

In Montreal on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka [Mohawk] territory



Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

Inside this issue:

Women's History Month	1
EC meeting highlights	2
Identity Politics & Women's Bodies	3
Member news	4
Eva Ottawa appointed	5
Calendar!	6
Woman's Boat to Gaza	7
\$15 / hours — info & demo	8-9
Trudeau govt. revoking citizenship	9-11
Calendar of events & activities	12

Qu'en pensez-vous?

What do you think?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to:
- sawccbulletin@gmail.com
- Écrivez - nous à
- sawccbulletin@gmail.com

Join us — WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER -- Women's History Month 2016

SAWCC is honoured to present

ARUNA ROY

on

"People's resistances, struggles, and victories in India"



ARUNA ROY is an Indian political and social activist who founded the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) along with Shankar Singh, Nikhil Dey and many others. The MKSS began by fighting for fair and equal wages for workers which shaped and evolved into a struggle for the enactment of India's Right to Information Act (RTI). Aruna Roy is a leader of the Right to Information movement in India through the MKSS and the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI), which was finally successful with the passage of the Right to Information Act in 2005. Aruna Roy has been at the forefront of a number of campaigns for the rights of the poor and the marginalised. These have included, most prominently, the Right to Information, the Right to Work (the NREGA), and the Right to Food. More recently, she has been involved with the cam-

paign for universal, non-contributory pension for unorganised sector workers as a member of the Pension Parishad and the NCPRI for the passage and enactment of the Whistleblower Protection Law and Grievance Redress Act.

Sunday 23 October, 2-4pm

All welcome

South Asian Women's Community Centre

1035 Rachel est (between Boyer & Christophe-Colomb; Metro Mt-Royal & bus 11). All welcome

[Organized in collaboration with CERAS]

CENTRE UPDATE



Centre Hours/heure d'ouverture

Monday & Thursday/lundi & jeudi 9am—9pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday/mardi, mercredi & vendredi— 9am-5pm

The Centre is wheelchair accessible

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

Volunteers — If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or homa@bellnet.ca) to coordinate a meeting!

SAWCC Bulletin -- submission guidelines

SAWCC members are encouraged to send submissions to the Bulletin, to share items of interest with other members.

Send submissions to: sawccbulletin@gmail.com

If using the post send to: SAWCC Bulletin, 1035 Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec, H2J 2J3

Submissions should reach by the 25th of the month.

Submissions may be original work or reprints (with permission) and can include -- art, reports, photos, information, opinion pieces, short fiction, poetry, announcements, recipes, etc.

Publication criteria are guided by SAWCC's commitment to not negatively discriminate on the basis of physical and mental ability, religion, colour, nationality, age, sexual orientation and identity, caste, and class. Publication is further guided by the feminist ethos of sisterhood, and principles of intersectionality*, equality, equity, and transparency. As well, material that may compromise confidentiality of individuals without their consent will not be published.

SAWCC reserves the right to select, reject or edit submissions. When authorship identified, items reflect the views of the authors.

*Intersectionality -- the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, that create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Executive Council Meeting Highlights Meeting of September 26th 2016

- Commission on Enquiry on Systemic Racism in Québec: SAWCC will support.
- Follow-up on "honour crimes" – SAWCC will write to MP Dhillon who had visited us earlier this year and was apprised of our concerns in this regard. We had asked her to take action. SAWCC will also contact the Status of Women Minister. SAWCC will also send information on who we are and what we do to MPs of South Asian origin.
- SAWCC will look into creating additional English class
- Update: sisters in Motion (South Asian Poetry reading): a huge success
- Breast health & mammography project: This year we are better prepared and have had four planned info sessions and are planning two visits to the mammography clinics

NEXT Executive Council meeting — MONDAY 24th October, 6pm. All members are welcome. Come and have a say in your organization!

