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NEWS FOR THE REST OF US

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The importance of the community of unions and civil society organizations that support *rabble.ca* is hard to overstate. These are crucial partnerships with organizations that value independent media and who see the issues they support on *rabble.ca*

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# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

*rabble.ca*'s donors make independent media possible. Whether you contribute \$5 or \$10,000, each decision to invest in *rabble.ca* is greatly appreciated, and as you will see in the pages to follow, goes a long way!

If you appreciate the work of independent media, please make a contribution today at:

[rabble.ca/donate](https://rabble.ca/donate)

**Or by mail:**

*rabble.ca*  
192 Spadina Avenue  
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Canada



“You may get large amounts of funding here and there, but in the end, capital will never work to undermine capital. So, the way to fund a strong, independent, progressive media is through the grassroots, one person, one member at a time.” - Noam Chomsky

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# WELCOME

## LETTER FROM PUBLISHER

Looking back, 2018 was a time of highs and lows. While the fear-mongering and the colossal disaster that is the surge of right-wing populism across the world continued to grow, in the United States and as well as at home here in Canada, pushback against an emerging politics of hate has grown in equal if not greater measure as younger generations take the lead. From Stoneman Douglas High School students David Hogg and Emma González in Florida to Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, youth around the world have led the way to building a progressive future. This new generation is leading collective efforts to prevent climate breakdown, address gendered violence online and in our communities, take on human rights challenges, support Indigenous resistance movements, elect an unprecedented number of diverse and progressive young LGBTQ+ women in electoral politics, and more. In 2018, people continued to come together with hope in the face of powerful forces to fight for a better world. And this is what we are here for, at *rabble.ca*.

Not afraid of debate in these divisive times, *rabble* is here to create space for the leaders, young and seasoned, who carry on the torch of resistance. We are explicitly *not* here to give more air-time to the Doug Fords, Jason Kenneys, or Andrew Scheers of Canada, but to the social movements that bloom from cracks of despair to build something new.

As not just independent, but non-profit media, *rabble* continues to evolve and find our place in the Canadian media landscape. We know that the true way for *rabble* to remain sustainable is through our vast number of mobilized readers across Canada. We don't see our work as insular or removed from our readers, but instead, see ourselves as an extension and amplification of the work of social movements and frontline activists, from coast to coast. The ordinary and extraordinary work of citizens chipping in all over Canada is what we thrive on and how we are able to do what we do. We didn't have a paywall when we began in 2001, and we never will.

We remain steadfast and committed to action. In 2018, we created the #OntarioFightback series within our Activist Toolkit feature, a series of resources to help readers take a stand against the regressive policies and social cuts of the new provincial government in Ontario. In early 2018, with thanks to the Canadian Periodical Fund, we launched training sessions and new resources to further our Amplify Services arm, our effort to build capacity for media democracy and help to broadcast the stories of our partners and other organizations. And in October, we launched our second annual search for the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellow, in partnership with the Institute for Change Leaders.

We continue to be proud of the powerful, talented journalists who work tirelessly to provide coverage on our site. We made a few changes to our staffing in 2018. In October, we were excited to have Brenda O'Farrell join us as our new Editor-in-Chief. She brings with her a wealth of media experience and is a seasoned career journalist. We are happy to have her on board! We said goodbye to our interim Editor-in-Chief, Cathryn Atkinson and thanked her for her tremendous work during this period. We wish her the best in the future!

*rabble.ca* exists because of people -- writers, video and podcast contributors, videographers, donors, readers and workers -- who share a vision of what an independent media can and should be and what the future is for media democracy in Canada. A special acknowledgement and thank you goes to all those who worked behind the scenes to bring you *rabble* over the past year: Maya, Tania, Michelle, Brenda, Cathryn, Victoria, Meg, Brian, Christina, Shirley, Sophia, the team at Consensus and at Star Company all bring experience, professionalism and a tireless commitment to independent media. Also, a thank you to our current and past board of directors of the past year -- Matthew, Alex, Amira, Bob, Robert,

Nicole, and Phillip -- all of whom volunteer their time, and often find themselves having to make challenging decisions. Thanks also go to our Members' Council, representing our partner organizations and community members across Canada.

*rabble.ca* continues to grow and push the boundaries of online media. We have evolved as the internet has evolved. Now in on our 18th year, we're entering adulthood at a time of cutbacks and consolidation across the entire realm of Canadian media. In this time of transition, we are grateful and honoured to have you, all of our readers and financial supporters. You prove time and time again, with your support, that independent and reader-funded media is a sustainable model. Major media outlets and pundits have come to look to *rabble* first when they need to take the pulse of Canadian progressives -- and we're happy to oblige. We are earnest about respecting the intelligence and experience of our readers (and watchers and listeners). And we are honest about our politics. At a time when readers are inundated with "clickbait" and "fake news," *rabble.ca*'s writers publish articles that give a progressive take on complex issues, and our editors carefully ensure that the facts in articles are correct. We can't keep doing this without reader support.

We are grateful for your support in the past, and look forward to having you with us in the future.

P.S.: If you like what you see in these pages and what you see, hear, watch and discuss on *rabble.ca*, please give us a hand at [rabble.ca/donate](http://rabble.ca/donate). Let's make our goal of 2,000 monthly donors in 2019!

Kari Edlin





# NEWS/COLUMNS HIGHLIGHTS

## SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

The end of 2018 was marked by extraordinary struggles for social justice. Across the country and around the world, everyday people -- citizens, neighbours, activists, community members -- have been working in solidarity to address inequality and push for social change.

This year, we saw action on a number of fronts. There was pushback against an emerging politics of hate in Canada, collective efforts to prevent climate breakdown, steps to address gendered online violence, human rights challenges, Indigenous resistance, uprisings, and more.

rabble columnists were there to document the struggles for social justice, describing the issues and bringing us the stories of the people behind them. Highlights from this past year include:

Valve-turners challenged climate crimes with non-violent direct action. Climate activists in the U.S. and Canada were manually closing the emergency shut-off valves on oil pipelines in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience. **Brent Patterson tells the inspiring story of valve-turners' resistance to neoliberalism and climate change.**

Why are people destitute in Canada? A social safety net to ensure that every individual has enough to live on should be standard in a liberal democracy. Canada had such a social safety net, Duncan Cameron points out, **until it was abolished nearly 25 years ago.**

**A tar sands travelogue blends comic book art with investigative stories.** Global Warming and the Sweetness of Life: A Tar Sands Tale is an important, accessible look at the tar sands problem and what it means for Indigenous communities, Alberta, and Canada. June Chua interviews co-author Am Johal about the stories behind the book's journey.

