



and will be an important step against a whole trend of legislation which purports to be opposing terrorism, but in effect further disempowers the Canadian people and divides our society on a racist and religious basis. In Vancouver, the Working Group to Oppose Bill C-51 is always looking for more people to get involved. Five simple things you can do are:

How Does Bill C-51 Affect You?

The big changes made by Bill C-51 are so broad and so undefined that everyone is now open to be spied on, “disrupted” or detained. Bill C-51 criminalizes speech, and is obviously open to abuse by the government against organizations and individuals critical of its policies. This means if you protest against a pipeline being built through your neighbourhood, such as recent community actions against Kinder Morgan’s pipeline expansion on Burnaby Mountain, you could be targeted. If you support the rights of indigenous communities to decide which resource extraction projects take place on their lands, you could be targeted. If you support the rights of workers to refuse to perform unsafe work or to demand living wages, you could be targeted. All of these could easily fall within the new definition of “Terrorism” under Bill C-51.

What Can I Do?

Despite 6 months of growing protests and polls showing a clear majority of people in Canada opposed to Bill C-51, the government still forced Bill C-51 into law. However, the good news is that the fight is not over! Groups across Canada continue to organize against Bill C-51.

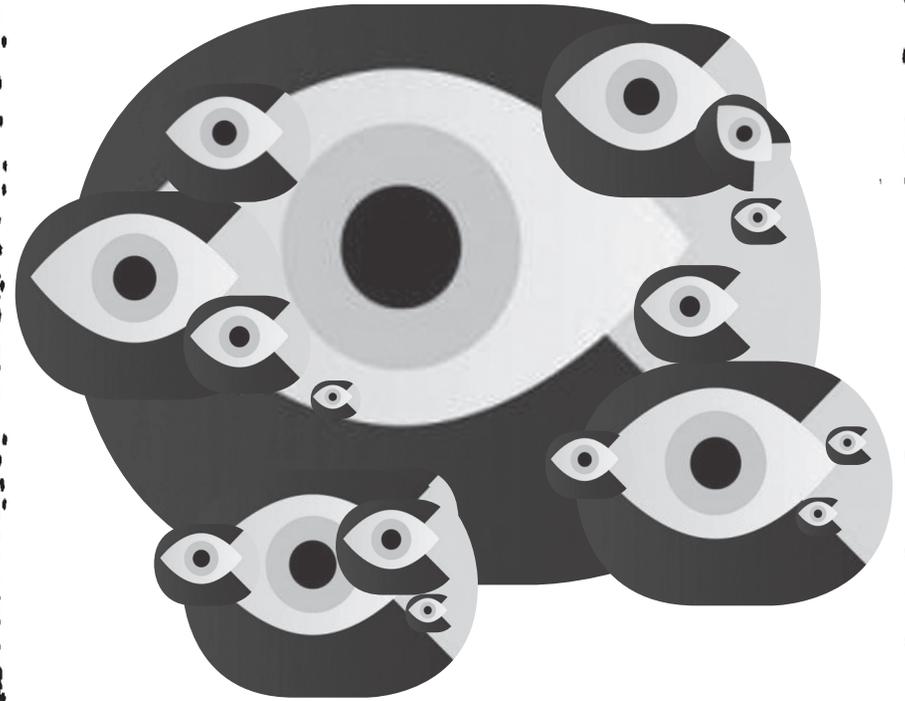
Although the law was passed during the Conservative Party’s rule, newly elected Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau along side every Liberal MP voted in favor of Bill C-51. A change in government has not reversed this unjust law.

The best thing we can all do is get informed and get active! The repeal of Bill C-51 is achievable

- 1) **Sign our petition demanding Parliament repeal Bill C-51**
- 2) **Join our consecutive weekly pickets against Bill C-51**
- 3) **Talk to you friends and family! Get them involved too**
- 4) **Send letters to your Members of Parliament voicing your opposition to Bill C-51**
- 5) **Continue to take public actions to voice your opinions. Let them know we will not be silent!**



Thomas Davies



WHAT IS ANTI-HUMAN BILL C-51 AND WHY DO WE HAVE TO FIGHT IT?

www.firethistime.net



Fire This Time!

REVOLUTIONARY VOICES

a supplement of the fire this time newspaper

*The following articles originally appeared in the Fire This Time newspaper, www.firethistime.net

BILL C-51 Must be Stopped Decisively!

We Must Stop Bill C-51 Now!

Bill C-51 Must be Defeated Decisively!

Bill C-51 is the Beginning of the End of Our Civil Liberties!

March 15, 2015 was a day the Canadian government was hoping would not happen. A National Day of Action against the increasingly controversial Bill C-51 took place with over 70 well attended actions organized from coast to coast. The initial strategy of naming the bill, "ANTI-TERRORISM 2015" and riding a wave of Islamophobia to justify it did not last past the initial confusion when it was introduced in parliament without any public consultation. Legal experts, human rights organizations, indigenous, labour, student and faith groups, as well as tens of thousands of concerned people have taken to the streets, airwaves and everywhere else in between to denounce the bill which is the most wholesale attack on democratic and human rights in Canada in more than 100 years.

Now known popularly as the "Secret Police Bill", if passed, Bill C-51 would see the Canadian government granting itself unprecedented powers to spy on, disrupt and detain anyone falling under the purposefully vague and undefined accusation of "supporting terrorism". It would also grant CSIS the power to purposely break laws and disregard human rights, as long they can find a judge to allow it. Many are left asking, "What's the point of making a law in the first place then?"

The newest national opinion poll also shows an important shift of public opinion against Bill C-51. Among people aware of the controversial bill, 50 per cent now disapprove of it. Just 38 per cent now approve. This is down from 82 per cent support when the bill was introduced in February. As well, 61 per cent of respondents were also opposed to provisions in Bill C-51 that would allow security services to infiltrate and track environmentalist groups, First Nations and oil pipeline protesters.

Join the Working Group to Stop Bill C-51

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Stop Bill C-51!

#C51 #BillC51 #StopBillC51

Statement of the Working Group to Stop "Police State Act" Bill C-51

What is Bill C-51?

Bill C-51 is the name of a new bill which became law in Canada on June 18, 2015. It gives huge new powers to the RCMP and Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to violate important human rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and the right to privacy. It also greatly lowers the requirement of evidence before arrest and allows for increased secrecy in court proceeding.

The Harper Conservative government backed by Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party tried to justify these massive changes as part of the "War on Terrorism" while major organizations such as the Canadian Bar Association, Amnesty International, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association have all spoken out against Bill C-51 as dangerous and unnecessary. A recent United Nations review of Canada's adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights declared that the law should be re-written because it, "imposes undue restrictions on the exercise of rights under the Covenant."

"The scale of information sharing being proposed is unprecedented, the scope of the new powers conferred by the act is excessive, particularly as these powers affect ordinary Canadians, and the safeguards protecting against unreasonable loss of privacy are seriously deficient." - Daniel Therrien, Privacy Commissioner of Canada

How Does Bill C-51 Work? Some of the Most Important Points

- Bill C-51 allows the government to arrest, interrogate, prosecute, imprison, even perform torture techniques similar those used at the infamous US Guantanamo Bay Detention Centre, against those accused of speech "promoting" and "advocating" "terrorism in general", while purposely not defining what these terms mean.
- It also expands the meaning of "Terrorism" to include unclear and broad formulations such as, "interference" with "various aspects of public life", "the economic or financial stability of Canada" or "critical infrastructure"
- It allows the arrest of someone who "may" commit a terrorist attack instead of the previous standard of "will". Law enforcement agencies can now act on speculation instead of real evidence.
- CSIS is now explicitly granted the ability to break laws and violate individual rights recognized in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - if they can find one judge to allow it. CSIS, which was previously limited only to investigative powers, now also has the ability to "disrupt" suspected terror activity. What "disruption" means is not explained.
- Finally, Bill C-51 also allows 17 federal departments and agencies the ability to share all personal information they may hold on anyone and everyone. Previously this information would have been confidential.

and a larger awakening of Indigenous people and their rights.

