

FIRE THIS TIME

The Newspaper of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice



Issue 1 - February 2003

www.fire-this-time.org

FREE

HANDS OFF IRAQ! | Page 2



Anti-war Rally in Los Angeles, January 11th 2003

It Takes a Province of Millions to Hold Campbell Back

The state of the Anti-Liberal Movement after a year and a half

By Mike Krebs

After a year and a half of the BC Liberals' brutal policies, it is painfully clear that this government never had the intention of bringing in changes that would be in the interest of poor and working people. From the training wage to the cuts to social housing, from the racist referendum on treaties to the closing and privatization of health care facilities, from the cuts to disability benefits to the increase in tuition, from the closing of women's centres to the privatization of BC Hydro...not one sector of the working class in BC has been passed over in the continuous barrage of assaults. The results of this have been predictable: By the end of 2002, BC had become the province with the second-highest number of people living below the poverty line in the country.

Even for the big businesses that crafted BC Liberal policy, things are not looking good. The tax cuts for the wealthy that would 'pay for themselves' have done nothing to boost the economy, and low economic growth is expected for at least the next two years. Some of the BC Liberals' big business supporters, including their own so-called 'Progress Board,' a group of business and economic analysts commissioned by the liberals to make recommendations on government policies, are finally admitting that tax cuts don't make sense even in terms of increasing their own profits*. It wasn't enough for them to have seen that this approach had not worked elsewhere

in the world; they had to have a taste of it here as well.

Despite this, we can still expect more of the same desperate attempts to increase profits for big business at our expense. There are already plans in the future for more cuts to social services, and we can expect that they will draft even more in the coming years. These future cuts, combined with the effects of those already made, will cause the level of poverty in BC to increase drastically in the near future.

People have shown that they are willing to fight against the Liberal Government because they understand that Campbell's agenda of creating even more poverty and injustice for the sake of profits must be stopped. All across the province, people on the receiving end of these attacks have taken action against the government's brutal policies. Earlier in the year, tens of thousands of people marched in the streets against the BC Liberal agenda. The premier was faced with demonstrations at several public speaking events. There have been hunger strikes, occupations, roadblocks, and other acts of resistance. Clearly, people understand the nature of the BC Liberals agenda and what effect it is having on their lives, and many are not willing to sit back and watch these cutbacks happen.

Unfortunately, after a year and a half of anti-Liberal activity, the number of people actively involved is but a fraction of those who are vocally opposed to the

government. As 2002 drew to a close, some opinion polls ranked public support for the Liberals at less than 50%. This level of dissent is certainly not represented in the streets. The large demonstrations of early 2002 have dwindled. The cutbacks and assaults create huge potential to mobilize the poor and working people in BC. It is the task of anti-Liberal groups and coalitions to hone this potential, to bring different groups of people affected by the cutbacks together and get people out in the streets. So far, however, anti-Liberal groups have not been able to maintain the momentum required to build a dynamic, mass-based movement; and it is a mass-based movement that is necessary to defeat the BC Liberals.

We, the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, believe that there is still a great potential to build a broad based movement to defeat the BC Liberals. There are still cries of outrage from poor and working people from different areas of the province, of all ages and of all backgrounds. We need to bring these voices together by mobilizing people in communities all across the province, to increase our strength through unity and action. We need a movement that promotes solidarity, encouraging people to support the struggles of others against Campbell's attacks and other injustices. We need a long-term movement, one that can look beyond the upcoming provincial election and towards a positive vision for progressive change. To achieve all of these things, we cannot base

our strategy on one tactic alone. We can't rely solely on demonstrations and direct actions. We must stop waiting for people to come to us, and start communicating with people where they are at. The people an effective anti-Liberal movement is made of are angry and fractured, living and working in every neighbourhood, town and reservation in BC. They have come out to the "big weekend demos" but have not found the hope and direction they were looking for. We must outreach these people and organize around all our issues together. We must educate each other and build a movement together to defeat this government.

Any local movement with a long-term vision must also look beyond the borders of BC if it is to be effective. The Liberals' cuts to social programs and attacks on us have happened to other poor and working people all over the world, and they are happening right now. This is not by coincidence, but because it is the same drive for profits that is fueling these attacks, and in many cases, it is the exact same businesses pushing this agenda. We are not alone in this struggle against injustice and oppression. To fight the Liberal Government's agenda effectively we need to fight back on every front possible, which includes supporting the struggles of people elsewhere in the world against these same policies.