WHITE CHRISTIAN COUNTRY IDENTITY POLITICS, ISLAMOPHOBIA, WOMEN'S BODIES Fair game for leadership hopefuls in Québec and Canada

How do you make friends and win votes? You find a wedge issue and you milk it. Kelly Leitch and Maxime Bernier among those running for leadership of the Conservative Party of Canada, advocate, as part of their platform, vetting 'newcomers' to Canada for anti-Canadian values. What do they deem 'Canadian values'? As they say, equality before the law, equality between men and women, tolerance, freedom. Nobody would take issue with them. However coming from individuals who supported the so-called barbaric practices act under the Harper government (and we should remember that Justin Trudeau, then an MP voted 'yes' for it!) we know that they mean much more! Kelly Leitch at the time she was a Minister in the Conservative government of Stephen Harper, along with her fellow Minister Chris Alexander had also spoken strongly in favour of a 'tip-line' to call in so-called 'barbaric cultural practices'. Earlier this year, Leitch apologized and said she had made a mistake, but clearly her recent pronouncements about vetting newcomers shows that unsurprisingly not much about her views has changed.

**"Canadian values"
apology but few lessons learned
from the Truth & Reconciliation
Commission**

And in Québec, hopefuls for the Parti Québécois leadership are falling over each other to establish their credentials vis-à-vis 'Québec values'. Among them, Alexandre Cloutier is in favour of a 'softer' version of the earlier proposed so-called Charter of Values. He also said that religious teachers needed to take a class in Québec values, and he singled out Muslim imams in this regard, saying they should be taught about gender equality and gay rights. (Does he truly believe that Muslims are unique to this?) His colleague Jean-François Lisée has said that the burqa and the niqab worn by some Muslim women pose a threat to public security since they cover the face and conceal the identity of the wearer from witnesses or security cameras. When pushed he added hoodies,

masks, etc. Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, another candidate in the PQ leadership competition said he wanted to ban burqas to promote a notion of "common citizenship", while at the same time he wishes to "prevent racism and discrimination", to avoid ghettos and facilitate police identification of people. He believes that "wearing a burqa is not a religious right! How scary for all of us and our rights and liberties!

The Quebec Liberal party is also culpable. Earlier this year it had tabled a 'softer' version of the Charter of Values and it is now before the National Assembly. While some seemingly more sensational aspects of the al PQ version may have been removed, essentially it is the same. Minorities, especially Muslim women are targeted, and overt Christian religious symbols like the cross in the National Assembly are protected as they fall within the purview of Quebec heritage!

These attitudes and proclamations fit into the long history of settler colonial society in Canada, with its racism and violence. "White Canada forever" was a popular song in British Columbia when the Komagata Maru carrying migrants from India was not allowed to dock in Vancouver in 1914. The head tax and exclusion acts were imposed to curtail the entry of Chinese to Canada. The fact that black soldiers could not enlist in the Canadian army during World War I and were only deemed fit to form a labour battalion is testament to this racism and above all else, the way native Canadians have been treated and continue to be treated clearly reveal Canada's race reality. After all the lessons that have come out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, it seems that little has been really learned. The violence that generations of native people were subjected to in residential schools, established to beat the 'native' out of the child, and make them into mirror images of white people, had disastrous consequences and has left a lasting and on-going legacy. The official apology has been made. Compensation payments are slowly trickling out, but it seems nothing has really been learned.

If our politicians are genuinely interested in building safe, inclusive and egalitarian societies, they need to cease resorting to jingoism and xenophobia and exploiting majoritarian anxieties about loss of culture!



Rogues' gallery — left to right: Kelly Leitch, Maxime Bernier, Jean-François Lisée, Alexandre Cloutier, Paul St-Pierre Plamondon

Member News



Congratulations to **Vrinda Narain**, (Treasurer on our Executive Council), for being appointed Associate Dean (Academic) in the Faculty of Law, McGill University, for a three-year term beginning on 1st September this year. The official announcement stated: *“Professor Narain’s research and teaching focus on constitutional law, social diversity and feminist legal theory. She was a Boulton Fellow in 2007, before joining the Faculty of Law as an Assistant Professor in 2008.*

“The Student Affairs Office works hard to develop new initiatives for students and professors, and to manage our programs with integrity, courage and dedication,” indicated

Dean Daniel Jutras. “And each of our Associate Deans (Academic) has worked tirelessly to provide support and guidance to our students as they progress through their studies. Vrinda has the perfect combination of personal qualities, vision and energy to successfully lead our Student Affairs Office as we move into a renewed curriculum.”