**The rise of a politics of hate in Canada.** Hate crimes in Canada increased by 47 per cent in 2017, reports Monia Mazigh, yet both Quebec Premier François Legault and Ontario Premier Doug Ford remain silent about the disturbing surge in numbers.

**Nicaragua's agrarian reform and revolution 40 years on.** To better understand present-day events in Nicaragua, we need to revisit the 1979 Sandinista Revolution and the agrarian reform that was to have lifted the poorest citizens out of poverty. Lois Ross takes us back to the revolution and talks about Canada's role in supporting it.

**The cost of free expression online for women.** With online platforms increasingly being a site of public discourse in democratic societies, gendered online violence is destructive, says OpenMedia's Marianela Ramos Capelo, because it silences and makes invisible a key sector of society in the public sphere.

The Ford government's decision in Ontario to revert back to the 1998 sex-ed curriculum produced considerable backlash from educators, parents and students -- and also triggered four separate legal challenges. **Safia Lakhani walks us through the applications due to be heard by the courts in 2019.**

**Federal plan for Canadian media funding not all it's cracked up to be.** In the past 10 years, about 16,000 Canadian journalists lost their jobs, and more than two dozen daily and 220 weekly newspapers have merged or been shuttered. Wayne MacPhail questions whether \$600 million in media funding will help.

**Trudeau chooses oil over national interest in Kinder Morgan pipeline buyout.** How can something be in the national interest when it would significantly contribute to the destruction of the very planet that sustains us? Linda McQuaig interrogates the Trudeau government's Kinder Morgan pipeline purchase.

**Resisting the terror of cultural genocide at Muskrat Falls.** Matthew Behrens details the actions taking place in solidarity with the Labrador Land Protectors, a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who are trying to stop the massive Muskrat Falls megadam, which threatens residents with methylmercury poisoning as well as mass drowning from a potential catastrophic dam break in Labrador.



# JOURNALISM FOR CHANGE FELLOWSHIP

At the end of 2017, rabble and Olivia Chow of the Institute for Change Leaders were delighted to announce the inaugural launch of the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship.

In 2011, Canada lost a great social justice leader. Jack Layton inspired people by example, demonstrating that working together for social and economic justice is possible and achievable.

The fellowship supports emerging writers and journalists who are passionate and engaged in developing unique voices in social change reporting. The fellowship is a wonderful opportunity for strengthening media democracy in Canada while affording excellent mentorship and growth for new voices in our community.

Our first Fellow was **Phillip Dwight Morgan**, who is a Toronto-based journalist, poet and researcher. During his time at rabble, which began in January 2018 and ended in April 2018, Phillip was instrumental in getting to the heart of issues, in particular, systemic racial and economic inequality.

His time with rabble helped to solidify his experience in the Canadian Journalism landscape. And he has now even joined our Executive Board!

We were fortunate to have a wonderful group of judges for our first fellowship. A special thank you to Jorge Barrera, Jackie Wong and Victoria Fenner for participating as judges on our panel!

Our second Fellowship was announced in October of 2018, and we launched our search for the next fellow, via a nationwide call-out.

Our judges for the 2019 year were: Michelle Gregus, Brenda O'Farrell and Victoria Fenner and we are delighted to be welcoming a new Fellow for 2019, Olivia Robinson. Robinson, who will complete her master's degree in journalism this spring at Carleton University in Ottawa, will be working on a series of articles on how libraries across the country are re-imagining these public spaces and contributing in new and innovative ways to improve the social fabric of their communities.



# PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER

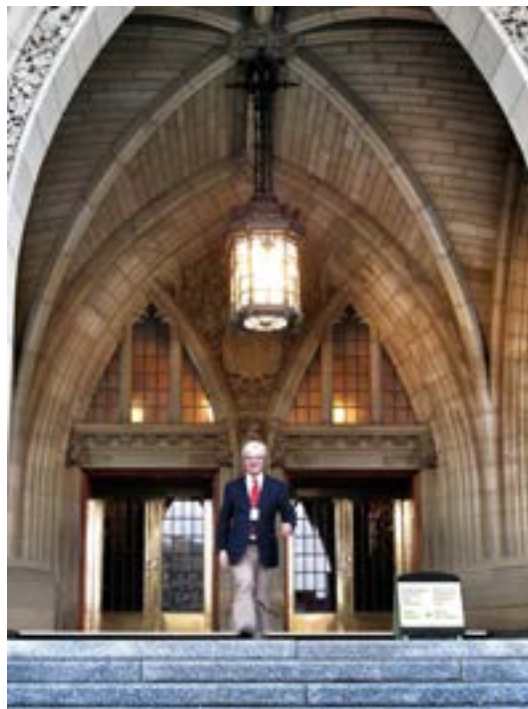
In 2018, rabble's Parliamentary reporter, Karl Nerenberg, was on the ground to get the inside scoop on Canadian politics (and the cross-over from our American Neighbours...).

It takes a strong, vibrant and critical independent press to look past the selfies and hold the Federal liberals to account. That's what Karl does best. And has been doing for seven years now.

He was there to report during the **NDP Convention** last February, the **provincial NDP** during the Ontario provincial government election race, and the **populist rise of Doug Ford and the right.**

He was also quick to report on the **Federal broadcast and communications legislation** and the harsh preparation to send striking **postal workers back to work** near the end of 2018.

He ended the year off with his taking on the **GM plant closure plans** in Oshawa, and the continued struggle for gun control, **especially on the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.**



# VENEZUELA DELEGATION

On May 20, Venezuelans cast their ballots for President Nicolás Maduro in a hotly contested election. In the lead-up to May 20, the U.S. said it wouldn't recognize the election results, and Canada called them "illegitimate," going so far as to deny more than 5,000 Venezuelans living in Canada the right to vote by refusing to set up voting centres at Venezuela's embassy and consulates.

rabble's Canadian labour and community delegation observed the elections, partnering with Common Frontiers. Read the team's in-depth analysis and video coverage from Venezuela [here](#).



# LABOUR BEAT REPORTING

In the era of the gig economy, and with anti-labour and anti-union rhetoric on the rise, we know that Canada, more than ever, needs a reminder of the power of collective action and organizing, which the labour movement has always been a strong leader in.

We are proud to be able to continually offer the paid Labour Beat Internship at rabble. It's hard-hitting, plain language journalism, that looks at the economy from a labour point of view - not one bought by the Big Banks and Business. Generously supported by Unifor. This rare paid reporting internship cultivates a new generation of pro-labour journalists across Canada.

