

June 27, 2014

To local members  
Quebec Region  
Union of National Employees

**RE: "Mythes et Réalités: Solidarité aux peuples autochtones" [myths and realities: solidarity among Aboriginal peoples] Training Experience**

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Kuei,

Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to tell you about my experience at the above-mentioned training, which was held June 13 to 14, 2014. As a young Aboriginal woman, I am very interested in learning more about the realities of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, to better understand the myths and realities that surround them. This PSAC-Quebec training came at a great time in my life as a unionist. Given my curiosity, I could not pass up this opportunity.

The event opened with the introduction of our fabulous trainers, Carlin Doutré and Maude Séguin. We then moved on to roundtable introductions to create a shared bond of solidarity. I was proud to see more than 10 enthusiastic participants who were clearly excited to learn more on this topic, which, aside from the misleading information received through traditional media, is relatively unfamiliar.

As expected, Magali Picard, Executive Vice-President of PSAC-Quebec, gave a passionate speech! She spoke from the heart; her energy and charisma captivated her audience. As I listened to this Aboriginal woman speak I realized just how much can be achieved when one truly believes in something. Thank you, Magali! When may we expect your biography?

Storyteller Yolande Picard stopped in to share songs and legends from various Aboriginal nations. Participants took part in this unforgettable moment by clapping their hands, slapping their thighs or using pamphlets as noisemakers, to the Idle No More theme. Everyone enjoyed the interval which challenged us to let loose our inner child.

Viviane Michel, President of the Quebec Aboriginal women's association, honoured us with a heartfelt testimonial. She spoke of the challenges facing Aboriginal women: the lack of resources, financial instability, single-mother households, linguistic and cultural differences, etc. All this with the profound

belief that these women want to improve their lot and stand tall, despite the inequalities they experience. We discussed the thousands of missing Aboriginal women in Canada, and discovered that there are just as many missing Aboriginal men. Which begs the question: Why has there been no national public inquiry?

Here are two great links with more information on the subject:

[http://www.faq-qnw.org/press\\_media/press\\_release/call-national-inquiry-11](http://www.faq-qnw.org/press_media/press_release/call-national-inquiry-11)

<http://www.faq-qnw.org/>

We watched the film QUÉBÉKOISERIE, a 2014 Jutra Award nominee for best documentary feature, Magnus Isacson's Award (RIDM) winner, Best of Fest (WIFF) winner, and humanist award and audience choice winner (Gaspé's *vues sur mer* festival).

### **Synopsis:**

*They had to go to the other side of the planet, specifically Tibet, to realize it.*

*Mélanie Carrier and Olivier Higgins are two active thirty-somethings with friends around the world, but they realize they have never set foot on a reserve in their native home of Quebec. The couple decide to travel the province's North Shore by bicycle in a quest to gain a better understanding of the relationships between Quebecers and First Nations People. Why do so many know so little about First Nations people, even though studies have shown that more than half of French Canadians have at least one aboriginal ancestor? Why does prejudice persist? How can things change? In chance encounters and otherwise, the two young filmmakers cross paths with an Innu heading off to find his ancestors in Normandy and the amazing story surrounding the sister of Corporal Lemay, killed during the 1990 Oka Crisis.*

Source: <http://mofilms.ca/quebekoisie/194/?lang=en>

Of course, the training wouldn't have been complete without discussing the Idle No More movement, and solidarity among Aboriginal peoples. We were shown a video by the two co-founders of this movement in Quebec, Widia Larivière and Melissa Mollen Dupuis. A discussion followed. I want to thank Manon Sioui and Luc Tailleux for the knowledge they brought to this training. They were the lifeblood of our entire training experience.

Thank you, Brothers and Sisters!

Link to video [French only]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rGuW933sJM>

I left this training feeling grateful, filled with new beliefs on Aboriginal solidarity. My thirst for knowledge was quenched. As I write today, I am again filled with a

longing to better understand my heritage. With each passing day, I will seek to quench this thirst.

Yours in solidarity,

Julie Dubois  
Assistant Vice-President, Quebec  
Aboriginal woman and young activist