Congratulations to **Sarwat Vigar** (Vice-President on the Executive Council) for achieving her doctoral degree in the Humanities in the fields of Anthropology and History, from Concordia University. Her thesis is entitled, “Sovereignty, Modernity and Urban Space: Everyday Socio-Spatial Practices in Karachi's Inner City Quarters”. The thesis is an examination of the norms and forms of urban life in Karachi's historic neighbourhoods. It shows how historic formulations of space, empire and nation have structured present political subjectivities on the micro and macro levels. Thus it locates the politics of space that unfolds in the streets and public spaces of the city in significant shifts in its colonial and postcolonial history. The sovereign arrangements that rule urban neighbourhoods and that were a major object of this study range from custom and kinship-based organizations to political and religious groups and movements that seek to establish norms around the social and spatial management of the neighbourhood. The most significant finding of this study is that the sovereign imaginaries drawn upon by these ruling arrangements go beyond the nation to draw upon histories and trajectories that are transregional and transcendental bringing into question the nation-state's sole claim to territorial sovereignty.

MEMBERS are reminded and encouraged to share their news. Send member news to sawccbulletin@gmail.com by 25th of the month.

HISTORIC APPOINTMENT -- Eva Ottawa, first Aboriginal person to chair the Council of the status of women

(from Radio-Canada with the Canadian Press) Publié le jeudi 8 septembre 2016



Eva Ottawa, former Grand Chief of the Atikamekw Nation, was appointed to the presidency of the status of women. ...

Eva Ottawa was most recently a member of the Human Rights Commission.

She holds degrees in sociology and law, Ms. Ottawa has been involved for many years in her community. She has held various positions in the Council of the Atikamekw Nation and the Atikamekw Commission before being a member of the negotiating team of the Aboriginal nation.

In 2006, she was elected Grand Chief of the Atikamekw nation. She was the first woman to assume this function. She was re-elected in 2010, but she resigned before the end of his term in 2013.

She then became a consultant for the educational services of the Atikamekw Council until 2015, when she was appointed to the Human Rights Commission.

In a statement, the minister responsible for the Status of Women, Lise Thériault, congratulated Ms. Ottawa. ...



certain DAYS: freedOm for Political Prisoners Calendar



CERTAIN DAYS 2017: Sustaining Movements

SAWCC has participated in this year's calendar.
We have a short piece about us & SAWCC member
Farha Najah Hussain has contributed a work of calligraphic art.

Calendars will be available for purchase at SAWCC as a fund-raiser for SAWCC. If
interested in purchasing a copy contact Dolores
dolchew@hotmail.com Put "calendar purchase" in the subject box.

Apart from this, each year Certain Days Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar sales go different beneficiaries. This year they are: Release Aging People in Prison, Addameer Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association, a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution which focuses on human rights issues (Addameer is Arabic for conscience), and Unist'ot'en Camp, a non-violent homestead created with authority of the traditional Hereditary Chiefs of the Unist'ot'en people.

The Women's Boat to Gaza Activists Are Free and Undeterred

by Sarah Aziza



The Women's Boat to Gaza activists celebrate after their release from Israeli prison. (Twitter/@GazaFlotilla)

"If you're listening to this, then you will know that myself and all the women who sailed on the Women's Boat to Gaza have been arrested and are in detention in Israel."

These pre-recorded words by Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire open a 2-minute video, released October 5, after Maguire and 12 female companions aboard the small sailing vessel the Olivia-Zaytouna were detained by Israeli forces about 40 miles off the coast of Gaza. The women aboard the Zaytouna launched their single-boat flotilla on September 23 under the banner Women's Boat to Gaza, the latest attempt by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition to break the decade-long blockade of the Palestinian territory. A diverse group of women boarded alongside Maguire, including retired U.S. Army Colonel Ann

Wright and Malaysian gynecologist Dr. Fauziah Hasan.

The women were well aware that their chances of actually reaching Gaza were slim. As the group neared the shore on October 5, spokeswoman Claude Leostic told the AFP "the Zaytouna-Oliva has passed the fatal line of 100 miles and everything is going well." Within hours, however, several Israeli vessels surrounded the flotilla, boarding the Zaytouna and detaining those on board. The Israeli Navy reported that the intervention came after "exhausting all diplomatic channels" and that the detention proceeded without violence.

