



saskatchewan
green
party

A Publication of the Saskatchewan Green Party

“We are the sun.
We are the wind.
We are the new day
About to begin.”

DG

“Optimism is a strategy for making a better future.
Because unless you believe that the future
can be better,
you are unlikely to step up
and take responsibility for making it so.”

Noam Chomsky

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

1. Introduction	2
2. A Message from Our Leader	2
3. Some Thoughts on Left and Right	3-4
4. Saskatchewan Parents Deserve Better	5
5. Editorial: Help Our Heroes Help Us	5-6
6. Public Health Calling for a Green, Healthy and Just Recovery (Media Release)	6-7
7. Takeover (A Poem)	7
8. Stop the Freeway – Save the Swale!	8-9
9. Germany Gets Both: No Nuclear, Less CO2	9-11
10. The Green Movement Then and Now (Part Two)	11-15
11. We Still Need the Marxist (A Poem)	15
12. A New Story for Humanity (A Film Review)	16
13. A Glimpse of a Darker Future (A Book Review)	16-17
14. Fall Calendar of Days of Reflection and Commemoration	17-19

INTRODUCTION

by *Dave Greenfield*

Welcome to the Fall Equinox 2020 issue of the Weaver. This issue offers an informative range of articles and related works furthering the building of a green and progressive political culture in Saskatchewan.

Naomi's Message from Our Leader dares to inspire us all to get out there and build our provincial party. Naomi's second piece reflects on the Moe government's response to COVID-19 in the context of the Saskatchewan education system. My editorial "Some Thoughts on Left and Right" puts forward one possible way of thinking about ourselves in relation to the political spectrum. Jan Norris's piece "Stop the Freeway; Save the Swale", draws attention to a critical ecological issue currently unfolding in the Saskatoon area. The article "Germany Gets Both: No Nuclear and Reduced CO2" demonstrates a concrete example of how one major industrial country is phasing out both nuclear power and coal, thanks in no small part to the positive political influence that the German Greens have been able to yield with a well thought out use of the German electoral system.

Dave Walther's salute to Saskatchewan healthcare workers and call to support the workers reminds us of the ones who are taking some of the greatest risks in this time of pandemic. The joint media release from several public and community health organizations that we have included lets us know that it is quite possible to create a healthy, ecological and socially just recovery out of the current COVID-19 situation.

My article, "The Green Movement Then and Now, Part Two" continues to tell the story of our party's history, while my two poems, a film review by Gayvin Franson and a book review by Tristen Wintering round out this issue of the Weaver, hopefully leaving people with a sense of hope and optimism.

Welcome again; I hope you enjoy this issue.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER

Hello Green Friends,

2020 has seen incredible growth and rejuvenation within our party. We have a slate of great candidates heading into the fall election. As believers in grassroots democracy, we know that our candidates don't make gains on their own, it's a result of all of us working together. I've made some suggestions here of things everyone can do to help. The number one request I have is promotion. Both the Saskatchewan Green Party and myself as leader are on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We need to use these free media to help get the word out during this election period. Please reach out if you have other, specific skills or help you would like to offer.

How you can help with our 2020 Campaign

- ✓ Get a sign for your lawn. Let's make sure everywhere people go, they can see the Green Wave rising!
- ✓ Promote the candidates! Their bios and photos will be on our website: www.saskgreen.ca
- ✓ If you are able to donate to our campaign, please do. A good tax incentive is available: 75%. If you donate \$100, you can claim \$75 back on the income tax you owe, in which case it really only costs you \$25.
- ✓ Go flier dropping or door knocking for a day. The person you convince might be that one extra vote we need to make it to the Legislature.
- ✓ Help us get noticed on Facebook. Hit the "like", or ♥ button on Saskatchewan Green Party posts and share our Facebook page. It increases our reach.
- ✓ Keep commenting on our posts from this page. That also helps keep them getting noticed!
- ✓ If you haven't already, please "like" and "follow" my Naomi Hunter (Politician) page as well.
- ✓ Make food for canvassers. Feed the crew for a day!
- ✓ Host a coffee event in your home for people to meet their candidate. We would love to meet you and your neighbours and answer questions!

Thank you so much for all your love and support so far! It's noticed and appreciated.

Yours,

Naomi Hunter

Leader, Saskatchewan Green Party

[1-306-561-8880](tel:1-306-561-8880)

naomihunter@saskgreen.ca

info@saskgreen.ca

SOME THOUGHTS ON LEFT AND RIGHT

by Dave Greenfield

One slogan that unfortunately found its way into the language of Green Politics many years ago, is the slogan "We are neither left nor right, but forward".

As one friend of mine said a few years ago, it's a dangerous slogan to have. It is dangerous because it can be interpreted in different ways and interpreted so as to serve some very questionable agendas. The Liberal leader, Paul Martin Jr, for example, with his generally pro-corporate agenda, used those very words to describe the Liberal Party when making his acceptance speech, accepting the Liberal leadership in 2003. Clearly Paul Martin who was Liberal finance minister for much of the 1990's and early 2000's, implementing the Liberals' neo-liberal economic agenda, had a political perspective that fell short of being what the Green Party wants to be.

Another complication is that the terms, left and right, mean different things to different people. I will describe what I think is a reasonable way of defining left and right, and then return to the question of where I think the Greens should be located on the political spectrum.

I would divide the left-right spectrum into five sections: far right, centre-right, centre, centre-left and far left.

The far right signifies those forms of oppression and dominance which predate the modern industrial capitalist era. This would include racism, patriarchy, misogyny, militarism, religious fundamentalism, homophobia, militaristic nationalism, imperialism, xenophobia, ableism, and extreme state violence. While all of these forms of oppression are still very much with us, their roots go back hundreds or thousands of years into the distant pre-industrial past. Movements today that lean toward the above tendencies are correctly thought of as being on the far right.

The centre-right signifies the main stream industrial capitalist society in which we live. It is a society in which the political agenda is largely centred around the interests of large transnational corporations who cut down people like they cut down trees. The

corporate agenda has no interest in preserving or enhancing the well-being of either human communities or eco-communities. The goal of the centre-right is securing and retaining the ability of large corporations to make profits and keep control. This contemporary capitalist system has its roots in some of the older forms of oppression, particularly patriarchy and racism, and the centre-right will use such older forms of dominance to deepen corporate power, but the centre-right is fundamentally about capitalist class power.

The centre attempts to soften the impact of the centre-right ever so slightly with some of the principles associated with liberal democracy. Such ideas as universal working-class suffrage, having charters of rights and human rights codes setting forth such principles as equality, basic freedoms and accountability are, in theory, supposed to counter-balance the inequalities in society. It is very rare, however, that such paper-based softener really challenges corporate power. More often than not, it provides a smoke screen around capitalism, creating the illusion of democracy or fairness.

