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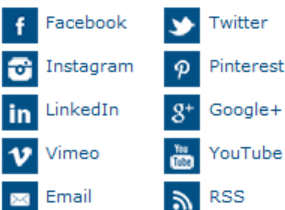
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Give to Nipissing

A model of bridge building - Challenging Canada 150 at Nipissing University

11/29/2017

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This past fall the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada funded a series of conferences on the topic of Canada 150. Nipissing University professors and Canada Research Chair holders Dr. Kirsten Greer and Dr. April James, joined efforts with Dr. Alan Lester, deputy vice-provost, Geography, at the University of Sussex and a leading British scholar in settler colonial studies to host Challenging Canada 150 this past October. Treaty historian Dr. Catherine Murton Stoehr was hired to help plan the conference with the specific task of indigenizing it at the structural level.

Symposium attendees from many First Nations as well as visitors from the United States and England were treated to five days of learning at five different locations. The organizers' goal, as indicated by the grant-winning proposal's title, *Challenging Canada 150: Settler Colonialism and Critical Environmental Sciences*, was to provide an indigenized learning experience open to as many different kinds of knowledge as possible in considering the question of Canada's birthday. Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod set the tone with his keynote on day one speaking plainly and at length about the agreements made, broken and forgotten, between settlers and the Anishinabeg over the use of the Lake Nipissing fishery. He ended with a hopeful and heartfelt reflection on meaningful acts of reconciliation that he has



witnessed in the North Bay community and said that people who gather to try to learn how to do better, like the people at the symposium, “are reconciliation.”

Renowned author of *Our Knowledge is not Primitive: Decolonizing Botanical Anishinaabe Teachings*, and Bear Clan Cree professor from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Dr. Wendy Makoons Geniusz, said, “This symposium started so many conversations about important issues surrounding land use, colonization, decolonization, and ways of talking about all of these things, that it will no doubt influence the teaching, thinking, and scholarship of participants for years to come.”

Dr. Laura Cameron, a historical geographer from Queen’s University appreciated the “pace and tone set by elders of Nipissing and Dokis First Nations who were reflective on the past but focused on the future and our roles in that future.” Cameron also noted how the structure of the symposium was “fully attentive to where we were, at Lake Nipissing and other places we traveled, critically exploring ways our own disciplines and practices have enabled settler colonialism and dispossession.”

Randy Restoule from Dokis First Nation who shared organizing responsibilities and hosted an entire day of the event at Dokis observed, “It was a great opportunity to highlight the ongoing partnership between Dokis and Nipissing University. We are fortunate to have worked together on so many projects.” His comments were demonstrated in real time by the presence that day of Dr. Dan Walters and Dr. Carly Dokis, Nipissing University professors with long reciprocal relationships at Dokis, as well as a gift from the community of a map made to Dr. Greer, a song and ceremony led by Dokis children, and a surprise visit and teaching from Dokis Chief Gerry Duquette Jr.

Dr. Chris Duvall, a symposium participant from the University of New Mexico said “The efforts Nipissing has made to learn from and contribute to Dokis and Nipissing First Nations were inspiring, as were the efforts toward taking indigenous knowledge seriously that were represented by the other Canadian academics I met. My colleague here, Maria Lane, and I have begun to build on what we’ve learned, and intend to improve and expand how we support indigenous students, and encourage learning about the impacts of colonialism.”

Trycia Bazinet, a PhD student in Indigenous and Canadian Studies at Carleton University and an active member of the symposium said that “Challenging Canada 150 was exemplary in its model; it demonstrated the exact kind of bridging work that will increasingly be needed between academia and affected communities. As a graduate student, I found it enriching to be included in those networks for a short time, which provided me with the chance to intimately learn about local struggles.”

Nipissing history professor Dr. James Murton, who had the jarring experience of traveling between the North Bay symposium and another Canada 150 conference held the very same week in Toronto reflected, “One [conference] was challenging the 150th anniversary and one largely accepted it. The more innovative work on reconciliation was taking place outside the major centre of Toronto.”

All students in the Nipissing University Masters of Environmental Sciences/ Studies experienced the symposium as a core element of their program this year, attending all days. Some were more than a little awed by tossing ideas back and forth with international scholars whose articles they had studied.

