

that are under investigation. Those visited did not let the cops in or speak with them.

We consider these events important to share publicly so that comrades can take appropriate precautions, recognize patterns, and avoid the spread of false information. Anyone who is contacted by the RCMP, other police, or CSIS in a similar way or in relation to this investigation is strongly encouraged to let comrades know as soon as possible.

In past investigations, the Montreal INSET has used tactics that include bugging phones and houses, tailing suspects, surreptitiously entering houses and offices to make observations unbeknownst to suspects, and infiltrators and paid informants. Even combining these methods and others across several years, the INSET has been unable to bring charges in the past. Collectively, it's clear where our power lies when faced with this type of investigation: the value of silence and total non-cooperation with any police can not be overstated. There is nothing to be gained by letting officers into your home or saying anything to them. Without a valid warrant, police have no right to enter your home or office (see the COBP's "Guess What! We've Got Rights!"). Contact a trusted lawyer if you are unsure of your rights in any situation.

Moreover, we benefit from continually reflecting on our security practices and striving to build a security culture that keeps us and our comrades as safe

as possible while allowing us to fight with conviction and expand our capacity. *CONFIDENCE COURAGE CONNECTION TRUST: A PROPOSAL FOR SECURITY CULTURE*, a recently published reflection, has much to offer both as an introduction to the topic and a prompt for re-assessing and refining our practices.

By bringing other struggles to which anarchists have contributed, namely anti-gentrification, into their sights, and by brandishing the spectre of "terrorism", despite investigating mere arson and broken windows, the RCMP shows that it is not simply trying to solve specific crimes; they want to disrupt our movements' ability to challenge the racist and colonial foundations of the Canadian state and the capitalist imperatives that govern it everywhere. With or without legal proceedings, they want to assign criminality to ideas that threaten them. They want us to be afraid to take the risks necessary to build something different. They want to break down solidarity between those speaking publicly and those acting clandestinely, so that public organizing contains itself within the approved channels of protest, and anonymous interventions are denounced and isolated. Importantly, they are also signaling that our movements are a threat to their ability to carry out their functions, a reminder that now is not the time to shrink away.

We know that the mere threat of repression can be effective at disrupting movements. While the information

about this investigation and INSET tactics is concerning, we see no reason for paranoia or panic. This much is simple: if the cops have questions, it shows that they don't know what they want and need to know. The struggle continues, and it is through the continued and increasing involvement of a wide variety of groups and individuals dedicated to keeping each other safe, sharing information and resources, and refusing to allow the state to sow divisions between us that we will all be the most formidable opponents to the police and the border regime.

When targeted by repressive forces, it can be tempting to appeal to discourses rooted in legality, decrying the 'excesses' of the state or demanding protection for 'civil liberties'. But our movements will be stronger in the long run by acknowledging that if we want to see their world of confinement and control in flames, it's inevitable that they will attempt to shut us down, by any means at their disposal. Once we step away from the myths of public opinion, it should be clear that there is nothing to gain by portraying ourselves as victims. It's a question of practicing an unyielding solidarity and denying the state the power it seeks.

#### CALL FOR SOLIDARITY

In the event of raids or arrests related to the RCMP/INSET investigation, we call for offensive solidarity in Montreal and beyond against border enforcement infrastructure, or whatever targets are most



# MONTREAL COUNTER-INFORMATION

ANARCHIST & ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN NEWS & ANALYSIS / SUMMER - FALL 2019 / NO. 9 / MTLCOUNTERINFO.ORG

## Destruction of Amazon and Google Doorbell Surveillance Cameras

Recently, we went on a nighttime stroll and removed some Google Nest and Amazon Ring doorbell surveillance cameras from a couple residential streets.

These products, which one can easily spot at night by their blue or green ring of light, are popping up more and more in Montreal and

elsewhere. The cameras can store recorded video on the cloud for up to 60 days.

