



OUTLOOK

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Nova Scotia
Raising debate • Creating policy alternatives

CCPA Executive Director Bruce Campbell guest speaker at AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is an event not to miss again this year. Bruce Campbell, Executive Director of the CCPA (national) is coming to Halifax and will be speaking about “The Global Economic Crisis, the Harper Government Response and the Future of Canada-US relations.” **The AGM will be Thursday, April 23, from 6-9pm at Sobey Building, Room 265, St. Mary’s University, Halifax, NS.**

Members of the CCPA-NS will vote for new members of the steering committee as well as amendments to by-laws.

Steering Committee: Nominations are being sought for vacancies on the steering committee for individual and organizational members. If you are interested in being nominated or want to nominate somebody else, email Judy Kennedy persann@ns.sympatico.ca

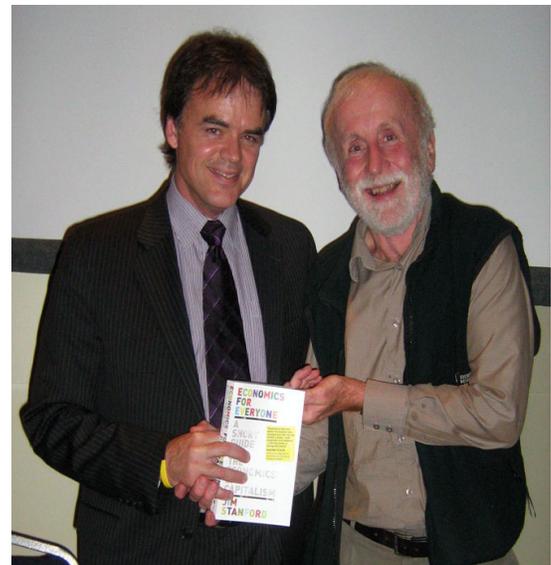
If you haven’t renewed your membership you can do so online at www.policyalternatives.ca or at the AGM by cheque or cash.

Also, if you would like to direct some of your membership costs or make a donation

directly to the NS office, you must indicate this when applying or donating.

CCPA-NS First Annual Fundraiser great success

Economist and author Jim Stanford was a very entertaining special guest at the first annual CCPA - NS fundraising event in October 2008 at the Italian Centre in Halifax. He spoke on his newest book “Economics for Everyone”. Chef Franco prepared a sumptuous meal for the sold-out crowd. Plans are underway for this year’s event. Stay tuned for details.



Two great economists in one place--Jim Stanford (left) and Lars Osberg (right) at the CCPA - NS Fundraiser.

Bottled water’s 15 minutes are up

It’s becoming clear that the recent love affair with bottled water has reached its limits. Bottled water’s 15 minutes are up, the marketing scam is out of the closet and the tap is back. The simple fact is that there is no “green” solution to bottled water. While it might serve a function during natural disasters or other contingencies, it is no alternative to the tap. **More on page 2**

Help us save money, please subscribe to the e-newsletter by emailing: ccpans@policyalternatives.ca, subject line: ‘e-newsletter’

Celebrating ten years of raising debate and creating policy alternatives

The Council of Canadians *Profile of a CCPA-NS Organizational Member*

By Angela Giles, Atlantic Regional Organizer, Council of Canadians

Founded in 1985, the Council of Canadians is Canada's largest citizens' organization, with members and chapters across the country. We work to protect Canadian independence by promoting progressive policies on fair trade, clean water, energy security, public health care, and other issues of social and economic concern to Canadians.

We develop creative campaigns to put some of the country's most important issues in the spotlight. We work with a network of over 70 volunteer chapters to organize speaking tours, days of action, conferences and demonstrations. We produce research reports, create popular materials, and work with individuals and organizations across the country and around the world -so governments know the kind of Canada we want.

The Council doesn't accept money from corporations or governments, and is sustained entirely by the volunteer energy and the financial assistance of its members.

We have 10 regional chapters, which each determine democratically what they will work on. Often there will be several campaigns chapters will choose as their focus; from national Council campaigns to local issues (like pesticide bans in Charlottetown and the twinning of Highway 101 in Wolfville).

