



CCPA Nova Scotia

Fall 2008

OUTLOOK

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

An exciting Fall for CCPA - NS

If you haven't already, book the evening of October 2nd right now! There are still a few tickets left for the event of the year – an evening of music (from Donnie Moore of the legendary band McGinty), fine food, good company and an excellent speaker, hosted by CCPA - NS.

The dinner is at the Italian Club on 2629 Agricola St. in Halifax. Reception starts at 6 pm, a great Italian dinner by Chef Franco at 7 pm..

Economist and author Jim Stanford is our special guest at our first annual fundraising event and he will be talking about his newest book **“Economics for Everyone”**. It is truly an indispensable and empowering tool for union researchers, activists and leaders alike. (See review on page 4).

This is an incredible publication, matched only by Jim's amusing, provocative and always interesting presentation style. Copies of the book will be available at the dinner at a special price thanks to Fernwood Publishing.

Jim is an Economist in the Research Department of the Canadian Auto Workers' Union.



He is the author of *Paper Boom* (published in 1999 by James Lorimer & Co.) and co-editor (with Leah F. Vosko) of *Challenging the Market: The Struggle to Regulate Work and Income* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004). Jim writes a column on economics for the *Globe and Mail* and appears regularly on television and radio.

Tickets are \$35.00 for general tickets; \$30.00 for CCPA – NS members and \$25.00 for students. CCPA-NS' work relies on members and donors. Your ticket purchase will help us to counter the message that there are no alternatives.

For tickets, call Joan Wark 454.6735. We cannot process credit cards so cheques or cash are greatly appreciated.

Naomi Klein!

Also coming to Nova Scotia is Naomi Klein - author of **“The Shock Doctrine”**, a prolific and engaging critique of the current state of politics. CCPA-NS is a co-sponsor of Naomi's two speaking events – one in Wolfville on September 25 and one in Halifax on September 26. Klein will be speaking on September 25 at 7:30 pm in Wolfville at the Atlantic Theatre Festival and September 26 at 7:30 in the Ondaatje Auditorium in the Marion McCain Building at Dalhousie University. This event will also include video streaming for the overflow in the Scotiabank Auditorium. After the event in Halifax, a fundraising reception will be held at 9:30 pm at the Dalhousie Grad House, 6154 University Avenue (across the street from where she will be speaking). Tickets for this event are: \$15.00 for students (please bring student ID), \$20.00 for general tickets. Must be 19 or older to attend. Cash or cheques only please. You can pick up these tickets at Outside the Lines Bookstore as well. All funds raised at the reception go to CCPA - NS and the Halifax Peace Coalition.

Proposing Policy Alternatives: The democratizing role of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in Nova Scotia

A Roundtable Discussion, October 4th - 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Saint Mary's University Loyola Room 175

Chair and Facilitator:

Andrew Biro, Canada Research Chair, Department of Political Science, Acadia University

Presenters/Participants:

Christine Saulnier, Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Nova Scotia

Mathieu Dufour, Department of Economics, Dalhousie University

Judy Haiven, Associate Professor, Department of Management, Saint Mary's University

Larry Hughes, Professor, Energy Research Group, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dalhousie University

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in Nova Scotia released its first publication almost 10 years ago. Since then it has produced an annual fiscal review and alternative perspective on the province's budget, and research reports on various topics. The roundtable participants will discuss the role of the CCPA as it seeks to critique public policies and propose alternatives – to democratize the policy process and hold governments accountable for their decisions.

Christine Saulnier will reflect on the role of the CCPA-NS as it attempts to influence the policy process and public debate. As research associates the other roundtable participants will discuss their involvement in CCPA and reflect on research they have produced. Judy Haiven has co-authored a series of reports on the right to strike in Nova Scotia. Mathieu Dufour has written reports discussing productivity and earnings and has been involved in producing both the alternative

provincial and federal budgets. Larry Hughes has published several reports on energy security issues in Nova Scotia. Some of the questions that will be discussed include: What role does the CCPA play contesting dominant assumptions and attempting to influence public policy debates in Nova Scotia? What lessons can be learned from the CCPA's experience? What are the challenges faced by think tanks like the CCPA as they seek to democratize the policy process?

New Reports from CCPA-NS

CCPA-NS will also be releasing new provocative and thought-provoking research reports this Fall. Judy Haiven and Larry Haiven have written the third in their '**Right to Strike**' series. This report considers whether binding arbitration is able to correct the most intractable problems in health care collective bargaining. They conclude that withdrawing the right to strike and replacing it with binding arbitration is especially harmful to the health care system. Mathieu Dufour and Larry Haiven challenge the notion expounded in conventional economics that "a rising tide lifts all boats." In other words, when general economic prosperity prevails, everybody ben-

efits. But not in Nova Scotia as these authors show us. Over the past twenty years, the big boats rose, but the rising tide swamped the small boats. A third report will be released examining issues related to home heating emergencies that will propose actions that can lead to rapid and immediate assistance to address rising energy prices, energy shortages, or both. CCPA-NS continues to have a presence in the media. If you haven't checked the CCPA website lately, go to www.policyalternatives.ca and click on Nova Scotia office and publications. There you will find new editorials released in the last few months.

