

Episode 111

Intro:

- Subscribe!
- Erica moderating a conversation with Celina Caesar-Chavannes, “Can You Hear Me Now” on Wednesday, October 20 @ 7pm
- Erica kicking off Ask Women Anything’s fall season in an hour-long discussion on Thursday, October 21 @ 7pm

This Week In Feminism (TWIF):

Fairy Creek

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-old-growth-logging-demonstrations-on-vancouver-island-1.6037100>

With 882 arrests so far, the old-growth logging protest at Fairy Creek is now the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history. These events represent a critical moment in BC's recurring history of conflict related to ecological values and the forest industry, recalling The War in the Woods and the Clayoquot Protests of the early 1990s.

In early August 2020, a blockade was set up on a ridge close to the Fairy Creek watershed, after it was discovered that a subcontractor of the logging company Teal-Jones was building roads into the Fairy Creek area. A week later, the River Camp was set up to block an access point into Fairy Creek.

What is Fairy Creek?

Fairy Creek is the last unlogged old growth valley on southern Vancouver Island - the oldest and biggest of the trees in this area reach up to 9.5 feet in diameter. Old-growth forests are ancient ecosystems that protect biodiversity. They're home to endangered animals, are natural carbon sinks, and once logged, are gone forever. There are trees in the Fairy Creek watershed estimated to be over 1,000 years old.

The protests are being led by a B.C.-based organization called the Rainforest Flying Squad.

The Fairy Creek Watershed is in Pacheedaht Territory. Pacheedaht First Nation elected leadership distanced itself from logging protest activity in 2021, citing their right to manage territorial resources within their resource stewardship plan. Teal-Jones signed agreements with the Pacheedaht, and the nation signed a revenue-sharing agreement with the province in 2017 for all timber cut on its land. But members of the Pacheedaht, Ditidaht, and other First Nations are part of the demonstrations against old-growth logging.

Since the River Camp was first set up in August 2020, numerous blockades have been established in the surrounding area to try to prevent loggers from accessing old-growth land for which they have provincially-granted Tree Farm Licences (TFLs) for logging.

On April 1, 2021, the B.C. Supreme Court granted Teal-Jones an injunction banning roadblocks at numerous entry points into TFL 46, the licence-area where most of the blockades have been established. On May 17, the [B.C. RCMP announced](#) they would begin enforcing the injunction. Police established a checkpoint and an exclusion zone for protesters outside the area where the injunction is now being enforced.

Premier [John Horgan told](#) the Fairy Creek protesters in April to "move along" and respect the wishes of the titleholders to the land, including the Pacheedaht First Nation.

The province released [a review in September](#) of how old-growth trees are logged in B.C., committing to 14 recommendations that would make forestry more sustainable. It also announced the deferment of the logging of old-growth trees in some forests at risk of biodiversity loss.

But the province faces criticism that it's not meeting timelines or goals laid out in that report.

In June, B.C. Premier John Horgan approved a two-year deferral of 2,000 hectares of old-growth logging in Fairy Creek and nearby central Walbran at the request of three First Nations

The federal Liberals have pledged to set up a \$50-million fund to help protect old-growth as a way to help slow the decline in biodiversity. During B.C.'s pandemic election last fall, the incumbent provincial NDP also promised to enact all recommendations from an old-growth strategic review it initiated.

RCMP:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjLRuuHnUJ8>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_Creek_old-growth_logging_protests#cite_note-35

On May 28, 2021, the RCMP arrested every protestor at the Waterfall Blockade, except for one. The next day, several hundred protestors marched on the site, re-establishing the blockade. On August 9, 2021, the one year anniversary of the blockade, the RCMP raided Fairy Creek headquarters for the first time. Officers notified protestors they had 24 hours to evacuate the area, however witnesses reported the RCMP began enforcement before the injunction period ended. Over 20 protestors were arrested and the nearby Heli Camp was disbanded soon after. As of September 10, 2021, over 960 protestors had been arrested.

In addition to the July 2021 court action against the RCMP initiated by media outlets, Rainforest Flying Squad reported individual journalists and protestors had submitted over a dozen complaints against the RCMP by August 2021. Complaints included excessive force, confiscation of food and water, and unlawful apprehension of personal possessions, vehicles, and items providing media access, including a satellite dish. The RCMP came under further criticism when a number of its officers were seen wearing thin blue line patches while on duty at the site, despite official RCMP guidelines forbidding the symbol.

<https://thenarwhal.ca/fairy-creek-blockades-august-arrests/>

The increased RCMP enforcement action comes as the federal Conservative Party, led by Erin O'Toole, proposes to amend Canada's Criminal Code to stop protests that disrupt key infrastructure such as pipelines or railways.

Old-growth protection isn't mentioned in the federal NDP's election platform.

<https://thenarwhal.ca/bc-old-growth-fairy-creek-press-freedom-legal-action/>

<https://twitter.com/songstress28/status/1415629677557866499?lang=en>

A coalition of Canadian news organizations and press freedom groups announced it will file legal action to allow journalists substantive access to report on continuing demonstrations against old-growth logging in the Fairy Creek and Caycuse watersheds.

