negotiate up to the final minute. "After seven months of negotiations, Canada Post continues to demand major concessions, including unsafe work methods, a 22 per cent wage reduction for new hires and the elimination of a sick leave plan that members have had for over 40 years," said CUPW National President Denis Lemelin in a statement.

Paper Excellence Canada Holdings Corporation purchased its fifth paper mill in **Canada** in as many years. Paper Excellence is a shell company of global pulp and paper giant Asia Pulp Paper, which has been accused of many environmental crimes, including illegally logging a national park in

Cambodia.

A naturally-forming ice dam caused water to stream through a gold mine tailings pond in the **Northwest Territories**. The toxic overflow leaked back into a water system that feeds Great Slave Lake, which has been heavily polluted from the mining industry expanding along its shores.

Dow AgroSciences dropped its complaint to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) challenging **Quebec's** ban of pesticide 2,4-D, which four other provinces have banned for aesthetic uses. Dow had claimed the policy violated NAFTA because it constituted a barrier to trade.

Some 200 people marched for Status for All in **Montreal**, calling for an end to deportations, detentions and punitive measures against migrants. Approximately 50,000 undocumented people live in Quebec.

**Mining justice** advocates introduced a shareholder's resolution at Vancouver-based Goldcorp's AGM which would suspend operations at the company's Marlin gold mine in Guatemala. Goldcorp advised shareholders to vote against the resolution, which was supported by 36 human rights organizations in Europe. Six per cent of Goldcorp's shareholders voted for the resolution. Some shareholders critical of the company were prevented from entering the meeting, while in the street 200 people, including some of those affected from Papua New Guinea, Honduras and Guatemala, protested the company's alleged human rights and environmental abuses.

While protesters rallied outside, delegates from Wixarika in Mexico addressed shareholders at First Majestic Silver's AGM in **Vancouver**. The company plans to build a silver mine in San Luis Potosi, territory sacred to the Wixarika people.

Members of the **Algonquin of**

**Barriere Lake** voiced opposition to mining on their territory at the annual general meeting of Cartier Resources, Inc. Cartier's copper mine is slated to operate on unceded Algonquin land covered by a trilateral agreement which does not permit mining exploitation.

The Mishkeegogamang First Nation launched a historic legal challenge in an Ontario court. The First Nation is suing both the federal and provincial governments for upwards of \$1 billion over multiple violations of James Bay Treaty No. 9, signed in 1905. Violations include the forced relocation and the flooding of treaty lands for hydro power development. The treaty covers over 350,000 square kilometres of territory around **James Bay**.

The NDP stated that the Ontario Liberal government is delaying an inquest into the deaths of seven First Nations students in **Thunder Bay** after questions were raised by their families about the lack of Aboriginal representation on the inquest's jury. Since 2009, when the inquest was supposed to begin, two more students have died: Kyle Morrisseau, 17, and Jordan Wabasse, 15.

A **Toronto** city councillor abandoned his motion demanding a written commitment from Pride Toronto to prevent **Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA)** from participating in this year's Pride Parade, saying he was satisfied with a commitment from one of the march's co-chairs to eject unregistered QuAIA members from participating. QuAIA will not march this year.

**Toronto** Mayor Rob Ford asked the courts to halt a full audit of his campaign funding, as ordered by a compliance audit committee in response to questions about Ford's family company paying more than \$77,000 in early campaign expenses.

Byron Sonne, the last person to remain in jail on **G20**-related

charges, was released on bail after 11 months behind bars.

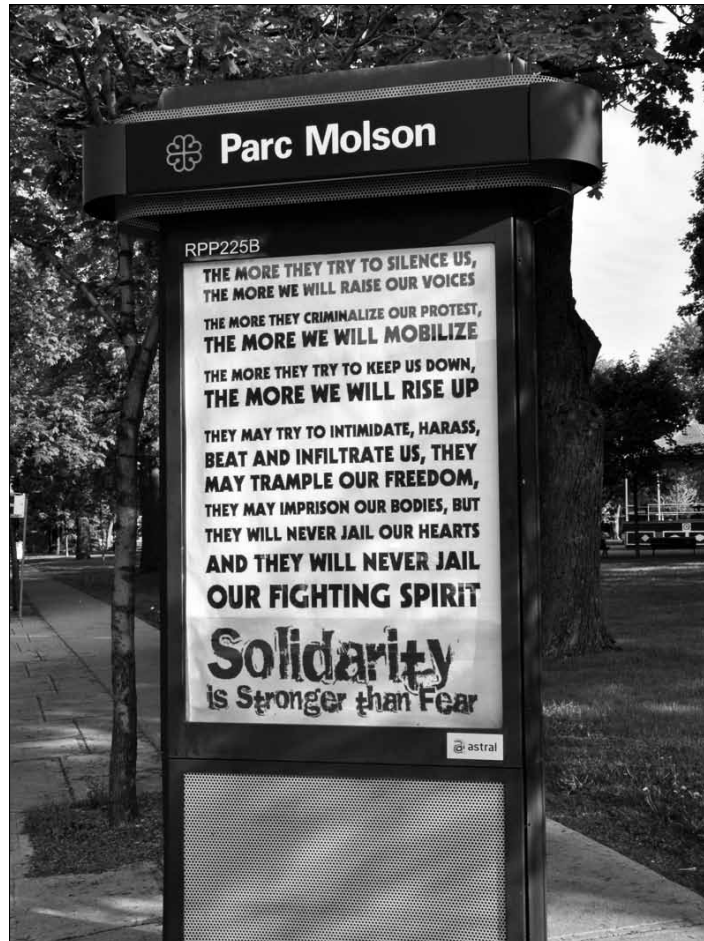
The **Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS)** continued to provide US intelligence agencies with the names of Canadians and foreign nationals in Canada they suspect of having ties to terrorism-related activities and groups. The names often end up on US watchlists and no-fly lists, blocking those people from entering or flying over the United States. According to US diplomatic cables newly released by Wikileaks, in some cases, CSIS has no concrete proof of its allegations.

In a defense department briefing, the **Canadian Military** revealed that Canadian fighter jets have dropped 240 bombs over Libya in 324 flights.

Well-known **British** peace activist and former Guantanamo Bay detainee Moazzam Begg was prevented from boarding his direct flight from England to Toronto because of the chance the plane could, in an emergency, be diverted to the United States. Begg, who was released after five years at Guantanamo without being charged with a crime, was slated to speak at a conference on Islamophobia in Toronto and in other Canadian cities. Begg routinely travels in Europe, Africa and Asia for speaking engagements and has met with several high-ranking British officials, but remains on a US no-fly list.

**Germany** announced plans to shut down all nuclear reactors by 2022, a move prompted by mass nationwide protests against nuclear power.

Musician Carlos Santana was booed in **Atlanta** at Major League Baseball's annual Civil Rights Game after speaking out against a new Georgia law. HR 87, which was modeled after Arizona's controversial SB 1070, gives state and local police federal powers to demand immigration papers from people they suspect to be undocu-



On May 31, members of ARTUNG! surreptitiously replaced 200 corporate ads with works of art across Montreal in May. Above, one of the new pieces at Molson Park. *ARTUNG!*

*“Every day we are forced to face advertising eyesores and the reminder that our streets have become a corporate canvas. A billboard-free environment will set a more human rhythm for Montreal's urban landscape.”*

—Pascale Brunet of ARTUNG!

mented, and to jail those who do not provide papers on request.

Peabody Energy threatened to sue the **Yes Men** for unfairly singling it out as the only coal company ruining children's health. The satirical group created a parody company website, Coal Cares™,

offering free novelty inhalers to families living near coal plants. Peabody Energy didn't issue a cease and desist notice, but a letter complaining that while they are in fact the largest coal company, they aren't the only one causing asthmatic attacks in children.

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# Once, We Welcomed Tamil Refugees

## Twenty-five years later, Canada jails "boat people"

by David Gordon Koch

MONTREAL—"We thought we were going to die...because we were not seeing any land, or light, or any boat or anything."

Sooriyakumaran Sathanathan was among more than 150 Tamil asylum-seekers discovered in a pair of crammed lifeboats off the coast of Newfoundland in August, 1986.

The Tamil refugees, who had fled persecution in Sri Lanka, were quickly granted work permits by Canadian authorities.

Nearly a quarter-century later, when another boatload of Tamil migrants reached this country's shores, Canada responded differently.

Of the 492 Tamil refugee claimants who arrived in August 2010 on the *MV Sun Sea*, nearly all were detained by Canadian immigration authorities; some remain in custody.

In the wake of the *Sun Sea's* arrival, the Canadian government has pledged to pass a bill that critics say will punish refugees deemed "illegal," with measures including a one-year mandatory jail sentence without judicial review.

"We see a very different government now," says David Poopalapillai, spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress. "The compassion is not there."

Today, Sathanathan works full-time as a delivery truck driver in Toronto. Over the years, he sent remittances back to Sri Lanka, and sponsored several family members to come to Canada as refugees. He says he's happy to have built a better life for them. But his road to asylum was long and difficult.

In the early 1980s, still living in Sri Lanka, he was forced to drop out of school after the death of his father. He worked as a farmer to support his mother and four siblings, but life in the South Asian island country became unbearable when civil war erupted



Tamil migrant children peer out of the Burnaby Youth Detention Centre where they were held after arriving in BC on the ship, the *MV Sun Sea*.  
Isaac K. Oommen

in 1983.

The government of Sri Lanka—under the control of an elite group of Sinhala Buddhist nationalists—had persecuted the Tamil-speaking population for decades. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, took up arms, demanding national independence. Atrocities were committed on both sides, with civilians caught in the middle.

"So many people died then," Sathanathan recalls.

He fled the country with his cousin to seek a better life abroad, first traveling to Yemen. But work there was scarce.

"That's when people said, you have to go to Canada," he says. "Your family will have a better life."

Sathanathan and his cousin flew to East Germany before crossing the Iron Curtain into West Germany. In July 1986, they embarked for Canada on the freighter *Auriga* with more than 150 other Tamils.

Sathanathan said they spent about two weeks at sea before the captain of the crowded cargo ship set the migrants adrift in two lifeboats. For nearly three days they drifted with no sign of land.

"We didn't have any food, any water...we [were] thinking we were going to pass away," he says.

They were finally spotted by fishermen and brought ashore by Canadian officials on August 11, 1986. Upon their arrival, the migrants were met with enormous media coverage and an outpouring of public sympathy.

The asylum-seekers were released within days and quickly granted work permits.

"There was no aggressive detention," says Peter Showler, director of the Refugee Forum, an Ottawa-based think tank.

Two-and-a-half decades later, the federal government has adopted a harsh stance aimed at discouraging "illegal migrants" from entering Canada by sea in the wake of the *MV Sun Sea's*

arrival, Showler says.

"The government clearly has admitted that they have got this aggressive detention policy because they want to deter additional boats from coming," he says.

As of May 30, 2011, the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) had ordered the deportation of four of the *Sun Sea* migrants, on the grounds that they were members of the LTTE, a group also known as the Tamil Tigers.

The Harper government listed the LTTE as a terrorist organization in 2006.

In March 2011, when the IRB ordered the deportation of one of the migrants—whose name cannot be released due to a publication ban—Public Safety Minister Vic Toews called the decision "an unmitigated victory for the rule of law."

Critics say the government is making criminals out of refugees, while downplaying the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan state.



"When we're talking about violence committed by resistance movements, we're talking about violence that imperialism is quick to condemn, because state violence is never considered terrorism, when in fact it's the greatest form of terrorism," says Harsha Walia, an organizer with migrant justice group No-One Is Illegal.

