

VOICE africa

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WORLD SOCCER FIESTA

JUST AROUND THE
CORNER

SEE PAGE 4

WORLD EXCLUSIVE: HAWARYA NEWS

EPOCH IN GRASSROOTS GLOBAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:
PRESIDENT EVO MORALES, WORLD PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Ms. Amy Lem addressing the Toronto Bolivia event, while John Riddell, organization co-founder, looks over the digital feed

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Toronto, Canada --Climate change and social justice. To begin an article about two of the two most important issues confronting humanity today, lets do a playful tongue-in-cheek spin on the famous philosophical riddle,

"If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?"

My twist: "If an activist event occurs, and no media is around to hear

it and cover it, does the event make a sound?"

We ask this, because on May 7, 2010, the TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY organized an event, "the Report Back from Cochabama, the World People's Conference on Climate Change." And no "mainstream media" were there... In fact, few, if any media, other than our publication, Hawarya, attended this arguably history-making moment.

Was the Toronto Bolivia event worthy of media coverage? Absolutely.
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FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO

First Nations in Ontario, represented by the Political Confederacy, and the Government of Ontario represented by Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Chris Bentley and Minister of Revenue John Wilkinson have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement. The agreement commits the parties to work together to realize the continuation of the First Nation point of sale tax exemption within the framework of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), which is set to come into effect on July 1, 2010.

Currently, First Nations in Ontario who are status Indians receive a point of sale tax exemption under the retail sales tax on the purchase of goods both on and off-reserve. However, because the HST will be administered by the federal government, unless something

is done First Nations stand to lose the point of sale exemption for the purchase of goods off reserve. The federal government administers the HST in the same way they administer the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which means that off-reserve purchases of goods will only be exempt if they are delivered to the reserve by the vendor or the vendor's agent.

The Government of Ontario supports the First Nations in Ontario with respect to continuing the current First Nation point of sale tax exemption under the HST framework. Ontario has committed to work shoulder to shoulder with First Nations to realize this objective and to engage the federal government to accept the point of sale exemption.

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THE USEFUL DELUSION OF BEING INDEPENDENT

50h anniversary of independence comment

published
Pambazuka

by

Without going deep into the not so negligible difference between an illusion (more of a perceptual problem) and a delusion (concerning belief despite facts to the contrary) it is safe to state that most of Africa suffers from the delusion of being independent fifty years after some 18 African countries allegedly gained their "independence" from Colonialism which was a tricky monster if there ever was one.

Colonialism came with the Bible in one hand and as the Africans bowed to pray the white man took the land and their alleged freedom (at least from being colonized by a foreign country). Colonialism played many tricks on gullible Africans and its most damaging joke was to declare that it has left (front door exit) while actually rushing back in through the back door (neo colonialism using the black bourgeoisie). The puppets wearing black masks, denounced so bitterly in another way, Black Skins White Masks, by Frantz Fanon for one, were quick to declare that formal independence (flags and a native government that played the puppet role to the hilt) was actually the real thing while the delusion was being promoted as actual. A national flag, a black oppressor in a Mercedes Benz and a Rolls Royce, palaces and corrupt and

hedonistic existence for the few and Africans were expected to hail this as freedom and salvation. Those who said the Emperor was actually naked and that colonialism has continued in a new garb (with the old stink in place) were quickly silenced. Belgian and CIA agents collaborated to have Patrice Lumumba murdered. Freedom fighters Um Nyobe, Felix Moumie and later on Mondlane, Machel and Cabral were gotten rid off in one way or another. Pan Africanists with a strong anti imperialist stance were made victims of foreign engineered coups as in Ghana and Nkrumah. Colonialism never left but wore a new mask, Africa was doomed as the traitors had a field day selling the whole continent without any scruples or qualms.

The one party state that was the darling of the West fleeing Africa through a corrupt and malleable strongman (Mobutu is a good example) went against any notion of democratic governance. Rebellions were bound to erupt here and there and the colonizers had to spread again the virus of what Nyrere called "tribalism" and is nowadays referred to as "ethnicism", the "Ethnic assaulting the Nation" as Samir Amin put it in a book. Africa's desire to consolidate nation states broke against the iceberg of ethnic assault and the division helped carry the goal of the rapacious West to its zenith. (Yugoslavia and



the Soviet Union were also to become victims of this sponsored ethnic or nationality assault). Worse still, even the ethnically or nationally cohesive people like the Somalis succumbed to the virus, divided on clan levels and are still going on with their carnage no matter what. Yet, we must admit that, fifty years on, the delusion of independence is no more a big problem--we all know few African countries are really independent. Actually, the two countries that had never been colonized, mainly Ethiopia and Liberia, are also fine examples of dependence and neo colonial servility. Liberia was handed over to freed American slaves and these imposed their corrupt rule over the "natives" with the help of America and North American companies like Firestone rubber company and when the jury of revenge came (via the Samuel Doe coup) it was indeed violent (Tolbert and many ministers

were summarily shot). Liberia was not independent in the 19th century and is not so now either. Ethiopia was never colonized (maybe the Ethiopians read the Bible before the white man and were not duped to close their eyes and pray) but the regimes in power for more than seventy years were/are puppets of foreign powers (USA and the Soviet Union) and Ethiopians have never realized their dream of democratic governance. This is not to say that there was little difference between the colonised and the not colonized (perhaps there is some in the psyche and type of wounds) but it is to assert that colonialism did not leave, not ever, but stayed on with more fangs and new garbs. As I said, colonialism is a tricky monster.

