

17^e Journées Alternatives 2011

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2011

8 p.m. **OPENING COCKTAIL**
Music with Quebec band «Tant qu'à y être»

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011

9 a.m. **1ST PANEL : REVOLUTIONS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

A great arc of popular rebellions has spread across Arab countries from North Africa to the Middle East. Everywhere, repressive rulers are challenged and radical change is demanded. In Tunisia and Egypt, the governments have fallen, but the people are still mobilized. Have these regime changes opened the door to lasting social change? What impact do these popular rebellions have on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? What new relationships can we establish with the diaspora from these countries?

Location:
Gymnase

With: Faiza Skandrani, Omar Aktouf, Sonia Djelidi, Mostafa Henaway, Hamouda Soubhi
Moderator: Ronald Cameron

Simultaneous translation

10.45 a.m. **BREAK**

11 a.m. **SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS**

Change The System, Not The Climate

The Council of Canadians in September will be launching an exciting new multimedia education project called "System Change not Climate Change". This slogan is central to a growing and vibrant global movement for climate justice. But what does system change mean? And where is the link with the climate crisis? How are struggles for environmental and social justice interconnected?

Location:
Gymnase

With: Andrea Harden

Simultaneous translation

Solidarity with Palestine: the BDS Campaign

More than 170 organizations of Palestinian civil society issued a call in 2005 for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. As a result, a widespread global movement against Israeli Apartheid has emerged. Last year, a large conference was held in Montreal to launch that campaign locally. Given the extensive support by trade

Location:
Chapiteau

unions and civil society organizations, what comes next?

With: Mostafa Henaway, Stefan Christoff & Refaat Sabbah

Simultaneous translation

Free education : Stop Tuition Fee Hikes!

*Location:
The Lion*

A significant increase in university tuition fees is announced for 2012 and the student movement is gearing to fight back. What will it take to force the government to retreat? Activists from Montreal's four universities will answer this question while speaking for free education free and the fight against private sector influence on higher education.

With: Joel Pedneault & Robert Sonin

Moderator: Rushdia Mehreen

Social Movements and Continental Alliances Against Neo-liberalism

*Location:
Bibliothèque*

The Quebec People's Summit of 2001 ushered in the failure of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and fostered the emergence of centers for regional integration and alliances against neo-liberalism in the Southern hemisphere. This workshop will focus on ways of deepening this positive historical trajectory of social movements in the Americas.

With: James Cockcroft, Laura Cabello de Alba, Noel Marquez & Karla Aguilar

Moderator: Mario Gil

Canadian Mining Companies in Latin America

*Location:
Cafeteria
basement*

The Coalition and the CDHAL offer a discussion-based workshop addressing the issues raised by the presence of Canadian mining corporations in Latin America. Through case studies and potential strategies of solidarity work, the participants are invited to exchange and engage in solidarity with the peoples of this region of the world.

With: Anouk Nadeau-Farley, the Coalition sur les impacts sociaux-environnementaux des transnationales en Amérique latine & the Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine

Peace, Social Justice and Media Manipulation: Issues and Opportunities

*Location:
Stimulation*

The manipulation of information to satisfy transnational and warmongering interests and endorse an unsustainable way of life threatens the survival of the species and of the planet. In this workshop, we will discuss the struggles waged by the peoples of the Americas to promote peace and combat media distortion of contemporary social reality.

With: Juan Carlos Tanus, Daniel Del Solar, Melissa Leblanc, Omar Bickell, Geraldo Vivanco

Moderator: Raisso Sougal

12.30 p.m. **LUNCH**

2 p.m.

2ND PANEL : Ten Years After Quebec 2001: Revolutions Against Neoliberalism in the Americas

Location:
Gymnase

The massive mobilization surrounding the Quebec People's Summit of 2001 signalled the awakening of Quebec social movements and succeeded in shutting down the FTAA negotiations. Since then, Latin American movements have won important victories and progressive governments have come to power in the Southern Hemisphere. In North America, the battle continues, but the neo-con right-wing is presently on the offensive with anti-social and anti-union austerity policies. Case in point: the election of a Tory majority in Ottawa. What lessons can we learn from Quebec 2001? What links can we forge between the social movements of Quebec and English Canada? How can we renew solidarity between the North and the South in our hemisphere?

