

# REPORT IEJProgress

AUG 2018



## AUTUMN PELTIER

15-year-old Autumn from Wikwemikong Unceded Reserve, has been recognized as a water protector. She is youth advocate for clean and sacred waters has been nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize. (Photo taken by Linda Roy)



Social Sciences and Humanities  
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# CONTENTS



**P4** INTRODUCTION



**P6** PROJECT ACTIVITIES



**P13** SELECTED PRESENTATIONS  
AND OUTREACH



**P18** HIGHLIGHTS



**P21** FUTURE ACTIVITIES



**P21** IN THE NEWS



**P22** PAST PROJECT  
ACTIVITIES



**P23** TEAM MEMBERS



**P29** FINAL COMMENTS



**P30** CONTACT



**P31** APPENDICES



“ We are coming from a very different philosophical standpoint in terms of how we understand our relationship to what I call all of creation. One of the ways that we’re seeking to decolonize this idea of environmental justice is to bring forward other voices... we don’t often hear. ”

- *Deborah McGregor, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice*



# IEJ Project | Introduction

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

- What does the term 'Indigenous environmental justice' mean from a Indigenous knowledge systems, Indigenous legal orders and justice frameworks?
- What logics inform Indigenous understandings of environmental (in)justice in Canada? What processes and principles guide environmental justice (EJ)?
- How do First Nation peoples conceptualize environmental justice?
- How can EJ be addressed? When is EJ achieved?
- What does justice look like?

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



# Introduction

[Continued from page 3]

We began with the assumption that Indigenous peoples already have conceptions of environmental justice (EJ), which this is not a novel concept; we recognize that EJ is not just about inequitable and unjust relationships among peoples, but also with other beings/entities/relatives as well; we understand EJ to be not just about an assault on the environment that then impacts people in harmful ways, but also other beings/entities/relatives as well; and we recognize that EJ in an Indigenous conception relates to realizing 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 regarding EJ. Therefore, an important part of this project is to provide a space for the voices of people who lack of the privilege and opportunities to share their experience and views. We also wish to provide the space for people to share their knowledge and learn from each other. We are interested in facilitating knowledge sharing forums and we have developed a website to facilitate these goals. The IEJ website ([IEJproject.info.yorku.ca/](http://IEJproject.info.yorku.ca/)) was developed by a team of graduate and undergraduate students and launched in the spring of 2017. The goals of the website are to:

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

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





# Highlights of Project Activities

The research team is comprised of Research Associates, graduate and undergraduate students to deliver key objectives and activities.

## Project Activity Highlights | 2016-2017

Reflecting on a very successful and active year for the IEJ project, worthwhile activities including the Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) Speaker Series and Change Your World – Listening to the Land workshop were successfully executed. The 2016 IEJ Symposium was a one-day symposium that took place on May 26, 2016, at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The first of its kind in Canada, the IEJ knowledge sharing symposium was held to advance the theory and practice of Indigenous environmental justice. This was achieved by engaging Indigenous peoples to develop the concept of justice and the policies and laws necessary to enable just relations.

The 2016 Symposium Highlights Report can be found at [bit.ly/IEJ-Symposium](http://bit.ly/IEJ-Symposium)

The IEJ Speaker Series was a five-part speaker series during the 2016/2017 academic year. The series, which sought to highlight Indigenous women and youth perspectives on environmental justice, was well received by locals, academics, and students.

The five speakers included:

1. Isabel Altamirano Jimenez speaking on "The Sea is Our Bread: Interrupting Green Neoliberalism in Mexico";
2. Sylvia Plain speaking on "Great Lakes Canoe Journey";
3. Vanessa Gray speaking on "Environmental Racism in Canada's Chemical Valley";
4. Native Youth Sexual Health Network speaking on "Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies: Supporting Indigenous Feminist Land/Body Defenders"; and
5. Adrienne Lickers speaking on "Longhouse to Greenhouse: An Emerging Food System at Six Nations"

*The 2016 Indigenous Environmental Justice Project Speaker Series can be found at [bit.ly/IEJ-Speaker-Series](http://bit.ly/IEJ-Speaker-Series)*

# Indigenous Environmental (In-)Justice Project Activities

## 2016-2017 Project Activity Highlights (Con't)

In April 2017, the Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) Project team facilitated a workshop called *Listening to the Land: An Introduction to Environmental Justice and Storytelling*. Approximately 100 students attended from schools across the Greater Toronto Area as part of the Change Your World conference, hosted by the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) at York University. The Change Your World Conference is a dynamic one-day conference that brings together youth and community organizations from across Ontario to discuss, collaborate and learn how to make sustainable and equitable change. In the workshop, students were asked to consider the following questions: What do stories teach you? How can Indigenous storytelling point to justice and environmental issues? How can Indigenous and non-Indigenous people move toward reconciliation through storytelling?

*The Change Your World – Listen to the Land report can be found at [bit.ly/IEJ-Workshop](http://bit.ly/IEJ-Workshop)*



The following poem was created by a group of students during the workshop:

Lakes so great, why so grey?  
 Cities and Plastic  
 Water our only source of life, but all that man has brought to it  
 Is Strife  
 Why would we pollute it to the point we can't even use it?  
 We package and label it, sealing it with a cap.  
 We believe in its 'purity'  
 Leading us to a false sense of 'security'



## Project Activity Highlights | 2017-2018

### Academic, Public and Community Presentations

1. Completion of the 2016 IEJ Symposium, which the video feed can be found at [bit.ly/IEJ-Symposium](http://bit.ly/IEJ-Symposium).
2. Completion of 2016-2017 IEJ Speaker's Series, which the video feed can be found at [bit.ly/IEJ-Videos](http://bit.ly/IEJ-Videos).
3. The IEJ project co-sponsored by Jaskiran Dhillon who talked about her new book, *Prairie Rising: Indigenous Youth, Decolonization, and the Politics of Intervention*, on February 5, 2018, at York University.
4. Meagan Dellavilla, Jayce Chiblow, and Monica Shafik presented on the topic "An Introduction to Indigenous Environmental Justice" as invited keynote guests at the Holy Name of Mary College School's Eco Conference on April 24, 2018 in Mississauga.
5. Deb McGregor and Nicole Latulippe presented on the topic "The Indigenous Environmental Justice Project" as invited presenters a part of the Toronto Public Library's Our Fragile Planet program series on May 25, 2018 at the Lillian H. Smith branch (see Appendix 1).
6. Nicole Latulippe and Meagan Dellavilla presented on the topic "Indigenous Environmental Justice: Responsibilities and the Cycle of Creation" as invited guests in conjunction with the exhibition BAD STARS by Christina Battle, co-presented with CONTACT Photography Festival, at Trinity Square Video on May 26, 2018 in Toronto.
7. Deborah McGregor presented on the topic "Decolonizing Environmental Justice" at the Environment Humanities in the Public Realm Conference at the Nexus Center for Humanities and Social Science Research held at Memorial University, St. Johns, Newfoundland on May 11th, 2018.