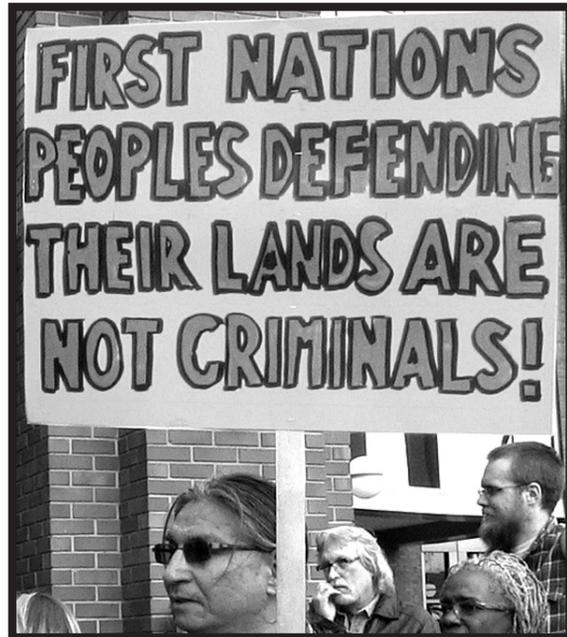
While Bill C-45 was a huge attack on Native peoples' lands and governance, Bill C-51 will take away Native peoples' rights to prevent that from happening voice of opposition. This is why many Indigenous people are joining in to fight against it. While protests have been taking place across the country, Indigenous leaders have been part of the opposition during the parliamentary hearings. Appearing before the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde called on Stephen Harper to withdraw the bill and re-introduce it only after adequate consultation with First Nations and has joined in the many groups that will legally challenge the bill if it passes. Pamela Palmetter, Indigenous lawyer, activist and chair of the Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University, also appeared before the committee, and outlined the hypocrisy of the government in introducing this bill in violation of a nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and Indigenous nations. UBCIC President Grand Chief Stewart Phillip also attended and confronted the government on its real motivations behind the bill: security of profits, not of people.

Native Rights are Human Rights! Defeat Bill C-51!

Bill C-51 doesn't discriminate solely against Native people. Whether you are Muslim, an immigrant, refugee, worker or student, this legislation is aimed at silencing the voices and tying the hands of oppressed people in this country. This is why people are standing up now. In a recent statement by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Grand Chief Stewart said "As an act of civil disobedience, I was arrested at Burnaby Mountain because I believe mega-projects, like Kinder Morgan and Enbridge pipelines, do not respect the Indigenous laws and inherent authority



Indigenous activists respond to being named 'national security threat' by RCMP and protest to stop Bill C-51



Edmonton protest to stop Bill C-51

of Indigenous Peoples to protect their territories, land and waters from the very real potential and increased risk of oil spills and increased coast tanker traffic along our coast. I believe under the draconian measures of Bill C-51, I would be identified as a terrorist. Regardless, I will continue to do what is necessary to defend the collective birthright of our grandchildren." This resolve is demonstrated across Canada, from the Unist'ot'en Blockade Camp to the rallies against Bill C-51. We need to push further to stop this legislation that only pushes the agenda of Canada's Native genocide forward.



Proposed New Amendments to Bill C-51 – A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing...is Still a Wolf

Now, the Conservative government is trying to introduce some weak amendments in a new attempt to stall the growing wave of opposition. In response, almost immediately 7 leading human rights organizations in Canada issued a joint statement outlining why Bill C-51 must still be defeated. Amnesty International, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, La Ligue des Droits et Libertés and the National Council of Canadian Muslim all continue to say that despite the amendments, "The Bill has to go."

The Harper Conservative government promises the new amendments:

- Clarify that protest or dissent will not be targeted by the bill, by deleting the word "lawful" from protests which are exempt from C-51's broad reach.
- Clarify that CSIS agents will not have the authority to arrest people as part of new legislated powers to "disrupt" threats to national security.
- Limit national security information sharing among 17 government and security agencies, rather than "with any person for any purpose."
- Delete wording that could allow the

minister of Public Safety to order an airline to "do anything that, in the Minister's opinion, is reasonable and necessary" to prevent someone on the "no-fly" list from travelling.

Responding as part of the joint statement, Ziyaad Mia of the Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association said, "We have highlighted that Bill C-51 is replete with provisions that violate the Charter of Rights and other provisions in Canadian law. That has been repeated consistently by legal academics, former parliamentarians and numerous other expert witnesses who have appeared before the Committee. The government has refused to disclose the advice it has received from its own lawyers about the Bill's compliance with the Charter."

Writing in the Globe and Mail Newspaper in response to the amendments, law professors Kent Roach and Craig Forcese said, "In sum, the government has not made its security case. Meanwhile, the major liberties concerns in C-51 remain, including: the privacy issues; a new speech crime that comes without defences and will reach speech far removed from threats of terrorist violence..."

An Answer Without A Question

Completely lost in the entire debate, by all major political parties and new sources, whether they support Bill C-51 or not, is questioning why Canada needs a severe new anti-terrorism Bill to begin with. How real is the threat of, as

Prime Minister Stephen Harper actually called it, the “jihadist monster’s tentacles”?

Comedian Rick Mercer addressed the use of hysteria and fear to justify Bill C-51 in a recent piece titled, “The Politics of Fear”. In his usual tongue in cheek manner he said, “You wanna go down the fear road, there’s a lot of things you ought to be afraid of...Do you have any idea how many Canadians are killed every year in the summer, doing summer things? It is our deadliest season. And yet we are encouraged to go outdoors. That needs a rethink...If you go the online and research all the frightening things in this world you will realize Stephen Harper is right, we have every reason to be afraid. But if we give into that fear, we would never debate a bill, go outdoors or take a shower again.”

How is it self-evident that a new bill is justified? 3 people have died in terrorist attacks in Canada. If the Canadian government was so concerned about the lives of people living in Canada it would not continue to refuse an inquiry into the over 1200 missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada. If the Canadian government was so concerned about the lives of people in Canada there would be no ongoing crisis of veteran suicides.

Yet all they can produce for us is a fear campaign and a terrible new “anti-terrorism bill”.

Would Oversight Really Solve Everything?

Much of the criticism of Bill C-51, especially by the NDP and Liberal Party,

has focused on the lack of oversight within the bill. True enough, there is no structure of oversight. However, even if there was oversight, would that still justify the attack on our democratic and human rights?

Both critics and supporters of Bill C-51 have called on the government to create civilian oversight for Canada’s spies. Canada is the only member of the “Five Eyes” security partnership — including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand — without such an oversight body. However, have those oversight bodies stopped any of those countries, especially the United States, from consistent and blatant disregard of human and democratic rights?

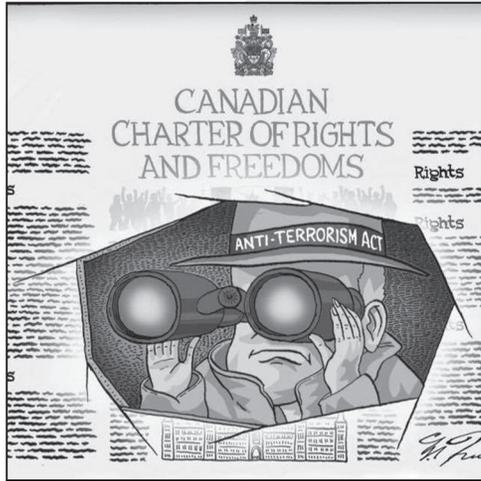
Even a brief search into what Edward Snowden, a former administrator for the CIA and National Security Agency (NSA) in the United States, leaked to the public is proof that the existence of “oversight” bodies does not actually equal the safeguarding of human rights.

Bill C-51: Legalizing State Terrorism

Is it not widely known that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) was

actually created in 1984 an attempt to appease the public outcry when details came to light that the RCMP had been and engaged for over in a systematic campaign of dirty tricks consisting of break-ins, arson and theft targeted at left-leaning press and political parties during the 1970’s. Vancouver journalist John Sawatsky, who exposed many of these activities, wrote that, “Illegal activity was accepted with enthusiasm since it was exciting, was good for one’s career and contributed to the fight against communism.” This led to the disbandment of the RCMP’s Security Service and finally the creation of CSIS as an independent organization with powers only of investigation and without enforcement.

Now “Communism” has been replaced by “Terrorism” as the new bogey-man to justify any and all manner of human rights violations, and



infrastructure,’ and ‘interference with the capability of the Government in relation to... the economic or financial stability of Canada.’ This loose definition basically covers all forms of dissent against the government of Canada and the huge oil, gas and pipeline projects it is trying to push through on Indigenous land. Native people who blockade a highway, road or rail line would be interfering with Canada’s ‘critical infrastructure’ and now have a new set of government arsenal used against them, no matter how justified they were in taking the action in the first place. While this bill is so concerned with Canada’s ‘sovereignty, security and territorial integrity’, the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Indigenous nations obviously holds no value.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation Chief Donny Morris shared his worry that lives would be lost with Bill C-51. In 2008, he and six other community leaders were imprisoned for peacefully protesting development on their traditional land in Northern Ontario by Platinex Inc. In an interview with CBC he said “...we got sentenced. We got sent to jail, what’s going to stop an officer from taking that next step?”

