



Land struggle and solidarity

An interview with Tom Keefer of the Six Nations Solidarity Network pg. 3



Dissent a hate crime?

Hamilton Police label anti-capitalist activism as 'hate crime' pg. 4

BUILD THE GENERAL STRIKE!

The rich play and the rest pay. That should be the motto of the G20 meetings being held in downtown Toronto this month as the political and business leaders of the 20 largest national economies discuss a range of issues with one underlying question; How are they going to make the workers of the world pay for the international financial crisis?

Dubbed "Austerity programs"

by their creators these programs are clearly aimed at ensuring "austerity" for working people while leaving the capitalists whose system created the crisis free to accumulate and destroy wealth at will.

Ontario workers are told to "tighten our belts", wages are frozen or cut, strikes and lockouts are being provoked in both the public and private sectors, a wide range of social programs

are being slashed and public assets are being sold off at fire-sale prices.

Such a widespread attack on the entire working class can only be successfully responded to by all working class people standing together and using our collective power as workers to withdraw our labour in a general strike.

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G20 prompts expanded police power... permanently

By PAUL M.

The global protectors of capitalism will descend on Toronto this June to discuss how to best increase corporate profit rates while simultaneously selling belt tightening measures to societies already ravaged by a global recession. Imperialist wars, global poverty, and environmental destruction are massive problems that affect billions of people across the globe. How can we be sure that such important people as the leaders of the G20 will be protected from the vindictive mob of labor activists, environmentalists, immigration rights and anti-poverty organizations who will seek to hold them accountable?

Well, apparently the recession hasn't put a dent in the security budget - now pushing \$1 billion - needed to protect our vaunted leadership from the baser instincts of the public at large. Security fences, à la Quebec circa 2001, have been erected. RCMP, OPP, and Toronto Police, have been supplemented by thousands of officers from forces across Canada as well as the military. Together they form the Integrated Security Unit (ISU) in a spectacle of state power meant to effectively manage and/or crush all dissenting voices. A fenced-off film studio ostensibly geared towards mass detentions lends credence to a police strategy bent on enforcing a ludicrous free speech zone few will likely obey.



What seems to be clear is that this massive show of force will leave lingering marks on our civil liberties and a stronger police state in its wake. One obvious intrusion is the much talked-about 77 new CCTV police cameras installed in downtown Toronto, which city and police officials assure will be "mostly" taken down after the summit leaves town. Toronto Public Space Committee spokesperson Jonathan Goldsbie put it well when he rhetorically asked the Globe and Mail why anyone would spend countless thousands for high-tech cameras only to let them "languish in a storage area." The Toronto Police Service's claim to the CCTV cameras' temporary nature sounds oddly similar to statements made by the Vancouver authorities in the run up to the Olympics, in which they announced that they would sell off CCTV cameras after the Games. The

cameras used in Vancouver are now part of the city's permanent "redeployable" arsenal - available at police discretion.

Certainly public scrutiny of police funding is a clear casualty of the summit, with the Toronto police taking the opportunity to update to encrypted radios at enormous taxpayer expense. In addition to their \$35 million price tag, the radios mean journalists and concerned citizens will lose the capacity to monitor police activity. At the very least, some level of public oversight made cops more honest in the application of unjust laws - but now racial profiling, the surveillance of social justice groups, and continued harassment of the poor will fly under the radar of concerned citizens.

New abuses are also in store for summit protesters, who are now slated to become guinea pigs for the latest in

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about Common Cause

Common Cause is an Ontario wide anarchist organization with branches active in Toronto, Hamilton, London and Ottawa. Our goal is to build a strong voice for anarchism within community and labour struggles. We believe that the anarchist principles of self organization, direct democracy and direct action are the tools needed to defeat the attacks and obstacles facing our class and provide building blocks for creating a new society. To find out more or join us please get in touch:

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Greening the province: Capitalist style

By ASHANTI CABRAL

The province is abuzz with the build-up to the G-8 and G-20 meetings in June, occurring in Huntsville and Toronto respectively. Government leaders and officials from the world's wealthiest countries are preparing to discuss the global financial crisis while crafting economic strategies without any transparency or input from the vast majority of people whom those plans will most affect. The power wielded by the G-8 in particular is so immense that former British Secretary of State Peter Mandelson described it as a "steering committee for the global economy". Meanwhile, those critical of these leaders and their way of doing business are preparing mass mobilizations to voice their discontent and advocate and more just and democratic ways of handling global affairs.