### Public Engagement

1. Dr. Deborah McGregor was interviewed by CBC's *Unreserved* and featured in the episode, *Earth Day: Indigenous scientists, academics and community members take the lead in environmental causes*. [Read more.](#)
2. Members of the IEJ Project sat down with youth leaders from the Soaring Eagles Camp and Vigil to hear youth perspectives on justice for Indigenous peoples and the land. Their article, *Tkaronto's Soaring Eagles: a conversation with youth movement leaders*, was published in *Anishinabek News*. [Read more.](#)
3. The IEJ Project released a statement following the acquittal of Gerald Stanley in the shooting death of Colten Boushie. [Read more.](#)

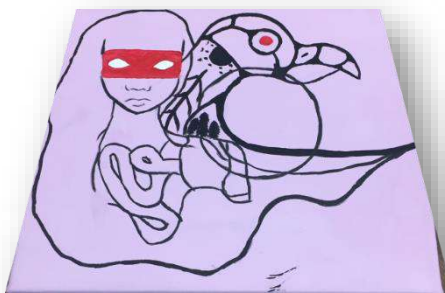




## Research and Analysis

1. An IEJ Annotated Bibliography has been compiled by the IEJ Project. The bibliography considers accessibility in that Open Access articles are especially highlighted. This renders the resource useful to community members and to people who do not have access to university libraries. Download the [Annotated bibliography](#).
2. Meagan Dellavilla, a Master's student of Environmental Studies research engaged in the "We Are the Movement": Toronto-based Indigenous Youth Explore Environmental (In)Justice. In March, a two-part (6 hour) workshop series engaged 10 Indigenous youth in conversation about environmental (in)justice. Through arts-based activities, youth ranging in age from 12 to 24 articulated their experiences with and exposure to environmental injustice in the city of Toronto, as well as their visions for enabling greater justice amongst all beings. During the culmination of this workshop series, the youth were asked how they would like to see the research move forward. Honoring their interest in cultural resurgence and their request for additional opportunities to interact with other young people, a follow-up gathering was planned. This gathering was nested within the 2018 Connecting Culture and Childhood Project symposium, which brought together young people (and researchers) from 5+ countries to discuss the importance of cultural preservation and revitalization. With the support of the symposium, seven Indigenous youth living in Toronto joined young people from Venda, South Africa and Kimberley, and Australia in an exchange of art practices and a fluid conversation around how learning and sharing culture (re)connects us to the Land and the Waters.

With the support of the Indigenous Environmental Justice project, a 19-year old Anishinaabe artist, Patricia Martin, used these interactions as inspiration for a painting. The painting will hopefully travel to various sites as a way to continue this conversation, bring forward youth voices/ideas, and ideally engage more young people in similar conversations. A conventional academic paper recounting the research process and its findings is also forthcoming.



*Figure 1: Emphasizing interconnectivity and shared responsibility, one participant paints their vision for environmental justice*



Figure 2: “Mino Bimaadiziwin” (2018), 2’ x 3’ Wood panel. As explained by Patricia Martin:

*Our responsibility is to walk in mino bimaadiziwin, the path of understanding, relating to and taking care of the entirety of nature. One Indigenous teaching states that there are seven generations behind you and there are seven generations in front of you. The seven figures walking (in the right direction) represent our ancestors from the past. We can find out their names, and what they did. Our future ancestors are “invisible” because we will never know our future relatives. We must walk gently on Mother Earth, in mino bimaadiziwin, before the next generations arrive.*

*The sky is fiery to make your heartbeat faster, to evoke the awareness and urgency that we must feel to save our planet. The red water on the lower part of the painting symbolizes the healing power of women. Water is women’s medicine, and women were keepers of the water. At this moment, the water needs us. We are damaging the environment so bad that the water is becoming unhealthy. We know that water is the foundation of life, and we must act quickly to save water, Mother Earth’s blood.*

*It is not only the duty of Indigenous peoples to take care of the land. The human race must understand that we all have a responsibility to the planet and realize that environmental justice is within our grasp. Open your eyes, this is all we have.*



Figure 3: Toronto-based Indigenous youth engage in conversation about environmental (in)justice

## Research and Analysis (Con't)

1. To date, 23 interviews have been completed for the IEJ project, including 8 in 2017-2018. Interviews will be ongoing in the summer of 2018. Team members are interviewing Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge keepers, Elders, artists, youth, activists, academics, and others to gain a diversity of perspectives. These perspectives will contribute to the development of a distinctive justice framework that is informed by Indigenous knowledge, governance, and legal traditions.
2. IEJ team members compiled and discussed a series of mind maps produced by members in a one-day Concept Mapping workshop in January 2018 (see Appendix 2). Concept mapping was done as a means of participatory data analysis and interpretation. As a result of this workshop, the IEJ team identified the following preliminary themes or questions of interest to project participants: ***Why does environmental justice matter? What is environmental injustice? What is Indigenous environmental justice? What are people doing (initiatives that are already taking place)?*** The IEJ Project is working to answer these questions using research and data collected.
3. Sue Chiblow, a Ph.D. student in the Environmental Studies Program at York University obtained the prestigious Vanier scholarship to support her research on water justice.

## Selected Additional Resources

The following selection of Indigenous advocacy and education links has been shared through the IEJ [website](#) including:

1. *The Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities & Community Health (ENRICH) Project*, a collaborative community-based research and engagement project on environmental racism in Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian communities
2. *Toxic Legacies Project*: Examining the history of arsenic contamination at Giant Mine in Canada's Northwest Territories. A partnership among researchers at Memorial University, Lakehead University, the Goyatiko Language Society (a Yellowknives Dene First Nation non-profit), and Alternatives North (a Yellowknife environmental and social justice coalition).
3. *Ecological Knowledge & the Dish with One Spoon*, Conversation in Cultural Fluency #2, by Six Nations Polytechnic
4. *Violence on the Land, Violence on Our Bodies* Toolkit, Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence. A partnership of Women's Earth Alliance and Native Youth Sexual Health Network
5. *Decolonizing Water: Building Resilient Water Futures*. Our goal is to create a prototype of an Indigenous-led community-based water monitoring initiative that is rooted in Indigenous laws and is a practical expression of Indigenous water governance.



## Social Media and Communications

1. Digital newsletters (See Appendix 4-5)
2. Social Media Metrics on Facebook and Twitter indicate IEJ Project has acquired 481 Twitter followers and 159 Facebook likes/followers. The team actively engages with its social media community by sharing information on upcoming events and links to relevant resources. To date, the team has 300+ posts.

## Videos

1. **“2016-2017 IEJ Speaker’s Series” videos.**  
Five recordings of the presentations were edited and posted online where they are accessed at [bit.ly/IEJ-Videos](http://bit.ly/IEJ-Videos)
2. **“The Significance of Water” (2017) by Nasreen Hussain.**  
In her short film, Nasreen aims to show that water has significant power over the senses when observed or experienced. Nasreen says *"I believed having a visual component was important in both expressing and doing more justice to water rather than simply writing about it"*.