The women of the flotilla described their arrest as "illegal" and wrote on their website, "whilst the term 'peaceful' has been used in some media to describe the attack and capture of our boat, this is inaccurate. Peace is more than merely the absence of physical violence. Oppression, occupation, denial of human rights and taking a boat of unarmed, nonviolent women against their will are not peaceful activities."

On the Gazan beach that morning, Palestinians prepared to greet the flotilla, assembling with flags and banners on the shore, but the women were taken by Israeli forces to the Ashdod port and later held in Givon Prison.

The use of flotillas to protest the siege in Gaza began in 2008, when a group of activists sought a way to defy the blockade using creative, nonviolent means. The group eventually decided to break the blockade directly by sending a flotilla to the port of Gaza, which had not been entered by an international vessel since 1967. After months of grassroots fund-raising and organization, 47 activists representing 17 countries launched their mission in two small wooden boats, the SS Gaza and the SS Liberty. They were able to reach the Gaza port with supplies, including hearing aids for children whose hearing had been damaged in the sonic booms caused by military flyovers.

Subsequent attempts by activists to break the siege have been less successful — and in some cases, tragic. In 2010, the Turkish vessel the Mavi Marmara attempted to reach Gaza with humanitarian aid, but when Israeli forces intercepted the boat on May 31, violence ensued. The clash left nine Turkish activists dead (a 10th would die later, after a years-long coma) and 10 Israelis injured. The event sparked international outcry, but it has not deterred organizations like the Freedom Flotilla Coalition and the International Committee for Breaking the Siege of Gaza, from continuing similar attempts to reach Gaza.

The Women's Boat to Gaza was the first all-female flotilla, and aimed to highlight the role of Palestinian women in the struggle for self-determination and the uniquely gendered effects of the occupation. Before the flotilla, Gazan women shared their perspectives on the siege through videos posted on the group's site. The activists also hoped that an all-female crew would be treated with less force, said spokesperson Claude Léostic. "We hope that with women on board they [the Israeli navy] will be deterred from being so violent," she told Electronic Intifada, adding, "maybe it's just wishful thinking."

The women of the flotilla have confirmed their physical safety throughout, and the last of the 13 activists were released Friday. Yet even as they depart, the women of the flotilla have reiterated their reason for sailing: to raise awareness of the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, where 80 percent of the 1.9 million residents rely on aid to survive. The 10-year blockade has crippled the economy, reducing trade to 15 percent of its pre-siege levels, while power outages, food shortages, rampant unemployment and undrinkable water perpetuate a state of crisis.

On their webpage, the Freedom Flotilla Coalition has pledged to continue its efforts "until Gaza is free."

DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF MINIMUM WAGE OF \$15 / HOUR – not a luxury; for survival

Join workers across the continent who will be marching on Saturday 15th October.

In Montreal: 15 October, 11am, Parc le Prévost (Jean-Talon & Fabre)

As part of a continent-wide movement, Quebec labour groups are staging a Fight for 15 demonstration on Oct. 15, to push for an increase in the minimum wage in Quebec to \$15 an hour from the current \$10.75.

Fight for \$15 an Hour Minimum Wage, for a Decent Life! In Quebec, more than 850,000 people live in poverty. Even a full time job does not guarantee an escape from poverty, because of the growing low wage jobs. Research confirms that \$15 per hour wage is a minimum for a decent life. However, the government of Quebec proposed to raise the minimum wage only by 20 cents to reach \$10.75 from May 1, 2016. This is not enough. \$15 an hour minimum wage is a minimum and indispensable condition for a decent life!

In Canada, the average annual income of the top 100 CEOs reached \$8, 958, 650 in 2014. From 1996 to 2009, the average income of the top 0.1% has increased by 135%, while the average income of the 90% from the bottom has increased only by 8%. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would contribute to reduce the inequalities, affecting minimum wage earners and those earning close to minimum wage, more than 450,000 workers in Quebec. Furthermore, this campaign aims to improve labour standards through popular mobilisation. Meanwhile, recent US show that the employment has been increased more in regions that adopted the \$15 an hour increase to \$15 than necessary for a

Recent experiences of the US show that the employment has been increased more in regions that adopted the increase to \$15 than

standards through mobilisation. Meanwhile, recent experiences of the the employment creased more in adopted the in- than other regions. minimum wage is fairer economy!