The centre-left goes a step or two further in attempting to counterbalance the power of the corporate elite. The centre-left challenges the corporate agenda through economic measures including introducing old age pensions, social assistance programs, universal healthcare and so forth. The centre-left also attempts to capture some of the economic pie for the public sphere by creating crown corporations to make profits which can be used for the common good rather than going to rich private shareholders. Some sections of the centre-left also encourage the development of worker and consumer co-operatives, credit unions and other community-based economic entities. The activist section of the centre-left focuses on organizing unions and other advocacy organizations designed to strengthen the power of workers and various other marginalized social groups to bring about progressive social change from below.

All of these policies and entities associated with the centre-left have in common the goal of expanding the public or common space and limiting the all-pervasive nature of corporate dominance. In the end, however, the centre-left leaves society with the

corporate elite intact. A combination of social programs, public ownership, co-operative ownership and unions might make life more livable, but the corporations remain in place and able to finance right-wing parties and movements designed to take society backward. Partially because of this, parties of the centre-left, particularly in recent decades, have had a tendency to slide to the right and fail to provide the counterbalance to corporate power that they were supposed to provide.

The far left envisions a world beyond capitalism. It usually respects those who are sincerely working for social change within the system, but challenges them to go the full distance and fight for the overthrow of capitalism and replacing capitalism with a fully classless society. The far left includes both the centralist state socialism promoted by such leaders as Lenin and Mao and the decentralist vision promoted by such anarchist socialist thinkers as Kropotkin and Malatesta. For the most part, the far-left challenges the rest of the spectrum by holding up a vision of an alternative society where capitalism has been destroyed and fully replaced. The alternative visions usually consist of a society comprised entirely of worker collectives in which the deep injustices of class, racial, gender and other historical inequalities have been overcome in a genuinely egalitarian society.

If we accept this definition of the varying shades of left and right, it becomes obvious that the slogan “We are neither left nor right” is an absurdity. It is rather like saying “We are neither in favour of oppression nor in favour of liberation”. Left and right are not simply abstract ideas. Where one stands on the left-right spectrum signifies what one's relationship is to the dominant systems of oppression.

Looked at from this perspective, I would argue that the green movement is definitively wanting to move society to the left, though we do have a certain spectrum among greens ranging from centrist to centre-left to far left.

Centrist greens tend to feel we can bring about the needed social changes through centrist legislation, public education and so forth. Centre-left greens know that meaningful change will take more of a

fight against corporate power and the repressive power of the corporate-dominated state. They want more solid legislative action and sometimes direct nonviolent action to confront the corporations directly. In the end, however, they accept the existence of capitalism and simply want a reformed capitalism where the corporations can be made to act in a more just and ecologically sound way. Far left greens go further and feel that a just and ecological society can only come about if we get rid of capitalism first. Far left greens would tend to agree with what one eco-socialist is fond of saying, “A green capitalism is about as likely as a vegetarian tiger”. Far left greens play the role of challenging the centre and centre-left greens to move to a more radical criticism of capitalism and a more radical vision of social change.

In the end, because of the Greens' commitment to nonviolence, our political centre of gravity tends to be in the realm of a strongly activist centre-left, though a centre-left that is distinct from traditional social democracy, because we recognize the profoundly fragile and finite nature of the earth. If we are to have social justice, it must be based on an economy that has been scaled back to fit within the physical limits of our planet.

An ecological future will require a deeply community-based society and economy which can no longer be centred around the needs of profit-driven, growth-driven and shareholder-driven transnational corporations. The economy will have to consist entirely of a combination of worker-owned co-operatives, consumer co-operatives and small businesses that can serve the communities and eco-systems in which they dwell, rather than forcing society and the ecosphere to serve them. Whether you call this a type of reformed capitalism, democratic socialism, cooperativism, eco-communalism or some other name, a green economy will have to look very different from what we currently have.

We are by definition a type of left, a nonviolent, ecological, evolutionary left. Let us hope the earth has time to allow a new green society to evolve.

SASKATCHEWAN PARENTS DESERVE BETTER

by Naomi Hunter

Saskatchewan parents deserve an Education Minister who bases all decisions on what is in the best interests of our children.

Education Minister Gord Wyant and Premier Scott Moe released an updated Return to School Plan that had no noticeable differences to the Education Plan that was released three months ago. Province-wide demonstrations followed this announcement. I attended the Friday demonstration at Gord Wyant's office.

I and numerous other politicians spoke at the rally; we were united in our concern for students, teachers and parents.

Since then, the Sask Party continues having press conferences to announce—the same nothing. As of today, we are at “maybe masks”, “sometimes”, “if stuff happens”. Mr. Wyant said that school divisions *may* make the decision about masks. He said “may” a lot. Everything is being downloaded onto the school divisions; there is no real provincial leadership at all. In a time of crisis, we need caring leadership that listens to science. The province is not seeing that.

I think we should follow the example of British Columbia. They have put a pause on reopening schools. Saskatchewan has recently seen a massive increase in cases of COVID-19 in the province. We need to put the children first and take a pause here; we simply are not ready. I want to see some honesty from the current government; admit that they aren't ready and don't risk our children with their inadequate plan.

The week before Saskatchewan went into full quarantine, there were large demonstrations in support of teachers. They were already facing a situation where classrooms were overcrowded and they needed more supports. Those concerns have not been addressed and the further stress of a global pandemic has been added to the concerns under which teachers are expected to go back to a new school year.

Make your concerns heard. This is the contact for all the MLA's in the province (until after the October election): <https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/mlas/mla-contact-information/>. Please write and phone your MLA today and express your concern about the Back to school Plan. Currently, all other provinces have released stronger back to school guidelines. The Saskatchewan Party could have looked at other provincial plans and done better. They had the answers in front of them.

Finally, in October, let's ensure our friends and neighbours vote in a government that legislates with kindness and caring towards all members of society.

EDITORIAL: HELP OUR HEROES HELP US

by Dave Walther

Election time is upon us once again, and, with it, we have an opportunity worth considering, the opportunity to support our troubled provincial healthcare system, along with its overworked, underpaid, stressed-out workers.

SEIU-West represents a great number of health care facility staff, from practical nurses to continuing care aides to maintenance, including lab techs and dietitians. They find themselves understaffed, poorly equipped, unduly COVID-endangered and without a contract since March 31, 2017!