Keep up with our labour coverage on our [labour issue page](#) where you can find critical reading including:

1. **Reaction to closure of Canadian GM plant:** Flurry of words and one radical suggestion
2. **Open letter:** bill to end postal strike could violate charter of rights.
3. Minister who claims to be a friend of labour **prepares to force postal workers** back to work.
4. B.C. premier lauds health-care workers **as discriminatory labour laws repealed**
5. **WestJet and the struggle to organize**



# GRAB A CUP OF TEA AND RELAX IN OUR BOOK LOUNGE

Christina Turner took the helm of the rabble Book Lounge in summer 2018.

Since then we have published reviews, excerpts and interviews on progressive books from Canada and beyond. rabble's unique commitment is rare in a media environment where there are fewer and fewer places where book reviews are available. We are proud to help maintain and support Canadian arts and culture this way. We began with Tavleen Purewal's nuanced [interview with David Chariandy](#) on his book-length essay, *I've Been Meaning to Tell You*. In September, we published reviews of Tara Westover's heralded memoir [Educated](#) (reviewed by Nina Iyer) and Annie Lowrey's [Give People Money](#), which, according to reviewer Rohan Ghattage, is a "convincing, left-leaning account for why Universal Basic Income needs to be seriously considered as a means of lifting the world's most destitute well above the poverty line." Excerpts from books on the [Lac-Mégantic rail disaster](#) and the case [against breast cancer screening](#) followed, as did an interview with Aminder Dhaliwal, whose graphic novel, [Woman World](#), imagines a future in which men have gone extinct!

The Book Lounge aims to cover popular mainstream releases with a progressive eye, while also covering books from smaller Canadian presses that tackle issues of importance to the left.



# INDIGENOUS ISSUES – DECOLONIZING MEDIA

rabble has always turned first to Indigenous people on stories of social justice and the ongoing sagas of colonization and imperialism. Our mission is first and foremost to be active participants in decolonizing journalism, believing strongly that communities most affected by issues of poverty, climate justice, oppression – of which Indigenous people are leading the struggles against – should be told by the communities themselves.

Some of our favourite Indigenous stories from 2018 include **Waubgeshig Rice** and writing dystopia from an Indigenous perspective, **the right to say no as a crucial part of Indigenous consent**, and the **recognition of Indigenous rights framework**.

In addition, we had Senator Murray Sinclair on the importance of **Indigenous ways of knowing**, how justice around the Site C dam **begins with respecting First Nations**, the continued **fight and resistance by the Kinder Morgan protesters**, and Sheila Watt-Cloutier, **a trail-blazer for Innuit rights and the environment in the North**.

Photo by Megan Devlin





# RECLAIMING COASTS/ ENVIRONMENT

At rabble, since our very inception, we have made it our duty to be on the frontlines of social movements and their various intersections. Nowhere is this intersection more evident than in the fight to reclaim our environments and coasts.

We discuss the connections between social and climate justice and Indigenous activism solidarity.

The 2018 highlights of climate justice resistance and activism include how [Canadian political parties need to step up now to stop climate breakdown](#), the Quebec demonstrations for climate action and an [interview with David Suzuki and filmmaker Ian Mauro on the new film \*Beyond Climate\*](#).

In addition, we covered the [rise for climate action calls](#), the [connection between climate change and the forest fires](#), the good news of the [resilience of monarch butterflies](#), and framing the question as to [what do we teach when the world seems like it's burning?](#)



# YOU WON'T BELIEVE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA REACH!

2018 saw rabble's impressive social media reach grow even further, as we used our platforms to speak truth to power, preparing for what will be an important election year in 2019. With over 27,000 **Facebook** (facebook.com/rabble.ca) fans and group members and more than 41,000 **Twitter** (twitter.com/rabbleca) followers, rabble has the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of Canadians with our content. Our **Instagram** (instagram.com/rabbleca) is still growing, as our staff utilize it to reflect our on-the-ground outreach, and presence at various activist events.

Our most shared piece in 2018 was Brent Patterson's blog on the state of access to drinking water for Indigenous peoples in Canada. "**Is denying drinking water to Indigenous nations an act of genocide**" was shared nearly 600 times and reached more than 32,000 people on Facebook alone. And rabble continues to be one of the first places journalists, MPs and Canada's most influential political minds – conservative and progressive alike – turn for what left-wing, labour-conscious Canadians are thinking. In an increasingly crowded news market, real clout in the social media sphere is absolutely essential.

We are fortunate to have the support of great community minds and influencers, artists, activists and commentators alike. At the end of 2018, we were honoured to have author Margaret Atwood give us a special shout-out during our very successful fall fundraiser (more details about this in our Financial report on pages 25-26).

At rabble, we know there's more than one way to read the news. Not only do we ensure our social media feeds are always topped up with the very best in progressive journalism, we also deliver general daily and weekly newsletters.



# JOURNALISM ON THE STREETS

Since its very inception in 2001 in the streets of Quebec City, rabble has been putting its money where its mouth is. We pay special attention to grassroots protest and social movements in our journalism – often because we’re already there. Our outreach team is an indispensable component of our work: as we seek to organize critical workshops and panels, and take part in on-the-ground organizing, and making sure that Canada’s best radical artists and storytellers find audiences for their work.

We continue to emphasize the importance of solidarity among social movement organizations through partnerships, including as media sponsors in 2018 for the Vancouver International Film Festival, the Tommy Douglas Institute, Word on the Street Toronto, The Canadian Labour International Film Festival, Homes Made Visible Symposium (a project of the Regent Park Film Festival), and Independent Jewish Voices’ Ten Year Anniversary Celebration.

In addition, we frequently work with our friends at partner organizations to find new and innovative ways to collaborate, including email exchanges, like the one deployed around the election reform referendum in B.C., with Fair Vote Canada.

When our friends at Canada Boat to Gaza needed a hand webcasting their panel introducing the 2018 Canadian Flotilla participants, we were there in a flash to get the job done!

We are always ready to pack up our event coverage gear or our tabling supplies and head out into the community. This past year, we set up interactive tables at the Tommy Douglas Institute event, and Car Free Day Vancouver. In addition, we set up an interactive exhibit for the full length of the Hospital Employees Union Biennial Convention in Vancouver.

In addition, Our Parliamentary Reporter, Karl Nerenberg has appeared on Halifax radio; News 957 with host Sheldon McLeod. And he was also able to represent rabble at the ‘Looking to the Future: Community-based Media and Democracy’ forum, in partnership with Community Foundations of Canada.



Photo by Kim Elliott

# ACTIVIST TOOLKIT

Nowhere is our commitment to grassroots activism clearer than the Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit. Launched in 2013 and coordinated by Maya Bhullar since 2015, the Toolkit is space to amplify what organizers are doing, and share, discuss and create tools for organizing from the ground up. Lynn Williams was a labour organizer, activist and the first Canadian to become international president of the United Steelworkers.