Her film also incorporates views of Indigenous law on water and includes interviews from Indigenous women on the issue. The purpose of her film is to provide the viewers a fresh perspective on water and what we can all do to help re-purpose the current relationship humans have toward it. *"I believe it is important to engage with water more directly in order to understand how to provide justice for it"*. She has faith in the benefit of sharing the information this film, her work contributes to a larger research project on Indigenous Environmental Justice for Professor Deborah McGregor. Through her efforts and with those who have supported her throughout her learning journey, she would like to bring together different understandings of water, to bridge gaps and work toward reviving the human relationship to what we need most. The video can be found [here](#).

3. **“Reconnecting with Mother Earth” video.**  
The video was captured by Deborah McGregor with community collaborator, Kathleen Padulo, coordinated by Chiefs of Ontario and facilitated at the Elders and Youth Climate Change Gathering 2017 with over 70 Elders and youth. The video was produced from the gathering and can be found [here](#).
4. **“Tkaronto's Soaring Eagles” video.**  
Remembering Tina Fontaine and Colten Boushie, the youth-led Soaring Eagle’s Camp and Vigil is fighting injustices faced by Indigenous peoples of this land. Created by Nasreen Hussain, Meagan Dellavilla, and Nicole Latulippe. The video can be found [here](#).
5. **“What is Indigenous Environmental Justice?” video.**  
This video was created by Nasreen Hussain, Meagan Dellavilla, Nicole Latulippe, and the IEJ Project team. The video can be found [here](#).

# Selected Presentations and Outreach



Figure 2: Common Stock from Pexels



Community engagement was a focus this year for the project. The IEJ Project successfully engaged a diverse group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences, including youth/students, educators, library patrons, artists and art supports, researchers, academics, and other members of the public.

## Presentations

**Richmond, VA – October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016:** “Applying Indigenous Legal Traditions to Conceptualizing Water Justice” was presented by Deborah McGregor at Humanities Research Center and Science, Technology, and Society at College of Humanities in Richmond, United States; and was presented at the Science and Native American Knowledge and the Environment Speaker Series at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Montreal, Quebec – May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** “Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, Earth Law and Environmental Justice: Integrating Knowledge and Re-Conceptualizing Law & Governance” was presented by Deborah McGregor at 57th General Assembly of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO)

**Ottawa, ON. – February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** “Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Climate Change” and “Indigenous Women Speak on Climate Change” was presented by Deborah McGregor at Native Women’s Association of Canada.

**Halifax, NS – October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** “Indigenous Knowledges Shaping Environmental Justice Paradigms” and “Over the Line: A Conversation About Race, Place, and the Environment Symposium” was presented by Deborah McGregor at Dalhousie University. To view “Over the Line: A Conversation on Race, Place & The Environment” full symposium on-line visit [www.enrichproject.org/programs/workshops](http://www.enrichproject.org/programs/workshops)

**University of Toronto – Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** “Reconciliation, Colonialism and Climate Change” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the Canada at its Centennial and Sesquicentennial: Transformative Policy Then and Now Conference to the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto.

**Kenora, Ontario – November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017:** “Climate Change, Water and Traditional Knowledge” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the Gaanawendagoziwinaan: Planning for Seven Generations: A Conference on Water and Climate for the Seven Generations Institute at Grand Council Treaty # 3.



Above: Dr. Deborah McGregor and Judy Da Silva (Anishinabek, Grassy Narrows) at the First Nations Water Security & Climate Change Symposium June 3, 2018

*[Continued from page 12]*

**Ottawa, ON. – Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018:** “Indigenous Women, Water and Rights” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the Women as Change Makers: Indigenous Women’s Leadership Forum at Wabano Health Center.

**Lawrence, Kansas – Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018:** “Indigenous Environmental Justice, Knowledge and Law” was presented by Deborah McGregor at KU & Atmospheric Science Colloquium at the University of Kansas.

**Gabriola, BC – March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** “Climate Change, Colonialism and Renewing Relations” was presented by Deborah McGregor at a Storying Climate Change Workshop.

**St. Johns. Newfoundland – May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** “Decolonizing Environmental Justice” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the Environment Humanities in the Public Realm Conference at the Nexus Center for Humanities and Social Science Research, at Memorial University.

**Ohsweken, ON. – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018:** “Traditional Knowledge and Water Security for First Nations” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the First Nation Water Security and Climate Change Symposium on Six Nations of the Grand River. [Read more.](#)





Figure 4: Common Stock from Pixabay

## Academic Publications

McGregor, D. forthcoming 2018. Mino-Mnaadmodzawin: Achieving Indigenous Environmental Justice in Canada. *Environment and Society*.

McGregor, D. forthcoming 2018. *Indigenous Environmental Justice, Knowledge and Law*. Kalfou Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies. Temple University Press

McGregor, D. forthcoming 2018. Reconciliation, Colonialism and Climate Change. In *Canada 150 Policy Transformations*. University of Toronto. Eds. Peter Loewen & Carolyn, Tuchy

Arsenault, R., Diver, S., McGregor, D., Witham, R., and Bourassa, C., 2018. Shifting the Framework of Canadian Water Governance Through Indigenous Research Methods: Acknowledging the Past with an Eye to the Future. *Water* 10: 49. doi:10.3390/w10010049.

McGregor, D. 2017. Anishinabe knowledge and Water: Honouring Our Responsibilities. In: Hutchings, S., and Morrison, A. (eds). *Proceedings of the water sustainability and wildfire mitigation symposia 2012-2013*. University of South Australia. Adelaide, Australia. pp. 93-121.

McGregor, D. 2017. *Indigenous Environmental Justice: Exploring the Potential for a Canadian Framework*. Hele (ed). *Survivance and Reconciliation: Forward/& Back*. 2015 Canadian Indigenous Native Studies Association Conference Proceedings. Aboriginal Issues Press. University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB. Pp. 41-60

## Keynote Presentations

**Oshawa, ON – January 25th, 2018:** “Decolonizing the Dialogue on Climate Change: Indigenous Knowledge, Law and Ethics” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the Addressing Climate Change: Technology, Law and Ethics. Earth Systems Governance Representations of and Rights for the Environment Workshop (ESGRREW) Symposium at University of Ontario Institute for Technology.

**Montreal, Quebec – February 2, 2017:** “Indigenous Environmental Justice, knowledge and Law” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the First Voices Week Pubic Lecture at Concordia University.

**Toronto, ON – May 31, 2017:** “Indigenous Environmental Justice, Theory and Practice” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the Environmental Studies Association of Canada – Congress 2017 at Ryerson University.

**Sault St. Marie, ON – May 10, 2017:** “Reconciling Our Relationship with the Land” was presented by Deborah McGregor at the Gdo Akiminaan Ganawendandaan (Taking Care of the Land) Symposium at Algoma University.

