

Building shared hope and determination

By Molly Kane

Molly Kane joined Council of Canadians chapter members from across B.C., staff and Board members to share stories of campaigns and actions and to help plan the Council's future work at the recent B.C. regional meeting.



On October 21 Canadian voters took to the polls to elect a Liberal minority government.

Many of us are still reading the tea leaves of the results of that election, trying to discern what they signal for how we will move forward together to meet the serious and urgent challenges facing our country.

In the weeks following the election, I was on the road to meet with Council of Canadians supporters and Chapter activists from the Prairie provinces and British Columbia. I learned that in many places the election had divided communities, organizations and even families according to party loyalties. These conflicts will take some time to heal. But there was also general agreement that the common ground we share, and the urgency of the social and environmental problems we face, are far more important than our differences. We are compelled to come together in solidarity to take advantage of the opportunities for advancing social progress that a minority government offers.

What does that mean? No political party and no government will deliver the bold agenda for the world we need without the constant pressure of vigilant, engaged and organized people

committed to the protection of the commons and the living world we share. In the face of the urgent and serious challenges we face, we need to recognize that the world we need will never be guaranteed or given to us. It must be invented in thousands of ways big and small – by people across the country who are coming together to ensure access to water and sanitation as a human right through their efforts to establish Blue Communities, by protecting our health care and public services from privatization, by demanding transparency, fairness and respect for human rights and the environment in global trade negotiations, and by taking meaningful action to bring about a just energy and economic transition for a Green New Deal.

Through our many efforts at many levels, the Council of Canadians builds connections among people who want to make a difference in their communities and in our world. Working with allies we connect the dots; we follow the money to expose corporate influence; we celebrate the successes of people resisting privatization of water and expropriation of land and watersheds for extractive industries. We welcome the turning tide brought about by the struggles of Indigenous communities for self-determination and we embrace and support the possibilities

for justice that those struggles represent. Working with others across the country, we assert that to be the “balance of power” in this minority government, we must be vigilant, creative and bold so that the necessary becomes possible.

In 2020 the Council of Canadians will celebrate 35 years of working for a better Canada and a better world. With the involvement and support of tens of thousands of people across the country, the Council of Canadians aspires to continue being a vibrant home for all our supporters and supporters-to-be; an organization and a movement for people who wish to reach across generations, regions and communities to build solidarity for social justice and care for our living world. I am honoured to be part of this coast-to-coast-to-coast community and I look forward to working with you to continue building our shared hope and determination.

*What we desire for ourselves
we wish for all.*

*To this end, may we take our share
in the world's work, and the
world's struggles.*

- J.S. Woodsworth

Molly Kane is the Executive Director of the Council of Canadians.