



2019-2020

# INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECT

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## PROGRESS REPORT

Photo Credit: AlainAudet, Pixabay

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Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

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# IEJ 2019-2020 Progress Report



## Earth Day 2020

IEJ project presentation to incoming students for the Faculty of Environment and Urban Change's Earth Day event on April 22, 2020. **Pg. 13**



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# Introduction

The Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) research project is designed to advance the theory and practice of environmental justice by engaging with Indigenous intellectual and legal traditions. In essence, this project seeks to decolonize conventional understandings of environmental justice by revitalizing Indigenous conceptions of justice and law. We recognize that IEJ draws upon a set of assumptions about the place of humanity in a world that we share with other beings. In this project, we hope to address several key questions:

- What does the term 'Indigenous environmental justice' mean from the perspective of Indigenous knowledge systems, legal orders and justice frameworks?
- What logics inform Indigenous understandings of environmental justice (and/or injustice) in Canada?
- What principles guide IEJ practice?
- What does IEJ look like in practice, and how do we know when it is achieved?

Our long-term goal is to develop a knowledge-sharing framework that is informed by Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), Indigenous legal orders and conceptions of justice, and the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples. It is aimed at facilitating progress towards greater environmental justice in Canada and elsewhere.

We recognize that achieving IEJ is about repairing inequitable and unjust relationships, not just among peoples, but also with other beings: our non-human "relatives". As such, IEJ involves the realization of responsibilities, obligations and duties of all beings and entities, including people.

Finally, we recognize that not all peoples have an equal voice in relaying their concerns about IEJ. Therefore, an important part of this project is to provide a space for the voices of people who lack the privilege and opportunities to share their views. We also wish to provide space for people to share their knowledge with, and learn from, each other. We are thus interested in facilitating knowledge-sharing forums and have developed a website to that end. The [IEJproject.info.yorku.ca/](http://IEJproject.info.yorku.ca/) site was developed by a team of graduate and undergraduate students and launched in the spring of 2017. Its goals are to:

- Give voice to those who have knowledge, understanding and experiences to share on environmental justice;
- Provide space for sharing knowledge about IEJ activism, as well as issues that concern Indigenous peoples and others;
- Provide resources for those who wish to learn about IEJ and share relevant knowledge; and
- Facilitate communication and outreach on project activities that may be of interest to others.

Overall, the intention of the project, including the website, outreach activities and other project initiatives, is to enable a vision of justice that supports the continuance of life.



# Event Outreach

IEJ hosted or co-hosted 4 events during this reporting period. Our Fall Symposium in November 2019 was attended by approximately 85 people and received very positive feedback from participants. Each of the presentations in our “All Our Relations” Speaker Series was also well received and these sessions were attended by between 15-40 people. The virtual Indigenous history month speaker series was attended by over 100 participants for each speaker.

## Indigenous Environmental Justice Research Fall Symposium

November 2019

The symposium focused on disseminating original research conducted by graduate students and recent graduates exploring topics relating to IEJ to which the broader community needs exposure. The symposium also offered an opportunity for delegates to hear from community-based advocates and activists about their work. The audience was encouraged to learn from and engage in dialogue with the researchers. Throughout the symposium, Anishinaabe artist Patricia Martin provided an artistic representation of the day for participants to enjoy. Co-chairs of the Panel Discussions were Jayce Chiblow and Emilia Khalil. The program can be downloaded [here](#).

### Keynote



Sylvia Plain is from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, she is a Water Walker and founder and coordinator of the Great Lakes Canoe Journey program, a land-based, intergenerational education program that teaches Indigenous communities about Anishinaabe technology and birch bark canoe building. Sylvia delivered the keynote address, offering her perspectives on revitalizing canoe culture through enacting traditional knowledge and responsibilities.

## Panelists



Max Corne-Klein delivered his presentation on "Food Sovereignty, Climate Change and Indigenous Environmental Justice". Max is a recent graduate of the Master in Environmental Studies program. His Masters work included the production of a podcast for the IEJ Project which provides an analysis of Indigenous Environmental Justice as a necessary prerequisite for Indigenous food sovereignty and a platform for ethical and holistic climate action.



Jayce Chiblow delivered her presentation on "Anishinaabe & Climate Change". She is from Garden River First Nation and has recently completed her Master in Environmental Studies at York University. Her research highlighted climate change impacts in her home community, while focusing on relationship-building through land-based activities.



Nasreen Husain delivered her presentation on "Significance of Water: A Critical Reflection". Nasreen completed her Master in Environmental Studies program in 2017 at York University. Nasreen's research addresses differences in how water is viewed in Western worldview & Indigenous law, as well as Indigenous women's knowledge & connection to water. She expresses her findings through a personal lens using critical reflection, poetry & film. 'The Significance of Water' was Nasreen's first feature film & was an official selection of the Downstream Film Festival, Northfield, Minnesota, in 2017.



## Panelists (Continued)



Courtney Arseneau delivered a presentation on "Free, Prior and Informed Decision-making about Proposed Development on Indigenous Territories in Northern Ontario". Courtney recently completed her PhD in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her doctoral research focused on processes of consultation and consent-seeking in several communities in northern Ontario. During her graduate studies, she worked with the Laurier Indigenous Rights and Resource Governance Research Group and the Pan-American Indigenous Rights & Resource Governance Network, where she had the opportunity to learn from Indigenous scholars and leaders from around the world. As a non-Indigenous scholar, she believes we all have a responsibility to learn about the rights and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples and to work together in meaningful ways.



Nicole Latiluppe delivered a presentation on "Indigenous Environmental Justice: Community Perspectives and Practices from the Research". Nicole is an Assistant Professor in the departments of Human Geography and Physical and Environmental Sciences at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Nicole has worked for the Anishinabek Nation on the implementation of recommendations made in the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry, and as a community-based researcher. Her areas of teaching and research include the historic treaty relationship: violations and implementation; ethical Indigenous and cross-cultural research methodologies; Indigenous geographies (jurisdiction, place, space, agency, power, etc.); and environmental knowledge, governance, and legal systems (water, fisheries, land management, environmental justice). Nicole has published work in international Indigenous scholarly journals and writes for community media sources. Nicole is an English-speaking French Canadian and her family has Anishinaabe ancestry from the Ottawa and Mattagami River areas.

## Panelists (Continued)



Mahisha Sritharan delivered a presentation on "Impacts of Climate Change on Whitefish River First Nation". Mahisha is a Research Assistant with York University with a focus on climate change and Indigenous environmental justice. Mahisha graduated from the Master in Environmental Studies (MES) program in 2018. Mahisha's MES was focused on climate justice and community organizing culminating in a research paper focused on understanding the impacts of climate change on the Whitefish River First Nation community in Ontario. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Geography and Health Studies.

## **“All Our Relations” Speaker Series, Co-Hosted with Water Allies**

Winter 2020 | University of Toronto

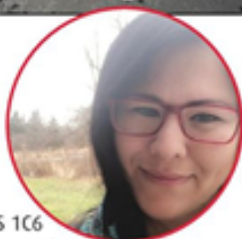
### **January 15, 2020 | All Our Relations: Eels and Other Swimmers Teaching Us Life, with Kristi Leora Gansworth**



Speaker: Leora Gansworth

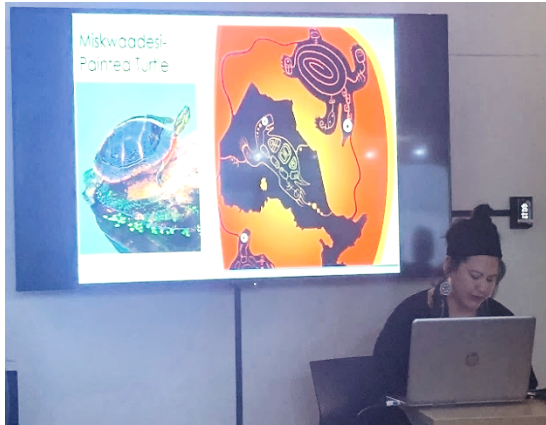
Wednesday, January 15, 2020  
4 to 6pm

Rm 2007D Wilson Hall  
40 Willcocks St, Toronto, ON M5S 1C6  
University of Toronto, St. George Campus



Kristi Leora Gansworth is an Anishinaabe poet and geographer and a citizen of Kitigan Zibi Anishinaabeg. She has ancestry belonging to the Onkwehonwe Haudenosaunee. Her presentation focused on research related to current and historic relationships between humans and eels. In her presentation she shared stories and insights about water and decolonial water governance. Leora is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at York University. She combines her interest in poetry and water, along with her Anishinaabe heritage and experience, to consider how Anishinaabeg laws can positively impact the environmental health of Indigenous communities.





1: Photo Credit Ethan Persaud-Quiroz

Her presentation focused on research related to current and historic relationships between humans and eels. Leora explained how neoliberalism causes us to become complacent about humans depleting resources, why hydroelectric energy is a key reason for declining eel populations, and how dam removal is part of decolonization and reconciliation.

