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- **babble**, our famous moderated online discussion forum

rabble.ca

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*

Sustaining and Supporting Partners are thanked in a special section on our site's front page and also have access to free or discounted advertising on *rabble.ca*, including In Cahoots membership. This means stories from their websites are featured on our front page in a special section, as well as on social media and in our e-newsletter.

If your organization would like more information about becoming a Sustaining Partner, please contact:

business@rabble.ca

THANK YOU, SUSTAINING PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS!



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rabble.ca's donors make independent media possible. Whether you contribute \$5 or \$50,000, 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

Or by mail:

rabble.ca
192 Spadina Avenue
Suite #335
Toronto, Ontario M5T 2C2
Canada

1-888-656-0999



“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

Dear readers,

We witnessed such inspiring social movement organizing in 2019. Building on the mass movements of the past decade: the Canadian Maple Spring; the anti-war movement which emerged out of 9/11; Idle No More; Occupy; Black Lives Matter; #MeToo; the Climate Strike, led by youth organizers, together with the leadership of Indigenous land defenders; the vision for a Green New Deal, and the powerful response of labour — teachers in particular in Ontario who are fighting for their rights and for the future generation — were cause for inspiration as 2019 came to a close.

The 2019 federal election coverage was some of our most successful yet, featuring voices and opinions from across the country. The election brought a Liberal minority government; saw the NDP reduced to fourth-party status; growth for the Green party, as it seeks a new leader; and a resurgence for the Bloc Québécois while the Conservative party stumbles ahead. On the ground there is still much fire to be fed: growing the diverse networks of grassroots resistance across the country, holding the government to account, and standing up against hate, oppression and climate denial. The sweep of Conservative governments across the provinces leaves only British Columbia with an NDP minority government, and finds Canada with no female premiers. Labour, across the country, is caught up in bitter struggles against austerity policies, and workers increasingly find themselves falling through the cracks in the growing gig economy.

Although it's easy to fall victim to nihilism in times of such extreme polarization, growing inequality and climate grief, platforms like *rabble.ca* were designed to hold space for your voices and your stories, and to be an independent watchdog. We were made for times like these.

As we put together this annual report, we are in the midst of a global pandemic, COVID-19; something unexpected (despite predictions), life-altering and far reaching. Our economy is reeling as millions of people in Canada are suddenly without work — or are experiencing fundamentally different work places and environments. Our health-care system is stretched, and vulnerable populations are even more vulnerable. *rabble.ca* has pivoted its plans for 2020 to focus on the response to COVID-19 pandemic: informing, analyzing, bringing people together in new ways of expressing solidarity, and seeking new ways forward that are more just, reduce inequality, and recognize the need to address the climate crisis with drastic and tangible solutions. Like you, we are in it for the long haul.

As not only independent, but non-profit media, *rabble.ca* continues to evolve and renew our place in the Canadian media landscape. 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 front-line activists, from coast to coast. We survive — and thrive — because of the work of our mobilized readers across the country. And as we enter our 20th year (can you believe it?), we are very excited about what we have ahead.

We remain committed to action. Over the past year Olivia Robinson joined as the 2019 Jack Layton Journalism for Change fellow. Her series focused on the critical role of public libraries in addressing inequality. We hired our sixth annual labour beat reporting intern, Zaid Noorumar, who developed beats that focused on the gig economy, and the crisis in the long-term care sector. We began a new monthly politics webinar for members, with our award-winning parliamentary reporter Karl Nerenberg and regular panelists, providing insightful analysis and an opportunity for readers to share their thoughts and questions.

rabble.ca's brilliant writers and multimedia contributors bring powerful and innovative voices to the site. *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. Our staff work daily to bring the best in progressive coverage to Canada. We had some farewells and “goodbyes for now” this past year: our managing editor Michelle Gregus moved on to write a new chapter in her life, after 13 years with *rabble.ca*. Michelle joined *rabble.ca* as a babble intern in 2006 — and continued on to lead the organization's editorial. We wish her the best and thank her for her incredible contributions to the rabble media project. We were grateful to welcome Matthew DiMera, who brings a breadth of knowledge to the role of acting editor-in-chief, following Brenda O'Farrell's leave in early 2019. And we were delighted to welcome Alex Cosh, who has taken on the new role of opinions editor.



We were delighted to be nominated in several categories in the Canadian Online Publishing Awards again in 2019, and with Iller Campbell's Pro Bono column winning Gold in the Best Blog/Column Category — beating out the *Huffington Post* and *Policy Options* in this category. Congratulations to Pro Bono columnist Celia Chandler of Iler Campbell who won gold **for her series reflecting on medically assisted death 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 Bhullar, Tania Ehret, Michelle Gregus, Brenda O'Farrell, Matthew DiMera, Victoria Fenner, Meg Borthwick, Derek Laventure, Christina Turner, Shirley Marquez, Sophia Reuss, and the teams at Consensus and Star Company all bring experience, professionalism and a tireless commitment to independent media.

Also, a thank you to our Members' Council executive of the past year — Matthew Adams, Bob Gallagher, Robert Lamoureux, Nicole Johnson, and Phillip Dwight Morgan — all of whom volunteer their time. Thanks also go to our Members' Council, representing our partner organizations and community members across Canada.

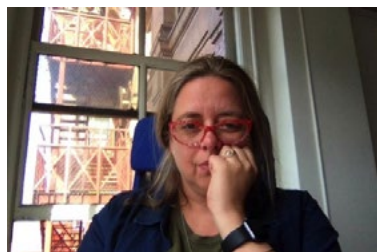
rabble.ca continues to grow and push the boundaries of online media. We have evolved as the internet has evolved. As we move into our 20th year, we have extraordinary memories and successes to look back on, as well as exciting times ahead. In this time of transition, we are grateful and honoured to have 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.

I sign off at a time of great uncertainty. None of us know what the next month, let alone the next year will bring. Our commitment to improving media democracy continues. We wish all of you safety, security and good health as we, together, meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Elliott".

Kim Elliott



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. Let's make our goal of 2,000 monthly donors in 2020!

WHAT'S AT STAKE

In 2019, news and columns were managed by the steady eye and political acuity of incoming editor-in-chief Matthew DiMera and managing editor Michelle Gregus, together with evening and weekend editors, Sophia Reuss and Christina Turner.

