

Annual Report  
2014

rabble.ca

NEWS FOR THE REST OF US

# What can you find at rabble.ca?

- Original progressive **news features** and **analysis**
- Diverse and exclusive **columnists**
- The widest range of leftist cultural and political **blogs** in Canada
- **in cahoots**: featured links to social movement and labour stories
- Ten years of Canada's best in progressive **podcasts** (plus **rabble radio**)
- **Streaming video** of live lectures and events
- **The Book Lounge**: a multi-featured book section with original reviews, events and more
- Canada-wide event **calendar**
- In-depth **series** on **critical issues** facing Canadians
- Daily and weekly **e-newsletters** tailored to your unique interests
- Public **polls** checking the pulse of rabble readers
- **babble**, our famous moderated online discussion forum
- **Issues** pages: an aggregate of stories, links and news on important themes
- **Not Rex (Murphy)**: video commentary for the rest of us
- **Reprints** from other progressive news sources



# r

"I rely on *rabble.ca* to bring me the real debates that are shaping our country. I also depend on *rabble.ca* to bring my columns to a remarkable community of Canadians."

— **Naomi Klein**

"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**

"*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"

— **Linda McQuaig**

"As more and more people across this country recognize the importance of media democracy, it's crucial we put that recognition into action by supporting [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca): one of the few non-profit, independent and innovative media outlets we have."

— **Steve Anderson, founder of [OpenMedia.ca](http://OpenMedia.ca)**

"With mainstream media abdicating its role of holding power to truth, independent media, like *rabble.ca*, are now more important than ever for ensuring our democratic aspirations can be realized."

— **Joel Bakan, author of *The Corporation*.**



# THANK YOU

## SUSTAINING PARTNERS!

**rabble.ca**'s Sustaining and Supporting Partners are organizations that support our mission and vision financially, receiving acknowledgement in advertising and site promotion.

Thank you to our partners for their support throughout the year!

### 2014 Sustaining Partners:

**The Council of Canadians  
Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario  
British Columbia Government Employees  
Union (NUPGE)  
Hospital Employees Union  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
National Union of Public and General  
Employees  
Ontario Secondary School  
Teachers Federation  
Unifor  
United Steelworkers**

The importance of the community of unions and civil society organizations that support rabble 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 of our site's front page and also receive free advertising on *rabble.ca*. In addition, all Sustaining Partners are in cahoots members, meaning stories from their websites are featured on our front page in a special section. If your organization would like more information about becoming a Sustaining Partner, please contact [business@rabble.ca](mailto:business@rabble.ca).

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

[rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca)'s donors are what make independent possible. Whether you contribute \$5 or \$5000 — each decision to invest in rabble 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](http://rabble.ca/donate)

Or by mail:

[rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca), 215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 400, Toronto, ON M5T 2C7





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# Welcome

from Publisher Kim Elliott and President Duncan Cameron

We made it. Lucky number thirteen.

2014 was *rabble.ca*'s thirteenth year reporting news for the rest of us. The same age as Wikipedia. Three years older than Facebook. So many other online media organizations have not been able to hang on. Yet we at *rabble.ca* have always been and continue to be non-profit, community supported and completely independent. We are grateful to all of our many supporters who keep us flourishing.

We continue to grow and push the boundaries of online media. We have 13,000 fans on Facebook and 30,000 followers on Twitter—10,000 more than last year. This year we had our first article reach more than one million readers. Astonishing for an organization whose total budget is close to Steve Paikin's annual salary.

Our reporting continues to distribute and amplify the messages of social and labour movements to ordinary Canadians. For the third consecutive year, in partnership with Unifor, we hosted a Labour Beat Reporter—a dying breed in Canada. Our news and features section produced several hard-hitting series on Canadian politics while our Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit continues to expand and educate the next generation of activists.

Once again we turned to the public and to our partners to support the work of our parliamentary reporter, Karl Nerenberg. And again, the public responded, showing their appreciation of his sweeping knowledge of Canadian political history and his critical work on the dangerous Fair Elections Act and his pre-vote primer on the 2015 Federal Election. Karl's popular posts dig into the laws, the schemes, and the politics of Parliament. His work is a "must read" for Canadian political news junkies.

Under the stewardship of our editorial team: Editor-in-Chief Meagan Perry, Managing Editor Michelle Gregus, Blogs Coordinator Michael Stewart, News & Books Editor Kaitlin McNabb, we welcomed new bloggers, columnists, book reviewers, contributing editors and beat editors. We produced a number of indispensable series: Donald Gutstein's "Follow the Money" investigated the major Canadian corporations who financially support Harper's Conservative government. Guest editor Nora Loreto launched UP! Canadian Labour Rising on the underreported yet vital workers movement in Canada.

We introduced new podcasts with our new rpn executive producer Victoria Fenner, and have had many, many conversations on babble guided by moderators Meg Borthwick and Michael Stewart. On rabbletv, Humberto “not Rex Murphy” DaSilva kept Canada’s elite on their toes and our “livestream” grew and came into its own during the dynamic Peoples’ Social Forum in Ottawa.

In 2013 we also said goodbye to two important contributors to rabble: Steffanie Pinch, our incredible Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit Coordinator, returned to her studies. And the wise, multi-talented Matthew Adams, Director of Special Projects, retired from rabble after ten years of critical contributions on staff. Two irreplaceable contributors, who fortunately continue to volunteer for and advise our organization.

We are a proud independent, community media site. If you like what you see in these pages and what you see, hear, watch and discuss on [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca), please give us a hand at [rabble.ca/donate](http://rabble.ca/donate).



Kim Elliott  
Publisher



Duncan Cameron  
President





rabble.ca

Covering issues that mattered in 2014

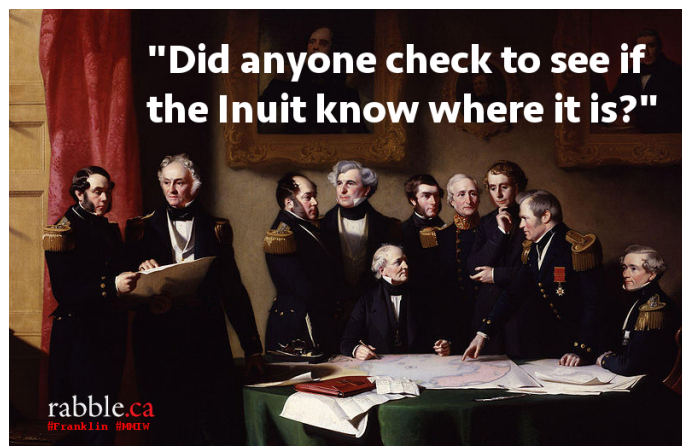
RABBLE NEWS

**Powerful, influential, transformative: How one woman's campaign team transformed the CLC**

BY MEG BORTHWICK | JULY 18, 2014



**"Did anyone check to see if the Inuit know where it is?"**



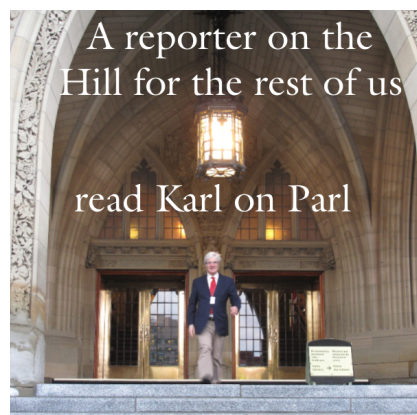
**Stephen Harper and the myth of the crooked Indian**

BY PAMELA PALMATER | NOVEMBER 26, 2014

ANALYSIS

**Jian Ghomeshi and the bystander effect**

BY JULIE LALONDE | NOVEMBER 6, 2014



**Seven ways to make really fair**

BY KARL NERENBERG | FEBRUARY 25, 2014



**Follow the Money, Part 1 -- The Weston Family**

BY DONALD GUTSTEIN | MARCH 25, 2014

COLUMNISTS



**Reflections on a violent day in Ottawa**

BY MATTHEW BEHRENS | OCTOBER 23, 2014

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**Antonia Zerbisias: How #BeenRapedNeverReported became a movement**

BY ANTONIA ZERBISIAS | NOVEMBER 5, 2014









On April 18, 2014, rabble.ca celebrated its  
**13th anniversary**

## It's our birthday! 13 years and growing

BY RABBLE STAFF | APRIL 17, 2014

 Print  Write to editor  Support rabble  Corrections

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Happy 13th birthday to us!  
Imagine: 13 years ago on the Internet, as *rabble.ca* was gaining its first pageviews, so too were Google and Wikipedia -- both launched the same year. Facebook was not to come for another **four** years. In fact, as rabble co-founder and current Mozilla foundation ED Mark Surman explained at our **10th anniversary**: "rabble took the Internet from being a

thing to a space... Think about it: The Internet that we interact with every day now didn't exist back then. It was a time when 98% of the Internet was viewed through Microsoft, when the dot.com boom had gone bust... where none of the things we are excited about today regarding the Internet existed... and here was rabble saying there are all these exciting stories to be told on the Internet..."

Once again, our readership came together with **generous financial support** to keep veteran reporter **Karl Nerenberg** on Parliament Hill.

rabble.ca

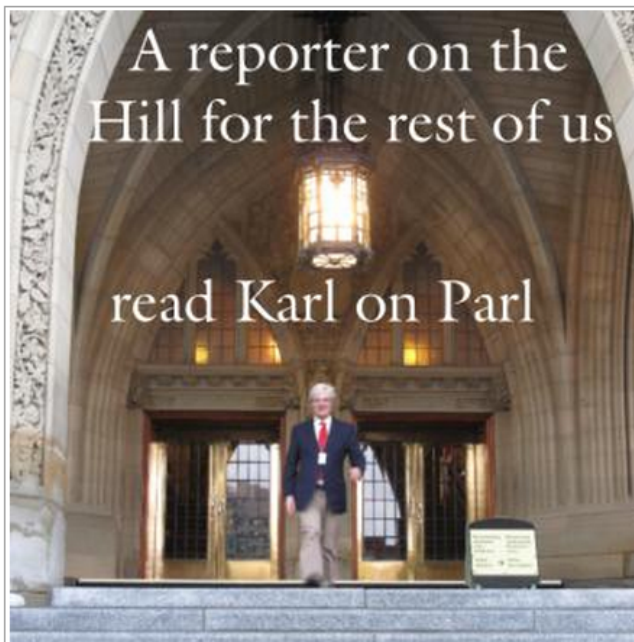
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US

## Going to war in Iraq to defend a legacy of utter failure

BY KARL NERENBERG | OCTOBER 6, 2014

Print Write to editor Support rabble Corrections

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*Do you want to see more independent reporting from Parliament? Please **chip in now to keep rabble.ca on the Hill!***

Prime Minister Harper used few words on Friday afternoon to justify Canada taking a combat role in Iraq, and, possibly, Syria.

The nub of his appeal to Canadian public opinion was:

"This intervention is necessary to ensure regional and global security ... The evidence of the necessity of this is none better than the fact that the mission

has been launched by President Obama, the leader who had withdrawn American troops and proudly ended the war in Iraq."

There you have it.

If the U.S. "President of Peace" says this war is necessary, it must be necessary.



For the first time, we launched [a collection of Karl's best work.](#)

**Harper vs. Canada:**

**Five Ways of Looking at the Conservative Regime**

Edited by Michelle Gregus, it was rabble.ca's most popular gift during our fundraiser.

It even beat out Naomi Klein's **This Changes Everything.**



(sorry, Naomi.)



Our **labour coverage** remains a critical focus.

**i**ssues  
on rabble.ca

labour



**VIDEO: Members of CUPE 3903 vote to reject York University offer**

#### ON RABBLE.CA



**Love and friendship on the picket line: This week in labour news** | Mar 20 2015 | Ella Bedard | Victory! Alberta backs off of Bill 45. Good times: OkCUPE creates extra solidarity. New strikes, information pickets, and a lot more. It's here in the weekly labour roundup.



**Stand up against the deportation of Temporary Foreign Workers scheduled April 1** | Mar 19 2015 | If you're good enough to work, you're good enough to stay

#### EVENTS

Toronto  
Sat, Mar 21, 2015  
**Solidarity rally with York & U of T workers**

Toronto  
Thu, Mar 26, 2015  
**Phyllis Clarke memorial lecture: Lifting Up Low-Wage Work: Global Perspectives**

Vancouver  
Fri, May 1, 2015  
**Vancouver: May 1st International Workers Day**

#### ON BABBLE

**NDP caucus instructed not to speak to Halifax Chronicle Herald because of press operators lockout**  
Jacob Two-Two said... I can't see why this would be a problem. Seems like they're doing the right thing here. Am I...

#### RABBLE.CA FEEDS

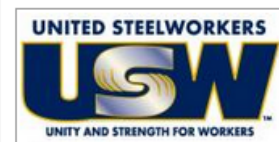
- Asia Pacific Currents
- The Labour Show
- Canadian Association of Labour Media
- David Bush
- Retiree Matters
- Rod Mickleburgh



#### SITES WE LIKE

- Rank and File
- Labour Start
- Labour Reporter
- Labour Rights

#### IN CAHOOTS



**Steelworkers welcome industrial inquiry in beer can strike**  
The Ontario government has decided to appoint an Industrial Inquiry Commission into an 18-

In other words **Labour Day** isn't the only day we write about working people.

In partnership with Unifor, we welcomed our third consecutive **Labour Beat Reporter**, Ella Bedard, and expanded the position from **six to nine months**.



**RABBLE INTERVIEW**

## Exit interview: Jim Sinclair talks past, present, and future of the labour movement

BY ELLA BEDARD | NOVEMBER 7, 2014

Print Write to editor Support rabble Corrections

f t e + 9



Although he was born in Toronto, Jim Sinclair has all the credentials of a B.C. union heavyweight.

Sinclair began his working career as a journalist in both radio and print, and eventually joined the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union -- a union known for its long history of radical politics and radical organizing. There, he served as

an associate editor at the *Fisherman's Newspaper*. He became Health and Safety Director and then staff rep. In his final 8 years with the Fisherman, Sinclair served as the elected leader of the union before being elected president of the BC Federation of Labour in 1999. Sinclair's journalistic legacy is the contribution he made to the creation of the BC news site *The Tyee* in 2003.

For the majority of Sinclair's 15 years as president of the BC Federation of Labour, the labour movement has contended with anti-union governments in British Columbia. Nevertheless, the Federation has grown by more than 75,000 members, as unions representing teachers and Workers' Compensation Board employees joined the central labour body.

This is a rare specimen of the elusive **paid internship**, offered by **rabble.ca** and generously supported by the **labour movement**.

Ella follows **H.G. Watson** and inaugural labour beat reporter **Lori Theresa Waller** as Canada's next generation of labour journalists.

Guest editor **Nora Loreto** curated our groundbreaking series on the rank-and-file workers movement  
**UP! Canadian Labour Rising**

RABBLE SERIES

## UP! Raising minimum wage and defeating Hudak's anti-union agenda

BY PAM FRACHE | MAY 20, 2014

[Print](#) [Write to editor](#) [Support rabble](#) [Corrections](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [+](#) 30



On Wednesday, May 14, **Ontario's Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage** used the provincial election to re-assert the demand for a \$14 minimum wage for all workers. Although the general minimum wage is set to increase to \$11 on June 1 thanks to pressure from across the province, this 75 cent hike will still leave full-time minimum wage earners more than 16 per cent below

the poverty line. This helps explain why the call for a \$14 minimum wage continues to resonate across the province.

The **May 14 action** highlighted the challenges faced by young workers in today's labour market. Importantly, the **Ontario Federation of Labour** and the **Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario**, along with the Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage, sponsored the action. Young workers -- those under 25 years of age -- comprise the majority of minimum wage earners; since 2008, the proportion of young people in minimum wage jobs has increased dramatically.





Our celebrated **Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit** came into its own this year, culminating in the popular **Revolution 101** series curated by rabble.ca staff Steffanie Pinch and Meg Borthwick.

#### THE ACTIVIST TOOLKIT BLOG



The Activist Toolkit Blog is the place to catch up on what's new with the Toolkit. With weekly roundups of newly added tools, highlights of featured tools and extra multimedia content, you'll get up to date info on grassroots organizing. Check out the full activist toolkit at [rabble.ca/toolkit](http://rabble.ca/toolkit).

