



ELECTION FOCUS - 2008

www.FocusOnSocialism.ca

September 22, 2008

Canadians for Peace and Socialism

Our cause is our class, peace and socialism. Focus On Socialism is the political journal of CPS. In it we address current national and international issues. We strive to bring a Marxist-Leninist viewpoint to the struggle of Canadians for peace, progress and socialism.

FOS is produced by workers, about workers and for workers. FOS is made possible through volunteer labour and the generosity of our readers, subscribers and members with the help of their donations.

Email: editor@FocusOnSocialism.ca

FOS Articles & Analysis

- ⇒ [CPS Labour Day Statement - 2008](#)
- ⇒ [The Way I See It! - An October Election?](#)
- ⇒ [State, Government and the Working Class](#)
- ⇒ [The AFL Challenges Big Oil - FOS Special Bulletin March 2007](#)
- ⇒ [The Way I See It! - Autoworkers and the De-Industrialization of Canada](#)
- ⇒ [Viewpoint - Labour & Peace: Alberta and the Attack on Organized Labour](#)
- ⇒ [Labour & the Nation: The Changes in the Composition of the Working Class](#)
- ⇒ [FOS Special Bulletin - Left Turn Canada!](#)



From the Labour Press

- ⇒ [CLC - Mr. Harper, you forgot the other ninety percent!](#)
- ⇒ [AFL - Election 2008 Fact Sheet](#)
- ⇒ [CAW - Stop a Harper Majority: Foreign Policy](#)
- ⇒ [PSAC - Conservatives to kill meat inspection in Manitoba](#)
- ⇒ [CEP - Jobs Worth Fighting For](#)

The 40th Canadian Federal election is not the 39th

The opportunity for a left-centre electoral alignment that arose during the last campaign and that could have defeated Harper on January 23, 2006 was lost. It was lost primarily due to the sectarian go-it-alone campaign policy of the NDP and its aim to become the official opposition in the 39th Parliament. The left, with a few exceptions went along with that mistaken policy.

[Read More on the FOS Website...](#)

The Way I See It!

Green Shift or the Green Shaft

Don Currie - Editor, FOS

The Liberal, NDP and Green parties have proposed variants of an environmental plan for Canada not an energy plan for Canada.

Discussion of an energy plan for Canada has been derailed. Green Shift has become the Green Shaft.

The Harper Conservatives sell-out of Canada's strategic energy reserves to the USA on behalf of the profit goals of a handful of Canadian and US energy investors has been lost in the fog of electoral baffle gab about what is the least painful way to make Canadian workers and farmers and consumers pay for the environmental crimes of a handful of private, mainly foreign owned oil and gas companies. Harper loves it.

[Read More on the FOS Website...](#)

Science, Human Progress, and Marxism

In an effort to provide a context for the discussion of global warming with a plea to consider in its entirety what science has to say about the subject, we offer this sketch of a of a great British scientist, J.D. Bernal and some of his views on the role of science in the struggle for peace and human progress.

[Read More on the FOS Website...](#)

Communist Party of Canada Election Platform

A Harper majority would bring deeper involvement in U.S. wars, no action on global warming, and new attacks on Canadian sovereignty, democratic rights, jobs and living standards. We need policies for people's needs, not corporate greed. To win real economic and social development, and an independent foreign policy of peace and disarmament, dump the Tories and support a broad plan to achieve these goals!

[Read More on the CPC Website...](#)

Harper says forestry workers who lose their jobs "can go to the Alberta tar sands."

Reprint From FOS: January 31st 2006.

Alberta Big Oil In Power in Ottawa

The January 23rd 2006 federal election handed legislative power to far right-wing reaction. Objectively the Harper Conservatives are the political expression of the enormous growth and concentration of foreign and domestic finance capital in the energy sector of the Canadian economy. The Harper Conservatives are the federal party of Alberta Big Oil. Their basic mandate is to protect first, the power and privileges of all those who derive their profits from the wealth generated by processing and export of Canadian oil and natural gas reserves to the US market.

[Read More on the FOS Website...](#)

What Was Said...

Thirty-five years ago Tim Buck wrote the following. "Public discussion of the issue of independence and of its inseparable relationship to the struggle against the drive of the United States imperialism to war, brought forward the question: If Canadian capitalists prefer that Canada be absorbed by the United States via the path of integration of capitals, how can the economy of this country be maintained and developed further without United States capital?" In various forms that question is being asked all over Canada. The Communist Party proposes that the democratic answer is nationalization." [Read More on the FOS Website...](#)



FOS Special Bulletin - March 2007

"[Big Oil's] campaign is part of a broader continental strategy of expanding free trade using such agreements as TILMA and trilateral agreements with the US and Mexico as promoted by the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC) to import labour and drive down wages and working conditions, safety and labour standards to the lowest common denominator."

[Read More on the FOS Website...](#)

Go Along for the Ride - Or Fight to Get Rid of the System

Prime Minister Harper is deceiving the Canadian people when he says there is no threat to the Canadian economy from the deepest made-in-USA money market crisis since the Dirty Thirties. Decades of US-Canadian deep integration of capital markets has tied Canadian finance capital inextricably to the US financial system. To suggest that Canadians will be unaffected is election propaganda plain and simple and must not stand.

If everything in Canada is so rosy then why did the Canadian Press on 09/18/08 report that the Bank of Canada has collaborated closely with the U.S. Federal Reserve, the Bank of England, the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan and the Swiss National Bank "in a coordinated measure designed to address the continued elevated pressures in U.S. dollar short-term funding markets."

[Read More on the FOS Website...](#)



+\$538.25 - Grocery Bill

The annual grocery bill for a single person has increased by \$538.25 in the past 10 years. This would represent over 15 weeks worth groceries for a single person in 2008

[Ontario Association of Food Banks](#)