*Check out the Progress board's website at www.bcprogressboard.com

Who is Fire This Time?

By Shannon Bundock

The Fire this Time Movement for Social Justice is a new organization that recently formed in Vancouver. The focus of Fire This Time is to mobilize masses of poor and working people in Greater Vancouver to defend themselves against the attacks by the government and to build an effective movement. Most people in BC understand that the constant legislative changes and cutbacks that have been implemented since the Liberal government gained power in BC are direct political attacks against the poor and working people of this province. Our role as an organization is to help break down the false barriers that keep working class people from organizing together and to support their unified resistance against the systems that are oppressing them. Fire this

Time recognizes the incredible amount of work and discipline that will be required in order to take on this task as well as the necessity of starting with a strong political foundation. In light of this we have drafted a series of documents to explain the organization and how it will function, and to outline our political vision for building a movement in Vancouver. This Action Program can be found at www.fire-this-time.org.

In order to build a successful organization we understood that we needed to break free from the rut that the activist community has been stuck in. We asked ourselves why many progressive groups in Vancouver that were trying to work for social change were made up of people who

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Fight the \$6 Training Wage!

Raise the Minimum Wage to \$11 an Hour!

By Mike Krebs

The six dollar an hour training wage, where employers can pay \$2 an hour below the minimum wage to 'inexperienced' workers, was one of the first attacks made by the BC Liberals on low-wage workers. The Campbell government claimed that this \$6 training wage was designed to lower youth unemployment by encouraging businesses to hire inexperienced youth. According to their own numbers, however, youth unemployment has not decreased since the training wage was introduced: in fact, it has gone up. The jobless rate for youth was 15.3% last October, up from 14.2 % in October 2001.

The jobless rate didn't happen because the \$6 training wage 'failed'; the BC Liberals knew from the beginning that the training wage was not going to improve the situation of young workers. They created this policy in order to lower the minimum wage. These latest figures serve

to prove what has been shown time and time again since last November: the training wage is an attack on all low-wage workers, and was never designed to help anybody except the businesses that use it against their workers.

The training wage has been used repeatedly by businesses against workers who clearly would be classified as 'experienced,' especially against employees from other countries who are routinely exploited in the Canadian workforce. Companies like McDonald's are starting off young workers at the training wage regardless of whether or not they have experience. The equally deplorable changes to the Employment Standards Act make it even more difficult than before to file complaints against employers who are breaking the rules, all but guaranteeing that, as time goes on, \$6 an hour will become the accepted minimum wage in BC.

The \$6 training wage remains

one of the most important attacks on workers that the BC Liberals have launched. It is not only an issue for those who are earning \$6 an hour; the \$6 wage in BC is affecting wages for all working people. Whenever wages are lowered at the bottom, they are lowered right across the board. It is therefore essential for all working people to oppose the \$6 training wage. We cannot assume that the BC Liberals' attacks on workers are finished. Unless we are able to build an effective fightback to the \$6 training wage, there will certainly be more to come.

Because of these far reaching effects, a successful campaign against the \$6 training wage has the potential to mobilize a broad range of working people against the provincial government. In order to improve the conditions of working people as a whole, we must start by fighting for the needs of the most exploited workers. We demand an end to the \$6 training wage, and demand



that the minimum wage be raised to \$11 an hour, to bring full-time wages above the poverty line. We also demand that the amendments to the Employment Standards Act (Bill 48) be revoked. We want to work with everyone being affected by the \$6 training wage: youth, women, people of colour, students, immigrants, unorganized and unionized workers, the working poor.

Big business and the Liberal government have pushed the training wage forward as a Trojan Horse to cripple the rights and securities of all workers in BC. All working and poor people must unite to drive this assault back and push on to defend our livelihood and win decent wages and dignified conditions for everyone.

Hands off Iraq!

By Ali Yerevani

"So far I haven't seen any evidence that he [Saddam] has disarmed... I'm sick and tired of games and deception."