Like it can even change colour and appearance given the fact that China is now busy replacing the

old and known plunderers. As a Young Turk plunderer, China seems to have little or no scruples other than fiercely pursuing its own national interests but it has learnt the moves and gives lip service to the "delusion", the flag and the false belief in a non existent sovereignty. Buttering up our ego, telling us we are rich and proud when we are poor and miserable and they are taking away our wealth and backing our killers (Beshir, Meles, Mugabe, etc). In reality, the assault on our pride and self respect has been so strong that most of us have succumbed to self hate (a bonanza for the skin lightening product manufacturers for example) and lack of self confidence. We claim that partaking wisdom at the feet of the white man is all, we speak English or French and we are wise and we know it all (as opposed to the "ignorant" majority that doesn't), and our salvation can only come from the good will of the new colonizers. The pathetic souls who pray "Our Father who art in the White House" are good examples of this malady. The dependence and absolute lack of belief in the strength and power of one's people is very damaging especially in light of the real situation in which there seems little hope of achieving meaningful social change peacefully. And yet, it is sadly true that the armed rebels claiming to fight for our liberation have turned out to be murderous

thugs (Renamo, RUF, LRA and others), lumpen guerrillas if you want. Our misery is compounded; colonialism is dead but long live colonialism is not a dead cry.

It is of course possible to contend that we should be left alone with our delusions. It is probable that if one takes one's hell as a paradise then the suffering may appear less (illusion). Ethiopian say if we call it life dwelling in the graveyard may be comfortable or warm. The perspective matters. If the poor man does not drink butter in his dream he would have died sooner from constipation is another favourite saying in Ethiopia. Delusion plays a role. Instead of a white Bwana governor we have a black native oppressor--is there no difference? Isn't it better if we delude ourselves that there is a difference especially when we cannot find an iota even using a magnifying glass for investigation? Less expectation, less frustration. More delusion, less pain. The bastards have not left (blood diamonds, blood Coltan, a whole continent plundered without mercy) but why not delude ourselves that they have? Viewed from this angle, the delusion of independence makes our graveyard feel warm. We all know we live in a "cold" continent so why harp on it and shiver when we can embrace our delusion and sweat from the imagined heat?

NATIONAL ETHNIC PRESS AND MEDIA COUNCIL OF CANADA

Conseil national de la presse et des medias ethniques du Canada
 "Canada's Other Voices" - Office of the President

A thank you note at the end of our successful exhibition

Dear friends and colleagues, brothers and sisters in the ethnic press and media:

As tomorrow our exhibition is being concluded, I am taking this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to all of you who helped to build one more successful event. Our exhibition attracted more than 5,000 visitors, among them government officials, marketing authorities and young students from high schools and also schools of journalism. The 210 publications participated in this venue showcased the good quality and the ability of the ethnic publications and its publishers and editors to honour the principles, the traditions and heritage of this great country of ours for a free and independent press.

Taking this opportunity also I want to express my gratitude to all of you who volunteered and helped with your time and enthusiasm during this great event. Special thanks goes to brother Ahmed Hota-

ki, Saad Alsafar, Mahesh Abeyewardene, Suleyman Guven, Neel Nanda, Logan Logarithman, Verad Dimitrova, Elizabeth E. Philbert. My gratitude goes one more time to Asha Rajak. Special thanks to Luba Cherni and Andrei for their fantastic job and the perfect entertainment they provided in a very multicultural environment.

I remain thank full to all of them for their dedication and many hours of hard work dedicated to this project.

The opening ceremonies were attended by more than 700 guests and members of our organization, thirty eight members of the diplomatic corps in Toronto, Dr. Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Official Opposition and Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration of Ontario, Minister Sophia Angelonitis, Minister of Consumer and Commercial relations of Ontario and His Worship David Miller, the Mayor of

Toronto with a great number of City representatives and Councilors.

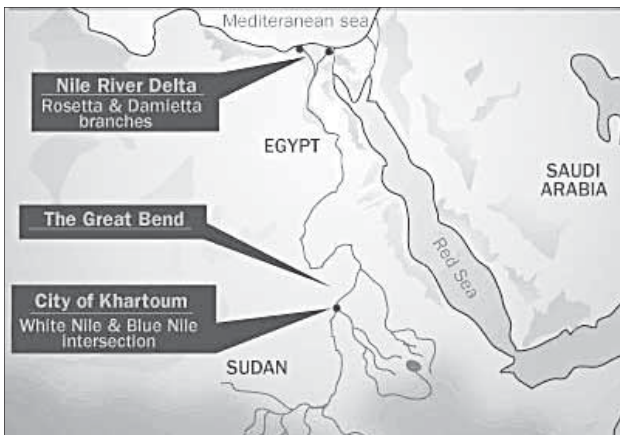
It was a great event, and thanks to your participation. The exhibition now moves to its second phase for Montreal and Ottawa, as soon as we are ready for this move. Finally, I want to express our gratitude to Canadian Heritage, Publications Assistance Program, to Leonard Lombardy, President and CEO of CHIN International, Jack Kyriazakos, President and CEO of Brazilian Canadian Com. , Tom Michalopoulos, President and CEO Coffee Time Donuts, Kathy L. Lin, my brother John and Asif A. Khan for their financial support of the event.

