

## **WAREHOUSE WORKERS CENTRE - PEEL SUPPORTS THE FARMERS PROTEST**

Warehouse Workers Centre - Peel (WWC Peel) joins the ranks of our labour allies around the world to extend our support to Indian farmers in their bid to preserve their working practices, and their livelihood.

We stand in solidarity with the farmers in India and with their family members here in Peel, who have taken their message to the streets. Those family members living here feel a connection to the soil, to their home. It is a connection that can never be broken.

The three new bills were passed by Indian Government to become law in September. Since then, farmers have argued these new legislations will drive down their product prices with no safeguards to protect them against corporate takeovers and exploitation.

These laws will further overhaul food grain procurement and pricing rules by allowing private companies direct access to the vast agrarian sector. It has become clear from the protests that the Indian Government not only failed to consult with farmers while devising these laws; but also consistently refused to participate in any meaningful negotiation.

On Nov 26, 2020, tens of thousands of Indians from the states of Punjab and Haryana marched towards the national capital. Their government tried to stop them by blocking the main highways with metal barriers, and even attacked these peaceful protesters with batons, tear gas, and water cannons.

The response was a beautiful and unique show of solidarity, with protesters from different castes and religions setting aside their differences and continuing to march forward, undeterred. Soon they were joined by farmers from other states. Currently, there is a tense standoff between the protesters and the Indian government, with no clear end in sight.

We are seeing the retaliation against the neoliberal agenda of corporate elites worldwide, but nowhere is this more powerful than in India right now. The whole world is watching.

WWC Peel wants members of the community to know that our struggles are not exclusive to the Peel Region, or even to Canada. The ceaseless greed of corporate elites is a danger to democracy and workers' rights on a global scale, and we have to fight back constantly. The deregulation of markets have led to weakening labour protections for the working class, which has further contributed to wealth inequality worldwide.

Whether at home or abroad, we stand in solidarity with Indian farmers. Let us fight back against this corporate takeover attempt, designed to strip farmers of their livelihoods. This global anti-worker agenda must be dismantled.