

Real Algonquins and Phoney People

September 4, 2009

Further to our recent report, "What's New at Sharbot Lake?", we should've been quite clear for the sake of our wide readership. There are REAL Algonquins. Algonquin territory is north of the Ottawa River and extends to the natural divide where rivers flowing south are Algonquin and those flowing north are Cree territory.

[Since the passing of Algonquin Elder, William Commanda in August, 2011, the Kitigan Zibi Chief has come out claiming the AOO territory as part of Algonquin territory and denouncing the AOO land claim.]

On September 1, the Algonquins of Barriere Lake staged a protest against logging by Abitibi-Bowater on unceded Algonquin land. Though the Barriere Lake Algonquins are really Algonquins, the protest is a farce.

The re-instated chief, Jean Maurice "Poncho" Matchewan is at it again. He gets people out on the line "to place [their] bodies in front of logging machines". This makes for fine media theatrics. However, there is no substance to these actions though people do get hurt when police charge in with batons and tear gas.

Matchewan is well known as a longtime gangster at Barriere Lake. He acts with impunity, using intimidation, violence and banishment to get rid of dissenters. His two advisors and co-conspirators, lawyer and Ojibwe David Nahwegahbow and Mohawk Russell Diabo are always lurking to perpetuate the fraud of the Trilateral Agreement.

Based on the UN Brundtland Report, a futuristic environmental document, the Agreement does NOTHING to strengthen Algonquin sovereignty and rights. It is not a land claim. It gives the Algonquins firewood and chump change while the Matchewan gang are well paid for their traitorous performance. It is the test case for the slick modern method of the final plunder and destruction of Indigenous forests worldwide.

People like Elizabeth May, leader of the Canadian Green Party and David Bleakney of CUPE Ottawa, go along with Matchewan because of the Agreement. They and other outside supporters including the Barriere Lake Solidarity group and Martin Lukacs in Montreal, are deaf to the Algonquins' complaints of Matchewan bullyism and corruption. The Barriere Lake Algonquins are still waiting for Nahwegahbow to provide the bookkeeping for the \$millions that disappeared under the Matchewan watch.

There are two or three or more factions of Barriere Lake Algonquins. All, including the Matchewan gang are infiltrated and controlled by Indian Affairs. It's the old divide and conquer strategy meant to tear apart the community of about 500 people. Barriere Lake Algonquins are demoralized, suspicious and fed up with the politics. They live in 3rd world conditions of poverty in over crowded housing

without insulation and running water, using generators for electricity and cell phones for communications. With unemployment at about 90%, anyone who leaves the community for work or education loses their voice in the community.

Algonquin territory is still rich in resources. The corporate plan is to strip the forests, dig out the mineral wealth and then flood the area in a huge water diversion scheme. Each step of this vicious greedy process further destroys the traditional Algonquin way of life. It has been going on for over a century now. It will take some time to undo the damage.

The corporate governments of Canada and Quebec have no intention of doing the right thing. Their tactic is to stall and stall some more while the pillage continues. No matter how bad it looks, we Indigenous will never give up our resistance and the fight for our future generations.

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Note: In regard to Michael Bryant, former Ontario Attorney General and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, he has been charged with criminal negligence causing death and dangerous driving causing death. He was interviewed on camera and allowed to declare his innocence. He was wearing a suit but looked tired and irritable, not at all ashamed. Where were the handcuffs and stiff bail conditions that the rest of us would get in such a serious case?

Unless we witnessed the incident, we don't really know what crimes Bryant is guilty of. We do know he is clearly getting special treatment. We know he will get the best of lawyers. We know the cops didn't kick the sh*t out of him. They didn't taser him or leave him on the side of the road somewhere to find his way home.

He quit his job and will appear in court in October. Hopefully, the family and friends of the deceased cyclist, Darcy Sheppard will raise a ruckus and demand justice. Whether they get it is another matter. Stay tuned.

[The Ontario courts dropped the charges against Bryant who is after all one of their own.]