The Toolkit reflects Williams' dedicated work as a lifelong activist, providing organizers and communities with access to success stories, guides, workshop outlines, petitions, open source software, copy-left images, activist histories and more. Through the past few years, the Toolkit has come up with a number of projects and online campaigns. In 2016, the Toolkit and rabble Podcast Network launched Constructing Change, a series speaking to people working to change their communities for the better. Interviews and profiles reveal how to support and amplify the change-makers' work as well as share how they do what they do. In 2017, the Toolkit launched the **#stopphate** series, which works with allies to amplify efforts to stand up against resurging racism and Islamophobia, and to call out the use of racism in right-wing organizing.

And in 2018, we created the **#ontariofightback** series within our Activist Toolkit feature; a series collecting resources and helping to take a stand against the regressive policies and social cuts of the new provincial government in Ontario. We have also worked hard to promote the issue briefs, papers and candidate/platform comparisons, and other tools progressive organizations working across the country have developed during provincial and federal elections to support progressive change.

A few tool-kit action highlights from last year include a demand for Canada to do more to **help those in Gaza**, resources to **continue to fight for justice for Colton Boushie**, and a **guide to Black History Month**.



# EAR IN REVIEW -RPN

When we started the rabble podcast network way back in 2005, iTunes did not yet exist. There was no distribution system for podcasts, so we created our own. Now, 13 years later, we are so impressed that we were able to see into the future to a time when podcasts would be so prevalent and influential. We've gone through a lot of changes since those early days. One of the biggest yet is that we've stepped up our production of rabble radio to three times a month, up from once a month just a year ago. And on the week that we don't publish a rabble radio, you can count on a new edition of "Needs No Introduction," which is rabble's version of TEDTalks, or "rabble book lounge," which features conversations with authors releasing new books of interest to rabble readers.

With a new rabble podcast every week, hosted by rabble podcasts' executive producer Victoria Fenner, we still have independently produced podcasts on the network – Talking Radical Radio, Asia Pacific Currents, Face2Face, The Hum and, most recently, the new Radio Labour podcast. Now that we're in the Golden Age of Podcasting, we've also had a lot of interest from volunteers wanting to learn how to podcast. We've also developed a partnership with The **Green Planet Monitor** ([greenplanetmonitor.net](http://greenplanetmonitor.net)) and **Global Research News Hour** (<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-global-research-news-hour>) to repodcast some of their excellent content.

Highlights from our own in-house podcasts in 2018 include: a recording of **Rod Mickleburgh, author of "On the Line - A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement,"** speaking at the HEU convention, **the Canadian Boat to Gaza participants** get ready to leave on their mission, **A literary evening with Monia Mazigh and Barâa Arar,** and **Weaponizing Words -- The dilemmas of free speech.**

Got an interview suggestion for any of **rabble.ca's** podcasts? Get in touch! We can go anywhere via the magic of Skype. To contact Victoria Fenner, send her an email at [victoria@rabble.ca](mailto:victoria@rabble.ca) if you want to join the team. We can also provide podcast training to partner organizations wanting to launch their own podcast.



# JOIN THE CONVERSATION – BABBLE!

Our (in)famous moderated discussion board, babble, remains one of the best places in the media landscape to discuss progressive news and views in a safe space, and shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

When *rabble.ca* was launched in 2001 social media was in its infancy. babble, rabble's political discussion forum, was the gateway to progressive social commentary, and it remains so.

Thousands of Canadians have registered for babble, rabble's discussion board. A total of 44,571 accounts have been created on rabble (allowing people to comment on articles, participate in discussion board, and post on our events calendar).

Since its very inception, babble has taken on the role as an interactive space and vessel whereby news, speculation and debate can occur, especially about Canadian politics, including a babbler favourite topic: the NDP.

Here are some of the best threads from 2018

- [Detention of Meng Wanzhou - CFO of Huawei](#)
- [2020 Democratic Presidential Nominee](#)
- [Israel as an apartheid state](#)
- [Burnaby South By-election](#)
- [NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh](#)
- [Svend Robinson is back!](#)



Babble screen capture

# RABBLE TV

rabbleTV keeps viewers up-to-date with the latest in must-see progressive video and, of course, the latest from Not Rex Murphy video columnist Humberto Da Silva.

rabble was part of a Canadian labour and community delegation that headed to Venezuela to observe the May 20th national federal elections and meet with local community and labour leaders. Humberto was on the ground to cover the elections for rabble TV.

Other rabbleTV highlights from 2018, include Humberto's video-reporting on the G7 Conference in Charlevoix, Que., (and the frontline resistance), activists send hard-working Canadian Postal Workers Christmas cards and, of course, the video produced by our webcast of the Canada Boat to Gaza online panel.

And on Best-of-the Net – progressive Vancouver Civic party OneCity bringing music to the Vancouver election and Greta Thunberg, 15, condemns world's inaction on climate change.



# ARCHIVES

***“Those who tell the stories rule society.” said Plato.***

A growing question in the digital age is how to preserve and make digital archives accessible. The concern is of particular relevance to progressives in Canada, whose history is already severely under-represented in Canada’s National Archives, which are dominated by the stories of Liberal and Conservative parties.

Coming into our 19th year, rabble hosts a rich history of archives from the very beginning. Maintaining 18 years of history (and adjusting to reflect the many adjustments and changes over time), presents both opportunities and challenges for our technical work behind the scenes.

In addition to our own archives, in 2013 rabble, through an agreement negotiated by NUPGE, agreed to take on archives of Straight Goods magazine (a fellow independent and progressive media outlet), when its publisher, Ish Theilheimer, retired.

With the cost of maintaining Straight Goods and our own archives continuing to rise -- and the degradation which can occur when archives are not continually maintained a real risk -- the coming year will include a search for a method to proudly maintain these rich histories as they deserve.





# SUPPORTING DONORS

## COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED MEDIA

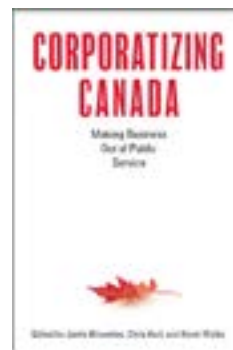
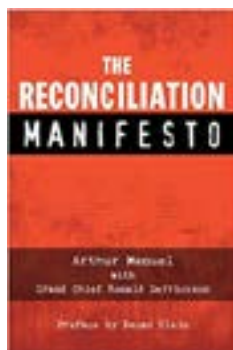
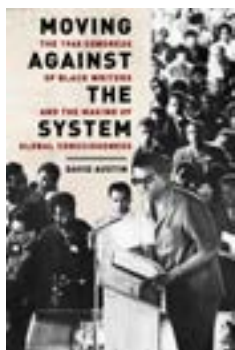
Like community radio and TV, community online news sites depend on members to help them meet their budget.

rabble.ca is a registered non-profit organization, and we rely on the generous donations from our supporting donors -- with both one-time donations and the all-important monthly memberships. We hold an annual monthly donor drive to recruit members.

