

# Le Frigo Vert: Electronic Newsletter, November 2008

This once-monthly digest consists of a compendium of Frigo collective news, social justice events, calls to action, and articles related to Le Frigo Vert's social justice and anti-oppression mandate.

The purpose is to better inform and interact with Frigo Vert members. It is an attempt to better explain changes we make to the organization and to directly link Frigo members with local grassroots struggles.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please email: [lefrigovert@resist.ca](mailto:lefrigovert@resist.ca)

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## Messages in this Digest:

1. Le Frigo Vert Updates/Events: Change in Store Hours, etc.
  2. Food Politics: Not In Anyone's Backyard: Farmers in Alberta growing rural resistance to development
  3. Featured Anti-Oppression Issue: Film Review of Club Native, by Mohawk film-maker Tracey Deer, available at NFB/ONF for rental
  4. Social Justice Calendar
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## 1. Le Frigo Vert Updates/Events:

Change in store hours: Le Frigo Vert will now be closing at 5pm, instead of 7pm on Fridays. Monday - Thursday will remain the same: 10am - 7pm.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Le Frigo Vert's Annual General Meeting to help bring in our brand spankin' new Board of Directors. This year, our Board got filled to capacity – 9 members – and the Frigo collective is very excited about their enthusiasm, and would like to extend a warm welcome to both the new and returning members. After a very busy September/October, November will be a month of Frigo turning inward - orienting our new Board, working on getting the store functioning to full capacity regarding stock and, hopefully, finishing up the transition to our new Solidarity ID membership cards.

We are also very proud to announce that Frigo & 2110 Center members met with the Concordia Dean of Students to discuss the issue of having people's name of common usage on their Concordia Student ID. Things are looking good, she was very supportive, but we still need your support. There is a petition on this issue at Le Frigo Vert and we need to collect many more signatures. Please spend the minute to add your support. Also, we need volunteers for the photo id station. If you can spend one to many hours/week doing this, any and all help is welcome. Finally, we will report back on further updates on the SID campaign, in the next newsletter.

Finally, this year's Anti-Colonial Thanksgiving was a huge success. The Native Friendship Center was packed to capacity, good food prepared by the People's Potato was enjoyed by all, and the speakers on Indigenous and migrant struggles shared lots of information to nourish our minds and souls. And on the theme of being

anti-colonial, I would urge everyone to read this month's feature anti-oppression call to action regarding the call for the resignation of McGill's Chancellor - Dick Pound. This is local, and everyone can take action.

Solidarity, Le Frigo Vert Collective

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## 2. Food Politics

Not In Anyone's Backyard :Farmers in Alberta growing rural resistance to development

by Scott Harris

The Dominion - <http://www.dominionpaper.ca>

October 11, 2008

For much of its century-long history, the Schultz family farmstead has been a centre of community for farmers near Tofield, a place where people have gathered to pass time and bond with one another.

"The old farmstead here was always a very social spot in the old days," recalls Brian Schultz, the current operator of the heritage farm located about 80 kilometres southeast of Edmonton, which has been his family's home since 1904. "Ball games and snooker tournaments on the porch, square dances, strawberry socials, box socials, whatever. Our family has always been very community-oriented."

It's a tradition that Schultz has continued to this day, and for the last weekend of June he once again opened his farm to locals and what he calls "import people" from the city alike, as he has done since 1998, for the Wild Oats and Notes Music Festival.

While the festival is still about bringing the community together to enjoy good music and good company, there were also indications of an uneasiness lurking beneath the idyllic rural scene.

Snippets of conversation on the grass were just as likely to be about air quality concerns and baseline water testing as about the Ben Sures set. Chloroplast signs reading "Say No to Sherritt" and "EPCOR ... never mined" shared space on the barn walls with the BBQ price list. Tucked into the corner of the site, amidst the Canadian-flag-adorned folding chairs and colourful blankets, was a small tent staffed by volunteers from VOCAL, the Voice of Community and Land society, to which the proceeds of the festival were donated. They were there selling memberships and encouraging signatures on a petition to stop a controversial project that would see the land of over 100 farmers in the area, including the historic Schultz homestead, turned into a giant coal strip mine.