-U.S. President Bush, to reporters, Tuesday January 14 in the White House

In his own words, Bush has clearly exposed the hypocrisy and double standard of US foreign policy makers, and their hidden agenda on the preparation of military assault and massacre of Iraqi people. What is the rationale in starting a war with Iraq when they have already agreed to comply with the UN resolution requiring them to submit to weapons inspection? What is the justification for threatening the people of Iraq with military attack and war because their military MIGHT have nuclear weapons or any Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)? The USA promises war with Iraq while at the same time advocating peace and diplomacy, food and oil to North Korea, who are blatantly carrying out all the things Bush is accusing Iraq of: kicking out UN weapons inspectors, threatening aggression against America, and openly announcing that they will pursue their nuclear bomb program. Obviously, George Bush and the US ruling class' occupation and war on Iraq is part of a bigger agenda than just the punishment of Saddam Hussein.

For the past five months, the US government has drastically increased its moves towards a military invasion of Iraq. At the same time American and British air attacks within the imposed no-fly zone on Iraq's military and civilian targets have tripled. As of January, the US's military machine in the Persian Gulf region included roughly 100,000 soldiers, over five dozen battle ships and three aircraft carriers. US army generals have stated openly that they need at least 200,000 soldiers by the beginning of March to start a ground war inside Iraq. The British government is also reportedly contributing 20,000 regular troops and 7,000 reservists to this war drive. Since October, the US political envoys have multiplied their trips to the Arab countries to make deals for a war against Iraq. All of these political and military movements are indications that US war makers have made a clear and decisive decision to plan an attack on Iraq that will be the bloodiest ever

in the Middle East. Washington is trying to play this game with or without the UN's stamp of approval: if the inspectors find WMD or something that implies the existence of WMD, then Iraq lied, and war is justified. But, if UN inspectors do not find anything, Washington will claim that the Iraqis have hidden the weapons so well that US intervention is required to find the truth. This is how the law of the jungle prevails.

The ruling classes of America made their decision to go to war with Iraq even before their attack on Afghanistan. The recent American military buildup in the Persian Gulf is part of a bigger strategy that they have been pursuing in the Middle East and throughout the world for decades. The roots of US military aggression, in the Middle East generally and towards Iraq in particular, are lousy with many more factors than just the now popular media acclaim of "blood for oil". The continuous war drive by the US government in Afghanistan and Iraq is their response to the depression and slowing down of the world wide capitalist economy. These global economic conditions have had a dire affect on the internal American economy while bruising capital interests abroad. The declining rate of profit and continuing trend of bankruptcy for giant financial and industrial institutions has intensified the level of tense competition between them. For the imperialist countries, which the profiteers behind these corporations live in, this competition translates into a race for control of the plundering of the world's natural resources. In spite of the economic and political dominance of multi-national and trans-national corporations, ultimately, each imperialist nation-state pursues its own national interest. George Bush is the executive management chief of the ruling capitalist class of United States, and he understands what he was hired to do: consolidate the hegemony of the US in the broadest territory possible.

The same rationale that has cemented the US war drive against Iraq will lead to a continued war drive against other countries of the Middle East, including Syria, Iran and even Saudi Arabia. The US seeks to establish absolute hegemony over the other imperialist rivalries of Europe and Japan. The reactionary internal and external policies and politics of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein in Iraq provided the golden opportunity for the US government to intervene in the Middle East;

not just to plunder the great resources of the area like oil and gas, but to expand its overall strategy beyond the Persian Gulf region. Washington understands perfectly that no other major imperialist power has the military might and capacity of the US to establish complete domination in the Middle East. George Bush's war in Afghanistan established a protectorate regime and set the stage to move to the next target: Iraq. Bush has started the new era of strategic war, through which the US military machine will try to expand throughout the world: from the Middle East to Africa and Latin America.

In the short run, the US capitalist class must take over Iraq to lay a foundation for the long term goal of winning back the hegemony lost through the anti-imperialist revolution of 1979 in Iran. The Iranian revolution was a big blow and a setback for US imperialism, and it completely changed the relation of forces in favor of oppressed people of the Middle East. The Iranian revolution, accompanied with a popular armed insurrection, put the Palestinian struggle in a better and stronger position against the Israeli Zionist government. The first Palestinian Intifada was not only the result of growing consciousness among the younger generation of Palestinians, but was also the product of confidence generated by overthrow of the Shah in Iran and kicking out the USA, the mightiest imperialist power on the earth, from Iran. In this framework, occupying Iraq and preparing to attack Iran militarily in order to settle the old account with Iran is a must. Iran is still is an obstacle for absolute hegemony of United States in the Middle East. Defeating Iraq and then Iran will position Israel in absolute superiority over Palestinians. This also will guarantee the flow of oil and gas from this area and the super exploitation of people in the Middle East. In the long run, the US will be in a better position to tighten the circle around Russia and China, which have remained a potential danger to the US interest in Asia, and eventually settling the account with them to completely bring the capitalist mode of production back to these two super powers.