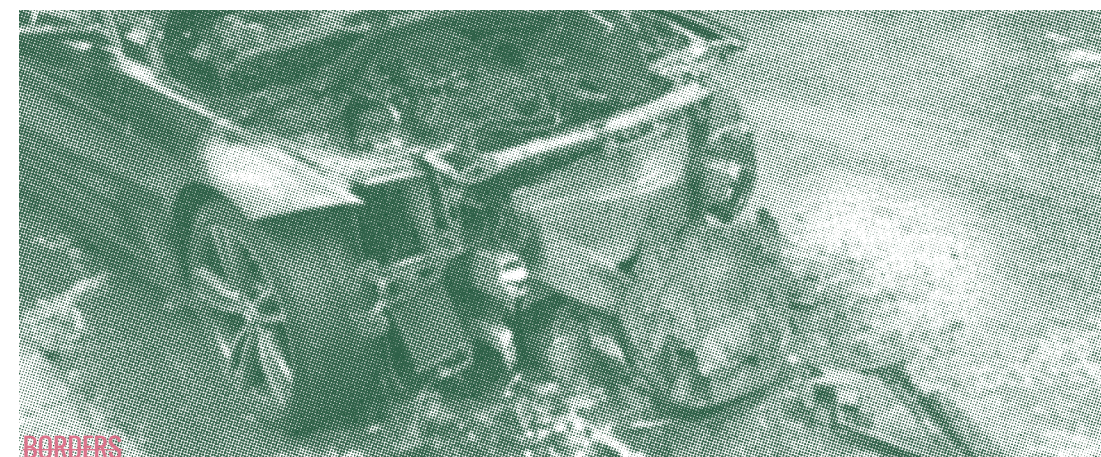
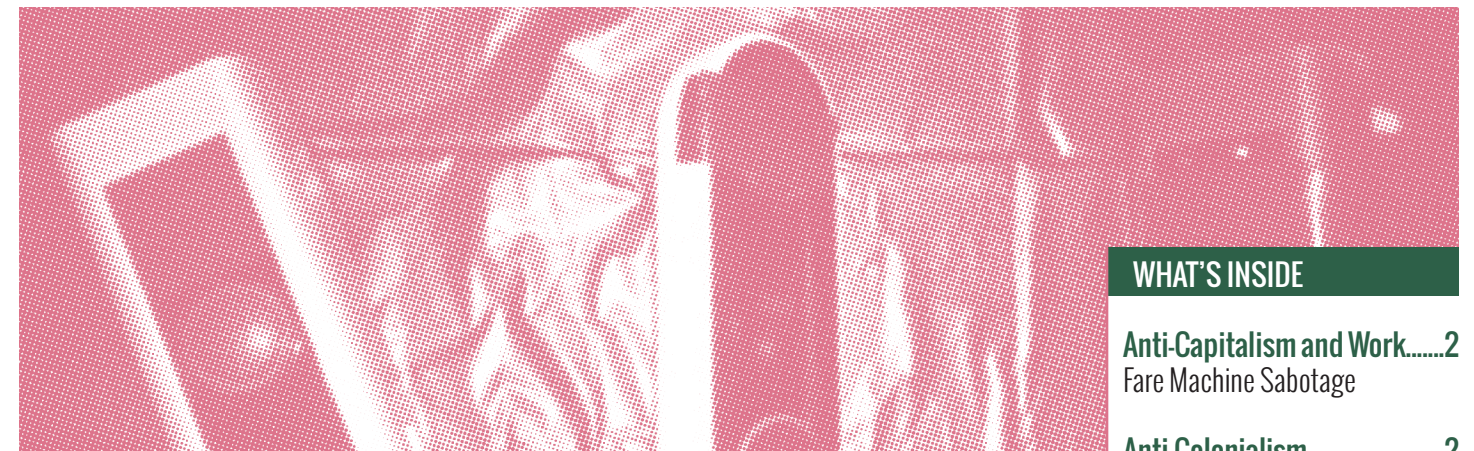
It's been well documented that Amazon is using Ring to build a private surveillance network, fully integrated with police departments, under the guise of combating package theft.

On a positive note, these

doorbell cameras make it easy to fight back against the giants of techno-capitalism right in our neighborhoods. They are easily removed with a small crowbar. It's suggested to have a buddy with you and/or wear electrical insulating gloves as a precaution against the risk of shock from live wires. And be aware that the battery-powe-

red camera may continue recording and transmitting even after being torn from the wall, while it's still in range of its home wifi network; the user may also receive a notification on their phone.

Fuck Amazon, Google, and their encroaching tech-no-dystopia.



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## FINDING EACH OTHER: AUTONOMOUS AND ANARCHIST SPACES IN MONTREAL

Visit [RESISTANCEMONTREAL.ORG](http://RESISTANCEMONTREAL.ORG) for a calendar of radical events in the city, and a larger list of anarchist groups, spaces, and news.

### L'Achoppe

Event space in Hochelaga.  
1800 Létourneau, Hochelag'  
FB:achoppespublic

### La Librairie Racines

The goal of the Racines Bookstore is to focus on the histories, cultures, and living conditions of racialized people.  
4689 Henri-Bourassa Est, Montréal-Nord.  
FB:Racinesmontreal

### Le DIRA / L'Insoumise

The DIRA (documentation, information

et références anarchistes) is an anarchist library and meeting space downtown. L'Insoumise is an anarchist bookstore.  
2035 St-Laurent, 3e étage, près du métro St-Laurent.  
bibliodira.org  
insoumise.wordpress.com  
Open hours are on the website.

## June 11th: Lemay Vice President's Car Set on Fire

On the day of solidarity with long-term anarchist prisoners, the BMW belonging to André Cardinal, parked in front of his private

residence in NDG, was set on fire. André Cardinal is the Vice President of Lemay, the architecture firm designing the migrant prison in Laval.

May fires burn for all that the worlds of prison and borders have stolen from us.

