

What Unites Us & Principles

The purpose of this document is to offer insights into what unites us as an organization in terms of our principles, as well as how we engage these principles in our activity. It should offer both political clarity and direction. Our organization is a learning organization. This means that we take our politics to the streets and compare them to the lived experiences of the working class, ourselves as a part of that class, and to continually transform our ideas and actions. No one socialist organization could ever offer an unchanging list of principles that can satisfy the prerequisites for meaningful revolutionary change. For our success as a political organization and to better contribute to the activities we engage in, we should start with a basis of understanding, but understand that our basis must evolve and continually better itself.

Socialism

"This oppression of the native people is so deeply rooted in the capitalist system that it cannot be completely eliminated without eliminating capitalism itself." -Howard Adams, Métis Marxist

As a revolutionary socialist organization, we firmly believe that we, the working class, collectively hold the power to transform society for the better. Our vision is one of ecologically sustainable practices, freeing ourselves from all forms of oppression, and



being able to take control of our lives in a world that is truly peaceful and democratic. Our name for this vision is socialism. It is based on the collective power of the working class having control of the labour and value we produce in society.

Capitalism is incredibly destructive in terms of environmental practices; requires and supports the oppression of marginalized peoples; and ultimately

does not benefit the workers of the world. While some have argued that the system can be reformed through market mechanisms or elections, we know that real change comes from below. Capitalism cannot be 'friendlier' or 'greener,' but we can collectively unite to create a better world.

We recognize that Canada is a colonial state and an imperialist power that attacks and oppresses those within and without its borders. As an organization, we oppose Canadian colonialism and affirm the right to self-determination of Indigenous

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communities, of the people of Quebec, and of oppressed peoples everywhere. We seek to be a part of the struggles against all forms of oppression and to learn from them.

In this, we recognize the unique oppressions faced by systemically marginalized peoples and thus organize to offer a secure platform for them to center their struggles against oppression. We also recognize the particular responsibilities of individual members of our organization who do not face these same oppressions to work in solidarity and allyship with them.

As an organization, we must always strive to centre the lived experiences of Black people, Indigenous people, and peoples of colour. And we reject those critiques of capitalism that try to reduce racism to merely a symptom of the system. We understand that the way that racialized people experience capitalism is through racism, and that racism is the way in which we experience capitalism. Race and gender identity instantaneously and simultaneously inform our social, political, and class realities.

The oppression of Black people, Indigenous people, and people of colour demand the hard work of solidarity: it compels us to learn, to unlearn, and to dismantle white supremacy within our own organizations and movements, too. Our organization is committed to building a real socialist alternative, a vehicle for class struggle that broadens class consciousness beyond the economic to centre race, gender, and other forms of oppression.

We do not organize in the abstract. We learn through struggle and through the work of movements and organizations that are confronting the brutality of capitalism, racism, and settler-colonialism across Turtle Island and around the world.

Revolution

"It is impossible to have an equivocal position on war. One must be either with the imperialists and for the war, or against the imperialists and against the continuance of their system which inevitably breeds war." -CLR James, Trinidadian Marxist

The solution to capitalist oppression and exploitation is through democratic control by workers. Elections under capitalism may offer some reforms, but are not designed to change the practices of the system, nor offer direct democratic control to the working class. The power structures that are in place in society are built to sustain it. Ideas and institutions must be built and sustained by workers in ways that serve those who directly benefit them. As the working class, we should all have the capacity to take ownership of our lives and have a direct say in our daily activities and practices.

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Capitalism can't be gradually reformed into socialism, but the fight for reforms are essential to build towards a socialist revolution. We don't simply call for revolution in the abstract, but seek to build and broaden struggles for reforms so that people gain the confidence, experience and organization that can transform society. As the Polish revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg said, 'Between social reforms and revolution there exists an indissoluble tie. The struggle for reforms is its means; the social revolution, its aim.

Historical examples of these changes have existed before. We take lessons from these examples and adapt them to our context in the 21st-century. We know that the one percent will do whatever it takes to hold on to their power. What Marx called the “muck of ages” refers to the oppressive ideas that are passed down in order to better divide workers. In this manner, we are explicitly internationalist, offering support to the workers of the world and seek to build bridges with workers from all backgrounds. Socialism cannot exist in one country or a select few.

The Russian revolution remains a beacon of hope for many in the struggle against capitalism and imperialism, though it was crushed by outside imperialist forces and by a Stalinist counter-revolution. Workers' uprisings were suppressed with military force. Show trials and other means were used to justify the removal of many figures who were at the front of the Russian Revolution. The model created in Russia was one of state capitalism, where the competitive, imperialist, and industrial models of capitalism were simply implemented within a specific state setting. A true socialist model must be one that practices workers' power and democracy, where the 'party' is not seen as an abstract hand which is free to act of its own will and take actions to represent the working class as a whole.



Organization

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." -Angela Davis, American Marxist

We seek to end the dead-end alienation and destruction of capitalism and oppression faced by millions of workers through grassroots organizing, while always trying to engage with better practices and theory. As a learning organization and members of the

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working class, we hold our theories and practices to real world activities in order to help achieve working class victories and better build for a united struggle.



When we work together against our common enemy, we are better able to rid ourselves of oppressive ideologies (“muck of ages”) and better able to fight for revolutionary socialism. We also follow the practice of democratic centralism. This means that all governing bodies in the organization are elected and must act in a transparent

manner and give accounts of activity to the membership. This also means that we openly discuss and debate our political activities and policies, while airing all minority viewpoints. This leads to valuable self-evaluation and self-criticism. This practice ensures that we are continually learning and growing as an organization. We all openly assess our strengths and weaknesses as an organization, and our work within various movements.

We see a revolutionary socialist organization as a tool for arming ourselves and the international working class with the lessons of past struggles so current and future movements are prepared for the inevitable challenges and victories ahead. We have joined together to fight for a better system, and a better world.