With: Jacques Létourneau, Tony Clarke, Leonel Gonzales, Régine Laurent, Hector De la Cueva, James Cockcroft
Moderator : Marcela Escribano

Simultaneous translation

3RD PANEL : Who Benefits from «The Plan Nord»? A Critique From a Climate Justice Point of View

Location:
Chapiteau

The Charest government has just launched another mega-project, the Plan Nord. It calls for public and private investments amounting to \$80 billion for the development of mining and hydro-electric projects in northern Quebec. This massive project endangers the First Nations who live in this large territory. It also gravely threatens the environment. How can we counter this latest neoliberal project of the Charest government? What support can we extend to the indigenous peoples living in the north of Quebec? What do the social mobilizations in Latin America teach us about the harmful effects of big mining projects?

With: Ugo Lapointe, Elizabeth Peredo, Michel Thusky & Norman Matchewan
Moderator : Louise Vandelac (Professor at UQAM)

Simultaneous translation

4 p.m.

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

Boat for Gaza

Location:
Chapiteau

The saga of the Tahrir, the Canadian boat for Gaza thwarted in Greece for nearly three weeks, has captivated the Quebec population. The Quebec coordinator of this initiative, Stéphan Corriveau, and filmmaker Santiago Bertolino will deliver an account of their experience on the Tahrir.

With: Stéphan Corriveau & Santiago Bertolino
Moderator : Louise Casselman

Simultaneous translation

First Nations Confront the Neoliberal Model

Location:
Gymnase

Indigenous peoples have historically been the main victims of the capitalist model of development. The negative impacts on their land, their ancestral cultures and their recognition as peoples are aggravated under neo-liberalism. We can learn much from the resistance and struggles of the First Nations of the Americas in material and spiritual terms. Their contribution to today's battles is of paramount importance.

With: André Dudemaine, Gabriel Piché, Michèle Audette
Moderator: Josua Medina

Public Transit in the Montreal Area and the Turcot Overpass

Location:
The Lion

Mobilization around the Turcot overpass has forced the government to modify its initial project. However, the new project remains focused on private transport to the detriment of public transit. How can we build a common front for a massive program of affordable public transport powered by electricity and renewable energy? What are the different political strategies advocated by provincial and municipal parties?

With: Ronald Cameron et Marc-André Blais

Sending a Quebec Delegation to Rio + 20 in June 2012

Location:
Cafeteria
Basement

A people's summit will take place at Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, coinciding with the United Nation's conference on sustainable development. Following in the footsteps of the massive mobilizations of Seattle, Copenhagen and Cochabamba, as well as the World Social Forums, this summit will be a space for social movements to congregate and build new forms of resistance combining social and environmental justice.

With: Marcela Escibano, Guillaume Hébert & Roger Rashi

Decolonizing Solidarity Work

Location:
Bibliothèque

This workshop aims to provide an anti-imperialist outlook on international solidarity initiatives, and in doing so, distinguish them from traditional government and charitable approaches. We will discuss the concept of privilege in the context of "North/South" relations in order expand our thinking in terms of an international movement of global social change.

With: Maude Chalvin

Alternatives Internships and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Projects

Location:
Stimulation

The workshop revisits Alternatives' 2010-11 ICT projects and other forms of engagement. From urban agriculture and food sovereignty to media and documentaries, former Alternatives interns will provide an overview of their respective projects in Africa and Latin America.

Moderator: Mélanie Hughes & 2010-11 interns

Documentary Film

DetermiNATION songs (Paul M. Rickard & Michelle Smith, 75 minutes, 2009, Québec)

Location:
Administration
(2nd floor)

Three native artists use voice, rhythms, samples and guitar riffs to cut through big 'P' politics to reveal a vibrant native music scene while exposing the realities and struggles in their communities. As resistance grows across Indian country, this film about music, art and politics pulls aboriginal stories from the back pages and puts them at the front of the stage.