Dokis and Nipissing First Nation community members and elders who have been guiding this institution for years as it struggles toward indigenization showed up and shouldered their burden once again. John Sawyer, Lorraine White Duck Liberty, Norm Dokis, the aforementioned Randy Restoule, and new friends Dan Commanda and Leland Bell of Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation shared teachings, music, encouragement, and challenges.

Another Nipissing First Nation member, Dr. Cindy Peltier, Chair of Indigenous Education at Nipissing, provided guidance and led a reflection circle on day three of the symposium.

Maurice Switzer of Alderville First Nation and Tanya Lukin-Linklater of Port Lyons and Afognac helped the organizers open their minds and hearts to better ways of sharing knowledge at an academic conference and supported throughout. Mr. Switzer continues his role, now pressing the participants to put the knowledge shared to work.

Not all the reports are in, and some will never be shared. Colonialism has long arms and enforces silence fiercely. What was done wrong at the symposium, what was left out, what lies were told, who was hurt and how, is not going to show up here, but that doesn't mean these things didn't happen right alongside all the good and the organizers wish to acknowledge that too. It is our great hope that the symposium strengthened the credibility of our commitment, and Nipissing University's commitment, to doing better.

[Check out a series of photos and tweets from the Challenging Canada 150 conference, right here.](#)

Submitted by Dr. Catherine Murton Stoehr

Nipissing University

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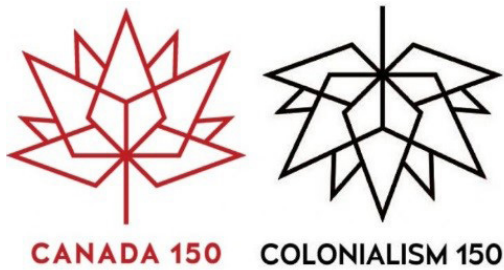
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20 November 2017

A Model of Bridge Building: Challenging Canada 150 at Nipissing University

October 10-14, 2017



For details on the symposium, see: <http://challengingca150.nipissingu.ca/>

Here are some highlights of the event.

CC150: Day 1, Tuesday October 10

Nipissing University





Dan Commanda (Nipissing First Nation) and oshkabewis Leland Bell (Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation on Manitoulin Island) welcome participants to the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation. Nipissing University on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg peoples and within the lands protected by the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.



Canada Research Chairs, April James and Kirsten Greer, opening up the symposium.



Lorraine Whiteduck Liberty (Nipissing First Nation) teaching the participants about her experiences with water.



Tobacco bundles.



Alan Lester (University of Sussex)
"Snapshots of Empire: Governing a Diverse Empire Everywhere and all at Once"



Symposium participants including Nipissing University's MES/MESc graduate students



Norm Dokis, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Sabrina Morrison (Nipissing University)



Brett Buchanan @BrettBuch · Oct 10

Replying to @BrettBuch @kgreer18 and @NipissingU

Maurice Switzer, Bnesi, showing Dish With One Spoon wampum belt in speaking about water, the Niagara treaty, & the Nipissing territory.



Maurice Switzer, Bnesi: "So Long as the World Exists"



Brett Buchanan @BrettBuch · Oct 10

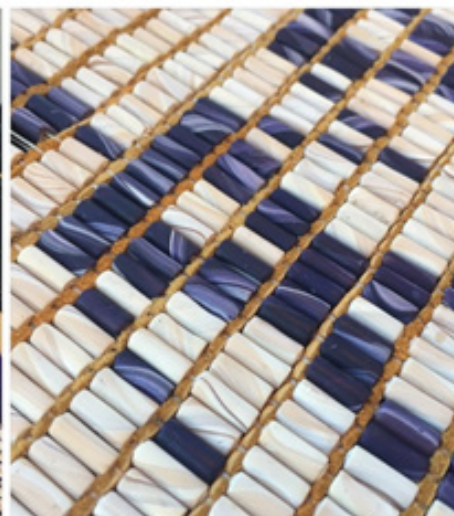
Replying to @BrettBuch @kgreer18 and @NipissingU

Catherine @murtonstoehr speaking on the forgotten treaty promise re: Niagara Treaty.