Submerged under talk of recession, recovery and "New Beginnings" (Stephen Harper's theme for the G-20 conference) is any substantial mention of another devastating crisis impacting the globe, the ecological crisis. The G-20 pays lip service to the concept of sustainable development while the G-8 speaks of "greening" their summit, yet it seems that in the last year the Government of Ontario has taken concrete steps to tackle both the economic and ecological crisis concurrently in the form of the 2009 Green Energy Act (GEA).

A most interesting aspect of the GEA is the commitment to building up Ontario's solar power production capacity. Solar power is the process in which sunlight is converted into electricity by a photovoltaic cell (often in the form of a solar panel) by employing the phenomenon of

photoelectric effect. The Government of Ontario hopes to popularize this method of renewable energy production through a concept called Feed-In-Tariff (FIT). Eric Cosmos, a Toronto based designer and installer of solar systems explains FIT, the GEA and how this all fits into a supposedly greener capitalist future.

"[The FIT program] is the paying of a fee to people who have installed [photovoltaic] systems that are connected to the grid for the energy they pump directly back into the grid." The main incentive of the FIT program then is profit, as Cosmos explains, "[The Ontario Power Authority] pays an extremely high rate for smaller systems ... a steady rate guaranteed over a 20 year contract ... [and] this is where most of the growth is coming in right now." Indeed, for solar systems with a capacity of 10 kilowatts or less, Ontario pays the owner 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour, roughly six times what they pay for the wind, waterpower, biomass or biogas equivalent. "There are also lucrative rates for those who want to set up large parks of photovoltaics. There are a lot of groups and companies trying to get that set up right now but it's not so much around [Toronto] because you can't do that on the good farmland ... but a little further north there's loads of suitable land for that."

Furthermore, "[the GEA] has a domestic content guideline that 40% of the systems need to be made in Ontario and next year that's going up to 60%." In essence then, the GEA FIT incentive program "is really designed to build decentralized [power] generation for the grid and kick-start the industry. It's really a bid to get the North American

[photovoltaics] industry to be here [in Ontario]." In response to the incentive program and the domestic content guideline "the market for photovoltaics is booming and industries are cropping up really fast", as Cosmos has personally witnessed. "Decades ago there was the idea of 'Solar Revolution', that is, decentralized power [production] and that's totally still feasible in terms of setting up small-scale systems ... but in order to get the scale to make it cheap enough to work there's got to be panels everywhere. That's what we're seeing now, scaling up and scaling up."

In terms of meeting the Green Energy Act goals of building up a domestic solar industry and increasing the supply of solar energy to the grid, the Feed-In-Tariff incentive program appears to be working. Yet how does the GEA fare when we envision it contributing to a truly sustainable future? Eric Cosmos is critical. "It's not smart to think you could run an entire house on solar power because some things, like heating or running a stove, require a massive amount of power." Indeed renewable energies, with all their promise, compel us to rethink our energy consumption patterns. Because it's unreasonable to expect the solar panels on an average sized rooftop to be able to power the huge amounts of energy-sucking appliances and generally wasteful energy habits we've grown accustomed to under mass-consumption capitalism, to seriously embrace solar power necessitates a shift in our lifestyle. According to Cosmos, "this is the criticism of the FIT program; consumption and production are totally disconnected. It's good for the grid because it produces power in

the middle of the day when people use it a lot, but there's no real conservation incentive".

Yet such a lifestyle shift is anathema to capitalism and its "grow-or-die" logic since the well-being of the global economy requires mass-consumption and expanding consumerism. Herein lies capitalism's ecological contradiction: so long as an economic system is predicated on never-ending growth, it will never be able to sustain itself on a finite world such as ours. Capitalism must die so the earth can live.

Although the GEA doesn't come anywhere near solving the central ecological contradiction it will at best act as a stop-gap amelioration to the energy crisis and create more green sector jobs. Ironically, as committed as the Government of Ontario is to the capitalist project, the GEA does seem to be inadvertently creating the infrastructure that could be harnessed by a post-capitalist ecologically sustainable society. In fact, this infrastructure of decentralized power generation would dovetail quite cohesively with the form of decentralized, ecologically sustainable socialist economy that anarchists advocate. Cosmos explains, "I do see [solar energy] as a lot less of a sham than many other environmental initiatives like 'Carbon Credits' and 'Cap-and-Trade'. It's incremental, it's gradual, but it's actually doing something. Even if the incentive programs end it's not too big of a deal to just disconnect [the solar panels from the grid] and reconnect them into a system that's locally focused. [Solar power] was developed based on a need for decentralized power generation."

