

April 1993

## MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR MAY 15TH!

Busses are booked, special trains have been organized, and extra flights have been laid on - all to bring people to Ottawa on Saturday, May 15th. It's for a special "demo of the decade", called by the CLC and the Action Canada Network to protest the corporate-driven, free-trade agenda of the Mulroney Tories. And the spirit for the event continues to grow. For example:

- \* Ottawa is gearing up with specially-designated parking, first aid, washrooms, shuttle busses and food facilities at the marshalling area and the parking area
- \* caravans organized by the Action Canada Network are en route from both the east and west coasts to publicize the event across Canada
- \* CLC radio and bus ads start in selected communities on April 26th
- \* at the recent OPSEU convention enough delegates signed up to fill two train cars
- \* the Ottawa social justice coalition has set aside May Day to prepare banners for May 15th
- \* the Toronto Building Trades Council has put together a special video to promote May 15th
- \* most unions have appointed special co-ordinators to make sure their commitment to fill the busses is met
- \* Toronto-area coalition partners from churches, to peace groups, seniors are mobilizing bus-loads of supporters for the trek to Ottawa
- \* the Homeworkers' campaign is making a week-end out of the trip with low-cost university dormitory accommodations

Metro Toronto & York Region participation in this most important demonstration of this decade is being organized by the labour council. If your organization isn't actively and aggressively organizing for May 15th, ask why! For assistance or for information on how you can get on board for May 15th, call Bill Howes at the Labour Council: 441-3663. Temporary staff and more phone lines have been added at the labour council offices to help organize this event, but, as always, success depends on local activists like you. Let's give Brian a send-off he won't forget!

## ACN CARAVAN IN TORONTO MAY 13th

As a build-up to the May 15th demonstration on Parliament Hill, the Action Canada Network has organized caravans from both the east and west coasts of Canada to converge on the Hill on Saturday, May 15th. The caravans are equipped with their own sound

systems, and national leaders of ACN affiliates are participating. Along the route they'll be holding town square meetings on national issues. The caravan from the west will pass through Toronto on Thursday, May 13th and arrive at Queen's Park at noon. In an event organized by a sub-committee of the Metro Network for Social Justice, Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, will be joined by Newfoundland musician and activist Theresa Doyle. People who attend Caravan events across Canada are being asked to put their names to bolts of cloth that, when stitched together, will stretch several kilometres around Parliament Hill on May 15th. The ACN's Jean Swanson says: "The demand for the Caravan is growing and turn-outs and media have been good. NAFTA is the main issue." If you can help organize, or for more information on the Toronto event call Janet Conway at 598-4945 or Bill Howes at 441-3663.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Listed below are meetings & events of interest to activists in the Metro area. If you have additions for the calendar, please fax information to Bill Howes at fax 445-8405.

April 28	Day of Mourning
April 28	Community Day at the SPC
April 28	Canadian Peace Alliance Performance Art Evening
May 1	Rally on Closing of GM Scarborough Van Plant
May 3	Forum: Audrey McLaughlin on Choice
May 5	MNSJ Steering Committee Meeting (1:30)
May 5	MNSJ Strategy Sub-committee Meeting (7:30)
May 6-13	"Our Local Economy" Conference
May 11	OCSJ Meeting
May 13	ACN Caravan arrives in Toronto (noon)
May 15	National Day of Protest on Parliament Hill
May 17	Tribute to Henry Morgentaler
May 25	Deadline for next MNSJ Newsletter
May 28	World Court Project Forum on Nuclear Arms
May 31	Social Planning Council's AGM
June 10-13	United Tenants of Ontario Conference

## "JUST ECONOMY" CONFERENCE A HIT

The "Creating a Just Economy" conference, organized by the Metro Network for Social Justice and held on April 2-3 was a successful sell-out. Two hundred participants spent the week-end on such meaty subjects as trade, taxation, investment, and government spending. A follow-up strategy meeting organized by the MNSJ on April 14th drew thirty participants who urged the Network to focus on trade and the debt issue as key areas until our annual meeting on October 2nd. A sub-committee was formed to continue this work. The majority of participants came from MNSJ affiliates - equity-seeking groups, anti-poverty activists, labour, churches, peace and international development groups.



The next meeting of the Strategy Subcommittee will be held on May 5th at 7:30 p.m. in Room 302 of Metro Hall, 55 John St. south of King.

