

Hammer and Sickle Party of Turtle Island  
Outline draft March 3, 2024

1. Name: Hammer and Sickle Party of Turtle Island
  1. This is clearly communist without causing confusion (“oh \*that\* “Communist Party””) and requiring a different name on the ballot.
  2. CP Canada rejected the hammer and sickle symbol which breaks with internationalism, this is a link to the international communist movement.
2. Why a new Community Party
  1. Palestine solidarity has exposed a lot of racism and war propaganda which has made openings for progress.
  2. NATO countries are openly calling for conscription and saying there will be a world war.
  3. No organization is there for the oppressed and marginalized to seize power in a revolution, that is also engaged in the work that increases the power of the oppressed and marginalized.
3. Revolutionary strategy
  1. Concept of change: crises will happen because of capitalism which will make bourgeois rule unsustainable. Have enough working class and allies organized to seize power at the earliest practical opportunity and implement a revolutionary program to systematically undo colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, racism, etc., which will gather increasing support for ongoing revolution to get to communism: decolonization (land back) and no private ownership of property. Can't have democracy with private ownership of wealth, the point is to change society and this point overrides considerations like vote counts etc.
    1. In contrast to CP Canada and many other CP's who say: gather support first for a majority, then have an intermediate “people's” government to get support for socialism. If voted out, too bad because it's “democracy” (which you can't have when some own all the wealth). This distinction was made by Rosa Luxemburg in “The Russian Revolution” (1918)

“Thereby the Bolsheviks solved the famous problem of “winning a majority of the people,” which problem has ever weighed on the German Social-Democracy like a nightmare. As bred-in-the-bone disciples of parliamentary cretinism, these German Social-Democrats have sought to apply to revolutions the home-made wisdom of the parliamentary nursery: in order to carry anything, you must first have a majority. The same, they say, applies to a revolution: first let's become a “majority.” The true dialectic of revolutions, however, stands this wisdom of parliamentary moles on its head: not through a majority, but through revolutionary tactics to a majority – that's the way the road runs.”
  2. Settler colonialism is the underlying problem and alongside socialist transformation there must be decolonization and land back, settler socialism is not anything good. There should be negotiations between Indigenous nations/peoples and settlers on a fair basis (i.e. after land back) for a new framework for settler presence.
  3. Have Party-lead mass organizations. Replace collaborator leaderships where they exist in labour and mass movement.
  4. As a Party, campaign for goals that advance towards more power for the marginalized and oppressed and gather support to where revolution and power is practically possible.
  5. Have a popularisable short program (e.g. 10 points) for immediate reforms appealing to

different/all sections of the oppressed and marginalized.

#### 4. Membership & Organization

1. Have 5-tiered membership. This model was done by the Iraqi Communist Party and copied by Ba'ath Parties (both Iraq- and Syria-based), these are not the specific level used by these other Parties but is a similar idea.

This addresses the experiences of encountering people who aren't ready for full commitment but want to be members, and also people who want to have a say in the fundamental aspects of the organization without the commitment to do the work of the organization, by matching rights and responsibilities to the level of commitment.

This structure would not go into place until there is sufficient size and development. At the beginning everyone would enter as a "Full Member" unless they want to be only a nominal member.

1. Sympathizer: pay a nominal initiation fee/dues, no obligations but can be removed if reflect badly on the Party or advocate against its policies (e.g. they are racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, etc.).
  2. Supporter: attend public events or participate in mass campaigns and/or donate additionally to the Party.
  3. Member-in-Training: undergo basic Party education program, be given responsibility for organizing tasks under consultation/mentorship with Full Member, attend primary Party organization meetings regularly, subject to democratic-centralism, full vote in primary Party organization, advisory vote (i.e. non-binding) for higher than primary Party organization.
  4. Candidate Member: go through a probationary period pending Full Membership.
  5. Full Member: recommended by 2 Party members for membership, required to participate actively in campaigns, full vote in all levels of the Party, subject to democratic-centralism.
  2. Have "affirmative action" programs to support and amplify voices of, and prioritize the education and leadership for: Indigenous, women, non-binary genders, LGBTQQIIA+, Black, POC, those with disabilities, low-income, and other marginalized peoples.
  3. Have autonomous organizations for Indigenous and French (not just Quebec!) members on a national-basis.
  4. Have different areas of work coordinated through central commissions with provincial/territorial components which should give leadership to the broader movement outside the Party.
  5. Sexual predators and harassers cause incalculable damage by driving away women and vulnerable people and upon proof these will be summarily expelled. The membership is not a dating pool and there should not be sexual or romantic relationships in a mentor/leader-mentee relationship. No leader or member is so valuable that their contribution outweighs the damage they do by harassment and being predatory.
  6. Bigotry such as misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, racism, and ableism perpetuates the oppression we are here to eradicate and makes members unwelcome. To make the Party a safe space for everyone those who perpetrate bigotry will be removed from participation until and unless they fix it, and if they persist they will be removed from membership.
5. Things beyond debate that we don't want to waste our or others' time debating, should help self-select whether this is the Party for them:
    1. Reform vs revolution: reforms which build up towards a knock-out blow of capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy, racism (i.e. revolution) are needed. We can't just go for the knock-

