

### **Support for the rights of Indigenous communities and the Idle No More Movement**

Whereas Canada represents a settler colonial state established through the ongoing dispossession and oppression of Indigenous peoples;

Whereas the Conservative government led by Stephen Harper is expanding a colonial agenda by pursuing the material enrichment of imperialist corporations through resource extraction on unresolved land claims and as demonstrated in the omnibus budget Bill C-45 in contravention of First Nations' Treaty Rights<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas the Idle No More movement represents Indigenous led opposition to the Canadian government's racist and assimilationist policies that perpetuate neo-colonial relations;

Whereas the Idle No More movement represents Indigenous led call to build a more equitable and sustainable society where the most vulnerable populations have access to basic rights such as appropriate housing, food and clean water, education and autonomy;

Whereas the notion of "education" was used as a violent weapon against Indigenous people through Canada's residential school system and access to quality education continues to be a struggle for Canadian Aboriginal peoples<sup>2</sup>

Whereas education is seen by the Faculty of Education at McGill as a avenue to increase sovereignty;

Whereas the McGill University Faculty of Education benefits from long standing research relationships with several Indigenous / First Nations communities and many of its faculty members and graduate students are committed to research in the fields of Aboriginal / Indigenous education and social justice<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas the McGill Faculty of Education, further asserts its commitment and ties to Indigenous communities through offering the [Bachelor of Education \(B.Ed.\) - Kindergarten and Elementary Education - First Nations and Inuit Studies \(120 credits\)](#), and Continuing Education programs in [Education for First Nations and Inuit](#), [Aboriginal Literacy Education](#), [Middle School in Aboriginal Communities](#), [Aboriginal Education for Certified Teachers](#), [First Nations and Inuit Student Personnel Services](#), and [First Nations and Inuit Educational Leadership](#);

**Resolved** the Education Graduate Students' Society (EGSS) endorse the current Idle No More movement;

**Resolved** starting January 28th 2013 this endorsement be shared widely with the EGSS membership

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.firstperspective.ca/news/2579-first-nations-say-omnibus-bill-violates-treaty-rights>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/news\\_details/2232](http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/news_details/2232)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.mcgill.ca/dise/about/academicstaff>; <http://www.mcgill.ca/edu-ecp/people/academic>;