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rabble.ca

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

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Photo: Wayne MacPhail

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

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

rabble.ca/donate

Or by mail:

rabble.ca
192 Spadina Avenue
Suite #300
Toronto, Ontario M5T2C2
Canada

(Pictured: Founding Publisher, Judy Rebick, current Publisher, Kim Elliott, and Democracy Now! founder, Amy Goodman at *rabble.ca* fundraiser in 2017). Photo by: Mitchel Raphael



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WELCOME

LETTER FROM PUBLISHER

rabble.ca took on 2017 with a fury! And for people the world over, there were no shortage of reasons to be on the streets in protest, find new ways to collaborate to fight for justice, and give reason for hope. As the new President of the United States was sworn in, far-right populism continued to be on the rise. Fake news and the war on the free press were forged in seats of power. Activists and citizens proudly stood up against the growing tide of fascism and white supremacy, not just in the U.S., but in Canada too. Women courageously announced that #TimesUp for men engaged in misogyny, gender-based violence, and harassment, forming the #MeToo movement. Here in Canada, pundits celebrated #Canada150 – one hundred and fifty years since confederation – as Indigenous communities and supporters advocated for recognition of the harm still done by on-going colonization. And as Trudeau towed the line between superficial identity politics and a pro-business agenda, both the Conservative Party of Canada and the NDP elected new federal party leaders.

And *rabble* was here for all of it, remaining independent, fierce, and unapologetically committed to exploring the perspectives of progressive communities in Canada and around the world. Our Parliamentary Correspondent Karl Nerenberg repeatedly held Trudeau's government to account, and Meagan Gillmore, our excellent Labour Beat reporter, reminded Canadians that the labour movement remains the first line of defence against austerity and neoliberalism.

All the while, we were steadfast and committed to action. In early 2017, we created the #stophateca series within our Activist Toolkit feature, a series collecting resources and helping to take a stand against racism and islamophobia in Canada. In October, we organized a major keynote event with Amy Goodman, from Democracy Now! in Toronto. Also in October, we launched the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship, an initiative to support emerging writers engaged in social justice reporting.

We continue to be proud of the powerful, talented journalists who work tirelessly to provide coverage on our site. Our wonderful team of workers saw some changes in 2017, with our brilliant Blogs and Opinions Coordinator, Michael Stewart, moving on to teaching opportunities in the spring, and our dazzling B.C. Evening Editor, Samaah Jaffer, moving on to new adventures at the end of the year. We wish them both the best! We also saw some familiar faces return over the year, with award winning author and editor Cathryn Atkinson re-joining as Acting Editor in Chief, and with past intern Sophia Reuss taking on the role of Assistant Editor.

Back when Judy Rebick and Duncan Cameron approached me to work at *rabble*, they explained that *rabble* ran on a little bit of "magic." This little non-profit did not have much money, but it had incredibly rich resources measured in the time and energy that so many people devote to it – from editors, to tech staff, to writers, podcasters and other contributors, as well as board members and the so many volunteers, each of whom share the desire for a publicly owned independent media that represents diverse progressive perspectives across Canada.

That desire to keep *rabble* a public platform and a centre for debate of multiple points of view is unique in a moment of narrowing perspectives on all sides of the political spectrum. *rabble* is not any one wealthy person's vanity project, it is not an ego-driven editorial project, and it is definitely not for profit media (despite the news reports, they do still exist). *rabble* is not beholden to a corporate master, to government, or to any funder.

rabble exists because of people -- writers, video and podcast contributors, donors, readers and workers -- who share a vision of what an independent media can and should be. A special acknowledgement and thank you goes to all those who worked behind the scenes to bring you rabble over the past year: Maya, Tania, Michelle, Victoria, Meg, Michael, Samaah, Brian, Christina and Sophia all bring experience, professionalism and a tireless commitment to independent media. Also a thank you to our current and past board of directors of the past year, all of whom volunteer their time, and often find themselves in positions of making challenging decisions. We were very honoured in 2017 to see past rabble staff and contributors join the executive - including Matthew Adams, Alexandra Samur, and Amira Elghawaby, who worked with Robert Lamoureux, Bob Gallagher and Toby Whitfield. And thanks are always due to founder Judy Rebick, and President Emeritus, Duncan Cameron, who are always ready to share ideas and support initiatives.

rabble continues to grow and push the boundaries of online media. Major media outlets and pundits have come to look to rabble first when they need to take the pulse of Canadian progressives -- and we're happy to oblige. We are earnest about respecting the intelligence and experience of our readers (and watchers and listeners). And we are honest about our politics. At a time when we keep being inundated with "clickbait" and "fake news," rabble's writers create articles which give a progressive take on complex issues, and our editors carefully ensure that the facts in articles are correct. We can't keep doing this without reader support.

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.

Sincerely,

Kim Eelion



NEWS/COLUMNS HIGHLIGHTS

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

As any activist can tell you, important reasons to protest just kept coming in 2017. There was plenty to be angry about, to worry about, to regroup over, and lots to think about in terms of moving beyond a disheartening present, whether looking at Canadian or international politics, economics, the environment. Trying to keep up with the machinations of the Orange Pluribus Unum to the south of us was enough on its own, and set the tone for the year in many ways. But in Canada we also had moments of victory and hope, from the **NDP/Green alliance** that enabled a new government to form in British Columbia, to the election of Project Montréal mayoral candidate, Valérie Plante on November 5 -- **the first woman to hold the office in Canada's second largest city.**

In summing up the year in our news features, perhaps we can wrap our heads around the past year, break it all down, and rectify.

Fascists and anti-fascist movements in America: An increase in racism, sexism, homophobia and other **bigotry in Trump America** culminated in **Charlottesville**. In turn, a growing anti-fascist movement has been growing across the U.S., and new forms of organizing have been taking shape at municipal levels.

Here at home, the right is emboldened by the mood elsewhere. In August, **hundreds turned out to protest racism** in London, but in November, **500 extreme right supporters marched in Quebec City under police protection, while counter-protestors were pepper-sprayed.** Quebec City's mayor echoed Trump by saying "there were virtuous people on both sides."

Elsewhere in Canada, activists like Desmond Cole continued to **shine a light** on issues such as police carding and other civil rights disgraces.

The housing crisis in major Canadian cities continued to grow. Our contributors were on the frontlines exploring the issue, from coverage of Jean Swanson's by-election campaign for Vancouver City Councillor (which she narrowly lost), to further signs that the bubble is ready to pop, rent increases across the country, debt-to-income ratio increases and renovictions. Needless to say, housing remains a **troubled part of the Canadian landscape.**

The need, desire and challenges of reconciliation in Canada with Indigenous peoples continues to consolidate as a movement, even as centuries-long inequities and racism continues. **Thousands took part in a walk for reconciliation** in October. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's behaviour on this file continues, as his government withheld funding ordered by the Canadian Human Rights tribunal, while finding billions in **federal loan guarantees for energy projects** such as Muskrat Falls in Labrador.