## February 6, 2020 | All Our Relations: Nipissing First Nation and Sovereign Fishing Rights, with Nicole Latulippe



Nicole Latulippe is an Assistant Professor in the departments of Human Geography and Physical and Environmental Sciences at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She has also worked for the Anishinabek Nation on Ipperwash report implementation and as a community-based researcher. Her research and teaching interests include the treaty relationship; Indigenous, cross-cultural, and place-based research methodologies; Indigenous geographies; and environmental knowledge, governance, justice and law. Nicole is a treaty person. Her family is French-Canadian from Nipissing and unceded Algonquin territories and she has Anishinaabe ancestry from the Ottawa and Mattagami River area.

## February 10, 2020 | Wet'suwet'en Awareness Panel

A student/youth panel was convened to dialogue on Wet'suwet'en –Canada relations and Indigenous environmental justice. After introductory remarks from Professors Deborah McGregor and Ruth Kolezar-Green, McGregor provided a brief historical context for understanding why conflicts over land continue to the present day. Historical and ongoing colonialism revealed by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996), the Ipperwash Inquiry (2007), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015), and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019) serve as a catalyst for contemporary conflicts. These public commissions show that Canada unfortunately continues to be very much a colonial society. The panel of youths/students (Hillary McGregor (student, Georgian College), Alie Hermanutz (PhD Candidate, Political Science), Jayce Chiblow (IEJ researcher) and Monica Shafik (IEJ Research Assistant)) shared their experiences and understanding of the events unfolding before the world in relation to the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs opposition to the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline traversing their traditional territories. The panel generated lively discussion with the participants in attendance. The event was recorded and has been added to the IEJ website at <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/wetsuweten-awareness-event/>.





## Indigenous History Month Speaker Series

June is National Indigenous History Month. To acknowledge the importance of understanding Indigenous history, the IEJ project hosted a series of events to raise awareness about Indigenous culture, worldviews, knowledge and perspectives. IEJ's approach was to engage in conversations with people who work to revitalize Indigenous knowledge, language and history through their community based work or scholarship. We engaged in conversation with four speakers who shared their work. It is important to learn from Indigenous peoples, not just learn about Indigenous peoples. [Videos](#) and resources are available on the IEJ website.



### **Joseph Pitawanakwat, Creator's Garden**

On June 11, 2020 Joseph Pitawanakwat, of Creators Garden shared traditional knowledge relating to plants and medicines. He along with his family, runs Creators Garden, a small business that is focused on teaching the legitimacy of plant based medicine. Joseph has a passion for the healing of plants, a family tradition. View the video on YouTube [here](#). Learn more about Joseph and Creator's Garden by visiting their website [here](#).



### **Jon Johnson, University of Toronto**

On June 16, 2020 Jon Johnson, Assistant Professor, at the University of Toronto with a research focus on urban, land-based Indigenous knowledge in the GTA. His talk focussed on land-based stories of Indigenous presence in Toronto as well as some of the ways that increasing awareness of and engagement with these stories of Indigenous presence is informing current projects and work among contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the city. His work continues to enrich the First Story App available on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#). Visit the First Story website [here](#).



### **Sylvia Plain, Canoe Builder Extraordinaire**

On June 18, 2020 Sylvia Plain, canoe builder extraordinaire. Sylvia is from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. She is a community ambassador, water walker, researcher, birch bark canoe building apprentice and founder of the [Great Lakes Canoe Journey](#). Sylvia relayed stories of how the canoe connects us to our past and future. View the video on YouTube [here](#).



### **Alan Corbiere, York University**

On June 30, 2020 to cap off Indigenous history month. Alan Corbiere, M'Chigeeng First Nation and Assistant Professor at York University joined IEJ host Dr. Deborah McGregor to talk about the Anishinabek perspectives on history. He emphasized the importance of language, storytelling and utilizing different sources to construct Anishinabek understanding of their own history. He stressed the importance of 2 principles in engaging in Anishinabek history 1) you will keep in mind the ones yet to come (future generations) and 2) honour the ones who have passed on (our ancestors). Anishinabek history he says, is encoded in the Land. View the video on YouTube [here](#).

**Miigwech to all the IEJ researchers for their contributions to make a successful National Indigenous History Month Speaker Series: Jayce Chiblow, Lauren King, Dali Carmichael, William Dandie, Jesse Abel, Kim Tran, Ethan Persaud-Quiroz, Emilia Khalil, David Bazargan**



# Project Activities & Presentations

## 1) Annotated Bibliography

The Annotated Bibliography for 2018-2020, completed by the IEJ team, was published on the website and promoted through social media and listserves. Team IEJ has received feedback that the bibliography is proving most useful to academics.

“The IEJ annotated bibliography has been a life saver. Weal'in (thank you) for creating this resource.” – York faculty member

[Download here.](#)

## 2) Earth Day 2020

The IEJ team celebrated Earth Day on April 22, 2020 via virtual events and sharing of Indigenous perspectives via presentations, videos, social media and photos. Earth Day 2020 represents 50 years of celebrating Earth Day. To learn more about Earth Day, and Indigenous perspectives of Earth Day, visit the IEJ website [here](#).

### Earth Day Recruiting Event with FEUC

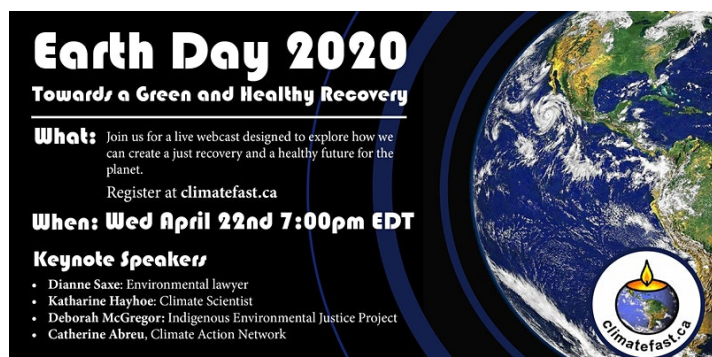
Deborah McGregor, alongside Jayce Chiblow and Ethan Persaud-Quiroz provided a virtual presentation on the IEJ project to potential incoming students for the Faculty of Environment and Urban Change's Earth Day event on April 22, 2020. Deborah, Jayce and Ethan offered insights to secondary school students on the importance of understanding Indigenous peoples and their perspectives in honouring for Mother Earth.

### IEJ Earth Day Video



On April 22, 2020 the IEJ project team developed and launched the [Earth Day 2020](#) video series. Special thanks to Sue Chiblow, Phoenix Bell, Niibwin Mukwa and Jayce Chiblow for their contributions to this short video. For more IEJ-related resources, check out our website: <http://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/>.

## Earth Day 2020: Towards a Green and Healthy Recovery



Dr. Deborah McGregor presented in the [Earth Day 2020: Towards a Green and Healthy Recovery](#) webcast (16:58) hosted by ClimateFast on April 22, 2020. The event was attended by 671 people online across Canada, Alaska, Texas and Europe. Deborah specifically highlighted the

importance of Indigenous knowledge systems and worldviews in helping to build a sustainable future for all life. She emphasized how Indigenous peoples can help broader society build and sustain a healthy and reciprocal relationship with Mother Earth.

## Earth Day 2020: An Insider's Guide to a Rapidly Changing Planet

Deborah also participated in an Earth Day panel event on April 24, 2020, hosted by Dartmouth College's Arthur, L. Irving Institute for Energy and Society aimed to bring together contributors to the new book "*Earth 2020: An Insider's Guide to a Rapidly Changing Planet*". The collection provides reflections on the next 50 years of Earth Day. Deborah's essay "Mother Earth" can be downloaded for free [here](#).

## 3) School Workshops and Presentations

The IEJ project offered student-led workshops in several secondary schools and organizations in the GTA in 2019/2020. These workshops offer an opportunity for teachers and students to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of environmental justice issues from an Indigenous perspective. Students also learn more about environmental studies and student life at York University. Every workshop utilizes storywork as a teaching method, offering students an opportunity to learn about values, principles and teachings associated with Anishinaabek Re-Creation stories drawn from Elder Edward Benton-Banai's *The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway*. Teachers and students are encouraged to engage in dialogue and activities designed to delve deeper into the teachings relating to environmental sustainability.

