Project Hero, education and occupation

By ALEX COREY

“Project Hero” is a program recently introduced by the Canadian Federal Government to provide post-secondary education to the children of Canadian soldiers killed in the line of duty. Professors from the University of Regina were cited for pointing out that “Project Hero” is similar to a program created and sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans. However, the latter is not an education program. Children of CDVEAA grants are provided with $6,700 per year to help pay for their education and living expenses.

What is clear is that there are stark contradictions between the image the Canadian government presents and the reality of its policy choices. According to the 2009 Education report of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), for under $1.6 billion per year Canada could provide fully-funded post-secondary education for zero tuition fees and targeted grants for living expenses for all undergraduate students. According to the Alternative Federal Budget 2010 of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Canada has spent approximately $15 billion to date in its war on Afghanistan.

A majority of Canadians have opposed Canada’s participation in the NATO occupation of Afghanistan since the beginning of our involvement in 2001. Polls also show that a vast majority of Canadians support increasing funding for post-secondary education and the reduction or elimination of tuition fees. Canada, however, has been supporting an oppressive government of fundamentalist mujahideen criminal warlords known as the Northern Alliance. Female Afghan MP, Malalai Joya, was banned from Afghanistan by the Taliban for her efforts to educate the women of her country. Joya explains in her book, A Woman Among Warlords that the mujahideen first implemented the anti-woman extreme interpretation of Sharia Law in Afghanistan during the civil war from 1992-1996. When the Taliban took power in Afghanistan they were greatly strengthened as liberators from the Northern Alliance’s despotic rule, although the Taliban’s rule continued the oppression.

In Brief...

Canada Post has decided to contract out its call centres, including one in Fredericton and shut down its National Philatelic Centre. The public postal service has had record profits every year for the last 15 years. The Public Service Alliance of Canada, who represent affected Canada Post workers, says that this will now be done by low-wage, precarious employment and could be moved out of the country altogether.

The Conservation Council is concerned by the granting of eight allocations to extract biomass from New Brunswick’s public forest. Half of the eight allocations went to living-owned companies. Studies suggest that at least one-quarter of all wildlife species in New Brunswick’s forest depend on woody debris.

Innu mounted a blockade in June 11th to prevent two mining companies from operating on their territory without free, prior and informed consent. The blockade is supported by the Innu Strategic Alliance, which represents approximately 12,000 people in the Innu traditional territory of Nitassinan. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, has threatened to cut payments to the Innu Nations if they continue their blockade.

José Figueroa, a Salvadoran man was ordered deported from Canada for past involvement with the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) in the 1990s. The FMLN is now the democratically elected government of El Salvador and is officially recognized by Canada. Figueroa has been living in Canada for 13 years and has three Canadian children.

The Guatemalan government ordered the suspension of Goldcorp’s Marlin mine on June 23rd. Goldcorp CEO Chuck Jeannes said mining at Marlin will continue. Dodora Antonia Hernandez Cinto, a local woman resisting the Marlin mine was shot in the face on July 7th at her home. She is in critical condition.

A Mexican teenager was shot and killed by U.S. military on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. U.S. President Barack Obama recently promised to increase military presence along the border.

Community Calendar

For a complete and updated list of events, visit nbmediacoop.org or list your event or to receive the community calendar by email once per week, email: community@nbmediacoop.org

Critical Mass Bike Ride - Take the streets on bikes the last Friday of every month. Upcoming rides: Jul. 30, Aug. 27, 5:30pm, Officer’s Square, Fredericton.

Short Course on Ecological Forestry - Offered by Conservation Council. Learn native plant and tree identification, chainsaw use and maintenance, the principle of ecological, restoration and conservation forestry, sustainable forest harvesting, wildlife and water framing. Aug. 2-6, Sackville, NB. Contact: info@forestinternational.ca

Fredericton Pride Week - Join in the fun! Parade, festival and events Aug. 8-15. Contact: Sarah@boomingnightclub.ca


Musquash Paddle - The Saint John Fundy Chapter of the Conservation Council and Fundy Baykeeper invite you to participate in a 10km canoe, kayak or rowboat paddle down the Musquash Estuary followed by a BBQ. Sun., Aug. 8. Info: (506) 458-8747, info@conservationcouncil.ca

Cinema Politica Sackville - Film screening: The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil. Mon. Aug. 9, 7:30pm, Dunn Bldg, Rm 106, Mt. Allison University 67 York Street @ Salem.

Urban Gardening Workshop: Learn about Fall/Early Winter techniques to get your garden ready for the fall planting season. Aug. 21. Info: (506) 394-6637.

Annual Deer Island Camping and Whale Watching Weekend - Join the Conservation Council and Fundy Baykeeper for a fun camping weekend at Deer Island Provincial Park. Aug. 27-29. To register, call (506) 458-8747, email sflath@conservationcouncil.ca

AIDS Walk 2010 - In Bathurst and Fredericton, Sat. Sept. 11. Contact: (506) 459-7518, info@aidswalk.com. Visit: www.aidswalk.com

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Twenty-five thousand people protested the meeting of the G-20 leaders in Toronto on June 26-27. Over 1,000 were arrested making it the largest mass arrest in Canadian history. Canadians are demanding an inquiry into the arrests of peaceful protesters and journalists. Photo: Dave Steele.