Activists from the group began organizing to support the *MV Sun Sea* migrants even before Canadian authorities boarded the boat last August near Victoria, BC. The group opposed what Walia calls a climate of xenophobia fueled by the Harper government and mainstream media.

"There's a particular hysteria about boats arriving...coupled with the post 9/11 climate, and the criminalizing and the fear-mongering around terrorism," she says.

Janet Dench, executive director for the Canadian Council for Refugees, says the government has exaggerated the threat posed by the asylum-seekers to win political mileage.

"You condemn the Tigers for their bad deeds, but you don't take an equal position on emphasizing the abuses that many Tamils themselves have suffered at the hands of the Sri Lankan government," Dench says.

Lawyers for the Canada Border Services Agency have stated in IRB hearings that anyone who did business with the Tigers—including, in one case, a rice farmer who sold crops to the LTTE—should be considered inadmissible to Canada.

Critics say that since the LTTE acted as a *de facto* government in predominantly Tamil areas of Sri Lanka, with a military and police force at its disposal, it was practically impossible to avoid dealing with the group.

"Many of the Tamils who make refugee claims, they make claims against the 'Tigers,'" Dench says. "And yet you don't hear any sympathy for the Tamils who have suffered abuse at the hands of the Tigers, and they're asking for our protection on that basis."

The civil war that displaced Sathanathan and his family officially ended in 2009, amidst reports of mass civilian casualties

at the hands of the Sri Lankan military and the LTTE.

Since then, the UN's refugee agency has noted improvements in the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

But hundreds of Tamils suspected of affiliating with the LTTE are arbitrarily arrested

researching Sri Lankan politics at Carleton University.

"I think that's especially concerning because really the civil war was about the systematic exclusion and subordination of the Tamil people," he says.

As migrants from Sri Lanka continue to seek refuge abroad,

dubbed the "attack refugees bill"—when it was first introduced to the House of Commons by Vic Toews last October.

Harper now appears poised to impose the reforms, which he says will deter migrants who attempt to "jump the immigration queue."

Critics say the notion that asylum-seekers must wait in line for asylum violates international agreements including the 1951 Refugee Convention, of which Canada is a signatory.

"There's no queue," Poopalapillai says. "When you have the fear that you're being persecuted, you're being raped, you're being jailed, you're being gunned down, do you have the time to go...and ask for a visa?"

Groups of migrants designated as "irregular" by the government would also be barred from receiving permanent residency status for five years, leaving them in a state of legal limbo. University of Victoria refugee law specialist Donald Galloway calls the government's reforms "anti-humanitarian."

"What they're recognizing is that if somebody is found to be a genuine refugee, but hasn't been given permanent resident status, we can always take the refugee status away," Galloway says.

"You're not going to be able to get long-term work, you're not going to be able to get a credit rating in this country, you're not going to be able to settle down, or buy yourself a home," he adds.

He also noted that the bill would apply retroactively, giving the government discretionary power to name the *Sun Sea* migrants and others as "irregular."

"It seems that this is a level of viciousness, of anti-humanitarian venom, that we haven't seen before," he says.

Walia says activists should oppose C-49 while building an anti-racist culture.

"They're not just policies," she says. "They exist in climate of racism, xenophobia, and anti-migrant sentiment."

*David Gordon Koch is a freelance reporter and a journalism student living in Ottawa.*



"Noise demonstrations" outside the detention centre showed support for imprisoned Tamil migrants. Above, supporters use horns to signal their presence across the field outside the centre. Below, they hold a banner reading, "Welcome Tamil Migrants."

*courtesy No-One is Illegal—Vancouver*

annually and detained for months or years without charge, according to a report released in February 2011 by Amnesty International. Many are tortured in custody, the report adds.

Thousands of Tamil civilians live under military surveillance in "open air prisons" in the country's northeast, according to Ajay Parasram, a doctoral student

the federal Conservative Party has pledged to pass a bill that would keep people designated as "irregular arrivals" in jail for at least one year upon their arrival, without any chance for judicial review of their detention.

The Liberals, Bloc Quebecois and New Democrats vowed to oppose Bill C-49—which the NDP's then-immigration critic

# Canada on Secret Oil Offensive: Documents

## Foreign ministry's tar sands team rebranding Alberta oil in Europe

by Martin Lukacs

MONTREAL—The Canadian government has been carrying out a secret plan in Europe to boost investment and keep world markets open for the Alberta tar sands, collaborating with major oil companies and aggressively undermining European environmental measures, documents obtained by *The Dominion* reveal.

In 2009 the federal government launched a strategy to “protect and advance Canadian interests related to the oil sands,” fearing that growing protest could curb European investment in the industry and that EU restrictions on tar sands imports could be mimicked globally.

“Oil sands are posing a growing reputational problem [in Europe], with the oil sands defining the Canadian brand,” states one document released under the Access to Information Act. “Canada’s reputation as a clean, reliable source of energy may be put at risk.”

Run by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAIT) and involving eight foreign missions working alongside Natural Resources, Environment Canada and the Albertan government, a European “Oil Sands Team” has gone on the offensive against threats to the tar sands: they have monitored green groups, responded to “significant negative media coverage,” helped Canadian policymakers lobby European parliamentarians and organize trips to Alberta, worked to “enhance co-operation” with oil companies, and co-ordinated regular meetings between top European oil executives and Albertan and federal ministers, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The “pan-European oil sands advocacy strategy” was launched in December 2009 around the time of the United Nations climate negotiations in Copenhagen. Hundreds of civil society groups there gave Canada a “Fossil of

the Year” award for being “the absolute worst country at the talks,” fingering a powerful tar sands industry as the driving force behind Canada’s hardline stance against ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The extraction of Alberta’s vast deposits of bitumen, which hold the second largest supply of oil after Saudi Arabia, has been widely criticized as the world’s most environmentally destructive and carbon-intensive industrial project.

One of the main targets of the strategy has been a EU energy law—the Fuel Quality Directive—that would slap a dirty label on tar sands oil as a way of promoting cleaner transportation fuel in Europe.

Europe does not import tar sands oil from Canada, but Canadian policymakers are worried a measure categorizing tar sands oil as an undesirable fuel could spread to other continents. With the Albertan fossil fuel industry—and supportive provincial and federal governments—increasingly looking to Asian markets to sell crude, such precedents would spell trouble.

The obtained documents further reveal that the diplomatic campaign by the Canadian government to “prevent discriminatory treatment of the oil sands under the EU Fuel Quality Directive” was much more co-ordinated than previously understood.

The mission in Brussels took the lead: lobbying the European Commission, engaging in “regular information sharing with industry,” organizing “high-profile events,” and Ministerial visits. The mission provided “reporting with intelligence, analysis and advice” to the Canadian and Alberta governments while the larger Oil Sands Team played a “very useful co-ordination mechanism” in the campaign.

They appear to have been so aggressive that a European parliamentarian told the *Globe and Mail*

in March that Canada’s lobbying had been “unacceptable.”

The Canadian government was also concerned that a dirty label on the tar sands could galvanize pressure to curb investment by European companies that have been subject to increasingly noisy environmental campaigns calling for divestment.

With the end of cheap, easily accessible oil, European oil giants have scammed to extend their lifespans by turning to unconventional gases and investing billions in the Alberta industry.

A mid-year report of the Oil Sands Team, covering activities between January and July 2010, paints a picture of a Canadian government eager to work closely with these companies to ensure the money keeps flowing.

One section reads less like international lobbying records than a joint playbook. In Oslo, Canada’s mission “holds regular meetings” with largely state-owned Norwegian oil giant Statoil to “update on each others activities and co-ordinate where appropriate.” Statoil has invested more than \$2 billion in tar sands operations.

A Wikileaks cable has revealed that in November 2009, a month before the European strategy was launched, then-Environment Minister Jim Prentice described his shock to US Ambassador Jacobsen on witnessing Norwegian public sentiment against investment in Alberta’s “dirty oil” during a visit to the country. The experience “heightened his awareness of the negative consequences to Canada’s historically ‘green’ standing on the world stage,” and he believed the Canadian government’s reaction to the dirty oil label was “too slow” and “failed to grasp the magnitude of the situation.”

Each barrel of bitumen Statoil produced in the Alberta tar sands in 2010 released 85 times more carbon than a barrel of conventional North Sea oil, according to company figures.

At Statoil’s annual general assembly last week, shareholders representing nearly 20 per cent of private capital voted in support of a resolution calling for the company to withdraw from tar sands operations.

This was the third year in a row that motions campaigned for by Greenpeace and the Indigenous Environmental Network have dominated the meetings. In November 2010, Statoil buckled to campaigners’ pressure and sold 40 per cent of its Alberta tar sands portfolio.

When Prime Minister Harper flew to France for a few hours on June 4, 2010, to meet with President Nicolas Sarkozy in the run-up to the G8 and G20 meetings in Canada, he found time for an unpublicized meeting with Christophe de Margerie, the CEO of France’s oil major Total. Top Total executives have also met with Canada’s Deputy Minister of Trade and regularly meet with Canada’s ambassador.

The released documents do not reveal anything about the nature of the PM’s discussions. The company, however, recently announced it plans to spend \$20 billion in the oil sands by 2020 in hopes of boosting its production to 200,000 barrels day.

In recognition of the tar sands’ new importance to their portfolio, Margerie and the company’s international advisory board spent last week in Alberta in May 2011. During a speech to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, he acknowledged that environmental criticism has impacted the company’s reputation. “In terms of image, it’s not good,” he said.

Shell, the biggest energy company in the world, holds the most land leases in the tar sands and plans to triple production to more than 750,000 barrels per day. Shell has been named in five lawsuits related to environmental damages and violations of Indigenous rights, and have faced shareholder resolutions demanding

disclosure of the social and environmental risks of its projects.

The Hague mission is “enhancing its engagement with the sector, and with Shell recently.” The London mission is “in regular contact with the private sector including meetings with Shell, BP, and Royal Bank of Scotland [RBS] as well as Canadian oil companies,” and participated in Shell’s stakeholder dialogue where the Canadian team was able to “gather intelligence.” Brussels has “worked with Shell by hosting complementary events” including a multi-stakeholder workshop and dinner.

The released documents indicate that government officials believe their efforts have failed to fully “defend Canada’s image as a responsible energy producer and steward of the environment including climate change issues.” They cite tight budgets and a lack of resources. The oil sands team, according to DFAIT, is composed only of 11 officials, working part-time, spread across Ottawa and the European missions.

The report states that they will need an injection of “significant resources” and also suggests that “a professional PR firm may be able to assist us in moving forward strategically with the use of approved but sharpened messaging.” With a “recent increase in the NGO campaigns targeting public [sic], we anticipate increased risk to Canadian interests much beyond the oil sands (e.g. recent campaign targeting tourists to Alberta).”

Rethink Alberta, co-ordinated by an international network of green groups, has run a billboard campaign in Europe and is mailing postcards to travel agents and tourism operators to discourage tourists from visiting Alberta.

European countries have seen a “resurgence of highly critical public campaigns,” including protests that “have become a regular occurrence in London mostly towards BP, Shell and RBS but also towards the High Commission.”

The report also points to “growing media attention to environmental aspects of oil sands developments in Europe,” resulting



Clayton Thomas-Mueller from the Indigenous Environmental Network during a protest against the Alberta tar sands in London, England, in 2009—part of the “resurgence of highly critical public campaigns” that the foreign ministry’s secret team is monitoring.  
Mike Russell

in “enhanced media monitoring” by most Canadian missions. Media coverage in Paris was especially bad in their eyes: “the negative articles are essentially about pollution, the wildlife, and the health of Native peoples and the destruction of the boreal forest.”

