

Upcoming Events Endorsed by Fire This Time

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH
PEOPLESCLIMATEMARCH.ORG

Vancouver
1pm
CBC Plaza

SEPT 21 2014

**U.S. / FRANCE & CANADA
HANDS OFF IRAQ & SYRIA!**



Public Forum
* Multimedia * Speakers * Discussion *

Tuesday September 30
Joe's Cafe
In Large North Hall
1150 Commercial Dr. at William St., Vancouver, Canada **7PM**



Mobilization Against War and Occupation @MAWO-Van
WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

NO TO A NEW WAR ON IRAQ!

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION!
107th MONTHLY PROTEST**

Marking the 38th anniversary of the air Cubana flight bombing by terrorist Luis Posada Carriles



THESE 5 CUBAN ANTI-TERRORISTS, SAVED LIVES.
YET... 3 REMAIN UNJUSTLY IN
U.S. PRISONS



SUNDAY
OCTOBER 5th
3:30-5PM
U.S. CONSULATE
1075 W. PENDER ST.

@FREETHES_VAN FREE THE CUBAN 5 COMMITTEE-VANCOUVER
WWW.FREETHESVANCOUVER.CA

REVOLUTIONARY VOICES

FIRE THIS TIME

We are realists... We dream the impossible - che



a supplement of the fire this time newspaper

STOP THE WARS!
STOP THE OCCUPATIONS!

STOP ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION!

**Global Referendum on Climate Change
Proposed by PRESIDENT EVO MORALES OF BOLIVIA**

at the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

✳ Do you agree with re-establishing harmony with nature, recognising the rights of Mother Earth?

✳ Do you agree with changing this model of over-consumption and waste that the capitalist system represents?

✳ Do you agree that developed countries reduce and re-absorb their domestic greenhouse gas emissions so that the temperature does not rise more than 1 degree Celsius?

✳ Do you agree with transferring all that is spent on wars to protecting the planet and allocate a budget for climate change that is bigger than what is used for defence?

✳ Do you agree to establish an International Climate Justice Tribunal that can sanction failure to comply with agreements, so that we can govern based on balance and achieve real solutions?



FIRE THIS TIME

We are realists... We dream the impossible - che



Contact us: firethistimecanada@yandex.com / @firethistimemov

WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET

PIPELINE DOLLARS VS. INDIGENOUS RIGHTS



used Cuba's sugar, sold goods to Cuba at high costs, and set up a playground for the wealthy American mafia who used Havana for drinking, gambling and prostitutes.

In the eyes of the United States, there was a potential that the Cuban revolution would become an example for the rest of Latin America and that they would lose their business and economic interests in other countries as well. So they set out to prevent Cuba from becoming a successful example. This is why the US completely dropped its relations with Cuba shortly after the triumph of the revolution and forced Cuba to find other trade partners. According to a documentary on Cuba by prominent Canadian environmentalist and scientist David Suzuki, "At one time Cuba's agrarian culture was as conventional as the rest of the world. It experienced its first "Green Revolution" when Russia was supplying Cuba with chemical and mechanical "inputs." However, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 ended all of that, and almost overnight threw Cuba's whole economic system into crisis. Factories closed, food supplies plummeted. Within a year the country had lost over 80% of its foreign trade. With the loss of their export markets and the foreign exchange to pay for imports, Cuba was unable to feed its population and the country was thrown into a crisis. The average daily caloric intake of Cubans dropped by a third."

Interestingly, according to Kurt Cobb, writer of the blog 'Resource Insights', "Some visionary members of the country's Ministry of Agriculture suggested that the low-input, organic methods they had been experimenting with for years be introduced on a broad scale and that agricultural output be directed toward local consumption."

Hope was not lost or abandoned; instead positive outcomes were created from the special period: urban gardens were founded all over cities throughout the country, in back yards, in playgrounds, and on patios. The result? "Cuba created the largest program in sustainable agriculture ever undertaken", according to the David Suzuki documentary.

Another way Cuba has upped local agriculture and limited the amount of transportation needed to import, export and move food across the country is by pushing for urban agriculture. Urban agriculture, a very innovative route for Cuba, focuses on taking pieces of land in cities and towns where there is no tradition of agriculture, and developing gardens to grow vegetables, spices and other valuable foodstuffs. By the end of 2005 there were 3,010 urban agricultural gardens set up in urban areas across the island. According to Periodico 26, a Cuban newspaper, "In 2005, the nationwide program of Urban Agriculture was not only outstanding for being a secure source of employment for some 354,000 men and women, but it also produced 4.11 million tons of fresh vegetables and spices in urban intensive farms."

Urban agriculture is an exciting endeavour not only because it is practical, it also means that cities become greener areas, people living in urban areas learn about food production, and the urban spaces become more sustainable in the long term. Today in Cuba most students must learn how to grow food organically, and according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the city of Havana grows 90% of the fruit and vegetables it consumes!

