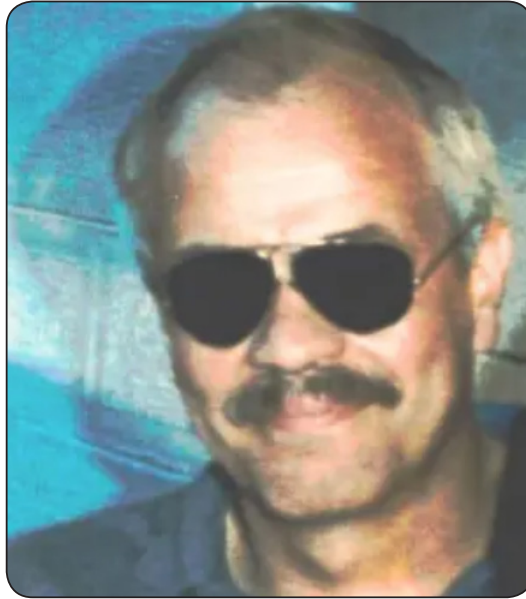


In Memoriam **Daniel Roy (Dan) Nelson**



January 7, 1949 – May 3, 2024

We are very sad to inform you that our Comrade Dan Nelson passed away on May 3, peacefully in his sleep after many years of illness. As a youth in the 1960s, propelled by the necessity for change, Dan met the Party in Calgary when attending the Southern Alberta Institute for Technology (SAIT). He soon became a member and remained so until the day he passed away.

Dan was born on a thriving wheat farm in southern Alberta near Wrentham, where his dad Roy was also born and raised. He talked about his happy childhood on the farm, doing chores and making mischief. His interest in learning about how machinery operates and how to maintain and fix things was nurtured on the farm. This led at first to a lifelong hobby and a side-gig doing automotive repairs and helping his comrades to keep their vehicles on the road. It then became a professional choice when he later became a journeyman machinist.

Dan was influenced at an early age by his father who was always thinking about how society was organized. Prairie farmers were being forced to expand or die. Pushed into borrowing massively from the banks, small and medium sized farmers struggled while they watched the banks making more and more money. His dad thought about alternatives such as farmers establishing cooperative machine shops, shared equipment and cooperating in other ways instead of becoming increasingly indebted to the banks with each passing year.

Unable to work on the farm due to allergies, Dan set out for university in Edmonton, but found that academia was not for him. He enrolled in SAIT where he got involved in journalism. Dan became editor of the campus newspaper, the *Emory Weal* at which time he met CPC(M-L) and, henceforth, joined the work of the Party in the working class. He contributed to the struggles of the railway workers in the 1970s when he worked in the freight “sheds” as a truck driver for CN Rail and active member of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers (CBRT). This was a time when the fight of the railway workers was at a very high level. He later became an industrial worker in Edmonton and then returned to school at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in the machinist program. Once he qualified he became a very able machinist and, along with his peers, he worked precarious jobs in the Edmonton machine shops which were dependent on the boom and bust nature of the oil and gas industry.

To his honour and merit, Dan was one of the pioneer worker politicians in Canada who participated in the federal elections of 1974, 1979 and 1980 on behalf of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada (MLPC). Simultaneously he

participated in elaborating the program of CPC(M-L) in the working class later known as *One Class, One Program* and, subsequently, he joined the work of the Party to smash the silence on the workers' working and living conditions and organizing the class for political renewal. With pride and joy he loved to share his experiences in Party work with his comrades and fellow-travelers, from the time he was a constant team member in the work of disseminating Party publications, both on the streets and at workplaces and postering for meetings and events, to the years he worked on many election campaigns, going door to door to collect signatures, distribute election material and urge fellow workers to take independent political stands based on their own class interests.

One of our favourite stories about Dan's inventiveness and good humour was when he was postering for the historic Internationalist Rally held in Montreal in 1978. He had just laid down the glue for a big broadsheet-sized poster on the High Level Bridge, when he was interrupted by police. The police demanded to know what he was doing climbing up on the bridge. Dan immediately began to relate his tale of woe about how he had just dropped his best camera into the North Saskatchewan River while getting the most amazing shot, that he didn't know how he would replace it, and so on. Totally diverted from noticing the large area where the glue was still wet, all the police could do was commiserate with him about the unfortunate loss of his camera and amazing shot of the North Saskatchewan River, and give Dan a warning to not climb bridges again.

Dan was a true Canadian patriot and internationalist. He participated in many campaigns, including the national campaign against the racist Green Paper on Immigration, the founding of the East Indian Defence Committee and People's Front, rallies and marches to support the Palestinian people, for an end to the U.S. aggression against the Vietnamese people and for the victory of their struggle for national liberation.

An avid reader, there was always a pile of books from the library on his kitchen table. He had a wide range of interests, including a special interest in technological development and conviction about the necessity for the working class to exercise decision-making power so that its creative power could be unleashed. When, in his later life, he was confined to a wheelchair, he saw for himself that many people who could not afford an electric chair were forced to navigate through a completely inefficient and backward system. He worked out a design to make navigating a wheelchair much easier and longed to return to his workshop at home to generalize the invention. Alas, this was not to be.

Dan's tenaciousness was such that despite the massive stroke he had suffered, he joined in the New Year's celebration in December 2019 and had lively discussion throughout the evening with his comrades. Soon after, COVID-19 confined him to the long-term care facility. There, he audaciously fought the conditions of the privately-owned facility, eventually moving to a facility not based on private profit. The months of isolation became years and took their toll, as they did for so many seniors, but Dan made sure the conditions would not do him in. On the contrary, he remained strong in his support for the work of the Party, never wavering in his conviction that the future belongs to the working class and peoples of the world.

For his fidelity to the Party's mission to emancipate the working class by having the working people become the decision-makers in society and for upholding the dignity of labour his entire life, by recommendation of the Alberta Committee of CPC(M-L) and the Central Committee of the Party, the name of Dan Nelson will join the names of all others on the Party Memorial in Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa. The Party Memorial celebrates the movement of the working people in this country which recognizes the necessity for the working class to take the place which rightfully belongs to the workers as decision-makers in all spheres of human endeavour.

CPC(M-L) offers sincere condolences to Dan's close friend and companion Linda Girard; his daughters, Crystal and Sherry; and his brothers, Rod, Ed, Jerry and Bill. He is also survived by four grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, extended family, comrades, and friends.

A fitting celebration of life was held for Dan on Patriot's Day, May 20th, 2024 at the Woodvale Community League Facility in Edmonton.

Dearest Dan, You, your humour, your tenacity and profound mastery of your chosen fields will always inspire the coming generations. You are sorely missed.