

# PEOPLE'S VOICE

PRINTED BY UNION LABOUR IN CANADA



CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40011632

PVONLINE.CA SEPTEMBER 1-15, 2022 | VOL. 30, #13 | \$1.50

## LABOUR DAY 2022

**FOR A UNITED AND  
CLASS ORIENTED  
LABOUR MOVEMENT**

-PG. 6

### GLOBAL HEATWAVE SHOWS NEED FOR RADICAL ACTION

This summer has seen the warmest temperatures on record demonstrating the urgent need to cut fossil fuel use

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### BC: UTOPIA OR PROVINCE IN CRISIS

Vancouver is celebrated as a great city but BC faces a crisis of mass poverty, police violence & overdose deaths

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### ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

World Peace Council President remembers Hiroshima & Nagasaki, calls to fight against nuclear weapons today

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### A HEALTHCARE CRISIS MADE IN OTTAWA

The cause of the problems in healthcare is under-funding by successive Liberal & Tory federal governments

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# LABOUR

## Lockout at Montreal Rolls-Royce plant into 6th month

Despite being locked out for five months, 530 workers at the Rolls-Royce airplane engine plant in Montreal remain united and determined to win a negotiated contract.

The workers, members of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), were locked out on March 15 after rejecting the company's offer by 94 percent. In July, they again rejected an employer offer by 75 percent.

Despite \$334 million in subsidies from the Quebec government between 2022 and 2024, the company is pushing for wage freezes, benefit cuts and moving all workers from the defined benefit pension to a defined contribution version. Workers hired since 2013 are already subject to the DC pension.

The company has fired the president of the union local, is suing 150 locked out workers for allegedly violating picket restrictions and has admitted to using strikebreakers.

The workers remain united in their fight for a DB pension for all workers, improved wages and benefits, and better working conditions.

## City workers strike against two-tiering in Mount Pearl

Municipal workers in Mount Pearl, NL took strike action on July 7, as the next step in their fight against the city's drive for two-tier hiring which would provide inferior benefits to new hires.

The 200 workers are members of CUPE local 2099 and provide a range of municipal services, from recreation to administration to utilities and more.

Local 2099 President Ken Turner said the workers want to avoid disruptions and "want to get back to doing what they love – delivering quality public services." Asking people in the community to help them achieve a fair deal at the bargaining table, the union has launched a public outreach campaign which includes radio ads, billboards and a website: WeAreMountPearl.ca.

## Super 8 workers resist lockout, union busting

Workers at the Super 8 motel in Moose Jaw, SK continue to picket every day to protest their lockout by the employer, which began in March.

The workers, members of UNITE HERE local 41, are fighting an employer which is intent on breaking the union. Super 8 is demanding sweeping contract changes, giving management the authority to control aspects of workers' jobs that were controlled by the union.

Local 41 President Gary Whalen warns that the employer wants to separate employees from the union and remove any union involvement with the workers. The union and the workers have clearly stated that this kind of contract is not an option.

In the fight for their union rights, the workers have been supported by the community and local labour movement. At a rally in June, Saskatchewan Federation of Labour president Lori Johb encouraged active solidarity with local 41. "They're being treated so unfairly. We need to come out in big numbers. We need to show this employer that they can't get away with treating their employees like this."

# "Exiles from the future" struggle for a better tomorrow

PV STAFF

The centenary of the socialist press in Canada is being celebrated in many ways this year. It is a moment to reflect on the work of educating, agitating and organizing forces for progressive change. A recent Toronto art exhibition, "Exiles from the Future," brought together artists, arts workers and labour advocates to explore this question in the context of cultural work and expression.

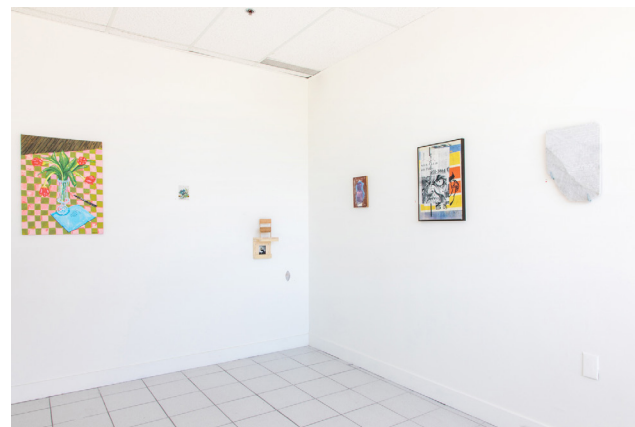
The exhibition was hosted by Pumice Raft gallery in Toronto's west end on August 13-14. It was conceived to "bring together creatives from three separate communities for a common cause: raising awareness about labour issues in the arts and cultural arena as well as raising funds for the newspaper that promotes labour solidarity." The event featured 16 pieces of art from 15 artists, and funds raised through the sale of the works was donated to People's Voice.

"Exiles from the Future" was the brainchild of Manden Murphy, the main organizer of the exhibition. He developed the idea while thinking about "how to bridge the skills and history that different people bring to the movement for socialism." With a background in the Toronto art scene, it seemed like a good community to try to tap into.

The artists Murphy approached responded very positively to the political side of the show. "A handful were genuinely excited to learn of People's Voice and were surprised that they didn't know of it already. Generally, people were happy to participate in the exhibition because of recent labour organizing in the arts sector which has brought to the fore the hidden labour of these cultural institutions. So, they were excited to be part of building solidarity between different communities."

The title – "Exiles from the Future" – was borrowed from a poem by Muriel Rukeyser. As Murphy explains, "the idea is that labour advocates, socialists and communists are exiles but not from place. Instead, they are exiles from time – doomed to be fighting for a better tomorrow. It speaks to the effort we are trying to achieve with the exhibition – building labour solidarity, working for better conditions."

The role of the socialist press is often described in a threefold sense: to educate, to agitate and to organize. Thinking of that role and its relation to art, culture and artistic expression, Murphy suggests two elements. "First, artwork as such provokes conversation and dialogue, so it is an import-



LEFT TO RIGHT: WORK BY IBRAHIM ABUSITTA, MICHELLE PAQUETTE AND LIAM CROCKARD.

ant aspect of any social movement. Second, when artists engage in their work, they are viewing things in space and those experiences find voice in whatever medium they choose. The individual pieces represent a distilling of artists' experiences in the world as individual workers and agitators."

He says that if he were to do this again, he would make the educational component more explicit, suggesting pairing up an exhibition with a panel discussion on arts workers as workers, the history of their organizing efforts, and how this shapes our cultural landscape. "People's Voice – the socialist press generally – is a public-facing organ for these organizing efforts and struggles, so I'd like to bridge that [educational] gap more explicitly."

"Exiles from the Future" was a very successful exhibition which brought together many artists, arts workers and labour advocates, and raised over \$3500 for the socialist press. It provides a strong basis for developing similar projects on a regular basis, further exploring the relationship between art and politics while building the movement for progressive change and socialism – providing glimpses of the future we struggle to build.

People's Voice thanks the artists who contributed their work, the Pumice Raft gallery and everyone who helped organize the exhibition and make it a success. ■