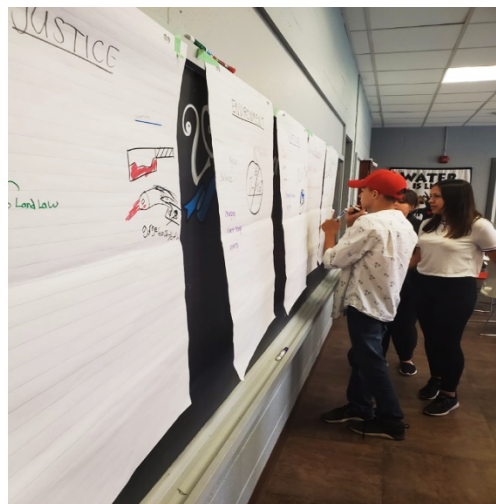




*Photo credit: Dale Hamilton*

## Standing Bear Leadership Camp

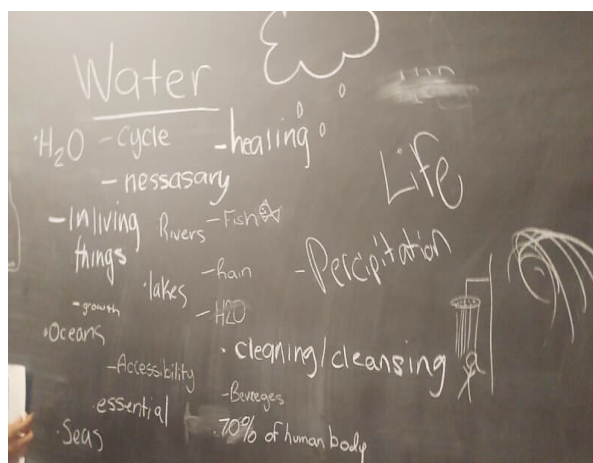
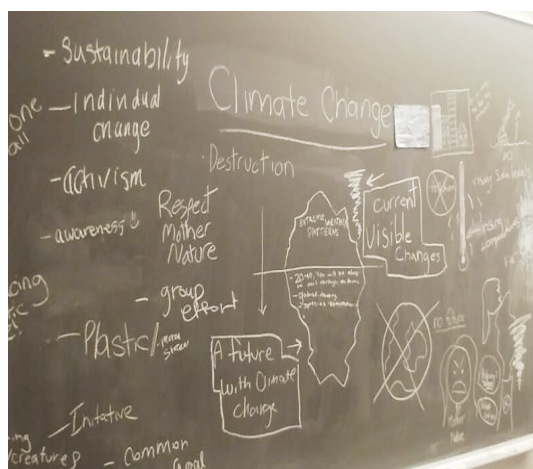
The IEJ Project was invited to the Standing Bear Leadership Camp hosted on August 21, 2019, at the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre in Peterborough, Ontario. The workshop, titled Indigenous Environmental Justice, was presented to local Indigenous youth aged 13-15. IEJ team member Jayce Chiblow provided the youth with a broad understanding of Indigenous environmental justice through methods such as storytelling, free word association, and environmental thought. To learn more about the Standing Bear Leadership Program, developed by Lauren King, Hillary McGregor, and Nyland Hall, visit <https://iswo.ca/about-standing-bear/>.



*Photo credit: Jayce Chiblow*

## Change Your World 2019

On October 17, 2019, the Faculty of Environmental Studies hosted its annual 'Change Your World' event at York University and the IEJ project was invited to lead two one-hour workshops. The IEJ team introduced themselves and shared how they got interested in environmental studies, why they chose York University and how it has inspired their learning journey. The team used storytelling and free word association to stimulate a productive discussion about environment and climate justice. Lastly, the IEJ team invited students to think about how they can use the environmental principles they learned in the workshop and apply them to their everyday life.



*Photo credit: Dale Hamilton*



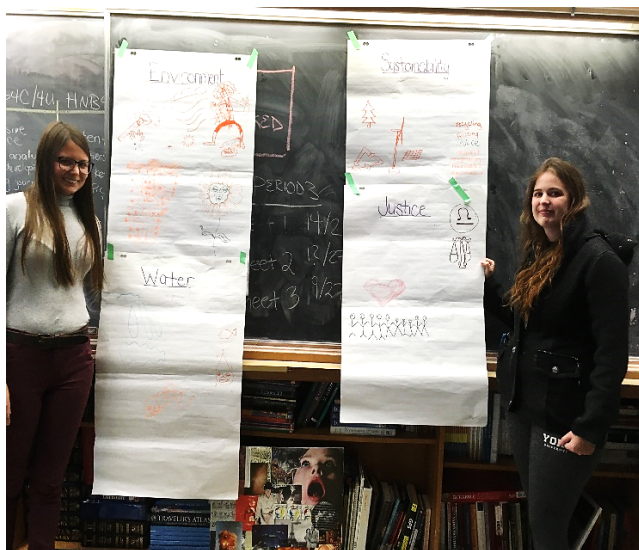


## Holy Name of Mary College School

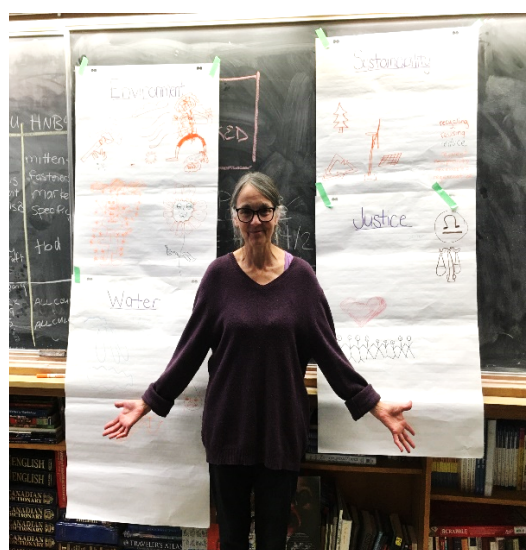
On November 4, 2019, IEJ team members Jayce Chiblow, Mika Mackinnon and Dale Hamilton led a workshop for about 20 members of the school's Environment Club in Oakville (Halton Region Catholic School Board). Dale read the Re-creation story and then the students were engaged in a conversation about how the story relates to their lives. This was followed by a free association exercise, which yielded many creative ideas and drawings about environmental justice.

## SOLE (School of Life Experience)

IEJ team members Jayce Chiblow, Mika Mackinnon and Dale Hamilton provided a similar workshop on November 6, 2019 to a group of middle school students attending SOLE, an alternative school within the Toronto District School Board. The students were particularly interested in the connection between environmental issues, social justice and Indigenous justice.



*Photo Credit: Dale Hamilton*



*Photo credit: Mika Mckinnon*

## St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School

On March 9, 2020, IEJ Project team members Ethan Persaud-Quiroz, Nasreen Hussain, Jayce Chiblow, and Dr. Deborah McGregor presented to high school students at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School in Oakville, ON. The presentation offered a brief introduction to the Indigenous environmental justice field by Dr. McGregor, followed by key facts about the water crisis in Indigenous communities. The importance

of Indigenous voices and forms of action in the climate justice movement were addressed, followed by an overview of key resources on the IEJ website.

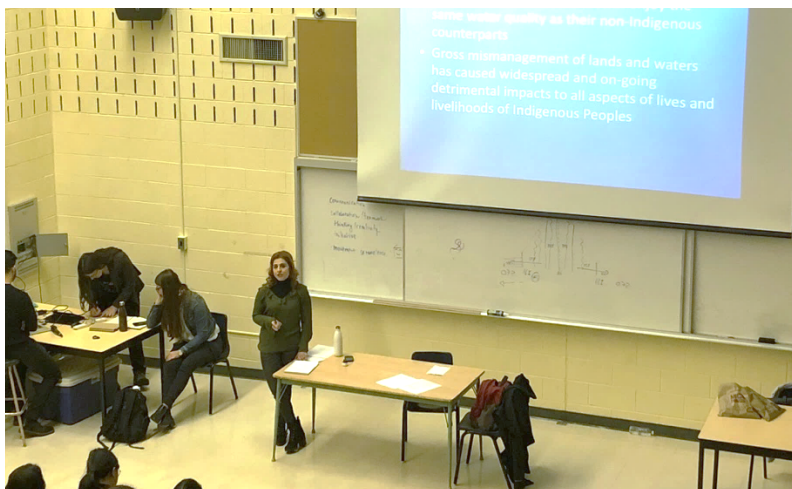


Photo Credit: St. Ignatius of Loyola C.S.S Twitter @LoyolaHawksOak

## Standing Bear Leadership Program

On January 4, 2020, IEJ Project's project lead Dr. Deborah McGregor and Research Assistant Jayce Chiblow, alongside Sylvia Plain and Marion McGregor, delivered an Indigenous Environmental Justice Project Presentation to a group of Indigenous youth at Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario's Standing Bear Leadership Program (<https://iswo.ca/standing-bear-youth-leadership-program/>). The presentation highlighted the important history of Indigenous peoples, current environmental justice struggles including climate justice, and the importance of cultural revitalization through initiatives like birch bark canoe building.



Photo Credit: Jayce Chiblow

## 4) Presentations to Organizations and Faculties

### MISHI Conference

Dr. Deborah McGregor with Marion McGregor delivered a presentation on Anishinabek Research Ethics, History and Consent on August 20, 2019 at the Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI) conference through the Ojibway Cultural Foundation in M'Chigeeng. Ontario. Steve Whitaker and Sterling McGregor guided a group of 30 MISH participants up to Dreamer Rock.

### York University's 5<sup>th</sup> Lillian Meighen Wright Maternal-Child Health Learning Institute

Dr. Deborah McGregor presented her keynote speech, "Indigenous Women, Gender-Based Violence and Decolonization", at York University's 5<sup>th</sup> Lillian Meighen Wright Maternal-Child Health Learning Institute. At this November 1, 2019 event, Dr. McGregor highlighted key findings from reports completed in Canada including "Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls", touching on gender-based violence, and the importance of centering lived experiences in research. She expressed that gender-based solutions need to be strength-based and self-determined in an Indigenous context.