2019 was an election year and **What's At Stake** was the core theme that drove all of coverage. There was so much at stake: the youth and Indigenous-led climate activism and school climate strikes drove home the message that this election was about securing a future on this planet. The demands for a **Green New Deal** brought many labour and social justice activists together to demand climate justice and fundamental changes to our economy.

All contributors (columnists, bloggers and feature writers alike) were focused on the 43rd federal election. Writers covered the campaign trail from coast to coast, taking on **candidate platforms**, **election predictions** (some of which came true), and key **issues** not covered elsewhere, such as how a weakened Liberal government roiled by the SNC-Lavalin scandal formed a minority government. rabble.ca's contributors have taken on the task of understanding what that means for addressing the opportunities and challenges for moving Canada forward on progressive issues, including a morning-after-the-election discussion which we hosted online, featuring parliamentary reporter Karl Nerenberg, former NDP deputy leader and author of *Outside In: a political memoir*, Libby Davies, Leah Gazan, MP for Winnipeg Centre, and CCPA senior economist David Macdonald.

We strive to embolden the issues and views not covered in dominant media conversations, and our election coverage is no exception! **From how ending poverty in Canada is far more than an election point**, to the **Indigenous struggles all but missing from much of the campaign trails**, how the **biggest winner in the 2019 election is the military**, and the need to **balance reproductive justice with climate justice around 2019 party platforms**.



And while the campaign trails were hot, our contributors set out to ensure all other issues and movements were being represented, including **on-going struggles against education cuts in Ontario led by teachers unions**, how the global climate strike is just the beginning, and the SNC Lavalin affair and how **feminism was reduced to rhetoric**.

We welcomed Bill Blaikie, former MP and MLA, as a regular columnist. Blaikie writes on Canadian politics, political parties and Parliament. Former CBC-TV journalist and *Toronto Star* columnist Antonia Zerbisias, also began her new exclusive column *Broadsides* about society, media and politics. We also welcomed professor emeritus at Simon Fraser University, and co-author of *Journalism and Climate Crisis: Public Engagement, Media Alternatives*, Robert Hackett, and his new blog, *Greening the News*.

NEWS CONTRIBUTORS, COLUMNISTS, BLOGGERS

BLOG AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED CONTRIBUTORS

Abdul Nakua

Albert Koehl & Michael Black

Alexandra Zannis

Amelia Berot-Burns

Amelia Berot-Burns & Chrystal
Désilets

Amira Elghawaby

Andrea Loken

Angela Bischoff

Annie Game

Antonia Zerbisias

Ashley Reynolds

Azeezah Kanji

Bonnie Burstow

Brad Hornick

Brent Patterson

Bronwen Tucker

Cam Fenton & Aurore Fauret &
Atiya Jaffar & Clayton Thomas-
Muller & Katie Perfitt & Jennifer
Deol

Emma Jackson

Carol Dansereau

Cathy Crowe

Cheryl McNamara

Chris Kruszewski

Council of Canadians

Dale Marshall

David Heap

David J. Climenhaga

David Kattenburg

David Suzuki

David Taub Bancroft

Deborah Mebude

Dennis Gruending

Diana Yoon, Ian Borsuk

Doreen Nicoll

Ed Finn

Emma Jackson & Paige Gorsak

Emma Lui

Fred Wilson

Gabriela Jiménez

Gordon Laxer

Hadani Ditmars

Hannah Muhajarine

Harold Shuster & Sid Frankel

Herongate ACORN Tenant
Leaders

Independent Jewish Voices
Canada

Jason Kunin

Jennifer Scarlott

Jim McDonnell

John Foran

John Miller

Judy Rebick & Carlos Torres

Justin Piché

Kim Elliott

Kirsten Bernas, Sarah Cooper

Krystalline Kraus

Larry Haiven

Leo Gerard

Libby Davies

Linda Leon
Linda Silas
Lizanne Foster
Lorenzo Vargas
Lorenzo Vargas & Amanda Soares
Manfred Bienefeld
Marie Aspiazu
Martha Friendly
Matthew Adams & Nicole Johnson
Matthew DiMera
Matthew Hayes
Maya Bhullar
Mel Watkins
Mercedes Allen
Michelle Weinroth
Miranda Gallo
Molly McCracken
Nima Maleki
Pamela Palmater

Paul Salvatori
Paul Taylor
Penney Kome
Peter Rosenthal
Philip Lee
Raagini Appadurai
Rabbi David Mivasair
rabble staff
Raluca Bejan
Robert Hackett & Noam Chomsky
Robert Massoud
Robin Maynard
Robin Tress
Robin Tress & Dylan Penner
Roy Mitchell
Samer Elniz
Sandra Lindberg
Sara Speicher
Sarah Macharia
Scott Weinstein

Shahroze Khan
Shama Naqushbandi
Shari-Lynn Dueck
Sheryl Netel
Sid Shnia
Stephen Kaduuli
Sujata Dey
Susan Wright
Svea Vikander
Tania Ehret
Ted Franklin
Tess Sison
Thomas Woodley
Tina Beier
Tina S. Beier
Tyler Levitan
Valerie Croft
various
Vi Bui
Yves Engler

COLUMNISTS

Amy Goodman
Antonia Zerbisias — BroadSides
Bill Blaikie
Brynn Leger — Pro Bono
Celia Chandler — Pro Bono
Claudia Pedrero — Pro Bono
Denis Moynihan
Duncan Cameron
Edward Hyland — Pro Bono
Jim Stanford

Jooneed Khan
Joyce Arthur
June Chua
Karly Wilson — Pro Bono
Linda McQuaig
Lois Ross
Marianela Ramos Capelo — Digital Freedom Update
Marie Aspiazu — Digital Freedom Update
Matthew Behrens

Michael Hackl — Pro Bono
Monia Mazigh
Ole Hendrickson
Rick Salutin
Rodrigo Samayoa — Digital Freedom Update
Safia Lakhani — Pro Bono
Shelina Ali — Pro Bono
Thomas Ponniah
Victoria Henry — Digital Freedom Update

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Alex Cosh

Alexandra Valahu

Brenda O'Farrell

Bruce Moncur

Christina Turner

Cory Collins

Derek Mascarenhas

Diana Vela Almeida

Diane Pinch

Elizabeth May

Fernando Arce

Graeme Truelove

Hans Rollman

Humberto da Silva

Jean Walton

Jeff Shantz

Jessica Rose

John Clapp

Judy Rebick

Julie Cruikshank

Karl Nerenberg

Lynn Gehl

Marc Belanger

Marites N. Sison

Medea Benjamin

Olivia Robinson

Paul Barber

Paul Weinberg

Paula E. Kirman

Philip S. S. Howard

Resh Budhu

Rosemary Frei

Ryan Donnelly

Sophia Reuss, Tremé Manning-Cere

Suzanne Methot

Tarah Brookfield

Vincent Ternida

Zaid Noorsumar



JOURNALISM FOR CHANGE FELLOWSHIP

The Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship was created in 2017, in honour of the memory of Jack Layton. 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 one-of-a-kind opportunity for strengthening media democracy in Canada, while affording excellent mentorship and growth for new voices in our community.

rabble.ca's first fellow was Phillip Dwight Morgan, a Toronto-based journalist, poet and researcher. During his time at rabble Phillip was instrumental in getting to the heart of issues, in particular, systemic racial and economic inequality. Phillip has since joined the rabble.ca executive board.