Thank you all for your help and cooperation,

With all my respect in solidarity,
 Thomas S. Saras
 President and CEO

EAST AFRICA SEEKS MORE NILE WATER FROM EGYPT

The Nile is vital for many different reasons



Four East African states have signed an agreement to seek more water from the River Nile - a move strongly opposed by Egypt and Sudan.

Under colonial-era accords, the two countries get 90% of the river's water.

Upstream countries including Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia say it is unfair and want a new deal but nothing has been agreed in 13 years of talks.

A further three countries were represented at the meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, and may sign up later.

Sudan's legal counsel BBC East Africa correspondent Will Ross says there is a danger that the split could hamper any further efforts for all nine countries involved to negotiate how the waters should be shared.

The BBC's Wyre Davies in Cairo says that for Egypt, water is a matter of national security.

Egypt has dismissed the Entebbe agreement, saying it "is in no way binding on Egypt from a legal perspective".

"Egypt will not join or sign any agreement that affects its share," ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

'Rule of the jungle'

Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda signed the agreement in Entebbe, which would lead to experts determining how much water each country would be entitled to. Kenya did not sign the agreement as its minister could not attend. Like Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, it sent officials to Entebbe.

Ethiopia, for example - the source of the Blue Nile

- contributes an estimated 85% of the river waters but is able to make relatively little use of its natural resource.

Rwanda's Environment Minister Stanislas Kamanzi told the BBC: "Egypt has been requesting to defer the signing of the Cooperative Framework Agreement - we couldn't wait any longer, since we have been negotiating for over 10 years."

Egypt and Sudan say they will not sign a new deal unless they are first guaranteed an exact share of the water.

Ahead of the meeting, Ahmed el-Mufti, the legal counsel for Sudan's delegation, told Reuters news agency that all nine countries were close to an agreement, so there was no need for the upstream countries to sign their own deal.

He also said Egypt and Sudan needed water more than those in more fertile regions.

"They have a lot of rain: This is nature," he said. "They do not need the water. Here in Sudan we need water."

Egypt's farmers are almost wholly dependent on the River Nile and its water. The BBC's Will Ross says that, with populations soaring, demand for water increasing and climate change having an impact, there are warnings that wrangling over the world's longest river could be a trigger for conflict.

"If we don't have an agreed co-operative framework, there will be no peace," Kenya's director of water resources John Nyaro told the BBC before the meeting.

"Where there is no rule of law, the rule of the jungle does not provide peace."

REELWORLD FILM FESTIVAL TOOK OFF WITH A GRAND OPENING AT THE SCOTIABANK THEATRE LAST MONTH RUNNING APRIL 7TH UNTIL 11TH



Jatin Naik
njatin@yahoo.com

The Annual Reel Film Festival (RWFF) began with a great start mid last week on April 7th at the Scotiabank Theatre in downtown Toronto (Richmond & John streets). Celebrating their 10th Anniversary, RWFF kicked off with the North American premiere of the Canadian film 'Off World' the much anticipated feature from writer, director and co-producer Mateo Guez (co-producer Bryon Wong). Some of the esteemed guests seen during the opening night and the red carpet included Reel Film Festival Founder Tonya Lee Williams herself, Hip-Hop and R&B artist Sean Jones, a large number of filmmakers including Director Mateo Guez of 'Off World' plus a host of other personalities and celebrities. The Gala screening was hosted once again at the Scotiabank theatre in downtown Toronto because of their long successful partnership with Cineplex Entertainment.