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# MOUVEMENT COLLECTIF > sabotage

## Fare Distribution Machines Disabled in Montreal Metro

Over the past several days, motivated by an international call for transit fare strikes, the fare distribution machines in several metro stations were disabled by blocking the debit/credit card readers and coin slots.

The STM is continually hiking fares and deploying squads of wannabe-cop “inspectors” to harass, fine, and assault people over \$3.50. Currently, the STM is even seeking to give its inspectors expanded powers to detain and arrest people and access police databases. Every

effort to maintain and expand policing of people’s movements deserves to be met with resistance. Fortunately, there is no shortage of inspiration from around the world, above all the ongoing revolt in Chile.

These actions were experiments with some simple, effective, and fairly discreet means of sabotaging fare collection and enforcement. At this point in time, the method that gives us the most confidence is to apply super glue to both sides of a random unactivated gift card and in-

sert it fully in the debit/credit card slot, and put more super glue in the coin slot after causing it to open by operating the machine as though you want to pay for a ticket with cash. We hope this technique can be reproduced widely alongside other tactics for taking these machines out of service.

*Live free, ride free.*

## Anti-colonial zombies attack John A. Macdonald Monument with orange paint

All Hallows’ Eve 2019. To the living – We are the dead that you have forgotten. Our skeletons, buried between 1799 and 1855, remain here in the thousands.

You have covered us in asphalt, concrete and colonial-themed parks. You have desecrated our memories with monuments to the architects of genocide, like the racist John A. Macdonald, who attacked the culture and traditions of the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. You, the living, have failed.

You continue to allow the Macdonald Monument to stand in a prominent public location in Montreal, on our dead bodies, as a symbol of white supremacy

and brutal colonialism. The several attempts by living anti-colonials to attack the racist statue and have it removed have clearly failed.

So, we, the living dead, what you call zombies, are taking action. We have risen to attack the monument in orange paint. Orange represents both our sacred day, what you call Halloween, but it’s also an appropriate way to desecrate the Orangeman John A. Macdonald, who was a member of the racist and anti-Catholic Orange Order. After all, the skeletons underneath Dorchester Square and Place du Canada are overwhelming Irish Catholic migrants, many of us victims of the vicious cholera epidemics of the

1800s.

We will rise again, to attack this statue, unless it is removed, or unless you let our paint attack remain, as a clear sign that this statue is contested, by both the living and the dead.

We, the dead and undead, are not subject to your laws. We, the dead and undead, have deep memories and motivations. We don’t forget, we don’t forgive. Happy anti-colonial Halloween!

– *Anti-colonial zombies of the Old Saint-Antoine Cemetery, buried under Dorchester Square and Place du Canada.*

## National Insecurity: The RCMP Knocks on Doors in Montreal

When it comes to its colonial, racist regime of borders and prisons, the Canadian state, in its police headquarters and technocratic backrooms, sees trouble on the horizon. With a network of border posts, patrols, surveillance technology, detention centers, courts, “alternatives to detention”, and deportation squads, this country’s rulers hope to secure the authority to determine who can make a life on the territory they fraudulently govern, who can find a place to live, who can send their kids to school, who can access health care, who can go about their days without fear. They are supported in this project by mass media always ready to dramatize any new trend in irregular border crossings, by cultural myths positing Canada as friendly and welcoming, concealing a murderous, cruel reality, and of course by the far right, who have the vital task of mis-directing poor and working people’s anger towards fellow victims of the global economic system at the root of their sense of powerlessness.

Yet this web of domination is far from impenetrable. Canada’s land border with the United States is too massive to completely control; clandestine crossing points abound. Likewise, overstaying a visa and keeping out of CBSA’s sights is not impossible. Across the country, migrants organize solidarity networks

to ensure that no one needs to face the serious challenges of accessing services without status and confronting a racist immigration system alone.

This year, a list of CBSA agents’ names was published, encouraging people to hold them responsible for their destructive effects on our communities and comrades. And over the past two years, in response to the government’s effort to build new migrant prisons, Montreal-area contractors who have accepted work on the prison slated to open in Laval in 2021 have faced protests and a series of attacks, beginning with the release of crickets into prison architect Lemay’s building in spring 2018. This past July, a Lemay vice-president’s BMW was burned outside his home. On the night of October 26, the general contractor for the prison, Tisseur, appears to have lost a truck to a targeted arson. Most recently, this month, vehicles parked at the headquarters of subcontractor DPL had their tires slashed.

Such actions have an impact, both material and psychological; as the president of excavation firm Loiselle told the media after its headquarters was vandalized, “we don’t want trouble with these people.” Should these attacks continue and spread, they could quickly change the landscape of the state’s capability to

maintain and expand the enforcement of borders, immigration, and citizenship.

It is no surprise that police agencies, of which at least 4 in the Montreal area have unsolved events related to the migrant prison within their territorial jurisdiction (SPVM, SPL (Laval), SPAL (Longueuil), and SQ), would join forces to share resources and coordinate a more intensive investigation. In fact, a La Presse article in July revealed that such a move was in the works.