As burned-out health workers leave, it gets harder and harder to replace them under present conditions. Pleading budget restraints, the current government is not inclined to help them out. I wonder if they figure that healthcare workers can be guilted and shamed into submission for any job action they might perform, as a last resort, in a pandemic crisis. Never mind that so many healthcare workers put their lives on the line for us day after day! SEIU workers have been 'bending the curve' of the infection rate so we can get through the pandemic time with as little loss of life as possible, and as soon as possible. Our government says 'Gee thanks!' even as their cash-starved health managers cut staff left and right, and their sheepish backbenchers vote to lavish money on their doubtful grandiose projects.

In the province that pioneered Medicare, the quality of care is declining fast. Negative reports are multiplying: patients left in bed for unhealthy amounts of time, bathing skipped repeatedly for want of a second pair of hands, exercise and testing delayed; on and on they go in every category. Our ability to care for our people is suffering a death of a thousand cuts, with our healthcare workers bleeding first.

What to do? Let's show up to SEIU-West information picket lines. And show our MLAs and MLA candidates on the campaign trail that standing up for public health care and healthcare workers means votes. Let's email and phone the candidates. Let's dog them with signs and attend their gatherings with questions, on line or not. Let's defend our public health system by speaking up and demanding action. And let's elect MLA's who care.

PUBLIC HEALTH CALLING FOR A GREEN, HEALTHY AND JUST RECOVERY

Below is the text of a media release that four public health organizations collaborated on. The Canadian Public Health Association, the Ontario Public Health Association, Creating Healthy and Sustainable Environments (CHASE) and the Alliance for Healthier Communities came together to present their vision of a green, healthy and just recovery from the current situation created by COVID-19.

All of these organizations are non-partisan, but we present this media release here, along with the link to their submission to the Federal Finance Committee, because we feel their recommendations are definitely heading in the right direction.

Media Release

Toronto/Ottawa: August 6, 2020

Organizations representing public health professionals across the country and community health centres across Ontario made a submission to the Federal Finance Committee today with recommendations for a COVID-19 economic recovery that would achieve deep climate emission reductions across the country, while creating new jobs, improving health, and reducing health inequities.

As disruptive as the pandemic has been to the health and well-being of Canadians, it pales in comparison to the disruption that will occur if we allow global warming to continue unabated.

“The COVID-19 recovery offers us an opportunity - perhaps the final opportunity - to mitigate climate change that is rapidly approaching one or more tipping points that could dramatically change life on this planet” offered Kim Perrotta, Executive Director of Creating Healthy and Sustainable Environments (CHASE). “We have 10 years to dramatically decrease climate emissions if we are to avoid global warming that would harm hundreds of millions of people each year. These are impacts that would happen in our children's life-time.”

Over the last several months, we have all become aware that the loss of biodiversity in our ecosystems is a major risk factor for emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

“While many of our colleagues are still focused on the immediate threat posed by COVID-19, they recognize climate change as an existential threat to life on the planet” offered Ian Culbert, Executive Director of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA). “They want us to speak on their behalf on climate change and on the rapid loss of biodiversity around the world. These are global health issues that affect us all.”

When it comes to health inequities, the parallels between COVID-19 and climate change are not surprising.

“COVID-19 has demonstrated how factors such as income, crowded housing, poor working conditions, limited transportation options, race and gender can have a profound impact on the health of people in our communities” said Kate Mulligan, Policy Director at the Alliance for Healthier Communities. “Many of the factors responsible for higher rates of COVID-19 also make people more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. We have to address the underlying factors that put people at risk as well”.

A COVID-19 economic recovery plan that prioritizes climate action can produce health benefits and social justice benefits if properly planned.

“There are solutions to climate change and many of those solutions can create immediate health benefits for Canadians by decreasing air pollution or increasing physical activity, to name just a few” offered Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA).

“Investments in public transit, active mobility, electric vehicles, renewable energy and building retrofits can produce immediate health benefits and reduce health inequities while also fighting climate change”.

Public health and community health leaders have vowed to continue efforts to call on all orders of government to invest in an economic recovery that protects human health, improves social justice, and accelerates strong climate action.

- Kim Perrotta – Creating Healthy and Sustainable Environments (CHASE),
- Ian Culbert – Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA),
- Kate Mulligan – Alliance for Healthier Communities,
- Pegeen Walsh – Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA).

The Public Health Submission can be seen here:
<https://healthyandsustainable.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/public-health-submission-finance-website-aug-6-2020.pdf>

TAKEOVER

by Dave Greenfield

If the humans disappeared suddenly
From the cities,
Leaving the tall buildings
And sprawling houses empty,
Leaving the cars parked on the roadways
Or in the centre of the street,
An eerie silence would descend
On the cities,
Broken only by the barking of dogs
And the calling of birds.

Then before too long
The bears would move in.
They would take our place,
Behind the steering wheels of cars
And in the desks of classrooms
And offices,
And at the cash registers
Of stores and coffee shops.

Bear cubs would play
On our creative playgrounds.
They would teach themselves
Games something like soccer or football
With our soccer balls.

It is doubtful
Whether they would be able to learn
How to start our cars,
Or whether they would be able to read,
The writing in our textbooks,
Or for that matter
To access the internet.

They would have to develop a language,
Putting words to their growls and grunts.
They would fill our niche however,
Between the dogs, cats and birds.
They would walk proudly down our streets,
Live in our houses,
Eat from our refrigerators,
And make love in our bedrooms.

Then one day it would be revealed
That they weren't really bears at all,
But actors pretending to be bears,
Or young angels
Learning what it was like
To be earth-dwellers,
In preparation for the day
When they might begin
Their spiritual service
To the evolving cosmos.

STOP THE FREEWAY – SAVE THE SWALE! STOP THE FREEWAY – MOVE THE RAIL! (AND BUILD MORE RAIL!)

by Jan Norris

The Saskatoon Freeway was first proposed in 1999 as a high-speed four-lane highway that would encircle the city, easing congestion by allowing trucks to avoid city streets.

The idea languished for years but refused to die, and now our Ministry of Highways wants to make it real. So, it committed over \$4 million to define the route, which will be 55 kilometres long, curve 3/4 of the way around the city, require another new bridge across the South Saskatchewan River, and slice through an irreplaceable native prairie ecosystem.

No environmental impact assessment was done nor any animal or plant population studies before the Ministry announced the highway's route had been finalized and it would go right through both the Northeast Swale and its neighbouring Small Swale.

The ancestor of our current river, the Northeast Swale is an ancient riverbed that still contains a number of wetlands. Partly because of these, and partly because of its slopes and rocks, much of the swale escaped cultivation. This makes it a rarity in Saskatchewan, where, as the "breadbasket of the world", almost every hectare has been ploughed. It also makes it a haven for biodiversity, and a number of vulnerable species depend on it for survival.