Meanwhile, the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation fired up Indigenous peoples

and supporters to demand recognition for the harm done by colonialism, including an ingenious sewing project. When it comes to reconciliation, Canadian business has room for improvement, too. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry has been troubled all year, with limits on testimony and multiple resignations.

Throughout the year, the federal NDP leadership race got candidates talking on babble (check it out here), and Karl Nerenberg wrote extensively on the candidates and the new NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh. Duncan Campbell discussed the excitement Singh brought to the race.

In the new era of Trump, protestors went to Hamburg's G20 Summit in summer 2017 with demands, but the G20 continued its international roadshow and photo op without progress on crucial issues such as climate change and inequality.

The frightening politics of the U.S. regime fostered new forms of reflection -- and reaction -- as citizens galvanized together against injustice. Calls for justice rang out at women's marches; in the aftermath of environmental disasters; at far-right hate rallies; in front of statues and institutions upholding a colonial legacy. This year more than ever saw the calling out of the systemic injustices that run through our social fabric.

But it was also a year of pushback. Citizens pushed back against the colonialism embedded in the foundation of our country. Activists challenged the white supremacy fuelling the actions of hate groups. The #MeToo movement resisted the misogyny underpinning sexual assault and gender-based violence. People around the world united against the corporatism that is the driving force of Trumpism.

The movements to protect the watersheds, and to save the BC coast grew in power in 2017.

What meaning can be found in a year when the world was continuously on the brink? Where can we find glimmers of hope in the darkness? In this difficult year, rabble's writers and columnists looked to community as the site where transformative change begins. Hope is found in laws which protect human rights. It can be uncovered in re-imaginings of history through a compassionate, just lens. Most of all, it resides in all of us, catalyzed through solidarity.

Through their reflections, analysis and critiques, rabble columnists brought fresh perspective -- and yes, hope -- to the challenges of a painful year.

Photo: Liz Lemon/flickr



JACK LAYTON JOURNALISM FOR CHANGE FELLOWSHIP

rabble.ca and Olivia Chow of the **Institute for Change Leaders** were delighted to announce the inaugural launch of the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship in October of 2017.

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

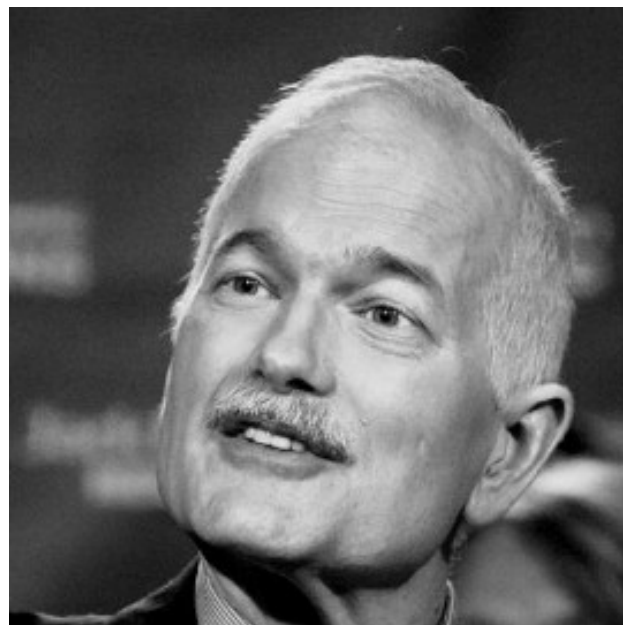
The fellowship supports emerging writers and journalists who are passionate and engaged in developing unique voices in social change reporting. The fellowship is a wonderful opportunity for strengthening media democracy in Canada while affording excellent mentorship and growth for new voices in our community.

We were fortunate to have the award and successful candidate introduced on October 1 by Olivia Chow and Desmond Cole at a special event in Toronto with Amy Goodman of Democracy Now.

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

His time with *rabble* helped to solidify his experience in the Canadian Journalism landscape.

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



PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER

In 2017, rabble's Parliamentary Reporter, Karl Nerenberg, was on the ground to get the inside scoop on Canadian politics (and the cross-over from our American Neighbours...).

It takes a strong, vibrant and critical independent press to look past the selfies and hold the Federal Liberals to account. That's what Karl does best.

He was there as **Canadian marchers pushed back against Trump**, to reinforce the need for the Federal government to **rescind safe country status for all U.S and other countries** and to command they **budget enough money to provide safe water for First Nations.**

And of course, **for analysis of the weak justification given for Trudeau breaking his electoral reform promises.**

He **was there as the NDP Leadership race drew to a close**, and **Jagmeet Singh presented the opportunity to give Trudeau a run for his money in the 2019 election.** And Andrew Scheer was brought in as the new leader of the Conservative Party: **Harper with dimples.**

As the year drew to a close, and the Trudeau government approached middle age, Karl was there to show how much Canada needs rabble to provide tonic to Trudeaumania.



LABOUR BEAT

Across Canada, newsrooms are cutting to the bone, and the labour beat is often the first thing to go. Not at rabble. Our paid Labour Beat Internship is one of our prize jewels. 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. Meagan Gillmore joined the esteemed ranks of rabble's former labour reporters when she joined our team in June of 2017. Her work included extensive coverage around labour strikes, and the challenges of going back to work, the struggles to organize at WestJet, and media guild organizing for those working in the unregulated world of Reality TV. Her work also included coverage of the struggle to give workers domestic violence leave, a dedication to the life of first woman president of BCGEU, Joan Gower Gillatt, and what communities are doing for justice for Indigenous workers both in the workplace and the union.

Generously supported by Unifor, this partnership broadened to include CALM (Canadian Association of Labour Media) in 2016-2017, extending the reach and impact of this much-needed labour beat in Canadian media. This rare paid reporting internship cultivates a new generation of pro-labour journalists across Canada. Of course, all our reporting and opinion seeks to change the conversation about labour and democracy. With the so-called "sharing economy" and anti-union rhetoric on the rise, Canada needs a strong reminder that collective action and organizing begins and ends in the labour movement. Fortunately, rabble is here to do just that.



REPORTING DEMOCRACY, RESISTANCE AND HOPE

In October 2017 we hosted Amy Goodman, American broadcast journalist, syndicated columnist, investigative reporter and author of six books. Her talk was part of rabble's fall fundraiser and helped us to launch the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship, in partnership with the Institute for Change Leaders, and guest speaker Olivia Chow.

In an evening that kicked off with local grassroots reporter, Desmond Cole, speaking to the power of independent media, and sharing stories of his own ground-breaking work, "Reporting Democracy, Resistance and Hope" featured Amy Goodman recounting her personal experiences as a journalist covering citizen/grassroots-based movements – these, whom daily confront-- and resist repressive governments and regimes in support of social, economic, and political justice. Watch the [video](#) or [listen](#) to the podcast.

Thanks to those who turned out for the event – and to our generous sponsors, outlined below, the event succeeded in boosting our fall fundraiser above its target of \$50,000.

