

Saturday, May 16, 2015

RE: Indigenous Solidarity Committee - Proposed agenda for Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Hi Everyone,

Our upcoming Indigenous Solidarity committee meeting will be held in **TH 254 on Tuesday May 26th from 5pm – 6:15pm**. Below are some proposed agenda items. Links to further information have been included so that we will have a chance to look at material before we come to the meeting.

\*Please email me via [harrisonjodielynn@gmail.com](mailto:harrisonjodielynn@gmail.com) to add agenda items.

Proposed agenda:

1. Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda, committee member roles (minute taker, co-chair)

## **CURRENT PROJECTS**

*Heart Garden*. Please visit <http://www.kairosCanada.org/events/time4reconciliation/heart-gardens/>

At the equity committee meeting it was decided that we would partner with Sherri Vansickle, Tecumseh Centre, to work on the Heart Garden project. During our meeting, those of us who wish can help to glue together the hearts that will be planted across the Brock campus.

After our meeting, we are invited to join an Aboriginal Spirituality class for a bonfire gathering at 6:30pm at the back of Brock (out by Alphie's Trough). At the bonfire we will have a short ceremony to give good medicine to the hearts before they are planted. For those who wish to attend, dress warmly ;-). After the ceremony the hearts will be planted across the campus.

2. Chain fast to end Canadian Government Racism, April 15 – June 18 (please visit <http://homesnotbombs.blogspot.ca/2015/04/join-chain-fast-against-canadian.html> and see further information below)

Attached is also a PSA I recorded a few weeks ago. It will be played twice a day on CFBU until June 18.

3. National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2015. Please visit [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013248/1100100013249](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013248/1100100013249)

There is usually something in Montobello Park. Perhaps we would like to get involved or form a partnership?

June is also **National Aboriginal History Month**. Celeste will forward information and posters developed by the government that the committee can distribute throughout campus. CUPE Ontario might have materials or be doing something (Dan will look into this).

Let's discuss what else we could do around this.

4. Time for reconciliation - Preparing for the Truth and Reconciliation's Commission's Recommendations. Please visit [www.kairoscanada.org/time4reconciliation](http://www.kairoscanada.org/time4reconciliation))

Perhaps we might like to hold a fall TRC event and invite Cindy Blackstock and Lee Miracle to speak at Brock?

5. Sisters in Spirit National Vigil, October 4, 2015. Please visit <http://www.nwac.ca/october-4th-sis-vigils>

Let's talk about holding a vigil

6. Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt, November 2015.

Let's talk about continuing this solidarity work and also about the CFP (deadline Dec 2015)

<http://www.brocku.ca/blogs/siri/2015/05/01/cfp-dec-15-indigenous-peoples%e2%80%98-geographical-agenda/#more-1128>

7. Other agenda items?

Looking forward to working together!

Jodielynn

#### **Further information:**

##### *Agenda item 2*

Chain Fast to end Canadian Government Racism, April 15 – June 18, 2015

April 15, 2015

The Chain Fast to End Canadian Government Racism is off and running, with participants from across the country. The fast was initiated in response to increasingly hostile, racist comments from government MPs, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, as well as policies that very specifically target racialized communities (such as Bill C-51). It also acknowledges that such statements and policies are part of a long, horrible Canadian tradition of racism and colonialism. It runs until June 15 (the beginning of Ramadan).

Below is a statement (which has been slightly modified in specific communities by fasters responding to local concerns), as well as a list of fasters so far. To join the fast, especially on dates not yet covered off, please email [tasc@web.ca](mailto:tasc@web.ca)

Many thanks!

Matthew Behrens  
Homes not Bombs

Join the Chain Fast To End Canadian Government Racism, April 15-June 18, 2015

<http://homesnotbombs.blogspot.ca/2015/04/join-chain-fast-against-canadian.html>

How it works:

You can fast as per your tradition (some people refrain from eating sun-up to sun-down, others do it for 24 hours. Some people will drink water or other fluids, others not).

You sign up for a day (or more) by emailing [tasc@web.ca](mailto:tasc@web.ca) with suggested dates, which will be publicly posted at the Homes not Bombs blog site (<http://homesnotbombs.blogspot.ca/2015/04/join-chain-fast-against-canadian.html>).

