



The London Regional Social Forum begins at 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 11th and ends around 4:00 p.m. Sunday, July 13th.

It is located at Lorne Ave Public School (Lorne at English St.) and is ACCESSIBLE and welcoming.

Come for all or part of the weekend program. There is no charge and donations are voluntary. Childcare is available: please register if possible at 2014rsf@gmail.com.

Lunch: Saturday, explore local eateries (listed on p. 7) or bring your own 'picnic' to enjoy outdoors. Sunday, Food Not Bombs will provide lunch.

Acknowledgement: We recognize that these events take place on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabek, Huron-Wendat, and Attawandaron peoples.

Safe space statement

As activists, we work to create spaces that are free of as many barriers as possible. We are all responsible for creating the spaces we desire, by educating ourselves, each other, and ensuring that we are in dialogue. We recognize that the dynamics of hierarchy, power and privilege that exist within society are also found within our movement. We believe that failing to address these dynamics alienates and further victimizes our friends and allies and stops us from creating the equitable world we want. Individuals participating are asked to be aware of their language and behaviour, and to think about whether it might be oppressive to others. We define oppressive behaviour as any conduct that demeans, marginalizes, rejects, threatens or harms anyone on the basis of ability, activist experience, age, criminal record, cultural background, education, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, language, nationality, physical appearance, race, religion, self-expression, sexual orientation or other such factors.

Everyone has a right to feel safe and valuable. Safe space is a communal responsibility. We encourage the group as a whole to develop their own sense of what a safe space

society would look and feel like. We encourage everyone to be conscious and respectful of the safety of others. (January 18, 2014). RSF/ SPF London

London Regional Social Forum 2014

A hearty THANKS to our donors and volunteers!

The 2014 London Regional Social Forum Organizing Committee would like to thank

- The Thames Valley District School Board
- Root Cellar and On the Move Organics
- Libro Credit Union
- London and District Labour Council
- UNIFOR Local 27
- PSAC Area Council Public Service Alliance
- Public Service Alliance of Canada, (PSAC AFPC) Ontario branch

& all of our other generous supporters and volunteers who made this weekend possible.

The Program

Friday, June 11th

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Musical Entertainment with Margo Does, activist/song-crafter

Indigenous Welcome by Gary Dickey

Welcome by Lorraine McNeil and members of the organizing group

Keynote Talk: History and Impact of the Social Forum Movement

Speakers - Kamilla Pietrzyk & Ajamu Nangwaya

Q and A session as time permits.

9:00 pm - 12:00 am

Musical Entertainment at East Village Coffee House Tickets available: \$8 /sliding scale

Saturday July 12

10:00 – 11:00 am **Panel: Building Movement and Broad Resistance to the Right in Canada**

With long-time activists and authors from across Canada: Tony Clarke, Carol Baker, Ken Lewenza Jr. and Matt Price with Murray Dobbin via Skype.

11:00 - Noon **Discussion/ Q and A session** moderated by Patti Dalton

Noon - 1:30 pm **Lunch:** Nearby eateries listed on p. 7 or bring your own lunch.

1:30 - 3:00 pm Workshops

1. The Fight to Protect our Groundwater

Presenters: Steve McSwiggan (Oxford People against the Landfill) and Bryan Smith (The Oxford Coalition for Social Justice)

This workshop will look at several dimensions of the fight to save ground and surface water, to preserve headwaters and protect downstream communities. It will invite participants to identify threats to water quality and quantity, to contextualize water questions, to examine public engagement and awareness, to think about expert versus citizen roles, to overcome legal or financial barriers and to build community capacity.

2. Understanding and Resisting the Expansion of the Prison State

Facilitator: Giselle Dias

On Turtle Island, people from Indigenous communities are the most targeted and over-incarcerated in the Prison Industrial Complex. Additionally, People of Colour (Black people in particular), Women, Queer and Trans communities, Disabled People, Immigrants and Refugee's, People with Mental Health issues, People who are Homeless, People who use Drugs, People living with HIV/AIDS and Resisters of State Repression are at greater risk of incarceration. This workshop will help bring greater understanding of the Prison Industrial Complex and how its expansion is rooted in Colonialism, Border Imperialism, Racism, Sexism other intersecting structures of violence.

3. Global-Local Solidarity with Palestine: Gaza's Ark and BDS

Facilitators: David Heap and others

In this workshop we will explore how to make an impact on human rights issues of global significance with others doing the same thing in our community. We will look at how you can get involved with supporting the international campaign to challenge the blockade of Gaza by supporting the right of freedom of movement for Palestinians, as well as pressing for human rights to be recognized by corporate accountability, through BDS (boycott divestment and sanctions).