*Photo Credit: Jayce Chiblow*

### 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Indigenous Bar Association Fall Conference, Ottawa, Ontario

On November 2, 2019 Dr. Deborah McGregor was at the annual Indigenous Bar Association's conference. She joined the panel with Beverly Jacobs from University of Windsor, and Chief Norman Yakeleya. The panel was chaired by Cynthia Westaway to discuss Indigenous Research and Traditional Knowledge. Nid-adisokaniminana, Ni tibahigewiniminanan. The theme was Our Stories, Our Laws. [Learn more.](#)



## **Wabano Symposium – The Land is Medicine: Exploring Indigenous Knowledge for Health & Well-being**

On November 6, 2019, Dr. Deborah McGregor presented a keynote address at the Wabano Symposium 2019 in Ottawa, Ontario. In the keynote titled “Indigenous Climate Change Futures”, Deborah explored traditional Anishinaabek teachings that offer guidance in tackling climate change and how we can move toward a self-determined climate change future. Later that day, in a workshop titled “Climate Change Stories”, Dr. McGregor, alongside Jayce Chiblow and Hillary McGregor, further explored climate change stories that come from our ancestors. Telling these stories reminds us what kind of knowledge is required to address climate change challenges as Indigenous peoples.



*Photo Credit: Jayce Chiblow*

## **OPHA’s Fall Forum on Health and Climate Change, Toronto, Ontario**

On November 13, 2019, Dr. Deborah McGregor attended the OPHA’s Fall Forum on Health and Climate Change for a plenary panel with Samantha Casey and Hillary McGregor to discuss Indigenous Peoples, climate change and health.

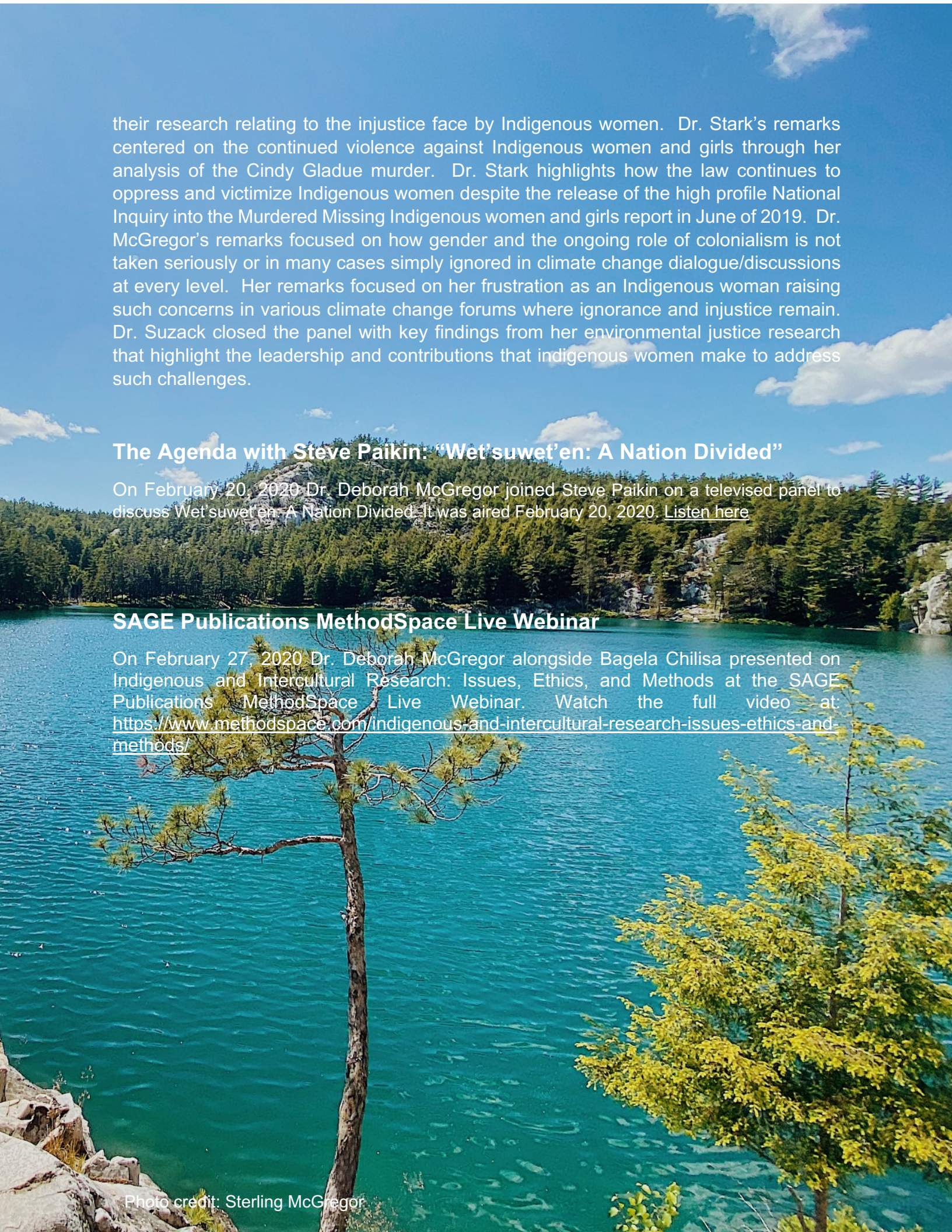
## **Connecting South Asian Settlers with Indigenous Environmental Justice**

IEJ collaborated with the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians for two workshops focused on Indigenous environmental justice on December 2 & 10, 2019. Both workshops were presented to Elder groups in the South Asian community of Brampton. The IEJ project’s portion of the workshops, led by team member Jayce Chiblow, utilized Indigenous storytelling as a method for learning about environmental justice from an Indigenous perspective.

## **Osgoode Hall Law School: Indigenous Law, Gender and Land Panel**

On January 17, 2020, Dr. Heidi Stark, Dr. Cheryl Suzack and Dr. Deborah McGregor were featured in a panel at Osgoode Hall Law School regarding Indigenous Law, Gender and Land. Dr. Stark, Dr. Suzack and Dr. McGregor all shared insights and key findings from





their research relating to the injustice faced by Indigenous women. Dr. Stark's remarks centered on the continued violence against Indigenous women and girls through her analysis of the Cindy Gladue murder. Dr. Stark highlights how the law continues to oppress and victimize Indigenous women despite the release of the high profile National Inquiry into the Murdered Missing Indigenous women and girls report in June of 2019. Dr. McGregor's remarks focused on how gender and the ongoing role of colonialism is not taken seriously or in many cases simply ignored in climate change dialogue/discussions at every level. Her remarks focused on her frustration as an Indigenous woman raising such concerns in various climate change forums where ignorance and injustice remain. Dr. Suzack closed the panel with key findings from her environmental justice research that highlight the leadership and contributions that indigenous women make to address such challenges.

### **The Agenda with Steve Paikin: "Wet'suwet'en: A Nation Divided"**

On February 20, 2020 Dr. Deborah McGregor joined Steve Paikin on a televised panel to discuss Wet'suwet'en: A Nation Divided. It was aired February 20, 2020. [Listen here](#)

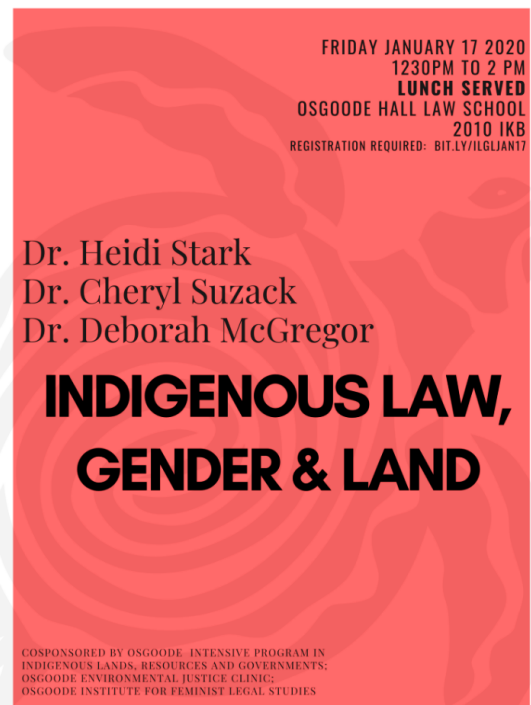
### **SAGE Publications MethodSpace Live Webinar**

On February 27, 2020 Dr. Deborah McGregor alongside Bagela Chilisa presented on Indigenous and Intercultural Research: Issues, Ethics, and Methods at the SAGE Publications MethodSpace Live Webinar. Watch the full video at: <https://www.methodspace.com/indigenous-and-intercultural-research-issues-ethics-and-methods/>





*Photo Credit: Norma Kassi*



## Assembly of First Nations National Climate Gathering

Dr. Deborah McGregor, along with Marion McGregor, Hillary McGregor and IEJ Research Assistant Jayce Chiblow, presented at AFN's National Climate Gathering in Whitehorse, Yukon on March 2-4, 2020. The first presentation was to Indigenous youth leaders from across Canada at the Youth Gathering part of the conference on March 2. The second panel, titled "Indigenous Climate Change Futures", was presented to the broader conference audience. Both panels highlighted Indigenous ways of knowing and understanding in the context of knowledge, environmental justice and climate action.



## **Indigenous Ecologies: Lessons for Landscape Ecologists**

On May 11, 2020, Dr. Deborah McGregor presented at the North American Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology's (IALE - North America) Virtual Conference. In Plenary Session 1, Dr. Deborah McGregor presented "Indigenous Lessons for Landscape Ecologists" with Jon Johnson (Associate Professor, University of Toronto).