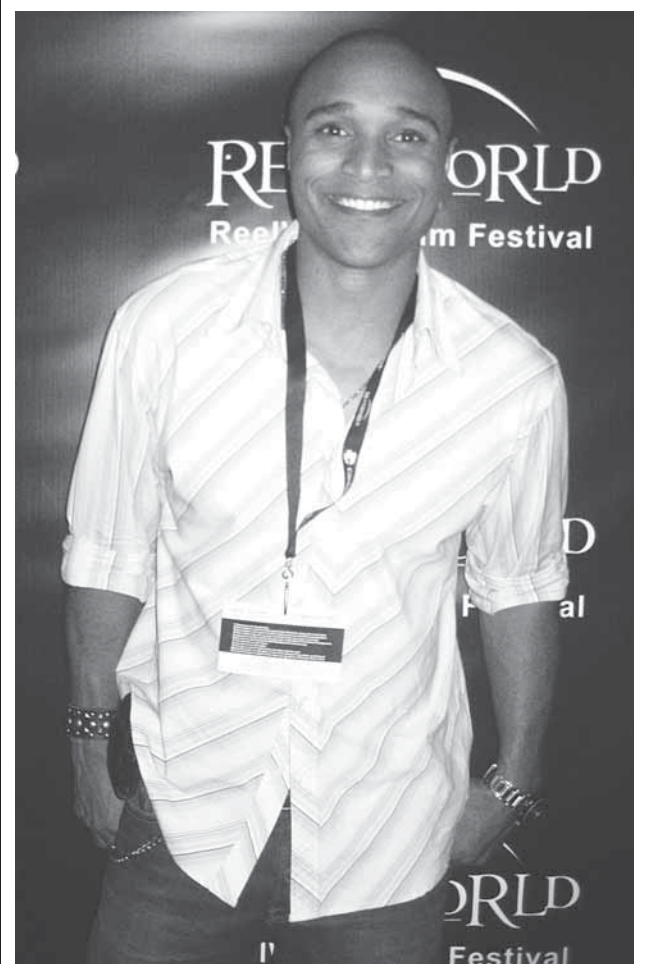
'Off World' follows Lucky, a young man in his twenties, who travels to the Philippines in search of his birth parents. His journey leads him through Manila to Smokey Mountain. His quest for his origins forces him to come to terms with his own identity and explores in profound ways the idea that finding one's origin requires travelling to the most alien places. The festival started with the screening of the movie, a 75 minute film, packed with intensity, emotions, excellent photography, and haunting images of children. Amongst other movies and features included in this year's festival was Irfan Kamal's 'Thanks Maa' based on true life stories depicting a vivid snapshot

of life through the lives of 5 children. Reminding one of Danny Boyle's 'Slum Dog Millionaire' and Mira Nair's 'Salaam Bombay', 'Thanks Maa' is an excellent poignant tale of a 12 year old street kid named Municipality Ghatkopar in Mumbai after a suburban hospital where he was discarded as a baby.

In an interview with One Voice of Africa correspondent Jatin Naik, Reel Film Festival Founder and President Tonya Lee Williams said "I am very much looking forward to the 10th year of the Film Festival. The filmmakers are here and they are very excited to have their films shown. You know that these openings and the closings are where the audiences are but its the rest of the other films I want the audience to come out and support all the other films because they do such a tremendous job. I would like multicultural communities to come out and support the their own, that's what I would like you know for them to really be pro-active and recognize that these stories are told for them and they need to come out to the theatres and support these filmmakers if they want more of these stories told".

Actress Tonya Lee Williams founded ReelWorld Film Festival in October 1999. Born in London, England to Jamaican parents and arriving in Canada at the age of 12, Tonya has been in the Entertainment Industry for over 30 years. Tonya wanted to create something lasting in Canada that would help emerging talent find their success. The result of her hard work was Reel Film Festival which she has been organizing along with a host of sponsors and supporters since the past 10 years. Tonya has always believed that we are not victims of the circumstances, but rather our circumstances are the gifts, that allows us to reach our fullest potentials.

Reel Film Festival began in 1999. Ever since then year after year, it has been hosted to recognize new talent in the world of Films across communities espe-



cially immigrants coming to Canada from different parts of the world. It celebrates cultural diversity in the film Industry. Their Film festival this year included 5 full days of feature films, documentaries, shorts, music videos and

industry panel. This year it was also proud to screen more than 60% Canadian content with additional films from Filipino, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Indian, Sri Lankan, Korean, Chinese, French, Persian and other communities.

WORLD SOCCER FIESTA



By Jonathan Annobil

For the first time in the annals of FIFA World Cup Tournament, it will take place on the soil of Africa, and to be precise South Africa, from 11th June to 11th July. At long last, the World has realized that Africa is no more the "Dark Continent" it used to be called. In Soccer, African players are rubbing shoulders with the elite.

Once upon a time Africa was a spectator in soccer but we are now also participating fully. Just some few years back we had Weah from Liberia crowned as the Best soccer player. Zidane who was wearing the French national jersey

is of Algerian ancestry. Drogba of Ivory Coast playing for Chelsea won the Goal King in the just ended Premier League in UK. Just go through the roster of all the major leagues all over the world with the exception of maybe South America and you will find that they are full of Africans. I can say proudly that Africans are now 'dominating' the various leagues all over. Before it was the domain of Europeans and South Americans but Africa our motherland is now producing some of the finest in soccer.

Just last year Ghana won the U-20 World when they beat Brazil. To be frank, Africa is very strong on the world stage

when it comes to soccer at the junior level. Africa is yet to lift that cup in the senior category. Nigeria has won the U-17 World Cup 3 times and Ghana has also won it 2 times not counting the number of times both countries were runners-up. Nigeria in Atlanta 1996 made history by becoming the first African team to win the gold in soccer during the Olympic Games. Cameroon also beat Spain in 2000 Sydney, Australia to win the Olympic Games soccer. Ghana was 3rd in 1992 in Barcelona and Egypt to was 4th in 1928 in Amsterdam and 4th again in 1964 in Tokyo. This brief history goes to prove my point that

talents abound in great quantities in Africa. Oh I nearly forgot Eusebio of Mozambique who was also a great footballer. Desailly of Ghana was French captain for French National team. Yes, what about Kalala, Ndlovu, Abedi Pele, Odegame, Nwanu Kano, Maja, Etoo, Essien, Anthony Yeboah, a host of others I cannot name.

