



FIGHTING TO WIN KINGSTON WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Sunday, December 7, 2025
9:30am-4pm
PSAC Kingston Regional Office
201-863 Princess Street, Kingston

This workshop is based on a twelve-week Fighting to Win course for union and community activists that is put on through the Leo Panitch School for Socialist Education that is facilitated by John Clarke, former organizer with the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP).

The workshop will explore the mechanisms of containment that employers and the state use to defeat or limit movements and struggles of social resistance. It will explore the present situation flowing from the America First turn of the Trump administration and the responses to US protectionism that the Carney government is taking up. This is taking the form of massive austerity measures, increased military spending, attacks on workers, an assault on Indigenous rights and a crackdown on immigrants.

We will consider the kind of united and powerful movement we will need to in order to challenge this regressive agenda effectively and discuss the strategies and forms of organizing that would be necessary to build such fight back.

9.30 AM – 10.30 – Introduction

Introduction that looks at how the Fighting to Win course developed and its goals and objective. A go around in which participants introduce themselves and indicate what they hope to get out of the workshop.

10.30 – 10.45 – Break

10.45 – 12.00 – Mechanisms of Containment

The mechanisms of containment that are used against working-class movements and popular struggles. A look at the state regulated systems of 'labour relations' that were used to broker major concessions to workers in such a way as to limit and compartmentalize their struggles. How these, having been introduced at a time of relative social compromise, have played out in the face of an intensifying attack by employers and governments.

12.00 – 12.30 – Lunch

12.30 – 2.15 – America First and the return to Austerity

The America First turn by the Trump administration and how this impacts unions and communities in Canada. The regressive agenda that the Carney Liberals is adopting in the face of US protectionism.

2.15 – 2.30 – Break

2.30 – 4.00 – The Fightback

The kind of fightback that must be taken up against the present attacks. How can we fight to win against such a determined attack on workers and communities? What kind of movement do we need in this situation and how can it be brought together? Who are our allies and how do we unite them?