Olivia Robinson was the fellowship recipient in 2019, **writing a series** on the importance of public libraries in furthering social justice. The series documented how libraries across Canada are re-imagining these public spaces and contributing in new and innovative ways to improve the social fabric of their communities. It explored these themes, and documented how, despite cuts in funding, libraries continue to make efforts in removing barriers and advancing inclusion, including striving for reconciliation and decolonization. In addition, the series looked at how libraries are bridging social service gaps and providing space for marginalized and vulnerable patrons.

Phillip and Olivia share their experience of the fellowship **in a video**.

For more information about how to support the fellowship, please see: <https://rabble.ca/about/JournalismForChange>



PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER

2019 was a federal election year, and so a critical time for parliamentary reporter Karl Nerenberg, our award-winning journalist covering the federal politics beat. Karl's stories tell the under-reported news from the Hill. "News for the rest of us," if you will. Week in and week out, Karl delivers exclusive reporting from the Hill, and it's readers just like you who keep him there.

Parliamentary political reporting needs to go beyond the speculation of who is up in the polls and who is down. [rabble.ca](#) strives to provide analysis beyond the headlines. Good parliamentary reporting requires a strong knowledge of the history and context of Canadian politics with a keen eye to what is behind the rhetoric.

Over the course of 2019, Karl's stories tackled an erratic time in Canadian politics. The year began with scandal — the SNC-Lavalin travesty that led to the resignation of two key cabinet members of the Liberal government: minister of health Jane Philpott, and minister of justice and attorney general, Jody Wilson-Raybould. The government was dogged by controversy, and ended with further scandal as the country learned of an RCMP memo that permitted the potential use of lethal force against members of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation in British Columbia, who had been holding blockades to stop construction of a gas pipeline through their unceded territory, as Karl summarizes in "This year started and ended with SNC Lavalin" [here](#).

Karl Nerenberg was busy at work with 2019 election analysis and reporting including [a list of promises kept and promises broken by the Trudeau government](#), Jagmeet Singh and his success in the federal election debates, and the opportunity brought forth by election results for the [Trudeau government to work with the Greens and NDP on a progressive agenda](#).

In 2019 we introduced a new Inside [Ottawa webinar series](#) for supporters of [rabble.ca](#)'s parliamentary coverage. The monthly discussion has featured special guests, included former NDP house leader and author of *Outside In: a political memoir*, Libby Davies, the CCPA's David Macdonald, and NDP MP for Winnipeg Centre, Leah Gazan.

Don't miss a beat. For as little as \$1/month you can be the first to receive notice of new analysis and special invitations to webinars and events. You can support [rabble.ca](#)'s parliamentary coverage at our [Patreon page](#).



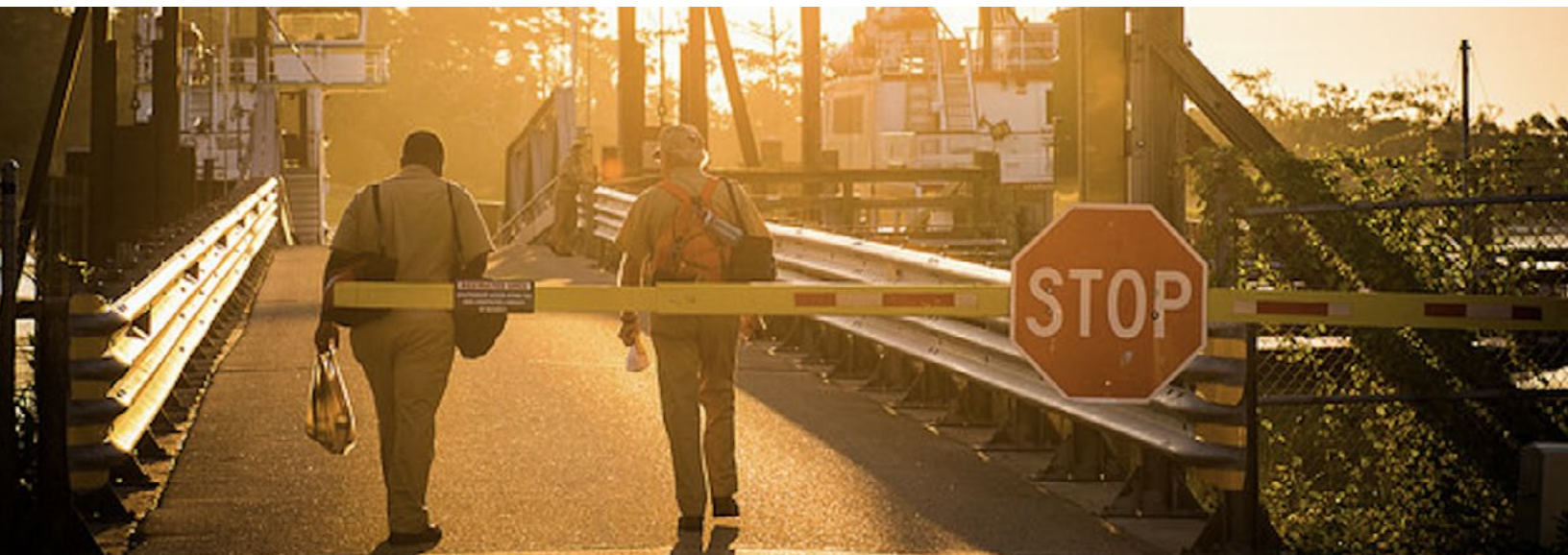
LABOUR BEAT REPORTING

In the era of the gig economy, precarious work and further deregulation — 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: the labour movement. We are proud to be able to continually offer the paid labour beat internship at rabble (now for seven years running!).