Chief Donny Morris has reason to worry because, even before talk of Bill C-51, Indigenous people faced violence from the Canadian state. All we have to do is look at this country’s recent history. In what became known as the ‘Oka Crisis’ in 1990, nearly 3,000 Canadian soldiers were deployed against Mohawk warriors who were trying to prevent the expansion of a golf course on to their burial ground. In 1995, Dudley George, an unarmed Indigenous activist, was shot and killed by an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) sniper during the occupation of Ipperwash Provincial Park which demanded the return of stolen Native land. Also in 1995, more than 400 RCMP officers with the support of the Canadian military, laid siege to Secwepemc warriors at Gustafsen Lake in British Columbia, firing thousands

of rounds of ammunition and an IED. In 2006, heavily armed OPP officers botched a raid on Six Nations community members who were reclaiming a suburban development outside of Caledonia, Ontario. Just two years ago, heavily armed RCMP tactical units in New Brunswick raided a Mi’kmaq-led anti-fracking camp near Elsipogtog. In all of these cases, the Indigenous activists were portrayed in the media and by the government as ‘extremists’ and ‘terrorists’ to enforce the anti-Native racism in Canada and justify the government’s heavy force.

Another aspect of Bill C-51 is to isolate Native people who stand up for their rights by criminalizing those who ‘promote terrorism’.

Once again, with the loose definition of ‘terrorism’, Indigenous people who promote the defense of their homelands and non-Indigenous people who even show solidarity with Native people on social media could be covered under this legislation. This is a direct attempt by the government to not only criminalize Native protests, but create the climate of fear among non-Native people to be careful of what they support, further

isolating Native people in their struggles.

Native People Won’t Back Down

Bill C-51 is not the first omnibus bill that has threatened Native people in this country. In late 2012, the Conservative government introduced Bill C-45 which removed federal protection of forests and waterways, absolved companies from being accountable for damage they inflict on the environment and fish habitat, and made sweeping changes to the Indian Act, among many other attacks on Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada. In response, the Idle No More movement was born and its Native-led round dances, drum circles and rallies spread through every community and reserve across the country. The shock waves of Idle No More were felt in shopping malls, streets, highways and living rooms across Canada as the government was trying to find a way to deal with the rising Native anger. Ultimately, Bill C-45 passed in to law, but not without a fight



Bill C-51: An Assault on Native Rights in Canada



By Aaron Mercredi

Since Bill C-51 was first introduced by the Conservative government in January, hundreds of protests have sprung up in communities across Canada. People from all backgrounds have poured on to the streets in collective opposition to the federal government's latest attacks on our rights. While the Conservative government introduced the bill as a measure to protect Canada against terrorism, it clearly targets anyone who is in opposition to the government or any of its policies. This creates serious consequences for anyone in Canada, and it has added problems for Indigenous people who are standing up for their inherent and legal rights.

Native People Standing Up = Terrorism

"We believe this bill is less about Jihadists under every bed ... and more about increasing the output of the tar sands, and facilitating the heavy oil pipeline proposals across the country, and will serve to severely undermine the constitutional and human rights of Indigenous peoples."

- Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, appearing before the House Public Safety Committee on Bill C-51

The biggest fight for dignity and justice in Canada has been the long-fought struggle of Indigenous nations for their land, resources and self-determination. This struggle has characterized every aspect of Canadian history and its development. Every action that

the Canadian government and its predecessors made towards Indigenous people has been to expand, maintain and control the rich land and resources that Canada exploits its wealth from. The early direct wars, the reserve system, the Indian Act, the residential schools (and the list goes on)...these were all tools used in this effort. Today, Indigenous people continue to pose a threat to big business, resource companies and the government who have a lot to gain and a lot to lose on Native land. Bill C-51 is their way of stacking the deck in their favour.

To be clear, Bill C-51 is a threat to the rights of anyone in this country; rights that people have fought long and hard for. It tramples on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and broadens the powers of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and its cyber-security partner, Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC). While CSIS was created as a civilian spy agency whose only purpose was to observe and collect information, under the new bill, CSIS will now be allowed to 'take measures' to reduce threats in Canada. What exactly those measures will be are not revealed under the new bill and, considering this bill does not also improve public oversight of CSIS' operations, we cannot expect to be told what these measures are after the bill has passed. Essentially, there will be a new secret police force in Canada.

One of the most significant parts of Bill C-51 is the fact that its definition of 'terrorism' is extended and interpreted to include 'an activity that undermines the sovereignty, security or territorial integrity of Canada' that includes 'terrorism,' 'interference with critical

under Bill C-51 CSIS would receive the explicit direction to "disrupt" organizations and individuals. This would be sanction for state terrorism, and if the RCMP acted with such massive disregard for human rights even without a specific mandate in the 1970's, imagine what CSIS will be capable of in 2015 if it receives one!

Rolling Back 800 Years of Rights

This year will see celebrations marking the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, an agreement King John of England was forced to sign recognize certain rights on June 15, 1215. It became the foundation of Western

liberties and rights.

Don't Stop Now!

"To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." - Nelson Mandela

We should not disregard the fact that the Conservative government of Prime Minister Harper are now proposing amendments to Bill C-51. If the public outcry didn't exist, they would feel no obligations whatsoever to do this. Importantly, this growing opposition to Bill C-51 has not been led by major political parties. The Liberal Party has already said it will support



Toronto protest against Bill C-51

understanding of law and liberties, especially with provisions such as:

"No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land."

"To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice."

Bill C-51 authorizes these violations specifically! Not content to go back to the 1970's, Stephen Harper proposes we now go beyond 1215 in our understanding of

Bill C-51. It took the NDP almost one month, after very other progressive and non-progressive organization had already out against it, before they finally decided they would oppose the bill. Both parties are now focusing on proposing amendments.

The question is: Why would we accept amendments on our human rights? Human rights are non negotiable, and Bill C-51 seeks to drown them in the in the dark pool of fear and hysteria. Bill C-51 cannot be amended, only defeated. Defending our rights now is challenging, but ultimately much easier than trying to win them back if we have lost them. The exciting unity of so many diverse organizations and individuals must grow and continue to educate, organize and mobilize to demand, "Scrap Bill C-51!"

BILL C-51 ATTEMPT TO STIFLE OPPOSITION FACES MASS OPPOSITION!

Bill C-51 was introduced in Canadian Parliament on January 30, 2015 by minister of Public Safety Steven Blaney. It was the inevitable next step in the Canadian government's accelerating campaign of fear and intimidation, and was therefore obviously named the "Anti-Terrorism Bill, 2015". If passed, it would drastically increase the powers of government bodies to spy, disrupt and arrest anyone within purposefully vague and unclear definitions. The justification for these attacks has always been defending Canada from "extremist Muslims", but the rights they are trying to take away are from all poor and working people in Canada. One month after it's introduction, the understanding of the consequences of Bill C-51 are really growing, as well as organizing effort to defeat it.



for arrest, new allowances for knowingly violating legal rights, increased secrecy of court proceedings and expanding arbitrary 'no fly lists'."

What The Guardian newspaper refers to as "a growing chorus of the nation's leading jurists, academics,

editorial-writers and opinion-makers" have also taken issue with the fact that Bill C-51 would target anyone accused of "advocating" or "promoting" terrorism without actually explaining what that actually means, as well as expanding the definition of terrorism to, "interference with the capability of the Government in relation to ... the economic or financial stability of Canada."

Does that make it illegal to publicly support a strike by workers at the Port of Vancouver for better safety regulations? Technically that would fit within the wording of Bill C-51! The language of a recently leaked RCMP report on environmental activists also makes it clear that they already think many of the those committed to saving the environment fit the description as well.

Parliamentary Theatrics

The Conservative Party, which holds a majority in Canadian Parliament, obviously supports Bill C-51 entirely. The Liberal Party is also supporting the Bill full force, with some hollow suggestions of possible small changes. It took the NDP more than 2 weeks to figure out whether it would publicly support the Bill or not before finally taking coming out against it.

This was well after all of the important issues of

support for us in Iraq than most of those 46 countries that are fully supporting us. It's kind of an odd situation." The Liberal Party coupled its war abroad with an increase of the war at home. Islamophobia didn't start with the Conservatives. It was the Liberal government who began to escalate use of "Security Certificates" to jail young Muslim men indefinitely, using secret evidence the accused did not even have a right to see!

It was also the Liberal Party which were the original promoters of austerity politics and cutbacks in Canada. As a recent New Yorker Magazine article pointed out, "Two of Trudeau's predecessors as Liberal leader, Jean Chrétien, who was Prime Minister from 1993 to 2003, and Paul Martin, Chrétien's finance minister and then Prime Minister from

2003 to 2006, championed the politics and economics of austerity in Canada." Under both Chrétien and Martin the government cut spending on welfare programs, announced major cuts to the public service, raised payroll taxes, and significantly reduced transfer payments to the provinces for healthcare and education.