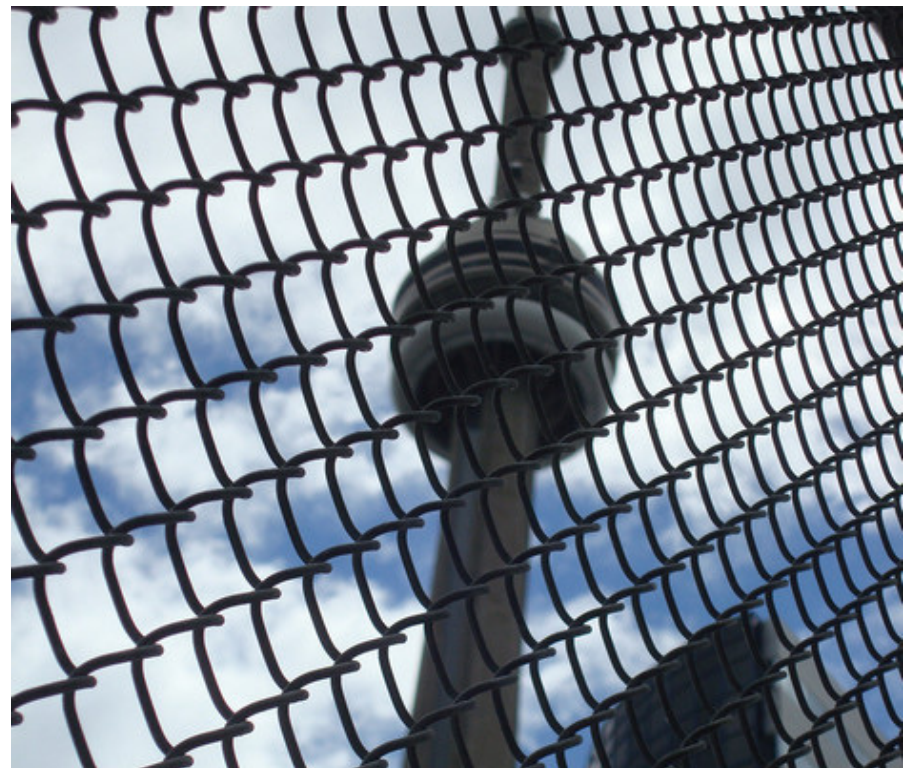
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police technology. Toronto Police have acquired four Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRAD) - more appropriately dubbed sound cannons - for the summit, which are known to cause moderate to serious hearing damage, including permanent loss of hearing. These weapons are being categorized as "communication devices", but the unwillingness of police to disable their dangerous "alert" function at the request of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) demonstrates their real intention come summit day, and beyond. The willingness of the cops to use this dangerous weapon can perhaps be gauged by LRAD use during the last G20 summit in Pittsburgh, or, for that matter, by the general level of concern that cops always show to social activists. Ear plugs don't cut down the decibel level enough to protect you from prolonged exposure to the cannon, but might buy you time to get out of range - and you can call me paranoid if you want, but I'm buying some.

While the rest of the public sector is being asked to brace themselves for wage freezes and service cuts, the Toronto Police have managed to turn the 5% reduction in operating costs requested by the city budget officer into a 5% increase. Doubtless the grand excuse of G20 security will be leveraged to secure special treatment for police state infrastructure, which remains the

thin blue line separating the public from the wealthy minority determining their lives. The \$45 million addition to the police budget is a pittance for the long term social control it affords, as poverty rises in a global recession and the propertied classes need bigger and more well-equipped guard dogs.

As the G20 begins, and activists gear up for yet another protest, it is worth noting that the accompanying police state infrastructure is here to stay, and will certainly affect the ongoing work of day-to-day organizing so crucial for building a mass movement. The fight for a truly just and sustainable world must be fought everyday, in our workplaces and communities - lest we concede defeat to the global leadership we so rightly seek to protest.