## Revolution 101: Tools for militant activism

BY STEFFANIE PINCH | APRIL 25, 2014

[Print](#) [Write to editor](#) [Support rabble](#) [Corrections](#)



### Revolution 101: Tactics and strategies for social change Yes, there will be dancing



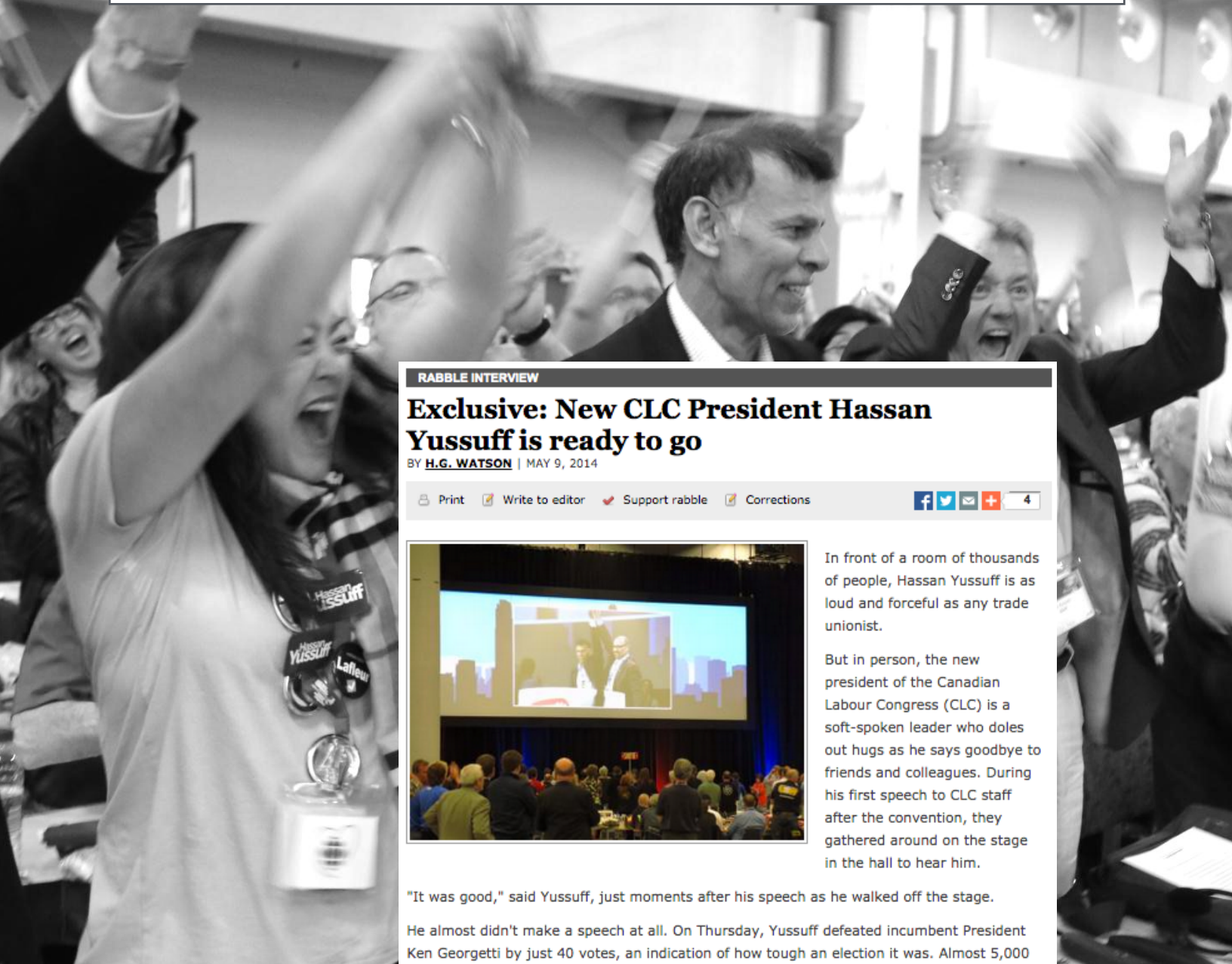
be defeated or to be forced into retreat."

In his interview with *rabble.ca*'s Meg Borthwick, **Steve D'Arcy** spoke about the meaning and importance of militant activism. The idea behind militant activism is not violence or non-violence specifically -- it's about creating a dynamic in a campaign where there is a clear enemy that the campaign is fighting against. As Steve D'Arcy said:

"Militancy is adversarial in the sense that, instead of seeking to find common ground with its targets, it identifies them as adversaries to



We brought a **crack team** to cover what turned out to be the most remarkable **Canadian Labour Congress** conventions in recent memory



RABBLE INTERVIEW

## Exclusive: New CLC President Hassan Yussuff is ready to go

BY **H.G. WATSON** | MAY 9, 2014

[Print](#) [Write to editor](#) [Support rabble](#) [Corrections](#)



In front of a room of thousands of people, Hassan Yussuff is as loud and forceful as any trade unionist.

But in person, the new president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is a soft-spoken leader who doles out hugs as he says goodbye to friends and colleagues. During his first speech to CLC staff after the convention, they gathered around on the stage in the hall to hear him.

"It was good," said Yussuff, just moments after his speech as he walked off the stage.

He almost didn't make a speech at all. On Thursday, Yussuff defeated incumbent President Ken Georgetti by just 40 votes, an indication of how tough an election it was. Almost 5,000 people came to vote, and the room was divided by pennants -- orange for Georgetti, blue for Yussuff.

"I was thrilled," he said of his win. "I enjoy and love this organization dearly and the opportunity that has been given to me to lead the Congress is unprecedented."

In the process Yussuff made history, as the first person of colour to ever become President of the CLC, and the first person to ever defeat a sitting president in a CLC election.

For all the campaigning, Yussuff does not see the election results as a divide in the labour movement.

Acclaimed author of **Harperism**, professor and Canadian investigative reporting legend **Donald Gutstein** revealed how Canadian corporations funnel funds to right-wing causes in his sweeping exposé, **Follow the Money**



## Follow the Money, Part 3: Big Oil and Calgary's School of Public Policy

BY DONALD GUTSTEIN | APRIL 8, 2014

[Print](#) [Write to editor](#) [Support rabble](#) [Corrections](#)

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If it disseminates pro-free market studies like a right-wing think tank, and if it courts Big Oil money like a right-wing think tank, and if it recruits conservative scholars like a right-wing think tank, then it probably is a right-wing think tank.

Except in this case, when it's a graduate school within an accredited public university:

University of Calgary's School of Public Policy (SPP).

Can it be both? Does the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy (SPP) benefit from the University's reputation for scholarship and independent research and, at the same time, promote the oil industry through its research?



# Left in Love



We launched **Meghan Murphy's** innovative column dedicated to helping love-poor progressives find each other.

Generously sponsored by Vancouver's **Nuba** restaurant, **Left in Love** documented radical dates at turns adorable, inspiring and, um, cringe-worthy...

If you live in Vancouver and are eager to dodge Harper fans in the unwieldy dating game, sign up for **Left in Love** [here!](#)

# Mr. **Greenwald** comes to Ottawa

Maverick journalist **Glenn Greenwald** came to Canada in October—just as Canada entered a debate on how to respond to “terrorism” after the attack on Parliament Hill by a lone shocked the nation—through no little help of the fear-mongering mainstream media. And Harper was quick to turn fear into political capital.

Commenting on the risks to our civil liberties resulting from the Conservative response, Greenwald caught the country’s attention.

**rabble.ca** was there to cover his visit: we livestreamed his talk in Ottawa, as well as the interview by Canadaland’s Jesse Brown.

And **Amira Elghawaby** caught up with Greenwald for an [exclusive interview](#).





# No Safe Haven

## Canada's 'Managed Migration'

In collaboration with [The Media Consortium](#), [rabble.ca](#) enlisted author and activist [Harsha Walia](#) to write about Canada's disgraceful immigration policy for the [Immigration Project](#).

The final series comprised multiple entries from independent publications across the United States. [rabble.ca](#) was the only Canadian participant, smashing many American-held myths that our national record on refugees is laudable.

Co-ordinated by News Editor [Kaitlin McNabb](#), our contribution, [“No Safe Haven: Canada's 'Managed Migration,’”](#) proved that this couldn't be farther from the truth.





# The **Peoples' Social Forum** was without a doubt the activist event of the year.

Taking place over several days in Ottawa in August, the PSF was an unprecedented gathering of activists, thinkers, artists and organizers. And **rabble.ca** was there promoting, [livestreaming](#) and [podcasting](#) some of the most provocative discussions, and hosting a bilingual sessions on the role of independent media and the movements across Canada and Quebec, and participating in sessions about sustainable financial models for independent media and in the alternative media assembly.

With the help of **Linda McQuaig**, 25OneCommunity, Octopus Books and Steamwhistle Brewers we held a jam-packed post-rally party [celebrating independent media](#).



We host as many as **450,000 unique visitors** per month.  
And 2014 saw rabble.ca reach its first millionaire!  
Over **1,000,000 people** read this article by feminist and  
culture writer Anne Thériault

## 'The Blind Side' woman does something racist, gets retweeted by white people

BY ANNE THERIAULT | DECEMBER 16, 2014

 Print  Write to editor  Support rabble  Corrections

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Leigh Anne "That Nice Woman Sandra Bullock Played In *The Blind Side*" Tuohy recently posted the following picture and caption on her **Facebook** and Instagram accounts.

"We see what we want!  
It's the gospel truth!  
These two were literally  
huddled over in a corner  
table nose to nose and  
the person with me said  
"I bet they are up to no  
good" well you know  
me... I walked over, told  
them to scoot over. After  
10 seconds of dead

silence I said so whats happening at this table? I get nothing.. I then explained it was my store and they should spill it... They showed me their phones and they were texting friends trying to scrape up \$3.00 each for the high school basketball game! Well they left with smiles, money for popcorn and bus fare. We have to STOP judging people and assuming and pigeon holing people! Don't judge a book by its cover or however you'd like to express the sentiment! Accept others and stoping seeing what you want to see!!!"

And unlike Harper, rabble.ca still delivers!  
Along with our general daily and weekly newsletter  
readers can receive free weekly newsletters on  
politics, labour, arts & culture, environment, and  
Indigenous issues. Right to your inbox.

Having trouble reading this email? View it in your browser.

rabble.ca

NEWS FOR THE REST OF US

17 Oct 2014

Child care has been at the forefront of our Parliamentary news this week, as the NDP announces its national child care strategy -- and the Conservatives launch into campaign-mode spin. [Who do you trust with your child care future?](#) Read Karl Nerenberg's report on the launch and keep up on the latest in our reporting from Parliament Hill [here](#). (Need more reasons to support our Parliamentary Bureau? [Here are 7 great ones.](#))

If you want to see more of this kind of reporting, please [kick in \\$3](#) towards our Parliamentary reporting right now.

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist **Glenn Greenwald** is coming to Ottawa [October 25!](#) He will speak about privacy, state surveillance, and its impact on Canadians at an event sponsored and livestreamed by [rabble.ca](#). Find all the detail [here](#).

Also coming up in Ottawa, the third Women's Forum, hosted by MP Niki Ashton, will be taking place in Ottawa on [October 30th](#). Find out how you can participate online or register to join in person by clicking [here](#).

[Long Live Occupy](#): Occupy, three years later: Judy Rebick reflects back - and looks ahead at Occupy's influence. This is the first in a our new series Occupy is dead. [Long Live Occupy](#).

### This week's top news

**Bill C-36: No safety or security for sex workers**

### In this issue

[news](#) [blogs](#) [columns](#) [podcasts](#)  
[rabbletv](#) [books](#)

### Upcoming events

#### **Halifax** Nocturne: Art at Night

Nocturne: Art at Night is a fall festival that brings art and energy to the streets of Halifax between 6 p.m.-midnight. The 2014 event will take place on [Saturday October 18](#).

By Nocturne

#### **Toronto** Ontario Health Coalition: Health Action Assembly and Conference

The Ontario Health Coalition's Annual "Health Action Assembly and Conference" will be focused on challenges to public medicare

By Ontario Health Coalition

#### **Vancouver** Panel Discussion: Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition

Attend the panel discussion of [Clay Coulthard's](#) new book 'Red

Get it [here!](#)



We released the **Best of rabble.ca** 2014



**rabble.ca** produced both a print and e-book edition of the **best of rabble** in 2014. Edited by **Michael Stewart** and **Meagan Perry**, with **Jessica Rose** (print edition), **Matt Dusenbury** ([ebook edition](#)).

In 2014 we brought the conversations from the book to the community, holding events with rabble.ca contributors from across the country at events in **Vancouver, London, Toronto** and **Ottawa**.

And featuring authors: Michelle Reid, Emma Pullman, Michael Stewart, Roger Annis, Joyce Arthur, Tania Ehret, Lucia Lorenzi, Meghan Murphy, El Farouk Khaki, Randall Garrison, Sally Miller, Judy Rebick, Linda McQuaig, Meg Borthwick, David Heap, Toby Sanger, Ish Theilheimer, Sana Malik, Jesse Maclaren, Muna Mire, Krystalline Kraus, Matt Dusenbury, Wendy Goldsmith, Darius Mirshani, Murray Dobbin, Iglia Ivanova, Paola Qualizza, Anjali Appadurai, Damien Gillis.

Thank you to the musicians who joined us in Ottawa, and our venues: the Parliament Pub, the Heartwood Community Cafe, The Root Cellar Organic Cafe, and the Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto.

And thanks to our volunteers who organized these events: Kim Elliott, Tania Ehret, Michael Stewart and Karl Nerenberg, all supported by Outreach Coordinator Steffanie Pinch.





## Who visits rabble.ca? Our survey\* says:

Fifty-two per cent of *rabble.ca*'s audience identified as men, 47 per cent as women.

Much of our audience is from Ontario, which represents more than 40 per cent of the total. The next largest group came from British Columbia at more than 20 per cent of the total. About ten per cent of our audience is from the U.S.

*rabble.ca* readers are a highly educated group with over 80 percent reporting a post secondary school degree.

*rabble.ca* readers are highly involved with 70 percent 30 per cent doing volunteer work each week, 32 percent belonging to a trade union, 41 per cent belonging to a grassroots organization, 40 per cent to an NGO, 11 per cent to a religious organization.

*rabble.ca* readers are very loyal with 77 per cent reporting they visit the site weekly or more, 53 per cent of readers report visiting daily or several times a week.


\*spring 2013, voluntary survey, N=950



# news and features

**Editorial Staff:** Meagan Perry, **Editor-in-chief**; Kaitlin McNabb, **News Coordinator**; Michelle Gregus, **Managing Editor**; Kim Elliott, **Publisher**


H.G. Watson, **Labour Beat Reporter**; Ella Bedard, **Labour Beat Reporter**; Miriam Katawazi, Sana Malik **News Intern**; Francella Fiallos, **Parliamentary Intern**



This year, *rabble.ca* focused more closely on incorporating breaking news writing into the site, with the goal of making *rabble.ca* quicker to respond to current events without sacrificing our support of progressive causes and space for analysis. *rabble.ca*'s editorial team made a concerted effort to improve the diversity of viewpoints and writers we present on the site. We solicited pitches and writing from people of colour and women writers, we expanded our coverage and offered training and mentorship to new writers throughout the year, expanding our reach in the freelance community.

On the production side, *rabble.ca* also took the time to launch a number of series examining some of the elements our site has focused on for years. In **UP!** We invited guest editor Nora Loreto to work with writers from all levels of the Canadian labour movement, who considered the issues and debates within the house of labour. We created a series called **Revolution 101** bringing thoughtful analysis to the tools that we've collected at the **Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit**. Donald Gutstein's series on the influence big business on Canada's political system gained widespread attention. We commemorated the **third anniversary of Occupy** with a series examining what has grown out of the Occupy movement.

The slow pace of social change can be demoralizing for a progressive person. To give progressives a bit of inspiration, we added "**Feel Good Friday**" to the news section. The popular feature brings together victories progressives can celebrate together—with loads of cute cat photos too.





In some ways 2014 made it a little easier to be positive. It featured some significant gains for progressives, including a Supreme Court decision in favour of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation, and the departure of Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline workers from Burnaby Mountain following weeks of protest.

2014 was also the year that systemic oppressions made the news. Not just the alternative media news, mind you, the mainstream news. Massive public reactions and subsequent mainstream media acknowledgement of systemic oppressions followed [#BlackLivesMatter](#) protests, and the revelations and allegations of sexual assault against CBC host Jian Ghomeshi. The reverberations of 2013's Idle No More urged more and louder calls for a national inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women. While it was significant that these issues got some widespread attention and analysis, systemic racism and sexism persist, and [rabble.ca](#) will continue to address these issues in the years to come.

The results of our work in 2014 have been clear and positive: our pieces have been translated and reprinted in community media papers, we've had [rabble.ca](#) writers included in academic publications and curricula, and we have reached out to new writers and grown our readership.





# Some **news** and **features** highlights:

## **The smoking gun...Harper's plan to privatize Canada Post**

**Mike Palecek**

This year, secret documents showed that, despite Harper's denials, the Conservative government's postal cuts are just much preparation for privatizing the postal service.

## **Harper and Couillard: A dangerous combo for Quebec**

**Jacques Letourneau**

The anti-austerity protests in Quebec at the end of November were just the beginning. The *Confédération des syndicats nationaux* (CSN) will keep fighting for equality as election 2015 approaches.

## **P.E.I.: An island without safe legal abortion**

**Josie Baker**

P.E.I. is the only province in Canada that does not offer access to safe, legal abortion. Recently, it has become quite clear this is a result of political interferences. What can we do?

## **Harper Government attacks non-profits to muzzle dissent**

**Meg Borthwick**

Canadian non-profits are really seeing love from the Harper government: increases in postage will damage their long-term financial viability and audits cost money and will distract from their mission.

## **Without Libby Davies, what course will the NDP chart?**

**Fred Wilson**

This year, Libby Davies announced she will not run again in 2015. This puts one of the NDP's most secure seats in play, and leaves a gaping hole on the port side of the NDP. changes vastly increase corporate control of seed and will result in higher seed costs for farmers in the future.



the  
views  
expressed



an op-ed  
blog for the  
rest of us  
rabble.ca



### **Jian Ghomeshi and the bystander effect**

**Julie Lalonde**

The Jian Ghomeshi allegations of sexual abuse have rocked Canada and beyond and lead to one big question: How did he get away with it for so long? Here's what you can do to call out sexual harassment.