Excerpt from: “Self-employed workers deserve social benefits” by Larry Haiven

In Canada, about 2.5 million people (approximately 15 per cent of the labour force) are classified as “self-employed.” Nova Scotia has about 31,000 (12 per cent.) Trend lines show the proportion of such workers has risen steadily in the past three decades, with some spikes in bad economic times. It’s popular to think that, unlike mere employees, these people

are independent “capitalists” and “entrepreneurs.” They are boldly and gladly building their small businesses. They are the “backbone of the economy,” highly productive as they seek to design, create, service or consult on a better mousetrap. But Canadian research shows the truth can be quite different.....

Excerpt from “Fighting poverty: Major attitude shift needed” by Katherine Reed

The working group on poverty reduction appointed by the provincial government last December released its draft report recently and immediately invoked the ire of activists by insisting on waiting for a year to actually take action to reduce poverty. In an

article in the Herald on July 1, Co-chair of Community Action on Homelessness, Wayne McNaughton pointedly asked why this was the case and why the government was not ready with costed-out proposals for responding to the report. Why indeed?

Welcome to the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health (ACEWH) - our newest organizational member

The ACEWH is one of four national Centres of Excellence for Women’s Health funded by the Bureau of Women’s Health and Gender Analysis, Health Canada. It is dedicated to conducting policy-oriented

research aimed at improving the health status of Canadian women by making the health system more aware of and responsive to women’s health needs.

Profile: Friends and Supporters of CCPA-NS: Outside the Lines

Did you colour outside the lines as a child? If you did, then this bookstore might be for you. In Halifax’s alternative politically left bookstore you will find a range of nonfiction books addressing a diversity of social, political, economic and cultural issues. You will also find a fantastic and very thoughtfully selected collection of fiction books. This bookstore also sells other goodies including finger puppets of Karl Marx and others, products from Just US!, and political t-shirts. Bob takes pride in supporting community organizations and is a great friend of CCPA-NS. He is often called upon to sell books at events and to sell tickets for events at this store.

This bookstore is located at 6297 Quinpool Road in Halifax. For more information, call (902) 422-3544.

Now that the federal election has been called, it is time to be challenging candidates and leaders to address social justice issues such as those about income inequality and the growing gap.

1. In 1980 the median income in Canada of full time workers was \$41,348. What was it in 2005?

a. \$41,401 b. \$46,305 c. \$49,701 d. \$52,507

2. How much did earnings for the richest fifth of Canadians go up between 1980 and 2005?

a. +8% b. +12% c. +16% d. +26% *Answers on page 4*

A look at Jim Stanford's new book, *Economics for Everyone*, jointly published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Fernwood Publishing

by Margaret Ann McHugh, Education Officer & Organizer, N.S. Government and General Employees' Union

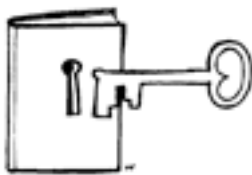
“**Economics for Everyone**” is a must read for everyone who has ever been frustrated trying to understand how our economy works. Activists will be happy to have a resource that explains in simple terms how capitalism works and how it could work in favour of all people, rather than just for corporations. Chapter 8 on “Workers and Bosses” explains the value of labour and why it is not just another commodity to be bought and sold, even within capitalism. The book is worthwhile for this chapter alone.

The “lingo” of economists and the history of economic theory is simply explained and the real meaning and weakness of most classical economic theory is revealed in Stanford's book. Capitalism and economic theory are not internally consistent systems, and this book clearly and methodically critiques often repeated myths.

As a union educator, I was very impressed with *Economics for Everyone*. It is easy to read and understand. For educators (and others) there is a website [www.economic-](http://www.economic-foreveryone.ca)

[foreveryone.ca](http://www.economic-foreveryone.ca), that offers further resources and teaching tools, but portions of it are still “under construction”. I am looking forward to the “sample slides” to go along with a 13-week course outline already posted on the website.

The book's last two chapters are on the improvement, and replacement of, Capitalism. On the “improvement” Stanford says (p. 313-314) “. . . in the economic chain of capitalism I do not see convincing evidence of an inherent, systemic vulnerability. The system is unlikely to break down of its own accord. Those of us hoping for something better from the



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economy, cannot wait around for capitalism to self-destruct. . . . Capitalism will not fall it will have to be pushed.” Stanford then suggests a variety of ways in which Capitalism's worst excesses can be modified or reformed to make the world better for workers, even within a Capitalist system.

The last chapter, “Re-

placing Capitalism?” which is essentially on socialism, is a bit weak, but then as Stanford says there is no roadmap to successful socialism – “So whether you are motivated by a bread and butter commitment to incrementally reforming capitalism, or by a more fiery-eyed determination to do away with it altogether, the course of action is more-or-less the same: go out and fight for that better deal. If capitalism can't or won't give it to you, consider the alternatives.” (P. 333-4)

Understanding our economic system is a must. Reading and teaching the information in this book, is clearly a step along the way to effectively fighting for a better deal for working people everywhere.