More recently, Trudeau's campaign co-chair was forced to resign after being caught advising oil industry executives during the election campaign on how to win quick approval of a massive tar sands pipeline in Canada. Also, one of Trudeau's frontrunners for a Cabinet position as Minister of Public Safety is Bill Blair. Blair was the Toronto police chief during the G20 summit in June 2010 which saw the police violate civil rights, detain people illegally, and use excessive force. More than 1,100 people were arrested, the largest mass arrest in Canadian history.

When NDP leader Thomas Mulcair

criticized Pierre's Trudeau's use of the War Measures Act and military in 1970, Justin Trudeau responded by saying, "Let me say very clearly: I am incredibly proud to be Pierre Elliot Trudeau's son and am incredibly lucky to have been raised with those values."

So, where is that "Real Change" again?

Our Power Lies in Our Own Organizing

History has shown us time and time again that out strength lies not in voting for a political party or a specific candidate once every four years, but when poor and working people are active in the political process in a united and consistent way. Most recently the 2009 election of Barack Obama, the first black President of the United States, caught many social movements and progressive organizations flat footed. They waited, and waited for Obama to come through on promises he made during the campaign. He did not close Guantanamo Bay prison, he did not end US wars abroad, he did



not narrow the gap between rich and poor...among countless other promises. We do not have time to waste waiting for Justin Trudeau, or any other elected leader to magically or benevolently fix all of the problems they have created for us. If it were that easy, the significant movement which originally organized against Bill C-51 would have already defeated it.

For Halloween in 2015, Justin Trudeau dressed up as Han Solo and posed for photos for the media. Dressing up as a rebel hero from the Star Wars movies is one thing, acting like one in real life is another entirely. Unfortunately we do not live in fantasy, and Bill C-51 is a very real attack on our democratic and human rights. This is a defining moment in Canadian political history, and will set an important precedent in the fights for the democratic and human rights of poor and working people in Canada. We say once again: If Justin Trudeau really wants to show, "Real Change" he will immediately Repeal Bill C-51. We need to continue to educate, organize and mobilize to make this message loud and clear. We don't accept half of our human rights, or even a partial attack on our civil liberties. We demand an immediate Repeal of Bill C-51!

The centrepiece of the Liberals amendments has been said to be the creation of an all party national security committee that would have access to information related to activities authorized by Bill C-51. As Trudeau correctly pointed out, “Of the ‘Five Eyes’ group of allies – including the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand – Canada is the only country without national security oversight by its representatives and legislators.” Who are we really fooling here though? These “oversight” committees haven’t stopped the governments in any of the countries he references from carrying out huge human rights abuses at home and abroad in the name of “anti-terrorism”. They are also promising a review of all anti-terrorism laws after 3 years, and to seek consultation from experts and the public *after* they have introduced the amendments. Why wait 3 years to review the laws? Why not consult the public before you introduce your amendments?



the Conservatives did – reinforcing the existence of a bad law which is justified by an irrational fear campaign. There will still be no meaningful public consultation or education. Over 300,000 people have signed the online petition demanding the government Repeal Bill C-51. This is one of the largest-ever political campaigns in the history of Canada, but the Canadian government is trying to pretend it doesn’t exist.

The Fundamentals Remain the Same

The most important thing to remember is that there was never really any case made for why Bill C-51 needed to exist in the first place, or how it actually makes anyone in Canada safer. There was just a lot of overblown rhetoric from Stephen Harper that, “Our Government understands that extreme jihadists have declared war on us, on all free people, and on Canada specifically.” This despite that fact that just three people have died in Canada from domestic terrorist attacks in the last 20 years. As the right-wing National Post newspaper pointed out, “Ultimately, however, the legislation [Bill C-51] raises more questions than it answers — the most basic being, ‘Why?’”

Leave aside the fact that Bill C-51 should never have existed in the first place, from what we’ve been able to see of the proposed amendments, many of the worst parts of Bill C-51 would remain:

- Giving Canada’s spy agency CSIS the undefined powers of “disruption”.
- The parts of Bill C-51 that effectively allow government spy agencies to collect and store our private information in giant centralized databases, without even needing a warrant. This has already been specifically denounced by the Privacy Commissioner of Canada.
- Vague language and undefined new legal concepts such as “activities that undermine the security of Canada” which are completely open to being abused to target dissenting voices.

Ultimately the Liberals are doing the same thing that

Who is the Liberal Party?

While a new young leader and a slick campaign anchored by the slogan of, “Real Change” may have led many to believe that they were voting for a progressive political party when voting for the Liberals, it’s just not true.

It was under the Liberal Party that Canada plunged head first into the new era of war and occupation, by becoming an active participant in the disastrous invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in 2001. 14 years later and every major quality of life indicator in Afghanistan has plummeted, while the occupation cost the lives of 158 Canadian soldiers and over 18 billion dollars between 2001 and 2012.

Also, despite claiming publicly otherwise, under the Liberals Canada was an active participant in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Canada’s contribution to the American war effort in Iraq – three ships and 100 exchange officers – was only exceeded by the United States, Britain and Australia. US Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci mused at the time, “Ironically, the Canadians indirectly provide more

Bill C-51 had already been discussed at length and condemned by many sources.

Why the delay? Green Party leader Elizabeth May had no trouble immediately denouncing Bill C-51.

The debate within the halls of Parliament Hill in Ottawa now appears more like a circus than an actual discussion. The centre of the debate is not on the actual changes Bill C-51 would make to the rights of people, but on how many “experts” the Committee reviewing the Bill will hear in its rushed time period. Regardless, the NDP has committed themselves to respecting the March 31 deadline to pass Bill C-51 being pushed by the Conservatives. NDP Public Safety critic Randall Garrison told reporters, “We have conceded that there is an urgency.”

The NDP members of Parliament made a big show of taking their time and slowly voting on a motion to limit discussion of Bill C-51, but that doesn’t take the place of robust debate. Most importantly, where is the input of poor and working people in Canada into this massive bill with huge implications? Where is the public consultation? Why the rush? It might simplify the issue a little, but as many have pointed out, you are more likely to be killed by a moose than a terror plot in Canada. Given that, there is no need to rush through the discussion or bypass public consultation.

We are Getting Stronger

However, despite this failure of leadership among those elected to supposedly represent our interests, a movement is growing among a broad section of people who understand Bill C-51 is something much more sinister than we are being told.

A new coalition of 41 organizations from across Canada, including Amnesty International, the BC Civil Liberties Association, and the National Council for Canadian Muslims has

strongly criticized the bill. “Bill C-51 should be of concern to all Canadians as it has the potential to impact on all of our rights given its stunningly far-reaching definitions of what constitutes a threat to Canada’s security,” said Ihsaan Gardee, Executive Director, National Council of Canadian Muslims.

Over 100 professors of law and related fields also wrote a long open letter denouncing Bill C-51 which notes, “the Prime Minister during Question Period has been unable or unwilling to give examples of what conduct he would want to see criminalized now that is not already prohibited by the Criminal Code.”

Almost 50,000 people have so far signed an online petition called, “Reject fear. Stop Stephen Harper’s ‘secret police’ bill”

Most importantly though has been the growing public actions of indigenous nations, nongovernmental and progressive organizations as well as many individuals opposing Bill C-51. In Vancouver alone there are 4 different actions in 2 weeks against the Bill C-51. The second rally against Bill C-51 in Vancouver was more than double the size of the first, and received numerous supportive honks from passing vehicles. Finally, March 14 has also been announced as a “Day of Action” with communities all across Canada organizing different public demonstrations against Bill C-51.

It is important to remember that the human rights people exercise today in Canada were not handed down benevolently on them by the Canadian government – they were won through the organization of poor and working people in unions and other mass social movements. Canada didn’t even have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms until 1982, 115 years after the official founding of the country! Rights are hard won, and even more difficult to regain after having lost them. Bill C-51 represents the most wholesale attacks on human rights in Canada in decades, and must be exposed and opposed at every opportunity. All peace and freedom loving people should join the growing organizing effort demanding, “Scrap Bill C-51!”



BILL C-51: TERRORIZING DISSENT

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TRIES TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH NEW "ANTI-TERRORISM" BILL

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial 'outside agitator' idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds."

- Martin Luther King Jr, April 16, 1963

Martin Luther King Jr, the great black fighter for civil rights, wrote these words from a jail cell in Birmingham, Alabama. His crime? Protesting against segregation after a judge had outlawed all, "parading, demonstrating, boycotting, trespassing and picketing" in response to a campaign against desegregation in the city. Being thrown in jail for speaking out against racism and for equal rights might be something most people in Canada consider impossible today, but by promoting a climate of fear and racism, and then using this as the pretext for new laws and legislation, the Canadian conservative government is moving towards just that.