The week of October 28th saw the first clear signs of this escalation in repressive resources, as a small number of long-time activists received house visits and phone calls from RCMP officers on the island of Montreal. The officers belong to an INSET (Integrated National Security Enforcement Team), the unit that has coordinated security for summits like the G7 and investigated other instances of what they call “violent extremism”. Each INSET is made up of RCMP officers, CSIS agents, and members of local police forces, as well as members of CBSA and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The officers who paid these visits in October had no warrant, and they said they wanted to discuss migrant justice organizing, as well as anti-gentrification movements, in relation to criminal acts





danas aren't a safe mask in any case and shouldn't be encouraged). Poor masking practices, which draw risk that multiplies when the cops have had hours to set up surveillance on a static gathering place, diminish our capacity to act and act over long hours in the streets. The demo lasted about three minutes, a nice firework and a volley of rocks hit a group of bike cops, riot cops shut down a metro station by getting pepper spray in the ventilation system, and two people were arrested.

## Why Stantec and the Guy-Favreau Complex got targeted at the climate march and why the climate movement should fight the border regime

Canada is a major contributor to the climate crisis, playing an active role in displacing people from their homes around the world. Canada hosts over 70% of the world's mining companies, which sow environmental and economic devastation on a global scale. Canada creates more greenhouse gas emissions than any other G20 country, contributing to the creation of climate refugees. And within its borders, the federal government continues to push through pipeline project after pipeline project, despite sustained resistance by Indigenous communities.

As the climate crisis continues to escalate, pushed along by the extractive forces of capitalism and colonialism, this has led to an acceleration of the global migration crisis. In response, we see Canada further fortifying its borders in an attempt to prevent those it has displaced from seeking refuge.

This buildup of border infrastructure is not limited to the border itself. Over the past two decades, migrant detention has been one of the fastest growing forms of incarceration in Canada. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has three prisons just for migrants and rents space to detain migrants in jails across the country. In 2016, the government invested an additional \$138 million to strengthen and expand this system, leading to the construction of two new mi-

The questions of where, when and how to participate and intervene in climate strike mobilizations still demand reflection and experimentation. However, the 27th showed that anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian initiatives during a large demo, inside it and on its margins, have strong potential to bring new dimensions to the struggle. The ability to break off and rejoin the main demo in unpredictable ways jumbles the calculations of the police respective to an

grant prisons (one in Laval, QC) as well as new systems of surveillance and control such as mandatory ankle bracelets and voice biometric scans for migrants.

As Canada responds to climate change by fortressing its borders, those championing the white supremacist politics behind this decision will continue to become more mainstream. In Quebec, we've already seen the mainstreaming of anti-islam groups like La Meute, the success of the CAQ's anti-immigrant election campaign, as well as the violent consequences of its Law 21. As the charade that is the federal election begins, we have already seen a further mainstreaming of white nationalism, as politicians sow fear and hatred of migrants crossing into Quebec at Roxham Road.

Borders and prisons are colonial impositions on these territories, systems fundamentally about domination and control. As Canada continues to invest billions into extraction, those feeling the brunt of the crisis here continue to be Indigenous peoples. Whether its pipelines forcibly installed across Indigenous territories, mining or logging companies operating in Indigenous territories without consent, or the environmental devastation caused by refineries built right next to reserves, Indigenous communities are consistently on the frontlines, experiencing the harmful effects of extractivism, as well as leading the resistance to it.

attack on the demo. A sizeable, clearly marked contingent allows for a separation of space between confrontational tactics and demo-goers who are looking to participate in a lower-risk way, and for people who want to act to find each other in such enormous crowds. And the sheer numbers in the streets mean that many people are being directly exposed to different ways of struggling rather than through media reports and other misrepresentations.

It is for these reasons and more that Stantec and the Guy-Favreau Complex were targeted by people participating in the climate march. The buildings were hit with green paintbombs and spraypainted with "Bienvenue aux migrants" (Welcome migrants). In the Guy-Favreau Complex, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada holds detention review hearings daily, often resulting in the prolongation of a migrant's imprisonment. Stantec is an engineering consulting firm involved in the construction of the new migrant prison in Laval.

This new prison is part of Canada's false solution to the threat posed by climate change, an attempt to further intensify its border infrastructure, to keep out those it continues to displace. The real threats to the earth and the people who live on it are capitalism, the destruction of the environment, and the politicians who, without fail, will continue to defend these systems while scapegoating those displaced by them.

We believe it is necessary to push far beyond making requests of politicians, and toward directly challenging the role Canada is playing in the global crisis. We hope that the climate struggle can broaden its tactics, deepen its analysis, and continue to build links with ongoing struggles against white supremacy, settler colonialism, and border imperialism.

## Neo-Nazi Pascal Giroux Gets a Beating

On Friday, November 28, the black metal festival La Messe des Morts took place at Théâtre Paradoxe. Three neo-Nazis were spotted on site or had announced their intention to be there on social networks. One of them, Pascal Giroux, received quite a beating upon leaving the theater.