### COMMUNITY DAY AT SPC

The Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto is holding a "community day" on April 28th. The offices will be open to members of the community to visit and learn more about the SPC and its work. The inventory of past publications on such issues as unemployment and daycare will be on sale at greatly reduced prices. The offices are located at 2 Carlton St. (at Yonge), Suite 1001. Call the SPC at 351-0095 for more information.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SPC

The Annual General Meeting of the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto will be held on May 31st from 6:00 p.m. at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse. The theme will be "Metro 2000: How we live together." The Schoolhouse is located at 106 Trinity Street (near King & Parliament). Call 351-0095 if you plan to attend or for more information.

### MAYWORKS FESTIVAL LAUNCH

The 8th annual Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts runs from April 26 to May 8 with an innovative program that includes performance art, music, video, and visual art. And this year the festival is also for people who wish they were working, too. To reach the unemployed, the festival is moving into the streets with hit and run guerilla performances at UI and welfare offices as well as street locations. This year's festival profiles Toronto's Asian artistic community. Chinese and Japanese artists and performers will be in the spotlight for our celebrations in this year of the Rooster. A brochure listing all of the events in the festival calendar is enclosed with this newsletter. For additional copies or for information on any Mayworks event, call the Mayworks Hotline at 345-8811.

### 50,000 REASONS

That's the title of an evening of performance art in aid of the Canadian Peace Alliance that will be held on April 28th at Trinity St. Paul's, 427 Bloor West. The name comes from the fact that there are still some 50,000 nuclear weapons deployed or in storage around the world. To convince governments to turn these weapons into ploughshares takes money, and a number of big name artists are volunteering their time for this event. Tickets are \$35 and are available through the CPA by calling 588-5555 between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### MORGENTALER'S 70th BIRTHDAY

A major gala has been organized to celebrate the 70th birthday of Henry Morgentaler, the pioneer of free-standing abortion clinics in Canada. The event will take place at the Winter Garden Theatre on May 17th at 8:00 p.m., and the entertainers include Blue Rodeo, Nancy White, Salome Bey, the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band and many others. Ticket prices range from \$34 to \$85 and are available at the theatre or through Ticketmaster. For more information: 486-0574.

### WELFARE RIGHTS INFORMATION

A number of Metro-area community centres have gotten together to organize an information meeting for people to share experiences and information about welfare in Metro. People can take a walk through the system and learn how to defend and claim their rights.

Childcare and a lunch will be provided, but pre-registration by April 30th is necessary and limited to 60 participants. Registration is \$25.00 for agency/organization workers, and there is no cost for unwaged, social assistance, or UI recipients. To register or get more information call Sistering at 861-1954.

### TENANTS CONFERENCE

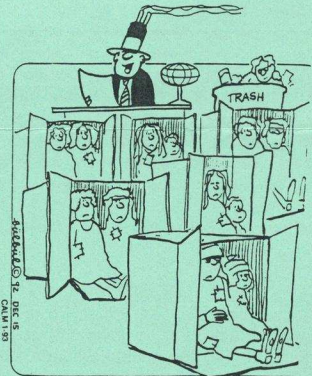
The United Tenants of Ontario is holding their annual general meeting and training conference from June 10 to June 13th at the University of Western Ontario in London. The event will feature workshops on various tenants' issues, with an emphasis on getting value for property taxes. There is a sliding scale for registration, and child care will be provided. For further information call the United Tenants of Ontario at 927-8363.

### WORLD COURT PROJECT

The World Court Project is a vital new citizens' initiative that has begun a movement of people and politicians with the aim of finally abolishing nuclear weapons. The Project is seeking an advisory opinion from the World Court on the legal status of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under existing international law. The World Court Project is sponsored in Canada by the Canadian Peace Alliance, Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Lawyers for Social Responsibility, Project Ploughshares, Science for Peace, the United Church of Canada, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms, and the World Federalists of Canada.

On May 28th, at 8:00 p.m., the Project is sponsoring a talk by Robert Green, head of the British section of the World Court Project who will be coming directly from Geneva where the Project is on the agenda of the World Health Assembly. For further information call Marion Frank at 487-0625 or Gary Kaye at 588-5555.

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WE ARE RESTRUCTURING THE ECONOMY