



FAUST

News & Views

No. 6

JUNE 2019



SOLIDARITY ISSUE

Dear FAUSTians,

FAUST believes in the principle of solidarity! We have benefited from the support of other unions and associations in the past, and believe that it is our duty to reciprocate in whatever way we can. This issue of *News & Views* is dedicated to solidarity: it includes updates from our affiliates, reports about previous actions, and news about ongoing campaigns.

Please peruse and let us know of any events and issues that you think we should be following.

In Solidarity

Bonnie Huskins, FAUST Professional Officer

SPRING MEETINGS: CAUT & FNBFA

The following reports were penned by FAUST President Robin Vose who attended CAUT Council as well as the Annual General Meeting of FNBFA.

CAUT Council, Ottawa May 2-5 2019



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In addition to the usual important reports from CAUT officers and committees on matters such as Academic Freedom, Equity, Collective Bargaining and precarious employment, along with budgetary matters and the awarding of several prizes, the following noteworthy items arose at this 86th meeting of the CAUT Council:

- Council was addressed by representatives from four federal political parties:
 - Alexandre Boulerice (NDP)
 - Elizabeth May (Green)
 - Patty Hajdu (Liberal)
 - Michael Chong (Conservative)
- Several political analysts also gave presentations as CAUT prepares for lobbying in anticipation of a tightly-contested federal election in October 2019.
- International allies Mahboob Hussain (President of the All Pakistan Union of Academic Staff Associations) and Matthew McGowan (General Secretary of the National Tertiary Education Union in Australia) addressed Council; a motion of support for free association and collective bargaining rights for Pakistani academic staff was passed following their talks.
- An emergency situation led to the arrival of Carlos Humberto Zambrano Escamilla, President of the Sindicato de Professores de la Fundación Universidad Autónoma de Colombia, who also addressed Council. Dr. Zambrano immediately claimed refugee

status on arrival in Canada, as a result of credible death threats in his country. Council passed a motion condemning the political violence against labour, human rights, and Indigenous activists which has threatened to derail the peace process in Colombia.

- A number of other emergency motions were also passed:
 - To denounce the Canadian government's support for illegal sanctions and regime change in Venezuela, while also demanding that Canada end its participation in the Lima Group
 - To denounce recent negative changes to tuition support programs in New Brunswick
 - To denounce recent negative changes to PSE policies in Ontario
 - To condemn the undemocratic collegial governance system at MUN
 - To denounce the use of "headhunting" firms in academic administrative job searches
 - to demand further action on climate change
 - to express solidarity with unionized Fairmont hotel workers, who visited Council and expressed their gratitude for CAUT support.
- Robin Vose's term as Past-President ended with the election of new CAUT President Brenda Austin-Smith; James Compton is now Past-President.

FNBFA AGM, Saint John May 7, 2019

Despite the continued absence of ABPPUM, the FNBFA continues to be active and fiscally sound.

The Nicole Raymond Award will be awarded to Stephen Law of MAFA.

Jean Sauvageau and Mary Lou Babineau have been named interim President and Treasurer, respectively.

Plans were discussed for protest against the NB government's changes to tuition support plans, in fall 2019.

The committee on Indigenization will be reconstituted and the possibility of partnering with funding providers such as NBIF will be explored.



A report on “experiential learning” was circulated; government plans on this are going ahead with very little faculty consultation or buy-in.

The plight of STU alumna Meaghan Balzer, who has been trapped with her young family in Haiti since February, was discussed and a motion was passed to write letters of support on her behalf.

PSAC ORGANIZER DAVE SHAW & NEGOTIATOR LARRY GAGNON RETIRE

Two labour leaders who worked for the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC Atlantic) have recently retired.



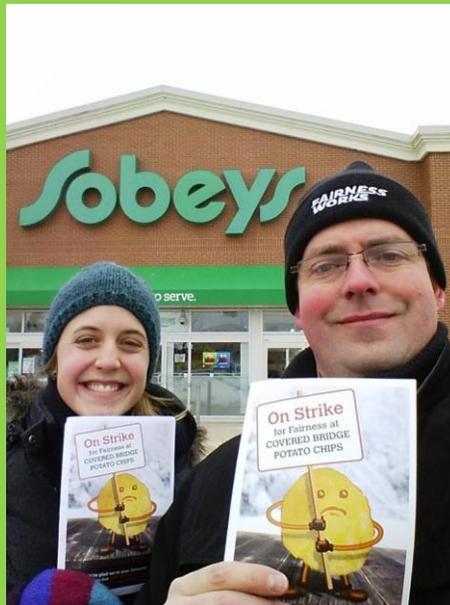
Larry Gagnon, Regional Negotiator, has helped unions at St. Thomas University negotiate their collective agreements. They include:

- St. Thomas University Support and Administration Union (STUSAU): PSAC Local 60701
- Workers Union of St. Thomas University Student Union (WUSTUSU): PSAC Local 6088

Dave Shaw, a longtime union organizer, has organized literally thousands of workers in Atlantic Canada. Please see this tribute from Tony Tracy on twitter:

https://twitter.com/Tony_Tracy/status/1102322644970598405

Larry and Dave have spent many hours at STU and UNB, and were frequent attenders at the **United Campus Labour Council** meetings. Thanks for your service Larry and Dave!!!