Pascal Giroux is openly a neo-Nazi

militant since the golden age of boneheads in Montreal. Recently he had joined the islamophobic group Soldiers of Odin, and he participated in all their actions, until their dissolution in 2018. In pictures, he can be seen wearing a Section Saint-Laurent shirt and an SOO hoodie, posing in front of a Black Sun flag and protecting the house of neo-Na-

zi Phillipe Gendron in 2018, during an anti-racist demonstration.

Antifascist and black-metal communities are vigilant and there will no longer be any safe space for Nazis. Fred, Maxime, William, Joey, you are warned.

Montreal is antifascist.

## Good Night Atalante

On the night of August 12th, three members of Atalante Quebec were attacked.

Atalante is a small group of fascists whose members have taken part in numerous attacks in recent years (starting with the knife attack at the Coop L'Agité in Quebec City). The group takes inspiration from CasaPound in Italy and Bastion social in France in an attempt to revive fascist ideology. Its members are antisemitic, homophobic, transphobic and colonialist. They shall not pass.

Roxanne Baron and Jonathan Payeur had their Jeep destroyed (windows sma-

shed and skunk juice sprayed inside).

Jean Mecteau had his home and tattoo shop vandalized (NAZI SCUM and 161 (Antifascist Action) graffiti and black paint on his door and windows).

Why them?

Any of the members or sympathizers of Atalante could have been targeted. This time, it struck these three pieces of trash.

Roxanne Baron and Jonathan Payeur are members of the Quebec Stompers, the street gang associated with Atalante. Jo is also a former anti-racist skinhead who crossed to the wrong side. Today he

considers himself Atalante's sergeant-at-arms, he was the one who accompanied Baptiste Gilistro and Louis Fernandez, two young recruits, during the attack on the LvlOp bar in December 2018.

Jean Mecteau is the bassist of the band Légitime Violence, the leading group of the province's fascists. He is also the owner of the tattoo shop Jhan Art, and he frequently does tattoos with Nazi or fascist references for his friends.

This action is in solidarity with all the victims of the far right, in Quebec City, Hamilton, Montreal, Lyon and everywhere else.





## Attack on vehicles parked at home of president of DPL

Early one snowy November morning, we visited the office of DPL, the company subcontracted to put in place the concrete formwork for the new migrant prison in Laval. We are lucky: the headquarters of DPL (situated at 370 rang Rivière Bayonne Nord in Berthierville) is also the home of Pierre-Luc Désy, president of DPL, his wife Christiane Désy, who is DPL's administrative staff, and their children.

We popped the tires of one of the family's vehicles and two of the company's trailers which were parked in the yard. We also painted messages against the pri-

son on the vehicles, notably: "Nique les prisons" and "Fuck prisons".

How did we know that DPL is involved in this awful project if they are only a subcontractor with no public contract? Other subcontracters: this is a question you should also ask yourselves.

If you think you can hide your involvement in this project, think again. You would be wise to reconsider if it is really worth it.

Understand: your role will not remain a secret, and once your involvement is revealed you will be just as vulnerable as Loiselle, Lemay, and Tisseur, victims of

many attacks over the past year.

Pierre-Luc and Christiane: while your children play hockey in your yard and live in safety with the comfort of parents who love them, you are helping to build the foundations of a prison that will separate other families, a prison in which children will be traumatised, and possibly die. Does that make you proud? Do you think that your children will be proud when they understand your choices? Won't they be ashamed to have worn t-shirts with your company's logo?

Until the end of this prison, of all prisons, and of the world that needs them.

## Incendiary Attack Against Migrant Prison Construction Company

By accepting to be the general contractor for the new Laval migrant detention center, Tisseur Inc. made a grave mistake. On the night of

October 26th we decided to make our contribution to the struggle against the system of borders and prisons in all its forms. We set fire to a truck on the banks

of the Lachine Canal, on the site of another Tisseur project. We're not done.  
— *anarchists*

## Nighttime Visit to Lemay's Installations in Parc Frédéric-Back

As part of a series of actions targeting migrant prison profiteers, around 12 of the spherical shaped biogas-capturing wells designed by Lemay and installed in Parc Frédéric-Back were tagged with the words 'fuck le-

may'. Many of these wells also had their unique identifiers blacked-out. Some park benches and one large map of the park, also designed by Lemay, were tagged with anti-lemay, anti-cop, anti-authoritarian, and antifascist slogans and sym-

bols. These much needed modifications will no doubt add to the park's "unique environmental layout", enhancing the "landscape's feeling of otherworldliness".

## A Nice Way to Pass the Evening

A few nights ago we stumbled upon an Englobe work vehicle. Englobe is an environmental engineering company subcontracted to perform site evaluation for the migrant prison in Laval. We smashed out the windshield,

slashed all the tires, and spray-painted "No Migrant Prison" on the side. This was a spontaneous and easy expression of our anger towards all those involved with building this prison. We hope it prevented at least one worker

from getting to their job the next day.

