MONTRÉAL, 2012

Tens of thousands of students shut down their schools, flooded the streets, blocked bridges, and attacked the police rather than accept being beaten and kettled. Amidst the social crisis, the Charest government was forced to call an election, leading to the cancellation of the tuition hikes.

FRANCE, 2018

A heterogenous movement angry at tax measures that hurt workers and a system that churns out misery sees the most violent clashes in France since May 1968. The police tasked with repressing the movement faces barricades of pavés on a weekly basis. President Emmanuel Macron makes concession after concession, canceling the fuel tax hike, increasing the minimum wage, without appeasing the anger.

HONG KONG, 2019

Their innovative tactics have captured rebellious imaginations across the ocean, but when they need to defend themselves against police attacks, Hong Kong protesters use familiar methods too, namely burning barricades, molotovs, and lots of projectiles. The local government was forced to withdraw the extradition bill that set off the insurrection.

The politicians and executives get us here — repressures— them has been shown time and time again to be a dead end. Whatever they fail to do, we must do outside the channels of the state, without asking permission. This means moving beyond symbolic displays of “non-violence” to build the capacity to shut down the fossil fuel economy ourselves. No amount of media attention or progressive rhetoric can substitute for this. If we fail to build this capacity, we can be sure that the timeline for the transition to less destructive technologies will be set by those who profit on the fossil fuel economy.

Several examples from recent social movements show that we have the power to shut down the economy ourselves. In 2011-2012, the Occupy Movement demonstrated that tens of thousands of people could make decisions without top-down organization, meeting their needs collectively and carrying out massive demonstrations. On one day of action, participants shut down ports up and down the West Coast, confirming that coordinated blockades can disrupt the global supply chain of energy and commodities.

In 2016, people converged to fight the Dakota Access Pipeline, a corporate project threatening Native land and water. Tens of thousands established a network of camps to block construction, demonstrating a new way to live and fight together. The Obama administration canceled the pipeline, causing many occupiers to go home, but the Trump administration reinstated it—confirming that coordinated blockades can disrupt the global supply chain of energy and commodities.

In France, occupiers blocked the construction of a new airport at the ZAD, the “Zone to Defend.” Farmers teamed up with anarchists and environmentalists, establishing an autonomous village that provided infrastructure for the struggle. After years of struggle, the French government gave up and canceled the airport.

We have seen train blockades in a variety of struggles. In Olympia, Washington, anarchists blocked trains carrying fracking props in 2016 and in 2017, forcing the company to step transporting the commodity. In Harlan County, Kentucky, coal miners have blocked a coal-carrying train after the Black Jewel company refused to pay wages they owed to workers. It only takes a few dozen people to shut down a key node in the supply chains of the global fossil fuel economy. Imagine what we could do on a bigger scale!

Governments serve to protect the economy from those it exploits. The state exists to evict, to police, to wage war, to oppress, and above all to defend the property of the wealthy few. The perils of climate change have been known for years, but governments have done little in response, focusing instead on fighting wars for oil, militarizing their borders to keep out climate refugees, and attacking the social movements that could bring about the sort of systemic change that is our only hope of survival.

The capitalist economy is literally killing us. Let’s begin the process of shutting it down. Another end of the world is possible!

RESOURCES: SUB.MEDIA • MTLCOUNTERINFO.ORG/SHUTDOWNCANADA • CRIMETHINC.COM
AN ANARCHIST RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

I f the green capitalist response to climate change will only add more fuel to the fire, and if government at a global scale is incapable of solving the problem, as I argue in previous articles, how would anarchists suggest we reorganize society in order to decrease the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and to survive an already changed world?

There is no single anarchist position, and many anarchists refuse to offer any proposal at all, arguing that if society liberates itself from State and capitalism, it will change organically, not on the lines of any blueprint. Besides, the attitude of policy, seeing the world from above and imposing changes, is inaccessible from the culture that is responsible for destroying the planet and oppressing its inhabitants.

Nonetheless, I want to outline one possible way we could organize our lives. We don’t make to create fundamental solutions they do not bring to a full stop. For instance, leaving behind food production must be replaced with the sustainable growing of food at the local level. Centralizing power structures are inherently exploitative of the environment and oppressive towards people. The mentality of quantitative value, accumulation, production, and consumption — that is to say, the mentality of the market — is inherently exploitative of the environment and oppressive towards people. Medical science is infused with a hatred of the body, and though it has perfected effective response to symptoms, it is damaging to our health as currently practiced. Decentralization, voluntary association, self-organization, mutual aid, and non-coercion are fully practiced and have worked, both within and outside of Western Civilization, time and time again.

