

# BAKLAACAWA!

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unceded Coast Salish Territory

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## Greenpeace occupies Enbridge office

by Tami Starlight

VANCOUVER - Greenpeace activists chained themselves to the door of Enbridge's Vancouver office in an act of resistance against the company whose pipeline rupture just released more than 3,000,000 litres of oil into Michigan's Kalamazoo River.

Calgary-based Enbridge is proposing to build a \$5.5 billion pipeline across northern BC from the Alberta Tar Sands to an oil tanker port in Kitimat. The 1,100 km Northern Gateway pipeline would carry more than 500,000 barrels a day. Opposition from First Nations and environmental groups has been strong, but the provincial government is expected to approve the project.

While a truck containing equipment and supplies was moved onto the sidewalk outside Enbridge on the morning of Wednesday, July 28, Christine LeClerc and three other activists entered the 6th floor office. They announced their intention to conduct a sit-in while chaining themselves to the door and hanging up a banner. They wrote 'BC NEXT?' in gulf spill oil on the office window.

At about 10 am, activists outside were busy unloading the truck, hanging another banner and building a fake pipeline. Greenpeace BC



Greenpeace stages fake oil spill outside Enbridge pipeline office in downtown Vancouver.

Photo: Tami Starlight

director Stephanie Goodwin and Brian Beaudry were meanwhile ensconced in the truck by sheet metal plating covering the inside of all windows. Once all the equipment was in place

the group staged a mock oil spill (with molasses), staying until noon the next day. The four activists chained inside were arrested at 12:30 am Thursday morning after a more than 14-hour occupation.



Vancouver rally for civil rights in solidarity with people arrested at the G20 convergence in Toronto. A 'Pink Bloc' group of about 10 people brought a banner saying "Solidarity 1073 plus".

Photo: Tami Starlight

### EVENTS

**Sunday, August 8**  
**Under The Volcano 20th Anniversary Festival**  
Cates Park/Whey-Ah-Wichen • Tseil Waututh Territory, North Vancouver. No dogs, no alcohol, live music all day long! By donation \$10-20

## DTES issues grassroots Vision

by Joseph Jones

The Downtown Eastside has released its own grassroots vision – Assets to Action. The self-directed process involved 1,200 community residents over a period of two years. An intensive working group review capped off a series of workshops, a questionnaire, and community mapping.

Since Vancouver adopted CityPlan in 1995 as its guide to the future of city planning, nine of Vancouver's "23 neighbourhoods" have been subjected to an official planning exercise called community visions. A City map locates 19 future "neighbourhood centres" that those visions are supposed to spawn.

The same City map also does a strange thing with the Downtown Eastside, blacking it out and declaring that this one neighbourhood alone is a target for "other initiatives." An inkling of what those ominous "other initiatives" might amount to surfaced in the recent Historic Area Height Review. This kind of city planning is not about ecology or density. After all, the Downtown Eastside already consumes very little, recycles a lot, favors walking as a transit mode, and houses a great many people.

Carnegie Community Action Project and the Downtown Eastside chose to base their vision on people – the people who live in the neighbourhood right now, and what those people want and need. This grassroots vision for the Downtown Eastside makes Vancouver's existing official community visions look like top-down junk. (the report is online at: <http://ccapvancouver.wordpress.com>)



CCAP organizer Wendy Pedersen with Vision.