So for 1 full month all roads will lead to South Africa and hopefully one of the African countries will do Mama Africa proud by lifting the cup. Ghana did it in Egypt 2009 U-20 so it is possible that the jinx will be broken in South Africa. Yes we can even though it is a daunting task.

FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO

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The joint work will also include First Nations and the Ontario government working together to address the concerns raised by the federal government relating to data and accounting requirements necessary for the administration of the HST.

"The Memorandum of Agreement signed today is a positive step toward achieving our objective to ensure that the First Nations point of sale exemption continues under the HST framework. The Government of Ontario has committed to work with us to realize our pri-

ority -- which is to ensure that we do not lose our point of sale exemption. We also want to ensure that First Nations people, many of whom struggle at or below the poverty line, are not impacted by the move to the HST," stated Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse.

Regional Chief Toulouse explained that this agreement is a step forward in the effort to preserve the point of sale exemption. The focus now shifts to the federal government to cooperate with First Nations and the Ontario government to work towards a resolution before July 1st. However, is they are

not able to convince the federal government by July 1st, the agreement recognizes that interim relief may be necessary while the restoration of the point of sale exemption is being finalized.

The Memorandum of Agreement must be presented to the First Nations leadership in Ontario for ratification at a Chiefs Assembly at the earliest possible opportunity.

QUOTES

"This agreement demonstrates our commitment to working with Ontario's First Nations to safeguard the current

point of sale exemptions under the new HST. We realize this is a vital issue for First Nations people and we will continue in our efforts to secure a federally approved and administered tax exemption."

— Chris Bentley
 Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

"The Memorandum of Agreement makes Ontario's position very clear, and is an important step forward in working with First Nations leaders to bring the federal government on side."

— John Wilkinson
 Minister of Revenue

ONTARIO BILL 158 ON FOREIGN QUALIFIED IMMIGRANTS

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) will be proposing amendments to Ontario Bill 158 at the public hearing of the Standing Committee on

Justice Policy scheduled for April 22, 2010 at the Ontario Legislature.

Bill 158, The Accounting Professions Act, was tabled in the Legislature by the Ontario government with a view to modernizing the accounting profession in Ontario. CIMA recognizes the importance of this, and supports the elements of the Bill that safeguard consumer protection and increase transparency in the Accountancy profession. However, CIMA has brought to the attention of the Ontario Government what it deems to be an overly restrictive Clause within the Bill, which will place internationally qualified professional accountants at a disadvantage when they immigrate to Ontario. CIMA believes this Clause will act as an

employment barrier, as it proposes a ban on the use of foreign professional designations on documents, including resumes and business cards.

Financial and management services form a vital component of the economy. Moreover, approximately half of Toronto's population and a significant proportion of the Ontario population were not born in Canada. Many of them are internationally trained professionals whose creativity and innovation are needed to drive our economy on a global scale.

CIMA will be tabling a number of amendments intended to ensure the Bill will not negatively affect the Ontario government's stated policy of helping foreign trained professionals integrate in to the Ontario economy.

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SOUTH ASIAN FOCUS TV ON ROGERS CHANNEL 10

Acclaimed community activist Jake Dheer who is the station manager for the Rogers TV in Dufferin-Peel region has special plans to promote multiculturalism. Rogers Channel 10 broadcasts 2 programs, South Asian Focus TV which is a chat show promoting events, communities and personalities and the other First Local in Hindi. In an interview with *One Voice of Africa* correspondent Jatin Naik, Jake Dheer said, "When we look at the population of Peel it is 50% new immigrants. We provide so many programs in English that I wanted viewers to understand programs in their own language so this year we launched the First Hindi news telecast. For this, we brought Diksha Narayan, Producer for these shows on board and we are getting some great feedback from the people".

TV Producer Diksha Pal Narayan further added, "Rogers TV is one of the most widely watched TV channels in GTA. First Local just started and well, as they say the limit is for us. We have exciting new things lined up for the viewers. The team is amazing and together we are trying to get all our viewers the news that



RogersTV crew

matters the most to them. For anyone interested in the TV programs, we are giving them an opportunity and welcome them. This is the only channel that provides an opportunity for



Jatin Naik
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people young and old who contribute to the making of

the shows. Jake has many ideas for this year and our viewers should stay tuned for them".

First Local in Hindi is a half hour news bulletin for the region of Peel and in both Hindi and Urdu. A week in review of local news, the top local stories from the past week including top news, sports, and entertainment stories are recapped here. Reports come from across the Peel region with a focus on the cities of Mississauga and Brampton. With this program, Peel region got its first Peel centric news bulletin in its own language premiered first on the 25th of October 2009 and has been successfully running ever since. The shows are run every Sunday at 9:30 am, 1 pm, 4 pm, 8 pm. Monday at 4 pm, Tuesday at 9 pm Wednesday at 10:00 am,

12:30 pm, 4 pm, 10:30 pm Thursday - 4 pm; Friday at 12:30 pm and Saturday at 9pm. The group has its own Facebook group to interact. To join search for "First Local in Hindi". The crew consists of:

Sunny Joshi (Main Anchor) : The face of the program who leads the team with in depth knowledge of the region of Peel. His focus on the show is to give the viewers a weekly update of all the major news in the region. Sunny also hosts a popular radio show in one of the leading radio channels.

ada and of stories from the other side of the globe. **Sahar Deshmukh** (International Anchor) : Sahar Deshmukh gives the viewers an in depth coverage of the top 5 most important news of the world.