There is the Sprague's Pipit; a bird that needs intact native grassland for breeding, whose numbers are in decline with no sign of recovery. There is the Loggerhead Shrike; its population down by 80% in the past 35 years. Sharp-tailed grouse have a lek in the swale, a place to which they miraculously return each year to perform their spectacular mating dance.

The Northern Leopard Frog is on Saskatchewan's Interim Species at Risk list. Sadly, this will not protect its habitat from elimination by the highway. Nor will it protect that of the Western Tiger Salamander, another once common amphibian whose population is crashing.

The swale also contains endangered native plants, like the crowfoot violet and plains rough fescue. Vast rough fescue grasslands helped create Saskatchewan's rich black soil, storing vast amounts of carbon and providing habitat for native species. These have almost completely disappeared.

Besides endangered animals and plants the Northeast Swale is home to deer, coyotes, moose, jackrabbits, weasels, ground squirrels; over 200 species of birds, at least 100 species of animals and uncounted species of insects.

The swale is a beautiful ecosystem teeming with life in a world where such places are fast disappearing, even as we learn how vital they are to our own life support systems – and our mental health (especially during COVID-19). Its cultural importance to the Indigenous people has yet to be explored – maybe local elders can inform us. If there is an environmental impact assessment of the highway (don't count on it) some Indigenous archeological research will probably be done. Certainly, the swale would have been a relatively easy route for travel, a sheltered area for encampment and an abundant hunting ground.

Fortunately, construction isn't supposed to begin for years, so we have time to raise awareness and suggest alternatives.

We can start by informing and inspiring our friends, neighbours and Green colleagues. You will probably find, as I have, most haven't heard anything about either the swale or the freeway and are not pleased when they do.

And then we can ask our MLAs to find out (if they can) the answers to the unanswered questions surrounding the project:

Firstly, why do we need another highway? On its website (<https://saskatoonfreeway.org/>) the government says it is because Saskatoon's population will grow to 750,000 (from its current 270,000) and the new highway will ease congestion, (in spite of studies that show building more roads almost never eases congestion). But if the government really wants to ease congestion in Saskatoon, we all know where they should start: by getting those interminable freight trains off our

streets. Far more than a few trucks on Circle Drive, these long trains cause serious backups that can even be life threatening for those in ambulances or in labour.

If our population is going to balloon, investing in mass transit would surely be wiser than continuing to expand our car-centric transportation system (easily the most expensive, polluting and dangerous method of moving people around a city). How about cargo trains powered by renewable energy? That's a dream that would take a Tommy Douglas or a Petra Kelly to realize.

Secondly, who is asking for this highway? It's a mystery. The Ministry of Highways seems to be the main driver, generously enabling this gift from the taxpayers to the trucking industry and a number of businesses that would benefit.

Thirdly, how much will it cost? The initial ballpark estimate was \$2 billion, but that was back in 2014, and before a carbon tax. Now no one's hazarding a guess.

Fourthly, why was the southwest quarter of the circle eliminated? In the original plan, it linked Highway 11 from the south (from Regina and the TransCanada) and Highway 7 to the west (to Calgary) much more effectively, and could conceivably replace the route through the swales. (See this map: <https://saskatoonfreeway.org/about-the-study/>)

If we really must have it (for electric cars and trucks?), why not put the freeway north of the swale, building a new bridge at Clark's Crossing instead? If Saskatoon is truly going to house three quarters of a million people, a road around it will have to be that far north; the current plan would result in an uncrossable four-lane highway dividing the city in two.

Finally, there is the broader issue around public engagement in government decisions.

Canadian governments at all levels seem to be well schooled in holding completely ineffective public engagement sessions – I attended several regarding the Saskatoon Freeway attended by a few hundred people, and there will be more online sessions. The Ministry has fulfilled its duty in engaging

“stakeholders”. Nonetheless, most Saskatonians have no idea their taxes will be used to construct a new highway and another bridge (just one kilometre north of the one we just built) and they certainly don't know they'll be helping to destroy the swales.

Neither do they know about the swales' impact on their, and their children's, lives: how, for example, wetlands can preserve water during a drought, hold and help drain it during a flood, (which are both bound to increase with climate change, as Greens know) or how wetlands can filter contaminants. And we are just starting to appreciate the benefits such places bestow on our physical and emotional health, a difficult thing to quantify but crucially important, especially given our alarming suicide rates.

The swales and their irreplaceable inhabitants need our help, and we need them just as much. And hey! We are about to embark on a provincial election campaign. What better time to raise awareness?

I encourage every Green Party candidate – and every member – to raise the issue of the Saskatoon Freeway whenever possible.

For more information on the freeway and the swale, check out the Endangered Grasslands Alliance: (<https://endangeredgrasslandsalliance.ca/>) and the Northeast Swale Watchers (<https://www.swalewatchers.org/>)

To express your views to Greg Ottenbreit, the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, email: hi.minister@gov.sk.ca or phone: [306-787-6447](tel:306-787-6447), and maybe CC: Premier Scott Moe e-mail: premier@gov.sk.ca or call: [306-787-9433](tel:306-787-9433)

GERMANY GETS BOTH: NO NUCLEAR, LESS CO2

*by M. V. Ramana and Solène Delumeau,
Energy Intelligence, July 2020*

This May, a 1,100-megawatt coal-fired power plant was commissioned in Germany. On Twitter, in the thread started by Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who inspired the climate strike, many

responded by connecting this decision to the German government's decision to phase out nuclear power. This connection has become all too common since 2011, when German Chancellor Angela Merkel reiterated commitment to the phaseout, which was originally signed into law in 2002. The oft-repeated message is that the decision to shut down nuclear power resulted in Germany increasing its use of coal and thus increasing carbon emissions. This is misleading. Germany's progress in bringing down emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from its electricity sector by increasing uptake of renewable energy -- while simultaneously lowering both coal and nuclear energy generation -- has been quite remarkable and shows that a nuclear phaseout and climate mitigation are compatible.

The data underlying this assertion are out there for anyone who wants to look, for example with the International Energy Agency (IEA). The IEA's analysis (<https://www.iea.org/articles/global-co2-emissions-in-2019>) of global CO₂ emissions in 2019 was forceful in its account of Germany's evolution: The country, it said, "*spearheaded the decline in emissions in the European Union... Its [Germany's] emissions fell by 8% to 620 Mt [megatons] of CO₂, a level not seen since the 1950s, when the German economy was around 10 times smaller."

The emission level of 620 megatons in 2019 is down from 940 megatons in 1990, 818 megatons in 2002 when the country legislated the nuclear phaseout, and 731 megatons in 2011. There was a slight increase, when it went up to 764 megatons in 2013, which was roughly the value in 2010, but then it declined again in 2014 to 723 megatons, below the 2011 value.