### **New research helps advocate for a national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

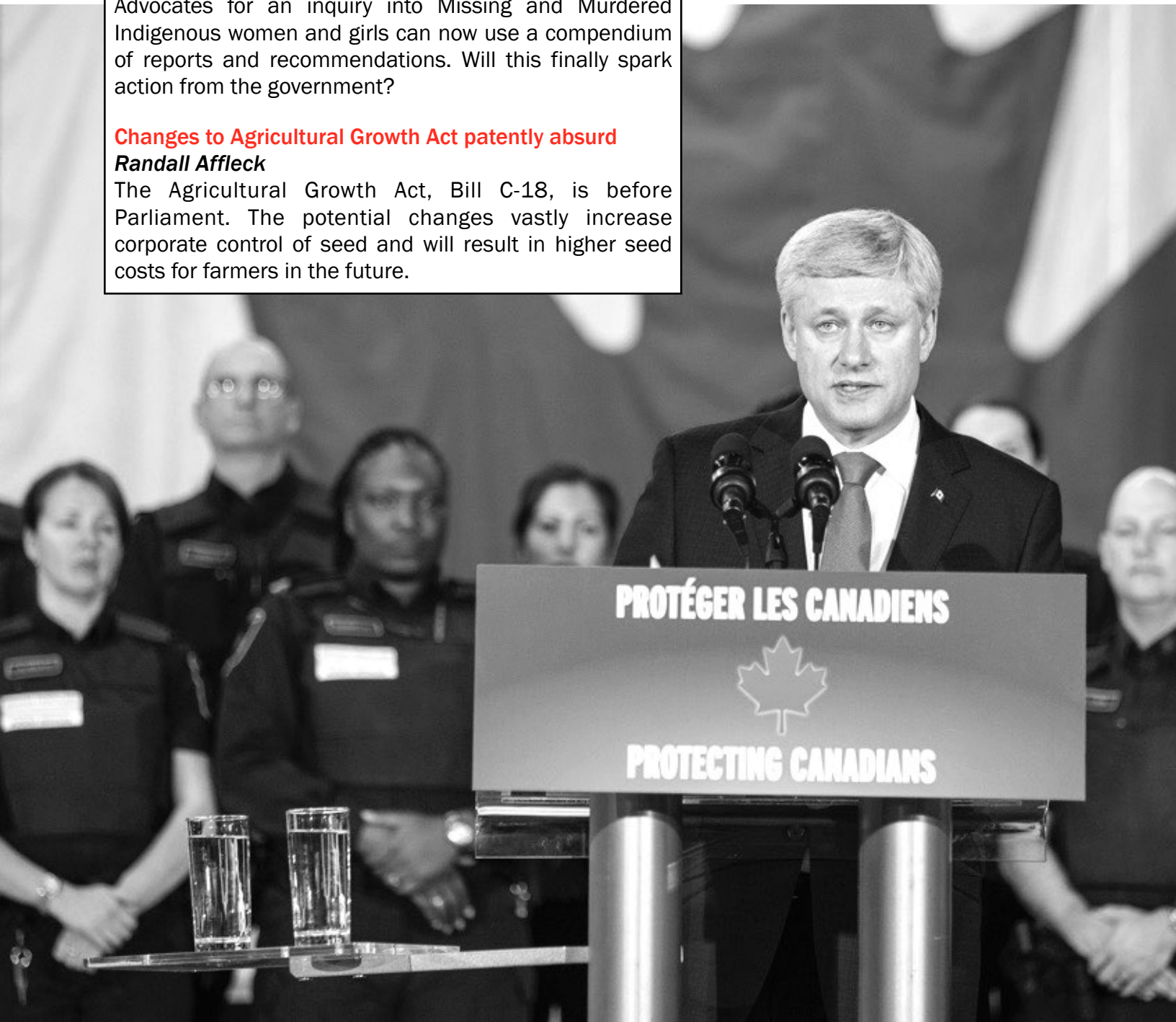
**Pippa Feinstein and Megan Pearce**

Advocates for an inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls can now use a compendium of reports and recommendations. Will this finally spark action from the government?

### **Changes to Agricultural Growth Act patently absurd**

**Randall Affleck**

The Agricultural Growth Act, Bill C-18, is before Parliament. The potential changes vastly increase corporate control of seed and will result in higher seed costs for farmers in the future.



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(not including general contributors or bloggers)

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 Muna Mire  
 Myrna Kostash

Nashwa Khan  
 New Democratic Youth of  
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 Ngoc Loan Tran  
 Nick Fillmore  
 Niki Ashton  
 Noam Chomsky  
 Nora Loreto  
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 Patrick Clark  
 Paul Di Stefano  
 Paul Weinberg  
 PEN Canada  
 Peter Driftmier  
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 Phil Elder  
 Phil Vernon  
 Quintin Zachary Hewlett  
 Randall Affleck  
 Randy Kitt  
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 Todd Ferguson  
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 Trip! Project  
 Union of National Employees  
 Veronica Strong-Boag  
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 Wayne Roberts  
 Women in Toronto Politics  
 Zach Ruiter



# columns

**Editorial Staff:** Michelle Gregus, **Managing Editor**

In addition to original news stories, in-depth features, provocative interviews, commentaries and more, *rabble.ca* publishes original columns from a host of incredible progressive voices, and reprints articles some of the few progressive voices in mainstream media (if we've missed anyone, let us know).

In 2014, our columnists spoke out about a range of issues affecting Canadians, including politics, Indigenous rights, civil liberties, reproductive rights, arts and culture, environmental justice, and much, much more.

Columnists contribute to *rabble.ca* on a regular basis, appearing weekly, biweekly, or monthly in the columns section. Watch for your favourites during their regular time slots! We publish at least one column per day and between five to eight columns each week.

The past year marked the introduction of several exciting new voices in the columns section. Activist and writer **Harsha Walia** launched the column "Exception to the Rule," about challenging norms, carving space and centring the dispossessed. Health, patient and disability activist **Julie Devaney** began "Health Breakdown," an accessible, jargon-free take on the politics behind current health-care stories. Our progressive dating column "Left in Love" launched on February 14, 2014, with writer and matchmaker **Meghan Murphy** at the helm. **Steve Anderson** and his colleagues at **OpenMedia** began writing about digital policy issues, including free expression, access to the Internet, and online privacy in the column "Digital Freedom Update."

It was also a year of reflections and happy returns. Columnist **Linda McQuaig** returned to the pages of *rabble.ca* with a weekly politics column reprinted from *iPolitics*. She has since suspended her column while running for office and will be writing occasional columns original to us over this time. **Thomas Ponniah** restarted his column in 2014, offering commentary on contemporary politics and culture, globalization, and global justice. We also saw the resurgence of veteran journalist **Wayne MacPhail**, writing on technology and the Internet.

In 2015, watch for more progressive analysis from a variety of perspectives, as well as stimulating new additions to our columns line-up.



### 2013 rabble.ca columnists

Retiree Matters  
Pro Bono  
Josh Tabish and Steve Anderson  
(OpenMedia)  
Duncan Cameron  
Elizabeth Littlejohn  
Harsha Walia  
Trish Hennessy (Hennessy's Index)  
Ish Theilheimer  
Joyce Arthur  
Julie Devaney  
June Chua  
Meghan Murphy (Left in Love)  
Marc Zwellung  
Matthew Behrens  
Mehdi Rizvi  
Monia Mazigh  
Murray Dobbin  
Ole Hendrickson  
Thomas Ponniah  
Wayne MacPhail

### Reprinted columns:

Stephen Leahy  
Amy Goodman  
Alice Klein  
Naomi Klein  
Linda McQuaig  
Rick Salutin  
Jim Stanford  
Ralph Surette

### Contributors to multi-authored columns:

#### ***Retiree Matters***

Angus Ricker  
Pat Kerwin  
Shauna Vert  
Tony Cote

#### ***Pro-bono***

Celia Chandler  
Brian Iler  
Kirsten Iler  
Priya Sarin  
Laura Bowman  
Shelina Ali





# Progressive columns that held up in 2014

## Thinking outside the mailbox to save Canada Post

Other companies and organizations that faced Canada Post's problems thrived, not by doubling down on their old mandates but by refocusing on a new purpose, says [Marc Zwelling](#). Is this the solution for Canada Post?

## Left in Love: Will Chris and Nichole choose collective action?

On Valentine's Day with matchmaker columnist [Meghan Murphy](#), we launched Left in Love, a dating column for progressive daters who give a damn. Follow our first couple in their quest for radical love.

## Harper's plan to win the next election: Cheat

The Harper government introduced a parliamentary bill, laughingly entitled the Fair Elections Act, to boost their chances of winning seats in the next general election. As [Duncan Cameron](#) writes, this amounts to cheating in the next federal election.

## Climate change, capitalism and our climate crisis mismatch

[Naomi Klein](#) explains why we are suffering from a terrible case of climate-related mistiming—because the climate crisis hatched at a time when conditions were uniquely hostile to a problem of this nature and magnitude.

## Hassan Yussuff: A new voice for labour at the CLC

New CLC President Hassan Yussuff is asking whether unions can recapture issues of dignity, writes [Rick Salutin](#) in this introduction to the new CLC head—and standing up with a voice for both traditional workforces and the new “precarariat.”

## Mount Polley: Mining is disaster

The mining industry is a key example of Canada's colonial and capitalist foundations, devastating the environment, dispossessing communities, and committing egregious human rights violations. By its very definition, mining is disaster, as [Harsha Walia](#) powerfully argues.

## A number is never just a number: Lac-Mégantic crude

The number of carloads of oil transported by rail in 2013 totalled 160,000. That's set to triple to 510,000 carloads a day by 2016. [Trish Hennessy](#) crunches the numbers to ask: where are the regulations for shipping oil by train safely?

## Reflections on a violent day in Ottawa

The tragic events in Ottawa after October's shooting gave us an opportunity to examine our addiction to violence as the solution to conflict, observes [Matthew Behrens](#) in this powerful column. Will we use the chance to disengage from our increasingly militarized culture?

# blogs

**Staff:** Michael Stewart, **Blogs Coordinator**; Michelle Gregus, **Managing Editor**; Meghan Murphy, **Evening/West Coast Editor**, Kaitlin McNabb, **Books Coordinator**, Meagan Perry, **Editor-in-Chief**

**Interns:** Christina Turner, Jessica Prupas

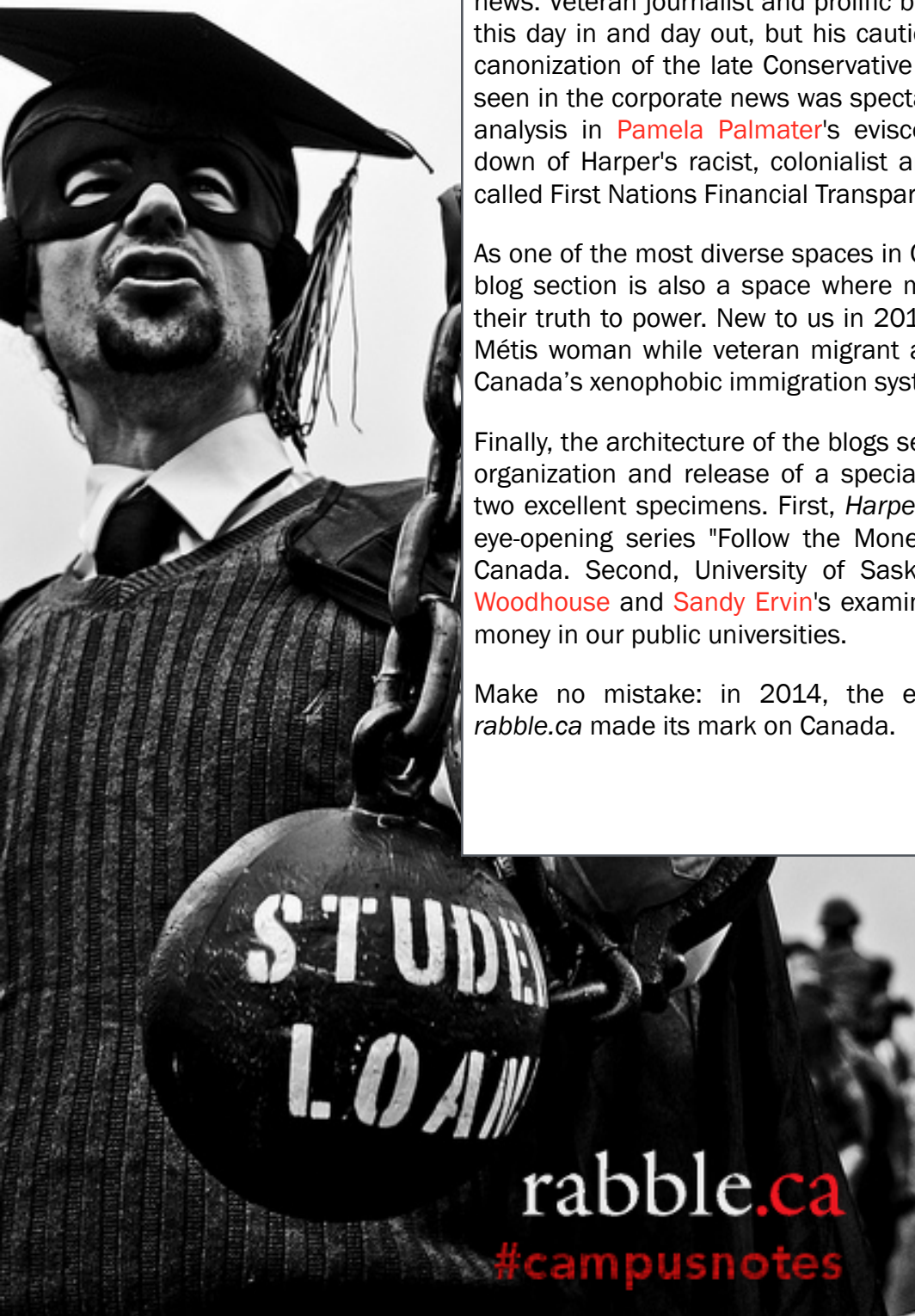
Simply put, the blogs section at *rabble.ca* is where the cool kids and their cool mentors hang out. It can be by turn humorous and irreverent, thoughtful and nuanced. It is the section of *rabble.ca* quickest to respond to current events. It can be immediately local in focus or broad, national and historical in scope. It is the most diverse space in Canada for political and cultural criticism with daily posts by Indigenous, feminist, anti-racist, queer and trans writers.

Blogs coordinator **Michael Stewart**'s piece on Stephen Harper's "discovery" of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition (exactly where the Inuit have been saying it was for centuries) is an example of the section's wry critical edge; while last year's Blogs and Books intern **Christina Turner**'s wordperfect review of Joseph Boyden's *The Orenda* and its problematic triumph at Canada Reads remains a world-class contribution to Canada's cultural heritage and *patrimoine*.

Blogs are often where the grist of election cycles are turned into fine flour—as evidenced by **Toby Sanger**'s exposé of Tim Hudak's catastrophic jobs plan that was thankfully never implemented. Likewise, **Judy Rebick**'s optimistic yet ultimately unrealized reminder that "hope is better than fear" in her backing of Olivia Chow's Toronto mayoral campaign. Federal MPs **Elizabeth May**, **Alexandre Boulerice** and **Charlie Angus** as well as NDP pundit **Gerry Caplan** are also regulars on our blogroll.

This section is also uniquely equipped to respond quickly to breaking news—as we read from **Nora Loreto**'s gorgeous and compassionate response to the Ottawa Shootings, or the various and evolving analyses of the Jian Ghomeshi sexual assault scandal, starting with **Meghan Murphy**'s skepticism at Ghomeshi's now-discredited "consent" narrative.





They can also offer individualized, meditative contemplations on political and cultural topics. It's here where a blog offers its most powerful tonic to the bland stenography of power that is mainstream news. Veteran journalist and prolific blogger [David Climenhaga](#) does this day in and day out, but his caution and needful remedy to the canonization of the late Conservative Finance Minister Jim Flaherty seen in the corporate news was spectacular. We also see this expert analysis in [Pamela Palmater](#)'s eviscerating and unrelenting take-down of Harper's racist, colonialist and just plain bad law, the so-called First Nations Financial Transparency Act.

As one of the most diverse spaces in Canadian media, the *rabble.ca* blog section is also a space where marginalized voices can speak their truth to power. New to us in 2014, [Samantha Nock](#) is a young Métis woman while veteran migrant activist [Syed Hussan](#) takes on Canada's xenophobic immigration system as his personal mission.

Finally, the architecture of the blogs section also allows for the quick organization and release of a special series—and 2014 witnessed two excellent specimens. First, *Harperism* author [Donald Gutstein](#)'s eye-opening series "Follow the Money" on corporate donorship in Canada. Second, University of Saskatchewan professors [Howard Woodhouse](#) and [Sandy Ervin](#)'s examination of corporate power and money in our public universities.

Make no mistake: in 2014, the ever-growing blogs section of *rabble.ca* made its mark on Canada.