Maria Lane @GeographyLane · 2017-10-10

Humbled to learn more about Canada history from First Nations and academic historians [#challengingcanada150](#)



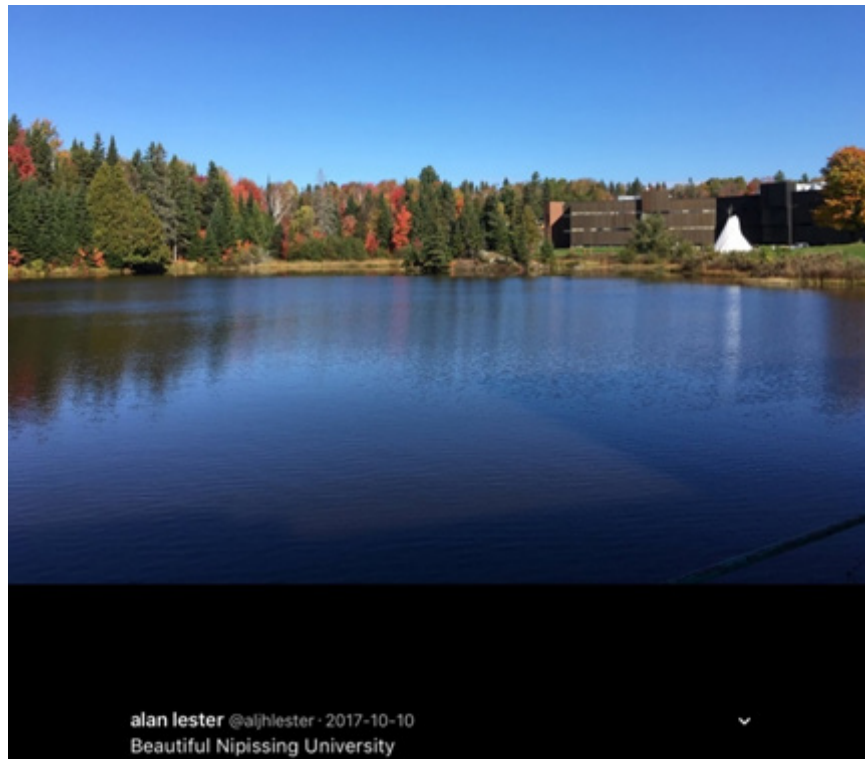


Maria Lane @GeographyLane · 2017-10-10

Workshop on reading between the lines of the Hudson Bay Company records [#ilovearchives](#)

[illegible]

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4	Book 4	4	4	4	4.00	4.00	
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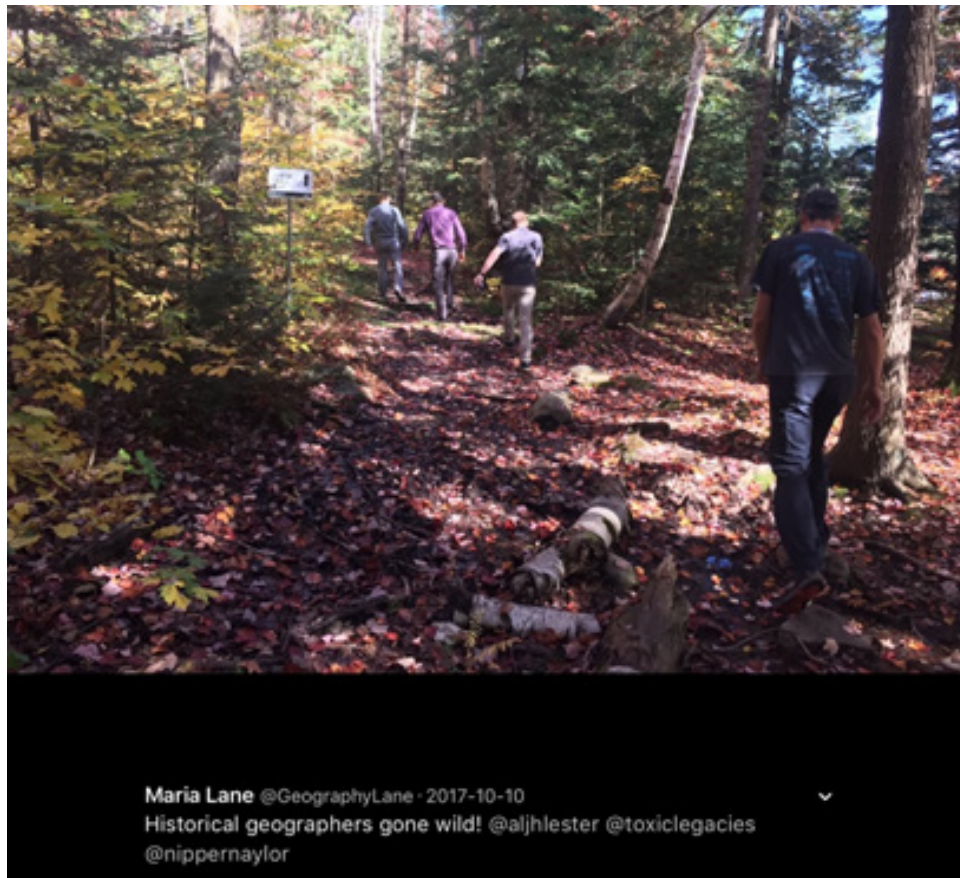