Opposition to the proposed \$2.5 billion Dodds-Roundhill Coal Gasification Plant in Beaver County is just one example of a rising tide of community opposition to rampant oil, gas and energy development in rural Alberta.

Groups have sprouted up in Whitecourt and Peace River to oppose proposals to build Alberta's first nuclear power plant. The Lavesta Area Group's ongoing fight against powerlines in the central corridor was catapulted to front-page news when it was revealed that the now-defunct Energy and Utilities Board hired spies to keep tabs on them. Residents of the industrial heartland northeast of Edmonton are fighting the construction of up to

nine upgraders to refine tar-sands oil.

“In Alberta now, it’s almost like being in a war zone. We’re getting hit left, right and centre,” said Schultz, himself a member of VOCAL, of the situation outside the province’s urban centres. “We are an energy province, there’s no doubt about it, but wow, we say yes too easy. We say yes way too easy for the short-term gain. That’s Alberta.”

Saying yes to the Dodds-Roundhill project would radically change the face of the area around Schultz’s farm. If approved, over 300 square kilometres of agricultural land — roughly half the size of Edmonton — would be strip mined over a 40-year period to produce the coal needed to feed Canada’s first commercial coal-gasification plant. It would likely mean the destruction of an aquifer that lies beneath the land and currently provides water to farms in the area.

The plant would turn the coal into synthetic gas (syngas) — in amounts equivalent to a billion barrels of oil — to be used for a range of applications, including as fuel, a feedstock for the petrochemical industry or as a replacement for natural gas in refineries and bitumen upgraders.

While a spokesman from Sherritt’s corporate affairs department indicated no media relations spokespeople were available to speak, Sherritt’s January 2007 public disclosure document on the project outlines what Sherritt sees as the need for the facility: “The development of Alberta’s vast oil sands resource has resulted in increased demands for natural gas to produce steam for bitumen recovery and as a source of hydrogen for bitumen upgrading. ... The production of syngas through coal gasification provides alternatives to the use of natural gas to produce steam and hydrogen for bitumen extraction and upgrading.”

While Schultz says the community has been told the gas will ultimately feed the plants planned for “Upgrader Alley” northeast of Edmonton, the number of details which have changed since Sherritt first proposed the project two years ago means he’s not convinced that’s what will necessarily happen in the end.

“We don’t know — projects take so long to go, by the time this one’s ready to go it might not have anything to do with Fort Saskatchewan at all. They may produce electricity right there, throw it into the new grids that they’re talking about and send it right down to the United States.”

Schultz says one of his frustrations is that there appears to be no room in the process for the citizens who own the resource to decide how to best use it.

“This business decision is being made by private companies,” he says. “It has nothing to do with you as a citizen of Edmonton or the provincial government or the city of Edmonton saying, ‘Look, we’re short of power. We need more power to run our own lightbulbs or run our vacuum cleaners,’ or whatever. I actually wouldn’t be against that too much.”

He adds that the recent rise in food prices around the world, and a greater focus on local eating through approaches like the 100-mile diet, should be sending the message that while coal is an important resource, so is the food grown in the area around Edmonton.

“We’re treating this as if we’re the last generation, but this is not the last generation that’s going to raise food in this country. It’s not,” he says emphatically. “The price of food is going up all the time. We can’t really afford to be using our land for this type of thing. I think food’s fairly important. I think energy is important too, but not at all costs.”

Bill Sears, the chair of VOCAL, is the third generation to live on his thousand-acre family farm, located about a

mile from Schultz's land. His hundred-year-old farm will also be consumed by the strip mine if it goes ahead.

While part of the proposal includes a reclamation process which Sherritt says will allow farmers to return to farm their land after the mining is complete, Sears says he's under no illusions.

"Sherritt will say it won't be destroyed, Sherritt says it will be reclaimed. I say it will be destroyed. Our homes would be gone. Our farms would be gone. The trees would be gone. The wetlands would be gone. The natural areas would be gone. It would all be turned into a strip mine," he laments, in a calm but indignant tone.