# Select rabble.ca blog highlights

Christine Turner (bound but not gagged)

[The Orenda won Canada Reads and I feel weird about it](#)

Michael Stewart

[Harper's Franklin 'discovery'; Or, did anyone ask the Inuit?](#)

Toby Sanger, (Progressive Economics)

[How Tim Hudak's job cuts would affect Ontario communities](#)

Judy Rebick

[Olivia Chow can win Toronto's mayoral race](#)

Nora Loreto

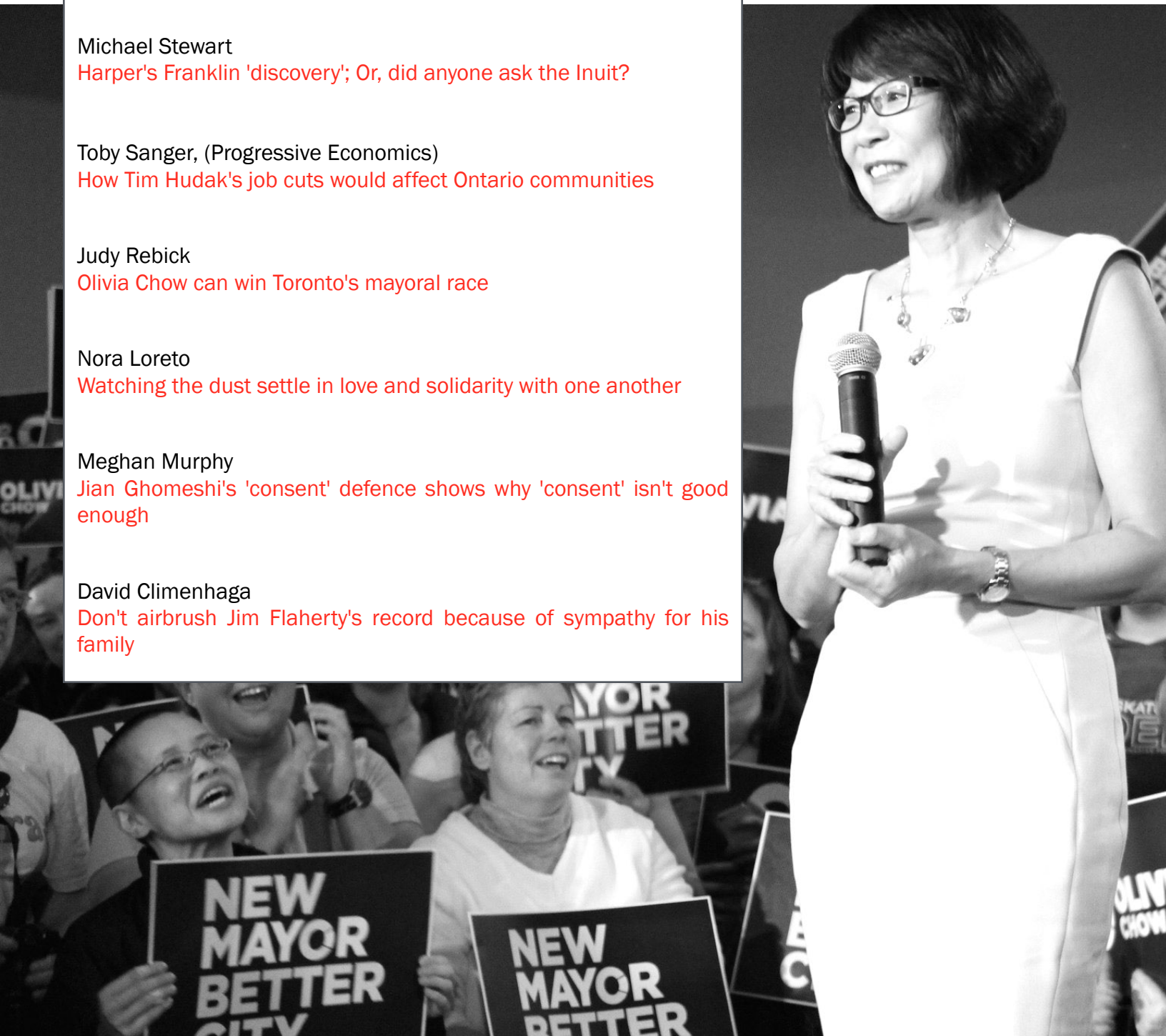
[Watching the dust settle in love and solidarity with one another](#)

Meghan Murphy

[Jian Ghomeshi's 'consent' defence shows why 'consent' isn't good enough](#)

David Climenhaga

[Don't airbrush Jim Flaherty's record because of sympathy for his family](#)



Pamela Palmater

Stephen Harper and the myth of the crooked Indian

Samantha Nock

Anchored by love, fuelled by anger: Indigenous women's resistance

Syed Hussan

I got my permanent residency, and it's complicated

Donald Gutstein

Follow the Money, Part 1 – The Weston Family

Sandy Ervin and Howard Woodhouse (Campus Notes)

How to make USask 'The People's University' once again'



**"Did anyone check to see if  
the Inuit know where it is?"**

rabble.ca  
#Franklin #MMIW

# rabble bloggers

1914: The Great War, 100 Years Later  
A Halfbreed's Reasoning  
Aalya Ahmad  
Aaron Paquette's Blog  
Activist Communiqué  
Adventures in the eBook Game  
Alberta Diary  
Alexandre Boulerice  
Am Johal's blog  
apihtawikosisan  
Artful Change  
Battered Women's Support Services blog  
Behind The Numbers  
Blind Man with a Pistol  
Bob Wiseman's blog  
bored but not broken  
Bound but not gagged  
Brad Hornick's blog  
Brent Patterson  
Brian Topp  
Campus Notes  
Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM)  
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace  
Cathy Crowe's blog  
Charlie Angus's blog  
Child Care Canada Now  
Christine Saulnier's blog  
Christopher Majka  
Climate Action Network Canada  
Code Pink Delegations to Gaza  
Common Frontiers  
Corvin Russell's Blog  
Council of Canadians' blog  
Daniel Tseghay's blog  
Daniel Wilson's blog  
Dave Coles's blog  
David Bush's blog  
David Lundy's blog  
David Suzuki  
Democracy Watch's blog  
Dented Blue Mercedes  
DeSmog Canada  
Diary of a Lipstick Terrorist  
Dionne Brand's blog  
Dogwood Initiative  
Don Tapscott's blog  
Donald Gutstein's blog  
Dr. Dawg's Blawg  
Earth Rising  
Eat Local!  
Eat Your Words!  
Economic Democracy

Education in the Age of Climate Change  
Elizabeth May  
Ellen Woodsworth  
Emma Pullman  
Enter Up Left  
Environmental Defence's blog  
Eva Bartlett In Gaza  
F Is for Feminist  
February 14 – Why I march  
Feminist Current  
Film Festivals in Toronto (FFIT)  
FLOSS blog  
Fred Wilson's blog  
Free Expression Watch  
Gerry Caplan's blog  
Global Exchange  
Haiti-Canada Blog  
Hans Vascht  
Healthy Skepticism  
Hill Dispatches  
How they play the game  
Ian Capstick's Blog  
Independent Jewish Voices  
Indigenous Nationhood  
James Laxer's Blog  
Jerry Dias's Blog  
Jessica Bell's blog  
Jim Quail's blog  
John Bennett's blog  
John Bonnar's  
John Warnock's blog  
Joshua Kahn Russell's blog  
Judy Rebick's Blog  
KAİROS Witness  
Letters to Ryan Leef  
Maher Arar's blog  
Making Waves  
Maude Barlow's blog  
Media Watch blog  
Mel Watkins's blog  
Michael Laxer's blog  
Michel Lambert's blog  
Mickleblog  
Midnight Politico  
MiningWatch blog  
Municipal Matters  
Narrative Resistance  
No One Is Illegal  
Nora Loreto's blog  
Northern Plains Drifter  
Northwest Notes  
Now Playing in Progressive Film  
On The Other Hand  
On the Road to the PSF  
Open Media's blog

Parkland Institute's blog  
Peoples for Mother Earth  
Pierre Beaudet's Blog  
Policy Note  
Policyfix  
Progressive Economics Forum  
Pulpit and Politics  
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Raffi's blog  
Rick Harp's blog  
Roger Annis's blog  
Romeo Saganash's blog  
Scott Piatkowski's blog  
Scott Vrooman's blog  
Sharon Fraser's Blog  
She who holds the pen...  
Sheila Block's blog  
Solidarity: from Occupy Toronto to Attawapiskat  
Song of the Watermelon  
Staffroom Confidential  
Stephen Kimber's Blog  
Steven Shrybman's blog  
StopWar Blog  
Stories from the COP 20 Canadian Youth Delegation  
Susan on the Soapbox  
Syed Hussan's blog  
Tariq Jeeroburkhan's blog  
The Activist Toolkit Blog  
The Belle Jar  
The Body Politic  
The Gaza solidarity blog  
The Journalism Doctor  
The Left Coast Post  
The Mainlander  
The Media Consortium Blog  
The Media Studies blog  
The Muckraker  
The Views Expressed  
The whirling girlish  
The Whole Picture  
Thomas Saczkowski's blog  
Time for change  
Tria Donaldson's blog  
Trish Hennessy's Blog  
Uzma Shakir's blog  
Vegan Challenge for Earth Week  
Velcrow Ripper's blog  
Vern Edwards' blog  
Voices North  
Wayne Roberts's blog  
What's the plan?  
Your Heart's On The Left  
Yves Engler's Blog



# Karl Nerenberg

rabble.ca's Reporter on the Hill

The year Prime Minister Stephen Harper won his first majority government, [rabble.ca](#) hired Karl Nerenberg as our first Parliamentary Correspondent in our Ottawa bureau. A veteran journalist from CBC's *The House* and [award-winning documentary filmmaker](#), Karl and his sweeping knowledge of the intricacies of parliamentary procedure and Canadian political history instantly made its mark on the national media landscape.

It wasn't long before other independent media organizations were scrambling to find their own Ottawa reporters. But once again, [rabble.ca was first](#).

In 2014, Karl made it his personal mission [to expose the insidious Fair Elections Act](#). Karl's coverage was [relentless](#), probing, devastating and [undeniably influential](#). While grassroots actions nationwide roused Canadians against this dangerous bill, it was Karl's sober, seasoned writings that etched what was wrong with this Bill into the minds of concerned Canadians everywhere. And for the first time ever, we compiled them in a popular book, [Harper vs. Canada: Five Ways of Looking at the Conservative Regime](#), available for download and purchase.

Karl continues his important work as [Bill C-51](#) threatens the privacy and security of Canadians and the pillars of our democracy. He remains firmly non-partisan but reminds Canada when The Official Opposition does good, like their [national child-care program](#), and rebukes them when they could be less cautious, like their [less-than-radical take on the 2014 budget](#).

While other news outlets follow scandal and sensation, Karl's analysis remains steadfast and honest. And our readers love him for it—that's why [more rabble.ca readers than ever before opted to chip in to support and help expand our Parliamentary Bureau](#). We love Karl and we know you do too.

Plus he plays a mean jazz piano.



# NDP brings debate on inquiry into missing and murdered women into Parliament

BY KARL NERENBERG | SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

Print Write to editor Support rabble Corrections

f t e + 42



*Do you want to see more independent reporting from Parliament? Please **chip in now to keep rabble.ca on the Hill!***

Parliament is usually a sleepy, mostly empty place on a Friday afternoon; but this Friday, September 19, was an exception.

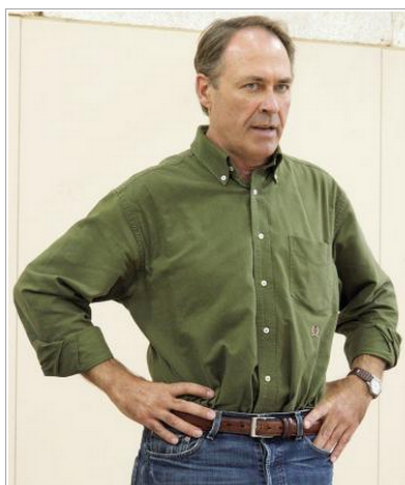
The NDP used a procedural manoeuvre to force a full debate (and ultimately a vote) on the need for an inquiry on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

## Giving away Wheat Board assets and Pat Martin's outburst in the House

BY KARL NERENBERG | DECEMBER 3, 2014

Print Write to editor Support rabble Corrections

f t e + 149



*Do you want to see more independent reporting from Parliament? Please **chip in now to keep rabble.ca on the Hill!***

If you believe that government monopoly agencies are not the best way to get Canadian agricultural products to market you probably applauded when the Harper government eliminated the Canadian Wheat Board's control of the prairie grain business.

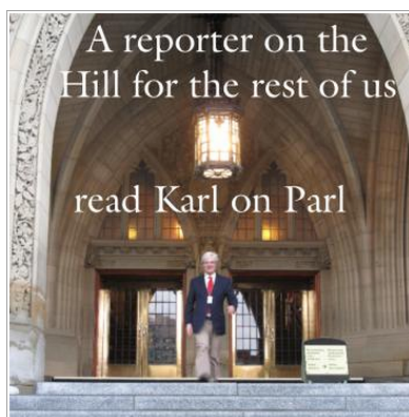
That move "liberated" Western farmers, freed them from the bondage of "big government," Prime Minister Harper boasts, and allowed them to take part fully in the free market economy.

## Harper has trouble getting his story straight on the Senate scandals

BY KARL NERENBERG | OCTOBER 24, 2013

Print Write to editor Support rabble Corrections

f t e + 56



*Keep Karl on Parl! **Donate today** to have Parliamentary reporting for the rest of us.*

Is there a smoking gun or not?

Well, there is no document or testimony directly connecting the Prime Minister to former Chief of Staff Nigel Wright's payment of \$90,000 on behalf of Mike Duffy.

However, in his answers to questions on this matter the Prime Minister has been anything but forthright and consistent.

Last May, and for quite a while afterward, Prime Minister

Harper kept insisting that Nigel Wright "acted alone" on the \$90,000 business, and then took full personal responsibility for his error in judgement.

# rpn

## rabble podcast network

**Staff:** Victoria Fenner, **RPN Executive Producer**; Meagan Perry, **Editor-in-Chief**

**Interns:** Moira Donovan, Tanya Hill



We've been hearing a lot this year that this is The Golden Age of Podcasting. There's a new, emerging interest causing people to think that podcasting is this great, new thing.

Well, here at [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca), podcasting isn't a new thing. While so many others were asking, "podcasting, what's that?" we've been creating exciting new podcasting content ever since the early days way back in 2005. The stone age of internet history. We've always known there are podcast listeners, because we've had lots of people listening to our podcasts.

And now, ten years after the inception of the **rabble podcast network**, we have a dynamic and exciting podcast collection that is an audible history of a very exciting ten years.

We continue to bring on new podcasts. The **rabble podcast network** expanded its reach with new podcasts profiling energized, exciting fierce women (*MsRepresent*); the best of campus radio news (*Groundwire*); an internet version of the *Women's International News Gathering Service (WINGS)* one of the leaders in feminist journalism world wide. And in the documentary category, we're happy to have *Swan Song* and the return of *The Green Planet Monitor*.

Ten years later, we celebrate **rabble radio**, which will be celebrating its anniversary on June 16. And *Living On Purpose*, one of [rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca)'s longest running podcasts has just celebrated 10 years of production, eight of them with the rabble podcast network.



This year the rabble podcasters produced over 500 podcasts on progressive issues from breaking coverage of **The Good Jobs Summit** in Toronto in October and **The People's Social Forum** in August. Highlights of the PSF included one of Naomi Klein's first public addresses about her new book "This Changes Everything", special **rabble.ca** sponsored events exploring the changing media landscape, and daily programs bringing the sounds of the forum to our listeners.

Our staff at the **rpn** continues to grow and change, as long-time executive producer **Meagan Perry** took off her podcasting hat and put on a new one—she's now Editor-in-Chief of **rabble.ca**. The rpn hat was passed on to **Victoria Fenner**, veteran public and community broadcaster who has also been a rabble podcaster for many years.

The **rabble podcast network** continues to be a destination for producers and listeners alike. It provides a venue for the progressive journalists and audio producers who bring their audio artistry to **rabble.ca**. Here at **rabble.ca**, it's always been The Golden Age of Podcasting.

Good to see the rest of the world catching up to us and realizing what we already knew.



## 2014's particularly popular podcasts:

### **Feminist Current – Meghan Murphy**

Can men be allies in the fight to end violence against women?