In Nova Scotia we have

been working on maintenance of the moratorium banning uranium mining and exploration (or enact it into legislation) and various energy issues; municipal bottled water bans, World Water Day planning and presentations; public education about the new P.A.R.E. – Partnership Agreement on Regulations and the Economy – signed between NS and NB in March; raising awareness on private for-profit health clinics;

opposition to the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies' (AIMS) proposal known as Atlantica; and raising awareness about peace/anti-war issues.

Our Atlantic Regional Office is in Halifax. Adrienne Silnicki is the Regional Organizing Assistant (part-time). To get involved with a chapter in your area, contact us at (902) 422.7811 or by e-mail at agiles@canadians.org or asilnicki@canadians.org. To learn more about us and our campaigns, go to www.canadians.org.

Bottled Water's 15 Minutes are Up: It's Time to Turn on the Tap in Nova Scotia

by the Coalition to Turn on the Taps and Ban the Bottle

On December 12th, 2008 the Canadian Union of Public Employees Nova Scotia, the Polaris Institute, Oxfam, the Council of Canadians and other groups launched a new campaign to ditch bottled water and turn on the tap in the province. Across the country municipalities, schools and universities, faith-based organizations, restaurants and unions have stood up for Canada's water services by restricting the provision and sale of bottled water. To date 28 municipalities from five provinces have banned the bottled and gone "Back to the Tap".

In Canada, municipal water systems are among the safest and strongest in the world. Meanwhile bottled water costs more, is less regulated, consumes more

energy and releases more harmful toxics. However, access to municipal drinking water is dwindling with new buildings constructed without water fountains and older ones decommissioning existing fountains. Now is the time to issue strong calls to all levels of Nova Scotia government for greater public access to free potable water and a wholesale reinvestment in water infrastructure and services.

Municipalities in Canada are making the right choice to support public water infrastructure and to increase city residents' access to clean, convenient and environmentally sound drinking water - the only question now is which Nova Scotia municipality will be next.

Who is on the CCPA - NS Research Advisory Committee (RAC) ?

The RAC

is made up of 8-12 CCPA-NS Research Associates, approved by the Steering Committee. The RAC oversees CCPA-NS's research. This includes vetting research proposals, nominating Research Associates, as well as developing research strategies.

The RAC Chair is Andrew Biro, an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Department of Political Science at Acadia University. He works in the areas of environmental politics, political economy, political philosophy, and cultural studies.

Barbara Cottrell is an independent researcher, writer and adult educator. Working with community groups, she has designed and managed many research projects, collected and analyzed data, and written reports. Barbara is the author of *When Teens Abuse Their Parents*, published by Fernwood Books (2004) and her articles and papers on women's issues have been published in Canada, Germany and the United States. She is the President of the NS Branch of the Canadian Evaluation Society.

Andrea D'Sylva is a graduate student in the Joint Women and Gender Studies program through Mount Saint

Vincent and Saint Marys universities. She is active in local community groups related to gender and peace and works as a contract researcher in a variety of disciplines.

Lesley Frank is currently "on leave" from the RAC. She is completing a PhD at the University of New Brunswick.

Larry Haiven teaches in the Faculty of Commerce at Saint Mary's University. He is a specialist in labour-management relations, labour regulation and labour markets.

Ian Johnson is a Servicing Coordinator/Policy Analyst with the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees' Union. He was one of the founding members of CCPA-Nova Scotia Office and also serves as Honorary Chair of the Steering Committee.

Stella Lord retired as policy researcher with the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women in 2004. She currently works on a voluntary basis with the Community Coalition to End Poverty in Nova Scotia, teaches part time in Political Science at SMU, and has recently completed a Ph.D. thesis on welfare reform in Nova Scotia.

Christine Saulnier is an ex-officio member of the committee as director of the CCPA-NS. She is a political scientist with a variety of interests in Canadian public policy including in health and social policy.