Shruti Bhatt (Entertainment Anchor) : Shruti Bhatt is the newest addition to the First Local team and also the youngest who brings entertainment news. She is a University student who also hosts a radio show. **Pushp Kumar** (Associate Producer) : Pushp Kumar has been a part of the team since its conception responsible for

Ali hails from Pakistan and is one of the lead Researchers on the team. He used to be a reporter for a leading Pakistani newspaper back home, and now lends his expertise to this team.

And finally, **Jake Dheer** (Station Manager) : Jake Dheer has worked his way up in the Rogers TV family. He started off as a volunteer and is the Station Manager for the Peel Region. It was his vision to see that the South Asian Community had shows representing them coming up with the above two shows. **Diksha Pal Narayan** (Producer) :Diksha joined the Rogers TV last year; coming to Canada with a lot of experience from India working with the leading Channel NDTV. After being a graduate in IT, she did her Post grad in Broadcast Journalism from IIMC, Delhi and has produced 2 shows on NDTV and now currently is producing both the above shows. She successfully re-launched South Asian Focus TV and launched the First Season of First Local in Hindi. She took Jake's vision for the show and made it into a reality, adding her own experience and expertise to make it one of the most successful shows on Rogers.



5th from left is Diksha Pal Narayan

Nishant Bahl (Sports Anchor) : Nishant, a young anchor who is 23 years old has an extensive knowledge of the world of Sports both in Can-

all the translations for the news stories. Pushp has also filled in as the Sports Anchor from time to time. **Nasir Ali** (Researcher) : Nasir

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Not once did I come back to my old house, where I once lived with my parents. I wanted to make it big, I wanted to achieve something, I wanted to start a fresh life and I wanted to have an identity of my own! I achieved all this, but there was an uncomfortable feeling of some inner voice always troubling me. It seemed it was a voice of a mother, calling me to come inside, as it started to rain. It was the presence of my father who waited for me to have dinner together; it was the voice of my younger brother to help him in his home work. All these voices were troubling me. Not caring for these voices, I proceeded to make a fresh start in a new country.

As I came home after a long journey from my new country of origin, I noticed the old Roman clock still hung to the wall! The walls of my old house, the old wooden furniture, the black and white photos, the fragrance and the smell of Tulsi, Rose, and the Gainda flowers, all made me nostalgic, taking me into time when I grew up here! The heart cried silently, because I forgot all of them, they didn't. My elders, who brought me up, had silently gone leaving a message in every place in four walls of my home to tell me upon my return, that they waited silently and patiently and now that they were tired, so they wanted to rest. "Unki roohein pukarti chalee gayeen, par hum ko unki goonj sunai na di!"

Tears rolled down my cheeks, heart cried loudly, I didn't realize the value of what I lost? I lost the most sincere parents, who cared for my happiness. I lost their care, I lost their scolding me for my mistakes, not caring, how big I became and here I lost their physical touch. I lost the feeling of all sitting together and eating, I forgot that time slowed down here, I forgot the value of sitting with my mother, while she was knitting or working in the kitchen, I forgot to buy the vegetables from the subzi wala; I for-



Pankaj Kohli
 Motivational Speaker &
 Writer

got that all relations met at the smallest occasion and celebrated festivities; that was the power of relations and the unity of staying together as a close knit family. This was all lost, in exchange for becoming big and achieving something in life! I had the biggest wealth, yet I became a looser and a loner?

We have become modern, science has given answers to almost everything; can someone teach me how to capture those voices, that were there, but have been lost forever; can someone tell me how to capture the warmth of a mother's hug, can someone teach me how to capture those feelings with which we all grew up? Oh modernity, you are so generously taking away our past, can you teach us how to forget these feelings?

"Is dil ka kya karoo jisme bachpan qaid hai,

Un roohi aawaazon ka kya karoo jo mujh mein qaid hai,

Us waqt ko dhoondo, jo tab tthha, par ab nahi hai:

Shama taley hum andheron mein hi kho gaye;

Koi bataye, Un rishto key deep fir sey kaisey roshan karoo?"

How selfish have we humans become who quietly move away from those who never trouble us! We trade the company for those, whom we don't even know. Today, I learn the "value of relationship, which means to relate"! "The one's who cultured us, stood by us in times of crisis, encouraged us at every step and loved us eternally", they are the people who we relate"! In exchange for their 365 days, we give them 1 out off 365 days as "Mother's Day"! How

selfish have we become, how self-centered; we have forgotten to give, we have learnt only to take?