### **Ms. Represent – Charlene Sayo**

Kinnie Starr on women lifelines, Indigenous protest hip-hop, and half-blood old blues

### **Needs No Introduction – Victoria Fenner**

Harperism and how it changed Canada

### **John Bonnar**

Groups demand Canadian mining company drop suit against El Salvador

### **Needs No Introduction – Victoria Fenner**

Naomi Klein speaks to the Peoples' Social Forum

### **Green Planet Monitor**

Twelve Canadians: The Nashwaak

### **Face2Face**

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish on Israel, Palestine and forgiveness

### **Talking Radical Radio – Scott Neigh**

Fighting racism and settler colonialism in Thunder Bay

### **Redeye Collective**

Sierra Club learns of secret deal between Alberta government and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

### **The Swan Song – David Swanson**

The porn star



rpn hosts 28 podcasts produced by over 50 podcasters. Below are the podcasts and the regular podcasters from 2014

### Podcasters

Aiyanas Ormond  
Andrew Sayo  
Andrew Wong  
F Word Collective  
Asia Pacific Currents Collective  
Cathi Bond  
Charlene Sayo  
Dan Kellar  
David Peck  
Derrick O'Keefe  
Eirene Cloma  
Erica Butler  
Emily Slofstra  
Alert Radio: Michael Welch, Mitch Podolak  
NOII Collective: Robyn Maynard, Jaggi Singh  
Democracy North Collective: David P. Ball, Derrick O'Keefe, Jane Bouey, Irwin Oostindie  
Dispatch Collective: Ian Hussey, Kyle Dupont  
F-Word: Nicole Deagan, Ellie Gordon-Moerschel,  
Redeye Collective: Jane Williams, Manuel Schulte,  
Mordecai Briemberg, Peter Driftmier  
Heather Yundt  
Helen Caldicott  
Ian Hussey  
Irwin Oostindie  
Jasmin Williams  
Jennifer Efting  
Jiselle Hanna  
John Bonnar  
Lynn Thompson  
Mark Brooks  
MaryCarl Guiao  
Matthew Adams  
Meghan Senese  
Meagan Perry  
Meghan Murphy  
Piergiorgio Moro  
Riaz Sayani-Mulji  
Stephanie Pinch

### Podcasts

Africafiles: The Pulse  
Alert! Radio from Canadian Dimension  
Alternatives Podcast  
Asia Pacific Currents  
Aw@l  
Citizen Science  
Constructing Change – Activist toolkit  
Democracy north  
Face2Face  
F Word  
Film festivals in Toronto  
Feminist Current  
Green Planet Monitor  
Groundwire Radio  
Habitat  
John Bonnar Audio Blog  
Living On Purpose  
Migrant Matters  
Ms. Represent  
Needs No Introduction  
No One Is Illegal  
People's Health Radio  
Progressive Voices  
rabble radio  
radio book lounge  
Redeye  
Talking Radical Radio  
Watch me: Movie reviews with Cathi Bond



# netted news/newswire

In the interest of connecting to and supporting independent media, *rabble.ca*'s netted news on our homepage brings RSS feeds from:

*The Media Coop, Canadian Dimension, Briarpatch, The Tyee, The Bullet, Herizons, Alternet, This Magazine, The New Internationalist, The Vancouver Observer and The Daily Nuisance.*

*rabble.ca* also offers a newswire on our front page with feeds from *CBC, Al Jazeera and The Guardian.*

[In Cahoots](#) [Columnists](#) [Netted News](#)

- **Are European tax havens getting illegal state subsidies?**
- **The Bullet: The UAW at Volkswagen: Workers, Unions and the Left**
- **The Top Five Things You Need to Know About Email Scandal Enveloping Gov. Scott Walker**
- **Russia Feels Double-Crossed over Ukraine – But What Will Putin Do?**
- **News Quiz on Some Shocking Events of the Week – What Do You Know?**
- **Is Sex in Cinema Getting Too Real?**
- **Exxon CEO Joins Anti-Fracking Lawsuit After Drilling Threatens His Property Value**
- **What a Victory: How a \$40 Million Attack on the Middle Class Went Up in Smoke**
- **6 Signs of Psychosis From GOP Fringe This Week**
- **Robert Reich: WhatsApp Is Everything Wrong with the U.S. Economy**
- **What's New: The Steel Company and the 1,184 acres stolen from Aamjiwnaang**
- **What's New: Tougher Than the Rest**
- **At Stake In Ukraine's Drama is the Future of Putin, Russia and Europe**
- **What's New: Israel, Palestine, Occupation and International Law**
- **Children Murdered, Homes Foreclosed: How the Government Makes 'Mistakes' With Impunity**

more

**Newswire: Top Headlines Elsewhere**

**Egypt's government resigns**

**Uganda politicians celebrate passing of anti-gay laws**

**Pakistan Taliban commander killed by gunmen**

**New evidence delays coroner's ruling on death of soldier who said she was raped**

**Ugandan president signs anti-gay bill**

**Russian court sentences anti-Putin protesters**

**Phishing scam emails, texts on the rise, surveys show**

**Malala Yousafzai backs campaign against FGM**

**Pentagon to propose shrinking US Army**

more

# in cahoots

Share your news with the world on *rabble.ca*! in cahoots is our readers' direct link to stories from civil society partners. From the top of *rabble.ca*'s front page, we link directly to social movement groups with news events and urgent issues. **In Cahoots** membership is charged on a sliding scale designed to match an organization's ability to pay.

All Sustaining Partner organizations are in cahoots members.

**Staff:** Matthew Adams, **in cahoots** Editor; Kaitlin McNabb, **in cahoots** editorial editor

## in cahoots rabble.ca



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES

**Saving the green economy, Ontario's Green Energy Act and the WTO**

Nov 25 2013

New study examines the WTO ruling on Ontario's Green Energy Act, its implications, and options moving forward.



UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS

**UFCW union joins global action for fairness and respect at Walmart**

Nov 22 2013

UFCW Canada is proud to stand with allies and activists around the globe to urge Walmart to become the responsible employer and corporate citizen that it can and should be.



COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

**Message to Canada's Infinito Gold: Drop your outrageous billion-dollar lawsuit against Costa**

**Rica!**

Nov 22 2013

Calgary-based Infinito is suing the Costa Rican government for over \$1 billion because it rejected the company's plan to build an open-pit gold mine in a tropical forest.



FOOD SECURE CANADA

**Festival of Food Ideas in Montreal**

Nov 22 2013

A Festival of Food Ideas welcomes food leaders from across Canada in Montreal.



CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**CUPE marks the Transgender Day of**

**Remembrance**

Nov 20 2013

## in cahoots members 2014:

BC Teachers' Federation  
Canada Health Coalition  
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
Canadians for Tax Fairness  
Food Secure Canada  
InterPares  
Mining Watch  
Ontario Health Coalition  
Sierra Club Canada  
Socialist Worker  
United Food and Commercial Workers

## Sustaining Partners 2014:

The Council of Canadians  
Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario  
British Columbia Government Employees Union (NUPGE)  
Hospital Employees Union  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
National Union of Public and General Employees  
Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation  
Unifor  
United Steelworkers



**rabbletv** is more than a collection of great videos. We present live internet video coverage of events (livestreaming), video commentary (“Not Rex”), Canadian music videos and “best of the net” gems for your viewing pleasure. **rabbletv** is just a click away!

**Staff:** Kaitlin McNabb, News Coordinator.

### **Livestream and Live Coverage Staff and Volunteers:**

Kim Elliott, **Publisher**; Tor Sandberg (*Livestream*), Wayne MacPhail (*Consultant*), Jase Tanner (*Livestream*), Humberto DaSilva (*Not Rex Murphy*), Chelsea Pratchett (*Livestream*), H.G. Watson (live coverage), Victoria Fenner (live coverage), Amira Elghawaby (live coverage), Miriam Katawazi (live coverage)

## rabbletv highlights



### **NOT REX**

#### **Not Rex: Three sonnets for Rob Ford** Dec 7

2012 | by Humberto DaSilva | Rob Ford's tragic legal turn in the classical style.



### **BEST-OF-THE-NET**

#### **Video: 'Smash the TPP' at**

**TPPxBorder Rally Dec. 1** Dec 5 2012 | by Council of Canadians | Trade justice activists from the U.S. and Canada converged on Dec. 1 to launch a North American people's movement against NAFTA expansion through the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.



### **BEST-OF-THE-NET**

#### **Amy Goodman questions top U.S.**

**negotiator at UN climate talks in Qatar** Dec 5 2012 | by rabble staff | U.S. climate negotiator Jonathan Pershing is questioned by Democracy Now! host Amy Goodman about the United States' failure to do more to cut emissions.



# rabbletv livestream and live coverage highlights

The screenshot shows the rabbletv website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'livestream', 'WATCH EVENTS', 'BROADCAST LIVE', and a search bar. Below this, the main event is 'Glenn Greenwald LIVE from Ottawa on rabble.ca'. It includes a 'LIVE NOW' button, a '1 update' indicator, and a '74' tweet count. The video player shows Glenn Greenwald speaking. To the right, there's a sidebar with 'rabble' profile stats: 7 Events, 66 Followers, and 143 Following. Below the stats is a chat window with 700 people, showing comments from users like Karen vB and Dean Clifford.

rabble.ca expanded its livestream services to position itself as one of the go-to media organizations for broadcasting progressive events.

We were indispensable to streaming events and rallies at the Peoples' Social Forum, Glenn Greenwald in Ottawa, and providing live coverage of the Women's Forum 2014 and the Good Jobs Summit.

For more information or to book rabble for livestream or other live coverage for your events, contact [business@rabble.ca](mailto:business@rabble.ca).



# not rex (murphy)

Rex Murphy faced some very serious allegations of conflict of interest this year. Not our Not Rex. **Humberto Da Silva**'s commentaries continue to bring a progressive voice to **rabbletv**. When you've had enough of conservative commentators, you can count on **Not Rex** to tell the other side of the story.

## Not Rex: The Olympic unveiling of the (un)Fair Elections Act

BY HUMBERTO DASILVA | FEBRUARY 21, 2014

[Print](#) [Write to editor](#) [Support rabble](#) [Corrections](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [+](#) 14



If a heavy-handed, ham-fisted regime tried to use the spectacle of Olympic sport to sleight-of-hand the disappearance of democracy, surely Canadians would riot like disappointed Canucks fans ... not!

The (un)Fair Elections Act is an assault on democracy in Canada and we need to do something about it!

## Not Rex: Terror in Canada!

BY HUMBERTO DASILVA | OCTOBER 15, 2014

[Print](#) [Write to editor](#) [Support rabble](#) [Corrections](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [+](#) 6



So, Harper -- with his majority government -- has finally dragged Canada into the Iraq war we missed out on in 2003. Now all we have to do is stay vigilant against ISIS attacks that could... maybe... be coming towards Canada.

But don't worry! The head of CSIS and the RCMP have all

the home grown ISIS sympathizers under surveillance. Nice to let them know, eh!

# indie **inside**

This year *rabble.ca*'s independent recording artist feature, **Indie Inside**, continued to expand in reflecting the diversity of both the progressive and arts communities across Canada. Its highlights included the socially charged Vancouver-based hip-hop R&B artist **K!mmortal**, as well as the eclectic and experimental **Betty Malaise and the Mushroom Souper**. With digital downloads being more accessible and readily available than CD's, **Indie Inside** will be able to turn out features even more regularly in 2015.

Know a band we should feature? Send details to [indieinside@rabble.ca](mailto:indieinside@rabble.ca)

**Staff:** Tania Ehret, indie inside Coordinator, Arts & Culture Coordinating Editor

Kimortal - Between the Earth and Sky (Music Video)

## Charlie Angus & Grievous Angels

BY **RABBLE STAFF** | FEBRUARY 22, 2014

Print Write to editor Support rabble Corrections



The group was originally formed in the mid 1980s as a street-busking operation in downtown Toronto. The line-up consisted of guitarist/song-writer Charlie Angus, vocalist Michelle Rumball and fiddler/accordionist Peter Jellard.

In 1987, stand-up bassist Tim



## Indie Inside CD giveaway contest

BY **RABBLE STAFF** | AUGUST 28, 2014

Participate in this month's Indie Inside giveaway contest, featuring Karl Sanden! Take a look at the new **Indie Inside** feature on the local Vancouver indie songster.

Watch the video in the feature and answer the following question for a chance to win a copy of his brand-new EP, *Fort Madeline*. What percussion instrument is the drummer playing in the video? Email answers to

[indieinside\[at\]rabble.ca](mailto:indieinside[at]rabble.ca) or retweet any related Indie Inside content @rabble.ca





# We've got **issues**.

## **i**ssues on rabble.ca

You think you've got issues? Well, check out ours. Issues at rabble.ca highlights the hot topics you want more of and brings together some of the best content and resources on the issues that matter most. Issue pages are more than "browse by topic" navigation. They draw together all rabble content on a particular topic, as well as curated content from other sources. They are your one stop shop for a source of for news, analysis and resources on the issues that you want to be on top of.

Our **issues** pages continue to be popular on **rabble.ca**. In 2012 we began to call these pages "topics" on our navigational bar.

These pages are theme-based aggregates of rabble columns, blogs, videos, discussion threads and podcasts, as well as news links and feeds from other news sources on specific issues. **issues pages** are a "one-stop-shop" for visitors to follow the news on an important issue, as well as to contribute content via discussions, photos and more.

Each page is also RSS capable so readers can subscribe to a feed on a theme of their choice. **rabble.ca** can also create specialty pages with similar news aggregation features.





Loretta Saunders' tragic death sparks calls for national inquiry

ON RABBLE.CA



**Activist Communique: New Brunswickers call for a referendum and moratorium on shale gas exploration as fight with SWN heats up** | Nov 12 2013 | Krystalline Kraus | At one site near the town of Rexton, New Brunswick, there is an ongoing battle to stop fracking in order to protect the water – which is Mother Earth's First Medicine.

ON RABBLE

**Yet another murdered indigenous woman - studying this very issue** | Slumberjack said... Just about every forum could take the matter up, in

**Allship** | 6079\_Smith\_W said... I count my allies based on issues of common concern, not issues on which we disagree. In fact, a...

**Liberal political commentator Rob Silver mentions rabble.ca twice on CBC Power & Politics** | sherpa-finn said... > He also said, not once but twice, that their message only appeals to people who read rabble.ca...

RABBLE.CA FEEDS

- Pam Palmater
- Ben Powless
- Ápihtawikosisân
- Activist Communique
- Daniel Wilson
- Romeo Saganash
- Northwest Notes

MORE ON RABBLE



SITES WE LIKE

- Native Appropriations
- Idle No More
- APTN
- First Perspective
- Defenders of the Land

IN CAHOOTS



Activists from CUPE locals stand together with Operation Solidarity Bonfield

ON RABBLE.CA

**Criminal employers are employers too, Alberta government spokesman says, but illegal strikes are still illegal** | Jan 10 2014 | David J. Climenhaga | If you strike illegally, or talk about striking illegally, or even look like you might be thinking about talking about talking about thinking about striking illegally, you will be dealt with severely.



**The myth of the skills shortage in Canada's labour market** | Jan 8 2014 | Tim Stanford

ON RABBLE

**Why the timing is good for parties from the left in Canada** | socialdemocraticmiddle said... Exactly. The Conservative economic record is NOT good, and we need an alternative. Moreover, if the...

**Amazon is our desperate and vacant future** | 6079\_Smith\_W said... Well that's a good solid dose of bad retail news to ring in the Christmas season. Heard the story...

**SeaTac votes on highest min wage in US** | lagatta said... It would be a great precedent. But what a ghastly town name - I figured that it pertained

RABBLE.CA FEEDS

- Asia Pacific Currents
- The Labour Show
- Canadian Association of Labour Media
- David Bush
- Reitree Matters
- Asia Pacific Currents

SITES WE LIKE

- Rank and File
- Labour Start
- Labour Reporter
- All Together Now
- Labour Rights

IN CAHOOTS



Loretta Saunders' tragic death sparks calls for national inquiry

ON RABBLE.CA



**Parliament, let's look back on the year** | Dec 30 2013 | rabble staff | rabble.ca's parliamentary correspondent Karl Nerenberg's best articles of 2013. If you need a round-up of government hijinks in 2013, look no further.

ON RABBLE

**PQ Budget Proposes Quebec Government take Equity Stake in Oil and Mineral Projects** | KenS said... I don't know if its some kind of poison pill-even guessing the likelihood of that is beyond my...

**Senator Patrick Brazeau qualify for Employment Insurance** | lagatta said... Well, he's four Manager at an Ottawa strip club http://www.ottawacitizen.com/

**"Fair" Elections Act** | onlinediscounantvis said... Quote: ~ Forbids Elections Canada from launching ad campaigns to encourage people to...

RABBLE.CA FEEDS

- Alberta Diary
- Alice Klein
- Am Johal
- Christine Saulnier
- Christopher Majka
- Daniel Tseghay
- Daniel Wilson
- Democracy Watch
- Elizabeth May
- George Lessard
- Gerry Caplan
- Michael Laxer
- Murray Dobbin
- Naomi Klein
- Policy Note
- Pulpit and Politics
- Steve Shrybman
- You Heart's on the Left
- rabble radio
- Rick Salutin
- Ralph Surette



Tar Sands Reporting Project hopes to create change

ON RABBLE.CA

**Line in the Sand project dissects Northern Gateway pipeline** | Dec 18 2013 | June Chua | With a small stash of funds, Tomas Borsa and four friends hit the road -- gathering information, interviews and creating an interactive site called

ON RABBLE

**frozen bicycle brake** | Bachchus said... Rear gets more spray of snow/water which then freezes in

**Les animaux ne sont pas des choses/Animals are not objects** | Slumberjack said... I'm finding post-humanist theory, animal studies, and related sociology to be quite an eye opener...

**Destruction of science libraries** | chambered said... I surmise that the destruction of these libraries: "Eliminates key information useful for..."

**Liberal political commentator Rob**

RABBLE.CA FEEDS

- Alternatives Podcast
- Climate Action Network Canada
- David Suzuki
- Emma Pullman
- John Bennett
- Making Waves
- Mining Watch
- The Otesha Project
- Velcrow Ripper

SITES WE LIKE

- Indigenous Environmental Network
- Wilderness Committee
- Defend Our Coast
- Alternatives Journal
- The Climate Reality Project

IN CAHOOTS



Charlie Angus & Grievous Angels

ON RABBLE.CA



**Fourth Graders and the Magic of Theatre** | Dec 17 2013 | Holly Adams | Arts and Ed, fourth graders, and unbelievable bravery and magic.

**Six key lessons in social**

ON RABBLE

**Bless Me Now With Your Fierce Tears XI** | Unionist said... Ray Bradbury, in

**The Evolution of Snow White** | Boom Boom said... Thanks for starting this thread, CF. I've seen previews of the new Snow White and I went "what the..."

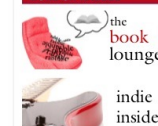
**Cannes 2012** | Bärliuer said... Not a huge fan of Haneke (I make mine most of the comments made in this amusing review of "The...")