Our membership support coordinator, Shirley Marquez, manages members' donations, which may come directly from their bank accounts, credit cards or via Paypal. Monthly supporters can also directly support our Parliamentary Reporter using the Patreon interface.

In 2018, our annual campaign launched in September and met its \$50,000 goal. Through fundraising campaigns launched by staff in the summer and fall, 2018 ended with more than 800 members contributing between \$5 and \$100 a month, with a total of over \$121,000 raised from individual donors, much of it raised by monthly donations.

Monthly supporters get a variety of perks, ranging from thank you gifts upon sign up, to special event invitations and a newsletter just for monthly supporters. In 2018, we partnered with Between the Lines and Lorimer Publishing to provide the following independent Canadian titles as gifts to our monthly donors:



We kick off each fundraising drive with an old school mail-out (we get a good return!)

Our mailing often depends on volunteers to help us stuff envelopes. There is always great conversation and good snacks. Thank you to our volunteers! And, in particular in 2018, thank you to our supporting partner OSSTF for sponsoring our mailing.



**If you haven't already, please consider signing up to be a monthly member of rabble. You can sign up to become a monthly supporter at <http://rabble.ca/donate>**

# FINANCIAL REFLECTIONS

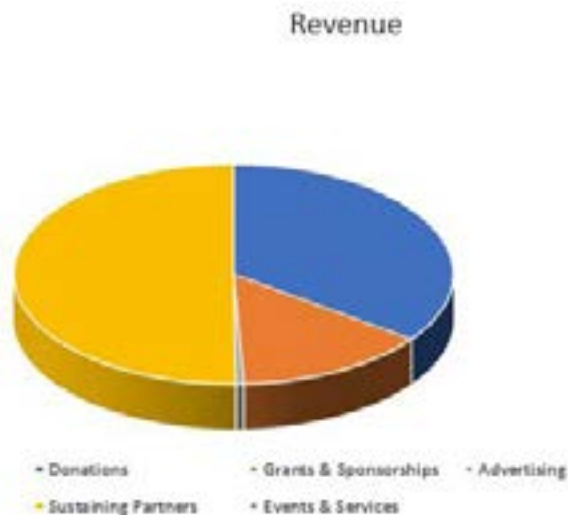
A special thank you to our Membership Coordinator, Shirley Marquez, as well the people at Star Company: Mani and Sara, for their help with bookkeeping and our annual audit.

The total operating budget for rabble.ca in 2018 was \$350,408 - with over \$121,000 raised from individual donations. And we were able to end the year with a small surplus.

Our fall fundraising campaign was very successful, meeting and surpassing fundraising goals through a membership drive, outreach to our existing donors and partners, and our outreach to expired donors. Thank you to our donors!

We continued to raise funds for the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship's second year, in partnership with the Institute for Change Leaders, and we were awarded a Canadian Periodical fund grant to build on our existing event services offerings in February.

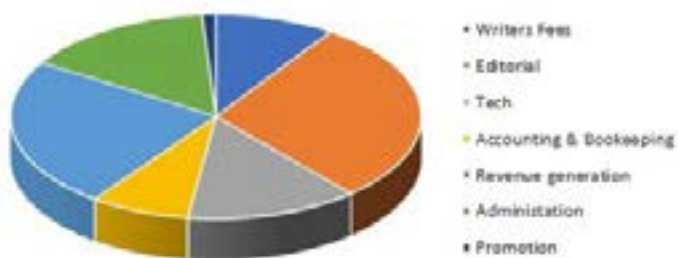
rabble has a solid reputation of being an efficient and lean operation, that punches far above its weight in terms of reach and in original content. rabble proved itself a sustainable organization, and saw the year end with a profit and plans for building the organization in new directions.



## In 2018,

- our donations accounted for 34.79%
- 14.11% grants and sponsorships
- 0.57% advertising
- 49.80% sustaining partners
- 0.01% events and services
- 0.72% miscellaneous

## Expenses



## In 2018,

- Our writers fees accounted for 9.43%,
- Editorial 29.19%,
- Tech 13.57%,
- Accounting and bookkeeping: 7.84%,
- Revenue generation 23.79%,
- Administration 15.11%
- Promotion 1.08%

Many media organizations receive labour support and civil society support, but at rabble we believe in being transparent about where our funds come from. Sustaining and Supporting Partners in 2018 included:

- Canadian Federation of Nurses
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
- Hospital Employees Union
- National Union of Public and General Employees
- Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
- Public Service Alliance of Canada
- UNIFOR
- United Steelworkers
- CUPE 416
- Unifor 79M
- Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada

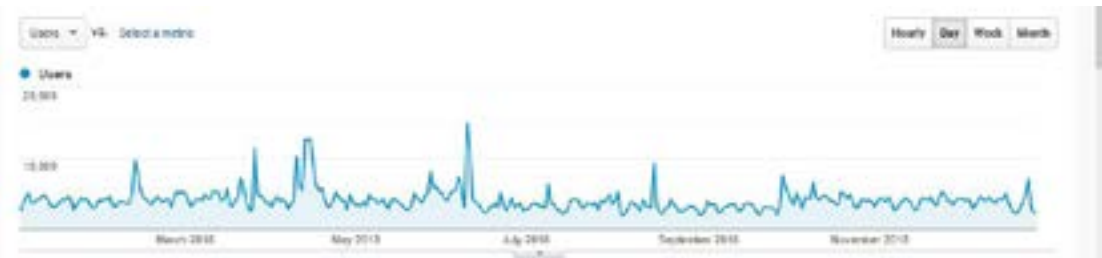
# STATISTICS

## MEASURING TRAFFIC

rabble continued to have significant traffic, with more than 1.3 million users/unique visitors visiting the site in 2018, reading more than 4 million pages. We saw a significant increase of visitors from mobile devices since the implementation of the new, more mobile-friendly site, with nearly half of our traffic derived from mobile and tablet devices, thus reversing the trend of past years where most traffic still came from desktops.

More than half of those coming to the rabble site do so by means of a Google search. Of the remaining half, links from social media surpassed direct links and referrals as the primary means of reaching the site.