The brief uptick in emissions in 2013 was, of course, related to the use of coal in the electricity sector. Here, too, this metric has had its ups and downs, but it has been mostly down. Again, going back to 1990, Germany generated 322 terawatt hours of electricity from coal, which came down slightly to 307 TWh by 2002, and further down to 272 TWh in 2011. Between 2011 and 2013, electricity generation from

coal went up by about 10%, to 299 TWh. Since then coal-fired generation has been declining consistently, to 241 TWh in 2018. In 2019, there was, as the IEA records, "a drop in output of more than 25% year on year as electricity demand declined and generation from renewables, especially wind (+11%), increased. With a share of over 40%, renewables for the very first time generated more electricity in 2019 than Germany's coal-fired power stations."

The story of coal use is complicated by the fact that between 2011 and 2019, Germany brought online about 9.7 gigawatts of new coal-fired power plant capacity but about 3.8 GW were retired. A further 21 coal power stations that were planned ended up being cancelled (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kXtAw6QvhE14_KRn5lnGoVPsHN3fDZHVMlvz_s_ch1w/edit#gid=191821593).

The new plants are the precursors to Datteln 4. And like Datteln 4, whose foundation stone was laid in November 2007, these plants that came on line between 2011 and 2019 dated back to before the 2011 Fukushima accident.

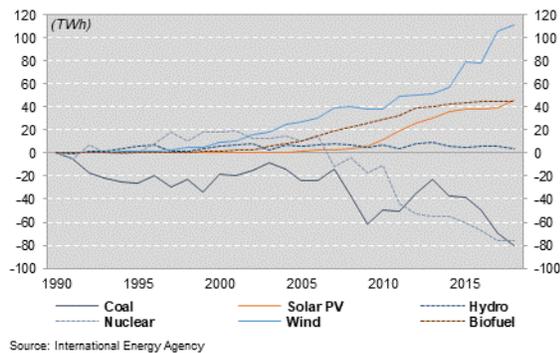
During this period, nuclear power has declined significantly. That source accounted for 165 TWh or 31% of Germany's electricity generation back in 2002, according to the Fraunhofer Institute, but only 76 TWh in 2018. In the first half of 2020, the share of nuclear power in overall electricity generation was down to 12%. As the phaseout goes to completion in 2022, it will come down to zero.

Behind the declines in nuclear power, coal power, and CO₂ emissions is the tremendous growth in Germany's wind, solar and biomass power capacity. That growth, in turn, can be traced to when the nuclear phaseout law came into effect. Data from the IEA show that between 2002 and 2018, the amount of electricity generated by wind, solar and biomass has grown by more than an order of magnitude, from 19 TWh to 203 TWh. During the decade before the phase-out law, the contribution of wind, solar power and biomass to Germany's total electricity generation increased by only 2%.

The following decade (2001-11), that share increased by 14%, and from 2011-18, by a further 15%, according to the IEA. In 2019, renewables generated over 40% of Germany's electricity. Wind power dominates, accounting for over half of this generation. Biomass and solar power have contributed roughly equal amounts of generation in the past few years.

The figure below graphs the changes in the amount of power generated by these sources of electricity between 1990 and 2019. It shows clearly that in the last few years, increases in renewable energy generation have more than compensated for decreases in electricity generated by coal and nuclear power.

Change in Main German Electricity Sources, 1990-2018



There is another important trend associated with this growth of renewable electricity generation: Since 2014, Germany's exports of electricity have risen substantially. As one might expect from the dependence on weather of renewable sources of electricity, there is a strong seasonal dependence. Germany typically imports a little from other European countries during the summer, and exports during the rest of the year. By and large, the exports are worth more per unit (euros per megawatt hours) than the imports. Thus, Germany is not dumping cheap renewable electricity and buying expensive fossil or nuclear electricity.

Finally, how has Germany done by standards it set for itself? Since 2007, German government sources have mentioned a target of a 40% decline in its emissions in 2020 relative to the emissions in 1990. The large drop in 2019 has meant that Germany's emissions are now almost 36% lower than 1990 levels. With the unanticipated decline due to COVID-19, Germany may end up reaching its original reduction target after all.

Just as with any policy measure and its implementation, Germany's nuclear phaseout and Energiewende can be faulted for errors of commission or omission. But the data are unambiguous: Germany has reduced its emissions of CO2 and its use of coal substantially while phasing out the use of nuclear energy, which comes with its own set of hazards and environmental impacts. The bottom line: Phasing out nuclear power is quite compatible with mitigating climate change.

M.V. Ramana is the Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, and the author of The Power of Promise: Examining Nuclear Energy in India. Solène Delumeau is an undergraduate research assistant and Environmental Sciences major at the University of British Columbia.

THE GREEN MOVEMENT THEN AND NOW by Dave Greenfield

Part Two: The Coming of the New Green Alliance
After the original Saskatoon Greens chapter petered out in 1988, a few of us who were left put our activist energies into a number of non-partisan activist groups working on a variety of issues, including uranium and nuclear issues, the free trade issue, Indigenous rights issues and, for a time, forestry issues.

We were active in opposing the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement in 1988; we worked to oppose the proposed construction of the CANDU 3 and Slowpoke 3 nuclear reactors in Saskatchewan from 1989 into the early to mid 1990's; we continued our

opposition to uranium mining, which was expressed with a combination of rallies and vigils and participation in environmental assessment hearings; we marched and organized in solidarity with the Mohawk during the Oka standoff in 1990; we protested the first Gulf War in 1991; we organized in solidarity with Cree elders who were blocking a road north of Meadow Lake to oppose clear-cut logging in 1992-93, and we organized against the proposed burial of high level nuclear waste in northern Saskatchewan from 1993 to 1997.

During these years we welcomed a number of new activists into our circle, including our current leader, Naomi Hunter, her brother Matt and her mother Julia.

In October of 1991, The NDP under Roy Romanow was elected, ending nine years of rule by Grant Devine's Conservatives. The question in all of our minds was, how progressive or non-progressive would the NDP prove to be. After a few years in power the NDP had demonstrated that they had essentially internalized the neo-liberal capitalist agenda, overturning their nine-year long policy of opposing uranium expansion, closing hospitals, keeping various social programs underfunded and so forth. They were re-elected in 1995, though with a smaller majority, and, as they entered their second term in government, there was a fair amount of murmuring about the need to start a new provincial party on the left which could challenge the NDP from a progressive perspective.