Photo: Tami Starlight

# STRENGTHENING OUR RESOLVE: Alex Hundert on Resistance



Alex Hundert

## Cops seek silence

*G20 Toronto Community Mobilization*

**TORONTO – The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has threatened activists Leah Henderson and Alex Hundert, claiming their recent media interviews are a violation of bail conditions not to organize, participate or advise protests.**

**On July 28, OPP officers threatened to re-jail them if they persist in speaking to the media. Leah and Alex were released on bail July 19, three weeks after they were arrested at gunpoint in their Toronto home.**

**“There could hardly be a clearer indication that the police are trying to silence the voices of these organizers at all costs,” says Faraz Shahidi, of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group.**

**Leah and Alex recently appeared on CBC radio, Toronto Sun, Rabble.ca, and the Vancouver Media Co-op, decrying the politically-motivated nature of the charges against them and calling on all people to support Indigenous communities, poor people, precarious migrants, and communities under occupation in the face of attacks by the leaders and policies of the G20 on their lands, livelihood, and health.**

*(to read the original press release visit <http://g20.torontomobilize.org/node/434>)*

*By Dawn Paley*

**TORONTO -** In the wee hours of June 26, Alex Hundert awoke to the sound of police breaking down his door with a battering ram. Members of the gang unit entered his home in Toronto with guns drawn, arrested him and his partner, and took them to the now infamous temporary jail set up in an old film studio.

While studying at Wilfred Laurier University, Hundert’s early forays into organizing were typical of many university students. “I was thrust into situations where these big, very effective organizing efforts, like doing campus fundraisers for popular causes such as AIDS, were happening and we’d get hundreds of people involved. But then everyone one would go home and feel that they’d done their part and everything was okay,” he said. “I felt that no matter how much money we raised on a university campus, we were not really contributing anything to the solution.”

Hundert doesn’t want a focus on the criminalization of activism to obscure the reasons people are in the streets.

“Whether its remote-controlled airplanes dropping bombs in Pakistan, or whether its the OPP attacking Six Nations land defenders, or whether its the Integrated Security Unit criminalizing so-called anarchists, its all about the attempt to break people’s resistance to an imposed order,” he said. “It is important to question just how democratic or legitimate that order is, and lots of people know that, and hanging on to that conviction is just as important as being honest about the experience of criminalization.”

Though this has been a difficult time for Alex’s friends and allies, they remain firm supporters of his work. “Alex’s family and friends are proud that he is putting his future on the line in service of social justice,” said Amy Rossiter, a Professor at York University.

Asked how people can support those still in jail and facing charges, Hundert says beyond giving to the legal defense fund, making space for people to create new alternatives and imagine their own forms of resistance is vital. And although the Crown is appealing Alex’s bail conditions in a move that could put him back in jail, he’s clear about what steps organizers can take.

“I think the most important thing we can do is to make space for those communities that have been most silenced in shaping the current system to facilitate a process of transformation with their voices, visions, and practices.”

The Kitchener-Waterloo Community Centre for Social justice, which Hundert helped found, is one example of creating that space. “Once we make space it is a lot harder for them to take it away, and no matter what they do to us, other people can join that community and culture of resistance and fill it with what they want.”

Doing support at the blockade in Grassy Narrows opened Hundert’s eyes to a far more holistic form of activism, and deepened his analysis of capitalism and colonialism. “In Grassy Narrows, I got to see first hand the extent to which many of the things we’re told about this country are flagrant lies, and the extent to which the exploitation of resources and labour is synonymous with the destruction of communities.”

On the inside, it was other prisoners who helped him do the simple things, like fill out forms and navigate the prison system, which Hundert says is designed to dehumanize prisoners and their communities. But he thinks the attempt of the state to quash dissent through repression will have the opposite effect.

“I think in the long run, its going to have the same effect that cracking down on legitimate dissent and the public voices of communities always has,” said Hundert. “The effect is strengthening the resolve of that very voice.”

Already, people with no interest in political radicalism have been radicalized, said Hundert. “For every person that they are pulling out of the movement, to the extent that they’re able to do that through criminalizing and incarcerating us, there are several people to take our place.”

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## Kenney protests draw hundreds

Participation in the nation-wide day of protest against Minister of “Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism” Jason Kenney. Kenny has bragged “I am a rascist.” The People’s March on July 24 took place in Burnaby with similar actions across the country in Montreal, Halifax, Toronto, and Winnipeg.

*Photo: murray bush - flux*