Federal Election Quiz answers from page 3

1. (a) \$41,401 or a net gain of \$53. Globe, May 2, 2008 page 1. The Toronto Dominion Bank argued that our lack of productivity was the cause of such poor performance.
2. (c). +16% Globe, May 2, 2008 page A14. The Globe editorial concluded that these numbers raise questions that governments cannot ignore.

CCPA - NS Steering Committee Members

Joan Wark (Chair) is Secretary Editor of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour.

Robert Pitter (Vice Chair) is an Associate Professor, Kinesiology Department, Acadia University.

Kyle Buott (Treasurer) is the provincial coordinator for the Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network.

Kaley Kennedy (Recorder) is the Nova Scotia representative for the Canadian Federation of Students.

Andrew Biro (Chair Research Advisory Committee) is the Canada Research Chair in Political Ecology and Environmental Political Theory and an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, Acadia University.

Welcome to the new members of the Steering Committee: Angela Giles & Bob Haywood

Angela is the Atlantic Regional Organizer for the Council of Canadians. Since starting in this role in March, she has been active on issues related to uranium mining, Atlantica, peace and health care. She sits on the Executive for the NS Citizens' Health Care Network as Director of Membership. Angela worked as the Atlantic Regional Organizing Assistant for the Council for several years, as Legislative Assistant for a Member of Parliament and also did an internship on landmines. Angela's undergraduate degree from SMU is in International Development Studies.

Ron Brunton is a staff officer with the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union.

Gilbert Daye is the Chairperson of the Halifax African Nova Scotia Community Association and Chairperson of the Buddy Daye Foundation and active PSAC member.

Connie deRoche is an Anthropology Professor at Cape Breton University.

Larry Haiven (CCPA National Board Member) is an Associate Professor, Department of Management, Saint Mary's University.

Claudia Jahn is the Community Liaison for the Community Action on Homelessness.

Ian Johnson (Honorary Chair) is the servicing co-ordinator for the Policy, Occupational Health and Safety, Communications, Education and Research Team (POCER) for the Nova Scotia Government and General

Employees Union (NSGEU) and a Director of the North End Community Health Centre.

Judy Kennedy is a citizen participation promoter (Urban League of London), a retired lawyer (human rights field) and an activist living in Granville Ferry.

Bernadette MacDonald is the Co-ordinator of the Tri County Women's Centre in Yarmouth, has worked and volunteered in the social justice and environmental arena for a long time.

Rene Ross is the Executive Director of Stepping Stone, a non profit organization in Halifax that strives to champion sex workers as people first.

Our newest members are profiled below.

Christine Saulnier is our CCPA - NS Provincial Director.



Thanks...

We want to thank Jim Guild for his tenure on the steering committee, for his invaluable input as one of the founding members of CCPA-NS, and his work as treasurer. We know that Jim will continue to be an active member of CCPA-NS and look forward to his continued involvement in the organization.

We also want to thank Debra Moore for her involvement on the steering committee representing Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-operative. Thanks to Debra for her work as recorder for our meetings and for her support and that of her organization.

Bob is the owner of Outside The Lines, Halifax's alternative politically left bookstore. He is currently president of the Hants West riding association for the NDP. Bob and his wife Deb McLaughlin have been active in union affairs in both Yellowknife, where Bob served as president of the Federation of Labour for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, and here, where Deb is a regional representative for PSAC. They live on a small farm near Windsor.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Nova Scotia

Tel: 902-477-1252; Fax: 902-484-6344 Toll-free: 1-877-920-7770

email: ccpans@policyalternatives.ca

Website: www.policyalternatives.ca. Organizational memberships are also available. For more information, please call CCPA - NS

Provincial Director Christine Saulnier at 902-477-1252.



Please note that this form is for new members only. If you would like to renew and have not received your notice, call 477.1252



Become a member of the CCPA - NS

Please complete and return this form to: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia Office, P.O. Box 8355, Halifax, N.S., B3K 5M1. You can also join online: www.policyalternatives.ca

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

New Membership

Please choose membership type:

\$300 Sponsor - you will receive the CCPA Monitor and a \$265 tax receipt

\$100 Supporting Member - you will receive the CCPA Monitor and a \$75 tax receipt

\$35 Low Income Membership - you will receive the CCPA Monitor

\$_____ Choose an amount that suits your budget, you will receive a tax receipt for balance over \$35

Choose payment option: Visa or Mastercard # _____

Expiry Date: (month)_____ (year)_____ Cheque

Yearly - we will charge your credit card for the full amount of your membership.

For \$100, \$200 or \$300 memberships, we can charge your credit card each month (\$100 membership = \$8.35/month, \$200 membership = \$16.70/month, \$300 membership = \$25/month)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