A total of 87 per cent of our readers in 2018 came from Canada, and 14% from the United States. rabble also maintains a presence on Flipboard and Google News. Google Analytics provides statistics for Google News, which had 24,000 users in 2018, reading an average of seven screens per session. rabble readers on Google News tend to be more limited to readers in Canada.



# WORKSHOP TRAININGS – THE AMPLIFY! PROJECT

We are proud to have received a grant from the Canadian Periodical Fund in 2018, enabling us to streamline our event coverage services, culminating in what we now call the **Amplify! Project**.

Through the Amplify! Project, community members, groups and local businesses can invite our media-savvy crew of journalists and professional multimedia storytellers to record and amplify the messages of your events and conferences -- and support media democracy and independent media at the same time. As a non-profit organization, all revenues from rabble services are invested back into *rabble.ca*'s mission to bring progressive, grassroots voices to the forefront.

Through support of the Canadian Periodical Fund, we were able to offer two training workshops in Toronto and in Vancouver to recruit new possible consultants for the project, and compliment people's skills in the areas of videography, podcasting, webcast and live journalist coverage.

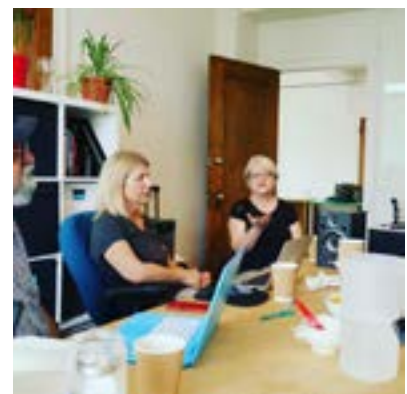
In addition, this funding helped us to produce marketing materials, participate in market research, promote our services through the community and effectively produce new rate cards and a project kit, to introduce the community to our offerings and bandwidth of event coverage experience already accumulated.

We expect this project to grow into 2019.

Our fully equipped team of videographers, podcasters, photographers, bloggers, writers and social media professionals can help you to promote your goals. We offer fee-for-services, including live and near-time video recording, podcasting, live-blogging, street-videos and social media storytelling, now available at competitive rates.

See more at [rabble.ca/amplify](http://rabble.ca/amplify), and see our amplify menu of services [here](#).

Allow us to help tell your story, while helping to invest your dollars in non-profit independent media! Email at [amplify@rabble.ca](mailto:amplify@rabble.ca) for more information or to obtain a quote.



Photos by Tania Ehret

# ADVERTISING

## ADVERTISING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**ADVERTISE@RABBLE.CA**

At rabble you can invest your marketing and promotion dollars into non-profit, independent journalism. Consider promoting your campaign, petition or business on rabble, and reach our dynamic, engaged and giving audience (see page 34). rabble sells advertising packages for ad buys on our site, as well as on our social media and e-newsletter. In addition, we have a special solidarity advertising rates for our In Cahoots editorial advertising (see next page for details)

*rabble.ca* sprang to life in 2001 as an independent news source with strong roots in various movements working for social justice and equality.

In 2018 rabble had an average of 110,000 unique visitors a month, with 1.3 million people reading rabble over the course of the year. People come to rabble for news on social movements and for alternative takes on federal and provincial politics. For example, more than 1 million people visited rabble over the course of the last federal election period alone (and we expect the same for the 2019 election). We have a strong presence on social media, with more than 41,000 followers on Twitter and 27,000 on Facebook and Instagram.

Over 70% of our traffic in 2018 came from Canada, with the largest readership in southern Ontario and the lower mainland of British Columbia, and with representation right through the country.

Some examples of ads we ran this year through partnerships, exchanges or ad-buys:



# IN CAHOOTS

## BOOSTING YOUR WORK THROUGH EDITORIAL ADVERTISING

**Are you a civil society organization seeking new ways to broadcast your news? Look no further than In Cahoots!**

In Cahoots is rabble's portal to the research and news releases of Canada's vibrant civil society and labour organizations. In Cahoots was conceived as an opportunity to amplify the messages of the community of organizations who share rabble.ca's progressive ideals and work to realize this progressive vision. We have dedicated a part of our website's homepage and social media infrastructure to sharing our partners' words and press releases. People who click on links in In Cahoots posts will link directly to a url of your choosing, allowing your communications team to maximize web traffic to your site.

Contact [publisher@rabble.ca](mailto:publisher@rabble.ca) for information about advertising opportunities

NEWS FOR THE REST OF US  
rabble.ca



# ANNOUNCE

Our popular news summary, the 'announce' newsletter is continually growing, with special help from the Lush Charity Pot Grant. Thanks to Lush, this grant enabled us to reconstruct our newsletter design, for both our daily and weekly newsletters, going out to our announce list, of 15,000 readers. This was done, with the leadership of our EST Assistant Editor, Sophia Reuss, and our editorial and promotions team, consisting of young women.

We continue to make changes to improve our newsletter and incorporate new methods of reader engagement and action.

To stay informed and up-to-date on our progressive news coverage and commentary, sign up to our e-news list at: [rabble.ca/alerts](http://rabble.ca/alerts)



TOP CONTENT THIS WEEK



[Winter Storms Details Severe Weather Alerts for the Northeast](#) — are for the area of high snowing forecasts and those for each state in winter volume reporting — of which Columbia's Water Department Act resulted to the corporation's from Mountain pipeline project. Meanwhile, water and land disputes are facing several companies on a scale and half free of up to \$3,000 each for drinking

Calls to abolish ICE grow as the violence of the U.S. immigration system intensifies daily [New York Times](#). Amy Goodman and Denis Monaghan [report on the burning schoolhouse family separations policy under Trump's border wall](#). [2,000 protesters have taken to the streets in New York, New Jersey, and across the East Coast](#). [New York Times](#). In other U.S. news, [Democrat Governor Gretchen Whitmer's claim that the American people have](#)

[rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca)



Ontario Premier Doug Ford's pro-democracy article has critics urge for a deeper fight with [Trans Canada](#)

With the Toronto municipal election just around the corner, Ford decided that it was time to double the number of council seats to 26, a move that would allow and give a boost to his party. Under his own government, he's effectively increasing the size of Toronto's city council from 27 to 29 members.

On a note this week, [Greta Thunberg](#) dominates the conversation about climate change, taking Ford's climate 'Plan' to the next level with her [powerful speech](#) at the UN climate summit in Glasgow.



# YEAR IN TECH

## RABBLE IS ALWAYS GROWING!

As our writers and readers took to the streets, our tech team worked hard 'behind the screens' to improve our site operations and navigation. This includes the recent addition of Consensus Enterprises for tech support.

