

Social Forum in Wolastokuk • Everyone welcome • Free
Cathedral Memorial Hall • 168 Church St. (corner Brunswick St.) • Fredericton, New Brunswick
Website: <https://nbmediacoop.org/nb-social-forum-2025/>

Session date: Saturday, October 4th, 2025

Time: 3-5 PM

Room: Downstairs Hall

Joint Session:
Capitalism, Socialism, Activism: What can we expect to achieve?

Hosts:
Thom Workman • Leo Panitch School for Socialist Education

Presenters

Thom Workman lives in Fredericton.

Matt Davis, coordinator, and Simon Knight, member, of the Leo Panitch School for Socialist Education in Toronto, Ontario.

Description

Thom Workman: ‘Left Out’: Capitalism, Neoliberalism, and the Activist Agenda

This contribution responds to two straightforward questions: “Why activism in capitalism?” and “Why is there a progressive political force acting outside mainstream party politics?” This contribution broadly explores the relationship between capitalism and activism with a focus on how the neoliberal policy framework has shaped the activist agenda. Related themes include the void created by the defeat of radical political parties, the neoliberal turn in the 1970s and its disciplining of all political parties, broader shifts in the prevailing political culture, and the marginalization and criminalization of dissent. The purpose of the presentation is to build a better understanding of ‘what we are up against’ and ‘what we can expect to achieve.’

The Leo Panitch School: Education and Movement Building

Our workshop will feature a discussion of the Toronto-based Leo Panitch School and the role of socialist education initiatives in movement building. We plan to present on the history of the school, why it was started, and what kind of programming has been developed so far. More generally, we want to state the case for the need for class-rooted education to be developed specifically for and provided directly to workers and others who may not have access to traditional education programs. We also want to begin a conversation with those based in Fredericton and across the Atlantic Provinces more generally about the need for similar initiatives beyond the major cities like Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.