Welcome to the future. No one ever knew global society would look like this. Its defining feature is heterogeneity. Some cities have been abandoned, trees have taken over what’s left…. How will we live in this future? Will we lose our individuality? Will we have a collective identity? What will our relations be like? These are the questions we must ask ourselves…

...Continued from page 1

We need to give ourselves the collective ability to defend ourselves. For us, a few Montreal anarchists, we think it’s a matter of spreading knowledge and practicing confrontation and care, while making an effort for groups and individuals who participate differently in the demonstration to work together. Basing ourselves on some recent demos in Montreal, let’s sketch out how different tactics can be used in a coherent way against the cops. There’s space for everyone!

- Fireworks!
- Reinforced Banner Crew: A reinforced banner serves multiple functions: it carries a message, it provides concealment (for a place to change clothes, e.g.), and it protects at least the arms of the people carrying it, thanks to pieces of wood and plastic added to its backing. These caring the banner are in a vulnerable position, as they often find themselves on the front line. Therefore it’s important to wear helmets and mouthguards. In addition, for their protection each banner holder is paired with another, more mobile person right behind them, who can hold a flag which can be used as a stick.
- Mask Distribution: Wearing a mask not only protects your anonymity — the more people wear masks, the more effective it is as a tactic. Police have a much harder time getting those who are in a masked crowd. Even if you don’t plan on breaking the law yourself, wearing a mask is a great way of being in solidarity with those who do!
- Geoff Crew
- Medics
- Projectile Gatherers: There are many ways of supporting confrontation with police indirectly! Whether gathering piles of bricks near a confrontation, or reinforcing the crowd to stay together and close to the action when things get chaotic.
- Anti-media team: No matter a journalist’s intention, cameras should be pushed out of the way — photographs will be used as evidence to put people in cages.
- Back team: If a demo moves too fast, it can leave behind people who can’t move as quickly. A team at the back of the demo can communicate with people at the front, to find a speed that allows everyone to stay together as long as desired. In addition, cops don’t only enter the demo from the front and sides: a back team could improve the safety of the entire demo.
- Functional Barricade: Impede the movement of police, while giving us cover to fight behind!

For the full text, see MLCCOUNTERINFO.ORG/CLIMATE

Anonymous submissions to MLCCOUNTERINFO.ORG:

Enbridge Valve Site Sabotaged, 2016
In the early hours of January 25, 2016 we found our own courage and took action against Enbridge and their line 9. Slipping into a valve station located on traditional Haudenosaunee Territory (in Hamilton, Ontario) we successfully operated an electronic valve to shut off the flow of tarsands crude. A line 7 valve, also an Enbridge tarsands pipeline, was also tampered with and closed yet again. We then disappeared back into the night.

Pipeline Sabotage Against Enbridge in Hamilton, 2017
Back when Enbridge started shipping in pipeline segments for their line 10 expansion, we started sabotaging them. There are vast networks of pipeline infrastructure throughout Turtle Island. They are indefensible; perfect opportunities for effective direct action that harms nothing but an oil company’s bottom line. It’s in this spirit that we found ourselves going for long moonlit strolls through the trenches of the freshly dug line 10 right-of-way. Wherever we felt the urge, we drilled various sized holes into pipeline segments while silently observing our actions.

We do this in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of this area. A people who have been displaced, threatened and murdered since early colonial arrivals — who still continue to face this violence. Who suffer the consequences of this colonial capitalist society and the industries which drive it.

Nocturnal Visit to the Home of the President of Junex, 2017
The night of November 16, we went to visit the suburbs of Quebec City, so as to leave a message for Mr. Jean-Yves Lavigne. For those who aren’t familiar with him, Mr. Lavigne is the president of Junex, a company that generates its profits (or, at least, tries to) from exploiting the territory of so-called “Quebec”, which encompasses “other things happening in the province of Quebec”. It is in this spirit, and with our own objective of dismantling the oil and gas industry in “Quebec”, that we have smashed the windows of his cars, without forgetting to slash the tires. We also covered his house in paint.

Cement Building Arsoned, 2018
A recent night in June, a McInnis Cement building burns next to the horrible Port-Daniel cement plant. It left behind a blackened carcass. This fire burns for our humiliated hearts. May the ashes return to this land they devastated and the trees take over what’s left.

Wear a mask! To act without being immediately recognized. The more people wear masks, the harder it is for the authorities to identify or isolate individuals or a part of the crowd. You can wear a mask to protect your identity, or simply to protest against constant surveillance. Wearing a mask at demonstrations opens up space for participation for people who otherwise couldn’t participate, whether because their legal status, immigration or employment. It’s best to go with friends who can watch your back, be vigilant about the position of the police and surveillance cameras (journalists and photographers included), and be aware of your surroundings to find the best moment to mask and unmask.