As a grassroots organization working with a limited budget, more changes will continue into 2019 as well, and we are always appreciative of our members who help by supporting us to make this happen. If you're a fan of the work we do, please make a contribution today to make our site event better at: [rabble.ca/donate](http://rabble.ca/donate).

Among our priorities for the coming year are completing our move to a fully mobile-friendly site, updating our financial processing pages to make the experience even more easy and friendly, and updating our donor management system. If you or your organization would like to specifically support rabble's tech updates, please contact [publisher@rabble.ca](mailto:publisher@rabble.ca)

# MEET THE RABBLE AUDIENCE

- rabble readers are mostly between 25-64, from Ontario or B.C., highly educated, and with the majority earning between \$20,000 to \$60,000 per year.
- 60 per cent live with their spouse or partner.
- 49 per cent of our readers identify as male, 47 per cent identify as female, and 4 per cent identify as Non-binary/Two-spirited/ or Genderqueer.
- More than 60 per cent own their own home.
- 53 per cent reported some form of employment, while 35 per cent are retired.
- 55 per cent of our readers use an automobile as their primary form of transportation, while 25 per cent use public transit, 13 per cent walk and 8 per cent use a bicycle.
- rabble readers care, with 92 per cent donating to one or more community organizations every year, and 63 per cent donating to three or more!
- rabble readers are also highly involved in their communities, with 70 per cent participating in volunteer work each week, 44 per cent belonging to a grassroots organization, 37 per cent belonging to an NGO, 30 per cent belonging to a trade union, and 17 per cent belonging to a religious organization.
- rabble readers are both loyal and committed to rabble's various platforms, with 71 per cent reading rabble on a desktop or laptop computer, and 36 per cent of these readers also accessing our news through daily or weekly email lists, as well as on our social media platforms.
- 87 per cent of our readers consider themselves environmentally responsible, with 76 per cent buying local food or drink for use in their homes at least three times a month.

## WHO ARE RABBLE READERS? (THE BREAKDOWNS)

### Age

- Under 35:  
16%
- Between 35-64:  
46%
- 65 and up:  
38%

### Income

- \$20,000 or less:  
21%
- \$20,000-\$60,000:  
48%
- Over \$60,000:  
30%

### Community Activities:

- Participate in volunteer work each week: 70%
- Belong to a grassroots organization: 44%
- Belong to an NGO: 37%
- Belong to a union: 30%
- Belong to a religious organization: 17%

# STAFF & REGULARS AT RABBLE

## PEOPLE AT *RABBLE.CA*

*rabble.ca* operates with a dedicated crew of part-time and volunteer staff. Our work is supported by interns, volunteers and a volunteer board of directors.

You can see our list of staff on our website [here](#).

We are a virtual organization, with workers located around the country. In 2018, we had editorial staff in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Toronto – and, even as far away as New York and Abu Dhabi. We have columnists, bloggers, podcasters and video makers from coast to coast and beyond the Canadian borders.

*rabble.ca* is a proud member of the Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto, where we have access to work and meeting space and can connect with other progressive organizations and businesses. In Vancouver, we rent space with our friends in Vancouver's historic Dominion Building.

### Executive Members (as of Dec 2018)

- Matthew Adams (President)
- Bob Gallagher, USW (Vice President)
- Robert Lamoureux, CUPE (Secretary)
- Nicole Johnson (Treasurer)
- Phillip Dwight Morgan
- Duncan Cameron (President Emeritus)

### Past Executive Members:

- Amira Elghawaby
- Alexandra Samur

## Members Council (as of Dec 2018)

Alexandra Samur	HEU	Shannon Devine
Amira Elghawaby	Jerry Toews, HSAA	Sylvain Beaudry, CUPW
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	Kathleen Monk	Trina James, The Canadian Federation of Students
Domenic Bellissimo, OSSTF	Linda Silas, CFNU	Tria Donaldson
Elisabeth Ballermann, NUPGE	Natalie Clancy, UNIFOR	Trish Hennessy
Fred Wilson, Council of Canadians	Maya Bhullar, rabble staff	Wayne MacPhail
Federico Carvajal, ETFO	Riccardo Fillipone, PSAC	

## Staff

- Kim Elliott, Publisher
- Michelle Gregus, Managing Editor
- Cathryn Atkinson, Acting Editor in Chief (September Jan 2018 - August 2018)
- Brenda O'Farrell, Editor-in-Chief (October 2018 -onwards)
- Tania Ehret, Operations Coordinator (February 2018- onwards)
- Meg Borthwick, babble Moderator
- Maya Bhullar, Activist Toolkit & In Cahoots Coordinator
- Christina Turner, Weekend Editor & Books Lounge Coordinator
- Sophia Reuss, Evening Editor (EST)
- Victoria Fenner, RPN Executive Producer
- Brian Sharpe, Tech Director
- Shirley Marquez, Administration and Membership Coordinator
- Star Company, bookkeeping
- Karl Nerenberg, Parliamentary Reporter
- Phillip Dwight Morgan, Jack Layton Fellow (December 2018 - April 2018)
- Meagan Gillmore, Labour Beat Reporter (January 2018)
- Krystalline Kraus, Activist Communique
- Marianela Ramos Capelo, Graphic Design
- Michael Ensley, Facebook Group moderator
- Consensus, Tech support
- Iler Campbell, Legal

# PEOPLE TO THANK

**DUNCAN CAMERON** - A special thank you is in order to our President Emeritus who has been with us since the beginning, retiring from his presidential role in 2016, but ever present to provide his wisdom and advice as we continue to move the rabble project forward.

**JUDY REBICK** – Judy Rebick, our founding publisher, has been with rabble since her involvement in its very inception! We are so honoured to continue to have her input, support and guidance in myriad ways.

**JASE TANNER** – A large thank you to Jase Tanner, our videographer/livestreaming consultant in Vancouver. Jase worked tirelessly, along with staff member, Victoria Fenner, on our amplify workshops in Vancouver and Toronto, and on helping to streamline our service offerings through the project.

**OLIVIA CHOW AND THE INSTITUTE FOR CHANGE LEADERS** – A special thank you Olivia Chow and the Institute for Change leaders for once again helping us by continuing the second year of our partnership through the the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship.

## OUR GRATITUDE:

WhatCounts, Phillip Smith, the New Internationalist, Judy Rebick, Martha Plaine, Libby Davies, James Patterson, Lush - Charity Pot, Humberto Da Silva, Tor Sandberg, Lauren Scott, Jessica Rose, the Canadian Periodical Fund, Fair Vote Canada, James Lorimer Publishing, Jase Tanner, Kinnie Starr, Brent Patterson, Monia Mazigh, Pam Palmater, Margaret Atwood, Between the Lines Publishing, and to our friends at the Junction Media Collective in the Dominion Building in Vancouver and to the Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto.