In early 1997 there was a group that met several times in Saskatoon for the purpose of discussing starting a new left-leaning party. The group used the tentative name New Left Forum. While the group was well-intentioned, it seemed to lack the energy to take on the tasks involved in forming a new provincial party. As of January 1st 1997, the Saskatchewan Elections Act required someone to get twenty-five hundred signatures to start a new party.

On the May Day weekend in 1998, a more enthusiastic group of about thirty met in Regina and took the step of announcing that they were founding a new provincial political party. The name they chose was New Green Alliance, New standing for New Left and Green signifying the importance of ecological

issues. The founding document of the party stated that the New Green Alliance was founded on principles of democratic socialism and ecology. The NGA was probably the first party to be founded in Canada to cite both democratic socialism and ecology as founding principles.

Over the next seven or eight months, a fair amount of time and energy went into acquiring the needed twenty-five hundred signatures. I am told that close to two thousand of the signatures were acquired by a mother and son team whose primary concern was the issue of workers' compensation and who had, at best, mixed feelings about the federal Green Party. Several other individuals in Regina got a few hundred more signatures, and I, in Saskatoon, was able to get about four hundred, bringing the total, by January 1999, to some twenty-eight hundred, enough to enable us to register as a provincial party with a few hundred extra signatures to spare in the event that some were disqualified. By February to March of 1999, we were formally registered as a provincial political party. We held our second annual meeting in Saskatoon at the end of March 1999, with some one hundred people in attendance. At this annual meeting we elected Neil Sinclair as leader, as well as electing a steering committee, and knew we would likely need to move into provincial election mode fairly quickly.

We were expecting a spring election and knew there were three by-elections that would need to be held if a spring general election was not called. In the end, Romanow decided to hold the three by-elections on June 28th, (one in Saskatoon, one in Regina and one in the south-west), and then call the general election for September 16th. For the June by-elections, Neil Sinclair ran in the Saskatoon riding and Victor Lau ran in Regina. We were not able to field a candidate in the south-west. In the mid 1980's, during the four years that our Saskatoon Green Party chapter was active, we had run two candidates in a federal election and one candidate in a municipal election; now we had to jump right in feet first to the election game. We ran sixteen candidates in the September 1999 provincial election, six in Regina, one in Estevan, six in Saskatoon, two in ridings just west of Saskatoon and one in Humboldt. We received a total of four thousand votes for an average of two

hundred and fifty votes per candidate. This was quite a decent start for a newly formed party.

Not long after the provincial election was over, we learned there would be a federal by-election in Saskatoon-Rosetown-Bigger on November 15th. I decided to run for the federal Green Party in this by-election. A year later, in November of 2000, there was a federal election called, and four candidates ran for the federal Greens in Saskatchewan: three in Saskatoon and one in Prince Albert.

We fielded twenty-seven candidates in the 2003 provincial election, held in the fall of 2003, but actually got fewer votes than in 1999, getting roughly an average of ninety votes per candidate. My personal vote count, for example, went down from 294 votes in 1999 to 76 votes in 2003. Clearly some portion of the strong vote in our favour in 1999 was a protest vote telling the Romanow government that it needed to make some corrections. For some, seemingly, the retirement of Romanow and his replacement by Lorne Calvert signified enough of a change. For the twenty-five hundred or so who still voted for us in 2003, however, the need for deeper change in Saskatchewan had not yet been met.

During these years, 1999 to 2003, there were sometimes tensions within the New Green Alliance, mostly resulting from personality clashes and, to some extent, from people's frustrations that we weren't being more successful and more visible in the media. I do not recall any serious tensions within our provincial party over policy questions. Those of us who came from an environmental background tended also to desire social justice, while those who came from a social justice background were willing to support key environmental positions such as the need to move to renewable energy.

Where there was an uneasy alliance and subsurface tension, however, was on questions around our relationship with the federal Green Party.

In 1998, when the founders of the New Green Alliance were working out the details of what kind of a party they wanted, they looked around the world and found that the progressive movement seemed to be expressing itself in Green and Green Left

parties on various continents. By putting the word, Green, in our name, they signified that we were part of the overall international Green and Green Left political movement. By calling ourselves the New Green Alliance, rather than just a plain Green Party, we were signifying that we were something slightly different than some of the centre to centre-right Green Parties that had come to dominate the Green scene in Canada.

In 1993, Frank de Jong, a former Conservative, became leader of the Green Party of Ontario. During his years as leader, the Ontario Greens began calling themselves the true conservative party or the real conservatives. This tactic tended to attract Conservative Party supporters who had grown tired of the Conservative Party, but who still had a lot of conservative preconceptions about the world. The Ontario Greens and the B.C. Greens were, at that time, by far the two largest provincial Green Parties in Canada, and what happened in those two provincial parties had an impact on the overall federal party. The B.C. Greens tended to preserve a more progressive current of Green Politics, but the Ontario Greens with their conservatism were, by the late 1990's, starting to have an influence on Green Parties in other provinces including Manitoba and Alberta.

In 1997, the federal party elected Joan Russow as leader. Joan Russow was, and is, a progressive Green with a strong background in human rights issues. She was not particularly happy about the conservative direction of the Ontario Greens and she tended to provide something of a counter-balance to the Ontario Greens in the context of the federal party. She welcomed the coming of the New Green Alliance in Saskatchewan and felt, I think, that we with our prairie socialism would also help to counter-balance the Ontario Greens' conservatism.

Prior to the year 2000, in Saskatchewan, a provincial party that wanted to issue tax deductible receipts needed to have a federal partisan counterpart through which to issue the receipts. This had worked for many years for the NDP, the PC's and the Liberals, but when the Sask. Party was formed in 1998 out of a combination of ex-Liberals and ex-Conservatives, they began to lobby for provincial parties in Saskatchewan to be allowed to issue tax

receipts directly, (which is the way things were already done in other provinces). Prior to 2000, however, our provincial New Green Alliance needed a federal counterpart through which to issue tax receipts. Four activists from the Regina New Greens attended the Green Party of Canada national annual meeting in Winnipeg in 1998, and overall experienced a sense that the federal and provincial parties were quite compatible. The New Green Alliance had adopted nine principles based on lists of principles from various Green Parties around the world:

- Ecological Wisdom
- Social and Economic Justice
- Participatory Democracy
- Peace and Non-violence
- Community-based Economics
- Cooperation and Mutual Aid
- Respect for Diversity
- Personal, Social and Global Responsibility
- Decentralization

The Global Greens Charter with its six Green principles had not yet been written. That would come in 2001.

The federal Greens accepted us as a party whose principles were compatible with the federal Greens, and in 1999 we became the Saskatchewan affiliate of the Green Party of Canada.