We leave the 'spirit' of living, behind and try to live 'spiritually'? We knowingly unburden ourselves of the good life and then learn to 'meditate', for what; to calm the mind or soothe the brain? How can the mind be calm, when the heart is restless? "Spiritual living is to live spiritedly, which means, whole heartedly"! "Spirit is captured by the heart and not by the mind"! When the heart is nurtured with 'emotional love', the same heart gives 'emotional love'; one doesn't require to then lead a path of 'spirituality', one is already on a path of 'spirituality'! When one bathes heart and soul with pure love, happiness follows and a happy person is already 'spiritual'. Heart is what one needs to fill up with 'emotional love and happiness', spirituality follows! One can keep sitting cross legged in Padma-aasan throughout life, yet not even see a spark of 'spirituality'. Modern science may take another millennium, yet not find an answer to replace the true feelings of emotional love and care! In fact, it is taking us further away.

"Learn to live with inner voices! Conflict between mind and heart disturb mental tranquility which then distort decision making; one wrong decision changes path of destiny". There is never a conflict with any external force; it is always a conflict within, which must be resolved by aligning yourself with inner voices. Inner voices are subtle; they must be felt and listened to when all external noises stop. Inner voice is never material, it is spiritual, it is emotional, it is a message from the higher plane of self or Aatma or soul; which only conveys to act in a manner where the result of actions give permanent happiness and serenity.

With Love
 Pankaj Kohli

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WORLD EXCLUSIVE: HAWARYA NEWS

**EPOCH IN GRASSROOTS GLOBAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:
PRESIDENT EVO MORALES, WORLD PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

continued from p(1)

Respected activist, Judy Rebeck, CAW-Sam Gindin Chair in Social Justice and Democracy at Ryerson University, calls the initiative underlying the Toronto Bolivia event, i.e., the "World's People's Conference on Climate Change... the most important, meaningful, significant social justice peoples movement in decades."

The May 7th event by TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY, itself, was a history-making moment in Toronto social justice and climate change activism. Every social justice and climate change activist and organization in Canada's largest city, Toronto, deferred to a relatively --until now-- low profile Toronto-based organization, TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY, to host the city's first meeting, reporting on the recent global "World People's Climate Change Conference" (WPCCC).

Yet, "mainstream media" in Canada, basically ignored the TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY event on May 7; the global World People's Conference; and of course, all the underlying issues of social justice, indigenous peoples and climate change. So, we pose the rhetoric question: like the tree falling in the forest, did the activist event by TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY make a "sound," "make a difference?" though no media was around to hear it?

YES, seems to be the "re-sounding" answer! Perhaps, some tree fell in some forest somewhere; but certainly, on May 7, 2010, it can be recorded, that an activist thunderbolt of dynamic energy and goodness flashed across Toronto, Canada, and around the world.

The background of the May 7th event and its underlying cause is as simple as it is momentous. In December 2009, the Copenhagen Summit on climate change, attended by global government leaders, including President Obama and Prime Minister Harper was a total disappointment; failing to agree upon a strategy on global climate change, that may be endangering humanity and the planet; and completely exposing a fission between some of the world's most powerful nations, and the rest of the world.

In response to the failure of the global Copenhagen Summit, Evo Morales, the President of the South American country of Bolivia, called upon the world's people, and organized a remarkable, history-making, global conference called the "World People's Conference on Climate Change" (WPCCC). Held April 19-22, 2010, the goal of



From right to left, M.C., Sonia at the mike, Andrew James, Danny Beaton, Bob Lovelace, Kimia Ghomeshi, Ben Powless

the Conference was to create a people's global movement to confront the social justice and climate change challenges facing humanity and earth.

After the fact, Ian Angus summarizes the World People's Conference, very well. Angus is the editor of the online journal "Climate and Capitalism":

"On April 22, a mass international assembly in Cochabamba, Bolivia, adopted a charter for action to protect our planet from ecological devastation.... 30,000 people from over 100 countries.... Over three days and nights of intensive discussions in 17 working groups, the participants drafted a People's Agreement... "Cochabamba Protocol." It places responsibility for the climate crisis on the capitalist system... on the rich countries that "have a carbon footprint five times larger than the planet can bear.... The People's Agreement calls on developed countries to cut domestic emission reductions to 50% below 1990 levels by 2017... to create a "transparent and equitable" Adaptation Fund to compensate developing countries for the destruction caused by climate change."

So, a failed global initiative by world leaders. Alternative global peoples initiative, with spotty but international media, inspires global grassroots activism; through publicity from the new media world of the internet, and Hollywood celebrity endorsements, including the world's "it" film producer, James Cameron, with a film out now with the very environment and social justice issues now endangering humanity right now...

Yet, "mainstream media" of Toronto and Canada failed to report on neither the larger-than-life global story initiative by

President Evo Morales and the World People's Climate Change Conference; nor the local Toronto story: the first follow-up meeting amongst many of Toronto's and Canada's leading social and climate change organizations on May 7th by the TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY.