2010 Soccer World Cup: All in the Name of the Beautiful Gain

Perspectives on the World Cup from South African anarchist organization the ZACF

Cut to Special Diet isn't About Health

"The rates for OW and ODSP are unlivable and make it difficult for recipients to afford food of any type, let alone fresh, nutritious ... If it were about health everyone on social assistance would be entitled to Special Diet - and more."

Black Flame co-author in Ontario

Video of Black Flame co-author Michael Schmidt on tour visiting from South Africa. Common Cause organized a tour of several Ontario cities. to discuss the book.

on the web

www.linchpin.ca

Building solidarity with Six Nations: An interview with Tom Keefer

Tom Keefer is a founding member of Upping the Anti (UTA), a semiannual Canadian publication that describes itself as “a journal of theory and action.” He is a well-known organizer and an enthusiastic advocate for indigenous rights who has written extensively on the ongoing land claims in Six Nations and the reactionary anti-native campaigning of Gary McHale in Caledonia. His most recent article, available in UTA # 10, is entitled: Marxism, Indigenous Struggles, and the Tragedy of “Stagism”.

Could you briefly explain the history of the current land dispute taking place in Caledonia/Six Nations?

The history of the dispute goes back to 1784 when the British Crown, granted the Haudenosaunee [Six Nations] people the land on 6 miles on each side of the Grand River from its mouth to its source in perpetuity. This constituted almost 1,000,000 acres of land, but under the pressure of increased European migration to Southern Ontario, in the first half of the 19th century this land was whittled down (by a combination of shady business deals, government mismanagement, and outright theft of land by white squatters and the Crown) to the 46,000 acres which form the basis of the Six Nations reserve today. The people of the Six Nations territory of the Grand River have been fighting to reclaim their land ever since.

Many non-native people became familiar with this struggle following the February 2006 reclamation of the Douglas Creek Estates, a housing development that was to be built on the outskirts of Caledonia, a small town to the southwest of Hamilton. Despite having been told repeatedly that the land they were trying to build upon was part of an unresolved land claim, the developers continued to work on the site. On February 28, 2006, a group of people from Six Nations, supported by traditional leaders of the community, peacefully occupied the site and shut down construction. They established a campsite at the entrance to the housing development while the developers sought and received an injunction against them from a local judge who also happened to “own” contested land on the Haldimand Tract. In the early morning on April 20, 2006, over 100 OPP officers raided the reclamation site, wielding automatic weapons, and using tazer guns and pepper spray as they made arrests. Within hours, hundreds of people from Six Nations had mobilized in response, taking

back the land and setting up barricades on Highway 6 -- which passes by the front of the reclamation site and which also happens to be the main street in Caledonia.

The barricades remained up from April 20th until the May 24 weekend in 2006, and the struggle clearly represented a high point of indigenous activism in Canada. In addition to the many indigenous people from different communities that came to support the action, large numbers of non-native solidarity activists also got involved. But the response was not limited to pro-indigenous struggles, as there was also a negative reaction from non-native residents of Caledonia and the surrounding community who opposed the land reclamation. Thousands of residents from Caledonia gathered regularly in protest against the reclamation and the highway blockade and on numerous occasions physical conflict between the two sides broke out. There was a lot of confusion on the non-native left about how to relate to the Six Nations struggle and little willingness on the part of white activists to try and respond to the rallies being organized by Caledonia residents.

Recently, there has been a lot of political activity in Brantford, and there have been several dozen actions which have stopped multiple construction sites, as well as the arrest of a number of native protestors after the city filed an injunction specifically aimed at opening up blocked construction sites. By some estimates, more than \$2 billion worth of new construction has been halted, and protests and land occupations are happening on a regular basis. If you live outside the area, you wouldn't know anything about this from the mainstream media, which hasn't been covering anything about what's happening in Brantford.

How does Gary McHale fit into the picture?

The initial response to the reclamation in Caledonia was coordinated by the town's business elite, in the form of the Caledonia Citizens Alliance (CCA), an organization established by the Caledonia Chamber of Commerce. This group became the public face of opposition to the Six Nations reclamation and organized a number of protests and public meetings to try and get the barricades taken down and the protesters removed from the reclamation site. After the provincial government bought out the would-be developers of the “Douglas Creek Estates” and provided funds to other local businesses to cover the costs of economic disruption suffered by local businesses, the CCA rolled up its organization.