Income Hoarding By The Wealthy Is What Harms The Economy! The increase of inequality is sounding alarm bells worldwide, including in Canada. As of 2012, the top 13% of after - tax income in Canada goes to the top 1% of income earners, while they took 8% in 1986. In addition, an enormous sum of \$100,000 is added to their income each year through the private corporations that they control. According to Statistics Canada, in 2014, the average annual salary of the top 100 Canadian CEOs is \$8,958,650 compared to the average worker's salary of \$48,636. In 2013, Canadian nonfinancial corporations reported over \$604 billion in reserves. These hoarded funds are collecting interest in bank accounts and are not being reinvested into the Canadian economy. Furthermore, according to Statistics Canada, at

least, \$170 billion was deposited in overseas bank accounts to avoid taxes that very same year. At the end of the day, a small group of people collect and hoard the largest amount of wealth without reinvesting and contributing to the Canadian economy or society. This is a reality that undermines the economy and propa-
gates pov- erty. By in-
creasing the crease in creasing the
wage to \$15 there would be a boost to
the economy an employment
crease in ties. If we in-
opportuni- clude the rise in costs of goods and services, the minimum
wage increased by only 1 - cent from 1975 to 2013. It is
astounding that the Quebec government would rather im-
pose austerity measures than support workers in increasing
the minimum wage to a livable wage!

If we include the rise in costs of goods and services, the minimum wage increased by only 1 - cent from 1975 to 2013.

If a decent life is our right, then our government should guarantee the income necessary to attain that basic standard of living. In the case of Quebec, setting the minimum wage is the provincial government's responsibility. Therefore, the realities of daily life necessities should be reflected in the minimum wage that is guaranteed to all workers as a basic right protected by law. In our current economic system, the rich benefit from the unfair distribution of resources. ... There are people living below the poverty line, even though they are working full-time. In fact, in 2012, 5.8% of Quebec workers were living below the poverty line.

It is impossible to deny that the existing minimum wage of \$10.55 per hour cannot sustain a standard of living above the poverty line. This situation is only worse! For example, in Montreal, the price of the OPUS transit card increased from \$16 in 1980 to \$82 in 2015. The minimum wage was \$3. 65 per hour in 1980 and is now \$10.55 per hour in 2016. In order to afford an OPUS public transit card in 1980, a worker would have to work for four hours compared to now, workers have to work nearly 8 hours. This demonstrates that the minimum wage has not increased at the same rate as the cost - of - living in Quebec.

In order to afford an OPUS public transit card in 1980, a worker would have to work for four hours compared to now, workers have to work nearly 8 hours.

Researchers have proven that a minimum wage of \$15 per hour is absolutely fundamental to attain a decent life in Montreal and Quebec City (IRIS: a research institute of Quebec). In short, a \$15 minimum hourly wage is neither a luxury nor a lofty goal, but imperative for survival and should be included as a fundamental right for all workers.



Fifteen and Justice!

A \$15 minimum hourly wage is necessary to guarantee a decent life and decrease disparity!

However, the increase of the minimum wage does not solve all workers' problems. That is why we have included the word "Justice" to our campaign. The guaranty of a dependable work schedule and a fair application of work standards are examples of this justice. The fight for Fifteen and Justice demands:

- Access to basic labour rights, social and health services, regardless of immigration status

- Government regulation of placement agencies through licensing and joint responsibility of the agency and the employer for working conditions to allow workers to effectively complain against abuse.

End discrimination against domestic workers through giving them full access to CNESST [Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail] coverage including health and safety protection.

- Good Enough to Work. Good Enough to Stay! Open the permanent residence program in the framework of the Quebec Experience Program for all temporary foreign workers.

It's Time to Take Action!!!

Visit us at www.fifteenandjustice.wordpress.com to learn how you can get involved and join us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Fight.For.15.Quebec](https://www.facebook.com/Fight.For.15.Quebec) to stay up-to-date with activities.