Along with massive military build up by the US war machine and criminal military assault on Afghanistan and now Iraq, the consciousness of the world is also building up. Without a doubt, the protest movement against war and US military intervention is on the rise. In the last two months, millions of masses of people have poured onto the streets to protest the US war drive. There is widespread opposition among working people in the Western hemisphere against blood for oil and the killing of more than one and a half million Iraqi people because of sanctions imposed by the UN security council and the United States. Hundreds of thousands of people have marched against war in New Zealand, Australia, Pakistan, India, and other areas of the world. The latest protest in England brought 400,000 to the streets of London. A total of four million people came to the streets in the whole European continent to protest criminal bloody war on Iraq and killing of Palestinians by the Israeli Zionist regime. In North America hundreds of thousands of working people, middle class, professionals, and unionists have raised their voice in the streets of Mexico, Washington, New York, San Francisco, and other cities. Here people have not once but many times protested against the US war drive and Israeli military atrocities

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**Fire This Time Movement
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www.fire-this-time.org

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Issue 1

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Submissions: We welcome articles, letters, and unsolicited submissions. However, we cannot promise publication. Submissions can be made by email, fax, or mail.

The Battle at Britannia: Drop The Charges against the Britannia 9!

By Ivan Drury

For some of us, violent attacks by the Liberal government seem to come out of nowhere, to appear suddenly in our neighbourhoods and catch us unaware at our front doors. This violence that has accosted us in the form of increased poverty, uncertain employment and work conditions, inaccessible health care, vanishing child care and state repression of dissent through unrestrained police brutality and harassment, has existed in Vancouver for as long as Vancouver has existed. There is a long tradition of the government using legislation to attack the lives and security of poor and working people in favour of freedom of profit for corporations and then using the army and police to crush the resulting peoples' uprisings. Very recently, before Campbell took power, the Federal Liberals were routinely violating Indigenous Peoples' rights and the NDP sent troops and tanks in to Gustafson Lake to shoot at aboriginal people fighting for their land. In the same way that the Liberal's obvious legislative attacks on poor and working people have brought the reality of state oppression into the lives of many people who previously felt like they



were safe and secure, the battle before Britannia has brought the awareness of the police as a tool of the government to control and forbid our organized dissent.

Gordon Campbell was scheduled to speak on October 3rd, 2002 at the opening of a new wing of the Britannia Community Centre in East Vancouver, and a last

minute demonstration was called to oppose him. No one whose life and security have been put in jeopardy by this government is fooled by ribbon cutting ceremonies for new buildings; the BC Liberals are hostile to poor and working people and no public relations scheme can disguise that.

What happened at Britannia during this demonstration is called a Police Riot because without the police's presence that day there would have been no confrontation and no violence. The police beat people, threatened, harassed and arrested people with nothing but their opposition to the Government as provocation. They seized and arrested George Feenstra, a First United Church Minister dressed as a clown. They slammed the Clown Minister's face into the stucco wall in the alley while the crowd surrounded them, chanting.

When the police had loaded their arrests into the wagon, the crowd sat in the alley and blocked the wagon in. When the police threatened arrest for everyone blocking the wagon kids rushed in from the high school and sat down too. The police started pepper spraying and beating people. Officer # 2072 picked out a thirteen-year old Britannia student, punched him in the face and dragged him away. In his report, officer # 2072 said he picked up the youth because he was "concerned for his safety," and wanted to "carry him away to the security of the police line." People passing by on Commercial Drive flocked

into the crowd, angered by the assault. The crowd came together and stood off against the line of police and drove them off; booing and chanting, "Out, out, out! Out of our community!" The cops retreated through the alley to the cruisers parked on Commercial Drive. The crowd marched down the street without a cop in sight.