The newest attempt is though Bill C-51, which has already been submitted to Parliament. Titled the, "Investigative Powers for the 21st Century Act", the bill gives hugely expanded powers to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and other government agencies, including lowering the threshold of proof for arrest, new allowances for knowingly violating legal rights, increased secrecy of court proceedings and expanding arbitrary "no fly lists."



To accept the government narrative that this is only to combat the "violent jihadism" which is "at war" with Canada would be a huge mistake. This has been targeted against us too and will affect us all.

Nothing New

"I find it a little convenient that in the past few years that these radicalized people are the biggest threat to ever hit us. There are more people dying because of drunk drivers or because of gang violence." - Former CSIS officer Francois Lavigne

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001 the Canadian government has waged an increasing war both at home and abroad. They have consciously tried to promote both racism and Islamophobia, which they use to justify their continued squandering of lives and money during their participation in wars such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Mali. It has also served as a convenient justification for rolling back hard won civil liberties here in Canada, starting with the targeting of Muslim communities.

To document all of the instances of abuse would take an entire article, actually an entire series of

Hey Justin!...

Our Demand Remains the Same: Repeal Bill C-51!

Soldiers could be seen crossing the streets of Montreal on Halloween night in 1970, but the guns were real and they weren't in costume. The few kids who had been allowed go trick or treating had been pulled in by frightened parents well before sunset. Then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau had invoked the War Measures Act in response to a rapidly growing Quebec independence movement, and two kidnappings by the Front de libération du Québec (FLQ). Civil liberties were effectively suspended. Trudeau sent the military to secure the cities, and fear took over as he responded to questions of human rights and freedom under military rule by saying, "Yes, well there are a lot of bleeding hearts around who just don't like to see people with helmets and guns. All I can say is, go on and bleed..."

Fast forward 45 years to Halloween 2015, and there is a different Trudeau recently elected as Prime Minister of Canada. Pierre's

son Justin will now preside over a government which has recently passed the controversial and widely detested "anti-terrorism" law called Bill C-51. His Liberal Party has a majority in Parliament, and are promising some weak amendments to the Bill which is responsible for blowing the door wide open to widespread human rights abuses and silencing of dissenting voices.

It's important to point out the obvious: A human rights violation is a human rights violation, and a bad law is a bad law, no matter what kind of make-up, mask or costume you try and hide it with. Now is more important than ever not be tricked into supporting something so many of us rightly denounced and organized against. We need to continue to demand an immediate repeal of Bill

C-51, and if the Liberals are sincere in bringing "Real Change" to Canada, this will be the very first thing they do after forming government.

They Voted For It!

Many are understandably happy to see former Prime Minister Stephen Harper lose an election after 9 years of implementing a basically anti-human and neoliberal agenda of domestic cutbacks and foreign military interventions. However, we cannot forget that the Liberal Party voted for and supported many of these actions. Especially on the crucial issue of Bill C-51, Justin Trudeau and every single Liberal Party member of parliament who voted, voted in



favour. Mr. Trudeau came right out and said, "This bill can be improved, but on the whole, it does include measures that will help keep Canadians safer. As such, we will support it." He followed that up with,

"Liberals welcome the measures that build on powers of preventative arrest, make better use of no-fly lists, and allow for more coordinated information sharing by government departments and agencies."

So they like the spying, the privacy violating and the incarcerating parts of Bill C-51, but the other stuff just needs to be "improved"?

So What's with the Amendments?

As this article is being written, Justin Trudeau has not yet been sworn into office. There is speculation regarding the amendments the Liberals promised after voting for Bill C-51, but the two Liberal Party issues of concern Trudeau highlighted are "the question of oversight; and second, the need for regular reviews of our national security laws."

as Bill C-51!) which demands educational institutions monitor and limit speech on campuses. University vice-chancellors can now be charged with “contempt of court backed by criminal sanctions” if they do not enforce the new guidelines which many have said are intended to limit freedom of speech. This is just the newest change, as the British government had already created several laws similar to the Patriot Act and Bill C-51 in previous years.

- The French government passed a new law this year which allows French intelligence agents to plant cameras and recording devices in private homes and cars as well as to intercept phone conversations without judicial oversight.

- In 2014, the Australian government passed legislation which allowed the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) broad access to computer networks, and also imposes a possible ten-year prison sentence on journalists and whistleblowers who reveal “special” security operations. Previous legislation already allowed “preventative detention” to be imposed on individuals without evidence.

What do the United States, Canada, France, Britain and Australia have in common? They are all imperialist countries which have been actively involved in invading and occupying countries, especially in the Middle East, and especially since September 11, 2001. The list of countries either invaded, occupied, bombed, threatened or sanctioned by these countries and their allies has grown longer every year: Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Iran, Yemen...the list goes on.

These are all countries which have naturally had to divert resources from vital programs such as healthcare and education to pay for these increasing military exploits, and are therefore concerned about the fightback from the millions upon millions who suffer domestically because of their war priorities. They all also remember that the single largest coordinated mobilizations in human history were in opposition to the impending war on Iraq in 2003.

These are all countries who have used the “War on Terrorism” to justify their attacks

abroad, just as they are now using them to increasingly shove through legislation limiting democratic and human rights at home.

As well, all of these countries are still attempting to recover from the 2008 financial and market crisis, and their solution has been to squeeze the lives and living standards of poor and working people instead of the massive corporations who created the problem in the first place. This has created, and will continue to create, a lot of anger and frustration against both the governments and the capitalist corporations.

So Canada is not alone, and Bill C-51 is not unique in its attacks on poor and working people, and especially its attack on our ability to organize against the anti-human policies imperialist governments are imposing both at home and abroad. They are trying to roll back all of the gains we have made in the last 100 years, and limit our ability as a whole to fightback and defend our interests.

The Fight is Not Over!

The good news is that these governments would not be trying to take away our rights if they weren't afraid of the possibilities if we used them. The other good news is that poor and working people have fought, and won, similar battles many times throughout history. How else do you think we secured the rights we value today? They were all won by poor and working people, just like us, who decided to organize together and improve the living conditions of everyone. We simply need to follow in their footsteps, and make some of our own as well!

Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper has called for a Federal Election for October 19, 2015. This will be the longest election campaign period in over 100 years in Canada. Anger towards Bill C-51 has not diminished since it was passed into law, and groups around the country continue to organize against it. The campaign period is one of the few times where politicians are forced to leave the safe confines of Parliament Hill in Ottawa and try to discuss political issues with people across Canada. This makes it an important opportunity to continue making the defeat of Bill C-51 a central issue across Canada – and continue to strengthen the grassroots campaign which has sustained the opposition since the beginning.

Regardless of who is elected, the most necessary aspect of political life in Canada is an active, engaged, determined and united working class and its allies. The opposition to Bill C-51 has shown time and time again that it can play an important role in expanding this. We need to continue building on this momentum, to defeat Bill C-51, and get back to creating a society where the rights of poor and working people are not only respected but reinforced as well!

books, but it is useful to look at some examples:

- The use of “Security Certificates” to indefinitely detain non-citizen residents of Canada without charge, using secret evidence and a quasi-judicial process. Since 9-11, five Muslim men have been arrested and detained for years without charges and proper judicial process. Adil Charkaoui, Hassan Almrei, Mahmoud Jaballah, Mohamed Harkat 16.2% in 2006, and it is estimated the number will be 32% by 2030. According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), these workers make less than 82 cents for every dollar a white worker makes. Non-white women make only 55.6 cents for every dollar made by white male workers.

Also, as we have previously reported in *Fire This Time*, the Canadian government also changed the Temporary Foreign Worker Act to allow employers to pay higher skilled migrant workers 15% less than prevailing wage rates, and employers are also able to accelerate application for temporary foreign workers, reducing the time from 12-14 weeks to 10 days. There are now more than 300,000 Temporary Foreign Workers in Canada, triple the number from a decade ago.

This is used to try and create a climate of racism and division which is beneficial to the Canadian government and their business friends as they work to push down wages for everyone, especially higher paid workers, to maximize profits and survive the current global economic crisis.

Stop the War at Home and Abroad!

“Together, we will remain vigilant against those at home or abroad who wish to harm us.”

- Stephen Harper, October 22, 2014

These were part of Stephen Harper's statement following the terrorist attack on Parliament Hill in Ottawa which left one man dead. The Canadian government instantly went on the offensive with one result being the introduction of Bill C-51. However, one can both condemn the Ottawa attack, and also the policies of the government of Canada, which have led to



tens of thousands of deaths in Afghanistan and beyond, as well as painting a bleak picture for life at home as well. What “together” is the Prime Minister referring to when he has so blatantly attacked poor and working people in Canada and around the world? Bill C-51 has nothing to do with “fighting terrorism” or “jihadist monster tentacles” and everything to do with limiting our rights, silencing dissent and creating divisions. The real “together” is unity between all poor and working people regardless of race, sex, or religion, and it is crucial to defending our lives and livelihoods, at home and abroad, against the attacks of the Canadian government.