You can watch the video from the event here: <https://bit.ly/2nqXPYE>

Sponsors:

Sustaining Democracy Sponsor: UNIFOR

Rabble-rouser sponsors: CUPE & United Steelworkers

Muckracker sponsors: Union Pride, CUPE Ontario, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, University of Toronto – Department of Social Justice

Changemaker sponsors: Ryerson Infoscapes Research Lab, JSOURCE, This Magazine

Media Sponsor: NOW Magazine



INDIGENOUS ISSUES – DECOLONIZING MEDIA

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

When Canadian pundits celebrated #Canada150, we were committed to covering an alternative history. This included the Okanagan-Syilx Nation mission to unsettle Canada 150, our coverage surrounding Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson's new book "Unsettling Canada", Decolonial Love in Canlit, and Pam Palmater's take on the flaws in the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

As reconciliation conversations continued across Canada, we were there to get to the heart of the issue by discussing self-determination and land claims, and unravel the uncomfortable truths, especially around the Federal Liberal's real agenda.

Of course, nowhere does the need for decolonization and reconciliation pull harder than the struggle against the Kinder Morgan pipeline in BC.

JMacPherson/flickr



RECLAIMING COASTS/ ENVIRONMENT

At rabble, we make it our duty to be right on the frontlines of social movements and their various intersections. Nowhere is this intersection more evident than in the fight for to reclaim our environments and coasts. We discuss the connections between social and climate justice and Indigenous activism solidarity.

Resistance was anything but futile in 2017.

At the annual Tommy Douglas Institute, activists Clayton Thomas-Müller and Vandana Shiva connected the struggles of social and climate justice. And elsewhere we make the connections between climate activism and ecosocialism, and how agriculture can be a climate change solution.

We looked at divestment and its power to shift the geopolitics of fossil fuels, Colombia's resistance to Canadian mining interests inspired us, as folks in Nova Scotia looked at what the plan to burn tires for fuel would look like for our climate and the future.

Photo: William Chen/Flickr



GOING VIRAL: SOCIAL MEDIA

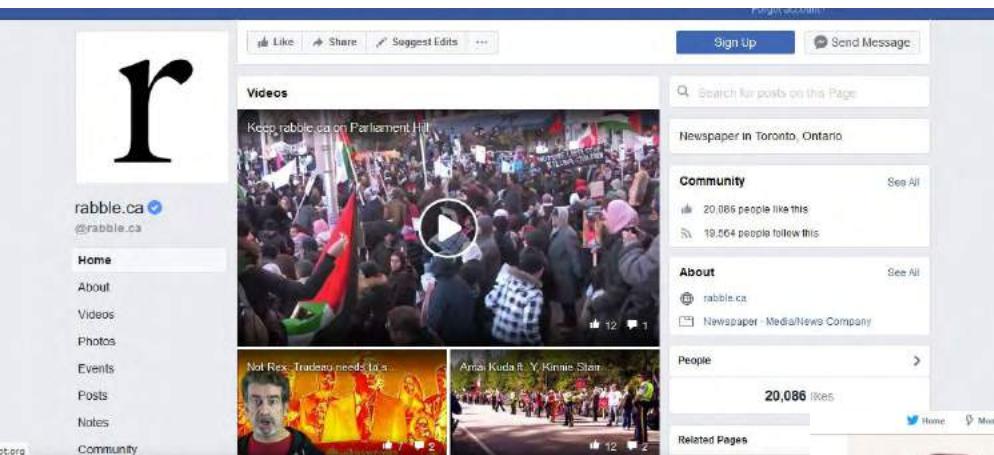
2017 saw rabble's impressive social media reach grow even further, as we used our platforms to speak truth to power, in a time of fake and over-sensationalized news. With over 27,000 **Facebook** fans and group members and over 41,000 **Twitter** followers, rabble has the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of Canadians with our content.

Thomas Woodley's piece in the wake of the Quebec Mosque attack, "**Canadian conservatives must take long, hard look at their Islamophobic rhetoric**" was shared over 400 times and reached over 50,000 people on Facebook alone. And rabble continues to be the first place journalists, MPs and Canada's most influential political minds -- conservative and progressive alike -- turn for what left wing, labour-conscious Canadians are thinking. In an increasingly crowded news market, real clout in the social media sphere is absolutely essential.

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 as well as our content-specific weekly digests on politics, labour, arts & culture, environment, and Indigenous issues.

In 2017, with the help of Lush's Charity Pot, we were able to secure the funds to update our daily and weekly newsletter service, rendering the content more personalized and more effective, delivered right into your various devices as you move through your day.

We also entered the selfie stick world this year, as we got started on **Instagram**. Through this platform, we connect with our members, readers and partner organizations with the various community arts and activist events that our staff are able to attend!



IN THE STREETS – JOURNALISM IN PRACTICE

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

We continue to emphasize the importance of solidarity among social movement organizations through partnerships, including as media sponsors for Media Democracy Days, The Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF), and the Tommy Douglas Institute. In addition, we were happy to lend our skills and partner to promote events in 2017 including: Women in Film + Television Vancouver, the Mayworks Festival, the launch of Wherever I Find Myself: Stories by Canadian Immigrant Women, the Worker’s Cooperative Conference, Between the Lines Publishing’s 40th Anniversary, and on-going events with Ottawa’s Octopus Books and the SFU Institute for Humanities.

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 exhibits at both the CUPE Convention and the Canadian Labour Congress Convention. Through these, we developed new materials to emphasize our goal to amplify social movements and marginalized voices. At the CLC convention we asked passersby to tell us how rabble allows them to tell their story. Telling your story is what we aim to do.

When the organizers of the LEAP Manifesto needed someone to record their Basic Income debate last year, our Podcast Executive Producer, Victoria Fenner, was there in a flash to catch the energy of the event!

Photo: Maya Bhullar/
Kim Elliott



TOOLKIT

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

The Toolkit reflects William's 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 2016, the Toolkit and rabble Podcast Network launched Constructing Change, a series speaking to people working to change their communities for the better. Interviews and profiles reveal how to support and amplify the changemakers' work as well as share how they do what they do. In 2017, the Toolkit launched the #stophate series, which works with allies to amplify efforts to stand up against resurging racism and Islamophobia and to call out the use of racism in right-wing organizing. We have also worked hard to promote the issue briefs, papers and candidate/platform comparisons, and other tools progressive organizations working across the country have developed during provincial and federal elections to support progressive change.

Tiny Houses Photo: Ian Willms /
Greenpeace Canada



EAR IN REVIEW –RPN

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

With a new rabble podcast every week, hosted by rabble podcasts' executive producer Victoria Fenner, we still have independently produced podcasts on the network – Talking Radical Radio, Asia Pacific Currents, Face2Face and most recently, the return of The Hum. Now that we're in the Golden Age of Podcasting, we've also had a lot of interest from volunteers wanting to learn how to podcast. Get in touch with victoria@rabble.ca if you want to join the team. We can also provide podcast training to partner organizations wanting to launch their own podcast.

2017 highlights from our inspiring podcasters, include: **Voices from the women's marches**, including content from Vancouver, Washington, and Toronto; the **gig economy** and its impact on the various women working within it; the **struggle to bridge identities** for people of mixed settler and Indigenous heritage; the continued **fight for Dreamers in America**, including an interview about the campaign that pushed forward the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.