## **Colonialism, Gender, and the Environment**

On May 12, 2020, Dr. Deborah McGregor participated in a panel for the Ontario Bar Association with Dr. Dayna Scott and Lorraine Land regarding the Essentials of Aboriginal Economic Development Deals. The panel, titled "Who Is (and Who Isn't, but Should Be) Involved with First Nations Economic Development?", it touched on how differing roles of elected Band Councils and traditional governance bodies impact negotiations and participation in an Impact Benefits Agreement, and also highlighted opportunities to ensure economic development is inclusive of Indigenous governance systems, values and gendered impacts.

## **Decolonization and Indigenization Program (DIP), Georgian College**

On May 31, 2020, Dr. Deborah McGregor delivered a virtual workshop to faculty for Georgian College's Center for Teaching and Learning and Indigenous services. The workshop is part of a faculty development program called Decolonization and Indigenization Program (DIP) to encourage faculty to decolonize and indigenize their programs and courses. Dr. McGregor workshop titled "Decolonizing Pedagogies: Respecting Indigenous Peoples" focused on land based pedagogies and learning directly from the land/waters/natural world. She emphasized the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems by involving and respecting Elders/Grandmothers/Grandfathers, knowledge keepers/holders and practitioners.

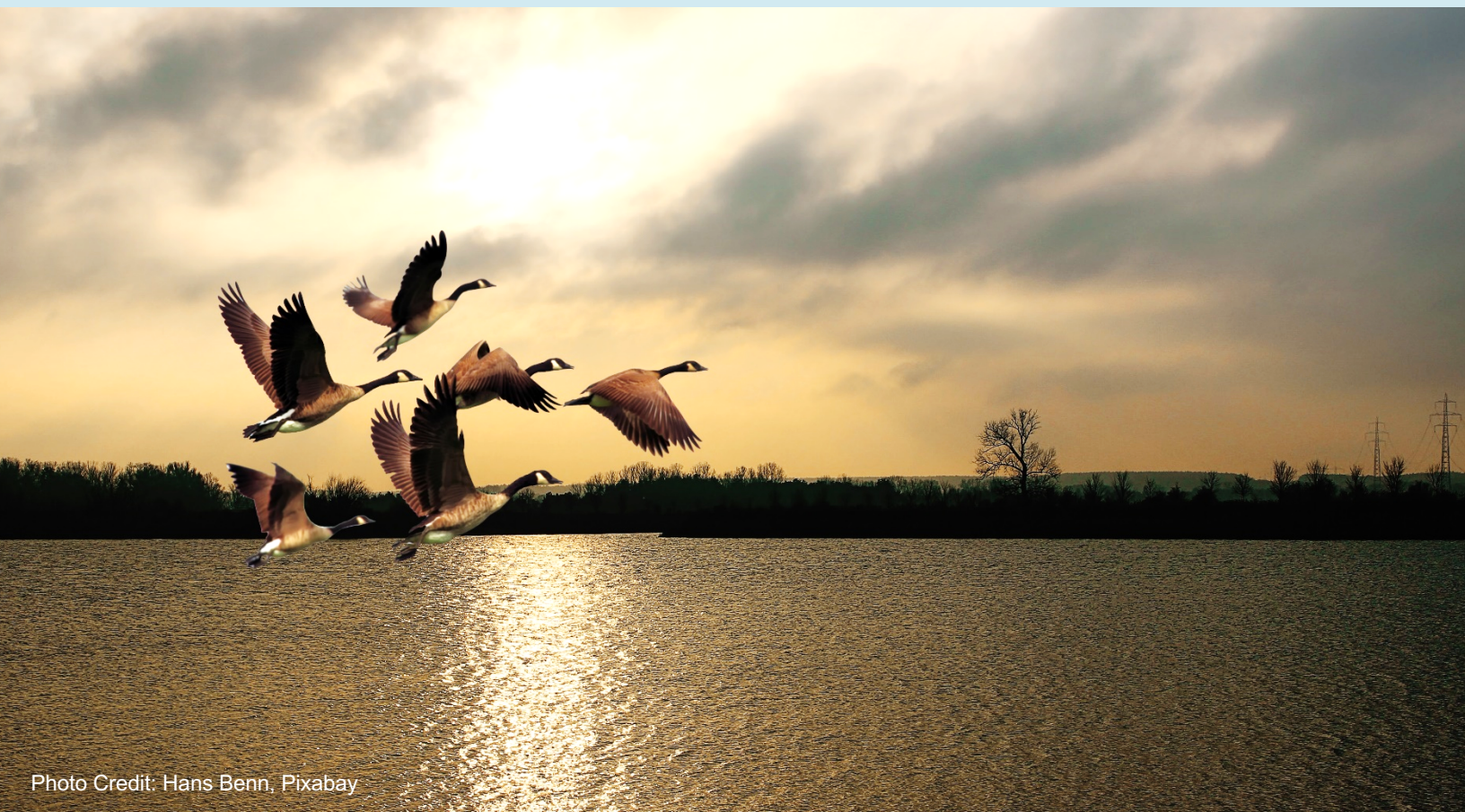
## **CRP Virtual Campfire Series: Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

On June 22, 2020, Professor Deborah McGregor and Danika Littlechild delivered a presentation on the topic of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as part of the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership virtual campfire series. The session explored what TEK is and why it is important to Indigenous peoples and others. Professors McGregor and Littlechild discussed challenges for realizing respect for TEK in conservation and environmental sustainability, and where future opportunities can be found. The presentation can be found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhh73nU3opo&list=PLnPYD4JW6hyD\\_WumF-bo5BaH6SuWtGYR7&index=2&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhh73nU3opo&list=PLnPYD4JW6hyD_WumF-bo5BaH6SuWtGYR7&index=2&t=0s)

## #Wet'suwet'en Teach-In

Osgoode Hall Law School and the University of Windsor's Faculty of Law hosted a #Wetsuweten virtual teach-in at Osgoode Hall Law school on March 5th featuring Sylvia McAdam, Valerie Waboose, Dr. Deborah McGregor, Jeffery Hewitt, Kevin Berk and Ebony Evans. The purpose of the teach-in was to share insights on the underlying reasons for the unjust actions taken by federal and provincial governments against the Wet'suwet'en people. Students, faculty and staff from both Universities participated in the event.





THE UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR FACULTY OF LAW  
&  
OSGOODE LAW HALL SCHOOL PRESENT:

# #wetsuweten

## TEACH-IN

THURS. MARCH 5, 2020  
1:00-2:20PM

<u>Windsor Law</u>	<u>Osgoode</u>
Rm G102	Rm 2002

With Professors Sylvia McAdam, Valarie Waboose,  
Deb McGregor, Jeffery Hewitt, Kevin Berk (Grad.  
Student) & Ebony Evans (3L)

## Wet'suwet'en Solidarity Event and Legal Defense Fundraiser, York University

A Wet'suwet'en Solidarity Event and Legal Defense Fundraiser was held in Vari Hall Rotunda on March 11, 2020, at York University. The event was organized by Nicole Penak, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work and sanctioned by the Unist'ot'en. Dr. Deborah McGregor and Jayce Chiblow, along with faculty, staff, volunteers, community members, and students delivered a day of solidarity, learning, creating and fundraising. Volunteers held up 12 donation jars and through cash donations raised close to \$3,000. This does not include the plethora of online and departmental donations that were made. Contributions can still be made at the following link: <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/unistoten2020legalfund/>

More information is available at Wet'suwet'en Supporter Toolkit 2020:

<http://unistoten.camp/supportertoolkit2020/>



# Media and Communications

## IEJ Logo

The Environmental Justice Project's logo resembles Anishnabe way of life and teachings in the Medicine Wheel.

The Medicine Wheel is one of the many teachings that play a huge role in the Anishnabe way of life, which is taught and talked about by the Elders. Some of the teachings include the four directions (North, South, East, and West), four races of people (Red, White, Black, and Yellow).

The Medicine Wheel is also known as the Sacred Circle, where everything is considered different, equal, and respected. The teachings of the Medicine Wheel are a way for Anishnabe people ensure there is balance and harmony as a way of life.



## Seven Grandfathers – Seven Teachings

The seven grandfathers teach us that we are all responsible for Mother Earth. We all share this responsibility in helping to preserve Mother Earth for future generations to come: if this is not done then our home is lost. We need to know the teachings of our grandmothers and grandfathers to give us direction and balance.

### The Seven Grandfather Teachings:

Wisdom | Love | Respect | Bravery | Honesty | Humility | Truth

## Artist Biography

### ***Ivan Shawana, Manitoulin Island, Canada***

Ivan is Anishinaabe from the Wikwemikong Unceded Reserve on Manitoulin Island, he now presently lives on the Sucker Creek Reserve. Ivan has been painting since he was seventeen years old. He received a lot of encouragement from the Elders and other local artists. Ivan's recent work deals with the environmental issues of today. His acrylics on canvas tell the stories of living in balance with nature. Please forward any inquiries for Ivan to [ispaint333@gmail.com](mailto:ispaint333@gmail.com).