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.

Keep up with our labour coverage on our [labour](#) issue page where you can also find critical reading including highlights from our labour beat reporter. The labour beat reporter internship was created in 2012 by [rabble.ca](#) and is a partnership with Unifor, Canada's largest union in the private sector, with the goal of improving understanding of the labour movement across Canada and creating a bank of labour reporting expertise among emerging journalists.

Our 2019 labour beat reporter was Zaid Noorsumar and some of his highlights include reporting on precarious work and the gig economy, home care workers, migrant workers, and shared economy contractors, and many other issues not given attention by dominant media: [Temporary work in Toronto](#), [Justice for Janitors](#), [Home care policies for workers in Ontario](#). His work on home-care policies in Ontario was a forecast for the many issues that have been emerging this year under the COVID-19 pandemic. A read through the series provides many policy recommendations and predictions now brought to attention across the country.



GRAB A CUP OF TEA AND RELAX IN OUR BOOK LOUNGE

Welcome to the Book Lounge, where the issues are hot but the takes are thoughtful!

Highlights in 2019 from rabble's Book Lounge include interviews with up-and-coming authors — including **Kai Cheng Thom** and **Zalika Reid-Benta** — and established progressive names such as **Linda McQuaig** on privatization, and **Martin Lukacs** on *The Trudeau Formula*.

We published reviews of Canadian and international books covering crucial topics from **climate change** to **the relentless creep of white supremacy** to **feminist urban planning** and how **#MeToo** has affected queer communities.

The book lounge also published several roundups: of books on work to read for **Labour Day**; of books to help you dive deeper into **election issues**; and of the books Canadian independent bookstores **wanted you to read in 2019**.

The Book Lounge is always taking pitches for reviews and essays on progressive books. To pitch a story, please email rabble.ca's Book Lounge editor Christina Turner at christina@rabble.ca



Photo by Rachel Woroner

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. We strongly believe that communities most affected by issues of poverty, climate justice and oppression — of which Indigenous people are leading the struggles against — should be told by the communities themselves.

Some highlights in Indigenous stories from 2019 include:

The merging of gender and colonization: including [how the the justice system fails to protect Indigenous women and girls](#), [how Canada continues to to deny sex equality to Indigenous women and children](#), [ending sex descrimination in the Indian Act](#) and and [how Canada is guilty of genocide](#).

Climate issues: including [how the Attawapiskat water crisis continues despite urgent calls from community](#), [reports from World Water Day](#), and [how renewable energy could be a force for decolonization](#).

The Activist Toolkit [shared resources](#) on how to help implement the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girl report findings, and rabble radio reports on the [Reconciliation Bookclub](#).



Photo by [Province of British Columbia/Flickr](#)

#CLIMATE STRIKE & GREEN NEW DEAL - CLIMATE COVERAGE AT RABBLE.CA

rabble.ca believes the media needs to report on social movements and their various intersections. Nowhere is this intersection more evident than in the fight to reclaim our environment and coasts. We cover the connections between social and climate justice and Indigenous activism solidarity. And was 2019 the year of climate movements or what?

With climate strikes led by youth activists; the front lines on the call for cancellation of pipelines and the protection of the environment led by Indigenous communities and activists across the country; the world tour of Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, whose visit to Canada resulted in one of the largest demonstrations in the world happening in Montreal; and the rise of voices calling for a Green New Deal in Canada (inspired by the initiative of U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez), there was a buzz of activism in the air.

Highlights of 2019 climate justice resistance, and in particular the climate strike, include: **the importance of Indigenous voices and leadership at the climate strike, the massive response to Greta Thunberg's arrival to Canada, why we at rabble supported the climate strike**, and our special features, **speaking with climate strike organizers across the country**.

We featured pieces on the **Green New Deal and migrant justice**, an exclusive interview with Naomi Klein, and **a special guide to bringing a Green New Deal to your community**.

We also livestreamed the Vancouver stop of the Leap's Green New Deal speaking tour, featuring David Suzuki and Avi Lewis. You can watch the **video online**.



Photo by PowerShift Canada/Facebook

YOU WON'T BELIEVE OUR SOCIALS

With over 27,000 Facebook (facebook.com/rabble.ca) fans and group members, and over 42,000 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 use it to reflect our on-the-ground outreach, posting from rallies and protests, and connecting with our community partners.

Our most shared piece on Twitter in 2019 was parliamentary reporter Karl Nerenberg's feature on a list of the Trudeau government's promises, both broken and kept: "**Trudeau Kept Some Important Promises But Broke Many Big Ones.**" Labour beat reporter Zaid Noorsumar wrote about the personal support worker shortage in Ontario, and his piece garnered extensive traffic as well. "**Personal Support Worker Shortage Plaguing Ontario Nursing Homes**" was shared 1,650 times on Facebook alone in one day.

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. (Even iPolitics named a column after us).

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 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 syndicating all of the most diverse and extensive pressing stories and commentary directly from our site to your inbox.

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Follower followed by 3.95M people



Greta Thunberg 

@GretaThunberg FOLLOWS YOU

17 year old climate and environmental activist with
Asperger's [#climatestrike](#) [#fridaysforfuture](#)

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, managed by operations coordinator Tania Ehret, is an indispensable component of our work, as we seek to organize critical workshops and panels, and ensure 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 2019 for the Vancouver International Film Festival, the Tommy Douglas Institute, Word on the Street Toronto, The Mayworks Festival of Working People and Arts, and the Canada-wide speaking tour of Robert Fisk, organized by Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East. In addition, we helped to boost the scope of various book launch and speaking tours including: former NDP MP Libby Davies' book *Outside In: A Political Memoir*, Fred Wilson's *A New Kind of Union*, and Martin Lukacs' *The Trudeau Formula: Seduction and Betrayal in and Age of Discontent*. We frequently work with our friends at partner organizations to find new and innovative ways to collaborate.

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 at George Brown College, and the National Campus and Community Radio Station conference. We provided exclusive materials for information sharing at both the CUPE and United Steelworkers conventions. In addition, our parliamentary reporter Karl Nerenberg has appeared on News 95.7 in Halifax with host Sheldon McLeod; president emeritus Duncan Cameron is a regular commentator on Radio Canada, and our operations coordinator Tania Ehret appeared with other media on a panel about progressive media organized by Socialist Studies at UBC during Congress 2019.



rabble.ca founders Wayne MacPahil, Tonya Surman and Judy Rebick at the 2019 AGM social.