HAVE YOUR SAY: BABBLE!

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

What a year 2017 was for Canada and the world. Our 23rd Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, was in the second year of his term, Chrystia Freeland became Minister of Foreign Affairs, B.C. became an NDP province and social media was increasingly populated with all things Donald Trump. As always, babble reflected the wide-ranging current events of the year. Here we've collected a few of our favourite threads spanning 2017.

- babble contributors (babblers) watched the polls anxiously on **election night** in British Columbia.
- Not long after, there was discussion and critique of the newly-minted B.C. premier John Horgan and his leadership skills. Keep in mind **this discussion thread** was begun before the inter-provincial trade war between Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Horgan would fully gather steam. 2017 was also the year that the federal NDP elected a new leader, Jagmeet Singh. babblers voiced a **number of concerns** about the direction in which Singh would take the post-Mulcair party.
- Chrystia Freeland replaced Stéphane Dion as Minister of Foreign Affairs. babblers had **plenty to say about her foreign policy**.
- When discussion threads get too long and heavily populated, we divide them up. By 2017, babble was already on its third **Trump administration thread**.
- Often looking to the U.K.'s Labour party, left-led by Jeremy Corbyn, **babblers offered unique insights** into the direction of the party under his leadership.

We hope you've enjoyed the year in babble. It's a forum where people who are passionate about politics, engage in debate and discussion that is unique to rabble and its readership.

rabble community				
	Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
	rabble news features Read it on rabble, then talk about it here.	299 1 new	7484	Hamilton, Ontario... by Iloydcarlee 2018-06-16 15:48
	news by the rest of us You post your original article; we comment!	307	4169	On a National... by Unionist 2018-02-11 11:54
	babblers helping babblers Do you have a pet idea or project? Would you like help or feedback? Or are you trying to track down some information? Work with each other.	584	8757	Developing large... by had enough 2018-03-14 08:35
	babble banter For when you are so far off topic, you were never even on it.	450	10281	babble Hall of... by Unionist 2018-04-19 22:41
	rabble reactions Topical questions and comments about the site only.	610	22465	Troll alert by NorthReport 2018-05-07 23:36

Babble screen capture

RABBLE TV

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

This past year, Not Rex Murphy was on the ground to take on a new era of frontline movements in the era of Trump. He started the year by taking on “**fake news**” which quickly became one of the more well-known phrases of 2017. His other highlights included a **Canadian Labour Congress** street party in Toronto, and his documenting of students supporting faculty during the OPSEU strike at Ontario colleges.



SURVEY RESULTS

In late 2016 we launched our latest reader survey. Thank you to the hundreds of readers who responded!

MEET THE RABBLE AUDIENCE:

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

WHO ARE RABBLE READERS? (THE BREAKDOWNS)

AGE

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

INCOME

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

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

SUPPORTING DONORS

COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED MEDIA

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

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

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

In 2017, our annual campaign launched in the summer and met its \$50,000 goal. Through fundraising campaigns launched by staff in the summer and fall, 2017 ended with over 800 monthly members contributing between \$5 and \$100 a month, with a total of over \$125,000 raised from individual donors, much of it raised by monthly donations.

Monthly supporters get a variety of perks, ranging from thank you gifts upon sign up to special event invitations and a newsletter just for monthly supporters.

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

Our mailing depends on volunteers to help us stuff envelopes. There is always great conversation and good snacks. Thank you to our volunteers! And in particular in 2017 thank you to our supporting partner CUPE416 for your support in sending the summer mailing!



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

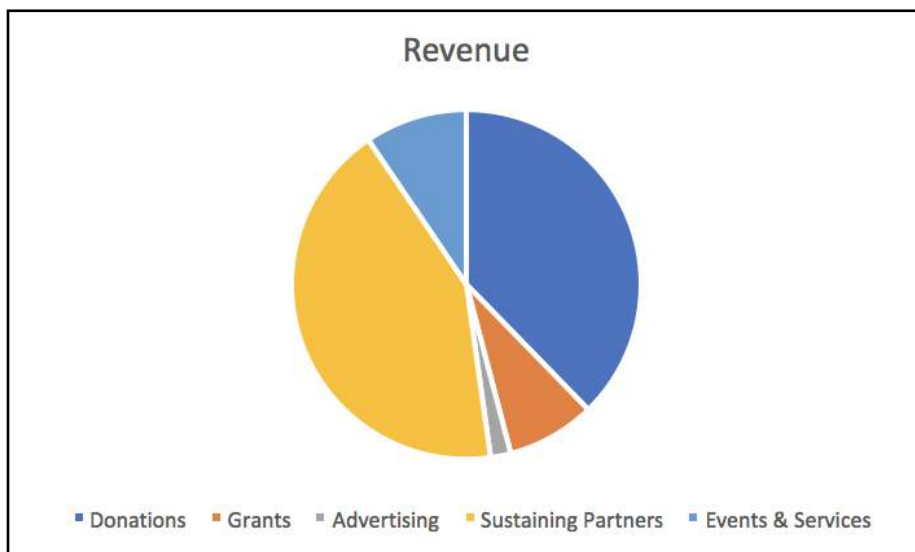
FINANCIAL REFLECTIONS

The total operating budget for *rabble.ca* in 2017 was \$314,262 with an income of \$355,219.

2017 saw some high and lows for rabble on the financial front. Our summer and fall fundraisers were both large successes, meeting and surpassing fundraising goals through a summer membership drive and a special event in the fall with Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman.

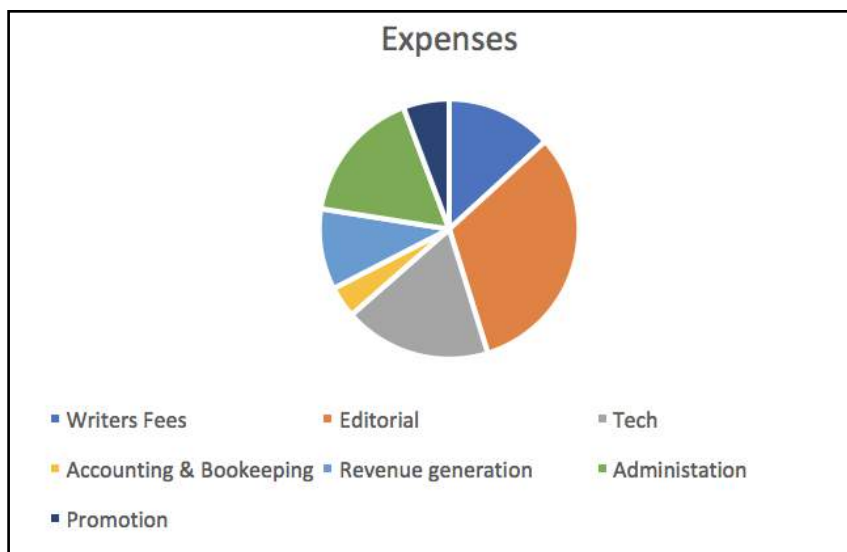
We raised new funds to launch the Jack Layton Journalism for Change Fellowship in October, in partnership with the Institute for Change Leaders. e received a first time grant from the Charity Pot in August, and we ended the year with news that we had been awarded a Canadian Periodical fund grant to build on our existing event services offerings.