Scrap Bill C-51!

Stop Attacks on Poor and Working People at Home and Abroad!

the **abc's** of **BILL C-51**

Since the introduction of Bill C-51 in Canadian Parliament in January, there has been a real growth of opposition to it across different communities and the country. This has been shown in the polls, in every major Canadian newspaper, and very importantly, in the number of people who continue to

and experienced the growing opposition first hand. People are eager for more information and tools to help explain Bill C-51 to family, friends and co-workers. The Harper Conservative Government introduced this draconian legislation without even a millisecond of public consultation. Their strategy in the last few months



make their voices heard by joining public demonstrations. This has been seen in two successful National Days of Action, as well as the day to day organizing being done in many different areas.

In Vancouver, the Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 has organized 9 consecutive weeks of public demonstrations in busy transit hubs across the city to an increasingly enthusiastic public response. Thumbs up, high-fives and offers and sandwiches have become commonplace as we speak out against Bill C-51, distribute information, and engage people in a discussion on its consequences.

I have participated in all 9 of these actions,

has been to dodge explanations and exaggerate time and time again the “jihadi terrorist threat” Canada is facing. Answers to serious questions about violations of fundamental human rights to free speech, assembly, and privacy are all met with the same non-answer, “Just trust us!”

As law professors Craig Forcese and Kent Roach said in their March 29 editorial to the Globe and Mail Newspaper, “The government has not made its case for C-51.”

We continue to ask, “If this Bill is so great, why hasn’t the government explained their own bill?” If the government of Canada is unwilling to explain their Bill, we will do it for them. However, we will draw some different conclusions! We have

practical considerations for protecting people.

Fear is Their Tool

The primary justification for Bill C-51 by the Conservative government has always been about its necessity in the “War on Terror.” In introducing Bill C-51, Stephen Harper justified its extreme measures by saying, “Our Government understands that extreme jihadists have declared war on us, on all free people, and on Canada specifically.” Unfortunately, he hasn’t been able to prove this so-called war “specifically” on Canada.

In an attempt to heighten our fear and establish a threat, Foreign Affairs bureaucrats were told this year to produce three terrorism-related statements for minister Rob Nicholson to make to the media each week. Unfortunately for the government, its bureaucrats proved unable and unwilling to fulfil this nonsense request.

So Stephen Harper has had to manufacture his own exaggerated statements such as this one:

“Canadians are targeted by these terrorists for no other reason than that we are Canadians. They want to harm us because they hate our society and the values it represents. Because they hate pluralism, they hate tolerance, and they hate the freedom of others, the freedom we enjoy. Through their deeds, these jihadists have declared war on Canada and with their words, they urge others to join their campaign of terror against Canadians. Ladies and gentlemen, it would be a grave mistake to ignore their threats.”

Three people have died in Canada from domestic terrorist attacks in the last twenty years. Almost that many people die every day at work, mostly from unsafe working conditions. A woman is killed on average every six days in Canada by a current or former spouse or boyfriend. Ten people die from suicide in Canada every single day. Yet the Conservative government has cut funding from women’s and mental health programs, and made it easier

for employers to get away with unsafe working conditions. If they were so concerned about protecting people, why are they blowing up the threat of terrorism and ignoring real problems which can actually be addressed?

The Real Reason for Bill C-51 – An Attack on Dissent

As the right-wing National Post newspaper pointed out, “Ultimately, however, the legislation [Bill C-51] raises more questions than it answers — the most basic being, ‘Why?’” The Conservative government failed to establish a threat, and therefore obviously failed to establish how Bill C-51 would actually combat the “jihadi terrorists” who, according to them, are poised at any moment to leap out of the shadows and take over Canada.

Many groups and organizations have been very right in pointing out that Bill C-51 is an unnecessary attack on democratic rights and freedom of speech, but we must answer the National Post’s question of “Why?” if we really wish to defeat Bill C-51.

For this it is important to look at what is going on around the world, where we can see

that Canada is not the only country to enact similar laws.

- The United States has the Patriot Act which it rushed into existence following the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Centre. It allowed for greatly expanded powers for surveillance, detention, and secrecy and became the prototype for many other countries. It authorized indefinite detentions of immigrants, gave permission to enforcement officers to search a home or business without the owner’s or the occupant’s consent or knowledge and also allowed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to search telephone, e-mail, and financial records without a court order.

- Britain recently passed a controversial new law called the ‘Anti-Terrorism Bill 2015’ (the same name





BILL C-51

The Struggle Must Continue Until Victory

Bill C-51, popularly known as the “Secret Police Law”, achieved a new level of infamy in July. After managing to anger and alienate almost every sector of society in Canada, with its massive and purposefully vague expansion of state powers of surveillance, detention and secrecy, opposition became international in a very high profile way. A United Nations Human Rights Committee review panel called out the new law for opening the door to human rights abuses and said it should be re-written. This is just another chapter in the back and forth drama the Conservative government had hoped would be a short story, but which has been turned into a long one by significant and continuing opposition. While the Conservative government has attempted to rationalize and justify Bill C-51 using fear, scandal after scandal has shown clearly that it is much more about cracking down on dissent by poor and working people than protecting anyone from any so-called “jihadi terrorists.”

Opposition Grows – Another Bad Month for C-51
On July 23, 2015 the UN Human Rights Committee submitted its most recent report on Canada’s adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a legally binding part of the International Bill of Human Rights. While it found much fault with Canada, on issues such as missing and murdered indigenous women, human rights abuses by Canadian businesses in foreign countries and prison conditions, it took particular issue with Bill C-51. The report states Bill C-51, “confers a broad mandate and powers on the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) to act domestically and abroad, thus potentially resulting in mass surveillance and targeting activities that are protected under the Covenant without sufficient and clear legal safeguards.”

This wasn’t the only bad news for Bill C-51 that week. The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) and Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) launched a Charter Challenge against C-51 at the Ontario Superior Court, on the grounds that many sections are unjustified in a democratic society. In announcing the Charter Challenge, Tom Henneffer, executive director of CJFE said, “Bill C-51 is a grave

threat to our rights in Canada. It will lead to censorship and a massive chill on free expression, and enables a potentially widespread abuse of power.” Importantly, the Charter Challenge surpassed its internet crowd-funding goal of \$25,000 in less than 3 days, and has now doubled its target to \$50,000.

Completely Unjustified
One of the primary issues with Bill C-51 is the massive new powers it gives Canada’s spy agency, CSIS. The newest scandal to come to light is that CSIS never really requested these powers! In fact, the Canadian Press obtained a heavily censored copy of a secret February 2014 presentation and a related memo where CSIS told federal deputy ministers that “significant improvements” to the sharing of national-security information were possible within the “existing legislative framework.” So CSIS asked for some renovations, and the Conservative government bulldozed the house instead.

The RCMP are also the supposed beneficiaries of Bill C-51, but even they are grumbling. The Canadian Press used the Access to Information Act to obtain documents wherein the RCMP complain that the new CSIS powers, “could inadvertently jeopardize existing relationships” they have fostered. They are also concerned the changes will put increased pressure on them to coordinate with CSIS so that criminal investigations are not “negatively affected” now that CSIS has been given the undefined power of “disruption.” Both agencies will now be butting heads and intervening on the same cases.

It is clear that Bill C-51’s changes are based on a political agenda rather than

noticed at our many actions opposing Bill C-51 that there are four questions almost everyone asks. To help explain Bill C-51, we are providing answers to the following questions.

These questions are:

What is Bill C-51?

What about the terrorists?

Why would the government do something like this?

How can I help to stop it?

1. What is Bill C-51?

Our first response to this question is usually this, “The government is basically writing itself a blank cheque to spy on, disrupt, detain, even torture people, and to break almost any law they want. They’re even giving themselves the power to do this in secret, all in the name of ‘fighting terrorism’. They have made the language of the Bill so broad and so vague that they would be able to target pretty much anybody they wanted to, especially people who disagree with their policies.” Naturally, this statement needs to be supported by specifics.

Some of the most concerning aspects of Bill C-51, among many, are:

It allow government agencies to arrest someone if they think a terrorist act “may” be committed instead of the current standard of “will” be committed. This might seem like a small grammatical change, but the practical difference is huge. You actually need proof when arresting someone because they “will” do something. How do you define “may”? Could it be said that someone “may” commit a terrorist act because they rent a lot of Hollywood movies with those kinds of storylines? Or if they

focus their studies on terrorism as part of academic research? To this, the government of Canada simply smiles and says, “Just trust us, we won’t abuse it.”