The campaign against the EU’s Fuel Quality Directive law—which aims to force fuel suppliers to cut carbon emissions by six per cent by 2020—also appears to be failing. In initial evaluations EU officials assigned tar sands production a high carbon footprint, meaning suppliers would shun tar sands oil in favour of lower-emission fuels from conventional sources of petroleum.

Canadian policymakers jumped into action against the initiative because they worried other countries like the United States and China—who has previously mimicked European emissions standards on air pollution in the 1990s—might adopt the model.

“Our fear is that if something happens in the EU and it is spread in other countries—not only members of the EU—we could have roughly one-third of the world’s population subscribing to regulation or legislation that

mitigates against our oilsands,” Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations Minister Iris Evans told media in the fall of 2010.

Canadian and industry officials have vigorously contested that the carbon footprint of tar sands is higher than traditional sources, but European policymakers gained new ammo when an EU study released this February concluded that production creates 23 per cent more emissions.

After aggressive lobbying from Canadian officials resulted in the removal of the dirty fuel label on tar sands crude in the fall of 2010, a re-emboldened European commission announced this spring that it would move ahead with the plan to discourage tar sands fuel imports.

Ensuring open markets, however, is also the objective of the ongoing free trade negotiations between Canada and the European Union, which would involve eliminating environmental “barriers” to trade such as the Fuel Quality Directive. Negotiators have frequently raised the issue of the Fuel Quality Directive and recent media reports indicate they even threatened to scrap the agree-

ment if the issue was not resolved to their satisfaction.

DFAIT officials told *The Dominion* that the advocacy plan is an “official level” strategy at the departmental rather than ministerial level, meaning Cabinet would not have any oversight.

The seeds for it may have been planted in a Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade’s (DFAIT) planning document from March 2008. DFAIT’s Report on Plans and Priorities for 2008–2009 states that one of its priorities is to “enhance international commercial opportunities for Canadian companies.” It suggests developing an “energy advocacy strategy to brand Canada as a leader in best practices for the development of oil sands reserves, energy research and development, advanced energy technologies, energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy and alternative energies.”

*Martin Lukacs is an independent journalist and a member of The Dominion’s editorial collective.*

*This article was produced by the Montreal Media Co-op, online at montreal.mediacoop.ca.*

# Nova Scotia's Tar Sands

"Shale gas is the fossil fuel industry's latest suicide mission"



The impacts of shale gas exploration—from clearcutting, to increased traffic, to water and air pollution—have many Nova Scotians concerned, but it's fracking in particular that has struck a nerve.

Yuill Herbert

by Hillary Bain Lindsay

HALIFAX—After years of learning about climate change and oil and gas development in other parts of the world, Michael Jensen was upset, but not surprised, to learn that natural gas exploration may be coming to his backyard.

"It's indicative of a much larger pattern of environmental destruction," says Jensen. "I'm deeply worried about the climate."

In December, the Nova Scotia Department of Energy issued a call for exploration proposals for three blocks of land along the province's North Shore from the New Brunswick border to Merigomish. Jensen's house and small market garden fall within the "Scotsburn Block." He and hundreds of others from across Nova Scotia don't trust the government's assurance that it will "recognize the importance of the environment when considering

shale gas operations," and many have decided to fight back.

Natural gas exploration and extraction can include drilling, seismic testing and hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Fracking involves pumping water, chemicals and sand underground at high pressure in order to fracture the shale and release the gas. Over the past several months, the practice has gained notoriety with the release of the Oscar-nominated documentary *Gasland* and several high-profile articles in *The New York Times*, which documented the production of massive amounts of toxic waste-water, the contamination of wells and the upswell of human health complaints.

The impacts of exploration and development—from clear-cutting, to increased traffic, to water and air pollution—have many Nova Scotians concerned, but it's fracking in particular that has struck a nerve.

Tatamagouche is on the province's North Shore and falls within the area slated for exploration. Within a week of a public screening of *Gasland* in February, a community meeting at the Tatamagouche Centre drew 70 people, says Jensen. A slew of activity has followed: letter-writing nights, a petition, a protest at the office of Minister of Energy Charlie Parker, and a Halifax rally to ban fracking that drew more than 150 people from across the province.

Beth Norrad would have liked to travel from her home in Penobscis, New Brunswick, to attend the rally, but she and her neighbours are tied up in a legal battle with Potash Corp, the world's leading potash producer and owner of 25 per cent of the gas wells in New Brunswick.

"We're all broke," she says. "A trip to Halifax just isn't in the cards."

Norrad has 40 gas wells

within a few kilometres of her home. When asked how this has affected her quality of life, she responds, "It's ruined it."

Norrad grew up in New Brunswick but moved to Toronto, working there for 25 years. She moved to Penobscis in 2007, seeking a higher quality of life, "totally ignorant" of the development that was underway.

Today, she would do anything to leave—except she can't sell her house.

"The homes are worthless," she says. "There's no farms left here anymore. You need water to farm."

The natural gas in the area was discovered by Potash Corp. in 1999 when the company was using seismic testing to find the large body of water that was draining into their potash mine—also a few kilometers from Norrad's home. Instead, the company found gas. The first few wells went dry in 1999. The company drilled more



gas wells, and did more seismic testing.

"One home right after another [lost its water] until 60 homes lost their wells," says Norrad. Residents believe the blasting created cracks in the ground that allowed the water that fed their wells to flow into the mine. "For the next six years we went off water tanks."

The town now has a municipal water supply, but Norrad believes it was put in place for Potash Corp, rather than for the 60 homes without running water. Sixty cisterns would cost \$600,000, says Norrad. "But you can't run a mine and gas wells on a cistern. So the federal and provincial governments, in collusion with industry, spent \$10,000,000 on a water line to provide industry with water."

Norrad says her community has been destroyed. "We basically live in an industrial park. An industrial park with no rules."

"They lie," she says. "They'll tell you anything to get gas wells on your property."

"What we have [in Cape Breton] is a company that has no real interest in what the community thinks, and a Department of Energy that cares even less," says Geoffrey May from his home in Margaree, Cape Breton, overlooking the Margaree River. May works at the local campground and has lived in the area for 35 years. He says fishing and tourism

are two major sources of employment in the area, and both are under threat from oil and shale gas exploration and drilling.

PetroWorth Resources Inc. has secured the exploration and development rights to 383,000 acres of land in Cape Breton. Nova Scotia's largest lake, Lake Ainslie, is in the middle of the block of land, which feeds the Margaree

*"For us, it's a matter of life and death. For them, it's a matter of profit."*

—Elizabeth Marshall

River, known for its natural beauty and salmon pools. The Margaree-Lake Ainslie Heritage River is a designated protected area in Nova Scotia.

"They're proposing drilling through the water table right next to Lake Ainslie," says May. "This is a poster child for inappropriate development."

"The province has received a number of letters from Nova Scotians about fracking, most of which concern protection of water," noted an April 4 press release from the departments of Energy and Environment. As a result, it was announced that "the province will review environmen-

tal issues associated with hydraulic fracturing."

But for May, even a ban on fracking does not go far enough. "I want to see the leases [for oil and gas exploration] withdrawn."

He says drilling for more oil and gas is not the answer to Canada's rising energy needs. "In Canada we're currently wasting half the energy we produce," says

lay down our lives for a dollar or 10 dollars?" asks Marshall. "But where I come from, people like me, we're willing to give up our lives for something that's sacred to us. That's the difference between a multinational company and my community. For us, it's a matter of life and death. For them, it's a matter of profit."

Marshall says Petroworth better be ready for a fight. "We know we have title and sovereignty. We'll do what we can to exercise it," she says. "It's not a hobby. It's all connected to our life...When I'm long gone, my children and grandchildren will be continuing this struggle and hope."

"Where do we go once our water is destroyed?" she asks. "We have to protect it with everything we have."

*Hillary Lindsay is co-ordinator of the Halifax Media Co-op and editor with The Dominion.*

This article was produced by the Halifax Media Co-op.



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# In BC, Pipes Spell Double Trouble

## KSL gas pipeline is low profile, high threat

by Dawn Paley

VANCOUVER—The struggle against the proposed Enbridge pipeline, which has galvanized First Nations throughout northern BC and earned popular support from people across the country, has become one of the highest profile Indigenous and environmental issues in Canada. Concerns are mounting that in Enbridge's shadow, other energy projects are slipping under the radar—with potentially explosive consequences.

The Kitimat Summit Lake (KSL) gas pipeline, also called the Pacific Trails Pipeline, is of emerging concern to Wet'suwet'en land defenders and local residents. If built, this pipeline would connect to an existing Westcoast Energy Pipeline at Summit Lake, near the geographical centre of BC, and cut west to Kitimat.

"The general location of the pipeline was the first phase of BC's new and controversial Energy Corridor discussions; other phases...included the Enbridge oil pipeline from Alberta's tar sands to Kitimat, which many First Nations strongly opposed in early 2011," reads a recent report prepared by the BC Tap Water Alliance about the KSL pipeline proposal.

At the western end of the proposed pipeline would sit a brand new Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) port, which is being built by a handful of former Duke Energy insiders on Haisla reserve land at Bish Cove, an area described in media reports as pristine beachfront. First planned as a pipeline to supply the tar sands with natural gas, the project has since been modified to provide an export channel for the emerging shale gas bonanza in northeastern BC and Alberta.

"In 2004, for all of the energy processes in North America, we didn't have enough gas," said Will

Koop of the BC Tap Water Alliance. "Now they want to export this gas, they want to change the direction of the import gas proposal from Kitimat to the tar sands and reverse it," Koop told *The Dominion*.

The proposed KSL pipeline would be almost 500 kilometres in length and 91 centimetres in diameter; it would also be flanked by an 18-metre right-of-way on each side. The project has quietly received approval from both the federal and provincial governments, and is awaiting the final nod from the National Energy Board, the federal agency that oversees oil and gas projects in Canada.

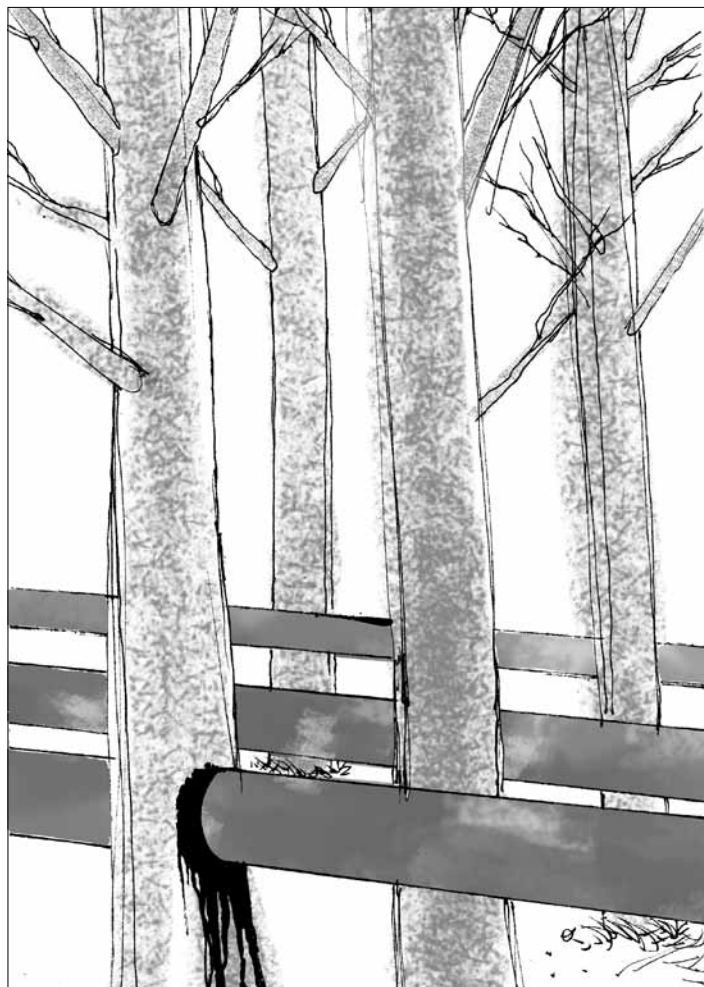
"Nobody showed up for the first open house in Houston—three people I think—so they cancelled all the other open houses. There was never another open house on the KSL pipeline," said Glenda Ferris, a long time environmentalist who lives in the Buck Creek Valley near Houston BC. "There was never even a news article about this pipeline in the local papers...They did this all under the table," she said.