The police drove the wagons to the Canadian Tire parking lot on Hastings Street and harassed the people arrested and cuffed inside. Scott Rohan and Murray Bush were in the back of a wagon together. The door to their cell opened and a circle of 25 cops stood around the open door in the abandoned parking lot. A massive enraged cop stepped forward into the middle of the semi-circle, pointed at Scott and said, "You're the asshole who hit me with that thing. Come out and we'll straighten this out now." Scott looked at him and the horseshoe of cops behind him and shook his head. The cop said, "You're not so tough now are you, tough guy? It doesn't matter, we know where you live, we'll take you out."

The six adults initially arrested were held in jail until the next evening and charged with assault

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were not representative of the masses of poor and working people in the city. Why was the scene not growing politically, or in volume? What were the criticisms that our constituencies had of our work and the activist community in general? By learning from the failure of past projects we were able to develop an organizational character and structure that we felt confident would not alienate the very people we want to work with.

We have to build a movement that appeals to a diversity of people, not just because they identify as activists, but rather because they share a political vision and they have faith in the power of working class unity. We are not an organization that thinks the activist community, being predominantly white and male, will be a leader for change. The leaders of this movement are people of color, disabled people, women, queer people, immigrants, "illegals", as these are the poor and working people that are being attacked most consistently and viscerally. Poor and working people have experience and analysis that allows them to understand which fights are necessary and the struggles

that are most important to these people are the struggles that we will take on.

Fire This Time uses campaigns in our organizing to outreach the communities we want to work with in a direct and immediately relatable way. Campaigns are long-term, focused projects that draw out all the related elements of what may appear to be isolated issues for particular segments of the working class. To build the unified politics and momentum of a campaign we must not limit them to action but begin with internal and popular education with forums, street outreach and many discussions within the many communities that make up the working class in the city of Vancouver and its outlying districts. We strive for mass participation in organizing because we believe that people themselves know what sorts of mobilizations and actions are best for their communities and we must build mounting and continuous actions in workplaces and in the streets.

We are focused on the Training Wage / Low Wage Worker Campaign and the Legal Defense Campaign because we believe these issues are impacted by the Liberal

Government but are not limited to Campbell's term in office. Through these campaigns we will mobilize people against the Liberals to reverse all the cuts and changes they have pushed through. By expanding on these campaigns and the politics inherent to them, we will build a mass movement capable of fighting these neo-

liberal policies throughout the world while laying a foundation for a movement that will outlive the Liberal government and fight against attacks on poor and working people in whatever form they take.

The first public meeting of the Fire This Time Movement for

accompanied by domestic attacks on people from these countries who are living in Canada and the United States through extremely racist immigration acts and discriminatory "national security" legislations. Racist legislation is nothing new to Canada or the United States but many of these bills have flown through congress and parliament without sufficient public opposition due to the social and political environment that has been made even more hostile to dissent than it was before September 11th.

The Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice enthusiastically welcomes the arrival of this vital campaign. There has never been a more important time for a strong organization to defend the rights of people from immigrant, refugee and "illegal" communities. Indeed, the attacks on oppressed people from other countries cannot be separated from the attacks on all poor and working people in British Columbia and we all must work together to end these attacks on people in Vancouver and beyond.

Social Justice is on Monday, January 27th, 6 pm at the IWA Hall (2859 Commercial Drive, at 13th Ave; 2 blocks south of the Broadway Skytrain station). We are just beginning our work, and the involvement of all people who share a vision of an anti-Liberal mass movement is crucial to defeat this government.

Fire This Time welcomes formation of New Anti-Racist Campaign in Vancouver

By Ivan Drury

"Apartheid can be said to exist when two groups of people living, working, paying taxes, raising children, and dying within the same space are accorded highly differential legal treatment. This certainly describes many of the laws and policies enacted by both the Canadian and US governments since September 11th, 2001."

- From a press release issued Jan 7, 2003 from the Campaign to Resist the Racist Attacks by the US and Canadian Governments

This new group has come together in Vancouver at the beginning January, 2003 to oppose targeted discrimination against people from the Middle-East, Africa and South Asia.

Since the "war on terrorism" has begun, attacks on these countries by American and Canadian military forces have escalated. These external military operations have been

of a police officer and obstruction of a police officer. Two youths, including the high school kid who was punched by the cop, were arrested and charged with assault police. They were released in the afternoon the day after the arrests. All the people arrested left jail with repressive release conditions designed to break down the unity developed in common resistance, most notably: not to be within 2 blocks of Gordon Campbell, and not to associate with any others arrested.