"There probably can be some argument made that it can be reclaimed for some sort of an agricultural production ... but you can't reclaim what you see here, which is the buildings and the trees," he says, gesturing around.

"You know, that tree took a hundred years to grow, so you're not going to reclaim that tree and you're not going to reclaim our yards and our homes and all the infrastructure that goes with that. And you're not going to reclaim our community, because our community will be gone."

Sears sees VOCAL's work to stop that future from becoming a reality as part of the same battle being waged all over the province.

"This is just one part of the thing that's happening in Alberta. This is connected to the tar sands that are connected to the upgraders that are connected to this, that are connected to powerlines, pipelines, all the development that's happening in the province."

He has attended some of the recent hearings on Petro-Canada's proposed upgrader in Sturgeon County and has met with residents of Upgrader Alley. He says that there he heard concerns that had a familiar ring.

"You know, they're the same sorts of people — just ordinary farmers that want to be farming but are forced into this situation to protect their land," he says. "You know, they talk about all the same things that we talk about: community, land, family values. But they're forced into this."

The knowledge that his family farm could be destroyed to produce a product that could go to fuel upgraders that might displace farmers in another part of the province only makes the pill more bitter to swallow for Sears. On the other hand, not producing the gas may make the natural gas in the Beaufort Sea valuable enough to finally make the Mackenzie Gas Project feasible, or could tilt things in favour of nuclear power, potentially impacting the people of Whitecourt or Peace River. Because of that, Sears says the haphazard approach of leaving these decisions to industry alone is the wrong way to go.

"The message we try to get out is, 'What do the people of the province think?' Ultimately the people of the province will have to decide what they see for the future of the province," he says. "Do we continue this pace of development and continue the degradation of the landscape and the environment? How long do we do that? So in 40 years we mine this area out. The coal continues south. In 40, 50, 60, 100 years do we want to mine out a good portion of Central Alberta?"

"We've got to start thinking about what comes down the road," he continues. "What are we leaving for our kids? But that's for the people of the province to decide. Because industry will develop — that's their job. Government's job and people's job is to say how we want that development to take place."

To that end, Sears says, VOCAL is talking to everyone who will listen about what's happening in the area and meeting with as many MLAs as they can to let them know about local opposition to the project. He says they're getting a good reception, especially from newer Conservative MLAs.

When I ask Sears about the reaction the group has received from their own MLA, the familiarity that is a reality of rural politics — where some of the impacted farmers are on a first-name basis with the premier — shows through.

“We’ve had good meetings with Mr. Stelmach. Of course, he’s known as Ed in this area. He listened very politely to us. There’s a lot of other pressures on him too. He’s the premier of a province that’s very dependent on the energy industry and it’s very important for them for money. Alberta does well and that’s a lot of pressure to [not] turn that tap off.”

Still, Sears hopes that Stelmach’s own rural background might make him more receptive to the concerns of landowners.

“I hope so. I hope so. Ed talks a lot about community and about roots and heritage and the value of his farm, so those are the same things that hit home when something like this happens,” Sears says. “He talks a lot about doing what’s right. So, we believe we’re doing what’s right and hopefully we can convince him that a project like this isn’t right.”

But Schultz says that finding political solutions is a problem because of the deep roots Stelmach’s party enjoys in rural Alberta generally, and in his Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville riding — where Stelmach received 77.6 per cent of the vote in the last election — specifically. He worries that many people in the area will continue to vote Conservative no matter what happens.

“Here in Conservative country, you know, jeez, I think the Conservative Party, they could probably kidnap your first-born son and I think the person would still vote for ‘em. We don’t have the ability to vote for someone else. We just don’t have any challengers.” But Schultz agrees that a political solution is their best chance to stop the mine, given the history of the rubber-stamp approvals process in the province.

“We know that once it gets to the hearing process you’re a done turkey. We have to change the decision before it gets into the hearing, because if you get into the decision-making process through the regulatory process, once it’s there you’re toast. Once you’re there in the province of Alberta you’re a done deal; you might as well give up and let ‘em do it.”