**The Great Gatsby** | Kaitlin McNabb said... I for one am excited! Baz Luhrmann! Based on the trailer it already seems

RABBLE.CA FEEDS

- bound but not gagged
- Adventures from the e-book frontier
- Love 2.0 - It's Complicated
- Raffi's Blog
- Enter Up Left
- Needs No Introduction
- indie inside
- June Chua
- Living On Purpose
- Bob Wiseman

MORE ON RABBLE



Video: Day of Action against the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Corporate Globalization

ON RABBLE.CA

**Let's talk about solutions - for Canada's broken telecom market** | Dec 18 2013 | Steve Anderson | OpenMedia is calling for wireless companies like Ting to be able to reach Canadians just like indie ISPs can for wired Internet.

**2013: We did all this together, Canada!** | Dec 18 2013 | David

ON RABBLE

**PQ Budget Proposes Quebec Government take Equity Stake in Oil and Mineral Projects** | KenS said... I don't know if its some kind of poison pill-even guessing the likelihood of that is beyond my...

**Hi I'm new** | Rebecca West said... Welcome!

**Australia's Coalition Government Prepares for Privatization Bent** | PrairieDemocrat15 said... More links: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2... 02-13/australia-post-selloff-possible-sa... http://www...

**A Living Minimum** | Slumberjack said... A Living Minimum Quote: If

RABBLE.CA FEEDS

- Praxis: A Popular Economics Blog
- Progressive Economics Forum
- Sheila Block
- Trish Hennessy
- Duncan Cameron
- Linda McQuaig
- Jim Stanford
- Hennessy's Index
- Ellen Russell
- Behind the Numbers
- Policy Note
- Northern Plains Drifter
- Policyfix

MORE ON RABBLE

**G20/G8**

SITES WE LIKE

- Other Worlds
- Sum of Us
- CUPE Justice



# the **book** lounge

**Staff:** Kaitlin McNabb, Books Coordinator

**Interns:** Christina Turner and Lauren Scott

This year was an exciting year for the **rabble.ca book lounge** as we continued to develop and sharpen our vision and reach.

The book lounge reviews section kept a keen eye on the **fantastic work produced by Canadian authors and independent publishers**, highlighting an array of genres from Canadian poetry to political activism to children's literature to Indigenous politics.

It is no surprise that book reviewers once again outdid themselves and produced original, insightful and thought-provoking book reviews week after week. We were able to add some wonderful new voices to the **rabble.ca** reviewer rolodex and of course continue working with some old favourites.

A big goal for 2014 was to increase and balance our representation of women authors and reviewers to promote the principles of **Canadian Women in Literary Arts (CWILA)**.

We can happily announce that in 2013 **rabble** was able to increase female-authored books **from 29 per cent to 46 per cent** and female-authored book reviews **from 46 per cent to 49 per cent**. These numbers are a huge accomplishment for books coordinator **Kaitlin McNabb**, who took over the book lounge in 2013, and we're sure the CWILA numbers for 2014 will be even more reflective of this inclusive goal.





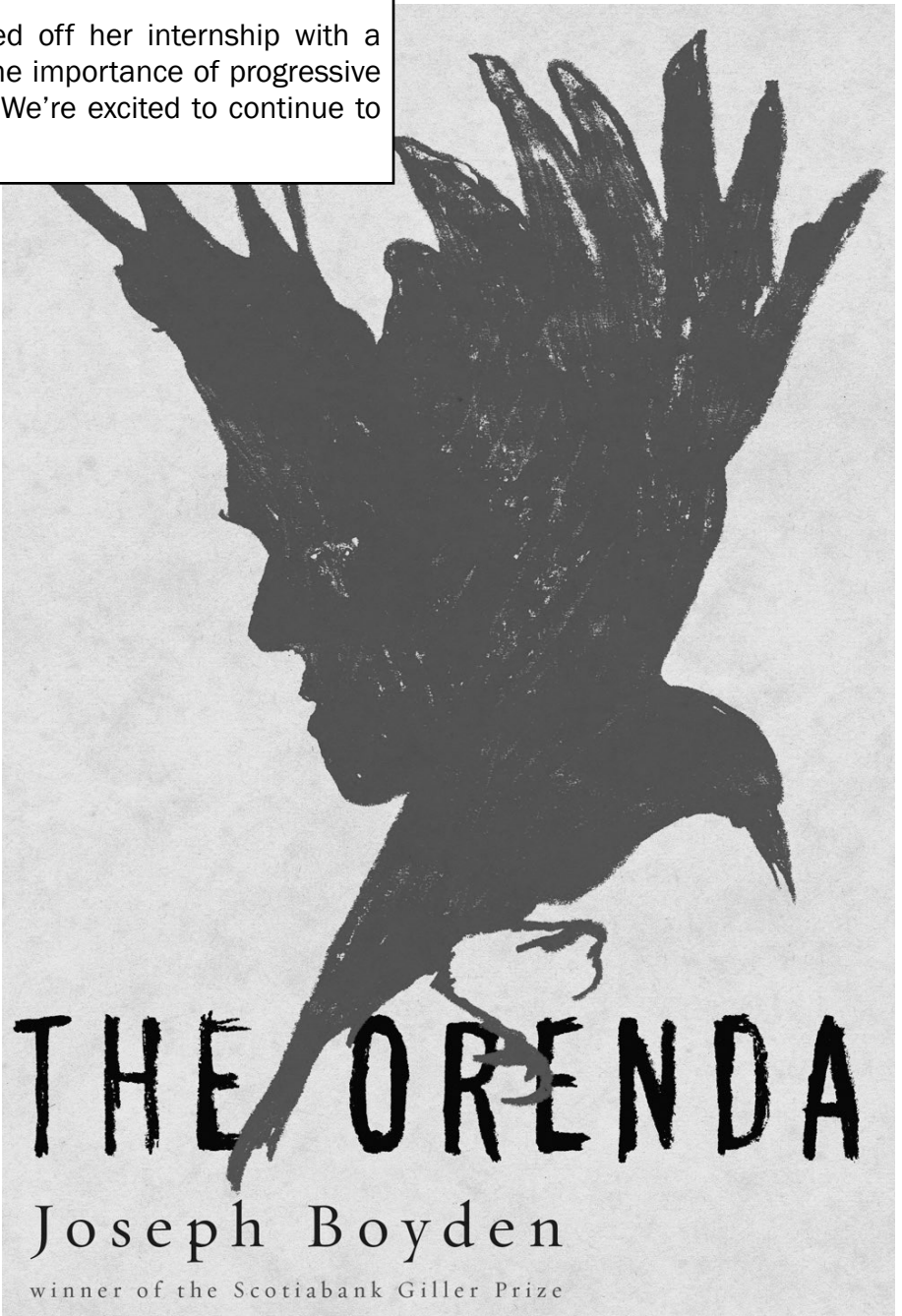
The books blog, “bound but not gagged,” was taken over twice and curated by *rabble.ca*’s fantastic book interns: **Christina Turner** and **Lauren Scott**. Christina set her sights on unpacking Canada Reads and the eventual winner Joseph Boyden’s **The Orenda**, crafting original pieces that always generated a huge buzz in the *rabble.ca* community.

In late 2014, Lauren started off her internship with a bang with a great post on the importance of progressive morals in children’s books. We’re excited to continue to work with Lauren in 2015!

the **book**  
lounge



bound but not gagged



# Highlights of 2014's **rabble book lounge** reviews:

## **Canada's complicated relationship with pro-choice politics** by Michelle Reid

This year has been particularly not great for reproductive rights in Canada with the closing of the Morgentaler clinic serving as that symbol. This book and review act as a reminder of not only Canada's vocal anti-choice groups' terrible logic, but that pro-choice advocates need to listen and trust women too, regardless of circumstance.

## **'Gender Failure' defies gender rules, roles and assumptions** By Mercedes Allen

Authors Ivan E. Coyote and Rae Spoon shared their experiences of failing to fit into the gender binary through personal essay, lyrics and drawings. Reviewer Mercedes Allen is tailor-made for this review, bringing their own experience and knowledge of navigating gender narratives, roles and assumptions to this review, creating a piece that makes us think. And think. And think...

## **Idle No More, Indigenous resistance and the larger movement** by Lindsey Cornum

This compilation of essays from the Idle No More movement was stunning and a necessary contribution to the Canadian literary scene. Reviewer Lindsey Cornum brings a sharp analysis—what was the role of women in INM?; what is resistance?—to this complicated text that *rabble.ca* felt lucky to publish.

## **Harper's Canada: What have we become?** By Amira Elghawaby

Maybe you've noticed this thing called 'Harperism' sweeping over Canada, slowly at first it seemed, and with more and more speed as the years followed. Well, the impeccable Donald Gutstein wrote a book about it and the the Harper-loving think tanks that are informing Canadian politics. And it's downright terrifying.

## **Working it: Sex work as labour** by Muna Mire

The sex work conversation is contentious – to say the least. 'Playing the Whore' explored one side of the narrative that recognizes sex work as labour

and decriminalization as the best way to protect sex workers. With Bill C-36 fresh in our minds, this is a must read for anyone and everyone involved in the conversation.

## **Pipelines: The answer is still no!** by Meg Borthwick

The resistance against pipelines in Canada has been one of the bigger political actions in Canada this year with numerous communities from all across the country gathering together to say 'No!' to pipelines. This volume collects some of the most prominent voices from the movement to look at every facet of this issue.

## **'El Niño' draws attention to the issues of migrant labour** by Christina Turner

Nadia Bozak's 'El Niño' was a great addition to Canadian literature this year, but also helped shed light on the ever-growing issues of temporary foreign workers in Canada and the U.S. Reviewer Christina Turner brought her passion for food politics, migrant worker issues – oh, and a couple advanced degrees in English – to this review to go beyond just a literary analysis.

## **Unions matter. So why does Canada pretend like they don't?** by Nora Loreto

Why it's great: The blatant attack on unions this year by the Harper government is not surprising, but boy is it infuriating! Nora Loreto is well-versed in the politics of unions (and the backwards rhetoric of anti-union folks) and gave us the tools to fight neoliberalism, austerity and anti-union, right wing tripe.

## **'Crazy Town': Doolittle does a lot with Rob Ford's story** By Heather Morgan

Why it's great: I think Heather Morgan could potentially rival Robyn Doolittle in her expertise and ability to write about Rob Ford. Seriously! This book came out, and all I thought was "Must. Send. To. Heather. Morgan. Now." And she did not disappoint. The ongoing saga of The Ford Family is... indescribably fascinating. Luckily, Morgan finds the words.

# babble

the (in)famous moderated discussion board of rabble.ca

Staff: Meg Borthwick; Michael Stewart

Supporting Moderator: Frank Preyde



babble is rabble.ca's discussion board but it's much more than that: it's an online community for folks who just won't shut up. It's a place to tell each other — and the world — what's up with our work and campaigns.

[Learn More](#)

[mark all forums read](#)

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
first stop			
<b>introductions</b> Where we get to know the newbies, and they get to know us. Non-newbies can post their questions here, too!	494 1 new	5976	Who are babble ... by Boom Boom Feb 15 2012 - 9:08pm
rabble community			
<b>rabble news features</b> Read it on rabble, then talk about it here.	248 7 new	6689	Peggy Nash ... by autoworker 1 hour 2 min ago
<b>news by the rest of us</b> You post your original article; we comment!	225 4 new	3125	so they ... by Slumberjack Feb 7 2012 - 10:15am
<b>babblers helping babblers</b> 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.	491	7374	Evo Morales ... by Grandpa_Bill Feb 20 2012 - 3:29pm
<b>babble banter</b> For when you are so far off topic, you were never even on it.	311 1 new	6821	Gross Food by Catchfire 47 min 21 sec ago
<b>rabble reactions</b> Topical questions and comments about the site only.	434 2 new	15169	Why are both ... by Unionist Feb 21 2012 - 11:56pm
<b>activist toolkit</b>	21	189	Activist ... by sppinch Jan 5 2012 - 9:39am
current events			
<b>national news</b> Read it watch it live it discuss it.	1505 17 new	44122	Carbon ... by ilha formosa 2 hours 39 min ago
<b>canadian politics</b> Layton-Lovers to Harper-Harpies. Talk about it here.	2304 84 new	114761	NDP Leadership ... by Howard 58 sec ago
<b>international news and politics</b>	2193 28 new	61583	Syria #4 by DaveW 1 hour 25 sec ago

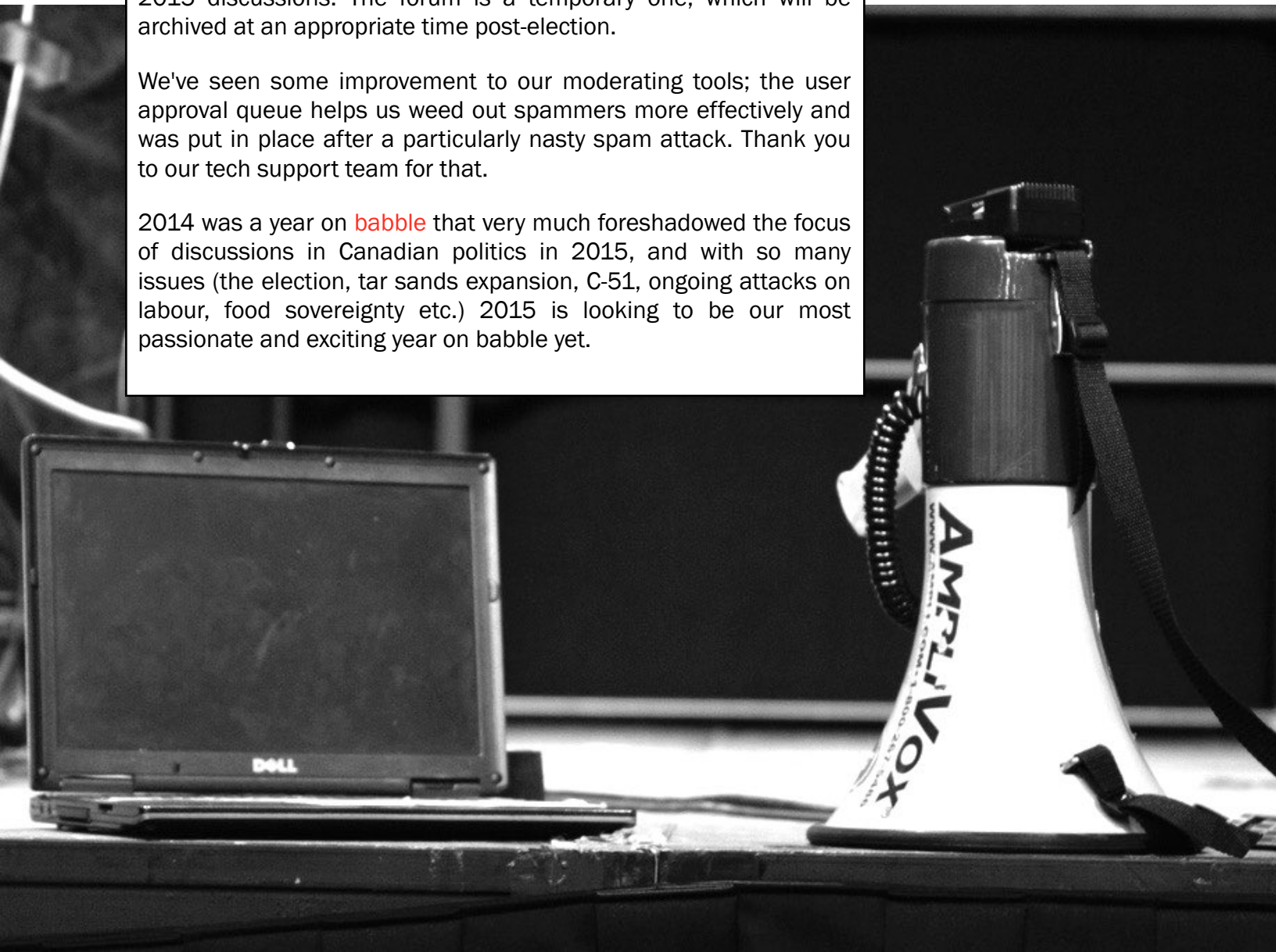


**babble** continues to be one of the most visited areas of *rabble.ca*. In 2014 federal election discussions really began to heat up. Threads on the NDP and Mulcair were especially busy. On the international front the Ukraine, Syria and Russia threads were numerous and very busy.

2014 was a year of change and a year of anticipated change. Looking to the **2015 federal election** and the proliferation of election threads, a new forum was created to hold just Election 2015 discussions. The forum is a temporary one, which will be archived at an appropriate time post-election.

We've seen some improvement to our moderating tools; the user approval queue helps us weed out spammers more effectively and was put in place after a particularly nasty spam attack. Thank you to our tech support team for that.

2014 was a year on **babble** that very much foreshadowed the focus of discussions in Canadian politics in 2015, and with so many issues (the election, tar sands expansion, C-51, ongoing attacks on labour, food sovereignty etc.) 2015 is looking to be our most passionate and exciting year on babble yet.



# the activist toolkit

**Staff:** Steffanie Pinch, **Activist Toolkit Coordinator**; Kim Elliott, **Publisher**

**Intern:** Megan Stacey

Democracy goes hand and hand with grassroots activism. In 2013, we were excited to launch the newly designed **Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit**, a radical wiki-style space for organizers to share, discuss and create tools for organizing from the ground up. **Lynn Williams** is a labour organizer, activist and the first president of the United Steelworkers.