out blow right now, but we also can't just jab away (reforms) in a way that doesn't get us to the knock-out blow. We want revolution and the reforms that will get us to revolution.

2. Democratic-centralism: unity as a weapon but only against settler-colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, racism. Not as a “weapon against the membership” (US Communist Harrison George in “Crisis in the CPUSA,” 1947), and the majority itself is bound by Leninism (Iraqi Communist leader Fahd in “A Party That is Communist, Not Social-Democratic,” 1944).
3. Replace the dictatorship of the corporations with a dictatorship of the rest of us:  
(Dictatorship of the Proletariat): while ultimately we want democracy this can only be achieved once colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, and racism are done away with. There must be a simultaneous process of both increasing democracy while systematically doing away with the old order using “dictatorship,” defined by Lenin as “force unrestrained by law” (The Question of the Dictatorship, 1920). State power must be used in an offensive against the old order so the new order can be built democratically, not just for a defense of the new order.
4. Participate in elections: as Engels and Lenin promoted, convert elections from a capitalist trap/trick into a tool for revolution: use elections to publicize our cause, expose the enemy, measure support, and show how we are different by contesting every post possible to advance revolution. If we do win an election, govern in a way that opens further the path to revolution and show in practice how we are different from the capitalists.
5. Positions on contemporary debates in the left that we do not want to compromise on or waste our and others' time getting into because we are firm on our position:
  1. We support and advocate “land back,” as already stated above, because that is a basic requirement for decolonization.
  2. While we don't want to copy the USSR exactly as it was a different time and place, we do want to follow the general direction (“line of march”) of the USSR on basic principles, which continued the general direction from the Paris Commune. The USSR was built under Lenin and then Stalin's leadership, we reject that these were criminal leaders or a criminal enterprise (as CP of Canada program implies).
  3. While we support the Chinese revolution we are not Maoists. Mao's break with the USSR led him to openly align with US imperialism and support opposition to Marxist liberation movements such as in Angola, things we cannot accept. Those claiming to be Maoists in Canada, some of whom claim even Mao was not a Maoist (!), tend to think revolution is imminent and so have strategies calculated to light a fire that isn't ready to go yet (but neither is it something far off into the infinite future as revisionists and CP Canada, etc. say), and advocate tactics such as boycotting elections which we reject.
  4. We are in full solidarity with China, but our vision of socialism is different in that, as in the USSR, we want to systematically consolidate wealth and enterprises into public hands through the state and want a systematic offensive against the private ownership of wealth, something that is constitutionally inviolable in China since 2004. The trend in China has for many decades been in the other direction: small, private, and foreign-owned enterprises proliferate and increasingly dominate the economy (according to the National Bureau of Statistics of China yearbooks).
  5. Ukraine: while we want the conflict to end, Russia was forced to enter into Ukraine and this is not illegal (see ex-UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter's analysis of this point) or wrong and is not imperialism. We want a peaceful settlement, not a military victory for Ukraine which would be a victory for NATO and imperialism who want to prolong the war. This does not mean we support a Russian victory or government policies.
  6. Iran: we are in solidarity with the Islamic Revolution as an anti-imperialist revolution. Anti-government protesters may have legitimate grievances but have aligned with

counter-revolution and would restore Iran as a partner of imperialism, even restore the monarchy. Iran confronts imperialist directly and supports anti-imperialism in Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine (though notably not in Iraq), and so should be supported.

7. We are for a one state solution in Palestine, one Arab Palestinian state because Israel is a settler-colony. This isn't a controversy but needs to be said because the CP of Canada and other Communist Parties have supported a two-state solution since 1948. A two-state solution can be a temporary goal towards the ultimate goal of a Palestine free from the river to the sea.
8. We are anti-"TERF" (Trans Exclusive Revolutionary Feminism). We fully support trans rights and trans women are women, trans men are men.
9. We fully support COVID-19 vaccination and masking mandates as well as lockdowns as necessary for public health. We reject the so-called "trucker convoy" and other such movements as a political vehicle for white supremacy and pushing conspiracy theories.