MAUDE BARLOW STEPS DOWN AS THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS’ HONORARY CHAIRPERSON

On June 1, 2020, with deep gratitude and respect, the Council of Canadians’ Board of Directors announced Maude Barlow was stepping down from her position of Honorary Chairperson.

The Board expressed immense gratitude for all that Maude has contributed to the organization, right from the Council’s formation in 1985 to the present day. She provided unparalleled leadership, commitment and dedication to the Council of Canadians, its values and efforts to bring people together to drive progressive change.

“Maude Barlow is one of a kind. The wisdom, thoughtfulness and experience she has shared with the Council of Canadians over so many years cannot be matched,” said John Cartwright, Chairperson of the Council’s Board of Directors. “We are so thankful for her years of tireless dedication to fighting injustice and protecting the common good.”

“It has been the honour of my life to have served the Council of Canadians for over three decades and I know the Council will continue to fight for social justice for all,” said Maude.

The Council of Canadians’ board members, staff, chapter activists, members and supporters thank Maude for her tireless and inspiring work to make a better Canada – and a better world – possible.

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While the government has made some arrangements to improve the overall stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) in Canada, it’s not enough. These contracts are with private companies that continue to be driven by profit motives rather than public health. The contracts are also falling short. The federal government has ordered 154 million N95 respirators, but as of September 2020, had only received 61 million of them.

WORKERS SUPPORT GREEN JOBS OSHAWA

It’s no surprise this campaign is getting support from across the labour and climate justice movements. What GJO is proposing could help save lives of health care workers and others.

The rate of COVID-19 infection among health care workers in Canada is much higher than in other countries. According to the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions, frontline health care providers like nurses and long-term care workers accounted for 16 per cent of Ontario’s COVID infections – a rate twice as high as China and 60 per cent higher than Italy. This is just one reason health care workers are calling for greater domestic manufacturing of and access to PPE.

GJO has garnered a broad base of support from organizations such as ours, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions and 350.org.

GREEN NEW DEAL COMMUNITIES

The Council of Canadians is proud to be supporting Green Jobs Oshawa through our Green New Deal Communities project. We’ve been able to help make connections across movements to boost support for GJO’s work, and we’re working with organizers on digital engagement strategies to promote their work even further.

Through our Green New Deal Communities project, we’re partnering with community organizers to support local campaigns like GJO that are rooted in Green New Deal principles and are building transformative changes at a local level. Like Rebecca Keetch said, “Articulating a vision that is bold and transformative is one of the most crucial and difficult components of the fight.” By providing direct support to local organizers, linking people together to create a network of inspiring local campaigns, and sharing stories like this more broadly, we want to inspire a bold and transformative vision for our collective futures.

To join the Green New Deal Communities project email greennewdeal@canadians.org. Visit canadians.org/greennewdeal to learn more. To learn more about Green Jobs Oshawa, visit greenjoboshawa.ca.

ROBIN TRESS IS A CLIMATE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGNER WITH THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS