



## **STATEMENT ON MI'KMA'KI SOVEREIGNTY**

October 21, 2020

CONTENT WARNING:  
POLICE BRUTALITY, COLONIAL VIOLENCE

The York Federation of Students would like to reaffirm our position that “Canada” is founded on the lands of the Indigenous peoples who continue to live under the implications of colonization and ongoing systematic genocide by the “Canadian” state. For weeks, non-Indigenous lobster fishers in Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia) continue to target fishers of Sipekne'katik First Nation. Mi'kma'ki is unceded land, and the Mi'kmaq have ancestral and treaty rights to harvest on their waters. Despite this, non-Indigenous lobster fishers continue to violently attack, intimidate, and destroy the property, fisheries, families, and resources of the Sipekne'katik First Nation. The RCMP and local police have continued to stand by, protect, and aid the agents of colonialism currently attacking the Indigenous communities in Mi'kma'ki.

The struggle for Mi'kmaq sovereignty is not the only battle against colonialism that we are witnessing at this time. From pipelines being built through sacred land in Wet'suwet'en and Secwépemc; to the battle for a Moose Moratorium in Algonquin; to the forceful archeological dig threatening Kanehsatà:ke; to the defense of traditional territory at 1492 Landback Lane, on Six Nations land, colonization is ongoing and is working as it was designed.

We have heard and learned from Indigenous communities that reconciliation is dead. Indigenous sovereignty, land back, and dismantling colonialism in all of its insidious forms is the only way forward.

With so-called Canada's stature as a settler colonial state, it is impossible to name all of the varying ways in which colonization is being upheld and carried out by the systems and the peoples it was built on. The struggles we talk about today are only a portion of what Indigenous communities face on a daily basis.

Discussing colonialism cannot be the only time we discuss Indigeneity. We must commit to uplifting and investing in Indigenous joy and Indigenous life surpassing the performative nature that Canada as a genocidal state continues to put forward. We can no longer be passive and dismissive on the ongoing violence that Indigenous communities have been facing at the hands of colonialism.

If you are in need of resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us, and we are happy to help connect you.

For more information, contact YFS President Kien Azinwi at [president@yfs.ca](mailto:president@yfs.ca)