Another interesting fact about the environment in Cuba is that in 1959, only 14% of Cuba's territory was considered "forest-covered areas". Today Cuba is one of the only countries in the world where the forest-covered areas are expanding and interestingly, Cuba has now reached 24.5% forested area. Cuba's plan is to continue this trend towards a balanced figure of 25% by 2008.

A better world is possible...and necessary

As the world moves towards what is known as "peak oil", when the world will reach the maximum oil/gas production and everything will begin to decline in those industries, there are two main ways for world leaders to prepare. Option #1, taken on mainly by the US, Canada and other imperialist countries see this time as important to get their hands on as many valuable resources as possible, especially oil and gas resources. Option #2, taken on mainly by Cuba, is looking for other more sustainable energy sources. Option #1 has been part of the reason for invasions into oppressed countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and at this time, potentially Sudan. Option #2 has been a part of the reason for communities, scientists, environmentalists and people of all stripes to unite and think resourcefully about new options. If we agree that a better world is possible and necessary, whose option do we follow?

By Thomas Davies

Published in Fire This Time Volume 7 Issue 6 (2012)

Talk about lousy timing! Just as debate on Enbridge's proposed "Northern Gateway" pipeline was dominating provincial and national headlines in Canada, another of their pipelines was shut down and investigated after leaking over 1,200 barrels of oil in Wisconsin at the end of July. Enbridge executives must however be credited with creativity in their positive spin that this leak "showed improvement" compared to their many previous spills. While a recent media standoff between B.C. Premier Christy Clark and Alberta Premier Alison Redford about exactly who will reap pipeline profits may have had a few more people watching the evening news, the most fundamental issue of the rights of indigenous nations whose land the pipelines would cross has been purposely glossed over when dealing with the Northern Gateway and two other major proposed pipelines starting in Alberta.

Pipe Dreams

The three major pipelines currently creating the most debate are:

- Enbridge's 6 billion dollar "Northern Gateway" pipeline, which would operate between Edmonton and Kitimat on the coast of B.C.
- KinderMorgan's 4.1 billion dollar expansion of its existing "Trans Mountain" pipeline, which also begins in Edmonton and terminates in the Lower Mainland and Washington State.
- TransCanada's 7.6 billion dollar Keystone XL Pipeline, which would add to an existing pipeline to take oil to multiple destinations across the United States and all the way down to the Gulf Coast of Texas.



It's impossible to argue that pipelines of this magnitude would not create jobs in their construction. However, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) points out that, for example, Enbridge's estimates of creating 63,000 person years of employment with Northern Gateway are misleading, "According to Enbridge's own estimates, the pipeline will only create about 1,850 construction jobs per year for three years." Of course the

Socialist Cuba

Champions Environmentally Sustainable Development

By Tamara Hansen

Edited from Fire This Time Volume 4 Issue 1 (2006)

“Recently, the prestigious World Wildlife Fund, based in Switzerland and considered internationally to be the most important NGO overseeing the global environment, stated that all of the measures taken by Cuba to protect the environment made it the only country on earth that meets the minimum requirements for sustainable development. This is an encouraging honor for our country.” - Message from Cuban President Fidel Castro November 28, 2006.

In its Living Planet Report 2006 the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) announced that, “No region, nor the world as a whole, met both criteria for sustainable development. Cuba alone did.” This short and maybe a bit confusing sentence says a lot about Cuba.

What does it mean exactly?

The WWF’s Living Planet Report 2006 marks the progress of countries around the world towards sustainable human and ecological development. They do this using the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and calculating a country’s ecological footprint.

The HDI number of each country is based on its life expectancy, literacy rate, education system, and per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ecological footprint is a measure of the country’s demand on the environment/biosphere. The UN Development Programme considers an HDI higher than 0.8 to be “high human development”. Meanwhile, a country with potential for sustainability must have a footprint lower than 1.8. Cuba is the only country to meet both of these criterias with an HDI of 0.82 and a footprint of 1.5! Canada, on the other hand, may have an HDI of 0.95, but its footprint is 7.6! The United States is even worse with an HDI of 0.94 and a footprint of 9.6!

This report has a huge message about Cuba; first, that Cuba is a champion for environmental sustainability in the world, and second, it’s the only country in the world reaching the report’s criteria and goals. Despite this there is only one line in the whole WWF report about Cuba. Also important is that there is no place on the WWF website that talks about how Cuba is the only country to pass this report with flying colors! Why has the WWF been so silent about this? Isn’t Cuba an example they want the rest of the world to follow?

However, while the media keeps talking about the environment, global warming and the Kyoto accord, they ignore that Cuba has been announced as the single country in the world making real progress towards sustainability, which means better living conditions and natural conditions for human beings.

Maybe they are trying to keep this important example secret because of how Cuba came to be a champion of human and environmental improvement. Which brings us to the best question of all, how did Cuba become the only country in the world to meet this report’s requirements for sustainable development?