In February 2011, Vancouver-based Pacific Northern Gas sold its stake in the KSL project to the Houston-based Apache Corporation and EOG Resources (formerly Enron).

Ferris is not alone in feeling left in the dark about the plans to build the KSL pipeline.

In early April 2011, Freda Huson, a spokesperson for the Unist'hot'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en, received a letter from Pacific Trails Pipeline, indicating that the company planned to put drilling pads on the site of her family's camp. A week later, Huson visited the location, the company having neglected to seek permission or prior consent from her clan as traditional land owners.

On the site, Huson noted



The KSL gas line, which received quiet approval from the feds and the province, will run side-by-side Enbridge's controversial oil line. *Ryan James Terry*

fluorescent ribbons inscribed with the words "Pacific Trails Pipelines" hanging from tree branches, marking the path the pipeline would follow. Enraged, Huson took down the ribbons, and returned the next day with members of her family to build a makeshift fence around the area.

These days, Huson is entertaining the idea of moving into a cabin on-site so that she can keep a closer eye on what is happening on the land she says her family has depended on for trapping and fishing for hundreds of years.

"I received a telephone call and they said they were wanting to meet with us, because we told them they were not coming in, and we would block them," said Huson, referring to her last interaction with one of the pipeline

companies.

Unlike in the case of the Enbridge pipeline, elected officials from the 14 First Nations along the KSL pipeline path have already agreed to the project. Some have received incentives, including employment for band members, for agreeing to the project. The Haisla Nation did not respond to a request for an interview before press time.

The cumulative impacts of the infrastructure connected to the KSL pipeline will be enormous, and range from LNG terminal and storage areas near the coast to the massive shale gas projects in northeastern BC, which are slated to use a significant portion of the energy generated by the proposed Site-C dam. A recent study from Cornell University indicates

that natural gas extracted from shale through a process known as hydraulic fracturing ("fracking")

Morice and through the coast mountains to Kitimat, they're right on top of each other," said

*"There was never even a news article about this pipeline in the local papers. They did this all under the table."*

—Glenda Ferris

may actually release more carbon emissions in the long run than coal or oil.

Oil and gas pipelines running side by side also make a dangerous combination.

East of the Morice River, lying to the west of the town of Smithers, BC, a significant distance separates the proposed route of the Enbridge oil pipeline and that of KSL. However, closer to the river as well as to the west, the proposed pipelines would run side by side.

"When they go up the

Ferris. "The basic probability of failure is an explosion. Why would you ever allow an oil pipeline to be built next to the KSL pipeline?"

"I've never seen Enbridge acknowledge the KSL pipeline," she said, "and what hazard the KSL pipeline is going to pose to an oil pipeline."

Enbridge did not return this reporter's request for an interview before press time.

*Dawn Paley is a journalist in Vancouver.*

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# Threatening Ideologies

Canadian intelligence agencies assess the "Public Order Threat" of G20 activism

by Tim Groves

A secretive unit involving the RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police and more than a dozen other government agencies gathered large amounts of intelligence on perceived threats to the G8/G20 summit last year, documents obtained by the *Dominion* reveal.

Formed in January 2009, the Joint

Intelligence Group (JIG) was a temporary body formed for the G8/20. It included an investigative arm called the Primary Intelligence Investigative Team (PIIT) that had a "mandate to detect, deter, prevent, investigate and/or disrupt threats to the 2010 G8." They engaged in a "wide array of investigative techniques" which included "open source information analysis, a review

of police occurrence reports and more covert techniques such as the recruitment of confidential informants and undercover operations."

The following is an excerpt from a document that deals with Public Order Threats, obtained through an access-to-information request with the RCMP.

Joint In...  
used pre...  
and the...  
is being...  
Pan Am

## 1. b. The Public Order Threat

The 2010 G8 Summit in Huntsville, as with most venues of this type, will likely be subject to actions taken by criminal extremists motivated by a variety of radical ideologies, resulting in potentially serious public safety challenges.<sup>7</sup> These ideologies may include variants of anarchism, anarcho-syndicalism, nihilism, socialism, and/or communism. These ideologies may also include notions of racial supremacy and white power and engage in public incitement of hatred. The important commonality is that these ideologies (or at least the interpretations included here) place these individuals and/or organizations at odds with the *status quo* and the current distribution of power in society: This may include a theoretical and practical opposition to authority (i.e. law enforcement and government), the capitalist or mixed market economy, multiculturalism, notions of free trade, and/or the current political systems embodied in most of the participating countries, etc. In addition to these generally held tenets, a variety of grievances exist: These grievances are based upon notions/expectations regarding the environment, animal rights, First Nations' resource-based grievances, gender/racial equality, and distribution of wealth, etc. Most importantly, the ideologies or motivations that propel these individuals/organizations incorporate an acceptance of criminal activity and violence to achieve their various goals. Often this acceptance of criminal activity as a means is overtly stated, while at times it is known only internally.

The existence of these ideologies and the grievances that emanate from them is not, in itself, problematic. In fact, public dissent based upon differences in opinion is intrinsic to any democratic system. The core of the problem, however, is the evolution of these philosophical differences into the advocating of criminal activity and the creation of significant public security threats. Given the high profile of the political philosophy of

<sup>7</sup> Radical, in this sense, merely underscores that the adherents incorporate criminal activity, including violence, to pursue ideological goals. It does not include lawful expressions of dissent as protected in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

2010 G8 Summit - Integrated Security Unit Joint Intelligence Group. Do not disseminate. Contact the author of this document for permission to release any information. Not for legal use. This document is not to be reclassified, copied, reproduced, used in whole or part or further disseminated, without the consent of the originator. This document is the property of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This record may be subject to mandatory exemption under the Access to Information and Privacy Acts. If access is requested under that legislation, no decision regarding disclosure should be made without prior consultation with the departmental privacy coordinator of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

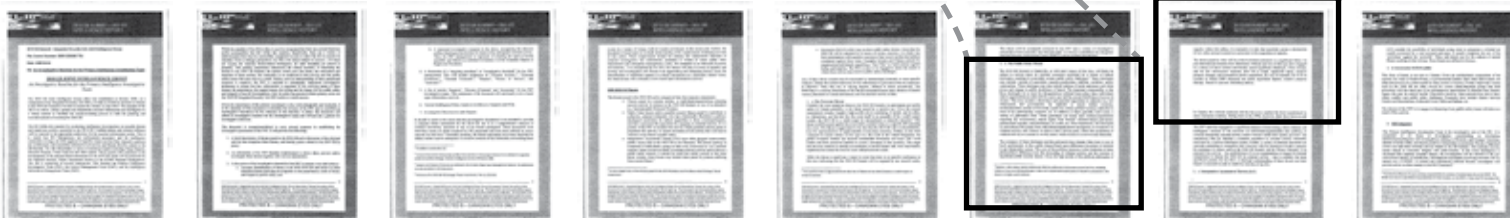
PROTECTED B - CANADIAN EYES ONLY

Ian Tomlinson died after an unprovoked attack by police during G20 protests in April, 2009 in London, England. Videos released by The Guardian showed Tomlinson walking home with his hands in his pockets when a police officer struck him from behind and shoved him to ground. Shortly afterward he collapsed and died in hospital of internal bleeding and blunt force trauma. In May 2011, media reported the officer who struck him was charged with manslaughter.

They present the problem not as the actions people engage in but the very ideas or perspectives of anarchism and anti-capitalism.... Anarchism in itself seems to be criminalized and constructed as a "national security risk" justifying the denial of rights to activists identified as "anarchists."

— Gary Kinsman, professor, Laurentian University

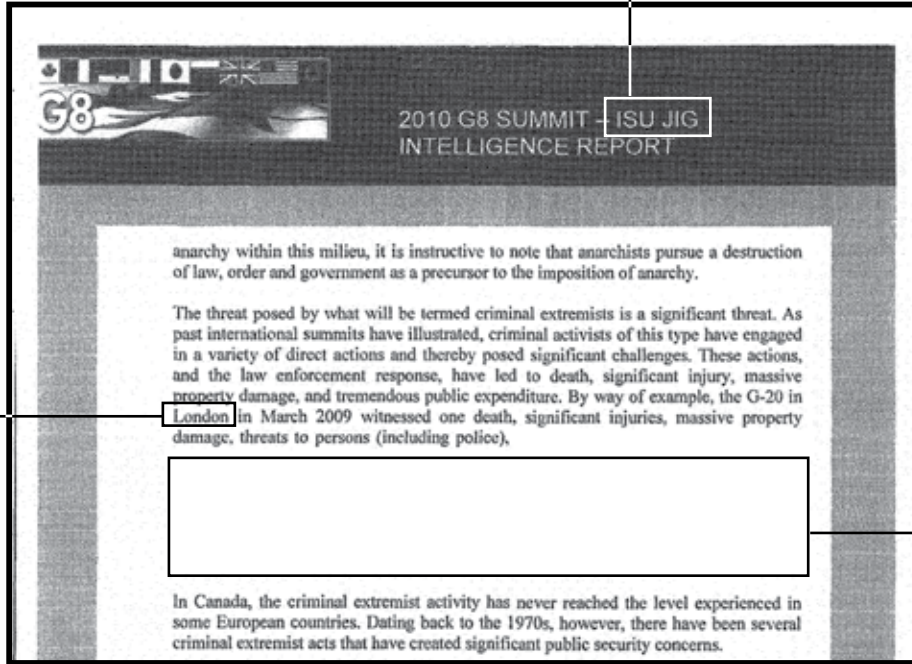
Without this footnote the text of the document could be read as saying that ideologies like anarchism are inherently criminal.



Intelligence Groups are temporary bodies previously at the 2002 G8 Summit in Alberta, the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. A new JIG formed in the lead up to Ontario's 2015 Games.

JIG is an example of an emerging model of intelligence gathering known as "intelligence fusion centers." These involve numerous agencies following their own rules and regulations but collaborating to gain a broader range of powers than any one member would have alone. In this model no one agency is in command and accountability can be elusive.

A branch of JIG called the Liaison Management Team shared intelligence with another 145 government agencies and an unspecified "Private Sector Group."



**Organizations involved with G20 intelligence gathering:**

- Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
- Royal Canadian Mounted (RCMP)
- Toronto Police Service (TPS)
- Peel Regional Police (PRP)
- Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS)
- York Regional Police Service. (YRPS)
- Canadian Boarder Service Agency (CBSA)
- Integrated Threat Assesment Centre (ITAC)
- The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)
- National Security Criminal Operations Branch (NSCOB)
- Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC)
- Canadian Forces (CF)
- Guelph Police Service (GPS)
- Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS)
- Ottawa Police Service (OPS)

Several international agencies also shared information with JIG including Interpol, the FBI and agencies from Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the UK.

Documents released through Access to Information requests are "redacted" or erased in white rather than crossed out with black.

