



FOCUS ON SOCIALISM

The Political Journal of Canadians for Peace and Socialism

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CPS NEW YEAR GREETING

LEFT TURN CANADA

**PRIME MINISTER HARPER'S MESSAGE OF
FAILURE**

www.FocusOnSocialism.ca



Editorial Board

Editor:	Don Currie	doncurrie@focusonsocialism.ca
Members:	Cathy Fischer	cathyfischer@focusonsocialism.ca
	W.C. O'Casey	wccasey@focusonsocialism.ca

Letters to the Editor, and articles should be sent to:
Editor, CPS,
Box 168, Slocan, B.C. V0G 2C0
editor@FocusOnSocialism.ca

Donations and bequests (cheques) should be sent to:
CPS
#5 – 2243 Lorne St.
Regina, SK. S4P 2M8
info@FocusOnSocialism.ca

Focus On Socialism

FOS is the political journal of Canadians For Peace and Socialism (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.

Focus On Socialism is published 3 – 4 times a year. The journal is made possible through volunteer labour and the generosity of our readers and members through their donations. We appeal readers and supporters to help us continue the publication of the journal in these turbulent times of rapid change throughout the world. The analysis it gives is needed now more than ever.

LEFT TURN CANADA - PRIME MINISTER HARPER'S MESSAGE OF FAILURE

BY: DON CURRIE, CHAIR CPS, JANUARY 6, 2008

Prime Minister Stephen Harper in his year end media interviews warned the Canadian people to get ready for hard times in 2008. Only three months earlier he was boasting that Canada was the wonder of the G8, virtually recession proof. Predictably, the Prime Minister took no responsibility for the impending down turn in the economy. He made no promises about what his government will do to protect Canadians from imminent economic turmoil. To do that would expose the responsibility he personally bears for Conservative Government foreign and domestic policies that create economic hardship in Canada.

Studies by the Canadian Council for Policy Alternatives, (CCPA) www.policyalternatives.ca , NAPO the National Anti-Poverty Organization www.napo-onap.ca and the 4 million strong Canadian Congress of Labour (CLC) www.clc-ctc.ca the aboriginal, First Nations and Métis people's demanding their national rights and economic justice www.afn.ca , www.metisnation.ca and women's and



child care advocates demanding a national child care program www.buildchildcare.ca and many more people's movements demanding economic justice, reveal gross inequalities in Canadian society.

The richest 20% of Canadians own 75% of the nation's wealth and more than 90% of the gain in income share in 2007 went to the richest 5 percent within that group. Most of that gain went to the richest 0.01 percent of Canada's income scale. 100 top chief executive officers make on average 240 times more than the typical worker. Some make more in a day than the average worker makes in a year.

PM HARPER'S "THREE LEGGED STOOL" ECONOMY

What are the economic roots of such wealth disparity? **The Stephen Harper Conservatives are the government of militarism, big oil and rampant big investor speculation.** Wealth disparity cannot be separated from that fact. This shaky three legged stool is passed off as an economy in the interests of the Canadian people. It is nothing of the sort.

This wobbly neo-con economic construct, threatening to collapse, is the logical outcome of the economic and foreign policy straight jacket restricting independent Canadian development. For decades Canada has been hobbled by the military doctrines of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its latest iteration, the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) that subordinate Canadian economic development to the global ambitions of a handful of powerful US and Canadian finance capitalist interests. There is nothing in this anarchic neo-con capitalist economic model for working people. It must change if Canada as a nation is to survive and its people thrive.



WAR IS NO WAY TO RUN A COUNTRY

Harper demands that Canadians accept without protest, and indefinitely, the burden of the escalating costs of US-NATO wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and any other wars that may follow. He demands that the Canadian Armed Forces sent by General Hillier and NATO into the most dangerous sector of an unjust and unwinnable war of occupation accept an endless stream of fallen soldiers and wounded.

The human and material cost of the Afghan War is unjustified. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's corporate tax cuts, at the behest of the banks, and high defense spending have reduced a multi-billion federal surplus to an estimated \$1.5 billion while the war budget heads for \$20 billion. The Harper Government squanders taxpayer dollars at the rate of \$350 million a day expected to rise to three times that amount by 2009, to fund the Canadian military presence in Afghanistan. At the same time Prime Minister Harper turns a deaf ear to calls for federal government help from communities dependent on manufacturing and auto sector jobs, forestry jobs, and farm income to survive.

THE CENTRE-LEFT ALTERNATIVE TO RIGHT WING EXTREMISM

The majority of Canadians who oppose the militarization of our country, the hundreds of thousands of workers deposed from their jobs in manufacturing and the millions more who feel threatened, the majority of farmers trying to stay in farming, the millions of underpaid and overworked and marginally employed workers who are one pay check away from ruin confront a choice. We can continue as we are, and cast votes for parties that let us down, or consider doing something for ourselves between elections that will get the attention of the power elites and force them to back off and put the interests of the working people back on the political agenda of the country.



A centre left alliance of democratic forces can challenge the Harper neo-cons and set Canada on a new path of an independent foreign policy of peace, rational energy development that reduces global warming and serves Canadian needs first and planned reinvestment to direct capital now wasted on war, to restore and expand a domestic manufacturing sector. A revival of the Canadian manufacturing sector would stimulate the domestic market for agricultural products and demand a made in Canada food policy to serve the nation and feed the hungry of the world. In fact a centre-left alliance at this stage in Canada's history is the only political power alternative capable of stopping the evolution by stealth of the extreme right wing to its logical destination, some form of crypto-fascist corporate governance of our country.

A SHARP TURN TO THE LEFT CAN DEFEAT RIGHT WING EXTREMISM



What is required to stop right wing extremism? What is required is a working people's movement led by organized labour united around a democratic program of planned economic development that puts the interests of those who must work to live at the top of the

country's agenda. To do that requires a ***sharp turn to the left*** in all labour, farm, social and democratic organizations of the people. Canada must move left for survival or continue right to



economic and political disaster. There is no “third way”. That reality can no longer be evaded.

Left turn Canada is the task confronting every patriot, every fighter for national rights, every labour militant, farm union militant, every left wing socialist, communist activist in the country. How the challenge ***left turn Canada*** is answered in practice, will determine the direction of Canadian politics not only for the next federal election but for years to come.

TIM BUCK – A COMMUNIST VIEWPOINT

From: Canada – The Communist Viewpoint, The Guide to Working-Class Victory

“Let there be no illusions as to the problems and difficulties that the working class will have to face. There is no ground whatsoever for the silly pretence maintained by most of the spokesmen for the CCF, that Canadian monopolists will fight less fiercely or by less unscrupulous methods than the monopolists in other countries have, in their effort to maintain their stranglehold upon our country and our national life. That pretence leads only towards acquiescence in the anti-labour war policies of Canadian imperialism.

“It is evident that finance-capitalism is tightening up its anti-labour defences on all fronts. The demagogic, fascist-type propaganda being utilized by capitalist politicians, and the increasing evidence that funds are being poured into a widespread attempt to revive fascist activities, combined with the sinister preparations for war, are all ominous warnings of the anti-democratic intentions of the monopolists.”



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**For Canadians Who Want to Abolish the Profit System!
The Problem - Imperialist War & Capitalism!
The Solution - Peace & Socialism!**

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Stop the Attack on Workers!
Halt the Militarization of Canada!
End the Corporate Control of Parliament!**

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