Trudeau government revoking citizenship at much higher rate than Conservatives

Liberals say revocations target fraud, but government accused of hypocrisy following Maryam Monsef case

By Evan Dyer, [CBC News](#)

The Trudeau government used powers granted by the Harper government's controversial citizenship law to make 184 revocation decisions without legal hearings between November 2015 and the end of August. About 90 per cent of the decisions resulted in a negative finding and the loss of a person's citizenship.

The numbers show that the Trudeau government has used the law far more aggressively than the Harper government itself.

But in a Federal Court filing late Friday, the government said it would not grant a moratorium on revocation cases, and added that claims by some that the system was revoking large numbers of citizenship are speculative.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau made the sanctity of citizenship an issue in last year's federal election.



"A Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian," Trudeau said in a leaders' debate three weeks before storming to victory.

He used it to dress down Stephen Harper for passing Bill C-24, a law that aimed to strip dual citizens of their Canadian passports if they were convicted of crimes of terrorism, treason or espionage against Canada, or took up arms against Canada.

Immigrant communities rallied to the Liberal Party, concerned that Canadians born overseas would be reduced by C-24 to an insecure second-class status.

Once elected, one of the Liberals' first acts was to repeal the parts of C-24 that applied to those convicted of terrorism-related crimes, ensuring that they can keep their Canadian passports.

But the Trudeau government left intact other parts of the law that allow the government to strip citizenship from other holders of Canadian passports for misrepresentation.

The 184 revocation decisions of the first 10 months of the Trudeau government nearly match the total number of decisions over a 27-year period between 1988 and the last month of the Harper government in October 2015.

Revocations increase as Trudeau takes office

Although the powers being used come from a law passed by Stephen Harper's Conservatives, the law has been used much more aggressively under Trudeau.

In the first full month of the law's operation, June 2015, only three revocation decisions were made. None were made in July or August, two in September and two more in October.

The Trudeau cabinet was sworn in on Nov. 4, 2015. That month saw 21 revocation decisions. The following month there were 59. The year 2016 averaged 13 decisions a month up to Aug. 31, the latest data CBC News has been able to obtain.

The monthly average under the Harper government from 2013 to 2015 was only 2.4 cases a month, some under the auspices of C-24 and some under rules that existed previously.

Liberals accused of hypocrisy

In recent days, following revelations that the birthplace of one of its own cabinet ministers was misrepresented on her passport documents, the government has said it is open to reforming the system.

But in the preceding months, it had used the revocation measures at an unprecedented rate.

"The Liberals criticized these provisions when they were in opposition," says Laura Track of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. "They said they were going to fix it. And yet they have been using it even more than the Conservatives did."

The government says the revocation decisions are being taken to protect the integrity of the citizenship system and are aimed at cases of fraud.

Nancy Caron of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada said "many cases that are being processed for revocation are as a result of large-scale investigations into possible residence fraud."

The department carried out those investigations with Canada Border Services Agency and the RCMP. Investigations led by those agencies have resulted in the conviction of immigration consultants who helped individuals obtain citizenship illegally.

"The revocation process is then undertaken to determine whether the individuals associated with these investigations, fraudulently obtained their Canadian citizenship through having intentionally misled the government of Canada about key aspects of their citizenship application such as concealing past criminal activities or submitting false documents to demonstrate residence in Canada when in fact they were not living in Canada. Many of the decisions to revoke citizenship that have been made since May 2015 directly result from those investigations," Caron said in an email to CBC News.

Monsef case an uncomfortable parallel

But lawyers representing some citizens targeted for revocation say they're seeing cases that don't fit that frame.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association says those targeted for revocation include at least two young adults who came to Canada as infants, grew up in the country and have broken no laws, but who are now being stripped of citizenship

because the government says one of their parents misrepresented facts on their original application years ago.

In one case, a young man who arrived in Canada at nine months of age said he has been issued with a notice of revocation because his father had failed to report a criminal conviction in his country of origin when the family immigrated to Canada.

He did not wish to speak to CBC News and said he wished to remain anonymous.

The case bears similarities to that of Liberal Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef, who says it was her mother who misrepresented her country of birth when she immigrated to Canada. A spokesperson for Monsef recently said she would update her Canadian passport.