Notice of legal action, led by the Canadian Association of Journalists, followed a formal letter the coalition sent on May 25 to the RCMP, requesting the media be allowed fair access to the demonstrations and arrests and expressing deep concern about serious violations of press freedoms.

Points:

- First Nations communities need an economic alternative to the dependency on old-growth logging that has been fostered by successive provincial governments
- Can the NDP be trusted with climate change? And does the provincial/federal distinction matter on this issue?
- Mainstream Canadian media's silence on Fairy Creek, especially as it involves the RCMP
- The power of the RCMP to violate civil rights with no recourse and after last year's protests of police brutality, our media and politicians are silent
- What does this mean for reconciliation?
- Press freedoms are fundamental to democracy, yet the Liberal only recognizes--and sets to fund--news organizations, rather than protect journalists, many of whom are racialized, on the ground

Online Harassment

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/rci/en/news/1826557/twitter-restricted-berniers-account-for-12hrs-after-he-urged-followers-to-play-dirty-with-journalists>

Twitter restricted People's Party of Canada Leader Maxime Bernier's account on Sept 22, preventing him from posting any new messages for 12 hours after he used the platform to encourage his supporters to "play dirty" with journalists covering his campaign. The tweets singled out three reporters with their emails, calling them idiots and describing their efforts to question him as disgusting smear jobs. Bernier tweeted out their email addresses and encouraged his followers to play dirty.

What followed was days and weeks of these three reporters, in particular, receiving endless hate mail, which overflowed into the inboxes of other non-white reporters, particularly women.

https://twitter.com/C_Somos/status/1440796753419137027

Canadian Association of Journalists response:

<https://twitter.com/caj/status/1440784768312901638>

CAJ's later response: In its Sept. 29 statement, the CAJ urged the RCMP "and other law enforcement bodies" to investigate the "willful promotion of hatred" in the "absolutely vile, deplorable and completely unacceptable" messages directed toward reporters and editors.

And on October 2, the CABJ released a statement that read

Canadian Association of Black Journalists response:

<https://twitter.com/CABJMedia/status/1444376739266895876>

On October 5, Canadian media companies released a shared statement that said they stood in solidarity with their reporters and against online hates, threats and harassment.

<https://www.thestar.com/journalism-threats-harassment-online.html>

Yet, on October 8, the CBC had a racialized reporter interview Bernier to discuss his party's future.

<https://twitter.com/wickdchiq/status/1446879319855357953>

Erica's appearance on This Matters, Toronto Star's podcast, elicited hated mail (find the podcast here: <https://twitter.com/StarThisMatters/status/1443676854855118863>)

And hate here:

<https://twitter.com/wickdchiq/status/1443953491194560558>

Points:

- The duplicity of Canadian media on this issue: first they write columns platforming Maxime Bernier, and when he pops off, they rush to look like they're doing the right thing
- How are racialized journalists to deal with this duplicity?
- Why is a man of colour interviewing white supremacist, Maxim Bernier? Discuss
- CAJ evokes the same police they sued over Fairy Creek on the online harassment issue, showing they don't know what to do

Justin Trudeau doesn't know what white supremacy is

<https://pressprogress.ca/justin-trudeau-tells-international-conference-left-wing-extremist-groups-are-pushing-white-supremacy/>

The Prime Minister's Office declined to clarify remarks by Justin Trudeau equating unnamed left-wing "extremist groups" with white supremacist groups and suggesting both sides are spreading "hatred, fear and mistrust" in Canada and other democratic societies around the world.

Delivering a speech this week to an international conference in Malmö, Sweden on combatting anti-Semitism and racism, Canada's Prime Minister turned his attention to the role of technology and social media in "enabling harmful content like hate speech."

Trudeau then offered an unusual explanation for the source of "white supremacy" and "hatred" on social media platforms, suggesting these ideas are in fact being pushed by "extremist groups on the far-right and the far-left"

"We see the organizations of extremist groups on the far-right and the far-left that are pushing white supremacy, intolerance, radicalization, promoting hatred, fear and mistrust across borders but within borders, as well."

Excuse me, WUT?

Canadian Anti-Hate Network had thoughts:

<https://twitter.com/antihateca/status/1448332988488556550>

The PMO declined to identify which "far-left" groups Trudeau had in mind or name a single left-wing group in Canada that matched that description.

Evan Balgord, Executive Director of the Canadian Anti-Hate Network, says "far-left" is a broad term, used commonly by right-wing media outlets to describe groups with an anti-racist or anti-oppression focus.

Points:

- What constitutes far-left? And how is the far-left pushing white supremacy?
- What does Justin Trudeau's ignorance of white supremacy and who is promoting it influence the anti-hate legislation he introduced to Parliament the last day of House sitting?
- How are movements from marginalized communities to see these statements?