5 p.m.

SUPPER

6.30 p.m.

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

Civil Disobedience and Social Change

Location:
Cafeteria
Basement

How can mischief lead to opportunities in social change? This interactive workshop invites the participants to share their past experiences and strategies in civil disobedience, with the aim of generating reflections around what was done and what can be done in the upcoming years.

With: Philippe Duhamel & Mélanie Hughes

Changes in Cuba and the Five Anti-terrorist Heroes

Location:
Bibliothèque

The right to life and to self-determination is a basic human right. The defence and the implementation of these rights are central to the struggle of the five Cuban heroes against terrorism as well as in the changes undertaken by the sovereign people of Jose Marti.

With: Teresita Vicente Sotolongo, Livio Di Celmo, Claude Morin, Sean O'Donoghue
Moderator: Katherine Beeman

Food Sovereignty: Local and Urban Agriculture

Location:
Stimulation

The aftermath of the Green Revolution and the 21st century's globalization have recently led to new movements in urban and local agriculture. This workshop seeks to underscore the socio-political link between food, subsistence-living and organic agriculture.

With: Véronique Côté, Gaëlle Janvier

Confronting Harper

Location:
The Lion

Harper and the Conservatives came to power in 2006. Their reforms of state institutions will have an impact on Canadian citizens and society at large for many years, regardless of whether or not they are not re-elected. It is therefore necessary to think of strategies to safeguard our institutions and to increase the power and prerogatives of civil society to prevent such an affront to democracy.

With: Christian Nadeau

Documentary Film

Mirage of El Dorado (Martin Frigon, 75 minutes, 2008, Québec)

Location:
Administration
(2nd floor)

This film takes us high into the Andes of northern Chile where Canadian-owned Barrick Gold is set to move glaciers to get at the mineral riches beneath. The area borders on the Atacama Desert and many people in the Huasca Valley fear for their source of water. The struggle around Pascua Lama is a David and Goliath confrontation with global consequences.

8.30 p.m.

WESLI BAND (Reggae-Roots-Afro beat)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2011

9 a.m.

4TH PANEL: Social Movements vs. the New Tory Majority in the Parliament

The election of a majority conservative government in Ottawa is an ominous development. From now on, the Harper government will have the means to enforce its reactionary social, environmental and international agenda. On the other hand, his party won only 40% of the vote and a new parliamentary opposition more open to social concerns is in place. Can the social movements roll back the Tory offensive? What relations should we establish with the new parliamentary opposition? What links can we forge between social movements in Quebec and the rest of Canada?

Location:
Gymnase

With: Louis Roy, Andrea Harden, Alexandre Boulerice, François Saillant, Gaétan Ménard, Brigitte DePape, Délice Mugabo

Moderator: Johanne Deschamps

Simultaneous translation

11 a.m.

ALTERNATIVES' ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Location:
Chapiteau

Simultaneous translation

1 p.m.