alan lester @aljhlester · 2017-10-10
Beautiful Nipissing University



Maria Lane @GeographyLane · 2017-10-10
Historical geographers gone wild! @aljhlester @toxiclegacies
@nippernaylor

Simon Naylor (University of Glasgow), Alan Lester (University of Sussex), Chris Duvall (University of New Mexico), and Arn Keeling (Memorial University) walking the Nipissing University trails.



Nipissing First Nation Chief, Scott McLeod: *The Impact of Settler Colonialism on Lake Nipissing*



Participants at Chief Scott McLeod's keynote lecture.



Brett Buchanan @BrettBuch · Oct 10



A really powerful and heartfelt talk on settler colonialism, Nibisiing Anishinaabek community, and fishing rights. Thanks Chief McLeod.

Kirsten Greer @kgreer18



Our first public
keynote: Chief Scott
McLeod, Nipissing

CC150: Day 2, Wednesday October 11

Discovery North Bay



Getting ready for Day 2



Paul Nadasdy's (Cornell University) Keynote Talk *Imposing Territory: First Nation Land Claims and the Transformation of Human-Animal Relations in the Yukon*



A teaching by John Sawyer (Nipissing First Nation).



CC150: Day 3, Thursday October 12

Nipissing University



President Mike DeGagné introducing Deborah McGregor (York University)
Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Storytelling about the Earth



Maria Lane @GeographyLane · Oct 12 ▼
Needed a bit of fresh air on Day3 of
[#challengingcanada150](#) to help digest new
perspectives. [@nippernaylor](#) [@NipissingU](#)



Symposium soccer match: Nipissing University versus the 'World'



MVP Trycia Bazinet (Carleton University) clearing the ball.



Bob Wilson (Syracuse University) sending the ball to Paul Nadasdy (Cornell University) off of a corner.

alan lester Retweeted



Maria Lane @GeographyLane · 2017-10-12

Best conference ever! [#challengingcanada150](#)

Kirsten Greer @kgreer18

NipissingU vs the world @GeographyLane

@toxiclegacies @jengabob @nippernaylor @aljhlester

@NipissingU



Maria Lane @GeographyLane · Oct 12

Help choose new editorial photo for
[@historicalgeog](#) masthead! Choose before OR
after? (Tonight's Nipissing v World match.)
[@toxiclegacies](#)





MVPs from Team Nipissing University (Keithen Sutherland) and Team "World" (Trycia Bazinet) shaking hands.

CC150: Day 4, Friday October 13

Dokis First Nation Reserve



Getting up early to leave for the Dokis First Nation Reserve at 7am.