While 2017 got off to a difficult start, *rabble.ca* has a solid reputation of being an efficient and lean operation, that punches far above its budget in terms of reach and in original content. Despite the setbacks, rabble proved itself a sustainable organization, and saw the year end with a profit and plans for building the organization in new directions, through the hiring of a new Operations Coordinator, Tania Ehret, who began in February 2018.



In 2017,

- Sustaining Partner accounted for 43% of our revenue, and
- donations from individuals accounted for 38%.
- Grants accounted for 8%,
- Events and Services 9%,
- and advertising 2%.



In 2017,

- Writer fees (13%) and editorial costs (32%) accounted for the greatest expenses in 2017 at a combined 45% the total budget.
- Tech accounted for 18%.
- Revenue generation activities (10%) and administration (17%) for a combined 27%.
- Accounting represented 4% of the total budget.
- Promotions - 6%

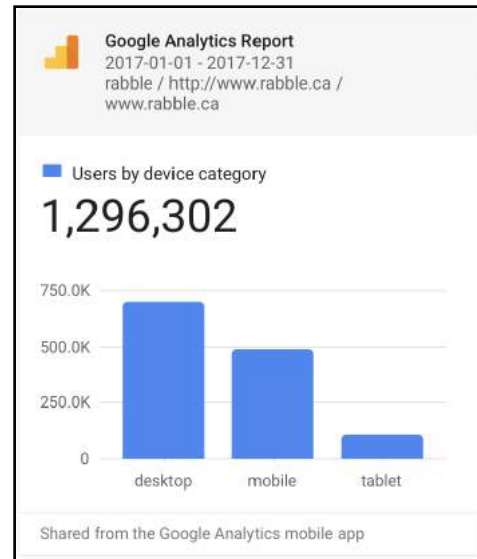
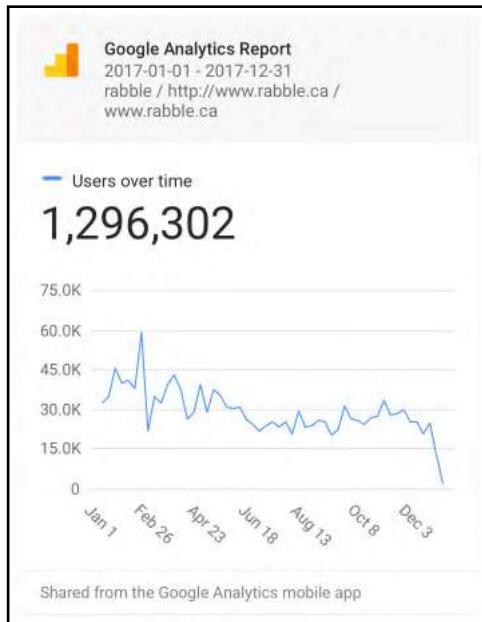
Many media organizations receive labour support and civil society support. At rabble we believe in being transparent about where our funds come from. Sustaining and Supporting Partners in 2017 included:

- United Steelworkers
- Unifor
- Public Service Alliance of Canada
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation
- Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario
- National Union of Public and Government Employees
- Health Services Association – Alberta
- BCGEU
- The Canadian Federation of Nurse
- Health Employees Union BC
- Unifor 79M
- CUPE416
- AUPE

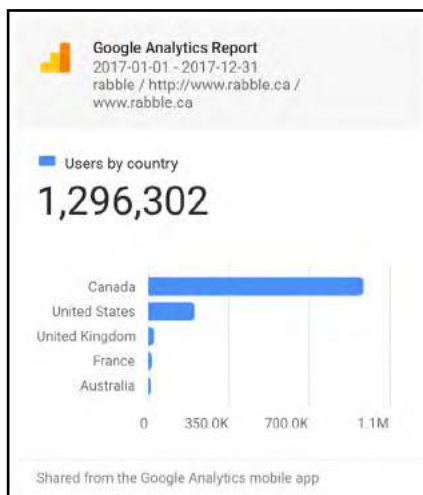
STATISTICS

MEASURING TRAFFIC

2017 was a transformative year for rabble. Nowhere was that more visible than in the major website upgrades. The transfer of stats has resulted in the loss of days of stats, noted most visibly in the traffic charts over the period of change in February and March 2017.



rabble continued to have significant traffic, with nearly 1.3 million users/unique visitors visiting the site over 2017, reading over 4 million pages. We saw a significant increase of visits from mobile devices since the implementation of the new, more mobile friendly site, with over 75% of traffic derived from mobile -- thus reversing the trend of past years where most traffic still came from desktops.



Over half of those coming to the rabble site do so by means of a google search. Of the remaining half, in 2017 links from social media surpassed direct links and referrals as the primary means of reaching the site.

71% of our readers in 2017 came from Canada, and 15% from the United States

rabble also maintains a presence on Flipboard and Google News. Google Analytics provides statistics for Google News, which had 27 thousand users in 2017, reading an average of 6 screens per session. rabble readers on Google News tend to be more limited to readers in Canada, with 86% of users having Canadian IP addresses.