*“My work is for the young people. I want them to see the connection between humans and the environment and that we depend on each other.”* – Ivan Shawana, Manitoulin Island, Canada

*“Harmony has to be achieved for our survival.”* – Ivan Shawana, Manitoulin Island, Canada

*“In all my paintings, I use the Earth and the Trees as a solid base to portray my feelings.”* – Ivan Shawana, Manitoulin Island, Canada

## Podcasts

### **Indigenous Environmental Justice Research Symposium 2019 Podcast Series**

The Indigenous Environmental Justice Research Symposium 2019 held November 23, 2019 at York University was recorded live to facilitate knowledge sharing beyond the symposium itself. This recorded symposium was designed to highlight IEJ researchers and their recent findings, while also offering a space to discuss appropriate methods of conducting research involving Indigenous peoples. This podcast series can be found on the IEJ website at <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/iej-symposium-2019/>

## **Wet'suwet'en Awareness Podcast Series**

This podcast series was recorded at the Indigenous Environmental Justice Project's panel event held with students and Indigenous youth on February 10, 2020. This event highlighted ongoing tensions between the Wet'suwet'en land defenders and the Canadian State. This podcast can be found on the IEJ website at <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/wetsuweten-awareness-event/>

## **Publications**

McGregor, D., Sritharan, M, & Whitaker, S. 2020. Indigenous Environmental Justice and Sustainability. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 43:35–40. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877343520300075>

McGregor, D. 2020. Indigenous Feminism Perspectives on Environment Justice.. *Gendering Globalization, Globalizing Gender: Post-Colonial Perspectives*, (Ed) Gül Çalışkan. Oxford University Press. 113-125.

McGregor, D. 2020 Indigenous Peoples and the Great Lakes in North America. (ed) Ganesh, N. Devy. *Environment and Belief Systems: Key Concepts in Indigenous Studies*. Routledge.

McGregor, D. 2020. Mother Earth. In *Planet Earth 2020: An insider's guide to a rapidly changing planet*. (ed) Philippe D. Tortell. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0193>: 133-139

McGregor, D. and McGregor, H. 2019. "All Our Relations: Climate Change Storytellers." In Catriona Sandilands, ed. *Rising Tides: Reflections for Climate Changing Times*. Halfmoon Bay, BC: Caitlin Press. pp. 125-9.

## **Comic (Graphic Novel)**

Edwards, R, Moewaka-Barnes, H., McGregor, D., Brannelly, T., and Olivia Hicks. 2019. *Transforming Indigenous-non-Indigenous Research partnerships*. UK Research and Innovation. UK. 10pp.

<https://www.indigenous.ncrm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/311/2019/11/Indigenous-Research-ComicOnline.pdf>



## Reports

### Anishinaabe & Climate Justice: An Indigenous Food Sovereignty Approach

In July 2019 Jayce Chiblow, supervised by Deborah McGregor, developed a major paper on Anishinaabe & Climate Justice: An Indigenous Food Sovereignty Approach. It was submitted to the Faculty of Environmental Studies in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Environmental Studies York University, Toronto, Ontario, Turtle Island (Canada). [Read more.](#)

### COP25 UN Climate Change Summit Essay

IEJ team member Dale Hamilton, having attended the COP25 UN Climate Change Summit in Madrid, completed a report/photo essay of her experiences, with an emphasis on Indigenous issues. Some highlights are mentioned below:

- Greta Thunberg gave her time on stage at a media conference to Indigenous youth rapper Micah “Big Wind” Carpenter-Lott of Sustain US (US Youth for Justice & Sustainability).
- Australia, Brazil and the US were sarcastically awarded “Fossil of the Day” by the Climate Action Network (CAN), an international NGO that stages award ceremonies to “honour the best of the worst.”
- Elizabeth May gave two young Coast Salish women her time on stage at a reception at the Canadian Embassy. They speak passionately about their efforts to stop resource extraction on Indigenous land.
- Nancy Pelosi called climate change “the existential threat of our time” and introduces a delegation of Democrats drawn from both the House and the Senate. The Trump administration’s presence is felt through their absence.



**Tuesday January 14, 2020**  
**11:30 am—1:20 pm Accolade West 307**

**YorkU delegates report back on the  
United Nations Climate Change  
Negotiations in COP25 Madrid**

**Panel 1: 11:30-12:20 and Panel 2: 12:20-1:20**



## Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

On April 2020, DeborahMcGregor, Steven Whitaker, and MahishaSritharan produced a report titled “Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability”. [Read more](#).

## Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples in Canada

On June 19, 2020, Professors Aimee Craft (Ottawa University) and Deborah McGregor submitted a report Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The report was a response to a call for inputs for the “report of the impact of COVID-19 on the rights of Indigenous peoples by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. The report was submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, United Nations. The Special Rapporteur report will highlight the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples needs to be further researched and documented to guide States’ responses and to ensure such exceptional times do not exacerbate or justify impunity for violations of indigenous peoples’ rights and delivered to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. See more at

[https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/SRIndigenousPeoples/Pages/Callforinput\\_COVID19.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/SRIndigenousPeoples/Pages/Callforinput_COVID19.aspx)

## Website

IEJ team members and the lead researcher provided feedback into updating and improving our website and this input was utilized by our web administrator. Visit us at <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/>

## Newsletter

Kim Tran is the newest member of the IEJ Project team. Kim is responsible for creating and managing the IEJ newsletter to enhance IEJ’s promotion, outreach and educational efforts. Refer to the Appendix for the March Newsletter, or click [here](#).

## Social Media

The Indigenous Environmental Justice team has been keeping up with its followers and supporters on several social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Below are some of our social media analytics.



Followers:	890	112	643
Engagement:	1800	254	2000
Avg. Likes:	447	227	



# IEJ Team

This team of academics, community collaborators and students works with a broad range of scholars, researchers, environmental managers, ENGOS, government officials, First Nations leaders and others involved in environmental justice issues.

## Academia

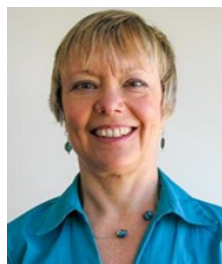
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### **Dr. Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor**



Dr. Deborah McGregor (Anishinaabe), Principal Investigator, holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University. She is cross-appointed to both Osgoode Hall Law School and the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Professor McGregor's research has focused on Indigenous knowledge systems and their various applications in diverse contexts including water and environmental governance, environmental justice, forest policy and management, and sustainable development. Her research has been published in a variety of national and international journals and she has delivered numerous public and academic presentations relating to Indigenous knowledge systems, governance and sustainability. [Read more.](#)

### **Dr. Brenda Murphy, Professor**



Dr. Brenda Murphy has been involved in applied resource management and social justice research throughout her career, most recently focusing on Aboriginal disaster management and resilience, as well as climate change and maple syrup production. As a former Graduate Coordinator for Social Justice and Community Engagement at Wilfred Laurier University, Dr. Murphy is both highly committed to and experienced in innovative knowledge mobilization applications. Her expertise in this area forms an essential component of the research project.



### **Dr. Dayna Nadine Scott, Associate Professor**



Dr. Dayna Nadine Scott is an environmental law and justice scholar cross appointed to Osgoode Hall Law School and the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES). She recently completed a SSHRC-funded research project in partnership with environmental justice activists from Aamjiwnaang First Nation which tackled the issue of chronic pollution impacts on a First Nation community. She recently published an edited volume, *Our Chemical Selves: Gender, Toxics and Environmental Health* (UBC Press, 2015). Dr. Scott brings environmental law and policy analysis capacities to the team as well as commitment to ethical research processes with Indigenous communities. [Read more.](#)



### **Dr. Martha Stiegman, Assistant Professor**

Dr. Martha Stiegman's expertise in Indigenous knowledge, rights, food sovereignty and justice, coupled with her experience in decolonizing research methods which include participatory media production and dissemination strategies, will make invaluable contributions to the Indigenous environmental justice dialogue and eventual deliverables of this project. She has, in partnership with various First Nations, been engaged for over a decade in collaborative film-making and participatory video production on topics relating to treaty rights, traditional law and sustainable harvesting. [Read more.](#)

## **Community Collaborators**

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### **Dr. Nicole Latulippe, Research Associate**

Dr. Nicole Latulippe is interested in the relationships between Anishinaabek knowledge, law and governance systems, and how these relate to Canadian environmental policy. Dr. Latulippe joined the University of Toronto Scarborough's Department of Human Geography and the Department of Physical and Environmental Science in July 2018.