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 a 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.

In 2018, Doug Ford was elected in Ontario. The toolkit hosted the #OntarioFightBack series, which collected resources and amplified efforts to take a stand against the regressive policies and social cuts of the new provincial government in Ontario. Public education, health care and other public services are being targeted across the country. The toolkit initiated a project to find out what public sector union leaders across the country are doing to fight back and published interviews with **Harvey Bischof**, **Michael Hurley** and **Jason Schilling**, the respective presidents of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Ontario Council of Hospital Unions and the Alberta Teachers Association. We continue to amplify efforts to fight for public service through 2019 and into 2020.

The student climate strike movement is developing a wonderful new generation of activists. The Activist Toolkit reached out to climate strike organizers across Canada after national actions in the **spring** of 2019 and in the **fall** to support and amplify their work. We will continue to build our relationships.

The Activist Toolkit also shares tools that make us better activists. The new frontier for activism is online, and we are constantly struggling to make our time online more impactful. To this end, the Activist Toolkit put together ways to be **more effective on social media** and a **reading list of activist books**. We look forward to building the Activist Toolkit in 2020 to help spotlight more of the efforts of activists across Canada and to help us all have more of an impact.



Photo: Climate Action
Toronto, May 3 2019.
Payton Mitchell.

EAR IN REVIEW

–THE RABBLE PODCAST NETWORK

Executive producer of the rabble podcast network, Victoria Fenner, says “It is wonderful to be a podcaster in the golden age of podcasting. For so many years, our podcasters were forging on, always dealing with comments like ‘I don’t know what a podcast is.’” That was back in 2005. Now, in 2020, we have arrived!

Things have changed since we launched our first podcast, rabble radio, in 2005. This year, the rpn brought its in house podcasts rabble radio and Needs No Introduction up to a weekly rotation. Our podcasts are available through iTunes and many other podcast applications, so all you need to do is go to your smartphone, open your podcast app and search for *rabble.ca* so you can download our episodes!

Highlights from our own in-house podcasts in 2019 include: an interview with Janet Spring as she tells us that her son-in-law and political prisoner **Edwin Espinel** has been released from a Honduran prison pending trial; an on the ground interview with Carlos Torres by **Corvin Russell** from Chile in the midst of massive protests; and an election report from rabble.ca’s parliamentary reporter **Karl Nerenberg** about what could happen if there was a minority government after the federal election (which there was). And lots more. Check out the **podcast section** of *rabble.ca* for lots of good listening at home and on the road.

Have an interview suggestion for any of rabble.ca’s podcasts? Get in touch! We can go anywhere via the magic of Skype/Zoom. To contact rabble radio podcast executive producer Victoria Fenner, send her an email at victoria@rabble.ca.



Photo by Tania Ehret

JOIN THE CONVERSATION – BABBLE!

babble, rabble's political discussion forum, was a fascinating place to be in 2019. So much of what is going on in the world is reflected in the discussions on babble in a uniquely progressive way. Here are some of our favourite babble threads from 2019:

Our premier climate change discussion has been in existence for just over a year, but it became so big, with so many user contributions, we had to create a new one in 2019. The posts highlight the latest in climate and land defence and the science behind climate heating-related weather events. It's also hopeful, with important information on what can be done to mitigate the fallout from the destruction being wreaked upon the planet by global neoliberal capitalism and our addiction to fossil fuels. Read all about it here:

<https://rabble.ca/babble/canadian-politics/canada-and-global-warming-state-denial-2>

When the military coup went down in Bolivia, babblers weighed in on the lopsided mainstream media coverage of what actually transpired and were highly critical of the countries who backed the covert U.S. involvement, including Canada who toed Washington's party line. Find the thread here:

<https://rabble.ca/babble/international-news-and-politics/military-coup-bolivia>

One of our feistier discussions is about the U.K. Labour party leadership. Whether you're a Corbyn fan or a Blairite, this thread has never a dull moment. <https://rabble.ca/babble/international-news-and-politics/uk-labour-leadership>

In March of 2019, babblers recognized climate activist Greta Thunberg and the important emergence of youth leadership in combating the climate crisis. This is the world we bequeathed to them. We cannot combat the climate crisis without them. Take a look:

<https://rabble.ca/babble/activism/student-led-global-climate-change-protests>

And finally, what initially began as a discussion of Australia's upcoming election evolved into discussion of the wildfires devastating the country. As per usual, the discussion reflects not only what the mainstream media covers but also what it does not. Check it out here:

<https://rabble.ca/babble/international-news-and-politics/australia-2>

We hope you can take a few minutes from time to time to check in on babble, one of the many ways that rabble provides readers with thoughtful analysis and information from a progressive viewpoint.



Image by [Gerd Altmann](#)

RABBLE TV

rabbleTV share must see video, livestream recordings and course, the latest from Not Rex Murphy video columnist Humberto Da Silva.

In 2019, Humberto took on Trudeau's incongruent stance on Indigenous self-determination and Bolivia, the **continued activism** in response to the Ford government in Ontario, and activists **voicing their opposition** to the Bolsonaro government at the Brazilian embassy in Ottawa.

In **Best-of-the-net**, rabble gathered important videos from across the web, including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's **short film** around a Green New Deal, and an important PSA on the **National Day of Action on the Overdose Crisis**.

In our in-house productions we recorded and live-streamed both the Leap Manifesto's **Green New Deal launch** during their cross-country tour that stopped in Vancouver, along with **Svend Robinson and David Suzuki speaking out for humanity and the planet**.



19 YEARS AND GOING STRONG!

As rabble sets its sights on what is next — going into its 20th year on April 18, 2020 — we are in a process of renewing our vision, streamlining our editorial direction and improving our website and operations systems. Our staff came together for a planning retreat in August 2019, in Toronto.