This was a small gesture, but very easy to perform. These company cars are everywhere. Fuck all prisons and anyone involved in building them.

## A Report-back from Montreal's Climate Strike

*"The struggle against climate change can't exist in a vacuum. It must also be a fight against the border system that values some lives over others. It must overthrow capitalism which always strives to produce more."*  
— *Call for the anti-racist and anti-capitalist contingent*

*"L'air, la terre et les rivières  
Ont besoin de révolutionnaires"  
("The air, the land, and the rivers  
need revolutionaries")*  
— *Chant heard in the streets*

*"Manif zéro-déchet : police dehors!"  
(Zero-waste demo : police out!)*  
— *Chant heard in the streets*

On Friday, September 27, in Montreal, between 300,000 and 500,000 people marched in a climate demonstration, and anarchists and other radicals decided not to sit this one out. Amidst the sheer mass of citizenry and their disciplined procession from Mt. Royal Park to Old Montreal, it was difficult to meaningfully shift the tone towards active confrontation with the systems of power and institutions that are making the planet uninhabitable. Nevertheless, thousands of copies were distributed of Toward a Revolutionary Environmental Movement and Climate of Revolt, which both present arguments against reformism, with the latter linking to a map of weak points to the Canadian extractive economy. And in the anti-racist, anti-capitalist contingent, there were glimpses of a climate struggle that doesn't content itself with pleas to the government for an imposed solution, but instead obstructs the operations of the colonial, capitalist, and white supremacist order that depends on ecocide.

Several hundred people responded to the call for this contingent that invited people to wear masks and expand the struggle in liberatory directions. We also

heard that many people who were trying to join the contingent couldn't, because the crowd was so big and dense. Early on, it was extremely difficult to move in the packed crowd, especially for a group or for people holding a banner; combined with the knowledge that you're surrounded by hundreds of thousands of people, the feeling tended towards something apocalyptic more than empowering or liberating. After a claustrophobic hour of waiting for the demo to leave and then inching south as the massive crowd filtered into Parc Avenue, the contingent decided to start a break-off demo eastward on des Pins. Close to a thousand people followed us (the cops reportedly warned demo-goers not to join les antifas).

Setting our own pace and with black flags, green smoke bombs, and high-quality music, banners, and chants, it felt like we could breathe again. People started joyfully ripping down federal election signs, and a TD Bank was hit with green paint bombs. Around the same time in the main demo, a brave individual threw an egg at Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was booed and heckled throughout the monumental absurdity of his heavily police-protected #ClimateMarch photo-op. Riot police buses appeared behind us only about twenty minutes later, keeping their distance, as we neared the corner of Ste-Catherine and St-Laurent where we rejoined the main demo.

Moving south on St-Laurent, graffiti went up reading "fuck le capitalisme" and "Miguel Peralta libertad" (calling for freedom for the Indigenous anarchist, prisoner of the Mexican state). After turning west on Boulevard René-Lévesque, the contingent took the left side of the street, with the rest of the demo on the right, separated from each other by a tall, fenced median. More paint bombs hit an HSBC branch. Soon after, people used them to redecorate the offices of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and

the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, which were also tagged with "Migrants Welcome", "Fuck CBSA", and "queer and trans resistance" in gold paint. The contingent crowd cheered, while those on the other side of the street seemed curious or unfazed. We're curious what would have happened if this attack in broad daylight on an institution of border enforcement had escalated.

Instead of lingering around the main demo endpoint on Robert-Bourassa to listen to hours of speeches, the contingent diverged east towards Square Victoria, where we found people occupying the space around the statue of Queen Victoria with plenty of food to be given for free, a banner reading "Temporary Autonomous Zone" draped over the statue, and crowd-control barriers being repurposed to block the road running through the square. It felt great to be able to lie down in the grass after so many hours on our feet — a welcome departure from the end-of-demo experiences we're used to. Over the course of the afternoon, the statue was progressively defaced with graffiti, people danced around a trustworthy sound system, and a wooden structure of some kind was built in the street. There were many cops keeping watch, but it never seemed likely that they would attack the festive gathering, considering it was a block away from where tens of thousands of people from the main demo were still congregating, and that its disruptive impact inevitably paled in comparison to the massive demo's.

An anti-capitalist night demo had been called for 6:30pm, leaving from Square Victoria. The burning of our wooden structure in the middle of the street attempted to set the mood. Unfortunately, the overall vibe did not feel strong. Hundreds of cops mobilized for the main demo had been able to focus on the square for the past couple hours, just waiting for 6:30 by which time they could expect the larger crowds to have left. People were also masking up in ineffective ways, with a prevalence of bandanas, often pulled down around necks (ban-



which chapters subscribe.