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

ADVERTISE@RABBLE.CA

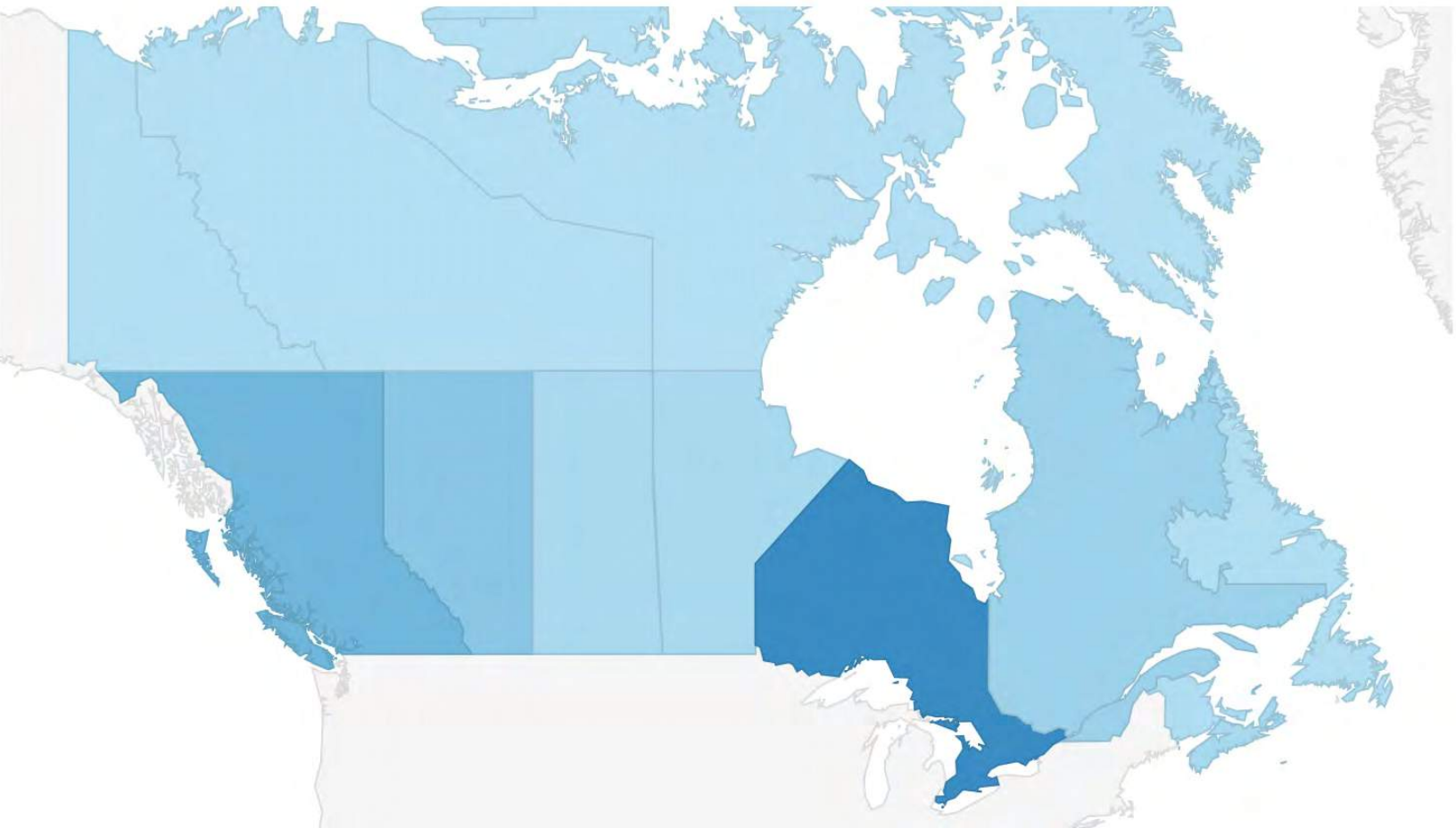
rabble.ca sprang to life in 2001 as an independent news source with strong roots in various movements working for social justice and equality.

In 2017 rabble had an average of 110,000 unique visitors a month, with 1.3 million people reading rabble over the course of the year. People come to rabble for news on social movements and for alternative takes on federal and provincial politics. For example, over 1 million people visited rabble over the course of the last federal election period alone. We have a strong presence on social media, with over 41,000 followers on Twitter.

Over 70% of our traffic in 2017 came from Canada, with the largest readership in southern Ontario and the lower mainland of British Columbia, and with representation right through the country.

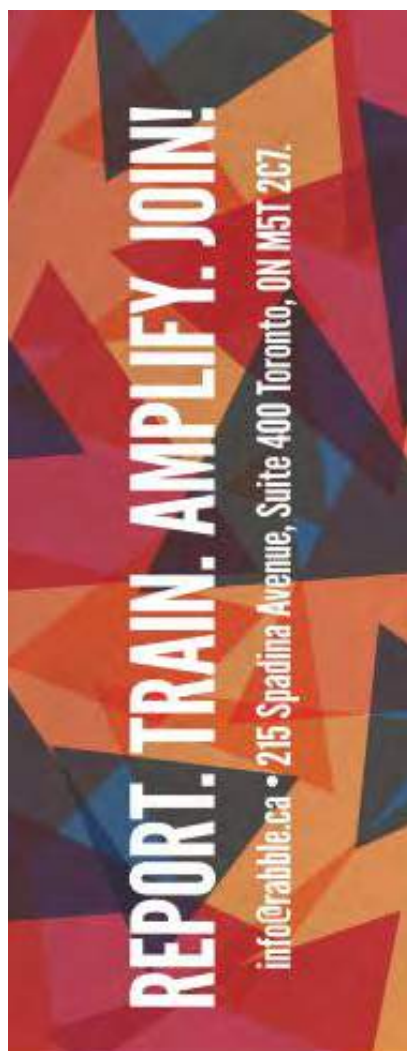
Thousands of Canadians registered for babble, rabble's discussion board. 44,571 accounts have been created on rabble (allowing people to comment on articles, participate in discussion board, and post on our events calendar).

Over 40,000 people subscribe to our newsletters (and we have ad space there too!).



ADVERTISING (CONT'D)

IN CAHOOTS - BOOSTING YOUR WORK THROUGH EDITORIAL ADVERTISING



rabble.ca
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US

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

ADVERTISING (CONT'D)

AMPLIFY YOUR STORIES THROUGH OUR UNIQUE EVENT COVERAGE SERVICES

We are excited to be able to reach out to you with a new opportunity to help amplify your work through our event coverage services. With thanks to a grant received in the fall of 2017 through the Canadian Periodical Fund, rabble began work to launch the Amplify Project.

Through the Amplify project, you will be able to invite our media savvy crew of journalists and professional multimedia storytellers to record and broadcast the messages of your conventions and conferences -- and support media democracy and independent media at the same time. As a nonprofit organization, all revenues from rabble services are invested back into our 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.

See more at rabble.ca/amplify

Jase Tanner and Amira Elghawaby interview
Glen Greenwald. Photo by: Kim Elliott



YEAR IN TECH

RABBLE IS ALWAYS GROWING!

As our writers and readers took to the streets, behind the screen our site went through many changes this year. In 2017 our tech Director Brian Sharpe launched a much-needed upgrade on the core software of our site and in the process made quite a few changes to our existing layout and site features and sections.

As a grassroots organization working with a limited budget, more changes are to come in 2018 as well, and are always appreciative of our members who help by supporting us to make this happen. If you're a fan of the work we do, please make a contribution today at: rabble.ca/donate

OLD
SITE



NEW
SITE



STAFF & REGULARS AT RABBLE

PEOPLE AT *RABBLE.CA*

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

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

We are a virtual organization with workers located around the country. In 2017, we had editorial staff in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Toronto – and, for a period, even as far away as New York and Paris. We have columnists, bloggers, podcasters and video makers coast to coast and beyond the Canadian borders.