In 1959, the revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro, succeeded on New Year’s Day 1959. The revolution began a new era of giving land to landless farmers and nationalizing industries formerly owned by the United States. One of the goals of the Cuban revolution was to change Cuba’s economy from one that relied on the US for exports and imports. This relationship was really one of exploitation, as the US



pipelines would generate profit for Canadian oil and companies, but while they made a net of 18.7 billion dollars in profit in 2011, anyone who has filled up with gas lately will tell you that none of this has been passed on to the consumer. So how much will the pipelines actually economically benefit most people?

The Risks are Real

Enbridge’s recent Wisconsin spill happened almost two years to the day from its massive oil spill in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. Enbridge’s pipeline leaked an estimated 3.3 million litres of oil into the River, which cost over 800 million dollars to clean. From 1999 to 2010, Enbridge had 804 spills total with 168,645 barrels spilled. This equals approximately 26.81 million litres...” Remember, Enbridge is just one typical oil company, and its pipeline isn’t event the longest one proposed! The environmental risks are huge.

Who Really Decides?

B.C. Premier Christy Clarke recently laid out 5 requirements for the B.C. government to consider supporting the pipelines, with the most discussed being that B.C. receives a “fair share” of the economic benefits. But really, who is the B.C. government to dictate something which obviously deals with the land rights of the many indigenous nations whose territory the pipeline will cross? Recently, Canada finally officially signed on to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states:

“1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.”(Emphasis added.)

Given this, the fact that over 130 Indigenous nations and groups whose territory the Northern Gateway pipeline would cross have signed the Save the Fraser Declaration which states, “We will not allow the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines, or similar Tar Sands projects, to cross our lands, territories and watersheds,” makes it pretty obvious that the Provincial and Federal governments are premature in their imposition of conditions on a profits from a pipeline which is so broadly opposed by those whose right it is to decide.

Indigenous Rights Comes First: My Land Is Not Your Land

These governments and corporations continue to claim they are “balancing” the economy and the environment when it’s clear they are destroying both! The fact that the rights of Indigenous nations have been so consistently and harshly trampled on in the history of Canada is no excuse to continue the pattern today. Indigenous nations have the right to self-determination, which includes the right to make decisions regarding their land and resources. History has shown they have been much more consistent and responsible defenders of a sustainable planet and future than any of the major players in the proposed pipelines. The only effective way to defeat the pipelines is through a broad and active movement which includes not only indigenous nations and environmental organizations, but also poor and working people, and labour unions, who can be informed of the real facts regarding these proposed pipelines. Then we can really build a broad and effective movement to defeat them!



Fidel Castro's Speech



to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio: On Capitalism & The Environment

"An important biological species — humankind — is at risk of disappearing due to the rapid and progressive elimination of its natural habitat. We are becoming aware of this problem when it is almost too late to prevent it. It must be said that consumer societies are chiefly responsible for this appalling environmental destruction.

They were spawned by the former colonial metropolis. They are the offspring of imperial policies which, in turn, brought forth the backwardness and poverty that have become the scourge for the great majority of humankind.

With only 20% of the world's population, they consume two-thirds of all metals and three-fourths of the energy produced worldwide. They have poisoned the seas and the rivers. They have polluted the air. They have weakened and perforated the ozone layer. They have saturated the atmosphere with gases, altering climatic conditions with the catastrophic effects we are already beginning to suffer.

The forests are disappearing. The deserts are expanding. Billions of tons of fertile soil are washed every year into the sea. Numerous species are becoming extinct. Population pressures and poverty lead to desperate efforts to survive, even at the expense of nature. Third World countries, yesterday's colonies and today nations exploited and plundered by an unjust international economic order, cannot be blamed for all this.

The solution cannot be to prevent the development of those who need it the most. Because today, everything that contributes to underdevelopment and

*"Adopt a just international economic order. Use science to achieve sustainable development without pollution. Pay the ecological debt. Eradicate hunger and not humanity."
- Fidel Castro*



poverty is a flagrant rape of the environment.

As a result, tens of millions of men, women and children die every year in the Third World, more than in each of the two world wars.

Unequal trade, protectionism and the foreign debt assault the ecological balance and promote the destruction of the environment. If we want to save humanity from this self-destruction, wealth and available

technologies must be distributed better throughout the planet. Less luxury and less waste in a few countries would mean less poverty and hunger in much of the world.

Stop transferring to the Third World lifestyles and consumer habits that ruin the environment. Make human life more rational. Adopt a just international economic order. Use science to achieve sustainable development without pollution. Pay the ecological debt. Eradicate hunger and not humanity.

Now that the supposed threat of communism has disappeared and there is no more pretext to wage cold wars or continue the arms race and military spending, what then is preventing these resources from going immediately to promote Third



World development and fight the ecological destruction threatening the planet?

Enough of selfishness. Enough of schemes of domination. Enough of insensitivity, irresponsibility and deceit. Tomorrow will be too late to do what we should have done a long time ago."