The key thing is to do this publicly: while the roots of racism are deep in our culture, they receive a huge boost when the racist messages comes from on high.

TEXT

I am joining the Chain Fast To End Canadian Government Racism because:

Members of the Harper government are contributing in word and deed to an increased climate of racist tension with comments that equate Islam with violence and abuse the term jihad. Such comments include [telling Muslim women](#) to "stay the hell where they came from", [declaring that Muslims](#) are connected to a "culture that is anti-women," and [tweets like](#) " Niqab, hejab, burqa, wedding veil -- face coverings have no place in citizenship-taking." This is part of a broader attack on racialized communities, including [the comment](#) that it makes no sense to pay "whities" to stay home while companies bring in "brown people" as temporary foreign workers, and an incendiary [Conservative-sponsored petition](#) insulting First Nations governments.

The Harper government is rushing through legislation (C-51) that will likely increase the targetting, surveillance, harassment, and potential detention and torture of members of

Canada's Muslim communities, while also [criminalizing/terrorizing First Nations](#), Inuit and Métis, as well as all racialized communities.

The Harper government has repeatedly refused to answer calls for [an inquiry into](#) the over 1,200 missing and murdered aboriginal women, and done nothing to address the shockingly high rates of suicide in aboriginal communities, nor to end the hundreds of devastating [boil water alerts](#) in First Nations communities, some lasting for well over a decade. Instead, this government has targeted First Nations leaders and treated them as security threats.

The Harper government is refusing to act [on a motion passed](#) by a majority of the House of Commons in December, 2009, to apologize to, provide compensation for, and clear the names of three Muslim Canadian men – Abdullah Almalki, Ahmed El-Maati, and Muayyed Nureddin – who were found to have been falsely labelled as security threats and tortured with Canadian complicity. All cases were motivated in part by racist/religious profiling.

The Harper government has refused to apologize to, provide compensation for, and clear the name of Canadian Muslim [Abousfian Abdelrazik](#), in whose overseas torture the Canadian government was found to be complicit by a Canadian court.

The Harper government has continued to demonize and block any efforts seeking justice for detained Canadian Muslim Omar Khadr, who was tortured with Canadian complicity at Bagram Air Force Base (Afghanistan) and the U.S. torture camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and remains behind bars in Alberta based on a fundamentally flawed process.

The Harper government continues pursuing secret [trial security certificates](#) against a number of Muslim men (all of which were signed by previous Liberal governments).

The Harper government plays a [racist double standard](#) when it refuses to categorize the actions of white supremacists and gun fanatics (such as the targeted murders of RCMP officers in Alberta and New Brunswick and the planned Valentine's Day masscare in a Halifax mall) as terrorist threats, preferring to dismiss them with terms such as "murderous misfits".

Canada's state security agencies (RCMP and CSIS) are pressuring and threatening confused young Canadian Muslims to spy on their communities and self-censor opinions on social injustice, while those same agencies continue treating First Nations as surveillance targets because of the false connection to ["threats to national security and criminal extremism or terrorism"](#).

The Harper government has falsely, [slanderosly accused](#) the reputable National Council of Canadian Muslims as connected to terrorism, with one MP openly attacking the group's executive director at a recent Parliamentary hearing.

Recognizing that the latest attacks are part of a long, unfortunate Canadian tradition of provoking fear and hatred by [targetting specific groups](#) and spreading racist lies, we believe standing up and speaking out is an obligation.

Beginning April 15 and lasting until the beginning of Ramaddan, June 18, 2015, we pledge to join the chain fast for one full day (or more throughout the time period), explaining to friends, colleagues, and neighbours, as well as local media, why we have undertaken this fast, and educating our fellow residents about the need to reject the dangerous discourse of racism infecting public life and emanating from the highest levels of the Canadian government.

The day after our fasting, as the chain fast passes on to a new member, we will continue to raise these issues in our communities and refuse to stay silent.

Signed

If you have any questions, contact Homes not Bombs at [tasc@web.ca](mailto:tasc@web.ca) or 613-267-3998.