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

Executive Members (as of May 2017)

- Matthew Adams (President)
- Bob Gallagher (Vice President)
- Toby Whitfield (Secretary)
- Amira Elghawaby
- Alexandra Samur
- Robert Lamoureux
- Duncan Cameron (President Emeritus)

Past Executive Members:

- Holly Solomon
- Sue Birge
- Wayne MacPhail
- David MacDonald
- Morna Ballantyne
- Stephen Kimber

Members Council

Alexandra Samur	Fred Wilson	Kevin Milsip	Domenic Bellissimo
Amira Elghawaby	Wayne MacPhail	Larry Brown	Vivian Mccaffrey
Morna Ballanytne	Jerry Toews	Matthew Adams	Maya Bhullar
Shannon Devine	Kathleen Monk	Robert Lamoureux	Tria Donaldson

Staff

- Kim Elliott, Publisher (on sabbatical Nov 2016 – May 2017)
- Steve Staples, Acting Publisher (Nov 2016 – April 2017)
- Michelle Gregus, Managing Editor
- Cathryn Atkinson, Acting Editor in Chief (September 2017 – August 2018)
- Stephen Kimber, Acting Editor (Feb 2017 – April 2017)
- Meg Borthwick, babble moderator
- Maya Bhullar, Activist Toolkit & In Cahoots Coordinator
- Michael Stewart, Opinions Editor & Promotions
- Tania Ehret, Outreach Coordinator (BC)
- Christina Turner, Weekend Editor
- Sophia Reuss, Evening Editor (EST)
- Samaah Jaffer, Evening Editor (PST)
- Victoria Fenner, RPN Executive Producer
- Nora Loreto, on secondment from the Canadian Association of Labour Media, as Labour Editor
- Brian Sharpe, Tech Director
- Shirley Marquez, Administration and Membership Coordinator
- Star Company, bookkeeping
- Karl Nerenberg, Parliamentary Reporter
- Meagan Gillmore, Labour Beat Reporter
- Krystalline Kraus, Activist Communique
- Michael Ensley, Facebook Group moderator
- Braden Alexander, Podcast Intern
- Public Response, Fundraising support (Nov 2016 - February 2017)
- Iler Campbell, Legal

PEOPLE TO THANK

DUNCAN CAMERON - A special thank you is in order for our President Emeritus, Duncan Cameron, for his many years of hard work and dedication to rabble's mission and vision. Duncan has been with rabble since the beginning, taking on the role of President from 2005 to 2016.

Duncan now retains his "emeritus" title, is regularly involved with rabble through his columns and hands-on work in Vancouver, and is a constant source of advice and support to rabble's staff.

MICHAEL STEWART – What can we say about Michael Stewart? Michael has been a staff member and indispensable team-leader since 2010. He has held various roles from Babble Moderator, to Blogs Coordinator, to Opinions and Promotions Coordinator, excelling as a pure jack of all trades! As his chapter as staff at rabble came to a close in spring 2017, we wished him luck in his future, while knowing that he would remain a close friend and support to rabble well into the future.

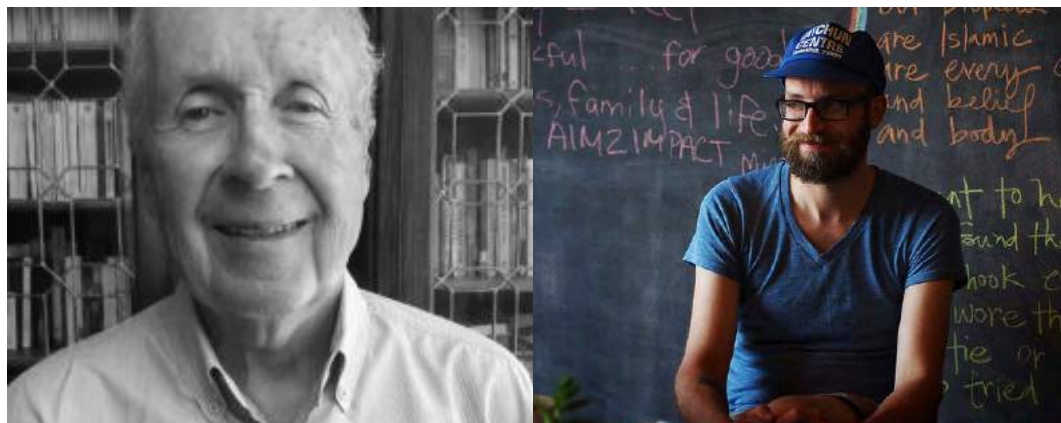
SAMAAH JAFFER – In December 2017 we said goodbye -- but not farewell -- to our extraordinary evening editor Samaah Jaffer. Samaah, headed off to her next chapter as well of travel and study! We thank Samaah for all of her fine-tuned attention to detail, and look forward to her future contributions to rabble, and the community at large!

Special gratitude also goes out to our amazing behind-the-scenes team of accounting and design, who helped us bring our brand and administration to an all-time high.

We thank **MITCHEL RAPHAEL** for the incredible photos from the launch of the Jack Layton Fellowship launch. See more of his extraordinary talent at <http://mitchelraphael.com>.

We thank **MARIANELA RAMOS CAPELO** for her keen eye and conception of truly sharp marketing materials for us this past year! With her help, rabble's image is as up-to-date as ever.

We thank **ANDREA POOLE** for her work in creating our official audit statements for 2016. Thanks to these statements, our opportunities expand in terms of grant eligibility.



Duncan Cameron

Photo of Mike by Wayne MacPhail

NEWS CONTRIBUTORS, COLUMNISTS, BLOGGERS

BLOGGERS

Aalya Ahmad
Abigail Curlew
Alana Cattapan
Alex Hemingway
Amanda West
Amira Elghawaby
Andrea Harden-Donahue
Anita Nickerson
Anna Zalik
Arthur Manuel
Barb Byers
Ben Parfitt
Ben Powless
Benjamin Diepeveen
Benjamin Doxtdator
Bilan Arte
Bonnie Burstow
Brad Hornick
Breanna Ho
Brent Patterson

Canadian Journalists for Free
Expression
Carmela Hutchison
Carmen Ellison
Caroline Biotteau
Caroline Grego
Cathy Crowe
Cheryl McNamara
Chris Watson
Christina Gray
Christopher Majka
Common Frontiers
Connie Sorio, Bishop Antonio
Ablon
Cynthia Khoo
Dana Cook
Danny Glenwright
David A. McDonald
David Bush
David Christopher
David Climenhaga

David Suzuki
David Taub Bancroft
Debra Huron
Dennis Gruending
Dennis Howlett
D'Luxe Brown
Don Duchene
Donald Cuccioletta
Donna Borden
Doreen Nicoll
Dru Oja Jay
Duncan Pike
Ed Finn
Ehab Lotayef
Emilie Taman
Emily Blake
Emma Lui
Erin Kobayashi
Erin Weir
Eryn Fitzgerald

Evan Balgord	John Miller	Matt Chilliak
Evan Johnston	José Luis Granados Ceja	Maude Barlow
Fernanda Sánchez Jaramillo	Joshua MacNab	Maya Bhullar
Gary Engler	Judith (Kekinusuqs) Sayers	Meg Borthwick
Gerry Caplan	Judy Haiven	Meghan Sali
Gordon Laxer	Judy Rebick	Mercedes Allen
Gordon Laxer	Julia Maksymetz	Michael Bueckert
Greg Squires	Karen Tam Wu	Michael Stewart
Groupe de recherche sur l'extrême droite et ses allié-e-s- GREDA	Karen Tam Wu	Michel Lambert
Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood	Karena Shaw	Michelle Weinroth
Hans Rollman	Kate McInturff	Miranda Gallo
Heryka Miranda	Kathleen Copps	Nada Elia
Iglika Ivanova	Keith Brooks	Nahla Abdo
Independent Jewish Voices Canada	Kelly Carmichael	Nathan Munn
Ishani Weera	Ken Billings	Neil Nunn
J. Baglow	Kevin Metcalf	Niall Clapham-Ricardo
Jacqueline Houston	Kim Elliott	Nick Falvo
Jade Saab	Krystalline Kraus	Nick Fillmore
James Hutt	Libby Davies	Nino Pagliccia
Jamie Kneen	Linda Leon	Nora Loreto
Jen Moore	Liz Kessler	Pamela Palmater
Jennifer Henry	Lizanne Foster	Patty Hajdu
Jesse McLaren	Lucas Crawford	Paul Barrett
Jesse Schooff	Luke Kalfleish	Paul Meinema
Jessica Squires	Lyn Adamson	Paul Orlowski
Jim Hodgson	Lynne Fernandez	Penney Kome
Jode Roberts	Marc Lee	Peter Whitaker
John Ashton	Marie Aspiazu	Phillip Dwight Morgan
John Cartwright	Mark Calzavara	Rachel Small
John Dillon	Mark Rowlinson	Rachel Warden
John M. Kirk	Martha Friendly	Raffi Cavoukian
	Martha Roth	Raluca Bejan
		Raul Burbano