Three days later the cops isolated and arrested Ivan Drury, a political organizer involved in the Britannia Police Riot. As he rode his bicycle down Main Street, the cops cut him off with a cruiser and arrested him on a warrant. Ivan was held in jail overnight and charged with 2 counts of assault police and 2 counts of obstruction police.

There has now been an arraignment hearing for the seven adults and the courts have struck down the strict release conditions. The trial has been set for December of 2003 and it is expected to last eight to ten days because the crown plans to call 30 to 40 police officers as witnesses against the protesters. Some of the defendants have qualified for legal aid but most have been denied because of the Liberals' cuts to Legal Aid

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against innocent Palestinians. In Canada there were marches, rallies and gatherings against US military buildup in the region and in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self determination in over thirty cities. In Vancouver on November 17, more than 15,000 marched and rallied against war in the Middle East. The most important and encouraging development though has been the direct involvement of the labour movement in building the anti-war movement in US and Canada. In the USA just as recently as January 11, over 100 trade unionists from 76 locals representing over 2 million members gathered in Chicago and passed a resolution "that U.S.

Labor Against the War stands firmly against Bush's war drive". The Canadian Labour Council and most unions, including the Toronto Labour Council and Vancouver Labour Council, together with BC Federation of Labour and hundreds of other unions and their locals across Canada, have condemned the US war drive, and in many cases the Israeli government's occupation of West Bank and Gaza. On January 8th, the Canadian Union of Public Employees issued a statement with the content of "why CUPE should take a position on war with Iraq", "CUPE opposes war with Iraq", "war is not a solution" and "peace is a worker's issue, and a union issue". This CUPE statement has a series of demands including asking the Liberal government in

Ottawa to oppose the war on Iraq, and stating the necessity of building a mass anti war movement in Canada.

The next step for the opposition movement against war on Iraq and in the Middle East is to become an anti-war majority of working people in Canada, especially in communities of people of colour and immigrants. The focus must be on No War on Iraq and Hands off Iraq in order to include the broadest range of people possible against war. No War On Iraq is a common denominator that everybody could be in agreement with. We need to understand that any successful movement must have a mass character, and we must adopt methods and demands so that the vast majority of the population

Services. One of the defendants without legal aid is a Minister, two are full time students and the fourth is an independent photographer. None of them can afford to pay the sympathetic lawyer rate of \$2000 for each day in court. All the people arrested are facing the possibility of jail time. The Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice is pursuing a Legal Defence Campaign to cover the costs of defeating these trumped up charges in court. We need to raise \$10,000 by May 1st to keep the Britannia 9 out of jail and to keep up the fight against the Liberal Government.

Just as the Liberals fight us in the streets with their police forces when we resist their brutal policies and legislations, we must fight them in the courts when the battle brings us there. The fight against the persecution of people who stand up for their rights and security is the fight for the rights and security of all poor and working people. We must expose all the tactics the government is willing to use to further their corporate agenda. We must move together in all moves we make against the Liberal Government. They must drop the charges against the Britannia 9. Through legal battles in the courts and mass mobilization of support in the streets, we must force the government to free all people charged criminally for fighting for their rights.

UPCOMING EVENTS



First meeting of the FIRE THIS TIME Movement for Social Justice

Monday January 27th at 6 PM
IWA Hall in Vancouver
2859 Commercial Drive
(Commercial and 13th)

Report from Iraq

Saturday January 18th
3 PM at SFU Harbour Centre Campus
(515 W. Hastings St)
Fletcher Challenge Room

Irene MacInnes, Linda Morgan and two other women who were part of the Peace delegation to Iraq over the end of November into the beginning of December will speak about their first-hand experience in Baghdad.

'A New Era and the Further Feminization of Poverty'

Featuring Benita Benjun, Women and Welfare Coordinator with Vancouver Status of Women
Tuesday January 21st at 7:30 PM
WISE Hall, 1882 Adanac St. in Vancouver
(Adanac & Victoria)
Part of A Community Aware's 'Unofficial Opposition' series

Café Rebelde

January 24, 2003 AT 7 PM
Dogwood Centre, 706 Clark Dr
(Clark and Georgia St, Vancouver)

Featuring:
Raoul Léger: The Elusive Truth, a film about the life and death of Raoul Léger
Hunger for Justice, a short film documenting the conditions in which 51 Mexican political prisoners are held today.
New-song musician Hugo Rojas
Ranchera singer Isabel Ramirez
Teatrillo: ¡A la mexicana!