This designation was not without some mixed feelings among Regina New Greens who came from a strong social justice current and who had read fairly conservative statements by Greens in other provinces, particularly Ontario. The leadership of the Regina New Greens often reassured their members and supporters that we weren't a Green Party, but a progressive socialist party that had the word, Green, in our name. In the rest of Saskatchewan, meanwhile, our members and supporters tended to think of us as Saskatchewan's Green Party and often referred to us informally as the Green Party rather than as the New Green Alliance. This slightly uneasy relationship continued through several developments until the final straw in 2005.

Joan Russow resigned as federal leader in early 2001 and was replaced by interim leader Chris Bradshaw. Then in January 2003, Jim Harris was elected as federal Green Party leader. Jim Harris, like Frank de Jong, was a former Conservative, and like Frank, tended to attract Conservatives to the party, as well as causing some on the left activist wing of the party to voice strong criticisms and, in some cases, walk away. While Joan Russow had provided a counter-balance to the Ontario Green's conservatism, that counter-balance was largely gone now, and instead the Green conservatism was being reinforced and spreading to other provinces.

In 2004, Jim Harris succeeded in doing what no previous Green Party of Canada leader had done. He was able to run a full slate of Green candidates across the country in the 2004 federal election. This was undoubtedly a great accomplishment and we were all glad to have a full slate. Some wondered, however, what the price was. Was it at the price of watering down our more progressive principles and fashioning a version of Green Politics more acceptable to the marketplace?

The story of what all unfolded in the federal party will require a third article. Suffice it to say that the Green Party of Canada is in significantly better shape today with regard to policies and the active membership than it was in 2004. This is thanks both to Elizabeth May and to the range of people who have chosen to join the party in the past ten or twelve years. I will complete this article by describing what happened in our provincial party.

In February 2002, Neil Sinclair was replaced as provincial leader by Ben Webster. Ben Webster was a very likable leader from a strong socialist background. Unfortunately, he only stayed as leader for a year. He was followed by Neal Anderson in 2003 who was also a capable likable leader, but who left us with a legacy with consequences that he could not necessarily have imagined.

In 2003 he introduced a resolution at our annual meeting calling for our provincial party to change its name to the Green Party of Saskatchewan. The resolution was deferred to the 2004 annual meeting, and then deferred again to our 2005 meeting. In 2005, a small group of no more than twenty people

or so, meeting in Saskatoon, (a few of whom had never been to a New Green Alliance meeting before), decided to adopt the resolution and change our name to The Green Party of Saskatchewan. This was done amid strong assurances that the name change would not signify any change in policy or philosophical direction. Unfortunately, a number of our socialist members viewed the name change as a takeover by centrist and right-wing Greens who they imagined were wanting to mold our provincial party in the image of the federal party. About a dozen key members with strong socialist and left feminist leanings withdrew from the provincial party. Jack Warnock, who had been a major driving force behind the party in Regina, remained involved for a year or so, but seemed to lose a lot of his enthusiasm.

What followed in the succeeding years was a series of newcomers to our provincial party taking or trying to take us in a variety of directions.

Sandra Findley was elected leader in 2006 and set out to create what she hoped would be a more successful party, largely along the lines of a centrist Green Party. She succeeded in getting a larger slate of candidates, but her leadership style seemed to alienate several of us who had been involved from the beginning.

For awhile a couple from Ontario, Mike and Amber Jones, played a prominent role in our provincial party and tended to follow the more centre to centre-right style of Green Politics prevalent in Ontario. Then for a while there were a few provincial Liberal Party members who wanted the Green Party of Saskatchewan to merge with the provincial Liberals. Finally, when Victor Lau became leader in 2012, he tried to cast the party as a “big tent” party that played down environmental issues and tried appealing to the widest common denominator possible, but had little success to show for this strategy.

The good news is that we survived all that and we now have a team of people who seem to have their social and environmental justice principles intact. Naomi Hunter, with her many years of involvement in the grass roots green-progressive movement is a person well-suited to the role of leader. My

perspective is that a Green Party needs to be well rooted in the green-progressive movement. We need to interact with groups that are working for ecological well-being and social justice on an ongoing basis to be in touch with how the green-progressive movement is feeling and to be a part of that movement.

WE STILL NEED THE MARXIST

by Dave Greenfield

We can drink herbal tea
But we still need the Marxist
To ask who owns the tea company.

We can practice Zen meditation
But we still need the Marxist
To tell us about the class hierarchies
In the societies
That created Zen in the first place.

We can practice Yoga
But we still need the Marxist
To ask how much the workers were paid
Who made the yoga mats.

We can spin
All sorts of poems and stories
About a new Aquarian transformation
That is sweeping the globe,
But we still need the Marxist
To tell us that the transnationals
Are more deeply entrenched than ever
And to remind us
That the jet-powered airplanes
That take us to our New Age
Eco-tourism destinations
Are helping capitalism destroy the earth
Through the burning of fossil fuels.

A NEW STORY FOR HUMANITY (CHANGE THE STORY, CHANGE THE WORLD) – A FILM BY THE FINDHORN FOUNDATION 2016

Reviewed by Gayvin Franson

The premise of the film is that WE ARE OUR STORIES and we are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story... We are in between stories. Our problem is that we feel we are separate from & superior to Nature. A number of speakers from around the world expand upon this idea.

The Findhorn Summit experience was a seven-day gathering, focused on together building a new story. There is enough time and incentive for them to change and develop their own format for working together, as the various participants propose alternate approaches. Not your typical top-down organized conference.

Much of the “teaching” comes from the indigenous attendees and their stories.

The talking heads are interspersed with over twenty bits of music and beautiful visuals, as well as selected cuts from the daily interactions of the group, as they grow in their understanding and trust of one another. There is a total of 27 speakers, and their comments are arranged into about a dozen clearly labeled segments. Some of the segments are: ‘The Old Story’, ‘Ancient Wisdom’, ‘The Interdependence of All Life’, ‘The Subtle Realms’, ‘Earth Law’, ‘Education’, ‘Gender’, ‘Community & Sustainability’, ‘Leadership’, ‘Governance’, ‘Economy’, ‘Self Mastery’, and ‘A Call to Action’.

This is not another of the films on the topic of the environment that drone along predictably, from a single point of view in the words of a single narrator. This film is not boring, even though the viewer may already have accepted and internalized most of the facts and ideas. It moves along at a quick pace that keeps us involved, and leads us to the conclusion that all life on earth deserves continued life and that we must all uphold this as an inviolable law.