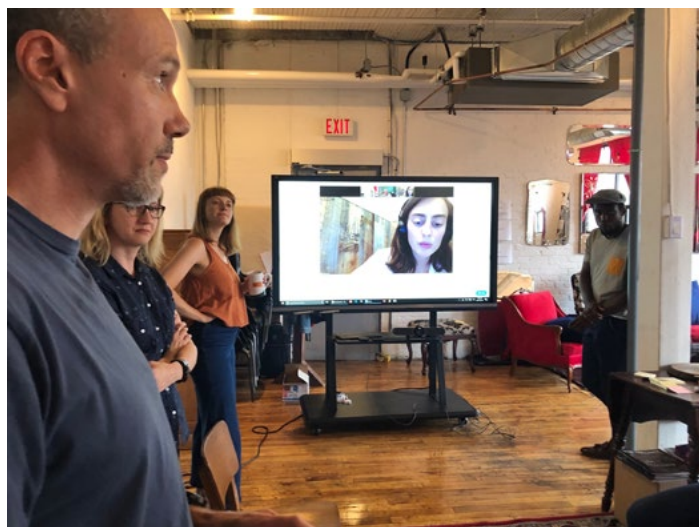
Thanks to the Lush Charity Pot grant, we were able to hone in on our digital marketing and social media best practices, further strengthening our ability to connect with our readers and audiences. This included new staff protocols, training and the inclusion of up-to-date features, such as Twitter cards.

We were thrilled to learn that we were successful in our application to the Canadian Periodical Grant at the end of December. This grant will help us to improve our business strategy and our relationship with our donors, partners, members and affiliates, strengthening our overall financial viability and reach.

We are excited to further hone in on our original editorial vision, highlighting the voices of marginalized communities and helping to amplify these struggles for positive social change.

Further to this, we are excited to announce that to celebrate 20 years of this vision, we will be releasing a best of rabble — 20 years book in early 2021, celebrating 20 years of struggle and reporting, and bringing together a chorus of voices and views on the left. The book will feature some of our best content over the past 20 years, and new pieces by both renowned and emerging writers, and will be published by Between the Lines.

Thank you for being with us on this journey!



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 annual monthly donor drives to recruit members.

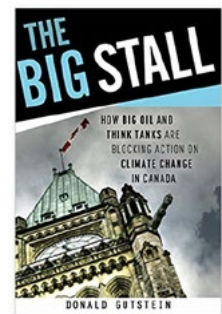
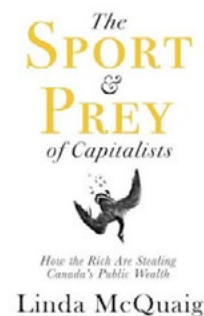
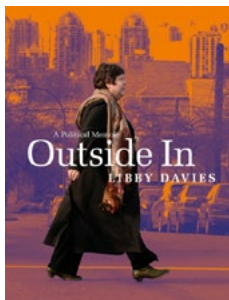
Our membership support coordinator, Shirley Marquez, manages members' donations, which may come directly from their bank accounts, credit cards or PayPal. Monthly supporters can also directly support our parliamentary reporter using the Patreon interface.

In 2019, our annual campaign launched in September and met its \$65,000 goal. We launched our winter fundraiser in December 2019, and were thankful to donors who helped us meet our \$50,000 goal early in 2020. With donations averaging \$5/ month, a total of \$122,000 was raised from individual donors — over \$88,000 of which came from our regular monthly donors.

Monthly supporters get a variety of perks, ranging from thank-you gifts upon sign up, to special event invitations and an exclusive newsletter for monthly supporters. In 2019, we partnered with Between the Lines, Lorimer, Dundurn and Fernwood to provide the independent Canadian titles as gifts to our monthly donors and for other incentives including:

- *Outside in: a Political Memoir* by Libby Davies (Between the Lines)
- *IKWE: Honouring Women, Life Givers, and Water Protectors* by Jackie Traverse (Fernwood)
- *Ohpikiihaakan-ohpihmeh (Raised somewhere else): A 60s Scoop Adoptee's Story of Coming Home*, by Colleen Cardinal (Fernwood)
- *The Sport and Prey of Capitalists: How the Rich Are Stealing Canada's Public Wealth* by Linda McQuaig (Dundurn)
- *The Big Stall: How big oil and think tanks are blocking action on climate change in Canada* by Donald Gutstein (Lorimer)