**St. John’s, Newfoundland – March 4, 2016:** “Anishinaabe Knowledge Systems: Environmental Justice and Law” was presented by Deborah McGregor at The Future, the Arts, and Ecology Conference, Towards an Integral Ecology: Perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences at Memorial University.



## Highlights

### “An Introduction to Indigenous Environmental Justice”

Was a keynote presentation at the Holy Name of Mary College School's Eco Conference made by Meagan Dellavilla, Jayce Chiblow, and Monic Sharik

According to co-presenter Jayce Chiblow, *“the Eco Conference was an honour to attend and participate in. The students' knowledge regarding the Indigenous peoples in Canada was truly inspiring to witness. They were engaged throughout the entire day, approaching presenters in the workshops with questions and generating discussions that are very important for the Indigenous environmental justice movement to progress. The older groups that presented at the workshops did an excellent job, providing well researched and accurate information to their peers. I am very excited to see what these intelligent young women accomplish in the coming years”*



“The Indigenous Environmental Justice Project” was a keynote presentation a part of the Toronto Public Library’s *Our Fragile Planet Program* series.

### “Indigenous Environmental Justice: Responsibilities and the Cycle of Creation”

Was a presentation in conjunction with the exhibition BAD STARS by Christina Battle and co-presented with CONTACT Photography Festival. In her presentation that was four quarters workshop, lecture, public awareness, and resource sharing,

Nicole connected with the narrative presented by artist and researcher, Christina Battle’s work on display in the gallery space (See Appendix). Like Christina’s work, IEJ challenges the narrative that disaster is caused by a singular event that threatens otherwise stable structures. Christina considers disaster “as more than a singular event and instead as a framework operating within larger systems of power”. A presentation in conversation with Christina’s work, Nicole talked about the Anishinaabe story of Creation, followed by Destruction and Re-creation (from Basil Johnston’s Ojibwe Heritage). Embedded within this cycle of creation, Anishinaabe people practice knowledge that considers the connection between every living thing, including rocks, trees, water, thoughts, songs, the cosmos, stars, and all other beings – beings who are also beautifully depicted through sight, sound, emotion, intellect, and spirit in Christina’s art work. Key is that embedded within these knowledge systems are values, ethics, and laws. This is the part of IEJ that “realigns” and moves “beyond” disaster narratives towards an “active strategy”, to borrow again from Christina’s language. The presentation was a success which we were given positive feedback from the audience, such that the presentation was “transformative”.





# Highlights



*"It's our job to make a cleaner and better future by helping your community stay green. Being Anishinaabe quizzes I have many responsibilities and a huge role in the health of the water. Speaking up for the water and attending water walks are just a few things I can do to take care of it."* - **Nashashia Bebonang, Young People's Roundtable on Environmental Justice**

*"I think that in the education system [in my experience] it is taking away the connection to the land for example, when I go in the bush, as soon as you get past the trees its like there is a whole burden taken away and all of a sudden everything...all of the problems that are happening are no longer a problem. You [I] feel so comfortable no matter where you are, I think that's really important for people to experience when they're leaning biology, especially ecology [and] related things because that way they have experienced the connection they are supposed to have with the land which they aren't."* - **Jacey Chiblow, Young People's Roundtable on Environmental Justice**



*"We had a seasonal life style...We have a bunch of different governing systems all year round depending on what you needed to harvest...Because our government changed all the time, we were very adaptive...You don't want the same social or political unit all year round because our social institutes have to be the most adaptive as possible to change [with what's] going on around us." "What solidified these systems...was our ability to adapt [which was] underlie by moral responsibilities that we had with other humans and nonhumans. So, it was not a system based on fines or tickets if you did something bad, [we] had a kind of understanding of systemic*

*responsibility."* **"Our knowledge of climate change is not actually just data and facts...its actually knowledge about how to live sustainably, how to structure your social institutions, political institutions, and economic institutions in ways that are less likely to fall prey to what we've seen happen with capitalism and industrialization."** - **Kyle Whyte: Climate Change, Traditional Knowledge & Environmental Justice**



*“If you take the first letters of land, air, and water – [it will spell LAW]. Its our law as Mi'kmaq people and the non-natives to stand up and protect our environment we breath the same air and same water. What will our future children and grand-children be left with if you don't all protect our environment. This is not a native issue it is a human issue, we all live here.” “We all need to stand up and do something now.” - Annie Clair, Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequalities & Community Health Project*

*“The environmental justice framework...needs to move towards an environmental racism legislation [which you can] increase awareness about the issue of racism, bring attention to the presumed racism by the government and by the general public, you also recognize aboriginal treaty rights when addressing environmental racism, and you also provide a review of the environmental impact assessment process in collaboration Aboriginal and African Nova Scotian communities. [The two communities] share a history of oppression, racism, lack of political clout...building bridges means that you start from that central place. There needs to be a centering of and support for indigenous research resurgences and a shift from one-dimensional to a relational approach to a settler colonial analysis that is connected to the issue of other others.”*

**- Dr. Ingrid Waldron, Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequalities & Community Health Project**



*“[There is a] signature importance of doing, that talking isn't doing...we started listening to water which is kind of doing, water holds lessons, memories, transformative potential, protection, and life. Listening to elders who hold laws, relations to ourselves in the world, understandings and inspiration. [After we listen] there is a need to articulate what we've heard, [such as through] art in the ways of expression, the ways in which language fails us, particularly English.”*

*“Knowing is a kind of doing, that means if you know something you have to do something about it. If you didn't do anything about it, you didn't know anything about it. Knowing itself is a going, it comes from doing and it leads to doing.”*

*“The importance of acting for protection, in terms of grassroots action, policy action, and agitation. In other words, we have to do something.” - Kristie Dotson, Symposium Reflections – Indigenous Environmental Justice & Law*

*“It can be hard to talk about the environment knowing [that] there’s so many things happening...It can feel very helpless and overwhelming...It is kind of a burden to bear, but I think [it’s a] burden that you kind of forced the really young children to carry...**Never underestimate the power of spirit.**”*

*“It was great to hear so many really strong and beautiful women talking about the importance of water. The power of waking up every morning, saying your prayers, offering tobacco, and going water bundles.”*

*“Quoting Ingrid Waldren who said: don’t say you’ll be there in spirit, be there. [Another from an unknown source:] The hardest changes to make are the most important. Go [forward] with knowledge about what other people are doing, with all the people they’ve met here, we could work together to make positive changes for the water.” - **Taryn Bobbiwash, Symposium Reflections – Indigenous Environmental***



*“An attack on the environment is an attack on the people. If the environment is unhealthy so are the people and...we heard today that there are high levels of cancers.”*