Another citizen being assisted by BCCLA was targeted for revocation because she had declared herself single on her application for permanent resident status when she had left a husband behind in Iran. The woman, who also wished to remain anonymous, said she was fleeing an abusive marriage with an older man and considered herself single.



Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef's place of birth was listed as being in Afghanistan on her passport documents, but she recently learned she was actually born in Iran. (Adrian Wyld/Canadian Press)

No moratorium: Federal government

When the Trudeau government introduced legislation to repeal Bill C-24, New Democrat MP Jenny Kwan attempted to introduce amendments in committee that would have addressed the problem of people losing citizenship without any opportunity for a hearing.

But the Liberal chair of the immigration committee ruled those amendments out of scope, and the machinery of revocation without a hearing has continued to operate, and would continue to operate in the future under C-6, the Liberal government's replacement for C-24, which has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Immigration Minister John McCallum recently told the Commons that C-6 was not intended to change the parts of C-24 that deal with misrepresentation, but suggested that the government may be open to the idea.

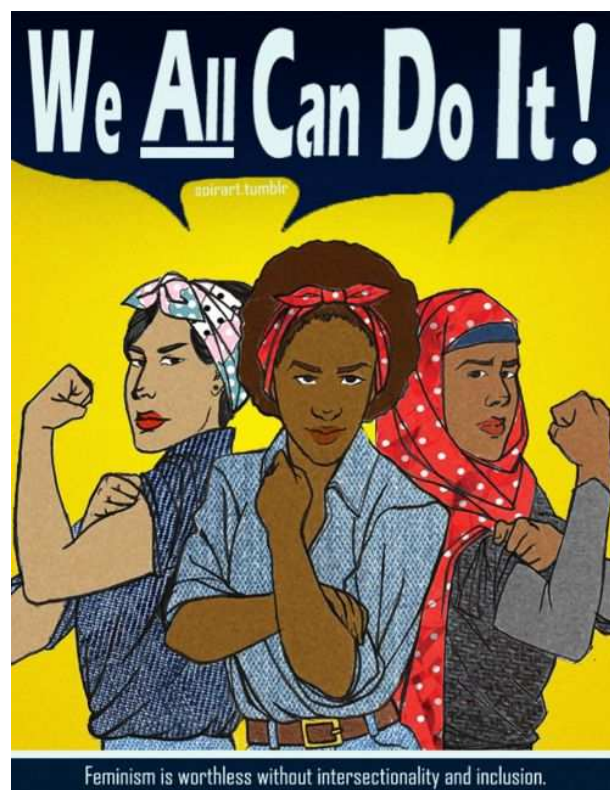
"C-6 adheres to our fundamental election commitment that a Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian, and it revokes citizenship revocation for criminal acts applied to dual citizens alone. That was the central focus of the bill.

"Citizenship revocation for misrepresentation is under consideration and we are considering further lines of appeal."

The BCCLA has gone to Federal Court seeking a stay in further revocation cases pending a constitutional challenge.

McCallum has suggested the government might consider a moratorium on revocations — but that suggestion seemed to be put to rest with the government's response Friday.

In the meantime, lawyers who work in the field say they continue to be approached by citizens who have received notices of intent to revoke their citizenship in recent weeks.



Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

South Asian Women's Community Centre
1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.
Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

Phone: 514-528-8812
Fax: 514-528-0896
E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

35 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2016

www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca

October 4 — Arts & Crafts
October 11— Nutrition
October 18 —Cyber Security
October 23 — Aruna Roy
(Women's History Month event)
2-4pm
October 24 — Executive Council
meeting 6pm
October 25 — Recipe exchange
October 28— Potluck

4 octobre — *l'artisanat*
11 octobre— *Nutrition et bonne
habitudes*
18 octobre — *La cyber sécurité*
23 octobre — Aruna Roy (le
mois de l'histoire des femmes
l'événement) 14:00-16:00
24 octobre — Réunion de con-
seil d'exécutif 18:00h
25 octobre — *Échange de re-
cettes*
28 octobre — *Potluck*

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 	19	20	21	22
23 	24 	25 	26	27	28 	29
30	31					