The bill would also give CSIS, Canada’s spy agency which is currently limited only to investigative powers, the ability to “disrupt suspected terror activity,” including websites and social media sites. The power applies inside and outside of Canada. What is the definition of “disrupt”, and what are its limitations? Could this be used to take down information critical of the Canadian government’s policies? “Just trust us!”

There are already 14 broadly worded terrorism related offences in the Canadian Criminal Code, but Bill C-51 would now allows the government to take it even further and target those accused of speech promoting and advocating “terrorism in general”. What exactly does this ambiguous new term mean? “Just trust us!”

The word “terrorism” is made even more vague and open to abuse in Bill C-51. Bill C-51 adds that this includes interference with various aspects of public life or “the economic or financial stability of Canada”. As we asked in the last issue of FTT, “Does that make it illegal to publicly support a strike by workers at the Port of Vancouver for better safety regulations?” Can you guess the answer? “Just trust us!”



Bill C-51 stipulates that CSIS can any break laws and violate any individual rights, but:

“In taking measures to reduce a threat to the security of Canada, the Service shall not:

- (a) cause, intentionally or by criminal negligence, death or bodily harm to an individual;
- (b) wilfully attempt in any manner to obstruct, pervert or defeat the course of justice; or
- (c) violate the sexual integrity of an individual.

Lawyers Clayton C. Ruby and Nader R. Hasan point out in a Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives article that, “These limited exclusions leave CSIS with incredibly expansive powers, including water boarding, inflicting pain (torture) or causing psychological harm to an individual.” To enact these kind of actions, all the government has to do is find one judge who agrees they can break Canadian law, “to reduce a threat to the security of Canada,” in a “reasonable” and “proportionate” way. Ruby and Nader point out, “It amounts to asking judges to look into a crystal ball to determine if Canada will be safer in the future if a CSIS officer takes some measure.”

Why make laws if all the government has to do is find one agreeable judge to be able to break them? Why leave our rights up to crystal balls and speculation? “Just trust us!”

Bill C-51 would also allow the government to ask for information in immigration proceedings to be sealed at any point in the process. How would we know if someone was targeted unfairly because of political viewpoints or other reasons? “Just trust us!”

There are many other troubling aspects of the Bill, such as the manner our personal information can now be shared among government many agencies, the expansion of “no-fly” lists, and the massive expansion of private security powers with zero expansion of oversight. The last 3 issues of the Fire This Time newspaper also have many articles detailing different aspects of the Bill, such as the way our personal information among many government agencies shared. Many other articles and research papers highlighting different concerns have also contributed the growing movement against Bill C-51 as well.

2. What about the terrorists?

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has really played up the “jihadi terrorist threat.” According to him, Canadians “are targeted by these terrorists for no other reason than that we are Canadians. They want to harm us because they hate our society and the values it represents.” Canada’s Public Safety Minister, Stephen Blaney even invoked the World War 2 concentration camps of Germany in an attempt to justify Bill C-51’s attacks on free speech by saying that the, “Holocaust did not begin in the gas chamber, it began with words.”

So is there really an army of “jihadi terrorists” poised to take over Canada and began a systematic campaign of genocide? Three people have been killed by terrorist attacks in Canada in the last year. That’s less than half a

percent of the homicides in Canada in 2013. Every day 4 people die from impaired driving related accidents in Canada. Almost 4000 people die from suicide every year in this country. Yet we are supposed to believe we need to suspend our fundamental rights and freedoms because of the “jihadi terrorists threat?” There are many simple and practical measures the government could take to save thousands of lives in areas where people are actually dying in large numbers. We don’t support terrorism. Nor do we think it should be ignored.

Finally, it’s worth asking: What “values” is the Canadian government promoting when it occupies Afghanistan, when it helps overthrow a democratically elected government in Haiti, or when it bombs Libya, Iraq or Syria? Would someone fall under Bill C-51’s vague language of supporting “terrorism in general” for asking why some people, whose families have been killed, houses destroyed, and livelihoods ruined by the Canadian government, might be angry? Is it really democracy and freedom they are against?

3. Why would the government do something like this?

something we also faced during our weekly pickets was the astonishing number of people who do not want to believe that they live in a country whose government is violating human rights at home and abroad. We understand that. It is not pleasant to think about how our tax dollars are used for wars and occupations, or that those who are supposed to represent us are instead repressing us.

We aren’t making this up. More than 100 legal experts and academics wrote an open letter opposing Bill

helmets and guns. All I can say is, go on and bleed, but it is more important to keep law and order in this society than to be worried about weak-kneed people who don’t like the looks of a soldier’s helmet.

CBC : At any cost? How far would you go with that? How far would you extend that?

Trudeau: Well, just watch me.

The most blatant human rights offence in Canada has been against indigenous nations. The government of Canada has continually attacked and denied their inherent right to self determination, and responded with extreme force whenever they attempt to affirm it. It would take an entire library to document the abuses, but the example of Oka Standoff in 1990 is a good example. 2000 police, later replaced by 4500 soldiers with tanks, naval and air support were used against a blockade set up by a Mohawk community trying to defend a sacred burial ground from a luxury golf course and condominium expansion. The extreme use of firepower was used to make only 50 arrests of Mohawks and their allies. All of which were eventually acquitted.

These are just a tiny few examples of the continual back and forth democratic and human rights tug of war that has been going on in Canada for decades. Another good indication is that it wasn’t until 1982, 115 years after the founding of Canada, that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms became entrenched in the Constitution of Canada! More recently, in 2012 three United Nations expert committees gave Canada a failing grade on meeting human rights commitments.

Which Way Forward?

In this history emerges Bill C-51, during a time when the Canadian government is once again basing itself around war, occupations and foreign interventions in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali and Ukraine. Given their history,

it should come as no surprise that these wars abroad are accompanied by a crackdown on dissent and a limiting of rights at home. They have may have changed the names of those we should fear, but the tactic of divide and rule remains the same. Islamophobia has become the thin edge of the wedge the government uses to pry open the door to increased attacks on everyone’s rights and freedoms.

Fortunately, the fightback by people living in Canada has been strong and encouraging. Human rights, religious, media, community organizations, and everyone in between, have joined in denouncing Bill C-51 and made it much more difficult to push through. Three National Days of Action have been organized by new network and coalition, with for many these being the first protests they have attended, let alone helped organize.

The dynamism is obvious to anyone who has participated in any of these actions. Five months later and there continues to be a growing and real dissatisfaction with Bill C-51. This dissatisfaction extends further into the way the Canadian government is making decisions which so obviously have nothing to do with the interests of the majority of poor and working people in Canada.

If we take a broader view of the struggle for human rights in Canada, the fight against Bill C-51 has already been an important step forward in the essential tasks of educating, organizing and mobilizing people to fortify and create organizations which can defend our rights. If Bill C-51 passes, it’s a reconfirmation of what many of us have come to understand: When the government refuses to recognize our rights, we must unite to become a force to be reckoned with. The fight against Bill C-51 has put us all in a better position to continue the important fight to make sure the democratic and human rights of all people in Canada and around the world are defended and extended!



Japanese Canadians were removed from the West Coast of Canada in 1942 alone. Labour organizers were again also targeted and imprisoned en mas.

At the end of World War II, the defection of Igor Gouzenko from the Soviet Union to Canada brought allegations of a Soviet spy ring operating in Canada. This gave the government another opportunity to clamp down on the rights of labour and social justice organizers. They invoked the War Measure Act, which gives the government unlimited power to use, “censorship and the control and suppression of publications, writings, maps, plans, photographs, communications and means of communication”, “arrest, detention, exclusion and deportation,” and “appropriation, control, forfeiture and disposition of property and of the use thereof.”

“The federal government invoked wartime powers to detain, interrogate, and prosecute several suspected communist spies. Habeas corpus was suspended, and people were arrested and questioned by the police for weeks. Denied access to legal counsel, they were held in tiny cells, kept under suicide watch, and guarded at all times. Even those who were acquitted at trial lost their reputations due to the stigma of being associated with treason. The proceedings of the espionage commission that was established to investigate the suspects rank alongside the October Crisis of 1970 as the most extensive abuse of individual rights in Canadian history during peacetime. The controversy surrounding the Gouzenko Affair ultimately

led to the formation of several civil liberties organizations.” - Canada’s Human Rights History, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

In 1970, the government of Canada again suspended civil liberties during peacetime to respond to the growing movement for independence in Quebec. The flashpoint occurred when members of the Front de Liberation de Quebec (FLQ) kidnapped a British diplomat named James Cross and Quebec minister of labour minister Pierre Laporte. The government responded by imposing the War Measures Act and lining the streets with over 6000 soldiers. The next day, Pierre Laporte was found dead, killed by the FLQ.