The definitions of "radical", of "ideology", of "anarchist", of what is the status quo and what threatens it, are all political definitions which, in a democracy, would be debated in places like the press, parliament, the schools, the university. Instead, they are defined in secret documents and then applied to real people who then suffer real violence as a result. That this is all done in the name of security is even more stark, since once these labels are applied to a person they are in real physical and legal danger.

—Justin Podur, writer and activist

"What is clear is that direct action that goes beyond the palatable ritual of rallies and exercises of free speech is what is actually perceived as a significant threat to state and corporate interests. This has to be a factor in our movement's strategic and tactical considerations."

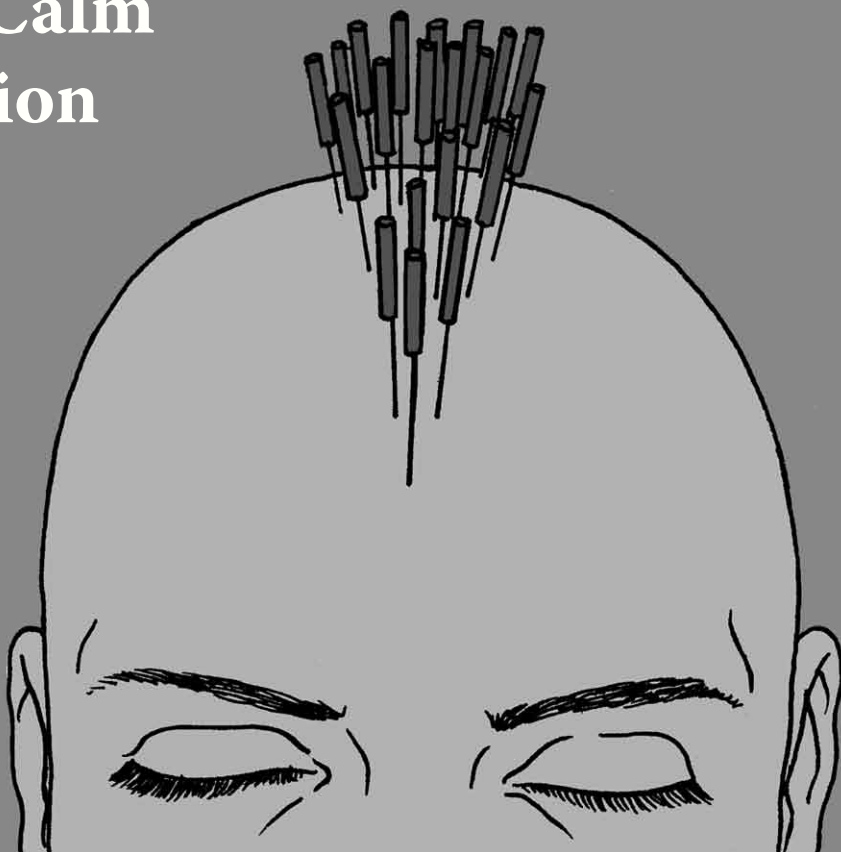
—Harsha Walia, writer and activist





# A Very Calm Revolution

## Community acupuncture in Canada



Community acupuncturists—acupunks—are challenging the Western style of pricy, single-patient treatment by offering traditional Asian acupuncture, which promotes accessible, shared healing spaces.

Ryan James Terry

by Lisa Baird

VANCOUVER—If you step into a certain storefront on East Broadway in Vancouver and walk around the black tissue paper screen, you see six, maybe eight, people sleeping in recliners under blankets, their heads and exposed limbs studded with tiny silver needles. You don't feel alarmed, though; the sense of tranquility takes over, relaxing your forehead. This is a typical scene at Poke Community Acupuncture.

"In today's world, it is so difficult to stay connected to one's self," says Darcy Carroll, owner of Poke, who argues that the shared stillness is perhaps as significant as the needles.

"There are numerous distractions—email, cell phones, television," she says. "Having time to sit with oneself is so valuable. Likely more valuable than much of what I may have to say to a patient."

Acupuncture is the millen-

nia-old practice of inserting fine needles at specific points in the body to cultivate health and treat disease. It is effective in treating a myriad of physical and mental illnesses and every conceivable type of pain. It can cost almost nothing. And aside from relaxation and mood elevation, it is generally understood that acupuncture has no side effects.

In Canada, most acupuncturists charge \$65-175 per hour-long session, making it inaccessible for most people. A small but growing number of community acupuncturists—affectionately referred to as "acupunks"—are working to change this.

Carroll opened Poke Community Acupuncture in 2009 on a busy street in Vancouver. Poke offers treatments on a sliding scale of \$20-40. Patients are told, "You pay what you can afford," no questions asked. Poke is open seven days per week, employing three acupuncturists and one part-time

office manager, with 150-170 patient visits each week. (Carroll does not advertise; Poke's patients take care of that, grabbing fistfuls of business cards on their way out the door.) At Poke, patients are booked six per hour and are treated, fully clothed, in recliner chairs, in a group setting.

This is the way acupuncture is traditionally practiced in Asia: many patients per hour and very little talking. Community acupuncture practitioners say that a collective energy field (known as "community qi") generated by several people having treatments at once enhances the effects of individual treatments. Up to eight people share the treatment room at a time, relaxing under blankets to the sound of soothing music (and steady traffic on Broadway). It is common to slumber among strangers for two hours at a stretch. A busy day in Poke is very, very calm.

Patients at Poke are encour-

aged to stay as long as they like ("We do encourage napping," Carroll smiles), letting the acupuncturist know with a look or a soft "ah-hem" when they've decided they are ready to go. For many patients this is new: their own bodies will know what's best for them.

Community acupuncture is a potent form of nonverbal community building, says Carroll. Healing in a group interrupts the isolation that often accompanies depression, illness and chronic pain. People from all backgrounds sleep deeply in recliners at Poke.

"Community acupuncture as practiced at Poke breaks down class barriers, challenges the idea of value being attached to a price," Carroll says. Effective pain relief without drugs or side effects leads to a more critical view of pharmaceutical drugs. "The group setting also disputes the concept of health as something that you consume, privately, if you can afford it.

Instead, health is something you share with your community."

Community acupuncture is growing in Canada. In Vancouver, Poke Community Acupuncture, Fir Street Community Acupuncture, and 5Shen offer sliding-scale acupuncture treatments. In Victoria, Hemma Community Acupuncture and Heart & Hands Health Centre are options for affordable acupuncture. A community clinic has sprung up in Nelson, BC, as have a handful in Ontario.

Acupuncture is a therapy, and works best with regular treatments—a course of a dozen, given at least once a week, is often necessary for lasting effects. People of average incomes generally stop after one or two treatments, not because they are apathetic about their health, but because they can't afford the expense of multiple visits to the acupuncturist. Instead of achieving success by marketing their services to the wealthy, the community acupuncture model provides practitioners a stable income from many small sources.

Carroll recommends Lisa Rohleder's manifesto, Acupuncture is Like Noodles: The Little (Red) Cookbook of Working-Class Acupuncture for any acupuncturist interested in exploring community acupuncture. The community acupuncture network offers a worldwide directory of community acupuncture clinics, as well as online camaraderie, inspiration and advice. In April 2011 the first ever Community Acupuncture Network Conference took place in Portland, Oregon. At the time of writing, at least four Canadian acupuncturists had planned on attending the conference.

"I think we have enough practitioners out there who cater to folks with lots of money, or juicy medical plans," says Laurel Irons. Irons operates 5Shen, an accessible mobile community acupuncture clinic providing individual and group acupuncture throughout Vancouver. The five shen are the five psycho-emotional aspects of our selves, corresponding with the five elements in traditional oriental medicine.

5Shen promotes harm reduction and peer-led, client-centred

services. Irons focuses on increasing accessibility to acupuncture and holistic therapies, especially among marginalized people who often don't have access to such forms of health. Locations include women's recovery houses, BC's Queer Resource Centre and Positive Living BC (formerly BCPWA). Irons bills through Medical Services Plan, which covers 10 acupuncture visits per year for those on premium assistance (100 per cent subsidized health care for low-income British Columbians).

"Folks living in poverty are in serious need of greater options around health and wellness, and

*The effects of unresolved trauma can fracture families and friendships as well as movements. When a group is calm and quiet together, hope and resilience rise powerfully.*

we need more practitioners who can find a way to get involved," she says.

Last summer, for instance, Irons and a colleague offered free acupuncture aftercare to people returning from anti-G20 protests in Toronto, using the five-needle auricular protocol developed by the National Acupuncture Detox Association. The five points in each ear ease cravings and the emotional roller coasters of addiction and withdrawal, and also provide potent treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. The five-needle protocol treats sleep disturbances, depression and anxiety, often achieving instant results.

In a free drop-in clinic in East Vancouver last summer, three times per week for over a month, two acupunks treated several dozen people dealing with the emotional, psychological and physical consequences of violence and incarceration as a result of police brutality at the G20. People who arrived stressed out, anxious and in pain received acupuncture (many for the first time) and experienced deep relaxation sitting on couches and folding chairs

arranged in a loose circle.

The effects of unresolved trauma can fracture families and friendships as well as movements. When a group is calm and quiet together, hope and resilience rise powerfully. More than one participant from the post-G20 clinic commented that after an acupuncture treatment, "That was the most relaxed I've ever been."

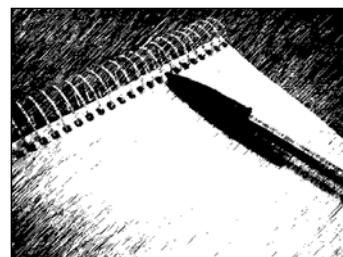
Worldwide resource depletion, austerity measures and increasing state repression are creating the need for simple, creative and unconventional ways of taking care of each other. Community acupuncture and other alternative healing methods are a

growing part of radical liberation movements as the focus increases on not only dismantling repressive structures but also on actively building a more just and gentle world.

Acupuncturists were on hand in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, in Haiti after the earthquake and in New York after the 9/11 attacks. Community acupuncture was also available after Vancouver's Transgendered Day of Remembrance in 2010, and at an event in connection to the Women's Memorial March in February 2011. It was offered with the understanding that these memorial events, while important for the healing of the community, are potentially re-traumatizing.

"The acupuncture helps us to hold on, helps us to let go," says Irons. "I love being involved with radical, inspiring, revolutionary folks in a nurturing capacity—this is how I choose to support the movements I am a part of and I am honoured to be accepted into these kinds of spaces."

*Lisa Baird is a spoken word poet and acupunk in Vancouver BC.*



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A danger sign marks the area near a closed-down columbium mine in the municipality of Oka, near the border of Kanesatake. Niocan hopes to bring mining back to the area, with plans to open a nioumbium mine on adjacent lands.

*Dru Oja Jay*

## Kanesatake and a Canadian Mine

### Controversial niobium mine continues to fly under the radar

by Stefan Christoff

MONTREAL—Only minutes up the road from the focal point of the 1990 Oka Crisis, Niocan Inc. plans to set up an underground mine for the extraction of niobium, a rare element used in high-grade steel production.

Despite the past history of tensions and widespread opposition to the current proposal within the Mohawk community of Kanesatake, the proposed mining project has remained under the radar. Even as the company continues to lobby government

officials and push forward with the project, little media or mainstream political attention has been given to the issue. Residents of Kanesatake, though, are not letting their guard down in the face of the mining project.

“A very short-sighted vision drives this mining project that will impact the land and environment for future generations, but the government and Niocan only see dollar signs,” says Ellen Gabriel, a celebrated activist from Kanesatake. “Our community has been resisting for over 300 years and our rights are not recognized,

particularly our rights to the land, but we have every right to defend this land.”