# NEWS CONTRIBUTORS, COLUMNISTS, BLOGGERS

## BLOGGERS

Alex Sangha

Amy Kishek

Andrea Harden-Donahue

Angella MacEwen

Anne Ehret

Barâa Arar

Ben Powless

Bill Skidmore

Bonnie Burstow

Brent Patterson

Bruce Campbell

Cathy Crowe

Cheryl McNamara

Common Frontiers

Corey Balsam

David Bush

David Heap

David J.Climenhaga

David Suzuki

David Taub Bancroft

Dennis Gruending

Diana Ralph

Doreen Nicoll

Dorothy MacLeod

Ed Finn

Ehab Lotayef

Emma Lui

Evans Yellow Old Woman

Geneviève Nevin

Gerry Caplan

Gina Starblanket

Humberto DaSilva

J. Baglow

Jamie Kneen

Jeff Shantz

Jesse McLaren

Jim Hodgson

John Cartwright

John Foster

John Gordon Miller

John Miller

Jon Alexander

Joyce Green

Judy Haiven

Judy Rebick

Karen Hamilton

Kim Elliott

Krista Johnston

Krystalline Kraus

Larry Haiven

Laurence Chiasson

Lia Tarachansky

Linda Leon

Liz Kessler

Lizanne Foster

Lynne Fernandez

Marie Aspiazu

Marina Puzyreva

Mark Calzavara

Martha Friendly

Maya Bhullar	Rachel Warden	Suzanne Berliner Weiss
Mel Watkins	Raluca Bejan	Tarek Loubani
Mercedes Allen	Raul Burbano	Thomas Woodley
Michael Laxer	Regan Boychuk	Trevor Purvis
Monia Mazigh	Reuben Roth	Victoria Henry
Morna Ballantyne	Richard Sharpe	Wendy Goldsmith
Nick Falvo	Richard Thompson	Will Dubitsky
Nima Maleki	Rick Sterling	Wolfe Erlichman
Pam Palmater	SandraLaya Ruch	Yogi Acharya
Pamela Palmater	Seth Klein	Yves Engler
Peggy Nash	Sid Shniad	
Penney Kome	Sophia Reuss	
Rabbi David Mivasair	Sujata Dey	
Rachel Small	Susan Prentice	

## **COLUMNISTS**

Brian Iler	Joyce Arthur	Rick Salutin
Amy Goodman	June Chua	Safia J. Lakhani
Azeezah Kanji	Linda McQuaig	Shelina Ali
Brent Patterson	Lois Ross	Victoria Henry
Brynn Leger	Marianela Ramos Capelo	Wayne MacPhail
Celia Chandler	Marie Aspiazu	
Claudia Pedrero	Matthew Behrens	
Denis Moynihan	Michael Hackl	
Duncan Cameron	Monia Mazigh	
Edward Hyland	Naomi Klein	
Jim Stanford	Ole Hendrickson	

# NEWS CONTRIBUTORS

Alex Tesar	Jasheil Athalia	Peter Hogarth
Alexandra Valahu	Jerry Dias	Phillip Dwight Morgan
Amira Elghawaby	Jessica Parish	Renée Pellerin
Ann Wright	Jonathan Cook	Rita Wong
Annie Game	José Luis Granados Ceja	Robert Jago
Antonia Zerbisias	Karl Nerenberg	Roberta Lexier
Barâa Arar	Kate McInturff	Rosemary Frei
Brian Arden	Kim Elliott	Rusa Jeremic
Bruce Campbell	Libby Davies	Ryan Donnelly
Caitlin O’Flanagan	Lindsay Wong	Sara Sagaii
Canisia Lubrin	Mark Zeitoun	Sarah Mann
Cathryn Atkinson	Mary Rowles	Sharmeen Khan
Cheryl Whiting	Matt Fodor	Sina Queyras
Christina Turner	Meagan Gillmore	Sophia Reuss
Clarissa Fortin	Meg Borthwick	Stuart Neatby
Cory Collins	Megan Devlin	Svea Vikander
Dana Ewachow	Michael Laxer	Tania Ehret
Fouad Oveysy	Michael Stewart	Tavleen Purewal
Ghassan Abu Sitta	Michelle Guo	Tyler Pennock
Gordon Laxer	Nino Pagliccia	Tyson Kelsall
Hadani Ditmars	Nisha Toomey	Will Dubitsky
Howard Pasternack	Nyusha Samiei	Yogi Acharya
Humberto DaSilva	Peter Biesterfeld	



# KEEP RABBLE GROWING

## How can you keep *rabble.ca* going and growing?

- Become an individual rabble member for \$5/month by visiting [www.rabble.ca/membership](http://www.rabble.ca/membership). rabble depends on memberships to survive and thrive. We offer great thank you gifts for all members. Of course, we also accept donations. See [rabble.ca/donate](http://rabble.ca/donate)

## Sign up for our FREE news summary: [www.rabble.ca/alerts](http://www.rabble.ca/alerts)

- Have your organization join in cahoots -- our sponsored portal of news from civil society groups in Canada. See: <http://www.rabble.ca/incahoots> Contact [business@rabble.ca](mailto:business@rabble.ca)
- Have a conference or event you want to broadcast to the world? Book our event coverage services at [amplify@rabble.ca](mailto:amplify@rabble.ca)
- Have your organization become a Sustaining Partner. Sustaining Partners provide financial support to rabble and receive a fantastic advertising package and promotion from rabble. Contact [business@rabble.ca](mailto:business@rabble.ca)
- Advertise on *rabble.ca*. rabble is Canada's largest independent online news site. Contact [advertise@rabble.ca](mailto:advertise@rabble.ca)
- Tell us your news! If you have a story to tell, let us know! Contact [editor@rabble.ca](mailto:editor@rabble.ca) .

# r

“It is no exaggeration to say that the hopes of a decent world rest substantially on the success of the kind of work that *rabble.ca* has been carrying out with such distinction.”

-- **Noam Chomsky**

“I rely on *rabble.ca* to bring me the real debates that are shaping our country.”

-- **Naomi Klein**

“*rabble.ca* is a crucial resource for achieving media democracy in Canada, in this era of increasing corporate media concentration.”

-- **Maude Barlow**

“The world needs to hear a lot less from the mainstream media and a lot more from *rabble.ca*”

-- **Linda McQuaig**

“Our cherished, venerable, fierce and principled source of truly independent media in Canada.”

-- **Avi Lewis**

“*rabble* is essential, as in this climate, independent media is needed more than ever to provide an alternative to the dominant narratives, and bring authentic conversations and perspective to communities across Canada.”

-- **Kinnie Starr**