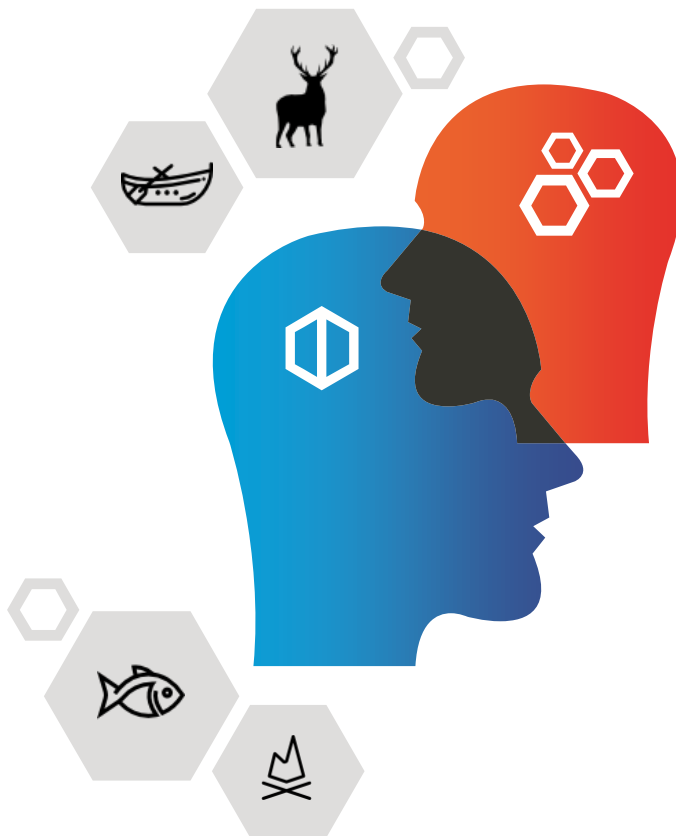
*“We need a healthy land first. The dish with one spoon wampum, a pre-contact treaty, [we knew] we’re sovereign nations and had these relationships, they knew as sovereign nations we need to work together...We’re children of the earth and it’s our responsibility to know we have that responsibility, we get all these resources to use them.” - **Quinn Meawasige, Symposium Reflections – Indigenous Environmental Justice & Law***



## Future Activities

Additional outreach activities planned for the summer of 2018 include:

- Interviews to better understand IEJ are ongoing throughout the summer 2018.** Team members are interviewing Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge holders, Elders, artists, youth, activists, academics, and others to gain a diversity of perspectives. These perspectives will contribute to the development of a distinctive justice framework that is informed by Indigenous knowledge, governance, and legal traditions. We expect between 20 and 25 interviews will be complete between January and August 2018.
- A series of four videos will be created over the summer 2018.** These videos will address the following four questions that have been identified in the research so far: *Why does environmental justice matter? What is environmental injustice? What is Indigenous environmental justice? What are people doing?* Footage will be drawn from the words and images produced by IEJ project participants at the IEJ Symposium, the Knowledge Sharing Symposium – hosted annually by the Aboriginal Students Association at York University, the IEJ Speaker’s Series, and individual interviews with research participants.
- Public outreach is ongoing in the summer 2018.** The IEJ Project team will deliver at least two more presentations: i) to youth members of the Antler River Guardians at Chippewa of Thames First Nation, and ii) to Aboriginal Youth and women in the Greater City of Sudbury and neighbouring First Nation communities concerning the program, “Developing Indigenous Environmental Keepers”.



## In the News

Professor Deb McGregor and the IEJ Project were highlighted in the 2018 Federal Budget under Women Leaders in STEM (page 90): Professor Deborah McGregor, a cross-appointed Canada Research Chair at York University in Toronto, is advancing our understanding of environmental justice by melding the law, environmental studies and traditional Indigenous knowledge systems to investigate sustainability, water governance and security, and First Nations land management. Professor McGregor, who is Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation, is currently the primary investigator on two SSHRC-funded projects. [Read more](#)

Dr. Nicole Latulippe was interviewed by Anishinabek News on her work concerning Anishinabek law and fisheries governance at Nipissing First Nation. [Read more](#)

Autumn Peltier, a young Anishinaabe girl from Wikwemikong First Nation, was nominated for International Children’s Peace Prize in 2017. [Read more](#) Autumn Peltier addresses world leaders at the United Nations about protecting water. [Read more](#)

# Past Project Activities

## Indigenous Environmental Justice Knowledge Sharing Symposium

The Indigenous Environmental Justice Knowledge Sharing Symposium, held on May 26, 2016 at York University, was a forum for sharing ideas, knowledge and experiences to help the team understand what Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) means. This symposium brought together activists, youth, women, artists, Elders, scholars, environmental practitioners, advocates and community members. The dialogue advanced the theory and practice of environmental justice scholarship by engaging with Indigenous peoples to more fully develop the concept of 'justice' and the policies and laws necessary to enable just relations.



Nearly 100 people attended in person, with an additional 339 people from 10 countries attending through the livestream option. All presentations were recorded and are now available via the IEJ Project's website. You can access all videos at <http://bit.ly/IEJ-Videos>

## Perspectives on Indigenous Environmental Justice (2016) Video

This short film created by Morgan Johnson, Oonagh Butterfield, and Kelly King is an accompaniment to the Indigenous Environmental Justice Symposium held on May 26th 2016 at York University. This short video engages theoretical conceptions (of Indigenous Environmental Justice) through the lens of participant experience and arts-based research. Combining raw footage of panelists, participant interviews, art, and stop-motion animation. The video focuses on people's reflections and relationships to environmental justice, Indigenous environmental justice, and the links between. It also highlights a thematic discussion around justice, water, decolonization, human-nature relationships, indigeneity, and shared responsibility. This video, like the symposium itself, aimed to extend the conversation beyond the arena of academia, into the realm of knowledge sharing and mobilization. [Watch Video](#)



# Team Members

The IEJ program articulates the nature, scope and significance of Indigenous environmental justice through Indigenous perspective of the laws, norms, protocols and customs essential for achieving Indigenous environmental justice.

This team of Academia, Community Collaborators, and Students work with a broad audience 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 Canadian Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice. She is cross appointed to Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) at York University. 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, more recently focused on Aboriginal disaster management and resilience, 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 committed to, and highly experienced in innovative KMB applications. Her commitment to social justice and vast experience ensuring knowledge gained through research is mobilized to serve communities at risk will form an essential part 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 Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES). She recently completed a SSHRC-funded research project in partnership with environmental justice activists from Aamiwinaang First Nations which tackled the issue of chronic pollution on an 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.](#)



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

Dr. Nicole Latulippe is interested in the relationships between Anishinabek knowledge, law and governance systems, and how these relate to Canadian environmental policy. Nicole comes from the North Bay area in Nipissing, Algonquin, and Robinson Huron Treaty territory. Dr. Latulippe will be joining the University of Toronto Scarborough's Department of Human Geography and the Department of Physical and Environment 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 (University of Sudbury). She is an Anishinaabemowin scholar and serves as co-editor for the Anishinaabemowin series. Dr. Corbiere utilizes a community-based approach working with fluent speakers. Her Anishinaabemowin-English on-line dictionary is forthcoming through the Algonquian Dictionaries and Linguistic Atlas website. Her research includes how English-Anishinaabemowin issues bear on intercultural communications. Dr. Corbiere will bring Anishinaabemowin and knowledge expertise to project. [Read more.](#)

## Community Collaborators

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### **Ms. Kathleen Padulo**

Ms. Kathleen Padulo (Oneida), currently Environment Director with the Chiefs of Ontario, completed her master's thesis "Environmental Protection for a First Nation Community" involving 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 or Provincial governments.