As the site of the Oka Crisis, Kanesatake has already served to ignite a generation of protest and action within Indigenous communities. If the Quebec government grants permission to open the mine against the will of Kanesatake, the potential political implications are serious.

“Quebec's government holds no jurisdiction to grant mining permits on traditional Mohawk lands,” Sohenrise Paul Nicholas of the Mohawk Council of Kanesa-

take told *The Dominion*. “We are opposed to the mine and are willing to defend the land...A mine is not [an] appropriate project for our traditional lands.”

Voices opposing the project highlight the long-term environmental impacts of underground mining, a process that will use large amounts of water from local aquifers and affect an estimated 25 square kilometres of fertile agricultural lands.

“One immediate concern is environmental,” says Nicholas. “A major mine operating in a mixed residential and agricultural

*“Today we are supporting the farmers and the farmers are supporting us.”*

—Walter David

area is not acceptable. Beyond permanently altering the natural landscape, the mining process will disturb high concentrations of radioactive elements within the land.”

Radium and polonium—both radioactive—have been measured in elevated concentrations within the underground ore body that Niocan Inc. is proposing to mine, a process that may lead to large volumes of radioactive waste.

Many Mohawks also oppose the mine on the basis of their collective water rights.

“A mine like this will be detrimental to our water table and our health in general,” says Nicholas, in an urgent tone. “About 90 per cent of our homes in Kanesatake use well water every day, and once those aquifers are disturbed for mining use there is no guarantee that our water will be safe anymore.”

Over the past decade Niocan Inc., based in downtown Montreal, has been lobbying to set up the controversial project amidst agricultural lands just outside of Montreal. Highly unpopular in both Kanesatake and surrounding Quebec communities like Oka, the contested mining project is uniting local farmers and Mohawks in an anti-mining struggle.

“Local farmers living close to where the mine would be situated are totally opposed and are expressing outrage that this mine would position itself right in the middle of the farming area,” Kanesatake resident Walter David told *The Dominion* in an interview at his Moccasin-Jo coffee and tea shop in Kanesatake. David says he has seen a solidarity develop over the last decade through joint opposition to the Niocan mine. “Agricultural workers are growing many fruits and vegetables on

these lands just beside Montreal. Do we want toxic chemicals entering our food and water supply?”

“Today we are supporting the farmers and the farmers are supporting us.”

Points of opposition to the mine put forward by Mohawk activists in Kanesatake and community residents in Oka are similar, even if disagreement over fundamental land rights in the area exist. It is a fascinating political solidarity, born from opposition to corporate mining, in an area historically shaped by territorial conflicts.

Recently, Quebecois community activists collected thousands of signatures for a petition they delivered to Quebec's National Assembly. Arguing that “there is a blatant conflict in using land in the Oka area for both agricultural purposes and the establishment of a niobium mine,” the petition calls on the Quebec government to “protect the important agricultural, residential, recreational and environmental areas in the Oka region against any current or future mining development project in the area.”

Representatives for Niocan continue to lobby to mine niobium, a highly lucrative element actively extracted from mines only in Canada and Brazil and used for aerospace, military and industrial machinery. Any new mine could result in revenue to the tune of tens of millions of dollars per year. The immediate economic gains for a company seeking to extract the element from Indigenous lands are clear.

A final decision on whether to grant permission to Niocan Inc. for the mine is forthcoming from Quebec's Environment Ministry, although the decade-long negotiations have led to two

separate reports from Quebec's Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE).

On water, a 2005 BAPE report concluded that the “ground water pumping required for operating the mine would lead to lowering of water levels in the deep aquifer...it could also lower the ground water table and the level of certain wetlands,” impacting “agricultural water supply.” Pollution stemming from the mine “could trigger contamination of ground water,” it said.

Despite these findings, progress toward the establishment of the mine continues, as local residents work to raise awareness and struggle against the project.

“We have had conversations; it is an issue that we will deal with,” Hubert Marleau, interim Chairman of the Board and CEO of Niocan, said of land disputes involving the Mohawks of Kanesatake.

“In Canadian history there have been many cases where things were not so easy,” said Marleau. “In the end things worked out and people were happy.”

But not everyone agrees with Marleau's rosy assessment.

“Well, this is a selective view of Canadian history,” says Clifton

These areas, like the one where the proposed Niocan mine will be situated, are often officially classified by Canadian or provincial authorities as crown lands open for private development, even though they have been long held by local Indigenous communities and are sometimes subject to ongoing land claims, legal challenges or disputes.

Community activists and traditional leaders opposing development on “disputed” land are facing increasing state repression, including the arrest of six Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) elders in Northern Ontario, police repression of community leaders of the Algonquin of Barriere Lake in northern Quebec, and the ongoing fight by the Sinixt Nation against logging on traditional lands in BC.

The future of Niocan's pending mining operation in Kanesatake remains unclear. If recent history and the historic 1990 land-rights standoff are any indicators, Niocan is set to face fierce, community-led resistance if the project moves forward.

“No means no and Niocan Inc. needs to understand this,” says Nicholas. “Nothing the company says will change our position; we do not want our traditional lands to face [an environmentally

*“A very short-sighted vision drives this mining project that will impact the land and environment for future generations, but the government and Niocan only see dollar signs.”*

—Ellen Gabriel

Nicholas, a community activist and videographer from Kanesatake. “Throughout all of Canada's history we were never given a fair shake.”

The debate about Niocan's niobium mine points to a larger context of simmering land conflict across Canada. In recent years, Indigenous people from coast to coast have taken to the front lines to oppose industrial development on traditional territories.

destructive] mining project that goes against our wishes.”

For more information on Niocan and Kanesatake visit *MiningWatch Canada's resource page* <http://www.miningwatch.ca/en/home/country/canada/quebec/kanesatake-niocan>.

*Stefan Christoff is a Montreal-based writer, community activist and musician. Stefan is at <http://www.twitter.com/spirodon>.*

# Jewish National Fund Challenged for Complicity in Ethnic Cleansing

## Canadian, Israeli activists push to revoke organization's charitable status

by Jillian Kestler-D'Amours

JERUSALEM—Israeli, Palestinian and international protestors gathered in Tel Aviv and Ramallah in late February to denounce ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. But instead of leveling their criticisms at the Israeli state, the chants and banners were aimed at an unexpected target: Canada.

Among other issues, protestors were targeting Canada for its role in building Canada Park, an Israeli park built over the ruins of three Palestinian villages with donations made to the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF-Canada). JNF-Canada's role is being challenged both at home and in Israel, while a targeted campaign against the JNF overall is underway.

"Canada Park was planted and funded with the support of the Jewish National Fund of Canada over the lands and over the ruins of three ethnically cleansed villages: Imwas, Yalu and Beit Nuba, occupied and ethnically cleansed in the course and the wake of the 1967 [Six Days] war," explained Israeli activist Uri Davis, member of the Committee for Defending the Latrun Villages, in Tel Aviv.

"Canada Park represents a blatant violation of international law, but it also represents a blatant violation of official Canadian policy condemning any intervention of settlement or occupation or change of demographic composition or any other alteration in the 1967 occupied territories," he added.

JNF-Canada operates as a charity and collects approximately \$10 million annually in tax-

deductible donations. Canadian citizens have donated about \$15 million to JNF, which has gone to fund Canada Park and similar projects.

Located in the Latrun enclave, just off the major highway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Canada Park is a popular weekend picnic and hiking spot for Israeli families. What most road signs or tourist brochures won't tell you, however, is that Canada Park extends several kilometres into the

and the State of Israel are inseparable. Jewish National Fund of Canada land reclamation projects have created the infrastructure for countless residential areas and other communities across Israel."

Operating as a branch of JNF-Israel, the JNF-Canada website vaguely states that the funds raised by JNF-Canada "are primarily directed to the payment of wages to workers engaged in various aspects of Jewish National Fund activities."

and its activities, including how it built Canada Park over Palestinian communities. The long-term goal, he said, will be to de-list the JNF as a Canadian charity.

"The JNF's legal mission and strategy is explicit—Land [sic] for Jews only. Technically, the land is collectively titled to the JNF. Palestinians are denied the right to their land—forever—be it in Israel or even the occupied territories," Weinstein wrote in an email to *The Dominion*.



Canada Park is being built over the ruins of former Palestinian villages. JNF-Canada is funding the project, leading Palestinians and Canadians alike to demand that its charitable status be revoked.

Jillian Kestler-D'Amours

West Bank, far beyond the Green Line, the internationally recognized armistice line separating Israeli and Palestinian territory.

Today, the majority of Imwas, Yalu and Beit Nuba's original Palestinian inhabitants are refugees living in Jordan or in and around the West Bank city of Ramallah. Since they are barred from entering Israel, these Palestinian residents are unable to access Canada Park, or visit the ruins of their ancestral villages.

According to the JNF-Canada website, "The history of the Jewish National Fund of Canada

Today, the JNF operates 11 regional offices across Canada, from Vancouver to Halifax.

Scott Weinstein is a Steering Committee member of Independent Jewish Voices Canada (IJV), which according to its website is "an organization that promotes a just resolution to the dispute in Israel and Palestine through the application of international law and respect for the human rights of all parties."

Weinstein told *The Dominion* that IJV is working on a campaign to raise awareness in Canada about the Jewish National Fund

"Since Israel was founded, no new Palestinian villages, forests or territory in Israel have been allowed, but hundreds of Jewish villages, cities, parks and forests are constructed. Thanks to Canadian JNF tax support, Palestinian territory shrinks as Jewish territory expands. Palestinian olive trees are destroyed so Jews can plant non-native pine trees, or orange trees," he explained. "The propaganda cover-up of a very unethical mission is frankly upsetting, and shocking to many who learn the reality."

A few hundred metres from the Palestinian Bedouin village of al-Araqib sit a half-dozen bulldozers. Surrounded by

razor wire and heavily guarded by Israeli police officers and soldiers, a sign hangs on a shed inside the permanent bulldozer encampment: "Works being carried out by Keren Kayemeth Leisrael – Jewish National Fund."

"There was police in al-Araqib and also the [JNF] bulldozers. They plowed some parts of the land. We tried to resist them, but we were arrested and handcuffed," explained 17-year-old al-Araqib resident Adam Salim Abu Mdeghem.

Located inside Israel proper



in the Israeli Negev desert about an hour south of Tel Aviv, al-Araqib has been demolished a total of 19 times since July 2010. The village's destruction was commissioned by the JNF's Israeli branch.

The Jewish National Fund in Israel aims to plant a forest over the village of al-Araqib. Co-sponsored by evangelical Christian organization God-TV, this forest would involve forcibly displacing the 300 Indigenous residents of al-Araqib, who are all Israeli citizens.

Since JNF-Canada is a chapter of JNF-Israel, funds allocated to the JNF in Canada are transferred to projects sponsored by the organization in Israel, such as planting trees in the Negev or Galilee, or restoring the Old City walls in Jerusalem, among others.

It is unclear whether the specific trees JNF-Israel wants to plant over al-Araqib lands were donated or purchased thanks to donations provided by Canadians. JNF-Canada does, however, advertise a project called "Action Plan Negev." This is "a program designed to meet the challenge of developing the Negev for the 21st century" and aims to populate the Negev region.

The destruction of al-Araqib is part of a larger JNF-Israel project called "Blueprint Negev." Launched in 2005 at the cost of \$600 million, the project aims to increase the population in the Negev area by 250,000 Jewish residents by 2013.

Whether "Action Plan Negev" and "Blueprint Negev" are directly related, or constitute two parts of the same program, however, is unspecified.

