

October 27, 2020

APUS stands in solidarity with the Mi'kmaq fishers along Nova Scotia's French Shore.

Mi'kmaq fishers in Nova Scotia have been under attack since Sipekne'katik First Nation launched its moderate livelihood fishery on September 17th, in line with the Supreme Court decision granting their right to fish.

To our shock and disgust, on October 13th, an angry mob of fisherman trapped two Mi'kmaw fishermen inside a lobster pound, set a van on fire, and stole lobster catch. The RCMP, who were present during this action, stood by and continued to allow this racist violence to occur.

We cannot continue to be complacent as others continue to face violence for exercising their Sovereignty and treaty rights. We must use our collective power to demand an end to the violence which stems not from "conservationism" but from colonialism and racism.

As this situation continues to evolve, APUS will be taking steps, including monetary support and outreach, to support efforts on the ground to keep people safe. Decolonization is action, and we are committed to acting in the best ways possible. We also want to emphasize that across Canada, there are several actions and efforts taking place to protect the lands we all share: The Algonquin-Anishinabe Nation are calling for a moratorium on moose sport hunting in <u>Réserve faunique La Vérendrye</u>. <u>Six Nations Land Defenders</u> have mobilized to stop the Mackenzie Meadows housing development project which is directly violating the sovereignty of the Haudenosaunee. The <u>Secwepemc</u> are fighting the Trans Mountain Pipeline, to preserve their unceded lands and waterways.

It is important that we bear witness and continue to engage with the work of Indigenous people, who are the original stewards of the land we occupy. We cannot afford to wait for a "better time" to address the repercussions of colonialism, capitalism, and climate change. We must take action now.

If you are able, here's how you can help:

DONATE:

- Frontline Support: <u>1752frontline@gmail.com</u>
- Sipekne'katik First Nation Fundraising: <u>monicah@sipeknekatik.ca</u>
 - See also: <u>Mi'kmaq Ways to Support Master List</u>
- Donate to the 1492 Landback Lane
- Support Secwepemc Land Defense

In Solidarity, APUS Executive Committee