## Challenging Canada 150: Settler Colonialism and Critical Environmental Sciences

2017 Symposium



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## Challenging Canada 150: Settler Colonialism and Critical Environmental Sciences

Starting on October 10, 2017 Nipissing University will be hosting a five day international symposium to consider the question of how we can bring together the humanities and geophysical sciences to revisit how we examine environments in the past within the context of settler colonialism.

Nipissing University's two Canada Research Chair holders, Kirsten Greer and April James, joined efforts with Alan Lester (Geography, University of Sussex), a leading British scholar in settler colonial studies to bring together an impressive and varied group of indigenous knowledge holders and scholars to consider the meaning of Canada's 150th anniversary.

Highlights of the symposium will include Keynote addresses by:

- Scott McLeod, the Chief of Nipissing First Nation, who will speak about the Lake Nipissing fishery
- Alan Lester (Sussex) who will speak about Lake Nipissing in the context of the global colonial project
- Paul Nadasdy (Anthropology, Cornell University) who considers how environmental knowledge gets used in Canadian wildlife management
- Wendy Makoons Geniusz (Ojibwe Language, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire)
  whose talk "Nookomis Giizhik, Nimisenh, Miina'ig, Ingijibinaa: Working with Plants
  and Trees to Open Lines of Communication" aims to illuminate philosophical
  differences between cultures and open possibilities for unity
- Deborah McGregor (Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice, York University) who will speak on the topic: "Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Storytelling about the Earth"

Participants will have the opportunity to enhance their research and analytical skills by attending workshops about ethical research practices, building meaningful partnerships between universities and First Nation communities, and how to safely share indigenous environmental knowledge with outside communities.

Randy Restoule, curator of the new Dokis Museum, and Dokis First Nation will host the group for an entire day devoted to learning about medicines and plants.