At Nipissing First Nation Reserve on our way to Dokis First Nation Reserve



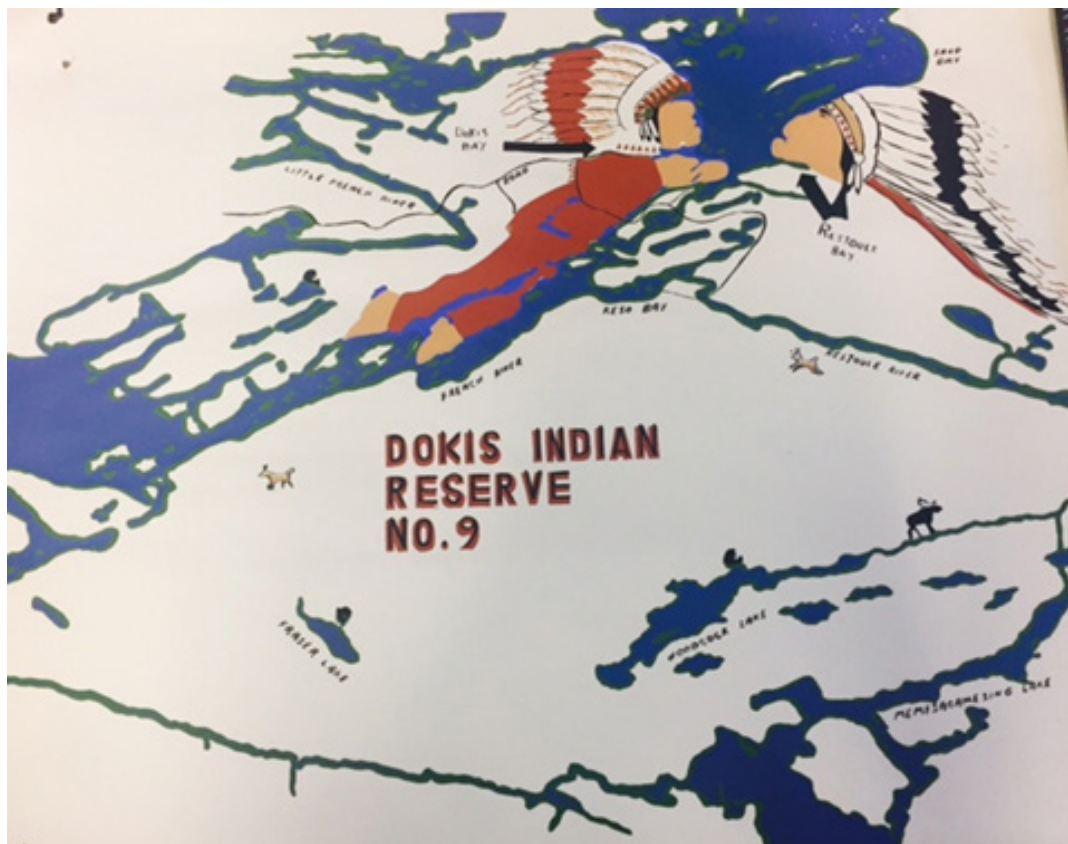
Chris Duvall (University of New Mexico), Keithen Sutherland (Nipissing University), Katie Hemsworth (Queen's University), Sinead Early (University of Northern British Columbia), Bob Wilson (Syracuse University), Laura Cameron (Queen's University), Simon Naylor (University of Glasgow)



Randy Restoule, Dokis First Nation: "Indigenous Connection to the Land: Conflict between Traditional Knowledge and Lands Use Mapping Processes". A special thank you to Randy for coordinating our day at Dokis.



Norm Dokis presented a map of "Dokis Indian Reserve No.9" to Nipissing University.



The map presented to Nipissing University by Norm Dokis.



Lunch at the Dokis First Nation Reserve: Laura Cameron (Queen's University), Kirsten Greer (Nipissing University), Katie Hemsworth (Queen's University), and Sinead Early (University of Northern British Columbia).



Norm Dokis leading a Medicine Walk at Dokis First Nation Reserve.



Medicine Walk with Norm and Clayton Dokis



Medicine Walk with Norm and Clayton Dokis



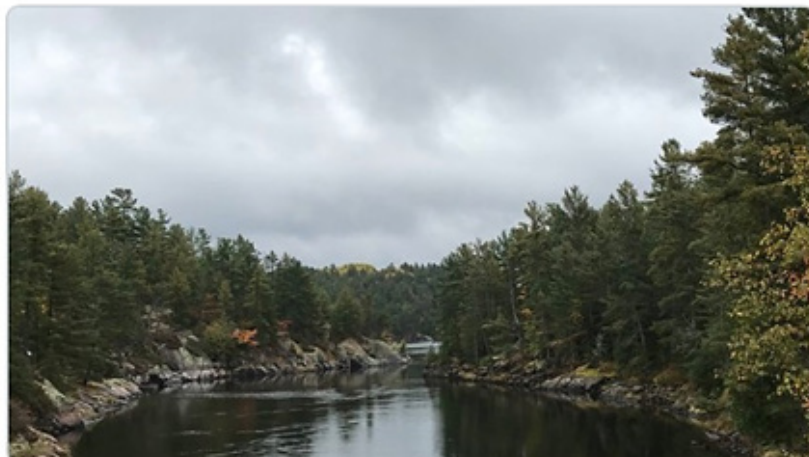
Norm Dokis and Alan Lester (University of Sussex)



Brett Buchanan @BrettBuch · Oct 14



Chi miigwech to the Dokis FN for welcoming us yesterday to discuss Anishinaabek plant-animal-human relations. Saw bison, white-tail deer,...