4. Anarchist Perspectives

Facilitators: Ajamu Nangwaya, Megan Kinch and Anthony Verberckmoes

A discussion giving a solid anarchist perspective to issues like religion, spirituality, free speech, the NDP, racism, gender and sexuality, colonialism and imperialism, identity politics, "calling out", revolution, mutual association, anti facism, communism, etc...

BREAK

3:10 -- 4:40 pm Workshops

1. Residential Schooling and the Indian Education Act: Why all the Hype?

Facilitator: Gary Dickey

This workshop will look very briefly at the past, present and future of Indian education. We will explore the impact of the Indian Education Act the government tried to pass and may still pass unilaterally. Why all the resistance? How does this Act recall images of residential schooling for First Nations? Is Indian education returning to the days of oppression and racism?

2. Peace Process in Colombia

Facilitator: Humberto Ponce de Leon of LACASA (Latin American-Canadian Solidarity Association)

This workshop will explore the historical significance of the ongoing peace process in Colombia as well as its challenges and obstacles. The role of the social movements and various political actors will be discussed.

3. The Ontario Common Front

Facilitators: Carol Baker and Patti Dalton

The Ontario Common Front is a coalition of over 90 community groups and labour unions that represents millions of Ontarians. Together, we represent the majority of Ontarians who oppose government attempts to balance their budgets on the backs of poor and middle class Ontarians. We believe that the shameful income gap between the rich and the rest of us is widening daily and that cuts to jobs and services will hurt every Ontario family, especially those who are already struggling. Our governments should be investing in important public services, like education, health care, child care and social assistance. These services provide support to families, build our communities and help us get back on our feet.

Instead of making harmful cuts that will hurt people, we believe that our governments should ask banks and corporations to pay their fair share and should eliminate loopholes.

4. Grassroots Resistance to Line Nine

Facilitators: Roberta Cory (Council of Canadians) and Awasis/Courtney Dakin and Steve D'Arcy (Climate Justice London).

Information will be presented about the tar sands pipelines, the threat they pose, and the opportunities we have to resist them. The pipeline known as Line 9, which passes London and crosses the Thames River, will be discussed and placed in the context of colonialism and capitalism. Some of the forms of resistance already undertaken will be reviewed, and a several points of possible intervention will be highlighted. All participants are encouraged to join in a discussion about how to defeat the expansion of tar sands infrastructure.

5:00 pm - Snake Walk Protesting Line 9 organized by Climate Justice London and Council of Canadians

LINE 9 SNAKE WALK: Following the workshop everyone is invited to join in on a walk led by the infamous LINE 9 SNAKE and if enough 'puppeteers' are available the giant Blue Water Serpent will come too. Both puppets are 30 feet long. Participants will decide on the details of the walk!

7:00 - 9:00 pm: **Rabble Book Launch** at the Root Cellar, 623 Dundas St. ***The Best of Rabble 2014: The Year of Living Consciously***. Speakers: Meg Borthwick, Darius Mirshahi, MC: Wendy Goldsmith. Refreshments.

Sunday, July 13

10 - 11:30 am **Workshops**

1. Mayan Communities Fight Back Against Canadian Mining

Companies: The case of the community of El Estor against Hudbay Minerals.

Facilitators: Marie-France Arismendi and Lorraine McNeil of LACASA (Latin American-Canadian Solidarity Association)

In this workshop we will explore the context and the effects of Canadian mining on Mayan communities in Guatemala and how they have fought back against corporate abuses and organized to challenge them in Canadian courts as well as in Guatemala.

2. Exploring the Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson

Facilitator: Daisy Radigan

Rachel Carson's life as biologist, a writer, and author of *Silent Spring* alerted the world to the dangers of chemical pesticides and launched our modern environmental movement.

The film: *A Sense of Wonder - Rachel Carson's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it* (Part I) is both inspirational and compelling. It calls for our continued vigilance to protect nature and a re-defining of our place to be within, not above, the natural world.

3. NGO- ization Facilitator: Dru Oja Jay

NGO-ization refers to the capacity of so-called non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to depoliticize discourses and practices of social movements. The term has been used by a few authors, including the Indian writer Arundhati Roy, who speaks about the NGO-ization of resistance, and more generally, about the NGO-ization of politics. More precisely, NGO-ization is a process resulting from neoliberal globalization.

Join Dru Oja Jay for a discussion on this process as it relates to a Canadian context, and as it relates to movement building processes like the People's Social Forum. Dru is the co-author of 'Paved with Good Intentions: Canada's Development NGOs from idealism to imperialism'

4. Women and Leadership in a Changing World

Facilitator: Wendy Goldsmith

This workshop will be a communal space within which to collaborate, discuss and vision the role of women and the divine feminine that lives within all of us, male or female, as we transform our world. We will create an open, welcoming space for all to engage in fun, dialogue and imagination. Come prepared to be surprised! This workshop is open to men and women.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm **Lunch** provided by Food Not Bombs, a London sustainable food group. Donations of canned beans, chick peas or lentils gladly accepted.