Rebecca Rose
Richard Thompson
Roger Annis
Rudayna Bahubeshi
Russell Diabo
Ruth Coustick-Deal
Sabine Lebel
Sabreena Ghaffar-Siddiqui
Salman Zafar
Samaah Jaffer
Sara Eftekhar
Sarah Miller
Scott Fenwick
Scott Sinclair

Scott Stager Piatkowski
Sean Nixon
Seth Klein
Shannon Daub
Shauna MacKinnon
Shenaz Kermalli
Sophia Reuss
Stephanie Lake
Stephen Hui
Steve Stewart
Steven Tufts
Stuart Trew
Susan Prentice
Taryn Blanchard

Tess Agustin
Thomas Ponniah
Thomas Woodley
Tom Liacas
Tom Parkin
Tyler Levitan
Vanessa Brcic
Vibhor Garg
Victoria Henry
Vlad Bunea
Wayne Roberts
Yves Engler
Zoë Yunker

COLUMNISTS

Amy Goodman
Ava Lightbody
Brian Iler
Celia Chandler
Claudia Pedrero
David Christopher
Denis Moynihan
Doug Macpherson
Duncan Cameron
Elliot Fonarev
Jim Stanford

Joyce Arthur
Julie Devaney
June Chua
Katie Douglas
Linda McQuaig
Lois Ross
Marianela Ramos Capelo
Marie Aspiazu
Martina Zanetti
Matthew Behrens
Meghan Sali

Michael Hackl
Monia Mazigh
Murray Dobbin
Naomi Klein
Ole Hendrickson
Rick Salutin
Safia Lakhani
Shelina Ali
Wayne MacPhail

NEWS CONTRIBUTORS

Abeer Yusuf	Littlejohn	Resh Budhu
Albert Dumont	Humberto DaSilva	Richard Raber
Alyse Kotyk	Jarrod Shook Bridget McInnis	Rita Wong Hiromi Goto
Arnold August	Justin Piché Kevin Walby	Rosemary Frei
Bruce Campbell	Jennifer Dales	Ryan C. Kerr
Cathryn Atkinson	Jonathan Cook	Sean Saunders
Chanchal Bhattacharya	Julie Comber	Sharon O Nyangweso
Cheryl Thompson	Karl Nerenberg	Sofia Ali-Khan
Chris Walker	Lenée Son	Stephen Kimber
Cory Collins	Lynn Gehl	Steve Price-Thomas
David Bleakney	Matthew Brett	Tania Ehret
Erin Despard	Meagan Gillmore	Taylor C. Noakes
Ethel Tungohan	Megan Devlin	Terry Milewski
Frances Willick	Michael Jones	Tessa Vikander
Gaetan Heroux	Miriam Katawazi	Victoria Fenner
Helene Vosters Elizabeth	Naomi Dachner Valerie Tarasuk	

GRATITUDE

OUR GRATITUDE:

CSI Spadina, The Progressive Media Consortium, WhatCounts, Phillip Smith, Livestream.com, Octopus Books, OpenMedia.ca, Greg MacDougall, Judy Rebick, Martha Plaine, Libby Davies, Erin King, Pierre Beaudet, James Patterson, Jorge Barrera, Jackie Wong, Alan Graham, Derek Laventure, Canadian Association of Labour Media, Institute for Change Leaders, UNIFOR, USW- District 6, CUPE Ontario, ETFO, Union Pride, UofT Department of Social Justice, Ryerson Infoscapse Research Lab, J- Source, NOW Magazine, Media Democracy Days. SFU Institute for Humanities, CCPA Manitoba, Krishna Lalbiharie, Tommy Douglas Institute, Lush- Charity Pot, Tech wizards, Alan and Derek, Humberto Da Silva, the Canadian Periodical Fund and to our friends at the Junction Media in the Dominion Building in Vancouver.

And a special thanks to our 2017 executive committee:

In May 2017, *rabble.ca* was pleased to announce its new interim board of directors. Our deepest gratitude goes out to Matthew Adams (President), Bob Gallagher (Vice President), Amira Elghawaby, Alexandra Samur, Toby Whitfield, and Robert Lamoureux, for stepping in to support the staff field its many operations at this time of re-growth.

Although rabble is a staff-driven organization with day-to-day operations run without board oversight, our board members and members council have been indispensable over the years in helping rabble to secure its structure for the future and in supporting the staff to follow through on its mission, year after year.



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. We offer great thank you gifts for all members. Of course, we also accept donations. See <https://secure.rabble.ca/supportrabble>

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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QUOTES

FROM OUR COMMUNITY

“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*”

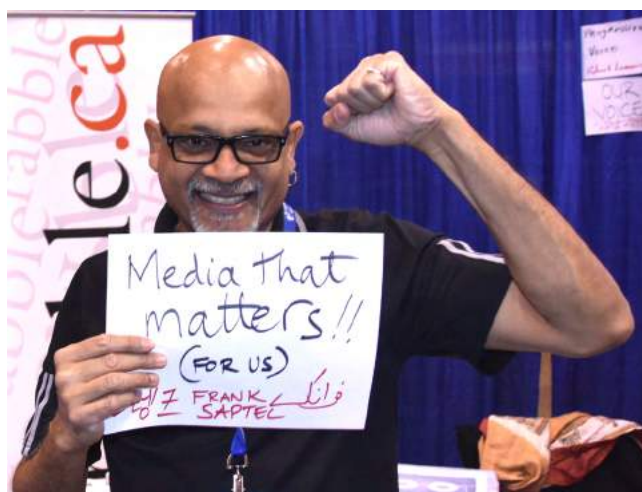
-- Linda McQuaig

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

-- Avi Lewis

QUOTES

FROM OUR COMMUNITY





"rabble.ca's event team held a key role in the annual Women's Forum that we hosted over the past few years. The live-blog, a robust social media support and the nearly-live posting of audio recordings from the various speakers that attended the Forum allowed feminists from across the country to participate and follow our gatherings remotely, and helped make these events trend in Canada on Twitter."

-Niki Ashton, MP Churchill-Keewatinook Aski

**Contact us at amplify@rabble.ca for pricing guide
and to discuss your event needs.**