The Toolkit reflects William's dedicated work as a life-long activist, providing organizers and communities with access to guides, workshop outlines, open source software, copy-left images, activist histories and more. The **Toolkit's blog and podcast** keep lived experiences at the forefront of these resources.

In 2014 the Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit continued to help connect activists to tools and sparkled under the irrepressible eye of Coordinator **Steffanie Pinch**. Our staff were gutted when Steff announced her intention to leave *rabble.ca* to pursue other interests, but we know with her passion, energy and heart we will all benefit from whatever social justice work she puts her back into. Best of luck Steff!

With the help of babble moderator and freelance journalist Meg Borthwick, Steff launched **Revolution 101**, a series that looks at how to build sustainable movements for change and keep the momentum going. The series is meant to amplify the voices of grassroots activists, educate folks new to movement-building and create new spaces for discussion.

The Activist Toolkit **blog**, the **three-minute actions**, "**On This Day**" in activist history and other features, podcasts and more continue to make the **Lynn Williams Activist Toolkit** one of the most dynamic, indispensable and fastest-growing parts of *rabble.ca*.



# supporting donors

## community-supported media



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

At *rabble.ca*, we hold an annual monthly donor drive to recruit members (starting at \$5/month).

In 2014, rabble continued our partnership with independent print magazines and ended the year with over 800 monthly members contributing between \$5 and \$100 a month.

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

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

Our mailing depends on volunteers to help us stuff envelopes. There is always great conversation and good snacks. Thanks to our volunteers!

A special thank you to NUPGE for covering our mailing postage for the annual donation drive mailing in 2014.

**You can sign up to become a monthly supporter at <http://rabble.ca/donate>**






people love us, you know...



“rabble is a crucial resource for achieving media democracy in Canada, in this era of increasing corporate media centralization. That’s why the Council of Canadians supports rabble.ca”

Join Maude Barlow  
Support rabble.ca

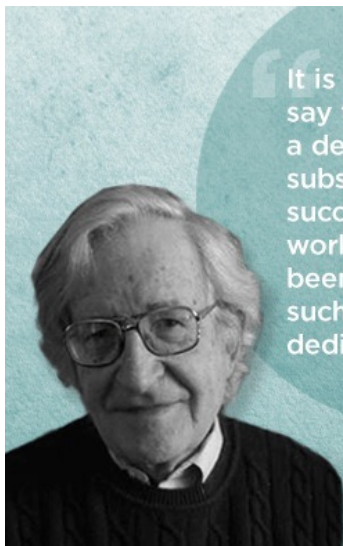
**rabble.ca**  
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US



“Over the last two decades, at least, corporate speech and state speech, in tandem, have narrowed the public space pushing us into ever disappearing, ever meagre definitions of the communal. Contesting that hegemony, over language and politics, rabble reclaims and widens the space of citizenship.”

Join Dionne Brand  
(poet, author)  
Support rabble.ca

**rabble.ca**  
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US



“It is no exaggeration to say that the hopes for a decent world rest substantially on the success of the kind of work that rabble.ca has been carrying out with such distinction and dedication.”

Join Noam Chomsky  
Support rabble.ca

**rabble.ca**  
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US



“With mainstream media abdicating its role of holding power to truth, independent media, like rabble.ca, are now more important than ever for ensuring our democratic aspirations can be realized.”

Join Joel Bakan  
Author, *The Corporation*  
Support rabble.ca

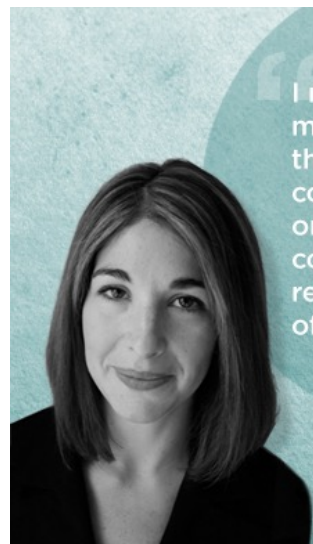
**rabble.ca**  
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US



“rabble is such a great forum for debate and REAL information - not mainstream media stuff.”

Join Pam Palmater (Mi'kmaw  
Citizen/Lawyer/Professor)  
Support rabble.ca

**rabble.ca**  
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US



“I rely on rabble to bring me the real debates that are shaping our country. I also depend on rabble to bring my columns to a remarkable community of Canadians.”

Join Naomi Klein  
(author *The Shock Doctrine*)  
Support rabble.ca

**rabble.ca**  
NEWS FOR THE REST OF US

# donation drive

## community-supported media

We also held our annual donation drive for those that wanted to support us with a one-time donation. This year *rabble.ca* tried to attract new supporters by highlighting what we do best: changing the conversation in Canada so that we can change the government.

With the help of Steven Staples from the Rideau Institute, we launched an unprecedented campaign to ensure that Canadians sick of a right-wing government in Ottawa (which is to say, most of us), realized that *rabble.ca* is the best place to get their news, analysis and activist tips.

We offered a vast array of radically awesome gifts, like Naomi Klein's acclaimed *This Changes Everything* and Karl Nerenberg's first book for *rabble.ca*, *Harper vs. Canada*. We also hosted several fundraising events and house parties. There was much rejoicing.

The result was astonishing. This year's was our most successful fundraising campaign ever, raising more than \$140,000 from readers. Now it's time to finish the job.

**Help us pull  
the plug on  
Harper**



Be a Harper stopper. Donate to *rabble.ca* and help us share the voices that will change the conversation, and the government.

*rabble.ca*



[advertise@rabble.ca](mailto:advertise@rabble.ca)



Advertising that makes a difference  
[advertise@rabble.ca](mailto:advertise@rabble.ca)

## BIG AUDIENCE

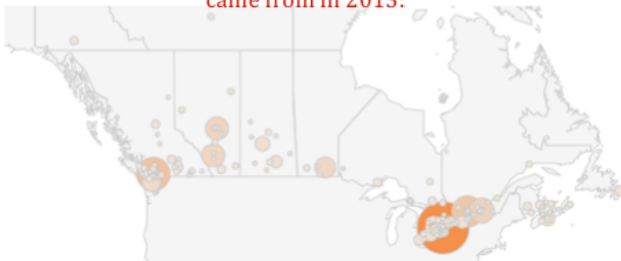
*rabble.ca* sprang to life in 2001 as an independent news source with strong roots in the various movements working for social justice and equality.

Today *rabble.ca* gets up to **450,000 unique visitors a month** and two million page views every month. We have over **30,000** followers on twitter. Over **29,000 people have an account on rabble** (allowing them to comment on articles, participate in the discussion board, and post on our events calendar).

In 2013 *rabble.ca* had **4,419,421** visits from 229 countries/territories and 77% of traffic to the site came from Canada. Thousands of Canadians are registered for rabble's discussion board *babble*.

Over 16000 people subscribe to our newsletters (and we have ad space there too!).

Where rabble's visitors  
came from in 2013:



We updated our ad kit in 2014 and continue to offer very competitive rates to reach large audiences. **Contact us at** [advertise@rabble.ca](mailto:advertise@rabble.ca).



# marketing



We take a proactive role in spreading the word about [rabble.ca](#) through marketing on Facebook, Twitter and mobile news feeds, sponsoring events, tabling at events, conference presentations, advertising, membership in media organizations and more.

We organized a scintillating panel discussion in Vancouver featuring [rabble.ca](#) columnist and former senior contributing editor [Murray Dobbin](#) following the theme of his recent column, “The Year of Living Consciously.” The panel also boasted a number of leading B.C. thinkers, activists and organizers including BC CCPA researcher and regular [rabble.ca](#) contributor Iglika Ivanova.

We hosted the Canadian premiere of Greg Elmer’s Preempting Dissent in Toronto in July. And hosted many other events, and organized an Occupy anniversary event with This Magazine called “Occupy Now”.

[rabble.ca](#) staff and board are in demand to present and participate in conferences. Blogs Coordinator Michael Stewart presented at [Media Democracy Day Vancouver](#) in a panel called “So you want to be an indie journalist?” Managing Editor Michelle Gregus once again judged and presented a student Journalism award at the [Canadian University Press Conference](#), where [rabble](#) was again a sponsor for a student journalism award.

Editor-in-chief [Meagan Perry](#) attended the [Media Consortium Conference](#) in Chicago this year and spoke at the [Be Alternative: Student and Independent Media Conference](#) at George Brown College. She also talks [rabble.ca](#) up at parties.

Publisher, [Kim Elliott](#) hosted a panel on Internships at [The Progressive Media Consortium \(TMC\)](#) in Chicago, and participated on the program committee for conference. She spoke at a [Canadian Media Guild](#) panel on sustainable models for independent media, and to [Unifor’s Media Sector](#), and was a judge for a third year in row for the prestigious [Canadian Online Media Awards \(COPA\)](#).

And of course, *rabble.ca* featured prominently at the historic **Peoples' Social Forum** in August. We were the official livestreamers for the event while Publisher **Kim Elliott** and Activist Toolkit Coordinator **Steff Pinch** headed panels. And of course our **Celebrate Independent Media!** party was the first stop for the hip activist and media set, including featured speaker **Linda McQuaig**.

A sampling of conferences that *rabble.ca* participated in and/or presented at included:

**Media Consortium Conference**  
**Media Democracy Day Vancouver**  
**CUPE National Convention**  
**Be Alternative: Student & Independent Media Conference**  
**Good Jobs Conference**  
**Tommy Douglas Institute Conference**  
**Canadian Association of Labour Media Conference**  
**Peoples' Social Forum, Ottawa**  
**Canadian Labour Congress Convention**  
**Canadian University Press conference**  
**HEU convention**  
**Canadian University Press conference**  
**Unifor Canadian Council meeting**  
**OPSEU convention, Toronto**  
**The Word On The Street in Toronto and Vancouver**  
**Dis-Orientation conference, York University**  
**Clean Energy Conference**  
**Canzine Toronto**  
**Canadian Association of Journalists conference**  
**Alternative Media Fair, Toronto**  
**LeftWords Festival of Books and Ideas, Toronto**  
**Unifor Political Action conference**  
**The Progressive Media Consortium**



# rabble **sponsored** events

Each year **rabble.ca** partners with community organizations and sponsors events. While we don't have any funds to offer, we provide promotion to our large audience. We offer free advertising on the site and promotion on our social media and in our newsletter(s) to events we sponsor.

The advertisements and posters over the next few pages showcases the events that rabble sponsored in 2014.

SFU ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY, INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICES & RABBLE.CA PRESENT:


**NAHLA ABDO**

**CAPTIVE  
REVOLUTION**

Palestinian Women's  
Anti-Colonial Struggle Within  
the Israeli Prison System

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2015**  
**6:30-9PM**  
**ROOM 7000 • SFU 515 WEST HASTINGS**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**  
Nahla Abdo is an Arab feminist activist and Professor of Sociology at Carleton University. She has published extensively on women, racism, nationalism, and the State in the Middle East, with a special focus on Palestinian women. *Captive Revolution* seeks to break the silence on Palestinian women political detainees, providing a vital contribution to research on women, revolution, national liberation and anti-colonial resistance.



## **ALTERNATIVE MEDIA MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY**

**AT / FROM THE**

## **PEOPLES SOCIAL FORUM**

**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 23  
1-4PM EDT**

**LIVE  
STREAM  
/ CHAT**

**PSFALTMEDIA  
.TUMBLR.COM**



**V I F F**

**SEPT 25<sup>TH</sup> - OCT 10<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

**350 FILMS • 70 COUNTRIES**



# rabble sponsored events

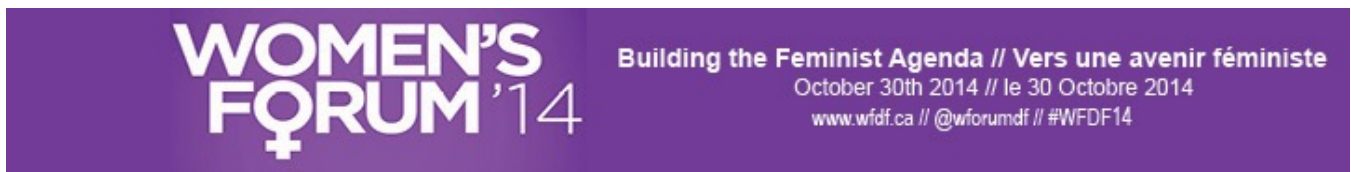


**Forum national sur l'énergie et l'industrie propres**  
Vendredi 3 octobre, 2014 à la Chambre des communes

**National Forum on Clean Energy and Industry**  
Friday October 3, 2014 at the House of Commons

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant/ Register now!

Merci à notre partenaire média!  
Thanks to our media sponsor! **rabble.ca**



**WOMEN'S FORUM '14**

Building the Feminist Agenda // Vers une avenir féministe  
October 30th 2014 // le 30 Octobre 2014  
[www.wfdf.ca](http://www.wfdf.ca) // @wforumd1 // #WFDF14



**HARPERISM**  
HOW STEPHEN HARPER AND HIS THINK TANK COLLEAGUES HAVE TRANSFORMED CANADA

**DONALD GUTSTEIN**

Join Donald Gutstein with a panel of experts as he launches his latest book

October 8th 2014  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
Simon Fraser University,  
Harbor Centre  
515 West Hastings  
Segal Centre



**Louise Mandell**

Lawyer with Mandell Pinder, specializing in aboriginal law for 4 decades



**Adrienne Montani**

Child and youth advocate



**Gwen Barlee**

Environmental and health advocate

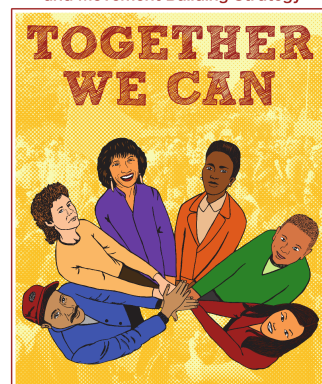
Media sponsor

**rabble.ca**

Simon Fraser University Sponsors: School of Communication, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, Institute for the Humanities, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Labour Studies Program

## Towards Collective Liberation

Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Praxis, and Movement Building Strategy



**March 6th, 3 PM**  
Student Centre, York University, Room TBA

"Guided by a vision of collective liberation that centers the experience and leadership of women of color, Chris has done groundbreaking work to realize the revolutionary potential of grassroots multiracial alliances." —Harsha Walla

"Chris Crass has been at the forefront of building the grassroots, multi-racial, feminist movements for justice we need." —Elizabeth Sletta Martinez

Supported by: OPRG Toronto, OPRG York, CUPE 5903 and the following programs, faculties and departments at York University: Graduate Program in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; Faculty of Graduate Studies; Department of Sociology; Sexuality Studies Program; Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought; Senate Committee on Research; Aid Hoc Research Fund; Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies; Research Events and Outreach Fund

# rabble **sponsored** events



*Picturing Transformation* Nexw-áyantsut Book  
Vancouver International Film Festival  
Word on the Street (Toronto)  
Media Democracy Day (Vancouver)  
DisOrientation — York U  
CUP journalism award sponsorship  
*Harpersim* — SFU book launch  
Clean Energy Conference  
Open Media Campaign: Save our Privacy  
Canadian Association of Labour Media annual conference  
Jack Layton Book Club (toronto)  
Towards Collective Liberation (Toronto)  
Alternative Media Conference at George Brown College  
Tommy Douglas Institute launch  
Power shift Atlantic  
LeadNow — Fair Elections Act  
Eystir Productions: Glenn Greenwald in Ottawa  
Sodom, Toronto  
Ad trade: Funky Bento Collective  
Indy Media Tribute to Ali Mustafa  
The Corporation screening at the People's Social Forum  
The People's Social Forum  
Canzine 2014  
Big Transit Mayoral Debate  
Nahla Abdo book launch *Captive Revolution* (Vancouver)  
Line in the Tar Sands Book launch  
National Student Journalism Conference: Best news  
writing awards financial sponsorship  
CCPA event at the CLC Convention: Tax is Not A Four Letter  
Word



# Go Vegan

rabble.ca vegan challenge

Once again, *rabble.ca* sponsored the **Vegan Challenge** and had some staff, contributors and interns taking part to eat vegan during **Earth Week 2014**.

Outreach coordinator and Activist Toolkit **editor Steffanie Pinch** curated the most challenging vegan challenge yet, taking on tough conversations about veganism and Indigenous rights, veganism and workers; and veganism and omnivores.

rabble readers participated by sharing their experiences, successes and, um, lapses on social media. But this popular feature continues to spur conversations on diet, choice, sustainability and ethical eating.





# memberships



*rabble.ca* is an Associate Member of the U.S. [progressive network The Media Consortium](#). The Media Consortium is a network of leading progressive independent journalism organizations who work to “amplify our voices; increase our collective clout; leverage our current audience and reach out to new ones; transform our sector’s position in a rapidly changing media and political environment; and redefine ourselves and progressivism for a new century.”

*rabble.ca* is also a founding member of the Canadian Independent On-Line Media Alliance. The Alliance brings together Canadian online independent media for the purposes of discussing possible editorial, technical and revenue generating collaborations. The Alliance has pooled resources and obtained a collective discount for the email serving program “What Counts” and have shared infrastructure development, ad swaps and are exploring the potential for other forms of cooperation.

*rabble.ca* is an active member of the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) in Toronto, Under One Roof in Ottawa and was also active in the co-working space, The Hive, and moved to the Dominion Building in late 2014.



# what's up

All of our sponsored events, plus events from around Canada can always be found on our popular calendar [what's up](#), which is free to post and read.