ALEX BAILEY IS NEW PSAC REGIONAL ORGANIZER

We are delighted to report that FAUST member **Alex Bailey** is the new **Regional Organizer for PSAC**. As he put it, “I am the new Dave Shaw”. 😊 Many know Alex from his time as President of the Fredericton and District Labour Council, and have enjoyed The Alex Bailey Swing Band at many venues in Fredericton. Congratulations Alex!

NBFL NEWS

New President:

On Wednesday May 29th, 105 delegates attending the New Brunswick Federation of Labour (NBFL) Convention elected **Daniel Légère** as its new President. Légère brings years of experience to the position, having served as President of CUPE New Brunswick for the past fourteen years (see <https://fednb.ca/delegates-at-nbfl-convention-elect-new-president-and-set-priorities/>)

FAUST welcomes the new president, but also thanks **Patrick Colford** for serving the federation for 3 terms!! Colford fought for Bill 4, introduced by the Government of New Brunswick in October 2017, which amended the industrial Relations Act to include first contract arbitration. Thank you Patrick!



NBFL Scholarships:

The NBFL offers a series of scholarships and bursaries to students of members who belong to affiliated unions, which includes FAUST. If interested, click on the links below. Please note that the **deadline** for the applications is **no later than 30 June**:

- THE JAMES A. WHITEBONE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: <https://fednb.ca/scholarships/james-a-whitebone-memorial/>
- TIM MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT: <https://fednb.ca/scholarships/tim-mccarthy-environment/>
- NBFL SOLIDARITY BURSARIES: <https://fednb.ca/scholarships/nbfl-solidarity-bursaries/>

SOLIDARITY DONATIONS

FAUST engages in solidarity actions in the form of making solidarity donations. Although we have been subjected to financial constraints this year, we have made donations to the following:

- Striking faculty members at FUNSCAD (Faculty Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design)
- STU PRIDE
- Fredericton PRIDE
- MayWorks
- NB Media Co-op
- No One is Illegal Fredericton
- Heart & Stroke Foundation (in memory of Kenny Gordon)

MAYWORKS

FAUST joined many unions and social justice groups in the province to support the **5th annual Mayworks Festival** in Fredericton. This year's events included a May Day Acadian Kitchen Party to celebrate solidarity among the working class, a moving night of poetry by El Jones and newcomer children, an open mic night of social justice songs, and the screening of the film *Migrant Dreams*, about migrant worker struggles.

(submitted by Tracy Glynn)



CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS 'TAKE ACTION' CAMPAIGNS

The CLC is supporting a number of social justice issues, including Pharmacare, secure workers' pensions, child care, and a campaign to end wage discrimination, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. Please see their website for more information:

<https://canadianlabour.ca/take-action/>



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

CAUT is supporting a number of initiatives including:

- Shared governance: please see the CAUT President's message on collegial governance: <https://www.caut.ca/bulletin/2019/06/presidents-message-leadership-collegial-governance>
- Fair copyright: <https://www.caut.ca/latest/2019/06/caut-welcomes-balanced-progressive-copyright-report-industry-committee>
- CAUT has also issued a statement on the report on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls: <https://www.caut.ca/latest/2019/06/caut-statement-report-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-and-girls>
- CAUT has also sent a letter to NB's Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, condemning the provincial government's recent decisions regarding student tuition programs. This letter was circulated to members via the FAUST listserv.



NEW BRUNSWICK LABOUR UNREST

Many labour conflicts have arisen in New Brunswick in recent months:

- **Nursing home workers:** CUPE has engaged in several job actions in support of 3520 nursing home workers in 46 government-funded nursing homes, who are fighting for fair collective bargaining and the right to strike. On 30 May 2019, CUPE held a rally in front of the Fredericton legislature, and on 4 May, the bargaining team ended a three-day occupation of the office of New Brunswick's minister of social development. For the latest developments, follow CUPE NB on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



- **NB Auditor General validates CUPE's position on outsourcing :** N.B. Auditor General Kim MacPherson released Volume 1 of her report on 11 June 2019, in which she condemns the outsourcing of provincial work such as highway maintenance and construction work in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI). MacPherson argues that this practice is more costly and less efficient than using public sector workers. For more on this issue, see <https://cupe.ca/nb-auditor-general-validates-cupe-1190s-position-outsourcing-costs-more>
- **Belledune:** 280 employees of the Glencore smelter in Belledune have been engaged in a work disruption for two months. On 24 April 2019, members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 7085 issued a 72-hour strike notice, but 14 hours before the deadline, workers were sent home, with pay. The union calls this a lock out, but the company argues that it is a strike, since employees were paid until the deadline. The main issues revolve around work safety and the removal of early retirement plans. The New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench has issued a Court Order limiting picket lines to 6 individuals at the entrances or exits of the smelter. For more information, see <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/strike-brunswick-smelter-union-glencore-1.5145801>



