

canada ✦ colombia ✦ germany ✦ greece
iraqi kurdistan ✦ palestine ✦ united states

christian peacemaker teams
équipes chrétiennes d'action pour la paix

**building partnerships to transform
violence and oppression**

December 2014

RE: Report on support work for Haudenosaunee hunters at Short Hills Provincial Park.

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) is an international human rights and violence-reduction agency that works with groups and communities who are suffering from violence or oppression. CPT maintains a full-time team in Toronto, ON to work with Indigenous communities engaged in non-violent action to assert or claim their land rights. These communities may invite our presence and support if our methods of non-violent accompaniment and witnessing are deemed useful.

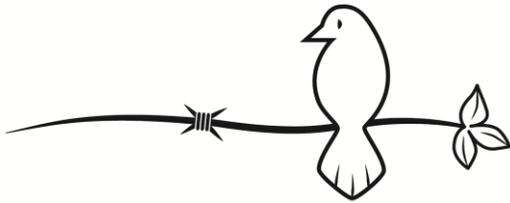
In November 2014, CPT was invited to constitute a supportive presence at Short Hills Provincial Park during the Haudenosaunee bow hunt for deer. Although there are treaty rights for the Six Nations of the Grand River to hunt on their traditional land and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) have accommodated these treaty rights to hunt in Short Hills Provincial Park, in previous years the hunt had reportedly been accompanied by protest, sabotage & disruption, and ill will from various anti-hunt protesters including non-Haudenosaunee hunters without the treaty right to hunt, animal rights activists who objected to the hunt on principle, and local property owners and park users who felt that the hunt was unsafe.

CPT was not able to staff a team for the first two days of the fall 2014 hunt (Nov. 22-23), which featured a barricade, set up by anti-hunt protesters in an attempt to impede the Haudenosaunee hunters from exercising their treaty rights. The barricade blocked hunters from entering the park by installing a negotiated 10-minute vehicle stall. In fact, anti-hunt protesters created such a serious disruption of Haudenosaunee ability to exercise their treaty rights that police, both Niagara Regional Police and the Ontario Provincial Police, were needed on site at Short Hills in order to separate out anti-hunt protesters from Haudenosaunee hunters.

We heard multiple reports of intimidation, harassment, racist and sexist insults directed from the anti-hunt protestors to both the Haudenosaunee hunters as well as the supporters, who were few in numbers compared to the anti-hunt protestors. Following an invitation from the hunters to participate in a sacred ceremony and informally to stand in solidarity at dawn and dusk as the hunters entered and exited the park and sat through the 10-minute vehicle stall, CPT felt it would be beneficial to provide a presence on the latter four days of the hunt; November 27-28 and December 6-7.

By providing a team trained and equipped in non-violent direct action and peacebuilding we were able to make a more welcoming space for Haudenosaunee hunters and their local supporters, as well as demonstrate CPT support for the hunt and for the concept of treaty rights.

25 Cecil Street, Unit 310 • Toronto, ON M5T 1N1, Canada • Tel: +1-416-423-5525
canada@cpt.org • www.cpt.org



canada ✦ colombia ✦ germany ✦ greece
iraqi kurdistan ✦ palestine ✦ united states

christian peacemaker teams
équipes chrétiennes d'action pour la paix

**building partnerships to transform
violence and oppression**

Specific actions we took included;

- 1) Use of banners and placards to demonstrate support to hunters and passing vehicles
- 2) Monitoring the anti-hunt protesters' 10-minute stall of hunters' vehicles, as allowed by police
- 3) Observing and filming altercations between anti-hunt protestors and police
- 4) Standing alongside hunters' vehicles when, against the instructions of both the police and the Ministry of Natural Resources, anti-hunt protestors peered through the windows of vehicles, shining flashlights in the faces of vehicle occupants and counting occupants

At times there were conversations between anti-hunt protestors and supporters, but not of a constructive nature. The vocal anti-hunt protestors were condescending, insulting and cynical. At no point over the four days of our presence were we invited to introduce ourselves or to make our perspective known. We were prepared to engage in dialogue but it was clear that there was no interest in that.

We did note that there was a strong tendency to mock us based on the incorrect assumption that a majority of our group were students from Brock University (with the implicit or explicit implication that we were naive and easily led). We did not feel the need to directly confront or correct this assumption. While some of the local supporters had links with Brock University, at no point did the support team identify itself as a Brock group or a group with any official Brock standing.

CPT achieved its goals of providing a supportive presence and explaining that presence to anyone who wanted to understand the different opinions and reactions to the hunt. We were present to balance the numbers of anti-hunt protestors with supporters of Haudenosaunee right to hunt and to reduce the chance of intimidation. We will continue to do so as long as our presence is welcome, effective, and feasible.

Peter Haresnape, Toronto
Carrie Peters, Toronto
John Vallely, Atikameksheng
Chuck Wright, Winnipeg

25 Cecil Street, Unit 310 • Toronto, ON M5T 1N1, Canada • Tel: +1-416-423-5525
canada@cpt.org • www.cpt.org