Kirsten Greer @kgreer18 · Oct 13



A great day at Dokis First Nation reserve.
Miigwetch to [@RestouleR](#) Norm Dokis, and
Dokis FN for hosting us.



A Medicine Walk after Wendy Makoons Geniusz's workshop *Working with our Ancestors' Teachings to Present our Environmental Knowledge to the World*

Maria Lane @GeographyLane · Oct 14



Replying to [@kgreer18](#) and [@RestouleR](#)

An honor to be invited to First Nations reserve.
Still grappling with all I learned today abt Dokis
Nation and human-plant relations



CC150: Day 5, Saturday October 14

Dokis First Nation Reserve



Arn Keeling (Memorial University), Bob Wilson (Syracuse University), James Wilkes (Trent University), Randy Restoule (Dokis First Nation)



John Sawyer (Nipissing First Nation), Katie Hemsworth (Queen's University), Brigitte Evering (Trent University), Sinead Early (University of Northern British Columbia), Pavlina Radia (Nipissing University)



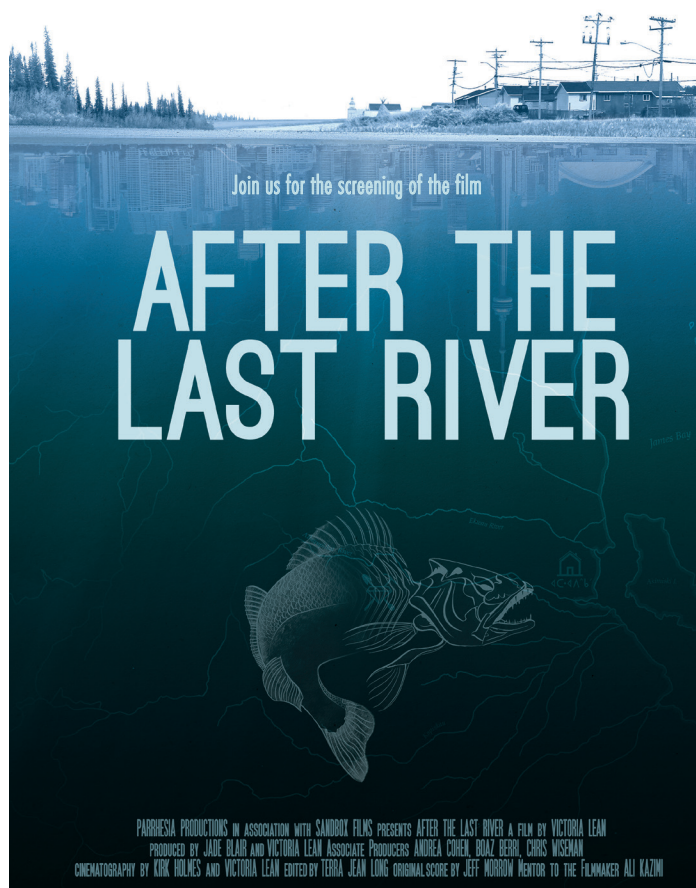
Sinead Early (University of Northern British Columbia), Victorian Lane (After the Last River), Catherine Murton Stoehr (Nipissing University), Margot Maddison-MacFadyen (Nipissing University), Paul Nadasdy (Cornell University) , Frank Tough (University of Alberta



Randy Restoule, Dokis First Nation, made moose chili for the group.



Laura Cameron and Matt Rogalsky (Queen's University)
 "Gunn's 'A Day in Algonquin Park': settler colonial listening and erasure"



Saturday, October 14, 2017, 4:30 pm
 at the Capitol Centre
 150 Main Street East, North Bay



Public screening of After the River by Victoria Lean at the Capitol Centre



The organizers: Catherine Murton Stoeher, Sabrina Morrison, Emily Fachnie, Kirsten Greer