Into the political vacuum created by the demise of the CCA stepped Gary McHale, a rank-and-file Conservative Party activist who was looking for a way to make a name for himself. He set up a website that soon became the most comprehensive archive of material related to the conflict, and then began to build a broader political movement against the Six Nations reclamation. He made links with the more radical anti-native fringe within town, and quickly developed a campaign strategy aimed at provoking tensions with Six Nations.

McHale's strategy has been to create a grassroots community-based organization – CANACE – to put pressure on the OPP to take action in arresting native people peacefully protesting for their land rights. In order to do this, he has resorted to grassroots activist tactics. He has organized a protest outside of Julian Fantino's Woodbridge home, has posted personal information and details about particular OPP officers he alleged were allowing “landclaim terrorism” to take place, and even went so far as to form a “militia” to carry out “citizen's arrests” of native people he claimed were breaking the law. McHale has framed the issue in racial terms, claiming that the OPP is engaged in “race-based policing” by not immediately arresting native people stopping construction on their lands – thus making white property owners victims of a “two-tiered justice system.” McHale's political perspective would be laughable if it was not for the significant amounts of grassroots support he has garnered.

When he ran as a candidate in the 2008 election he received nearly 5000 votes, overwhelmingly from areas in Caledonia and other towns where native land claim protests have happened (he won all but two polls in Caledonia, a town of 10000 people.) He has also held regular protests over the last several years, most of which have drawn between fifty and a hundred people. Most alarmingly, McHale and other members of his group are planning to run a slate of candidates in the upcoming municipal elections in November of 2010.



What role have non-native activists played in the developing situation? What has been their relationship to activists from Six Nations?

Activists in Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, Guelph, London, and Kitchener-Waterloo have formed a Six Nations Solidarity Network which has organized speaking tours, educational meetings, protests against McHale's mobilizations, and ongoing support for Six Nations in a variety of ways. There have also been very important initiatives by a variety of trade unions including CAW, Steelworkers, and CUPE.

We have found through our organizing that one of the best ways to build non-native solidarity for Six Nations is through working within local labour unions. The area around Six Nations is one of the most industrialized and heavily unionized areas in the country, and a key aspect of our strategy has been to work with rank-and-file union activists to develop a politics in support of indigenous land rights and workers' struggles. Local indigenous struggles are helping to radicalize local non-native struggles as people see that collective radical action can bring results -- and this is opening up political space for grassroots environmentalists and trade unionists to think about how they can use similar tactics in their struggles.

Additionally, our regular counter-protests of McHale's rallies are reducing his ability to claim to be the official voice of non-natives in the area, and are opening political space for other people in Caledonia to put together alternatives to McHale's confrontational approach. An excellent example of this kind of work is the recent gathering held at the reclamation site between people from Six Nations and Caledonia seeking to build dialogue and open lines of communication.

Ultimately, however, the underlying issues of Six Nations land rights need to be addressed. It is crucial that we build a larger movement that can force the provincial and federal governments to declare a moratorium of all new construction on contested lands, and begin a process of serious and respectful negotiations with the Six Nations leadership.



Hamilton Police: Dissent now a hate crime

By MEAGAN ROSS

Mainstream rhetoric tells us that we have the inherent right to freedom of speech. But any activist will quickly have learned that free speech is a right which can only be exercised if you do not fall within the 'dissenting' category. And here in Hamilton, if you happen to think things should be different, could be different - that our current unsustainable way of life, which is embedded in colonialism, patriarchy, and racism; and which has been built on the backs of workers for the profits of a few - that it all deserves a good swift overhaul, you'll soon find yourself a target. Why? Don't you know? Because we of this ilk are perpetrators of hate crime!

Now, I'm not so naïve as to be appalled by the fact that the police are none too happy with myself and other activists working to organize unions of precarious workers, or against gentrification, or in support of raising social assistance rates, or for queer rights - I've come to expect that they will criminalize our dissent by labelling us "angry radicals" plagued by "anti-social behaviour" and a "learned anti-authoritarianism" probably taught to us by "communist immigrants" who have "infiltrated" the county. But, "inciters of hate crime"? That one is rather unexpected. Apparently, according to the annual year-end report from the Hamilton Police Services Hate Crime Unit, the police themselves are now a special interest group subjected to harassment and violence based on their identity.

