

Summer Stipend Report 2008
Indigenous solidarity and popular education
Coordinator: Martin Lukacs

The stipend was used for a multi-faceted project covering Indigenous solidarity and popular education issues.

1. Consolidating the work of the Barriere Lake solidarity collective and building the campaign in support of the Algonquins of Barrirere Lake

Funds from stipend helped cover transportation costs for community members to travel to Montreal or Ottawa, and for Montreal activists to travel to Barriere Lake.

Organized a caravan passing through three cities, sit-ins in MP Lawrence Cannon's office, a multi-day protest camp out on Victoria Island in Ottawa, demos at house of top INAC bureaucrat, and a sustained campaign during the federal election targeting Cannon.

Popular education events – film screenings

Developed website and outreach material.

2. Developing a popular education module for secondary schools

Worked with experienced solidarity organizers at KAIROS (formerly the Aboriginal Rights Coalition) to develop framework of module

Research for module, consultation with Indigenous activists and analysts

Module was first tried out at 2008 Rad Frosh.

Have now developed two versions – one more analysis-heavy for already politicized students (eg ASSE members), and one more interactive version for younger or less politicized highschool and CEGEPers

Had some difficulties making contacts within highschools and CEGEPs and was overwhelmed with solidarity work with Barriere Lake, so taking into schools delayed until fall 2009.

Also working with ASSE on a popular education series for fall 2009.

**Still working on a final write-up of the module, so that others can readily use it or adopt

it for their own purposes

3. Early research for an accessible primer on colonialism in Canada, written in collaboration with an experienced aboriginal policy analyst

Looking to fill an important gap – no accessible primer on colonialism and indigenous land rights struggles exists, except for books that are nearly 20 years old.

Aiming for a book chatty enough to be accessible to high schoolers, but hard-hitting enough to be useful as a political tool if the new Defenders of the Land network ever grows into a viable movement.

Book will touch on stereotypes and myths (spoiled lazy natives sipping drinks at the poolside on reserve), show the relevance of history, and break down the architecture of colonial power in a digestible way (eg, the constitutional process, specific and comprehensive claims, treaty rights, self-government, fiscal offloading, etc).

Looking to publish around start of 2010 Winter Olympics in B.C. (QPIRG-McGill will get a shout out in the credits!)