What's up lists events staged by social justice & arts organizations in your community. Click on the column titles to sort the events. *Please note that due to the large number of events posted on rabble, it may take up to two weeks for your event to be displayed on the website.*

[View upcoming events](#) | [Add an event](#)

City	Event	Time
Ottawa	<b>Lecture: Sudan and South Sudan's Bitter and Incomplete Divorce by James Copnall</b>	Mon, Oct 20, 2014
Toronto	<b>Ontario Health Coalition: Health Action Assembly and Conference</b>	Sat, Oct 18, 2014 - Sun, Oct 19, 2014
Gatineau	<b>Inner Peace is the key for World Peace</b>	Sat, Oct 18, 2014
Toronto	<b>Ontario Health Coalition: Health Action Assembly and Conference</b>	Sat, Oct 18, 2014
Halifax	<b>Nocturne: Art at Night</b>	Sat, Oct 18, 2014
Ottawa	<b>Launch of 'Norval Morriseau: Man Changing into Thunderbird' with Armand Garnet Ruffo</b>	Fri, Oct 17, 2014
Ottawa	<b>The Blue Dot Tour: An evening with David Suzuki in Ottawa</b>	Fri, Oct 17, 2014
	<b>Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy: 'Art as Cultural Diplomacy in the Commonwealth of Nations'</b>	Wed, Oct 15, 2014 - Fri, Oct 17, 2014
Vancouver	<b>Know your rights for non-violent direct action</b>	Tue, Oct 14, 2014
Vancouver	<b>Vancouver International Film Festival</b>	Thu, Sep 25, 2014 - Fri, Oct 10, 2014
Toronto	<b>Inanna Publications Fall Book Launch No. 1</b>	Thu, Oct 9, 2014
Halifax	<b>The Story from an Insider: How Israel Spins Gaza to You and to the World</b>	Thu, Oct 9, 2014
Toronto	<b>Gender &amp; The City: A Mayoral Debate</b>	Thu, Oct 9, 2014
Vancouver	<b>Media Democracy Days Presents: Bandwidth -- a multimedia fundraiser</b>	Wed, Oct 8, 2014 - Thu, Oct 9, 2014
Vancouver	<b>Book launch: Harperism: How Stephen Harper and his think tank colleagues have transformed Canada</b>	Wed, Oct 8, 2014

# tech reflections

**Staff:** Brian Sharpe, **Tech Support**; Allan Graham, **Tech Support**; Justin Saunders, **Tech Support**

*rabble.ca* has grown significantly since the early days.

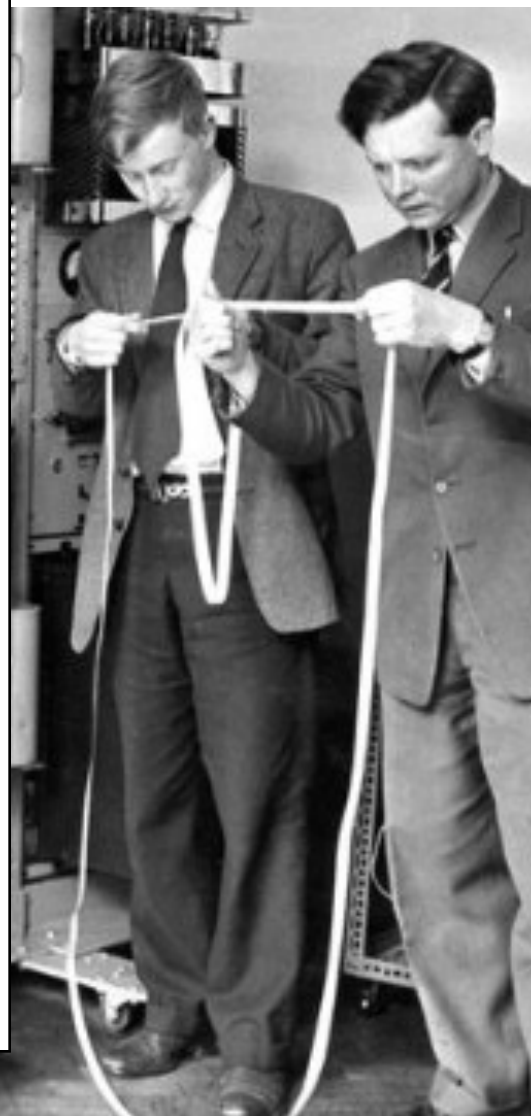
As demand increases for our content, the server architecture has matured. With the additional staff hours and hardware available to us, we've begun to shift from an under-resourced crisis management focus to one of refinement and planned improvements of the site.

We comfortably serve content to numbers well beyond what we were once able to without seeing much of a blip in the site performance. With our security focused back-end, our systems were safe this past year from a few major security issues that affected hundreds of thousands of sites world-wide. We continue to keep our systems updated and secure as a priority of our daily work.

The most exciting upgrade in 2014 was the significant improvements we made to our outdated podcast feed system. Now new podcasts are regularly setup to meet iTunes standards for inclusion, a huge boost to our reach and audience. A significant portion of tech work this year has gone towards our communication systems, both internal and external. We've migrated to a new version of our mailing service and engaged in trial projects with alternative and complimentary mailing services to find the right fit for *rabble.ca* in 2015 and beyond. We also completely migrated to a new ad management system.

We made a carefully considered choice to retire our internal commenting system and move to the popular third-party commenting system "Disqus." While not without its criticisms, we believe it to be the right choice at this time. Disqus reduces resources needed to keep *rabble.ca* secure and to combat spam, while opening our comments up to a wider community. The net result has brought in far more conversation to *rabble.ca*.

Since our last upgrade from Drupal 5 to 6, we've made many of our tech decisions with a best practice approach for future upgrade paths. We're very excited to be close to the next phase of major upgrades to Drupal 7, and bringing a smoother more responsive experience to our users in the coming year.



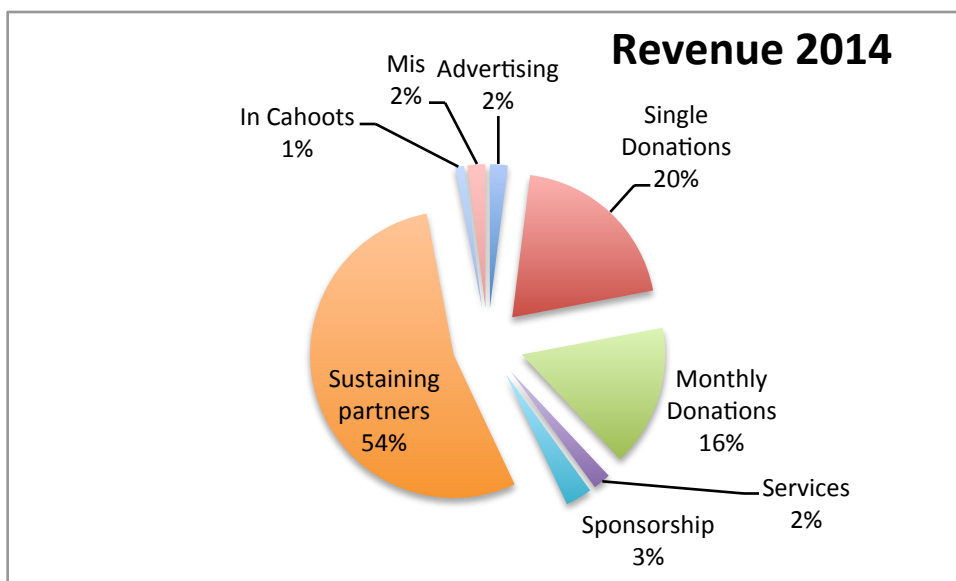


# financial reflections

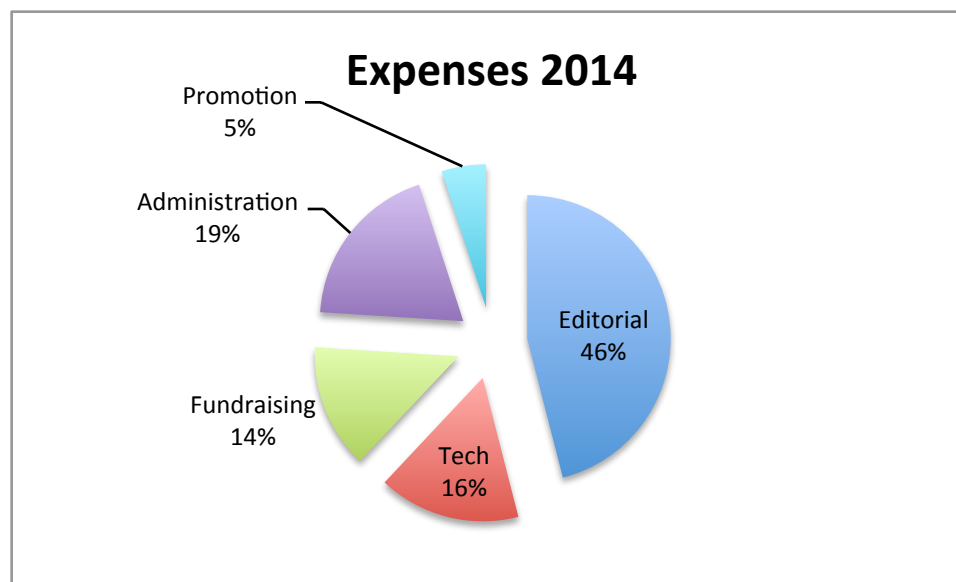
The total operating budget for *rabble.ca* in 2014 was **\$386,322**

*rabble.ca*'s reliance on **Sustaining Partners** income was represented in 54 per cent of our total income. **Monthly donor support** accounted for 16 per cent of the annual budget, single **donations** were up to 20 per cent and **advertising sales, services, in Cahoots and sponsorships together** accounted for 8% of the the total income in 2014.

## Income



## Budget



74 per cent of *rabble.ca*'s expenses are staffing and contributor costs. Within that staffing and contributor expense, In the overall expenses, editorial accounts for 46% of rabble's expenditures, fundraising 14%, tech 16%, and promotion 5%. Administration costs include bookkeeping, accounting, legal, rent, banking fees, copying and postage, staff retreat and board meeting costs, etc.

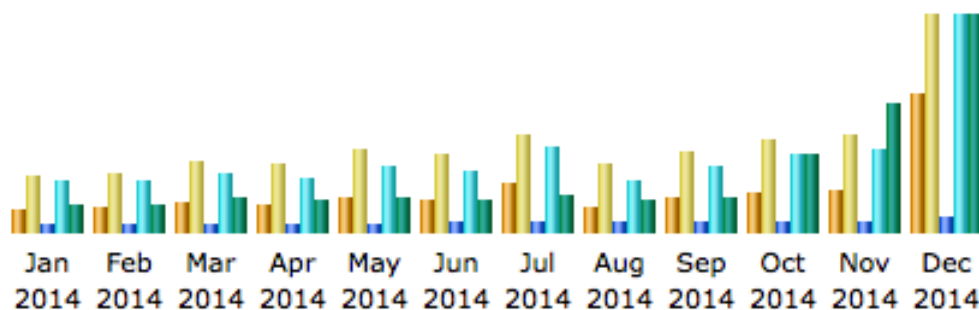
# Statistics

## Measuring traffic

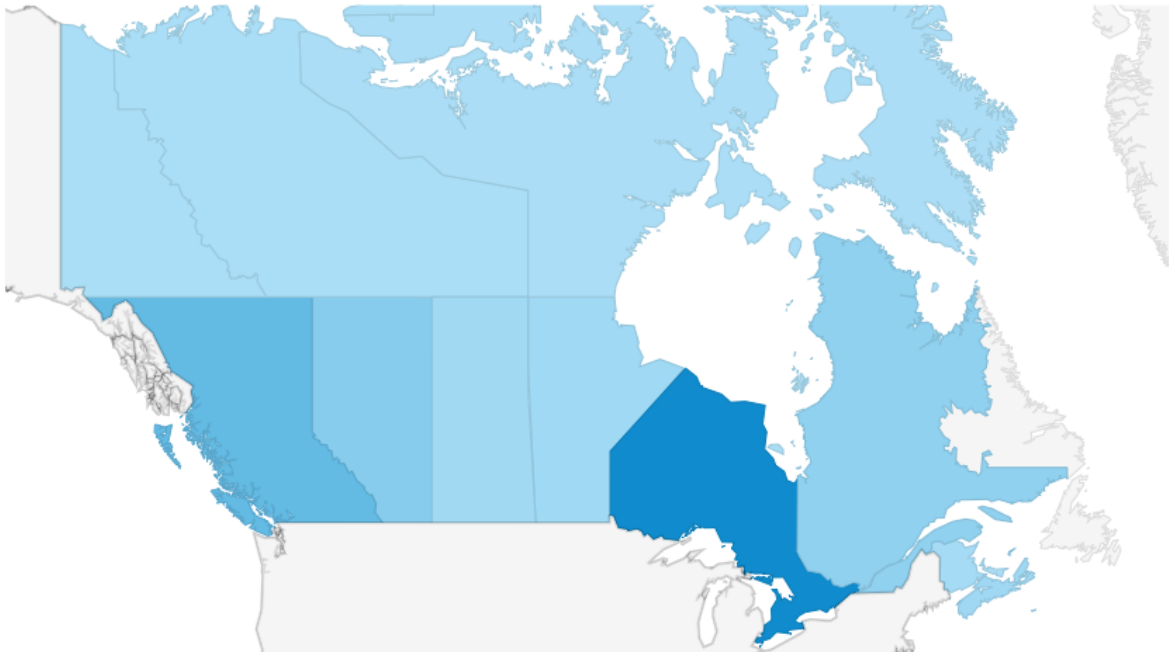
rabble.ca measures statistics using a variety of sources: site statistics are derived Google Analytics, AWStats and Chartbeat. rabble uses AWStats and Google Analytics to measure website traffic. While the programs measure different variables (log files vs. javascript), together they provide a helpful view of traffic trends. Both analytics programs continue to improve on the robustness of their measurements. Chartbeat measures real time traffic day to day.

We also track statistics for our presences on other sources, including Google Newstand, SoundCloud, YouTube, Livestream.com, Twitter and Facebook. rabble also offers a number of daily and weekly email products (a full list can be found at <http://lists.rabble.ca>) and measures statistics for emails using WhatCounts.

In 2014 rabble averaged 300,000 unique visits per month, and over one million page views per month. In addition, we had over 35,400 unique users on Google Newsstand. Our Facebook fan page grew to over 13,000 fans, and our very active Facebook group to over 5000. Twitter surpassed 30,000—a growth of 10,000 in one year.

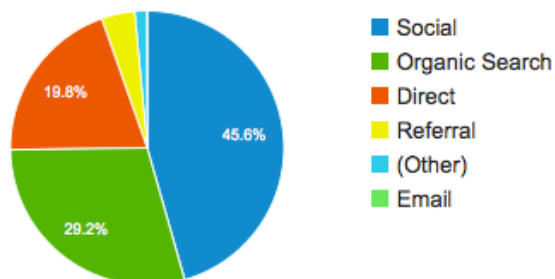


The above graphic, drawn from AWStats, is an indication of the traffic trends over the seasons of 2014.



In 2014 *rabble.ca* had 5,758,932 unique sessions from 238 countries/territories. Sixty-two per cent of traffic to the site came from Canada, and 25% from the United States. Within Canada, traffic predominately comes from Ontario (47%), British Columbia (23%), and interestingly, for the first time in the third largest readership was from Alberta (10%).

Top Channels



The above graphic indicates the primary methods by which people came to *rabble.ca*. In a significant change from past years, over 45% of our traffic came from social searches.



# 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 read biographies at:

[www.rabble.ca/about/bios](http://www.rabble.ca/about/bios)

There is no central office to rabble—we are a virtual organization with staff located around the country. In 2014, we had editorial staff in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New York. We have columnists, bloggers, podcasters and video makers coast to coast and beyond the Canadian borders. In 2014 the staff had a rare opportunity to get together in person for a retreat in Toronto to reflect and plan.

**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, **rabble.ca** was a member of the HiVE Community space until we recently co-housed with our friends at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) in Vancouver's historic Dominion Building. In Ottawa you can find us at 25OneCommunity. Our Parliamentary Bureau in 2014 was located at 280 Albert Street in Ottawa.

## board members

David Lundy  
David Macdonald  
Duncan Cameron  
Fred Wilson  
Holly Solomon  
Larry Brown  
Tria Donaldson  
Wayne MacPhail

## staff

**Kim Elliott**, Publisher

**Meagan Perry**, Editor-in-Chief  
**Michelle Gregus**, Managing Editor

**Matthew Adams**, Program and Special Projects Coordinator, in cahoots Editor, dearly missed

**Meg Borthwick**, babble moderator  
**Steffanie Pinch**, Activist Toolkit Coordinator, dearly missed  
**Frank Preyde**, babble Moderator when he feels like it  
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**Matt Dusenbury**, Best of rabble ebook design  
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# rabble by the numbers 2014

# of feature contributors **390**

# of columns **approximately 400**

# of events rabble streamed live on rabbletv

# of podcast shows **24**

# of community events sponsored by rabble **28**

# of podcast episodes **over 600**

# of posts on babble in 2014 **approximately one billion**

# of original book reviews **49**

# of sustaining partners **13**

# of Not Rex videos **13**

# of blog posts on rabble **over 2,400**

# of supporting members **800**

# of average unique visitors a month **450,000**

# of countries/territories visitors came from **217**



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