We're also aware that any mass political organization contains lines of tension, so this intervention certainly does not target the entire group as individuals. On the contrary, we have no doubt that many of these activists will be amazing comrades and accomplices, from whom we will learn a lot, over coming years of the development of a diversified and determined struggle against the world that is destroying the planet.

In watching XR's beginnings in Montreal, however, we have a couple concerns regarding the local organization.

In an interview on TVA Nouvelles after the shutdown of the Jacques-Cartier Bridge, a spokesperson of XR Montreal defends the activists who climbed on the bridge against the accusation of extremism by specifying that "they're people like you and I, who were 100% non-violent, they didn't resist the police, they discussed reasonably." We have questions about what is meant by "like you and I"

## Banners Dropped in Alma

Two banners were dropped this morning in downtown Alma near the offices of Economic Development Canada. They read: "Industrial development is killing us! We don't want a job, we want a life!". The government body that recently gave out \$2 million in funding to the metallurgy sector was symbolically targeted. The action, signed by the living waters committee, takes place in the context of the climate strike movement and aims to denounce industrial and extractive projects in the region.

The anonymous committee denounces the Gazoduc (gas pipeline) project which would cross the regions of Abitibi, Mauricie, and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, the GNL Québec natural gas liquifaction terminal in Saguenay, the Lac-à-Paul mine, and the deep-water port of Ariane Phosphate in Ste-Rose-

and which people or classes of people would fall outside this designation. We must also think about the effects of this type of discourse on those who are not 100% non-violent, who resist the police, who don't see an advantage to discussing reasonably. Logically, these people would be the "extremists", and they would deserve the harsher treatment in the media and in the courts that this term entails.

This discourse feeds the creation of a division between good and bad protesters, which tends to increase repression experienced by those who are already taking the biggest risks, who seek a total rupture with the devastating order of capital and the state. In addition, it sabotages the creation of links between groups and individuals that would strengthen the struggle.

We've also seen awareness-raising efforts and a handful of sit-in style actions, the last one occurring the afternoon of October 8th after the bridge blockade in the morning. The gathering of 250 people was unable to attain the action's



du-Nord, as well as BlackRock Metals' mine and rail transport between Chibougamau and Saguenay. According to one of the action's instigators, "these projects are a nuisance to the environment and to all the populations of the region. The argument of well-paying jobs is worthless. The price to pay is the destruction of marine life, breathtaking landscapes, fragile ecosystems, and vulnerable species. We need to stop the extraction of 'natural resources' as soon as possible and understand that we're in a relation of interdependence with the ecosystems surrounding us. We need to stop relations of

target after the SPVM's riot police lines didn't budge faced with shouts of "we're non-violent, please let us through!", followed by the chant "Police, go softly, we're doing this for your children". The deadening scene spoke for itself as to the limits of a "civil" disobedience that is in fact fully captured within a servility extinguishing any real perspective of rebellion.

We would be delighted if events to come contradicted us, but we believe we're seeing the same dynamics that have elicited legitimate criticisms of XR elsewhere in the world emerging in their discourse and means of action in Montreal. It's not about rejecting any pathway that diverges from our own, but about naming strategic and tactical failures for what they are, refusing an absence of solidarity with rebels that don't adopt total pacifism, and creating the conditions for a real collective intelligence in struggle. In the hour of climate emergency, we don't have time for illusions.

domination over our environment now."

The committee makes a call for action, in a diversity of tactics, to put an end to the environmental massacre as quickly as possible! "We must mobilize immediately against every new industrial development and invest the time, energy, and money necessary to develop sustainable local initiatives that don't come at a cost to other species of flora and fauna."

In conclusion, the living waters committee announces that other targeted actions are in preparation.

– *The Harlequin Duck*

## Extinguishing Rebellion

Extinction Rebellion (XR) is an international environmental movement that calls itself non-violent and as extreme as the situation. It appeared on the Montreal scene around a year ago. On October 8, 2019, a handful of their activists realized a coup d'éclat, forcing the closure of the Jacques-Cartier Bridge for more than an hour in the middle of morning rush hour. Their actions show a willingness to put themselves physically in play that has become an unavoidable necessity in ecological struggle. In this sense, their courage and determination can only be reassuring. However, criticisms have also converged from somewhat all over in regards to their ideology and practices, raising issues that are important to address.

In Paris, where XR activists, among other things, erased anti-police tags during the occupation of a shopping mall, an open letter notes a dismissiveness toward police violence, a dogmatic non-violence that is insidiously violent, and the exclusion of the popular classes from the action framework. They are critiqued also for lacking a strategic reading of the situation and of power relationships.

A critique of the British branch of XR observes their profound misunderstanding of the functioning and impacts of judicial repression of activists.

Almost everyone makes fun of their desire to be arrested by the police, though it is not a joke, but the result of a bizarre and dangerous interpretation of social movement history. Not to mention it favors the construction of a white, middle-class movement, regardless of efforts to give the organization an intersectional facade.