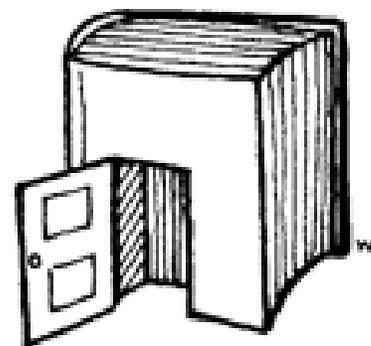
Alasdair Sinclair is a retired economist from Dalhou-

sie University who has worked as an economist in about two dozen developing countries. He has been associated with the Alternative Provincial Budget since its second year of inception, producing it in one year, and has also served on the RAC for a number of years. He is active in anti poverty groups in Halifax.

Andrew David Terris is the principal of ARTS NOVA Cultural Research and Consulting and the author of Public Policy and Cultural Development in Nova Scotia. He is currently chair of the Research Committee of the Nova Scotia Cultural Action Network, which recently produced Nova Scotia CAN: Building the Creative Economy in Nova Scotia.

The composition of the Research Advisory Committee does change over time. In the last couple of years, a few long-serving members have stepped down.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their long and hard work in building the research capacities of CCPA-NS: John Jacobs, Martha MacDonald, Barbara Moore, Jim Sacouman, and Errol Sharpe.



Our next newsletter will feature a piece on Naomi Klein written by Steering Committee member Judy Kennedy.

Join our Workshop

This year, the Nova Scotia office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA-NS) is celebrating its 10th anniversary. We are planning a workshop to celebrate and look forward to the next 10 years. **Visioning 2020 Policy Alternatives for Nova Scotia: the next 10 years Halifax, Nova Scotia November 6-8, 2009**

The purpose of the workshop is to articulate a progressive vision for Nova Scotia in 2020, and to determine the policy changes needed today to get us there. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to further develop networks of progressive policy researchers within and beyond Nova Scotia.

We encourage submissions for workshop presentations from academic and community-based researchers. Presentations may focus on a general vision, or on specific policy areas, including (but not limited to):

- Arts, Culture and Communication
- Child care policy
- Climate Change and Environment
- Community and Regional
- Economic Development
- Education and Training
- Ethnocultural Diversity (a focus on African Nova Scotians, Acadians or First Nations)
- Energy Policy

- Health Policy
- Immigration Policy
- Income and Social Security Justice
- Labour and Employment
- Status of Women in NS
- Taxation and Fiscal Policy
- Urban Development

Expressions of interest should include the name of the presenter (s) and contact information, presentation title (and a brief summary of the topic), format for the workshop/presentation and should be sent to ccpans@policyalternatives.ca with the subject line: workshop proposal no later than **Friday April 17, 2009**.

Latest Reports

March 26 release: *Cruising without a Bruising: Cruise Tourism and the Maritimes* by Ross A. Klein debunks three cruise industry claims: (1) that this growth translates into substantial economic benefits to local ports, (2) that we need not worry about its environmental impact because it is a responsible steward of the environment, and (3) that it is the safest mode of commercial travel.

CCPA-NS collaborated with the Community Action on Homelessness and a broad coalition of community organizations and individuals to produce the *First Report Card on Homelessness in Halifax* in March. Go to the CAH website: http://www.cahhalifax.org/ReportCard/Halifax_Report_Card.pdf

On March 12, an editorial on raising the minimum wage was published in the Chronicle-Herald. Both the full editorial and the report submitted to government on this issue can be downloaded from the CCPA-NS website: **Minimum Wage: Staying the course right decision**; and **Stay the course, Raise the Minimum Wage** a response to the report of the Minimum Wage Review Committee.

On March 9, two new reports were released on home heating emergencies: *Energy security in the residential sector: Rapid responses to heating emergencies, Part 1: The Fundamentals* by Larry Hughes and *Part 2: Nova Scotia*, by Larry Hughes and Dave Ron. They explain why our safety is at risk when governments fail to respond effectively to changing heat supplies and prices.

Hard Working Province: Is It Enough? was released in November. Authors Mathieu Dufour and Larry Haiven reveal that Nova Scotia's economy grew by 62 per cent in the past 20 years and workers' productivity improved but their paycheques are shrinking. Nova Scotians are working harder and smarter, but the majority have been denied the fruits of the economic growth they've helped create.

Reports and respective press releases can be downloaded free: http://www.policyalternatives.ca/nova_scotia_publications/