LUNCH AND CONCLUSION OF THE ALTERNATIVES' DAYS 2011

LIST OF SPEAKERS

- AGUILAR, KARLA, Red global por la Paz en Mexico-Montréal
- AKTOUF, OMAR, professor at HEC, Montreal
- AUDETTE, MICHÈLE, Quebec Native Women Inc.
- BEEMAN, KATHERINE, Comité Fabio Di Celmo pour les cinq
- BERTOLINO, SANTIAGO, Filmmaker & crew member on boat Tahrir
- BICKELL, OMAR, Réseau Koumbit
- BLAIS, MARC-ANDRÉ, member of Mobilisation Turcot and Quebec solidaire
- BOULERICE, ALEXANDRE, NDP Member of Parliament for Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie
- CABELLO DE ALBA, LAURA, professor at the University of Castilla, Spain
- CAMERON, RONALD, president of Alternatives and former president of FNEEQ-CSN
- CASSELMAN, LOUISE, Social Justice Fund of Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)
- CHALVIN, MAUDE, Project Accompaniment and Solidarity Colombia (PASC)
- CHRISTOFF, STEFAN, the BDS campaign & Tadamon
- CLARKE, TONY, Polaris Institute
- COCKROFT, JAMES, Writer & member of « Comité de Ciudadania Québec 10 años después »
- CORRIVEAU, STÉPHAN, crew member on boat Tahrir & Alternatives
- CÔTÉ, VÉRONIQUE, spokesperson for Union paysanne
- DE LA CUEVA, HECTOR, Hemispheric Social Alliance, Mexico
- DEL SOLAR, DANIEL, Independent media producer, USA
- DEPAPE, BRIGETTE, Senate page expelled for brandishing a « Stop Harper » sign
- DESCHAMPS, JOHANNE, advisor to Fédération des Travailleurs/euses du Québec (FTQ)
- DUDEMAINE, ANDRÉ, director of « Présence Autochtone » Festival
- DUHAMEL, PHILIPPE, organizer of the march against Shale Gas exploration
- FRIAS, GISELA, Support Committee for the Mapuche People
- ESCRIBANO, MARCELA, Latin America & Caribbean Project, Alternatives
- GIL, MARIO, Collectif EducAction Québec
- GONZALES, LEONEL, coordinator of the international relations department at the Cuban Parliament
- HARDEN-DONAHUE, ANDREA, Council of Canadians
- HÉBERT, GUILLAUME, researcher at the Institut de recherche et d'informations socio-économiques – IRIS
- HENAWAY, MOSTAFA, member of Tadamon & BDS campaign
- HUGHES, MÉLANIE, Youth Program & Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), Alternatives
- JANVIER, GAËLLE, «Rooftop Garden Project », Alternatives
- LAPOINTE, UGO, Coalition pour que le Québec ait meilleure mine
- LAURENT, RÉGINE, president of the Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ)
- LEBLANC, MÉLISSA, Project Accompaniment and Solidarity Colombia (PASC)
- LÉTOURNEAU, JACQUES, vice-president of Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN)
- MARQUEZ, NOEL, Conseil des mouvements sociaux de l'ALBA
- MATCHEWAN, NORMAN, Algonquin activist from Barriere Lake
- MEDINA, JOSUA, Base de Paix de Montréal
- MÉNARD, GAËTAN, Secretary-treasurer of Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP)
- MORIN, CLAUDE, professor at the University of Montreal
- MUGABO, DÉLICE, member of the Board, Quebec Federation of Women (FFQ)
- NADEAU-FARLEY, ANOUK, Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL)
- NADEAU, CHRISTIAN, professor at the University of Montreal & author of the book *Contre Harper*
- O'DONOGHUE, SEAN, Comité Fabio Di Celmo pour les cinq
- PEDNEAULT, JOEL, vice-president Student's Society of McGill University
- PEREDO, ELIZABETH, director of the Solon Foundation, Bolivia
- PICHÉ, GABRIEL, Pensée populaire alternative en Amérique du Nord
- RASHI, ROGER, coordinator Alternatives' Days 2011
- ROY, LOUIS, president of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)
- SABBAAH, REFAAT, president of Alternatives International, Palestine
- SAILLANT, FRANÇOIS, coordinator of FRAPRU & member of Québec Solidaire
- SKANDRANI, FAÏZA, Feminist activist from Tunisia
- SOMIN, ROBERT, president, Association Graduate Students (Concordia) Free Education Montreal
- SOUBHI, HAMOUDA, Maghred-Mashrek Social Forum, Morocco
- SOUGAL, RAISSO, Base de Paix de Montréal
- SOTOLONGO VICENTE, TERESITA, Cuban Ambassador to Canada
- TANUS, JUAN CARLOS, member of « Colombianos en Venezuela una sola Bandera »
- THUSKY, MICHEL, Algonquin activist from Barriere Lake
- VANDELAC, LOUISE, professor at the Institut de l'environnement, UQAM
- VIVANCO, GERALDO, Radio Centre Ville, Montreal