

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA RELEASE: INDIGENOUS RIGHTS CONFERENCE**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2019**

ST CATHARINES, ON – Monday November 4, 2019

The Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt are pleased to release the schedule for their upcoming Indigenous Rights Conference. The conference is a spectacular interdisciplinary program featuring Indigenous women scholars who look across multiple Indigenous Rights issues. Mayor Walter Sendzik and the Strong Water Women, Niagara Women's Drum Group, will help to open the conference.

It will be held Saturday November 16, 2019 from 9:00 am until 8:00 pm. at Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, 15 Artists' Common, downtown St. Catharines ON.

Michele-Elise Burnett, Celebration of Nations Artistic Director and Brock University's Aboriginal Education Council Co-Chair explains why it was important to her that Celebration of Nations partner with the Indigenous Rights Conference:

“By having our rights recognized and respected shows the Two Row Collaboration in action! There is a positive Indigenous momentum happening in Niagara. Celeste and Jodielynn [Co-Founders of The Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt] are true warriors set on a mission to education the public of our inherent right to hunt and what it means to our peoples and our future generations.”

Workshops include:

**Honouring our relationships: Wahkotowin (Cree Natural Law) and the right of Indigenous peoples to hunt**, Dr. Robyn Bourgeois

Screening of the documentary **Tracks in the Snow** (Shirley Cheechoo, 2001) followed by **Conversations on Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Food (In)security**, Celeste Smith

**Endangered Animal Species Across Latin America and the Gifts of Spirit**, Dr. Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas

**Settler Environmentalism as Violence against Indigenous Women**, Dr. Jennifer Brant

**Reconciling animal liberation with Indigenous hunting rights**, Mo Constantine, Kaho Nishibu, Stephanie Piovesan, Kate Spiegel

Screening of the documentary **Is the Crown at War with Us?** (Alanis Obomsawin, 2003, 96 min). The film will be introduced by Rachelle Friesen of Christian Peacemakers Team and Elizabeth Chitty

*All community members are welcome to attend the conference: Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, regardless of their position on the hunt.*

Jodielynn Harrison, Co-Founder of The Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt says, “We are inspired by the community’s response to the Supporters’ educational programming. This year’s conference will deepen understanding of Indigenous human rights by raising awareness of Indigenous rights to land, culture, identity, environment, food security, and self-determination”.

The full conference schedule can be found at <https://sixnationsrighttohunt.com/workshops-events/>

Thank you to our partners: The Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, Celebration of Nations and The Film House @ First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Niagara Quakers, CUPE local 4207 (Representing Academic Workers at Brock University), Brock University Human Rights and Equity, Brock Student Justice Centre, Brock Department of English Language and Literature, Brock Centre for Women’s and Gender Studies, Brock Department of Sociology.

*The Indigenous Rights Conference is affirmed by the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority. The HWWHA, which organizes the harvest at Short Hills Provincial Park, is a department tasked by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council with the management of wildlife resources.*