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FAUST SIGNS LETTER DEMANDING ACTION ON CANADA-SAUDI ARMS DEAL

FAUST has added its name to the following open letter to the Canadian Labour Congress demanding action on the Canada-Saudi arms deal:

Dear Brother Yussuff:

We, the undersigned, are calling on the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), in the most urgent terms possible, to express public opposition to the Government of Canada's arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners are waging war in Yemen. The war has plunged the country into what the United Nations (UN) calls "the world's worst humanitarian crisis." According to a recent UN report, approximately 70,000 Yemenis have died since the beginning of 2016. At the moment, three civilians are killed every day in Yemen. Hospitals, schools, markets, and mosques are common targets for Saudi coalition airstrikes. Two thirds of the Yemeni population require humanitarian support or protection, 17 million are food insecure, three million have fled their homes, and 14.5 million require access to safe drinking water—and as UN Women has found, women and girls bear the brunt of this devastating situation. A 2018 report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concluded that violations and crimes under international law have occurred and continue to be perpetrated in Yemen. A report by Amnesty International documented that parties to the conflict are obstructing the delivery of essential goods and humanitarian aid, in contravention of international law. While Yemen's workers are trapped between hunger and war, Yemeni trade unions have called for peace.

Canada is complicit in the war in Yemen. The export of Canadian-made light armoured vehicles (LAVs) to Saudi Arabia, an approximately \$15-billion contract originally signed by the Conservative government of Stephen Harper, is now proceeding under export permits approved by the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau. Although new export permits for arms shipments to Saudi Arabia have reportedly been suspended pending an indefinite review by the Trudeau government following the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, according to recent data from Statistics Canada over half a billion dollars worth of armoured fighting vehicles have been exported through the Port of Saint John to Saudi Arabia in 2019 alone. There is credible evidence that Canadian weapons sold to Saudi Arabia are being used in the devastating war in Yemen. And while the Saudi-led coalition continues to commit serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Yemen, Saudi Arabia also has a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of its citizens.

In April 2016, the Canadian Labour Congress—through its membership in the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) and as part of coalition of human rights, development and arms-control groups—endorsed an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which expressed profound concerns about the issuance of export permits for Canada's arms deal with Saudi Arabia, "despite flagrant incompatibilities of this contract with the human rights safeguards of our export controls." The letter urged Prime Minister Trudeau to rescind this "immoral and unethical" decision.

Since then, the silence of the CLC has been deafening. On this issue, Canada's labour movement is uniquely situated to bring pressure to bear on the Liberal government. While Amnesty International, Oxfam Canada, and other civil society organizations have called for the cancellation of the arms deal, it is unionized Canadian workers—in manufacturing plants, on railways, and in ports—who have the power to stop the production and shipment of weapons of war to the Saudi regime.

In the face of the global climate crisis, migration crisis, and a political crisis in which right-wing politicians demonize migrants and refugees while pushing an agenda of austerity, environmental destruction, and war that drives displacement and migration, the CLC must stand for a green, peaceful, socially just economy where good jobs do not depend on developing, building, and shipping machinery used to make war.

Labour can and must be a voice for peace. Working with peace activists and human rights organizations, unions in Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Norway have successfully pressured their respective governments to suspend Saudi arms transfers. Here in Canada, in December 2018 members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 273 courageously refused to cross a picket line at the Port of Saint John, where peace activists had assembled to protest the arrival of the Bahri Yanbu, a Saudi cargo ship scheduled to transport Canadian-made LAVs to their destination in Saudi Arabia. And in the past few weeks, union dockworkers in the Italian Port of Genoa and the French Port of Marseilles Fos made international headlines when they refused to move, load, or help ship military cargo destined for Saudi Arabia.

Brother Yussuff, we call on the CLC to demand Prime Minister Trudeau immediately cancel the Government of Canada's arms deal with Saudi Arabia, and further, we call on the CLC to declare military goods destined for Saudi Arabia as "hot cargo" and use its considerable resources to coordinate labour movement opposition to this arms deal. Yemen can't wait.

In solidarity,

Dr. Simon Black, Assistant Professor of Labour Studies, Brock University & Anthony Fenton, PhD Candidate in Political Science, York University

TWO UPCOMING FILMS ABOUT
SOLIDARITY!

Nae Pasarani: “the Incredible True
Story of the Workers Who Defied
Pinochet”: <https://naepasaran.com/>

Stand! “An immigrant Romeo &
Juliet battle for love and a better
future during a time of social
upheaval” in 1919: [http://stand-
movie.com/](http://stand-movie.com/)

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***No One Is Illegal – Fredericton is
part of a worldwide migrant justice
movement rooted in anti-colonial,
anti-capitalist, ecological justice,
Indigenous self-determination, anti-
occupation, and & anti-oppressive
politics.***

***For more information, see
<https://noii-freddy.org/about/>***

HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL
SUMMER!!!