Don't miss out on being a monthly member of rabble.ca! Join at rabble.ca/donate



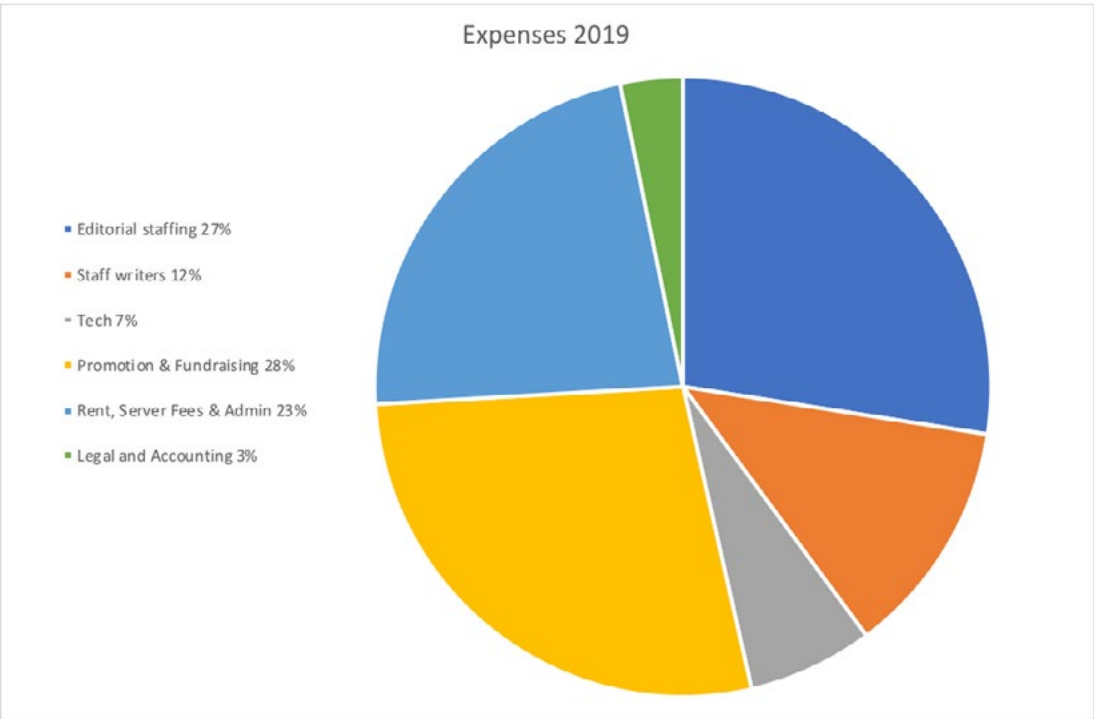
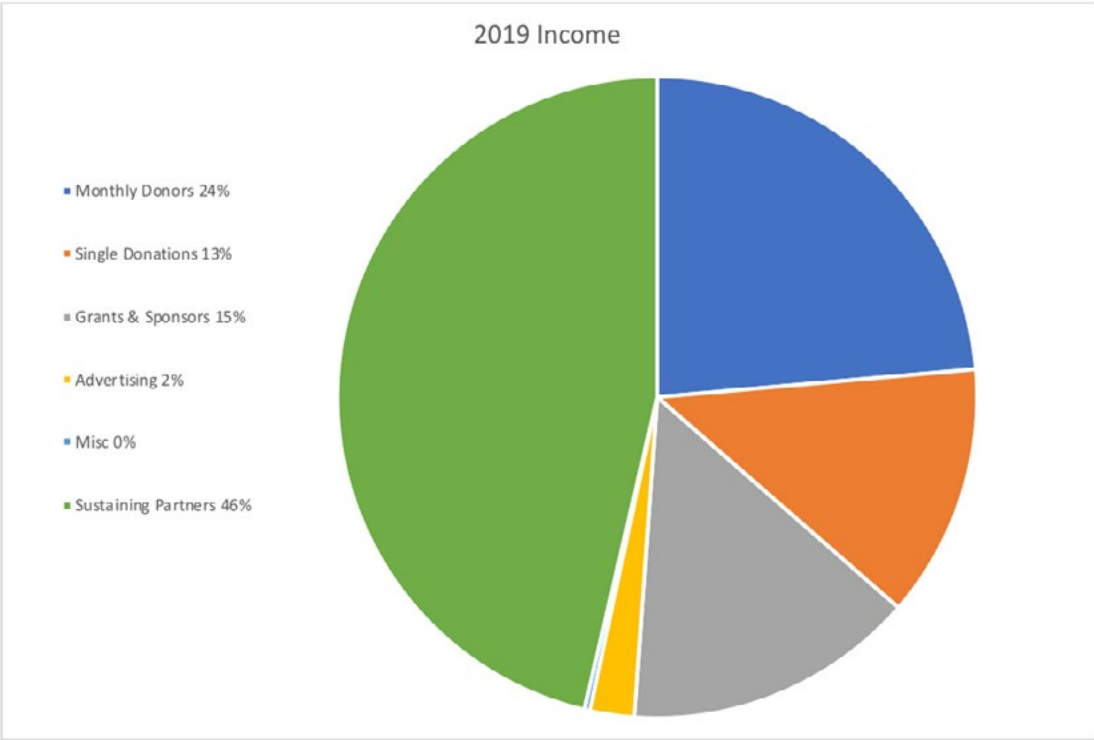
FINANCIAL REFLECTIONS

A special thank you to our membership coordinator, Shirley Marquez, as well the good people at Star Company: Suzanne Robertson and Sarah Hopen, for their help with bookkeeping and our annual audit.

The total operating budget for *rabble.ca* in 2019 was \$352,354 — with nearly \$122,000 raised from individual donations. Our winter and fall fundraising campaigns surpassed fundraising goals. Thank you to our donors! We couldn't do it without you! Of course this is a fraction of what it costs to do journalism, and we thank all the volunteers who time and effort make independent media like *rabble.ca* possible.

We continued to raise funds for the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship each year, in partnership with the Institute for Change Leaders, and at the end of 2019 we learned that we were awarded a Canadian Periodical fund grant to help fund the implementation of a new CRM (customer relationship management) system to help *rabble* modernize its database and engagement tools. And thanks to Lush Charity Pot we were awarded a grant to assist us with our social media marketing and best practices.

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. In 2019, *rabble* again proved itself a sustainable organization, and saw the year end with a surplus, and plans for building the organization in new directions.



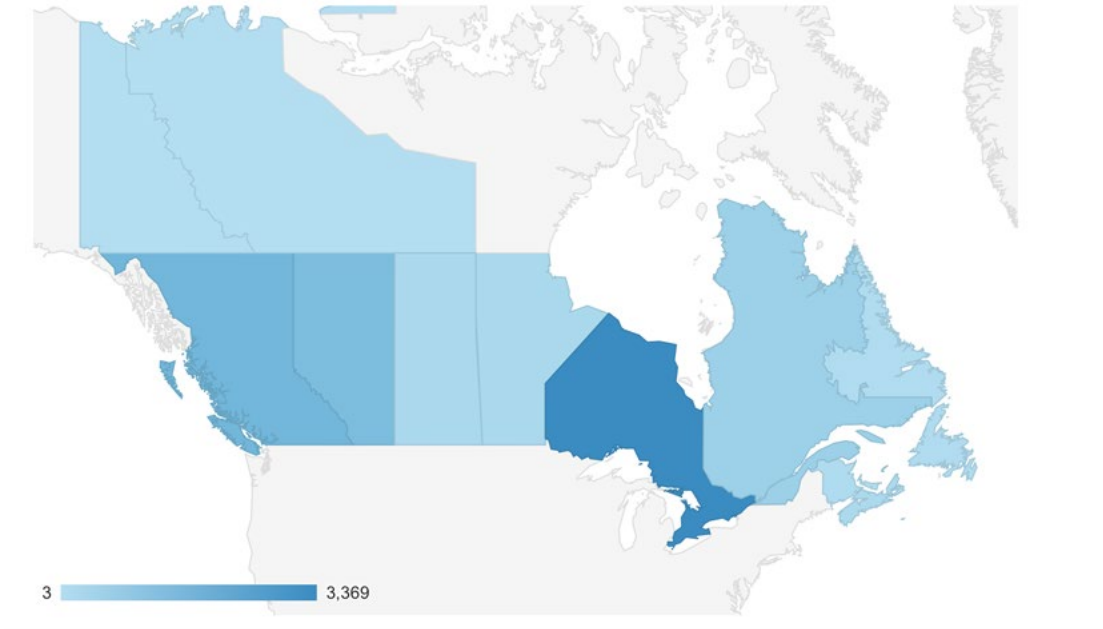
STATISTICS

MEASURING TRAFFIC

With more than 1.2 million users/unique visitors coming to the site in 2019, reading almost 3.3 million pages, rabble’s traffic continues to grow. We saw an increase in new users to the site, with 88% of users being new, with a particular upswing during the fall election months.

Nearly 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, referrals, as well as our weekly and daily newsletter as the primary means of reaching the site.