“Under the powers of the War Measures Act, the police conducted over three thousand searches and detained 497 people. Their actions were guided by a clear bias against nationalists and the political left in general, including many activists.... The average detainee spent a week in jail, and the vast majority (87 percent) were never charged with a crime. By January 1971, only sixty-two had been charged. Within a month, half of them were released and the charges were dropped. In the end, only eighteen people were convicted of a crime arising from the crisis.

The use of the emergency powers resulted in extensive human rights abuses. Media censorship was rampant, especially for student newspapers. Several prominent media personalities were arrested and interrogated....”-

-Canada’s Human Rights History, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

During this time, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau famously responded to a CBC interviewer

expressing his concern regarding the heavy military presence:

“Trudeau: Yes, well there are a lot of bleeding hearts around who just don’t like to see people with

Womens Rights Movement in Canada



Japanese Internment Camp in Canada



Cross-Canada Movement to Stop Bill C-51



C-51, and the Canadian Bar Association, among so many other human rights, religious, and community organizations have come out against Bill C-51.

It’s no secret that Canadian foreign policy is oriented increasingly towards foreign military missions. Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and now Ukraine are all part of the Canadian war effort. This means more and more money is taken from education, healthcare and social services while poor and working people are left shouldering the burden.

Statistics Canada information shown that the top 10 per cent of Canadians have seen their median net worth grow by 42 per cent since 2005 to \$2.1 million in

dissent. They have no intention of changing their policies and priorities, and are fully aware of the negative impacts this will have on people, and the potential for unrest. That’s why they are taking advantage of the “fight against terrorism” to limit our rights, just as the United States, England, France and Australia have all done.

4. How can I help to stop it?

The good news is that if you’re asking this question, you are already well on your way to helping to contribute to the growing opposition to Bill C-51! The Conservative government has tried to calm people down with four amendments to Bill C-51, but none of them address the overall concerns of rights and privacy. They count on an uneducated and inactive population to allow them to pass legislation witch really has no support. The best things you can



2012. In the same time, the bottom 10 per cent of Canadians saw their median net worth shrink by 150 per cent.

There are many reasons for people to be angry and upset. We have seen flashes of large movements in Canada in recent history – whether it be against the occupation of Iraq, Occupy Wall Street, Idle No More and demonstrations against environmental degradation. All of these have shown glimpses of the public unrest which has been simmering in Canada.

The Canadian government is worried this will boil over, and is taking preventative measures to criminalize and diffuse

do is get educated and get active. There are so many ways you can express your concerns and state your opposition to this Bill. The Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 is continuing its weekly picket actions, and is inviting everyone opposed to Bill C-51 to meet on Saturday May 16, 1pm at Metrotown Skytrain Station. From there we will go in teams in an attempt to hold at least 10 simultaneous picket actions across Vancouver and the surroundings areas. This is the kind of consistent, mass action which will be required to defeat Bill C-51 and defend our basic democratic and human rights.

Stop Criminilizing Dissent!

Stop Islamophobia!

Stop Bill C-51!

REPEAL ANTI HUMAN BILL C-51



Why Now is More Important than Ever to Defend Our Democratic and Human Rights!



Things have not gone as planned for the Conservative government and their now infamous Bill C-51. Now known popularly as the “Secret Police Bill”, it was supposed to speed through the approval process, propelled by a fear campaign meant to silence any public input or dissent. The opposite has happened, as the more people have understood the Bill C-51 and its consequences, the more active they have become in opposing it. Months after it was supposed to have been a done deal, Bill C-51 is now set for the final vote of approval by the Senate of Canada. The fate of Bill C-51 now rests in the greasy hands of this unselected, scandal-ridden institution. So it should not shock us if they pass Bill C-51 despite the obvious fact that the majority of people in Canada are opposed to it.

The possibility to defeat Bill C-51 still exists. The size and impact of the movement to defeat it has generated many surprises, and to force its defeat would be a well deserved come from behind victory for poor and working people across Canada. However, most importantly, we need to understand the fight against Bill C-51 as part of a larger historical fight to defend human and democratic rights in Canada. This fight did not start with Bill C-51, and regardless of the outcome of one Senate vote, cannot end with it either. We need to apply the lessons of past and present movements, and continue the important work of educating, organizing and mobilizing to defend our rights. The movement against Bill C-51 has given us an important glimpse into what is possible if poor and working people work

together to defend our common interests!

The Fast Track to Violating Human Rights – A Step by Step Program by Bill C-51

“The scale of information sharing being proposed is unprecedented, the scope of the new powers conferred by the act is excessive, particularly as these powers affect ordinary Canadians, and the safeguards protecting against unreasonable loss of privacy are seriously deficient.”

- Daniel Therrien, Privacy Commissioner of Canada

Since Bill C-51 was introduced in January 2015, every monthly issue of the Fire This Time newspaper has carried an article explaining and denouncing it. At 62 pages long, and titled, “An Act to enact the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act and the Secure Air Travel Act, to amend the Criminal Code, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts,” the biggest challenge has been to summarize all of the reasons Bill C-51 is the biggest threat to democratic and human rights in Canada in the last 100 years.

We have not been alone. As the Guardian Newspaper in England recently reported, “No legislation in memory has united such a diverse array of prominent opponents as the proposed legislation... The campaign to stop Bill C-51 grew to include virtually every civil-rights group, law professor, retired judge, author, editorialist and public intellectual in Canada.” More importantly, thousands upon thousands of people have become active in the movement against Bill C-51 across

Canada.

Bill C-51 could be studied as a step by step guide on how to break, steal, stretch and obscure legislation and definitions until existing human rights safeguards become basically meaningless in the name of “Fighting Terrorism.” Just watch:

Step 1: Allow the government to target those accused of speech promoting and advocating “terrorism in general”, without ever defining what “advocating” or “in general” means;

Step 2: Expand the meaning of “terrorism” to include massively broad formulations like, “interference with various aspects of public life” or “the economic or financial stability of Canada”;

Step 3: Allow government agencies to arrest someone if they think a terrorist act “may” be committed instead of the current standard of “will”, thereby substituting speculation for real evidence when arresting someone;

Step 4: Allow the national spy agency, in this case the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the explicit ability to break laws and violate individual rights if they can find one judge to agree with them;

Step 5: Give the national spy agency, which is currently limited only to investigative powers, the ability to “disrupt suspected terror activity,” without defining what disruption means;

Step 6: Finally, massively violate privacy by allowing multiple (in this case, 17) federal departments and agencies the potential ability to share all personal information they may hold on any individual.

Really, what isn't made possible by these broadly worded and unexplained changes? Also, these are not the only violations Bill C-51 would enact! These steps are reinforced by other changes which include expansion of no fly lists, secret tribunals and the specific targeting of non-citizens living in Canada. It is perfectly clear why so many are so outraged by Bill C-51.

The Past, Present and Future of the Fight to Defend Human and Democratic Rights in Canada

It is important for poor and working people in Canada to understand that many of the rights they rightly consider to be fundamental and inalienable – the right to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, right to vote, equality in public places – have not always been recognized by the government of Canada. They were won through many many years of struggle, and have had to be defended continually as well. The back and forth between the government of Canada and the people of Canada has been going on since the

country was proclaimed in 1867, and the fight against Bill C-51 is part of this.

Many times during history the government of Canada has used racism and xenophobia to cut back on rights, often using the strategy of targeting a particular oppressed group but infringing on the rights of all.

The right to vote in Canada was not something immediately recognized for all. It took over 51 years after the Confederation of Canada before all white women in Canada won the right to vote in 1918. People of Chinese, Japanese, and Indian descent were outright denied or limited in their ability to vote in federal elections until the Federal Elections Act was changed to outlaw race as a grounds for exclusion from voting in 1948. Even after that, Indigenous people did not win the right to unrestricted voting in federal elections until 1960 – almost 100 years after the founding of Canada!

The Canadian government has also shown no concern for using its participation in wars abroad to justify crackdowns on rights at home. Thousands of innocent Ukrainians, Austrians and Germans were imprisoned in interment camps during World War I as “enemy aliens”. The Canadian government also wasted no time in using the opportunity to deport many “labour radicals” who were important organizers for worker's rights such as the right to organize unions and for an 8 hour work day.

Again, during World War II, the government proclaimed that the Minister of Justice could detain anyone acting “in any manner prejudicial to the public safety or the safety of the state.” Between 30,000 to 35,000 “enemy nationals” and Canadian citizens were interned, including people of German and Japanese background. 20,000