

STATEMENT OF THE YCL-LJC CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 6, 2010

1. **YCL-LJC condemns the recent closed meeting of Harper Conservative Finance Minister Jim Flaherty with fourteen elite capitalist economists.** The government's economic update will clearly be another dose of Harper's "recovery for the rich". Youth and students do not need secret meetings about how to "turn of the stimulus tap," they need immediate action for a youth and student recovery, including:
 - a. Massive unionized job creation in the public sector for youth;
 - b. Eliminating tuition fees, abolishing all student debt, public child-care;
 - c. Raising the minimum wage to \$16h, closing the wage gap, living wages.
2. **Regarding the continued claims of an economic recovery in Canada:** we see no evidence of this – in fact the opposite. Late-September reports indicated that the Canadian economy shrank for the first time in 11 months in July. There is no recovery for the youth and students who continue to be hit hardest by the economic crisis. This past summer, the average student income merely \$6,300 and the student jobless rate was 16.8 per cent.
3. **The YCL-LJC criticizes the cheap chauvinist cover by Macleans magazine** in their recent issue claiming Quebec is "The most corrupt province in Canada." Clearly there is a major corruption scandal in Quebec currently. However, there is no proof that Quebec is more corrupt than, say, Alberta. As Macleans magazine's editors know very well, the people of Quebec are a historically unrecognized nation with unequal status in Canada. **In this context, Macleans is suggesting a people or nation are corrupt and are poking at the national question in a cavalier way that can only be divisive.** This is not surprising for the YCL – look at the negative, divisive role Macleans plays in student politics – but it is amazing. A people are not corrupt; governments are corrupt – and indeed social systems fuel corruption. Corruption is a feature of capitalism.
4. **The YCL fully supports the massive general strike protests in Spain and France in the past week.** We also express our fraternal congratulations to the Young Communists of Venezuela on the re-election of Hugo Chavez; and to the Communist Youth of Brazil in their election battles. We express our firm solidarity with the Young Communists of Ecuador, who are bravely fighting for democracy and against the US-backed coup attempt in their country.
5. **The YCL is pleased that Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has (finally) said she will introduce a bill into the Ontario legislature for a public inquiry into the G20 police brutality.** We repeat our demand expressed by our Ontario YCL campaign to "Unite to defeat Harper's Attack on democracy" and call upon the youth and student forces to redouble their efforts on this front. We condemn the continued arrests of student activists, most recently U of T student Jaroslava Avila, and call for all charges to be dropped.
6. **The YCL is reviewing the recent report of Harper Conservative government on the National Table on climate change and the economy, regarding "Climate prosperity."** We note from the outset that while it is essential that the government consider mitigation strategies in response to climate change especially in the context of poor and working class communities, the orientation of this report is crudely directed towards making a fast buck of climate change. We see this corporate "profits before nature" approach as fundamentally unsound and dangerous; put nature before profits!

<http://www.climateprosperity.ca/eng/climate-prosperity-eng.php>