



# Darker Politics: Democracies, Labour Rights and Climate Change

## An ACW International Panel

From the shock of Brexit to the American election and Trump's alt-right political choices in his first 100 days, racist nationalism is spreading, fostering the growth of extreme-right political parties.

The winds of the 1930s are stirring again. For Canada in 2017, this poses three sets of challenges:

- How do we protect Canadian democracy in the Trump era? What can we learn from history and other countries? How better can Canada respond to the refugee crisis?
- We are committed to reducing the GHGs we produce. In the face of Trump's destruction of climate strategy how do we fulfill our promise? What alliances for Canadian and American unions, in their internal and external struggles to play a significant role in slowing climate warming?
- Trump promises to bring the jobs back home. But whose jobs is he bringing back to the US? At what social and economic cost to Canada? What options and actions for labour unions to avoid competitive isolation while protecting their members? The Trump ascendancy is committed to a race to the bottom. Will shredding labour rights and climate strategies spread to other countries?

The three speakers on the 2017 Darker Politics panel will take up the questions of democratic options in a volatile world; labour and climate change: the impact of Trump's America; and softwood lumber, Canada and trade.

### PANELISTS

**DR. ELAINE BERNARD**, Harvard University  
*Trump's war on workers and the environment*

**TONY BURMAN**, Ryerson University and the Toronto Star  
*Democracy under threat*

**JIM CHOROSTECKI**, British Columbia Federation of Labour  
*The softwood lumber dispute is the Hatfields vs. McCoys feud without the guns, so far*

### MODERATOR

**LARRY BROWN**, National Union of Public and General Employees

**Friday May 26, 2017, 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.**

Innis Town Hall Theatre, University of Toronto  
2 Sussex Avenue, Toronto, M5S 1J5  
Reception to Follow

**ATTENDANCE IS FREE**

To register, visit us at: [www.adaptingcanadianwork.ca/darkerpolitics/](http://www.adaptingcanadianwork.ca/darkerpolitics/)

Inquiries? Contact [acwinfo@yorku.ca](mailto:acwinfo@yorku.ca)

The "Darker Politics" international panel is organized by the Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change (ACW) research programme, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.