Haia Noach, the Director of the Negev Co-Existence Forum, a joint Jewish-Arab organization that, among other things, works for Bedouin land rights in the Negev, explained that as the forestation authority in Israel, the JNF developed the project to plant trees over al-Araqib.

She said that while the JNF initially denied any involvement in the destruction of al-Araqib, residents and local activists saw JNF bulldozers destroying property in the village during a demolition in early February 2011.

"We connect them directly and they are responsible for what is going on there, to the fact that people lost their houses, lost their herds, their orchards," Noach said.

"The situation is devastating, but this is what we have," said Abu Mdeghem, sitting on the hillside next to the small, make-shift tent where he, his parents and seven other siblings now live. "I am... very sad for what has happened to the al-Araqib area. We never expected that anything would happen to our land."

According to Noach, the JNF's policy doesn't end in al-Araqib; the organization is threatening the existence of dozens of other Palestinian Bedouin villages that have existed in the area for hundreds of years.

"The JNF is willingly part of this game where they serve as a foresting authority. [You] see it all over Israel, in the North and even in the South," Noach said.

"There will be more and more Arab villages in the Negev that are threatened by the forestation of the JNF."

A new campaign called "Stop the JNF" was recently launched with the goal of documenting and exposing the Jewish National Fund's complicity in Israeli ethnic cleansing, disrupting JNF fund-raising activities and revoking the organization's charitable status in countries around the world.

According to Akram Salhab, an organizer of this international campaign and Communications Officer at Badil, the Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, the campaign aims to co-ordinate between various organizations and provide the resources and information needed for a united campaign.

"One of the first aims of the campaign is to expose and document the role of the JNF. One of the problems with trying to understand the role of the JNF is that it's shrouded in an esoteric legal language, which is indicative more broadly of the way in which the Israeli apartheid regime functions," Salhab explained.

Despite this challenge, Salhab said he is hopeful that the campaign will unite activists around the world who are working

### Institutionalized Racism: The history of the JNF

The Jewish National Fund was created in 1901 before the founding of the State of Israel. Early Zionist leaders used the organization to secure property and land rights for exclusive Jewish use in British-mandate Palestine.

"The JNF was the principal Zionist tool for the colonization of Palestine. It served as the agency the Zionist movement used to buy Palestinian land upon which it then settled Jewish immigrants," wrote Israeli historian Ilan Pappé in his 2006 book *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*.

According to Pappé, in the early 1940s the head of the Jewish National Fund's settlement department, Yossef Weitz, stated, "All we need is 400 tractors, each tractor can cultivate 3,000 dunam—cultivating not just for the purpose of procuring food but in order to prevent anyone from returning to their lands."

Today, the JNF controls approximately 13 per cent of the land in Israel, which it continues to lease only to Jews. This land falls under the management of the Israeli Lands Administration (ILA), an Israeli governmental agency that controls 93 per cent of the land in Israel.

In addition, the JNF controls 50 per cent of the seats at the ILA Council, giving the organization substantial power to decide how virtually all ILA lands are distributed. Under Israeli law, the JNF has also been given the same status as a public authority for the purposes of confiscating land.

According to a 2006 brief submitted to the UN Commission on Human Rights by Habitat International Coalition and Adalah, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, "Palestinian citizens, who constitute 20 per cent of the population, are denied access to [the JNF's] 13 per cent of 'Israel Lands.'" This discriminatory policy contributes to the institutionalization of racially segregated towns and villages throughout the state."

The report continues: "Due to the explicitly discriminatory nature of the ILA and JNF's policies, Adalah and HIC call upon the Commission to initiate an investigation into Israel's discriminatory land allocation policies and to urge the State of Israel to cease discriminatory land allocation practices using institutions such as the JNF, and to apply covenanted principles of equality, just distribution and fairness."

to raise awareness about the JNF's complicity in Israeli crimes.

"Our main aim is to influence public opinion and influence individuals in places where the JNF collects the largest amount of revenue. The problem with that is that those are the places where the JNF has a [great] deal of support. So we're trying to find places where we can set a precedent of JNF discriminatory policy," he said.

According to IJV's Weinstein, this campaign will focus on first educating the Canadian public about the JNF's true nature and making connections between Indigenous land rights in Israel/Palestine and Canada.

"Imagine if we had a Canadian charity that provided homes and parks to English Canadians only, on land taken from French Canadians. It could never happen,

except if we lied about what the charity does. Yet it is precisely what we have done to the Native people of Canada—and few of us are proud of that legacy. So there are Canadian examples where we can make common cause with human rights issues around Indigenous land rights," Weinstein explained.

"Most Canadians don't realize that our taxes support the JNF mission to erase Palestinian villages and lives so Jews can live as first-class citizens," he continued. "We don't know that we support racial discrimination in Israel that would be illegal in Canada."

*Originally from Montreal, Jillian Kestler-D'Amours is a reporter and documentary filmmaker based in Jerusalem. More of her work can be found at <http://jilldamours.wordpress.com>.*

# When Guns Go Green

## Lockheed Martin dives into "renewable" energy

by Miles Howe

HALIFAX—Tom Rand needs a trillion dollars. With that trillion, Rand, the venture capitalist with an eco-twist, believes he could wean the world off of its fossil fuel addiction, curb greenhouse gas emissions and make renewable energy financially competitive.

Rand sits on the board of several green energy companies and businesses, has designed an award-winning, low-emissions hostel in downtown Toronto and has written "Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit," a green energy primer. Rand is also an accomplished speaker and headlined April's "Renewable Energy Conference" in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The problem, although Rand would not call it that, is that he doesn't particularly care where his trillion comes from, so long as it comes. So while some might cringe at seeing the world's largest weapons manufacturer, Lockheed Martin, as a sponsor of the conference, Rand lets the money talk.

"The only way we're going to be able to solve this problem [climate change]," says Rand, "is to get the people with the capacity to build this stuff at scale at the table. So, people like GE, Lockheed Martin, Siemens, BP, Duke Energy...these are all companies who could either be friend or foe. The most helpful thing for us to do is to say 'How do I make you a friend? How do I bring you on board?' ...It's just not pragmatically useful to have those people not on your side. It doesn't make things any easier."

"Past sins forgiven," says Rand. "Come on in, help us out...I

think is the approach."

Tamara Lorincz, of the Halifax Peace Coalition, is not so ready to forgive Lockheed's sins, past or present.

"Anything Lockheed Martin might do on a renewable energy front pales in comparison to the plundering of the climate by its weapons systems," says Lorincz. "If Lockheed Martin truly cared about renewable energy and a sustainable future, it would stop producing the weapons systems that use so much fossil fuel, and

carbon intensive and will cause climate change, and will use our dwindling fossil fuels. They have no credibility on renewable energy and they are not needed on renewable energy."

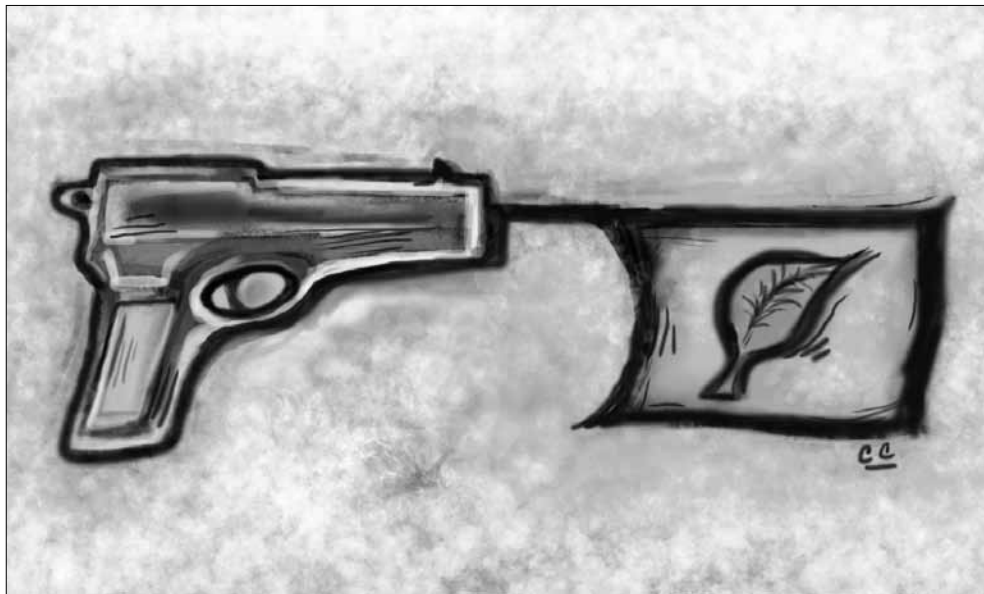
So, while Tom Rand won't ask the question, I will.

Who the hell invited the war pigs to the table?

"I can say that our presence here is based on our interest in renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas consumption and environmental damage," says Steve

Lockheed Martin is still the world's biggest arms manufacturer and exporter. The Canadian military still consumes thousands of barrels of oil per day. But the Lockheed Martin website, aside from lauding missile defense systems and F-35 fighters, loudly toots on the suddenly-popular green horn. F-22 Raptor diagnostics systems now have a completely paperless approach, in that no paper will be used when diagnosing what ails the F-22 Raptor. Copper-beryllium, the dust of which can cause severe lung damage, has also been eliminated from the F-35 assembly line.

Lockheed Martin has also been awarded a contract by the provincial government of Nova Scotia, in consort with Irving Shipbuilding and Atlantis Resources Corporation, to build an experimental tidal turbine to be tested in the Minas Passage, near Parrsboro, Nova Scotia. The turbine is expected to cost between \$10 and \$15 million, and is expected to generate



Weapons manufacturers are starting to jump on the green-washing wagon. Lockheed Martin, one of the world's largest weapons manufacturers, recently sponsored a renewable energy conference in Halifax, NS.

Caitlin Crawshaw

pushing for military spending and war spending that degrades the environment and contributes to climate change."

Lorincz, the self-proclaimed mosquito in Lockheed Martin's ear, recently drew blood when her Access-to-Information request revealed that the many billions—continuously escalating, according to experts—that the Harper Government plans on spending on F-35 stealth fighters would net them 65 engine-less aircraft. The story went global.

"Each stealth fighter holds 10,000 pounds of jet fuel," says Lorincz. "Jet fuel is extremely

Marsden, Lockheed Martin's representative at the conference. "And to the extent that our activities in renewable energy will accomplish that, I think that's a good thing."

Things were far more black and white, good versus evil, in the days when Lockheed's F-117s were dropping thousands of tons of ordinance on Iraq, or when their Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense program had the world in American cross-hairs. Then, Lockheed Martin was simply the biggest arms manufacturer and exporter the world had ever known, a peddler of products that caused untold suffering and mayhem.

1 megawatt of power. Lockheed Martin is going green, and coming to the Bay of Fundy.

So, who the hell invited the war pigs to the table?

The NDP provincial government of Nova Scotia, that's who.

The invitation comes in the form of the Renewable Electricity Plan (REP), released by the Nova Scotia Department of Energy in 2010. The REP includes a mandate to create 25 per cent renewable electricity by 2015, and 40 per cent renewables by 2020.

Ostensibly, the REP is meant to wean Nova Scotia off its dirty coal habit. Realistically, it opens a

veritable Pandora's box of options that, upon closer inspection, do not appear renewable at all. These include large-scale biomass operations that threaten to decimate Nova Scotia's already fragile forests, as well as an increased interest in natural gas exploration, which most likely would involve the environmentally-catastrophic technique known as "fracking."

Tidal power, to be gathered from the Bay of Fundy, weighs heavily in the dreams of the REP, and this is where Lockheed Martin's so-called expertise comes in.

The Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE), a berthing station for turbines in the Minas Passage, can accommodate up to four tidal turbines. FORCE has been built using millions of taxpayer dollars. So far, only one turbine has ever been berthed at FORCE, and the Fundy tides knocked it off-line in only seven days. This is the place where the magic is supposed to happen.

Never mind that the old Annapolis Royal Generating Station has been chugging along in the Annapolis sub-basin, at an output of 20 megawatts, for almost

30 years. The NDP government, and now Lockheed, appear to have their sights set on the Herculean task of harnessing some of the most massive tides in the world. But as they say at FORCE, "One day the world will ask... Is it Fundy-tested?" It remains to be seen whether this line will be spoken as the butt-end of a joke.

The REP doesn't even touch on solar energy, considering it an "emerging" technology. Considering that FORCE has not generated its first kilowatt of energy to the grid, and yet is being offered an extremely favourable rate of return should it ever do so, and considering that the power-generating properties of solar energy have been well-proven around the world, the Department of Energy appears to be flagrantly selective in its use of the word "emerging." REP is also very restrictive on wind projects, another of the areas where smaller players stand to make a go of the energy game.

Neal Livingston, co-founder of Black River Ltd., thirty-year veteran in the solar, wind, and small-hydro installation business, isn't getting swept away by the

tidal wave.

"The Premier is 100 per cent in bed with big business and the old boys' network in Nova Scotia in terms of designing this policy," says Livingston. "And that's why you see tidal being so prominent in their thinking, because they've bought into a whole corporate structure that isn't about you and I having the ability to generate power. It's all restricted."

According to Livingston, the REP stresses the notion of COMFIT (Community Feed-In Tariff), which essentially ties the hands of renewable energy entrepreneurs, and favors big-time investors. COMFIT has strict rules as to who can sell power back to the grid, and more than likely this isn't you. Communities, co-ops, universities, and Aboriginal groups are fine. But if you can't find 25 of your closest friends to co-sign with you on a small-scale wind farm, forget it.

"It's going to be a mess in two ways," says Livingston. "One way is that very, very few people are going to own [renewable energy sources] and thus be able to produce their own electricity. This

is much like the current situation, with Nova Scotia Power owning everything," he says. "And also, if you want to be a smaller player you have to work under a whole set of crazy rules which make it not a very interesting place to do it."

For Lockheed Martin, however, Nova Scotia is the perfect place to get their feet wet in the renewable energy game.

*Miles Howe hails from Ottawa, Ontario, and currently calls Halifax home. He has a Masters degree in Sociology, plays a wicked harmonica, and ferments a mean kimchi.*

This article was produced by the Halifax Media Co-op.



For more grassroots coverage out of Halifax check out [halifax.mediacoop.ca](http://halifax.mediacoop.ca)

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# BACK TALK

## CB miners were rad anti-capitalists, CB coal still burning

Angela Day references miners in Cape Breton having joined the Provincial Workman's Association (PWA) in an effort to organize for a better wages and working conditions ("The Coal In Our Veins" by Angela Day, Issue 76: April/May 2011). In fact, the PWA was largely a Company Union. Cape Breton miners, inspired by the socialist activist J.B. McLachlan, organized into a chapter of the United Mine Workers of America to challenge the pro-capitalist PWA. Cape Breton miners were responsible for radical anti-capitalist organizing, agitating for "industrial democracy"—a vision of the world where communities of workers would be able to decide the conditions of their labour and lives without capitalist ownership.

—Evan Coole, Sydney, Nova Scotia

It seems that everyone on the environmental scene, whether it be the Sierra Club or the Ecology Action Centre, completely ignores that coal mining is still going strong in Cape Breton, causing devastation of forests, marshes, shores and wildlife in Point Aconi. It supplies a great quantity of very poor coal to NSP. It has destroyed many lives and the neighborhood endures terrible hardship: constant blasting, dust and complete devaluation of homes with no compensation.

Not all the coal used by NSP comes from Columbia. (I am aware of the tragic situation of Columbians in mine territories exploited by Canadian corporations.)

For ongoing extraction of coal in Cape Breton, visit [www.c-a-s-m.org](http://www.c-a-s-m.org). It is an excellent and explicit view of the Point Aconi situation with lots of telling pictures.

—Christiane Tanner

## Cuddle-bugged

Justin Ling writes, "Those Indigenous people who met with [Chief Glen] Nolan and [Chief Jerry] Asp were not informed of their mining connections, the source said, and were outraged when they learned of their involvement in the sector." ("Canada Gets Cuddly with Mining Companies" by Justin Ling, Issue 75: March 2011.) When I have met with community leaders throughout Latin America, I have never hidden the fact that I am a supporter of those companies who are doing the correct thing by engaging communities early, providing an open and transparent process of sharing information and in sharing opportunities and benefits directly with the communities.

I have returned to a number of communities in various Latin American countries at the invitation of the leaders. I just returned from one such trip, where the community is actively seeking a Canadian company that is "doing the right thing" to form a partnership to explore on their traditional lands for mineral deposits.

I will continue to share the information I have at my finger tips and the values I hold as a former leader of my community, as an Indigenous person who continues to hold the land as a sacred place and as a person who values participating in the development of the resources at our feet in a sustainable manner. Indigenous people will never overcome the mountain of poverty that buries most communi-

ties unless they join in as knowledgeable partners in the development of natural resources on their traditional lands.

Chi-meegwetch,

—Chief (Retired) Glenn Nolan, Missanabie Cree First Nation

The *National Post* did not report that Export Development Canada (EDC) "lends 20 million to the extractive industry." An opinion piece by Patricia Adams, executive director of the Toronto-based environmental group, Probe International, was published in the *Post*. That op-ed estimated the level of support provided by EDC to the extractive sector based on a 20-plus-year review of all transactions.

As you might imagine, a 20-year span provides for a big number, albeit a misleading one. In fact, EDC's current level financing exposure for the extractive sector is \$4.2 billion. When compared to EDC's more than \$80 billion in total annual business volume that amounts to five per cent of our total business.

When you consider the relative weight of the extractive sector to Canada's GDP, EDC is a minor player in the sector. Hardly what can be described as a "cuddly relationship."

The reason? EDC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitments: both its own and the international standards to which it is a signatory, including IFC, World Bank, and Equator Principles. These commitments are not those of DFAIT, as stated in the article, but EDC's own policies. These commitments mean only projects that will meet international standards come to EDC for consideration. In fact, EDC is the only export credit agency in the world that has a legal requirement to consider the environmental impacts of the transactions it considers.

Hardly what one would describe as "unconditional love."

Good CSR practices are embedded in all of the day-to-day operations at EDC. To include EDC in the same article that supposes that business interests trump CSR commitments among Canadian agencies is a gross misrepresentation. Your readers should have access to these current and relevant facts.

—Phil Taylor, employee, EDC

## First steps

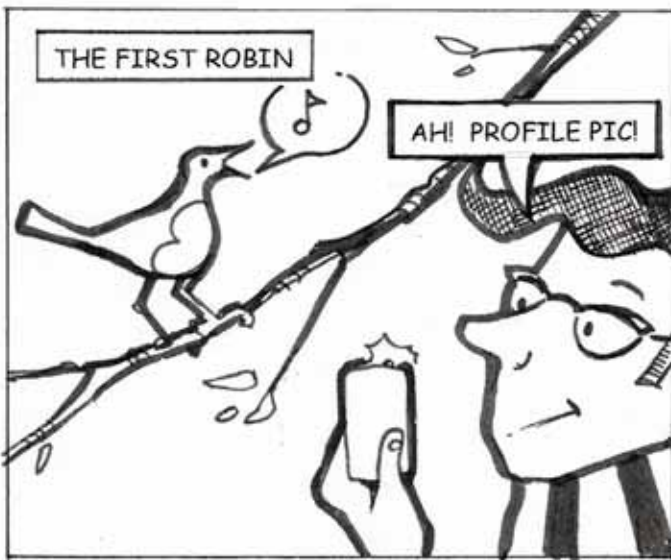
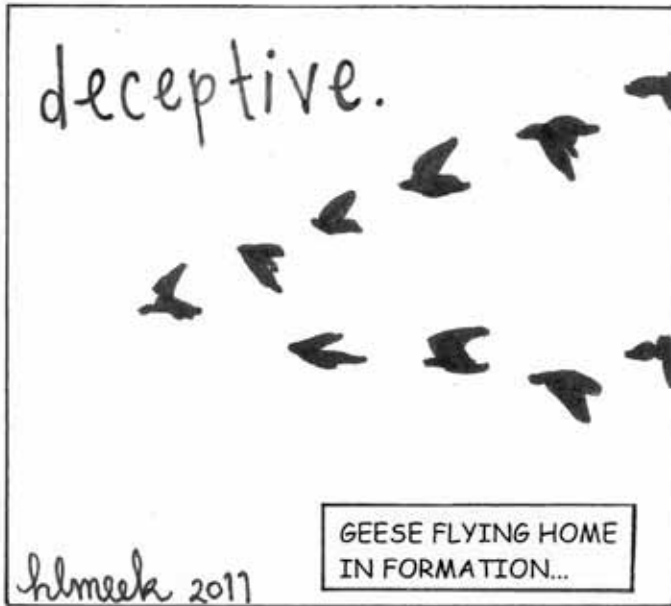
As federal legislation, C-389 would unfortunately not have a direct impact on the areas of provincial jurisdiction that Elias Dean and others mention ("The Self-Determination We Deserve" by Jesse Grass and Nat Gray, Issue 75: March 2011). It's crucial that all provinces and territories enact their own explicit non-discrimination policies. I was proud to formally endorse *PolitiQ* and its allies' demands at the June 2010 rally.

Although C-389 came out of a consultation process with trans communities across the country, it cannot be a panacea for discrimination that trans people face. Hopefully it will be a first legislative step added to and bolstering the work that trans activists have been doing for years, towards the vast social change needed to eliminate transphobia.

—Matt McLaughlin



Heather Meek







# "Everywhere Lands are Being Stolen"

## Mining Justice Week unites people of the South and North

text: Nat Gray & David P. Ball  
photos: Muray Bush & David P. Ball

VANCOUVER—First Nations communities from Guatemala, Honduras, Chile, Mexico and Canada and their allies came together in Vancouver in May for five days of art, meetings and protest in celebration of Mining Justice Week.

People from affected communities attended the AGMs of Goldcorp and First Majestic Silver where mining justice advocates presented shareholders resolutions asking for companies to comply with international environmental and human rights standards. Many more protested outside, drawing attention to Canada's complicity in its companies'

involvement in environmental and social atrocities in the Global South.

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*Murray Bush is a longtime Vancouver activist and photojournalist, and an editor member of the Vancouver Media Coop.*

*Nat Gray is in Vancouver for the moment.*

*This article was produced by the Vancouver Media Co-op, online at [vancouver.mediacoop.ca](http://vancouver.mediacoop.ca).*



Gold-coloured puppets acted out the Canadian government's deadly alliance with mining companies such as Goldcorp.



Human rights lawyer Benito Morales, from the Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation in Guatemala, challenged Goldcorp executives inside the meeting about the Marlin mine.



A Wixarika man, who traveled from Mexico to condemn First Majestic Silver's plans for a silver mine near territory sacred to his people, stood in solidarity at the Goldcorp protest.



Mining justice demonstrators swarmed into the convention centre where Goldcorp held its Annual General Meeting on May 18, but police prevented access to the meeting itself. Several activists breached the security line before being removed.



Kat Norris of the Indigenous Action Movement welcomed the demonstrators to Coast Salish territory, and made the connection between Indigenous land theft in Latin America and Canada, saying, "Everywhere, lands are being stolen."