### **Ms. Susan Chiblow**

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 appointed as an Adjunct Member to the graduate program at FES, York University and serves as the Environment and Resource portfolio holder in her First Nation. She is currently assisting the Mississauga First Nation, in the development of the community's environmental laws and management regimes under a self-government process. She is appointed member of the national Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee for Species at Risk. As community scholars and environmental practitioners.

Update she is now a PhD. Student at York University.



### **Ms. Nancy Deleary**

Ms. Nancy Deleary, an artist and community leader, serves as portfolio holder of the Lands and Environment and Culture, Language and Heritage Department in the Chippewas of 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 experiences in a variety of art mediums. 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 will make invaluable contributions in this project by conceptualizing ways of representing IKS and environmental justice through arts-based productions. Her contributions will aid in the ongoing process of revitalizing Indigenous forms of KMB, transmission, application and increasing the accessibility of research outputs across generations.

## Students

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### **Aamina Masood, Research Assistant**

Aamina is a 4th year student studying political science and pursuing two certificate programs, one in Refugee Studies, and another in Public Administration and Law. She hopes to attend law school or continue in York University's Masters in Public Policy and Administration (MPPAL) program upon completing her undergraduate degree. Aamina joined the IEJ Project at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year as a Research Assistant and feels privileged to be a part of the team.



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

David is a Student Member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) and has obtained a Bachelor of Arts (BA) with Honours Distinction in City Studies and Human Geography from the University of Toronto. He is currently pursuing a Masters of Environmental Studies (MES) at York University and is the recipient of the Han Shan Sih Buddhist Scholarship in 2016. His research focuses on Planning for Housing and Food Security using LEED Standards. He is interested in how to plan communities whose members will have access to an adequate supply of housing and nutritious food. David enjoys working on web design and development and intends to pursue a career in urban and regional planning in the future.



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

Jayce Chiblow (Anishinaabe) is from Garden River First Nation and currently working on her Master in Environmental Studies at York University. Having previously completed a Bachelor of Biological Sciences, her input for the IEJ Project will include researching current/projected climate change impacts on Indigenous peoples.



### **Meagan Dellavilla, Research Assistant**

Meagan possesses a BA in sociology, environmental studies and psychology, and a certificate in documentary filmmaking. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Environmental Studies and a graduate diploma in Environmental and Sustainability Education. Her graduate work seeks to explore the intersections of environmental violence, cultural continuation, health and wellbeing, identity and displacement. She is also particularly interested in the role of young women in the environmental justice movement.





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

Monica Shafik, 21, is in her third year of a Double Honours Major, in International Development and Law & Society at York University. Monica has been a member of the Indigenous Environmental Justice (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. Her personal research focuses on Bicultural identity of indigenous racialized and religious minorities.



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

Nasreen is a recent Master's graduate from York University's Environmental Studies program (2017). Her research looks at the significance of water through Indigenous worldview. She is currently enrolled in 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 multi-media. Update, she probably has another degree/diploma from Seneca.



### **Peter Mangaly, Research Assistant**

Peter, a finance major, has been working with Professor Deborah McGregor since the inception of the IEJ Project. Peter has seen his role grow throughout the years from an Environmental Justice Research Assistant to a JD Research Assistant responsible for editing and producing the videos, articles and reports you may have seen throughout this website. Peter aspires to be a lawyer in the near future.



### **Salisha Purushuttam, Research Assistant**

Salisha Purushuttam, recipient of the 2016-2017 Law and Society Honours Prize and the 2017 Canada Graduate Scholarship, is currently a Teaching Assistant and Masters Candidate in the Socio-Legal Studies program at York University. Her commitment to social justice has fundamentally shaped her research interests, professional work and advocacy which range from environmental (in)justice, public health, institutional racism, and gender and public policy. Salisha has been an integral part of the IEJ Project since its inception at Osgoode Hall Law School where she directly engaged in knowledge mobilization and knowledge production through the production of video and written content now available on the IEJ Project's website and social media outlets.

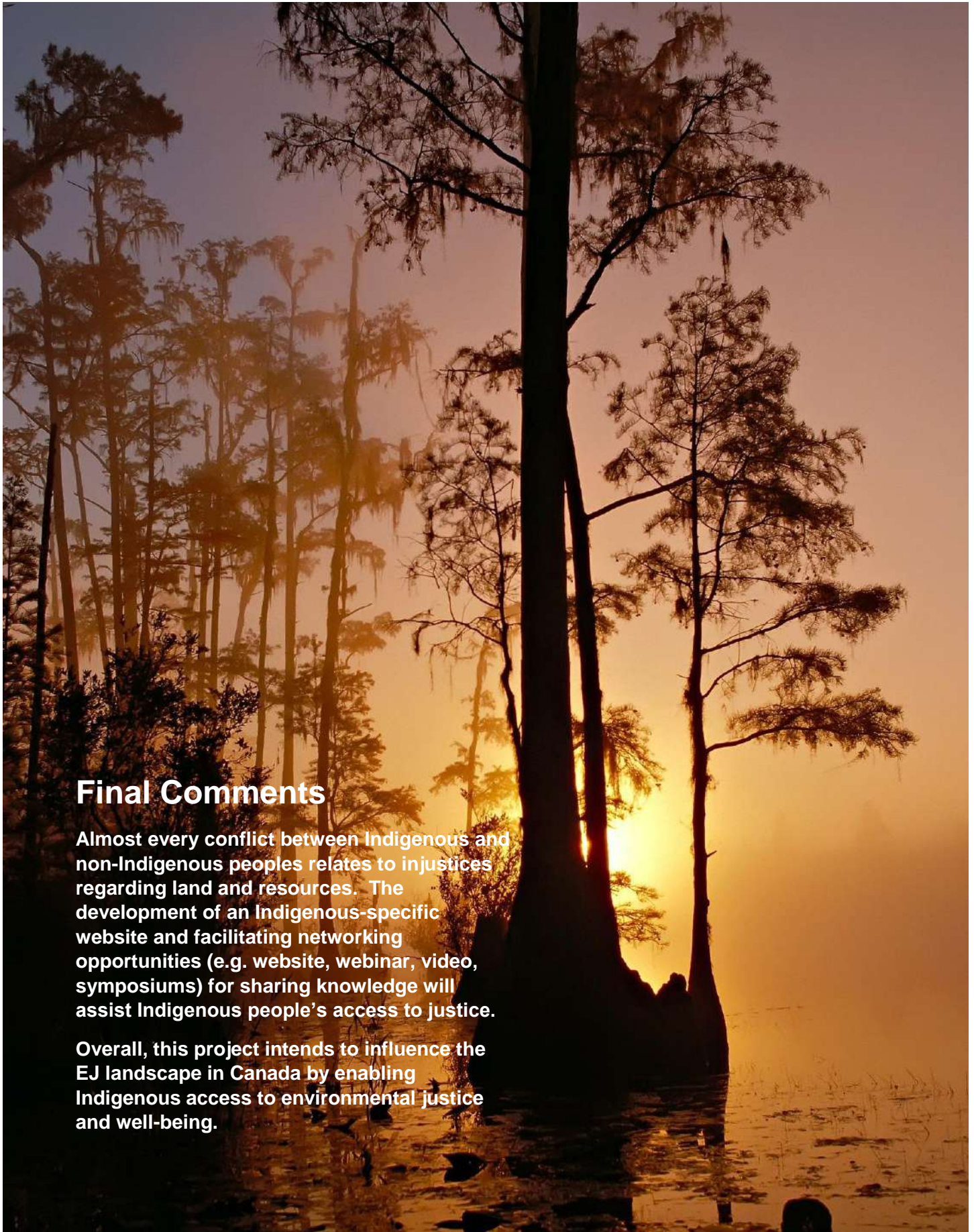
**Stefan Piercey, Communications and Outreach Officer**