Odd, as I did not see "being a police officer" in their own list of personal attributes an act could be directed at to be considered a hate specific crime: in their words hate crime is a "criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated solely, or in part, by the suspect's hate/bias against a person's race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability group, age or gender". And I've never seen that category listed in any of the anti-discrimination policies, human rights legislation or anti-oppressive statements I've read. But there it is in both this and last year's report.

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A general strike is a strike across all industries in a city or region, for example Ontario, that includes both unionized and non-union workers as well as active participation from community organizations. It is a strike by workers as a *class* against the employers as a class.

There have been general strikes in Canada before, such as the 1919 Winnipeg general strike, the 1972 Quebec, 1976 national strike against wage controls, and the 1996 "Days of Action" all of which saw hundreds of thousands of workers strike together.

This past year has seen a wave of general strikes in response to the economic crisis and governments' austerity plans in Guadeloupe and Martinique, Greece, Spain, Italy,

Anti-police graffiti is now considered an act of hate, and one so severe as to warrant them listing the annual Anarchist Book Fair, the G8/G20 summit and the Pan Am games as events of concern to monitor because they "may have significant impact and repercussions on the Hamilton

consisting of only 3% of last year's total hate crimes...

I am outraged at the police's obvious appropriation of legislation and resources dedicated towards real, serious acts of violence grounded in prejudice, but I'm not necessarily surprised by it - I don't expect an



community in terms of Hate/Bias related incidents".

This list is especially interesting considering the largest number of hate crimes in the past year were committed against racialized people, with the second population to experience the most hate crimes being those who identify as LGBTQ, and the category of 'other' (presumably the occupation of police officer)

organization with an entrenched history of using violent attacks to demonstrate against those they dislike (no specific examples are needed as they abound in our newspapers) to uphold a system of law aimed at curbing such discrimination.

Yet, I do wonder at the motive? Why not rely on their existing tradition of arrest, murder, beatings, displacement and

exploitation to address the dissent arising from anarchists and other anti-poverty advocates who will attending events such as a book fair and G8? Perhaps they are bored with these tactics? Perhaps they are learning to diversify in their efforts to 'serve and protect' profiteers? We have certainly seen them practice their pre-emptive scaremongering tactics in the last year: increased surveillance and questioning/ id-ing of the most marginalized downtown residents, their hosting of the Prostitution Roundtable which vilified sex workers as "problems" to be relocated and saved, as well as an expedition to businesses surrounding the Skydragon centre to warn them of the (and I quote) "drunk steelworkers" who would descend on King William St for the MayDay march and festival. An interesting strategy towards dividing and conquering for the steelworkers were told to be cautious of the (again I quote) "transvestites and anarchists" at the Skydragon planning the Mayday festival.

It appears that the Hamilton police are no longer satisfied with operating under the pretence that they exist to preserve social order, and thus have to control the rowdies when they 'step off the assigned side walk marching space' and take over the streets. They are using whatever avenues available to create doubt about the validity of our dissent, to shut it down before it can even occur, and to slap whatever forms of criminalization they can upon us, even if it means resorting to a double-speak logic whereby the police terrorize dissenters via labelling them perpetrators of discrimination regardless of the fact that the 'victims' maintain the largest body of armed, powerful protectors of capitalist globalization in existence. Something tells me they are not going to relent in the drive to find the perfect activism quashing tactic, so its time to make our voices the loudest; to take what is rightfully ours and build the alternative communities we want to live in Communities where dissent is heard, collectively discussed and addressed with meaningful viability.

Romania and a national transport workers strike in South Africa.

General strikes are breaking out all over the world because workers know that individually striking with our union locals, or even our entire union, is not enough to defeat the bosses of multinational corporations and the government. The old labour slogan "One day longer, One day stronger" has to be replaced with "The longer the picket line, the shorter the strike".

If you agree, then it's up to us to build a movement for a general strike in Ontario. We will have to push our co-workers, our union's members, and union local, provincial and national leadership, to declare for an unlimited Ontario-wide general strike. It is our only hope if we want

to actually win this fight against the attacks on all workers, public sector, private sector, or unemployed. A struggle that goes beyond merely protesting the bosses and the state to one that seeks to shut this rotten

system down. This will require a lot of hard work and sacrifice but it will pale in comparison to what we, and our children, stand to lose for the next generation if we allow the bosses and bankers win. Build the general strike!