As to the May 7th event, itself, organized by TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY. As if to remind the attendees of the tumultuous chaos of today's world and climate, Shakespearean levels of rain and thunder raged, as some 250 people gathered from across the city and the province at Toronto's Steelworkers hall in downtown Toronto. Having driven from Peterborough, some 150 km away, in the threatening rain, two wonderful women activists sat near the front of the room, taking notes throughout the talks. Driving in from Queen's University, 260 km away, speaker, Professor Bob Lovelace offered a taste of the intensity and humanity of the conference in Bolivia. Always thoughtful, dignified, Lovelace, a former Chief of the Ardoch First Nation, a delegate to the World Peoples Conference, a man of principle who has gone to jail to defend aboriginal rights.

The speeches, insights about social justice, indigenous peoples, and mother earth climate change were accompanied by both a contemporary indigenous hip hop performance group, Red Slam; and a poignant primordial moment of words and traditional indigenous flute by Danny Beaton, recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Environment and Natural Resources.

Other keynote speakers were Kimia Ghomeshi, Director, Canadian Youth Climate Coalition. An eloquent and inspiring quote

from her, on the World Peoples Climate Change Conference:

"I also feel incredibly empowered because what I am seeing before me, here in Cochabamba, is a truly global resistance. A resistance to the world's greatest polluters -- polluters who refuse to accept their responsibility for causing this global catastrophe. And this movement is building... more united, more committed, with a common vision: Systems change, not climate change."

Also speaking, Six Nations Mohawk, Ben Powless, Indigenous Environmental Network, offering insights into the need for monumental change; the social justice problems and illusions created by governments and corporations; their greenwash; the inefficacy and waste of even prominent UN climate change programs.

Why such an impressive, but heavily indigenous speakers list for an event reporting back ostensibly on Bolivia's global climate change meeting? Members and co-founders of TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY, noted several layers of important reasoning; including Suzanne Weiss, commenting as she busily put out additional chairs at what turned out to be a seating room only event: "President Evo Morales is the first indigenous President elected in Bolivia's history; and has made it an important initiative to try to connect and outreach to the indigenous peoples of the world."

Showing the diversity of supporters of TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY, and the grassroots peoples movement of Evo Morales, a member of the Chinese Canadian community, Amy Lem, offers a simple, touching thought on the leading roles of indigenous peoples in today's

global issues, "the indigenous peoples of the world have always been the stewards and caretakers of the earth -- we have much to learn from them."

To confront the increasing international political and corporate corruption and unaccountability, left, right, middle class, union, climate change, ethnic, social activists shall need to come together. The diversity of sponsoring organizations of the TORONTO BOLIVIA event is telling; hopefully foreshadowing the broader solidarity of the peoples of Canada and the world (see Toronto Bolivia Solidarity for complete sponsoring listing): Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), Common Frontiers, Council of Canadians, Ecosanity, Educators for Peace and Justice (EPJ), KAIROS Toronto Center, Latin American Solidarity Network (LASN), Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG), Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), Salvadorean Canadian Association Network of Ontario, Toronto Climate Campaign, Toronto Forum on Cuba, Toronto Haiti Action Committee (THAC), Venezuela We Are With You Coalition (CVEC). Also, spotted was Green Party of Canada, candidate and climate change activist, Adriana Mugnatto-Hamu; and Andrew James, one of Canada's top law book writers.

To help document, educate and outreach to the peoples of Canada and the world, about the peoples movements on social justice, Toronto Bolivia Solidarity, initiated a powerful video documentary about the amazing rise of Evo Morales and the peoples of Bolivia. The documentary has received media coverage, and entry into the Toronto school system; and was shown as part of the World People's Conference activities, a copy of the video photographed in the hands of Bolivia President Morales. Next month in Hawarya, we hope to interview the kinetic filmmaker and crew, and the delegates to the World People's Climate Change.

As John Riddell of TORONTO BOLIVIA SOLIDARITY notes, "this event by Toronto Bolivia; and even the World People's Conference by President Morales, must be seen as only a beginning." That is true; so hopefully one day in the future, people shall look back, and see President Evo Morales and his World Peoples Climate Change Conference as an epochal moment in world history. The moment when an activist "tree falling in the forest" made a noise that "re-sounded" around the world, about not just climate change, but social justice and humanity.

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The Meles Zenawi regime is responsible for the brutal murder and disappearance of a number of leaders of the Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU), an opposition organization, and should account for the crime without any equivocation. Meles Zenawi's group collaborated with the Sudan to jail and disappear and/or kill the following leaders of the Ethiopian Democratic Union:

1. Ato Getachew Yirga 2. Ato Abeje Feleke 3. Ato Fente Argaw 4. Ato Meketaw Azanaw 5. Ato Asrade Beyene

These EDU leaders were handed over to the Tigrean front led by Meles Zenawi by the Sudanese regime. Previously another EDU leader, Sbagadis Dori, was also handed over to the TPLF and he was executed by the Meles Zenawi group according to reliable reports. Relatives and friends of the above continue to demand an account on their fate as the TPLF/EPRDF refuses to deny or admit its crime in anyway.

SOCEPP calls on all human rights groups to demand an account on the fate of the above who had fallen into the hands of the TPLF/EPRDF

by 1991 with the complicity of the Sudan that trampled on the rights of refugees.

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