Sunday 1:00 -- 2:30 pm **Workshops**

1. **Mesoamerica Resiste: a global struggle against capitalism**

Facilitator: Sakura Saunders for the Beehive Collective

Description: Using a 20 ft. wide portable mural, we will guide the audience through a visual story and discussion about how social movements are responding to paradigms of exploitation and control.

2. **Power to the 99% through Monetary Transformation**

Facilitator: George Crowell

The primary source of power for the 1% is their vast wealth. The key to their wealth is their power to **create money out of nothing**. The original mandate of our publicly owned Bank of Canada was to control the creation of money for public benefit, and this was a key factor in enabling Canada in some thirty post-World War II years to build up our public infrastructure and social programs. With proper use of the Bank of Canada we could eliminate the \$60 billion that governments across Canada pay in interest to banks and other private money-lenders each year, could overcome the austerity agenda, and could have abundant funding for all sorts of social justice and environmental projects. Shifting the power to create money out of nothing from the banking system controlled by the 1% to democratic public control for benefit of the 99% is the most crucial step toward reversing the abusive corporate agenda. This little known prospect will be thoroughly explained.

3. **Building Community: The Invisibles of Organizing**

Facilitator: Jennifer Chesnut

Ever feel like group work is the hardest part about changing the world? This is a workshop for reflecting on skill development and effective practices in community organizing. Calling upon the work of globalization activist -- Starhawk and nuclear resister -- Joanna Macy, and our own experiences, together we will map the invisibles that make movements cohesive and welcoming. Focusing on elements like appreciation, celebration, reflection, structure, boundaries, and communication, we will continually return to common ground. Participants will be encouraged to share stories from positive experiences working in group.

4. **Alternative Media Panel Discussion**

With: Bailey Lamon, Mike Roy, Kathleen Quinn, Megan Kinch, Alex Balch & Dru Oja Jay
Moderator: Meg Borthwick, (Rabble)

"The mass media does not reveal reality; it masks it. It doesn't help bring change; it helps avoid change. It doesn't encourage democratic participation; it induces passivity, resignation and

selfishness. It doesn't generate creativity; it creates consumers."- Edward Galeano
Participants in this region's developing alternative media scene will explain why alternative media is so important, what these groups are up to, and how people can get involved. Our panelists include Bailey Lamon and Mike Roy of the Indignants, Kathleen Quinn from Operation Maple, Megan Kinch of Briarpatch and BASICS Community News Service, Alex Balch of Iconoclast Zine and Mortar, and Dru Oja Jay who is a Media Co-op co-founder and co-author of 'Paved with Good Intentions

2:30 - 3:00 pm Presentation: The People's Social Forum, Ottawa, Aug. 21-24

Speaker: Darius Mirshahi, member of the organizing team of the PSF

3:30 - 4:00 pm Discussion: Vision, Strategies, Ideas for the PSF

4:00 pm Closing and Acknowledgments

Meg Borthwick for the RSF
Planning Committee.

Musical Entertainment

Margo Does

Local Eateries: (The first two listed are open on Sunday)

1. East Village Coffee House- 754 Dundas St. at English. Gluten-free items, selection of teas, coffees – Vegetarian Chili & other tasty, affordable treats. Open Mon - Fri 10am - 9pm; Sat. & Sun. 10am - 6pm.
2. Spring Chinese Restaurant- 768 Dundas St. Open daily 12:30 – 10pm, including Sunday.
3. Western Fair Farmer's Market & Fire-Roasted Coffee- Dundas & Ontario. (Momos, True Taco, Mimi's Guyanese... and more) Saturday, 8:00 -3:00 pm. Closed Sunday.
4. The Root Cellar- 623 Dundas St. at Adelaide. – *1/2 sandwich with side salad, a cookie and lemonade for \$10 tax incl. Fri. & Sat, 8am - 9pm. Closed Sunday
5. True Taco, 789 Dundas (special deal for RSF) Fri.and Sat. 10 am - 9pm. Closed Sunday.
6. Unique Food Attitudes - 697 Dundas St. * Special* Polish Poutine, \$11 + tax
Open Fri. & Sat. 9 am -8 pm. Closed Sunday.
7. Chi-Hi Vietnamese Restaurant - 791 Dundas St. at Rectory. Open Mon-Sat. 11 am- 9pm.
Closed Sunday.
8. Asmara Café, 809 Dundas St. Organic Fair-Trade African coffee and sandwiches.
Open Saturday, 11:00 am – 6 pm. Closed Sunday.
9. Thai Taste- 671 Dundas St. - great pad thai. (Hours not available at time of printing)
10. Everfresh Pizza - 735 Dundas St. at English - (Hours not available at time of printing)