

FOR A MODERN CANADA THAT RECOGNIZES AND DEFENDS THE RIGHTS OF ALL! ALL OUT TO BUILD THE NEW!

– **Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), January 1, 2017** –

“Nation-building in Canada can mean only one thing: that the working class must provide society with a modern constitution, with a modern political mechanism, with a change in the direction of the economy and with independence.”

– *Hardial Bains, January 1, 1995*

On the occasion of the New Year 2017, the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist Leninist) sends its revolutionary greetings to all members, supporters and friends, to the working people coast to coast to coast and their families, as well as to fraternal Parties and friends around the world.

The celebration of the New Year is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the organized workers and communist movement and the challenges it faces. In Canada, this becomes all the more important in a year the Government of Canada is attempting to manipulate the 150th anniversary of Confederation to create a sense of how lucky we should feel to be Canadian and how fortunate the world is to have us. The government seeks to distract the people from the serious issues facing humankind as we enter the New Year. The government’s bluster seeks to eclipse and push aside fundamental problems including the spread of poverty, hunger and disease, the dangers posed to the natural and social environments as a result of the depravity of the ruling circles, and the increasing threat of world war. Importantly, the government wants to bury the people’s movement for empowerment and desire to establish an anti-war government in opposition to the striving of U.S. imperialism to impose its hegemony onto the entire world.

In this situation, Canadians are duty bound to uphold a modern definition of rights and give birth to an anti-war government, as a government of laws established on a modern basis that recognizes and defends the rights of all. This year will also be a year to agitate to get Canada out of NATO, dismantle the aggressive alliance of warmongers and oppose all U.S. imperialist adventures for world domination, while exposing the collusion and contention of the other big powers as they attempt to come out on top.

CPC(M-L) rejects the approach of the ruling circles in Canada to distract us from taking up any issue of nation-building seriously, past or present. The Party will actively participate in the commemoration of Canada 150 starting from the present necessity of a modern constitution and political mechanism and change in the direction of the economy and by looking at the past for the purposes of building the new and opening a bright future for the youth.

The Party will also review and learn from the centenary of the establishment of Workers’ Rule with the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in 1917. As with the history of Canadian Confederation, the Party will take up this study from the point of view of the needs of the present under the theme, *The Birth of the New*. The first step in any such review is to establish a reference point soundly rooted in the present for purposes of opening a path to society’s progress by providing the workers and communist

movement with the ability to find its bearings under all conditions and circumstances.

Of significance to CPC(M-L) in 2017 is the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Necessity for Change Analysis adopted in August 1967, on which CPC(M-L) was later founded. Today, culture in ideological, social and material form remains at the centre of our attention so as to provide the necessary guide to action to Build the New. The Party will also review the work in the 1992 period to engage everyone in democratic renewal to provide guidelines for working people to build modern institutions based on recognizing and defending rights on a modern basis. This work was consolidated in 1995 when the Party launched its nation-building *Historic Initiative* and will be reconsolidated this year within the preparations for the Party’s Ninth Congress.

Similar to 1995, various political forces are manoeuvring to place themselves in power to represent and administer the state on behalf of and in favour of the oligopolies. In opposition, CPC(M-L) launched a plan of action to build the mass communist party and put the working class in power at the head of nation-building. This *Historic Initiative*, launched by the Party’s founder and leader Hardial Bains on January 1, 1995, calls for a modern constitution that vests sovereignty in the people and democratic political mechanisms to ensure that the people are in control and govern themselves. The *Historic Initiative* calls for the rational and conscious reorganization of the economy, changing its direction to serve the well-being of the people.

Fundamental to CPC(M-L)’s outlook and activity is to pay attention to the decisive role of organizing the human factor/social consciousness. Regarding the *Historic Initiative* Hardial Bains explained, “In the work of peoples and nations one of the most important and crucial aspects is what happens to all the energies which are engendered in the work. Are they utilized for a very definite aim or are they simply squandered? Today on the world scale, generally speaking, there are very few countries which have set an aim for themselves, an aim for the benefit of society, for the well-being of the people.” To benefit society and the well-being of the people is the aim of the work of CPC(M-L) towards which all its resources are directed.

In Canada and the U.S. for more than twenty-five years, the collective interests of the people have been on the chopping block and the state put at the disposal of the monopolies. The degeneration is such that now the oligopolies and their representatives have directly seized the state with an agenda to privatize all common property, assets and social programs and impose a government of police powers.