A mature student in his undergraduate studies in the Business and Society program, Stefan Piercey is Sauteaux-Ojibway from the Sagkeeng First Nation Fort Alexander. Currently positioned as Communications and Outreach Officer for the IEJ Project and as President of the Aboriginal Students Association at York, Stefan works with students, faculty, and administration within the University and larger GTA community to advance initiatives such as Indigenous inclusion and support, and to address boundaries all Indigenous people face.

**Lauren King, Research Assistant**

Lauren is a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. She is Turtle clan from Ojibway and Cayuga Nation. She completed her degree in International Business Management at Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology in 2018. Lauren is a research assistant at York University and the Major Events Committee Coordinator for the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.





## 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

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**Telephone** (416) 736-5030

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

## Social Media

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

Facebook [Facebook.com/The-IEJ-Project](https://www.facebook.com/The-IEJ-Project)



## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Public Outreach Poster

**OUR FRAGILE  
PLANET**

# Indigenous Environmental Justice



Members of the Indigenous Environmental Justice Project (IEJ Project) will introduce the concepts of environmental justice and will present recent research findings. The IEJ Project is a SSHRC-funded initiative based out of York University whose research aims to develop a distinctive environmental justice framework that is informed by Indigenous knowledge systems, laws, concepts of justice and the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples.

**Friday May 25, 2018**  
**6:30 to 7:30 pm**

For more information, please contact the  
**Lillian H. Smith Library**

[torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)

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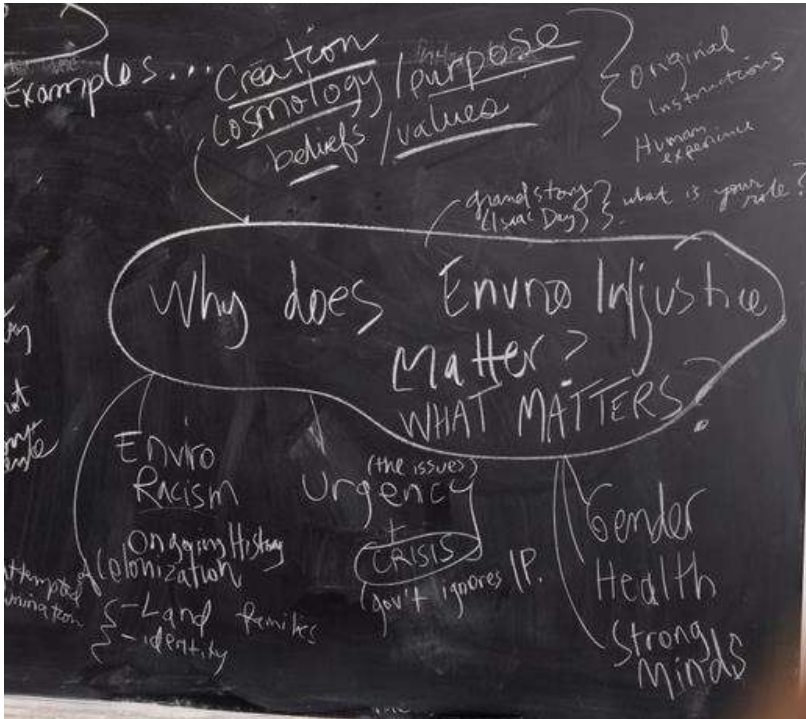
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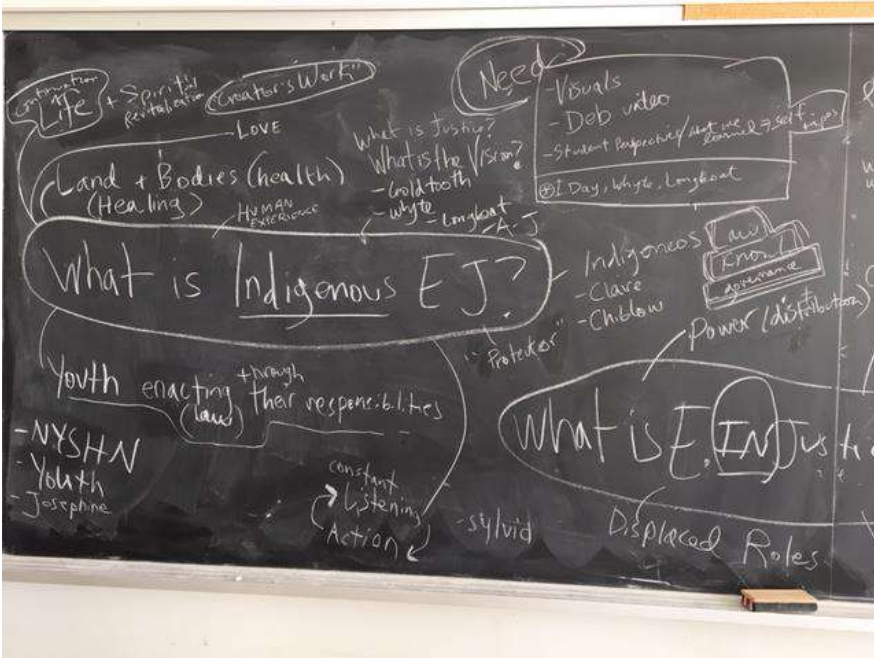
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**TORONTO  
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## Appendix 2: Concept Mapping







## Appendix 3: BAD STARS, an exhibition by Christina Battle

*Screenshot from facebook event, BAD STARS*



BAD STARS by Christina Battle  
 04 May – 09 June 2018  
 Co-presented with CONTACT Photography Festival  
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BAD STARS is a new body of work and discursive programming series by London, Ontario-based artist Christina Battle, whose research investigates the limits of disaster. Battle regards disaster as more than a singular event and instead as a framework operating within larger systems of power. The root of the term “disaster” derives from the Greek: dus– meaning “bad,” and aster meaning “star.” For millennia, the movement of the stars have produced a profound and reliant understanding of the terrestrial. Constellations influence the development of navigational structures, and through astrological study, have the potential to both explain and predict events happening on Earth. Disruptions in these understandings are caused by the unprecedented migration of once unflinching stars—now deemed bad stars.