### **Dr. Mary Ann Corbiere, Assistant Professor**

Dr. Mary Ann Corbiere has served for over two decades in many leadership functions, including Chair of the Native Studies Department at the University of Sudbury. She is an Anishinaabemowin scholar and serves as co-editor for the Anishinaabemowin language series. Dr. Corbiere utilizes a community-based approach to language education working with fluent speakers. Her Anishinaabemowin-English online dictionary is forthcoming through the Algonquian Dictionaries and Linguistic Atlas website. Dr. Corbiere brings Anishinaabemowin and other Indigenous knowledge expertise to the project. [Read more.](#)



### **Ms. Kathleen Padulo**

Ms. Kathleen Padulo (Oneida) is currently Environment Director with the Chiefs of Ontario. Ms. Padulo's master's thesis, "Environmental Protection for a First Nation Community," consisted of a community-based environmental justice project involving 6 First Nation communities in the process of addressing waste management challenges. Kathleen has professional experience in policy development, capacity-building and advocacy derived from her years of working with First Nations, ENGOs and federal and provincial governments. [Read More.](#)



### **Ms. Susan Chiblow, PhD Candidate, York University**

Ms. Susan Chiblow (Anishinaabe) completed her master's thesis, "Social Aspects affecting Mold Growth in First Nations Communities," at Royal Roads University. She is currently a Ph.D. student in York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies and holds the Environment and Resource portfolio holder in her First Nation. She is also assisting the Mississauga First Nation in the development of the community's environmental laws and management regimes under a self-government process. She is an appointed member of the National Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee for Species at Risk. [Read more.](#)

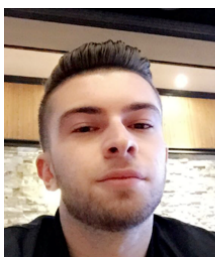


### **Ms. Nancy Deleary, Artist and Community Leader**

Nancy Deleary is a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. A trained artist in the final stages of completing her Master of Fine Arts Degree at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, she has experience working in a variety of art media. Ms. Deleary has been commissioned to produce plays, exhibitions, and community art installations for over three decades. Her approach to art is intended to strengthen cultural identity and resilience. She makes invaluable contributions to this project by conceptualizing ways of representing Indigenous Knowledge Systems and environmental justice through arts-based productions. Her contributions aid in the ongoing process of revitalizing Indigenous forms of knowledge mobilization and increasing the accessibility of research outputs across generations.

## Research Assistants

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### **David Bazargan, Web Developer & Researcher**

David is a Student Member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in City Studies and Human Geography from the University of Toronto. He was the recipient of the Han Shan Sih Buddhist Scholarship in 2016. His research focuses on planning for housing and food security using LEED Standards.



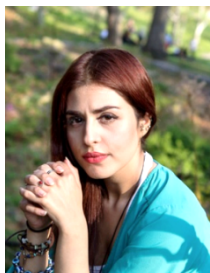
### **Jayce Chiblow, Research Assistant**

Jayce Chiblow (Anishinaabe) is from Garden River First Nation and has completed her Master's degree in Environmental Studies at York University. Having previously completed a Bachelor of Biological Sciences, her input to the IEJ Project includes researching current and projected climate change impacts on Indigenous peoples.



### **Dale Colleen Hamilton, Research Assistant**

Dale returned to academia in 2018 (after a 45-year “break”) to do her Masters in Environmental Studies at York. Her Major Project will use multidisciplinary theatre to promote climate change solutions, including a theatrical hike and one-woman street theatre. For over thirty years, Dale has been writing, directing and producing community-engaged theatre as a tool for social change and environmental education. She helps communities tell their own stories and has had 14 such plays produced. Dale lives on her 16 acres in the hamlet of Eden Mills near Guelph, Ontario where her Celtic ancestors settled seven generations ago. She is the mother of two young adults, whose father was the late Indigenous artist Harold (Hyhatsa) Rice. She has been involved as an ally with Indigenous communities for decades, including through a play about mercury pollution at the Wabaseeming (Whitedog) First Nation in the 1970s and as a coordinator of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound in the successful battle to stop logging on Meares Island and create the first Tribal Park.



### **Nasreen Hussain, Video Editor/Research Assistant**

Nasreen is a Master's graduate from York University's Environmental Studies program (2017). Her research looks at the significance of water through Indigenous worldview. She completed the Documentary and Film-making program at Seneca College. She enjoys writing, video recording and interviewing and is hoping to create more positive outcomes for water and environmental justice through art and multimedia.





### **Monica Shafik, Research Assistant**

Monica is in her final year of an Honours Double Major in International Development and Law & Society at York University. Monica has been a member of the IEJ team for 2 years now, both as the director of Communications and Outreach and as a Research Assistant. Her contributions to the project this year include outreach strategy and management, and an international environmental policy analysis. As a Coptic woman, Monica is pursuing a legal career in Indigenous and human-rights advocacy with the intent of advancing Indigenous self-determined development.



### **Emilia Khalil, Research Assistant**

Emilia is currently studying a Double Major Honours in Criminology and Political Science and was also VP & COO of a Not-for-Profit organization/ Student Club called IRSAY. Emilia joined the IEJ project at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year as a Research Assistant and hopes to gain knowledge and understanding of Indigenous communities through a legal perspective and apply it to her studies in hopes of becoming an international lawyer.



### **Lauren King, Research Assistant**

Lauren King (Turtle Clan, Ojibway/Cayuga) is a member of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. She completed her degree in International Business Management at Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology in 2018. Lauren is a Project Assistant with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Health Transformation Team.



### **Mika Mackinnon, Research Assistant**

Mika MacKinnon is in her fourth year of majoring in Environmental Management at York University. Originally from Prince Edward Island, Mika spent most of her life between P.E.I. and New Brunswick, where she would often go sailing and hiking. Mika's undergraduate years at York University have helped her gain a rounded understanding of numerous environmental issues. She spent the first two summers of her undergrad working for Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada as a student researcher concentrating on cold climate crops in Newfoundland and Labrador. In her third summer she worked as an interpreter/program creator for Toronto's Rouge National Urban Park.



### **Ethan Persaud-Quiroz, Research Assistant**

Ethan is in his fourth year of the Global Health program at York University and is specializing in Global Health Policy, Systems and Management. His contributions to the project this year include recording for the IEJ podcast, conducting educational workshops for high school students, and improving his writing skills through the completion of the IEJ annotated bibliography. He is particularly interested in water sovereignty through the lens of indigenous communities and on a global scale.



### **Jesse Abell, Research Assistant**

Jesse Abell is a third-year JD student at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. Participating in Osgoode's Anishinaabe law camp at Neyaashiniigmiing (Cape Croker) in first year, in collaboration with the Chippewas of Rama, sparked her interest in Indigenous law, governance, and environmental justice. She is particularly interested in Indigenous legal principles and knowledge systems as they relate to water and land management, Aboriginal title, and the duty to consult. Alongside her work with the IEJ project, Jesse is an editor on Osgoode's Journal of Law and Social Policy, and advocated for workers' rights as a legal caseworker at Parkdale Community Legal Services.

# Appendix

## IEJ Project March 2020 Newsletter

MARCH 15, 2020



### IN THIS ISSUE

#### PAST EVENTS

- Nov. 23 IEJ Symposium
- Jan. 15 Leora Gansworth
- Feb. 6 Nicole Latulippe
- Feb. 10 the Wet'sewet'en and Student/Youth Perspectives Panel
- Mar. 11 the Wet'sewet'en Solidarity & Fundraiser Event

School Visits - overview

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

COVID-19 update

## IEJ Symposium 2019

by Abdeali Saherwala

Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) Canada Research Chair, Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor, York University welcomed symposium participants by emphasizing the importance of student led research. The IEJ fall symposium held November 23rd, 2019, focused on disseminating the original research conducted by graduate students exploring topics relating to IEJ that the broader community needs to learn more about. The IEJ fall symposium offered an opportunity for delegates to hear from community based advocates and activists about their work. Keynote speaker Sylvia Plain, Water Walker and founder of the Great Lakes Canoe Journey from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, offered her perspectives on revitalizing canoe culture through enacting traditional knowledge and responsibilities. Anishinabe artist, Patricia Martin provided an artistic representation of the day for participants to enjoy. Professor McGregor encouraged the audience to learn and engage in dialogue and discussion with the researchers.

**Stay tuned for podcasts about each presenter!**



## Leora Gansworth

*All Our Relations: Eels and Other Swimmers Teaching Us Life*

**January 15, 2020**

**4pm - 6pm**



"All Our Relations" is a winter talk series sharing stories and insights about water and de-colonial water governance from the perspectives of community based research and other water beings. These events are co-sponsored by The Indigenous Environmental Justice Project (York University) and Great Lakes Waterworks/Water Allies (New College/University of Toronto). The first event titled, "All Our Relations: Eels and Other Swimmers Teaching Us Life" was held January 15th, 2020 at University of Toronto with Kristi Leora Gansworth. She is an Anishinaabe poet and geographer and a citizen of Kitigan Zibi Anishinaabeg and has ancestry belonging to the Onkwehonwe Haudenosaunee. Her presentation focused on research related to current and historic relationships between humans and eels. Currently, Leora is a PhD candidate in the department of geography at York University.

## Nicole Latulippe

*"Belonging to the Lake:" Unsettling Fisheries and Restoring Relations at Nipissing First Nation n Fishing Practices*

**February 6, 2020**

**12:30pm - 2pm**



Nicole Latulippe delivered a presentation "Belonging to the Lake: Unsettling Fisheries and Restoring Relations at Nipissing First Nation" as part of the winter speaker series "All Our Relations". Dr. Latulippe's talk was based on her Ph.D. research conducted with Nipissing First Nation. Her research revealed the inherent ties that Nipissing people have for the lake and ongoing responsibilities and obligations to engage in mutually reciprocal relationships with the Lake Nipissing.