The Reference Point

In this year of anniversaries, the working class must provide society an aim to stop the ruling imperialist class from squandering the national resources, trampling on the peoples' well-being and attacking the independence of the country. The resources of the country must be used for their collective interests and not those of the oligopolies. Through actions with analysis, the working class can advance its cause to constitute the nation and arouse the people to take into their own hands what belongs to them by right as human beings and create a society and world that favour them.

The reference point must be the needs of society and the aim of the working class to establish its own nation-building project. To become caught up in attempts to refute the constant lies and disinformation of the ruling circles deprives the working people of their own aim and reference point.

Canadian Confederation was a time when the bourgeoisie put forward its own aim as the aim of the nation and subordinated it to its aim. This aim was to defend individual interest and private property. The British imperialist ruling class founded Canada in 1867 to ensure their private interests and North American territories did not fall into the hands of the American revolutionists. To accomplish their aim, they suppressed the nascent nation of Quebec and deprived the Indigenous nations of their right to be. Both those historical wrongs have yet to be righted. Those wrongs can be overturned by enshrining the Quebec and Indigenous nations' right to be and right to self-determination in a modern constitution.

Canada's founding document also endowed Canada with institutions to enshrine the Royal Prerogative and its decision-making power in the hands of the British sovereign. Today, the Royal Prerogative is enshrined in the police powers wielded by representatives serving the oligopolies and oligarchs.

From the beginning of Canada, rights were defined based on the British policy of divide and rule. Lord Durham in 1839 defined rights to enforce the suppression of the nation of Quebec and set an aim for Canada favouring the British imperialists. This aim has since been transferred to favour the U.S. imperialists and the "English speaking world," in its striving to impose domination over others following World War II.

It is high time the working class constituted the nation and established a nation-building project on its own terms with its own aim. To do so the working class must arouse the broad masses of the people to take up modern nation-building. The working class cannot channel its resources and put them at the disposal of the nation and people without taking up the aim of satisfying the collective interests of society. Nation-building in Canada can only mean that the working class must provide society with a modern constitution, a modern political mechanism and a change in the direction of the economy, and assure the country's independence.

To advance the cause of nation-building in 2017, CPC(M-L) will generate discussion on the question amongst the broadest masses of the people using all the resources available to the Party. The primary objective is to ensure the discussion takes place on

terms that favour the working people, using their own reference points and not responding to the distractions of the ruling circles. This objective is to engage the working people in setting the agenda for nation-building themselves, and to appropriate what is best from both the present and the past. The need is great to develop and enrich the conception of rights and promote those that favour the working class and its aim for nation-building.

While appropriating what is best from the past, Marxist-Leninists have the responsibility to find solutions to the complicated problems of the present. Only communists can lead the society on the high road of civilization. The entire history from the early nineteenth century to the present proves this conclusively. Only communists can invoke and bring forth the theories and human emotions and conceptions necessary to open the path for the progress of society.

On this New Year, CPC(M-L) calls on the working class and the broad masses of Canadians to bring to the fore the best that humankind has produced until this time and to develop it to the level necessary for the deep-going transformations that are the order of the day. This program puts the working class at the centre of all developments. More precisely, this program puts the human factor/social consciousness at the centre of all developments. If the human factor is not at the centre of the nation-building project, no amount of scientific technical revolution, no amount of efficiency, no amount of other natural and social resources will make a difference for the better.

The human factor cannot be brought to the level necessary for these transformations without social consciousness, without debate and discussion amongst the people, without a real revolutionary movement with a mass character. The fight for rights must take up the fight for the freedom of speech not merely as a civil right but as a human right without which it is not possible to consider the society human. Importantly, the human factor must be pitted against all attempts to negate the right to conscience that the ruling imperialists are engaged in with their governments of police powers.

The country and all humanity are entering a difficult year with a U.S. President initiating a new government of police powers and setting a dangerous warmongering course internationally. Everything the ruling circles peddle is counterfeit and a fraud. This includes the major political parties, the spokespersons of the financial oligarchy and the monopoly owned and controlled media. They hope the working class will lose its bearings and take sides with this or that faction of the imperialist ruling circles. A vigorous nation-building project of the working class can prevent this from happening.

A government of police powers disempowers the people and criminalizes all those who fight for rights and justice. How to tackle this situation has become a major concern coast to coast to coast. CPC(M-L) will intervene in the situation for purposes of imbuing Canadians with the nation-building project to "provide society with a modern constitution, with a modern political mechanism, with a change in the direction of the economy and with independence."

***In 2017, Let Us Go All Out to Build the New!
For a Modern Canada that Recognizes and Defends the Rights of All!***

TO CONTACT CPC(M-L)

Tel: 416-253-4475 • 514-522-1373 • Email: office@cpqml.ca • Website: www.cpqml.ca