BAD STARS considers disaster through the metaphor of these astronomical “bad stars”—as phenomena that cause unprecedented change from a once-stable structure and influence a wider, interdependent network. To this end, Battle solicits photographic images from a community of artists, scholars, and activists through an email survey. Contributors are asked to provide an image of what they consider the term “disaster” to represent. The image can be vernacular or professional in execution, made or found online, in a book or a magazine. The options are open and endless, allowing space for personalized expressions of what the term evokes and, ultimately, to determine collective meanings. These images of disaster comprise the heart of the exhibition, taking the form of large-scale collage from which the discursive programming will develop.

Considering disaster as a series of linkages extending from environmental, cultural, political, economic, and social conditions, BAD STARS seeks to draw threads between these connections and to consider how they might be realigned in ways that will help to move beyond them. Employing strategies of participation and



conversation, an interdisciplinary group of contributors will help forward the discussion by presenting their strategies for actively tackling disastrous incidents in their own communities. BAD STARS seeks to reframe perspectives about these events instead of wallowing in their destructive nature. To that end, the project sees the framework of disaster as an active strategy that can aid in the perspectival shifts necessary to advance beyond the causes of disasters themselves.

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## BIOGRAPHY

For over 15 years, media artist, curator, arts administrator and educator Christina Battle (Edmonton, AB) has been an active member of a number of communities including Toronto, San Francisco, and Denver and is currently based in London (ON). She has a B.Sc. with specialization in Environmental Biology from the University of Alberta, a certificate in Film Studies from Ryerson University, an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, and is currently working toward a PhD in Art & Visual Culture at the University of Western Ontario. With a practice founded in a DIY ethos she sees culture as being entirely dependent on it if it hopes to remain current and progressive. With organizing an active and critical part her practice, Christina has organized events and curated screenings that have traveled across North America. She is a contributing editor to INCITE Journal of Experimental Media; current collaborative projects include re:assemblage with Scott Miller Berry, and SHATTERED MOON ALLIANCE with Serena Lee.

She has exhibited internationally in festivals and galleries, most recently at: 8-11 (Toronto), Nuit Blanche Toronto, Galveston Artist Residency(Texas); Studio XX (Montreal), Le Centre des arts actuels Skol as part of Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal (Montreal), Thames Art Gallery (Chatham, ON), Casa Maaud (Mexico City); SOMArts (San Francisco); Third Space Gallery (New Brunswick); RL Window Gallery (New York); Redline Gallery(Denver); Deluge Contemporary Art (Victoria, BC); The ODD Gallery (Dawson City, YT); Gallery 44 (Toronto); WNDX Festival of Moving Image (Winnipeg); The Images Festival (Toronto); MCA Denver; the Aspen Art Museum; and the Ryerson Image Centre (Toronto).

## Appendix 4: April 2017 IEJ Project Update Newsletter



The Indigenous Environmental Justice Project



Photo by Meagan Dellavilla

In late February, in the midst of mourning the acquittal of [Colten Boushie's](#) accused murderer, more unfathomable news swept across Turtle Island - the Canadian court system found the man believed to have killed 15-year old [Tina Fontaine](#) "not guilty".

**Feeling as though they were kicked when already down, Indigenous youth came together to call for change.**

Pulling inspiration from similar camps that had taken root in Winnipeg and Calgary, Ezra Green and Koryn John set up Tkaronto's Soaring Eagle's Camp outside of Old City Hall on March 4th. Indigenous youth and their allies - balancing shifts between work and school obligations - have now occupied this space for over 80 days.

On a cold and rainy afternoon, the IEJ Project joined youth leaders at the camp. Over cups of sweet grass tea, we chatted about what motivates

their work, their visions for justice, and the ways WE CAN ALL support the movement. Hear from four young men that have committed themselves to the camp's success:



## STAY TUNED

The youth have recently announced that the camp - in its current form - will soon come to a close.

In a reflective post shared via their Facebook page, the youth describe their experience at the camp as "amazing". **"We have grown individually and as a community in ways we could have never expected"**, they add. They also recount the thousands they've interacted with - "raising awareness, educating...inspiring others to bring this fight into their lives and communities."

The closing of the camp will allow the youth to redirect their energy. Transitioning to a "pop-up" style occupation, they explain, will allow them to more easily move forward with the many ideas and plans that came about through the camp.

On **May 25th at 6pm**, a closing social will be held to celebrate the accomplishments of the camp. All are welcome.

For updates and additional information, follow the Soaring Eagle's Camp on Facebook @SECTkaronto. Monetary donations to fund future endeavors can be made via e-transfer to sectkaronto@gmail.com.

**READ MORE - Tkaronto Soaring Eagle's Camp: a conversation with youth movement leaders**

## Appendix 5: May 2017 IEJ Project Update Newsletter



Aanii/Hello!

The Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) Project team would like to wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season. As the year comes to a close, we would like to thank you for your continued correspondence and interest in the Project.

We would also like to invite you to view the videos - now edited and publically available on our [website](#) - from our Symposium held on May 26th, 2016. The symposium featured remarks and teachings shared by Elders, scholars, women, youth and activists. Knowledge was shared via panel discussions, presentations, lectures, storytelling and creative expression (art).



Doreen Bernard is a Mi'kmaq grassroots Grandmother, residential school survivor and water protector from Indian Brook, Nova Scotia. Doreen Bernard joined the ENRICH (Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequalities & Community Health) panel to share insight from her community's struggle to protect the water in Mi'kmaq territories at our IEJ Symposium. View Doreen Bernard's full video [here](#).



Nancy Deleary is an Independent Artist and a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. She speaks about the importance of art as a means of expressing her experiences as an Anishinaabe woman and the trauma her ancestors endured. See Nancy's art and artist statements for the pieces she provided at the Symposium [here](#).





Photo by CBC.ca



**Autumn Peltier has been [Nominated](#) for  
the International Children's Peace Prize Award.**

Autumn (Anishinaabe) is a 13-year-old from the Wikwemikong Unceded Reserve in Ontario. She advocates for clean, drinkable water for First Nations communities across Canada and promotes the preservation of Indigenous culture, language and identity. Autumn is the only nominee in Canada up for the International Children's Peace Prize award. For more information on Autumn's story, click [here](#), or to check out her presentation from the IEJ Symposium, click [here](#).

**Stay in touch!**

**Please be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for events, updates and ongoing community engagement opportunities, or reach out via email, [iej@yorku.ca](mailto:iej@yorku.ca). We're always happy to discuss ways that we can support you in your efforts to establish greater justice.**

**Chi Miigwech,  
Deborah McGregor and the IEJ Project Team**



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