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Brief...

Community Calendar

For details and updated event listings, visit nmbneoacoop.org To list your event or to receive the community calendar by email once per week, email: community@nmbneoacoop.org.

Falls Brook Centre's 3rd Annual Free School. Free Schools are a place that is open to all including the young, the old, the disabled and the teacher and we all have a lot to learn. Each year, the topics change as different people with different ideas and skills come to teach and learn. There will be activities for children of all ages, indoor and outdoor activities, walking tours, music and delicious homemade-cooked meals on the grounds of Falls Brook Centre in Knowlesville, NB. Registration Fee: $10 per day. Register online or contact us by phone or in person. Meals cost $7 per meal. Camping costs $15 per tent. For more info or to register, contact julianne@fallsbrookcentre.ca or call 604-975-4310.

On May 18th, former Brunswick miner worker, Roger Leblanc and his wife, Yvette, picked outside the WorkSafe NB office in Bathurst. Leblanc says WorkSafe NB fails to recognize that he is suffering from workplace-related diseases and heavy metal poisoning stemming from his work at the mine. The zinc, lead, copper and silver mine owned by Xstrata is located 20 km from Bathurst. The pay for this, is requesting financial compensation for the medical treatments and other related expenses. Photo by Danyelle O’Brien.

• The streets of Sussex were wet, cold and lined with dozens of supporters of Penobscots residents and opponents of nuclear colourful signs on May 16th. Demonstrations were held outside the Mining Commissioner Hearings where Beth Nixon from the Concerned Citizens of Penobscots took the stand for the entering of the case. Our doctors noted that the Penobscots have lived in a culture of fear and the Penobscots residents were ruled inadmissible by Roger Dugas, the Mining Commissioner, with the reason that the authors of the report were not there to comment on them. Later that week and into the following week, more residents provided testimony of the damage done to their water wells and homes. Nixon says it is emotionally draining to watch her community lose their homes, her community, in the voices trembling. Nixon says, “Residents of Penobscots and New Brunswick deserve better. We deserve a government that truly looks out for our communities and the land and environment.” The demonstration moved to the conference site of the Atlantic provinces Premiers that afternoon. The NB Media Co-op, initially told they would be allowed into the Premiers’ media conference, was turned away at the door after being asked if they were with the Penobscots group.

• Southwestern Energy, the parent company of SWN Resources that currently holds a three year licence to explore for oil and gas over 1 million hectares in New Brunswick, is facing two lawsuits in the U.S. related to their fracking of gas. A class action lawsuit that involves a number of companies was filed in mid May against the company in Arkansas for damages related to the companies’ alleged actions in Pennsylvania. The suit also claims that the company's use of fracking to obtain gas. The company is also facing a claim for damages to wells because of--

• Dr. Michel Duguay, a nuclear physicist and electrical engineering professor at Laval University, visited on May 15th to present an in session that could be learned from the Fukushima nuclear core meltdown in Japan. “The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will have us believe that core meltdowns are a ‘once in a million years’ occurrence. But the historical record featuring three severe nuclear accidents with core meltdown in the 50-year long nuclear energy history provides other information. The Canadian nuclear law on nuclear energy specifies that the CNSC must inform the public in a scientifically objective way on all nuclear matters. CNSC is breaking the law by not objectively informing the public about several outstanding nuclear safety issues as described in more technical CNSC documents from 2007-2010. This gap constitutes an alarm signal not only appealing to the rest of the world but also the public, in the light of ongoing nuclear reactor accidents but also about the lack of rigorous control of the nuclear regulatory authority.”

• Five senior freelance journalists refused to sign a contract with the Halifax Chronicle Herald that would give the paper rights to their sources and contracts with core meltdown in the 50-year long nuclear energy history.

• According to a report by the Workers’ Action Centre, one in three workers in Ontario’s cleaning, hospitality, retail and food service industries were receiving wages or were fired without termination pay or notice.

• The largest oil spill in Alberta since 1975 leaked 225,000 liters of oil into a small stream in the vicinity of the Lubicon Cree, a few kilometres from their community, in July. Residents in the northwest Territories on an unannounced contract on its freelancers, noted that the columnists who refused to sign were writing only voices of the environmental movement in the paper.

• "Deep green" environmentalist and philosopher David Graeber joined a pickets outside the University of Victoria on May 27th at the age of 77, Orton was noted for his contributions to left beyond academia. His most significant among his followers according to Orton opposes capitalism, economic growth and consumerism.

• Reporting to a group by the Workers’ Action Centre, one in three workers in Ontario’s cleaning, hospitality, retail and food service industries were receiving wages or were fired without termination pay or notice.

• Almost 12,000 Saskatchewan teachers staged a one-day strike for the first time in the province’s history on May 5th, after almost a year of failed negotiations with the ruling conservative Saskatchewan Party. Ninety-five per cent of teachers voted in favour of job action against low wages. The starting salary for a Saskatchewan teacher is $7,560 per year less than teachers in the rest of the provinces.

• United Food and Commercial Workers has revealed union busting tactics being used by the Mexican government in Canada. Through leaked documents, the union has discovered that the Mexican union只知道 the United Food and Commercial Workers that the Mexican union is illegally targeting members in British Columbia from returning to work in that province.

• According to media commentator, Dwayne Winsieck, most of the editorial opinion found in corporate press are expressing the endorsements of specific candidates for Prime Minister (Harper, Layton, Ignatieff, Duceppe, May), we find a lack of knowledge and a lack of depth. In other words, 95 percent of editorial opinion has solidified behind Harper. Winsieck notes there is a lot of evidence to suggest that Harper is a "bully" and in the last election, writes Winsieck.

• A West Island restaurant owner, Scott Walker's anti-union bill on May 27th. Judge Manjumm Suni said Republican legislators refused to provide sufficient public notice before passing the law in March. The law attempted to gut collective bargaining rights of state employees. The bill resulted in massive protests in March with more than 100,000 people filling the streets of the state's capital Madison in one action described as Wisconsin's largest protest ever.