

# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Forum on Global Issues

**DATE:** 3:45-5:00 Tuesday 3 October 2017

**PLACE:** Dennis Hall

**TOPIC:** *The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)*

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Un Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). A crucial concept that UNDRIP helps enshrine is the notion of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), whereby Indigenous communities and peoples have the right to refuse or accept projects having an impact on them prior to their commencement. In a talk on UNDRIP earlier this year, legal scholars and Mi'kmaq nationals, Naomi Metallic and Patti Doyle-Bedwell, stated that the declaration – though only aspirational – has the potential of fully fleshing out Article 35 in Canada's Constitution; but it could only do so if the notion of consent was well defined collectively with First Nation Peoples. The issue of a well defined and agreed to consent-granting process is crucial to projects like Alton Gas, here in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia, as they have Treaty implications (the Shubenacadie river is named in the 1752 Peace and Friendship Treaty), as well as in other contexts around the world. This forum will provide participants an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the UNDRIP and FPIC, as well as some of FPIC's potentials and limitations for guaranteeing more equitable decision-making processes around major resource extraction/development projects.

## **Questions for Discussion:**

*"Why is consent from Indigenous peoples such an important and yet contentious issue in large scale projects (mining, dams, pipelines, etc.) that are planned on their territories?"*

*"What would the implications be if Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) were an ongoing process, rather than only at the beginning of projects?"*

*"What are the dangers of FPIC being coopted into serving stereotypes about indigenous communities, or becoming a tool to manipulate such communities?"*

## Video Clips:

UNDRIP Talk, Featuring Naomi Metallic and Patti Doyle-Bedwell  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCkuhO9qvpw&t=14s>

Rights in Action FPIC video  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCifSypk74E&pbjreload=10>)

Silver Donald Cameron, “Defenders of the Dawn”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xdkoCFdeHE>

## Further Reading:

UNDRIP - [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

Perreault, T. (2015). Performing Participation: Mining, Power, and the Limits of Public Consultation in Bolivia. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, 20(3): 433-451.

FPIC in African contexts  
<https://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/media/files/community-consent-in-africa-jan-2014-oxfam-americaAA.PDF>

MacNeish, John-Andrew (2013) Extraction, Protest and Indigeneity in Bolivia: The TIPNIS Effect.” *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*. 8(2): 221–242.

Schilling-Vacaflor, Almut. (2017) Who controls the territory and the resources? Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as a contested human rights practice in Bolivia. *Third World Quarterly*. 38(5):1058–1074.

Fabricant, Nicole and Nancy Postero (2015) Sacrificing indigenous bodies and lands: The political–economic history of lowland Bolivia in light of the recent TIPNIS debate. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*. 20(3): 452–474.