Here is a link to watch the complete film. I suggest that you do so on your biggest computer screen.
<http://newstoryhub.com/film/watch/premiere/>

A GLIMPSE OF A DARKER FUTURE A REVIEW OF “THE SECOND SLEEP” BY ROBERT HARRIS

Reviewed by Tristen Wintering

A good novelist is someone who can have a philosophical or social concern and write a great enjoyable novel around that concern. In “The Second Sleep” Robert Harris does this quite well.

“The Second Sleep” opens with a young priest riding by horseback out to a remote village to bury another priest who has recently died. We are told that it is April of 1468 and we have the initial impression that this is a novel set in the late middle ages. The young priest is given a bed to sleep in, in the dead priest's study, where he discovers a cell phone which is described as being a relic of the ancients. We realize that this is not the medieval past but a rather mysterious future in which society has started numbering the years from a different starting point.

What we learn gradually is that society has suffered a global technological collapse in the year 2025. In England, and likely elsewhere, it takes society about a hundred and fifty years to recover from complete chaos and breakdown and begin to reorganize. Society in England comes together around the Bible and many of the doctrines of the late medieval church. There is one added dimension to the concept of heresy however. The people who reorganized society have decided that it was the technology of the past two hundred years or so that brought twenty-first century society down. They have allowed technology to advance to about the level of the eighteenth century, but no more. There is no electricity, steam engines, telegraphs, telephones, radios, televisions or computers. Those who express a curiosity about the ancients, who go researching old ruins and collecting old relics, are branded as heretics and either killed or imprisoned.

Much of the novel consists of the young priest and a few companions searching to learn more about how the previous technological society came to an end and how, if possible, a more technological civilization might be revived.

They learn of a professor Peter Morgenstern who had lived just before and during the collapse. In the year 2020, he had written a letter to a number of his

colleagues outlining six possible ways that human civilization might come to an end, listing them as global warming, nuclear war, an asteroid strike, the irruption of a large volcano, a pandemic for which there was no vaccine and a complete and permanent failure of computer and internet systems. Five years later, in 2025, this last scenario comes to pass and this is followed by a century or more of social breakdown. Once society begins to reorganize, they decide to start numbering the years with the year of the collapse numbered as 666, and invent the story that the collapse had been the apocalypse caused by the Beast from the Book of Revelation, thus their choice of numbering from 666. The year 1468, when the novel takes place, is then some eight hundred and two years after the collapse, making it the year 2827 in our calendar.

The author, Robert Harris, clearly wishes to draw attention to the vulnerability of contemporary society to a global breakdown of computer systems. He also would seem to be giving the nod to a few of the other causes of social breakdown that he has his character Morgenstern mention, such as climate change and a global pandemic. I read this book in early March, just before much of western society shut down in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. So, it felt for awhile like some aspects of the novel were coming true.

In addition to warning us about our vulnerability, the author seems to be posing a second question. If society does suffer a dramatic collapse, and has to rebuild, how do we do our best to ensure that the survivors don't sink into some type of deep fundamentalist authoritarianism? How do we make sure that the gains we have made in human rights and respect for human dignity are preserved through a long-term social collapse? Of course, another important question is how do we prevent such a social collapse in the first place?

Over the past one hundred years or so, dystopian and secular apocalyptic literature has played the role of warning us about the types of societal situations we do not wish to occur. Perhaps Robert Harris's "The Second Sleep" will join the ranks of dystopian and apocalyptic novels that have helped us avoid worst case scenarios and work for viable alternatives.

FALL CALENDAR OF DAYS OF REFLECTION AND COMMEMORATION (September 22nd to December 21st)

September 29

Date of the Estevan Massacre in 1931, when the local militia in Estevan Saskatchewan fired upon striking coal miners causing the death of three.

October 2

International Day of Nonviolence, chosen in honour of the birthday of M. K. Gandhi, born October 2nd 1869.

October 4

The feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment.

October 5

The first Monday in October, World Habitat Day.

October 7

The day in 1763 that King George III issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763, a proclamation which acknowledged that the Indigenous peoples in most of what is now Canada as well as in parts of the U.S. have aboriginal title to the land on which they live.

October 8

The Day of the Heroic Guerrilla, (celebrated in Cuba and by many leftists around the world), in honour of Che Guevara who was captured on October 8th 1967.

October 10

World Mental Health Day.

October 10th is also the birthday of Nigerian environmental activist and martyr, Ken Saro-Wiwa, (1941-1995).

October 11

International Day of the Girl Child.

October 13

The day, in 1961, that the Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act was introduced in the Saskatchewan legislature. This is the bill that would make Saskatchewan the first jurisdiction in North America to implement a universal public healthcare program.

October 15

The International Day of Rural Women.

October 16

World Food Day.

October 16th is also the day, in 1966, that the twelve-year-old Ojibway boy, Chanie “Charlie” Wenjack, ran away from residential school in Kenora Ontario. He was found frozen to death six days later, apparently trying to walk to his home reserve. It is now believed that he ran away after being sexually assaulted by one of the staff at the school.

October 17

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

October 22

The birthday of Metis leader Louis Riel, (1844-1885).

October 24

United Nations Day.

October 27

International Day for Religious Tolerance and Religious Freedom.

November 6

The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

November 10

World Science Day for Peace and Development.

November 10th is also the date of the execution of Nigerian environmental activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight comrades in 1995.

November 13

The date of the murder of nuclear workers' health advocate Karen Silkwood in 1974.

November 16

The date of the execution of Metis leader Louis Riel, in Regina in 1885.

November 20

Universal Children's Day.

November 20th is also the International Transgender Day of Remembrance.

November 25

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

November 29

The birth date of German peace and ecology activist, and German Green Party co-founder, Petra Kelly, (1947-1992).

November 29th is also the International Day in Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

November 30

Seattle Day, the day that fifty thousand protesters shut down a meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle Washington in 1999.

December 1

Rosa Parks Day – The day that Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and go to the back of the bus on a Montgomery Alabama city bus in 1955.

December 1st is also World AIDS Day.

December 2

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, chosen in honour of John Brown who was executed on December 2nd 1859.

December 3

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

December 6

Date of the Montreal Massacre in 1989, when a gunman shot and killed fourteen women at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. This day has been used across Canada to reflect on issues of violence against women.

December 9

The day that the Convention on Genocide was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948.

December 10

International Human Rights Day.

December 15

Birth date of Brazilian Indigenous rain forest defender and martyr, Chico Mendes, (1944-1988).

December 18

International Migrants' Day.

December 20

International Human Solidarity Day.

THE WEAVER – FALL EQUINOX EDITION, 2020

Editing by:

Dave Greenfield
David Walther

Layout and formatting by:

Samantha Kirk
Ward Pederson

The Saskatchewan Green Party: <https://www.saskgreen.ca/>