# Indigenous Environmental Justice, the Wet'sewet'en and Student/Youth Perspectives Panel

February 10, 2020

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, York University

A student/youth panel was convened to dialogue on Wet'sewet'en -Canada relations and Indigenous environmental justice. After introductory remarks from Professors Deborah McGregor and Ruth Kolezar-Green, McGregor provided a brief historical context for understanding why conflicts over land continue to the present day. Historical and ongoing colonialism revealed in the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996), Ipperwash Inquiry (2007), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015) and the Murdered Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry (2019) serves as a catalyst for contemporary conflicts. These public commissions show that Canada unfortunately continues to be very much a colonial society. The panel of youth/students; Hillary McGregor (student, Georgian College), Alie Hermanutz (PhD Student, Political Science), Jayce Chiblow, (IEJ researcher) and Monica Shafik (IEJ Research Assistant) shared their experiences and understanding of the events unfolding before the world in relation to the Wet'sewet'en Hereditary Chiefs opposition to the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline traversing their traditional territories. The panel generated lively discussion with the participants in attendance.

Please stay tuned for a pod cast of the panel discussion.





## IEJ Project Supports York University's Efforts to Support the Wet'suwet'en

Wet'suwet'en Solidarity Event and Legal Defense Fundraiser was held at Vari Hall Rotunda on March 11th, York University.

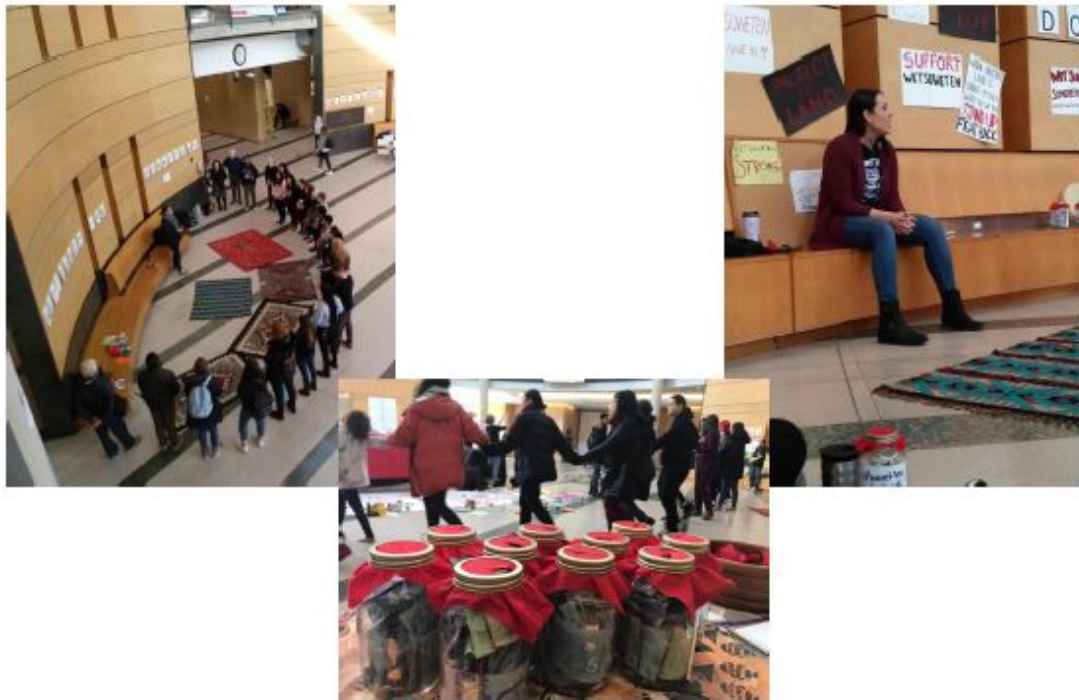
Organized by Nicole Penak, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, Deborah McGregor and Jayce Chiblow, along with faculty, staff, volunteers, community members, and students delivered a day of solidarity, learning, creating and fundraising. Volunteers held up 12 donation jars and through cash donations raised close to \$3,000 dollars. This does not include the plethora of online donations, and departmental donations made along side this event.

This event was sanctioned by the Unist'ot'en and folks can still make contributions at the following link:

<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/unistoten2020legalfund/>

and continue to support and learn more via Wet'suwet'en Supporter Toolkit 2020 at:

<http://unistoten.camp/supportertoolkit2020/>







## School Visits - overview

The Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) project, funded by Social Science and Humanitied Research Canada (SSHRC) in collaboration with York's Faculty of Environmental Studies, offered student led workshops in several secondary schools in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in 2019. The workshops offer an opportunity for teachers and students to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of environmental justices issues from an Indigenous perspective. Students also learn more about environmental studies and student life at York University. Every workshop utilizes storywork as a teaching method offering students an opportunity to learn about values, principles and teachings associated with Anishinabek Re-Creation story, drawn from Elder Edward Benton-Banai's *The Mishomis Book: the Voice of the Ojibway*. Teachers and students are encouraged to engage in dialogue and activities designed to delve deeper into the teachings relating to environmental sustainability.



(left) IEJ team member Jayce Chiblow leading a school workshop.



(right) A student paints his impression of the theme "water is life" at an IEJ school workshop.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

In response to the Corona Virus (COVID-19), all University gatherings/events have been cancelled and postponed as of March 16, 2020. As such the IEJ planned event on Water Justice has been postponed until further notice. To keep our followers engaged in time of social distancing, IEJ will be re-releasing pod casts and videos for new followers. We will also release new materials in lieu of any cancelled and post-poned events.

Please stay tuned on IEJ social media for updates.

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### Any Questions?



[theIEJproject@gmail.com](mailto:theIEJproject@gmail.com)



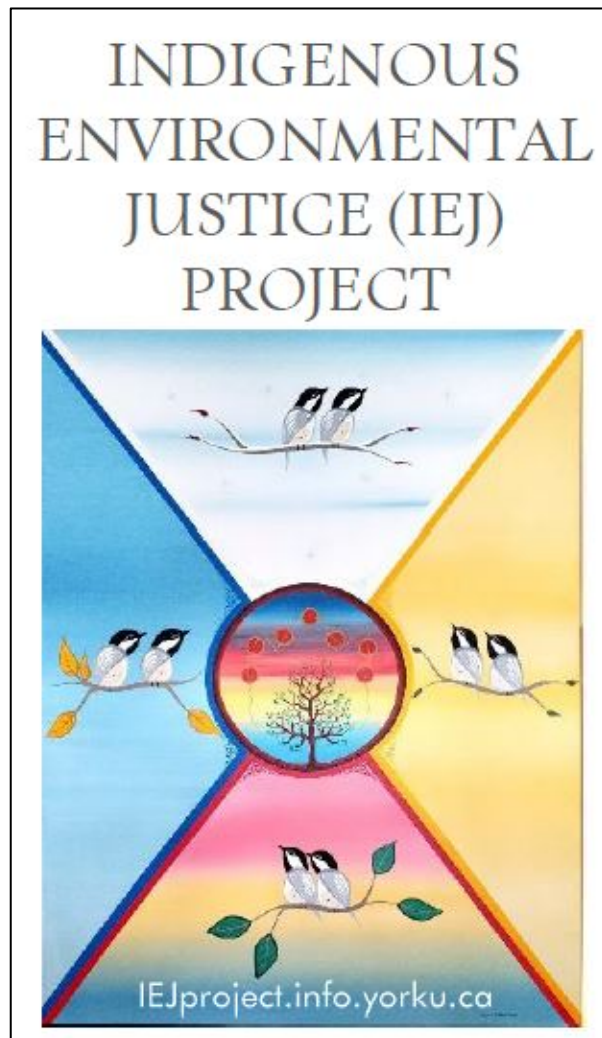
[@theIEJproject](https://www.instagram.com/theIEJproject)



[@theIEJproject](https://twitter.com/theIEJproject)

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## IEJ Project Contact Card



## INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (IEJ) PROJECT

[IEJproject.info.yorku.ca](http://IEJproject.info.yorku.ca)

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
[@theIEJproject](https://twitter.com/theIEJproject)



Email: [IEJ@yorku.ca](mailto:IEJ@yorku.ca)  
Email: [theIEJproject@gmail.com](mailto:theIEJproject@gmail.com)



A photograph of a serene forest landscape. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the surrounding forest and the overcast sky. The forest is dense with various types of trees, some of which have yellow and orange autumn foliage. A small island with a few trees is visible in the middle of the lake. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, creating a moody atmosphere.

## Final Comments

Almost every conflict between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples relates to injustices regarding land and resources. The development of an Indigenous-specific website and facilitating networking opportunities (e.g. website, webinar, video, symposiums) for sharing knowledge will assist Indigenous people's access to justice.

Overall, this project intends to influence the EJ landscape in Canada by enabling Indigenous access to environmental justice and well-being.



# Contact

**Dr. Deborah McGregor**  
Osgoode Hall Law School, York University  
4700 Keele St  
North York, ON  
M3J 1P3

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Website: [IEJproject.info.yorku.ca](http://IEJproject.info.yorku.ca)  
Email: [IEJ@yorku.ca](mailto:IEJ@yorku.ca)  
Email 2: [theIEJproject@gmail.com](mailto:theIEJproject@gmail.com)

## Social Media

Twitter: @theIEJproject  
Facebook: The Indigenous Environmental Justice Project  
Instagram: @theIEJproject  
YouTube: The IEJ Project