Others have engaged with the justifications that XR provides for non-violence. Let's take a closer look at this. The group cites an academic study by Erica Chenoweth titled Why Civil Resis-

tance Works to affirm that non-violent movements have succeeded twice as often as movements that used violence, between 1900 and 2006, in the context of conflicts between state and non-state forces. In such a complex world, we'd like if such neat statistics could guide us in choosing means of action. There are just a couple minor problems.

Number one: the study defines a "violent movement" as one in which more than 1000 armed combatants die on the battlefield. Thus excluding urban riots, as well as armed groups from the Red Army Faction to the Zapatistas. And indeed, struggles that lead to over 1000 battle deaths tend to be characterized by the substantial militarization of an intractable conflict, making it difficult for the non-state side to attain the goals that motivated it to mobilize at the start. The force of an insurrection is social, not military.

Secondly, for the purposes of the study, "non-violent movements" include those that are primarily, though not entirely non-violent. Note that no one is proposing a climate movement that would be primarily violent: instead it's a question of making space for a diversity of tactics, where various modes of action are valued and ideally reinforce one another. That is to say a movement that a statistician could indeed classify as primarily non-violent, but where people in black bloc are on the front lines confronting the police, while nocturnal crews sabotage infrastructure without getting caught, allowing them to attack again and again. Nowhere in the study does non-violence translate to an obligation to turn oneself into police after breaking the law.

We might also ask questions about:

- the tendency for power to name as "violent" all resistance that actually disrupts the normal course of affairs, regardless of the concrete acts involved;

- the fact that it's often violence from police forces that provokes a "violent" response from a social movement, in other words violence is often imposed on a movement when it poses a real threat to the powers in place;

- the definition of victory vis-à-vis our multiple medium- and long-term goals, as well as the capacity for power to offer concessions at the price of pacification and recuperation: when the future of life on earth is at stake, is compromise possible?

In any case, using Why Civil Resistance Works to ground the claim that we need to sit down in the street making peace signs at the cops is an insult to activists' intelligence. XR's leaders should not try to make us believe they are guided by social science if they are in fact merely enacting a morality aligned with the police state or a desire to serve as legitimate intermediaries vis-à-vis power. XR tells governments to "tell the truth", but when it's a question of resistance strategies, they are not interested in an honest reflection on the choices before us.

Yet, we only need to look at any of the many places where rebels have succeeded in making power back down in recent months, whether in Hong Kong, Ecuador, Chili, or the gilets jaunes in France, or to understand the history of Indigenous land defense struggles in "Canada", to come to a simple realization: a capacity for self-defense is essential if we are going to force capital and the state to really cede ground.

We don't wish to overly repeat critiques of XR that have already been expressed well elsewhere. And XR presents its local instances as autonomous, so we would like to give their structures in Quebec the benefit of the doubt and not judge them too much based on the group's actions in other countries, even if these often seem like the logical outcomes of the group's founding ideology, to



# INVITATION TO THE

# WINTER GAMES

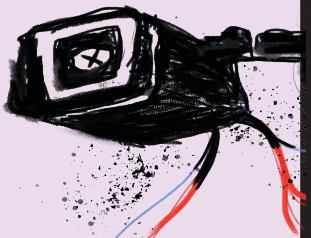
*of urban revolt*

DECEMBER 20, 2019 - MARCH 15, 2020.

CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND OTHER CREWS.  
SABOTAGE SOCIAL CONTROL, DE-GENTRIFY OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!

THREE FIELDS OF PLAY AWAIT THE ATHLETES

## nº 1 CAMOVER RETURNS



- DESTROY SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS
- DUMMY CAMERA = 2 POINTS
  - FUNCTIONAL CAMERA = 6 POINTS
  - SMART DOORBELL WITH CAMERA (AMAZON RING / GOOGLE NEST) = 6 POINTS

## nº 2 NOBODY PAYS



- EACH METRO TURNSTILE DISABLED = 3 POINTS
- ALL THE TURNSTILES OF A STATION = BONUS +4
- EACH FARE DISTRIBUTION MACHINE DISABLED = 6 POINTS
- ALL THE DISTRIBUTION MACHINES OF A STATION = BONUS +2

## nº 3 A LONG WINTER FOR CONDO PROMOTERS

- GLUE THE LOCKS OF A CONDO SALES OFFICE (ALL DOORS) = 6 POINTS
- REDECORATE EXTERIOR (PAINT BOMBS, GRAFTI, OR EXTINGUISHER) = 4 POINTS
- REDECORATE INTERIOR (WITH AN EXTINGUISHER) = 10 POINTS

## BONUS

- CLAIM ONE'S ACTION WITH A MEME = 2 POINTS
- BURN A CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAYED IN PUBLIC = 4 POINTS
- DISABLE A COP CAR DURING A SNOW STORM = 10 POINTS

ROB YUPPIES



\*THIS IS NOT AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO BRAG ABOUT ONE'S ACTIONS OR OTHERWISE ENDANGER ONE'S SECURITY OR THAT OF FRIENDS.

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