A total of 74% of our readers in 2019 came from Canada, and 14% from the United States. rabble also maintains a presence on Flipboard and Google News. Google Analytics provides statistics for Flipboard, which had 44,131 users in 2019. Google Newsstand had just under 9,000 regular readers.



AMPLIFY!

Through our Amplify! services, 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 their 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. 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.

We were excited to livestream both the Vancouver launch of the Leap's Green New Deal initiative in Canada (video highlights available [here](#)), and the pre-election talk with David Suzuki organized by the Svend Robinson campaign team (video highlights available [here](#)).

In addition, thanks to the work of Vancouver team member Jase Tanner, we've created a fun new video, highlighting our Amplify! event coverage services. View it [here](#).

See more at 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 for more information or to obtain a quote.



ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

ADVERTISE@RABBLE.CA

By advertising at *rabble.ca*, you can invest your marketing and promotion dollars into non-profit, independent journalism. Consider promoting your campaign, petition or business on *rabble.ca*, and reach our dynamic, engaged and giving audience. rabble sells advertising packages for ad buys on our site, as well as on our social media and e-newsletter. We also carry editorial advertising opportunities for progressive research and advocacy organizations.

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 2019, rabble had 1.2 million readers. People come to rabble for news on social movements and for alternative takes on federal and provincial politics.

We have a strong presence on social media, with more than 42,000 followers on Twitter and 27,000 on Facebook and Instagram in total. 74% of our traffic in 2019 came from Canada.

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 for information about advertising opportunities.

Join organizations other like-minded organizations such as

Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada

Alberta Union of Provincial Employees

Canadian Health Coalition

Canadians for Tax Fairness

Harrowsmith Magazine

Inter Pares

Mining Watch Canada

AD SAMPLES

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past national president, CUPE

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LIBBY DAVIES

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Andrew Scheer:
His weakness will cost you.

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Scheer
Weakness

MEET THE RABBLE AUDIENCE

SURVEY RESULTS FROM RABBLE'S 2019 READERS' SURVEY

- rabble readers are between 25-74, hail **from coast to coast and beyond**, and are **highly educated**. The majority (48%) earn between **\$20,000 to \$60,000** per year.
- 49% of our readers identify as **male**, 47% identify as **female**, and 4% identify as **non-binary/two-spirited/ or genderqueer**.
- 53% reported some form of **employment**, while 35% are **retired**.
- rabble readers care, with 93% **donating to one or more community organizations** every year, and 70% donating to **three or more!**
- rabble readers are also highly involved in their communities, with 70% participating in **volunteer work** each week, 43% belonging to a professional organization or association, 41% belonging to a **grassroots organization**, 37% belonging to an **NGO**, 30% belonging to a **trade union**, 21% belonging to a **cooperative**, and 18% belonging to a **religious organization**.
- rabble readers are both loyal and committed to rabble's various platforms: 67% read rabble **on a desktop or laptop computer**, and 89% of these readers also access our news through daily or weekly **email lists**, as well as on our **social media platforms**. Ever-engaged with the online world, 48% of readers use social media platforms for at least one hour every day.
- 90% of our readers consider themselves **environmentally responsible**, 70% of our readers attend rallies or political actions, and 90% participate in online actions and petitions.

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.

We are a virtual organization, with workers located around the country and, in 2019, around the world. We had regular staff in British Columbia, Ontario, and Nova Scotia — and even as far away as New York and Abu Dhabi. We have columnists, bloggers, podcasters and video makers from coast to coast.

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 2019)

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

President Emeritus

- Duncan Cameron

Founding Publisher

- Judy Rebick

Members' Council (as of December 2019)

- Domenic Bellissimo, OSSTF
- Federico Carvajal, ETFO
- Jim Stanford
- Kathleen Monk
- Linda Silas, CFNU
- Mike Old, HEU
- Natalie Clancy, UNIFOR
- Ravi Joshi, Council of Canadians
- Riccardo Filippone, PSAC
- Shannon Devine
- Sylvain Beaudry, CUPW
- Tania Ehret, rabble staff representative
- Tria Donaldson
- Trina James, CFS
- Trish Hennessey
- Wayne MacPhail

Regular Staff (as of December 2019)

- Kim Elliott, Publisher
- Michelle Gregus, Managing Editor
- Matthew DiMera, Acting Editor-In-Chief (April 2019 - onwards)
- Tania Ehret, Operations Coordinator
- Meg Borthwick, babble Moderator
- Maya Bhullar, Activist Toolkit & In Cahoots Coordinator
- Christina Turner, Weekend Editor & Books Lounge Coordinator
- Sophia Reuss, Evening Editor
- Victoria Fenner, RPN Executive Producer
- Shirley Marquez, Administration and Membership Coordinator
- Star Company, Bookkeeping
- Karl Nerenberg, Parliamentary Reporter
- Olivia Robinson, Jack Layton Fellow
- Zaid Noorsumar, Labour Beat Reporter
- Marianela Ramos Capelo, Graphic Design
- Krishna Lalbiharie, Graphic Design
- Michael Ensley, Facebook Group
- Consensus, Tech support
- Jase Tanner, Amplify
- Frank Preyde (babble)

Legal

- Iler Campbell

Auditor

- Numeris CPA

PEOPLE TO THANK

OUR GRATITUDE:

Brian Sharpe, Jo Ellen Kaiser, Libby Davies, Linda McQuaig, Olivia Chow, The Institute for Change Leaders, WhatCounts, the New Internationalist, Judy Rebick, Martha Plaine, Lush - Charity Pot, Humberto Da Silva, Tor Sandberg, Lauren Scott, Jessica Rose, the Canadian Periodical Fund, James Lorimer Publishing, Jase Tanner, Fernwood Publishing, Harrowsmith Magazine, Upping the Anti Magazine, Brent Patterson, Amira Elghawaby, 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.



Image by [Marco Verch/Flickr](#)

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. rabble depends on memberships to survive and thrive.
- Support with a special one time donation. No amount is too little or too much. See e offer great thank you gifts for all members. Of course, we also accept donations. See rabble.ca/donate
- Sign up for our FREE news summary: 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
- Have a conference or event you want to broadcast to the world? Book our event coverage services at 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
- Advertise on *rabble.ca*. rabble is Canada's largest independent online news site. Contact advertise@rabble.ca
- Tell us your news! If you have a story to tell, let us know! Contact editor@rabble.ca .

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“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 continues to publish strong and independent online journalism. I’m happy to support them.”

-- **Margaret Atwood**

“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**