Donation at the door
First screening starts @ 7:15 PM
Sponsors: Group of Relatives and Friends of Political Prisoners in Mexico Working Group for Memory & Justice in The Americas

Assembly to End Poverty

January 31st - February 2nd 2003
Victoria BC

For registration, volunteering or questions:
Call 250-721-8629
or email endpoverty@vipirg.ca
or check out www.vipirg.ca/endpoverty

Defeat This Government!

can get involved. We are working together against the US war drive in such a sensitive period of time that the greatest challenge of all is how to develop an anti-war movement in which everyone is welcome. Focusing on main or central issues does not mean that every individual or organization is not free to bring their issues of concern. The broad range of people and groups can express their views in the rallies and other forms of protest. Our strategies must be the ones that help the movement to grow and not weaken the movement. Any related war issue must be foremost evaluated based on whether it will help broaden participation. The issue of diversity is also important. We need an antiwar movement that includes a diversity of people, whether it is gender, sexual orientation, nationality, race or culture. This outreach will be our most challenging task to build a viable, sustainable antiwar movement. We will win.

Please Donate to the Fire This Time Newspaper!

Fire This Time receives no sustained funding, and will rely on donations from supporters to keep this newspaper going. Please forward any donations to:
PO Box 21607
Vancouver BC
V5N 5T5

The Fire This Time Movement For Social Justice Basis of Unity

Humanity today is threatened by war, economic crises, starvation, poverty and crime: all created by the drive of capitalists to maximize their profits at the expense of the people of the world. To oppose each of these crimes against humanity, we must focus all our work and action to build a foundation for and advance the interest of an overall struggle against international capital, its tools of working class division and its local institutions. The fundamental principle of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice is the unity and active solidarity of all poor and working people, locally and internationally. We must recognize that this principle is meaningless without active struggle because the pursuit of this principle goes sharply against the interest of the ruling class and they will use whatever means they have at their disposal to keep us divided and hostile amongst ourselves.

Fire This Time is a politically based action organization committed to building the social and political power of poor and

working people in BC. We believe the only way to effectively challenge and threaten the government and their corporate agenda is through the organization of masses of people in motion in workplaces and in the streets. We are dedicated to mobilizing and unifying poor and working people against the Liberal Government and their anti-poor, anti-working people legislations and policies. We are committed to organizing with working and poor people from the most attacked and exploited communities in the lower mainland and beyond: communities of colour, immigrants, refugees, "illegals", low-wage workers, disabled people, queer people, indigenous communities, unemployed people and low-income families. We oppose all forms of oppression and exploitation: from sexism to racism, from homophobia to colonialism and all other institutions, thought, beliefs, actions and behaviours that humiliate and demean people to bring hostility and division amongst us.

The goal of the Fire This Time Movement

for Social Justice is to build a broad based movement to defeat the BC Liberal Government. Our work is to provide the tools necessary to unify and activate the working class in BC to build a strong and effective broad-based movement to oppose the BC Liberals and their attacks on poor and working people. This movement must be integrated in the wider revolutionary context of international struggle against capitalism and imperialism; although we are mainly engaged in local politics, in essence the scope of our work is internationalist. Supporting the struggles of oppressed people abroad weakens the hegemony and power of the capitalist class in other lands and consequently weakens their rule at home, therefore aiding the battles of oppressed people in Canada. In addition, the practice of international solidarity solidifies the co-operation essential in building a world movement for social justice. The Liberal Government's agenda is part of a global restructuring program known as "neo-liberalism". To fight the BC Liberals is to fight neo-liberalism and

global capitalism. We must expand on this both implicitly and explicitly to make the connections relevant to peoples daily domestic struggle, to overcome geographic division, and to make it clear that when we engage in struggle we do not struggle alone but alongside millions of working and poor people around the world. Within capitalist and imperialist globalization there is no local struggle that does not have an international character. Every international is local and every local is international.

The Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice will support and engage with other progressive movements and struggles whether for immediate or long-term demands, locally, nationally and internationally. Our main goal is to end poverty and injustice through education, participation and direct action. We seek to reach a collective level of consciousness that allows oppressed people to think socially and act politically to achieve social justice by any means necessary.