Construction on the project was originally slated to begin in 2009 and production by 2012, but the community was given a brief reprieve in late May when Sherritt announced it was putting its plans for Dodds-Roundhill on hold due to uncertainty about greenhouse-gas regulations in the province.

Mike Gibbs, a media spokesperson for the City of Edmonton-owned EPCOR, which announced in November 2007 that it had signed an agreement to provide power generation, water and wastewater treatment services for the project, says that as a result of the delay EPCOR is no longer involved in Dodds-Roundhill.

“At this point EPCOR has stopped work on the project,” says Gibbs, who admits he can’t say much more than that. “It doesn’t mean that it won’t go ahead, but as of right now EPCOR is not involved in the project and we will reassess once Sherritt completes its own assessment of the project.”

While Sears is pleased to hear that EPCOR isn’t working on the project, at least for the time being, he says the delay announced by Sherritt hasn’t caused members of the community opposed to the project to rest on their laurels.

On July 15, members of VOCAL met with Sherritt representatives and came away with the message that the company intends to proceed with the project by bringing forward their application in late 2008 or early 2009.

“They are saying that they are still very committed to the project, that they think the project is a very good project and they think that it’s badly needed, in their words,” he says.

“There was no beating around the bush. There wasn’t their talk that they had before about ‘How do we make this project work for you?’ That was always their tack before, ‘How do we make this project so it’s acceptable to you?’ And we just say, ‘Well, just go away.’ But they didn’t take that tack this time. They took the tack that this project is going to go, and it was more or less, I think, ‘Be prepared for the fight.’ Which is not anything we didn’t expect.”

But Sears remains optimistic that the mine can be stopped, just as a similar one proposed for the area in the ‘70s was.

“I’m very hopeful. I really believe that the tide is starting to turn some in Alberta. Farmland is being looked at as more valuable than it was, with all of a sudden we have a food crisis, two years ago we didn’t have that. All of a sudden global warming is becoming a bigger issue. All of a sudden CO2 is becoming a bigger issue. These things are in the press, people are talking about it. I’m hopeful that we’re going to start moving in a direction that will take us away from our reliance on fossil fuels, and hopefully, maybe this can be a first step towards that.”

Scott Harris is News Editor at Edmonton’s Vue Weekly, where a version of this article was originally published.

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### 3. Featured Anti-Oppression Issue

**Bridging two worlds: Mohawk filmmaker Tracey Deer**

by June Chua

November 3, 2008

Tears are streaming down Tracey Deer’s face.

The filmmaker is recounting the 1990 Oka crisis in which members of the Mohawk community of Kanasatake took a stand in the band’s land dispute against the town of Oka, Quebec, which was planning to build a golf course on a native burial ground.

The standoff, which lasted three months through that summer into September, would carve an indelible scar on Deer’s psyche.

“That’s when I learned to hate.”

It is April and Deer is attending Hot Docs 2008, the biggest documentary festival in North America, taking place in Toronto. Her latest film, *Club Native*, is screening here. It is a triumphant return on the heels of her highly-acclaimed coming-of-age documentary, *Mohawk Girls*, from 2005.

Deer is literally channelling the Oka experience for me – the point of crisis, when there were whispers of a new offensive by the Canadian army onto the reserve. That’s when women and children were told to leave their homes. It would become a seminal journey for Deer.

“There were 200 cars of women and children and each one was being searched for weapons. As we inched closer to the end of the Mercier Bridge, we could hear a roar,” recalls Deer.

“As we got closer, rocks were hitting the car. My mom got really scared. My mother is a strong person. I have never seen her look like that. She told us to get on the floor of the car,” recalls Deer, who is re-living the trauma in front of my eyes.

“Our windows were smashed, there was debris all over us.”

The filmmaker’s voice is cracking and trembling: “It was terrible.”

The tears are streaking down her cheeks.

“Oka was when I learned that I was different.”

Deer says after those horrific experiences, she became an angry teenager. She hated white people. But Deer eventually made a choice that would change her life, she decided not to give in to it.

“My work is my effort to bridge the gap between those two worlds: native and non-native. It’s to get away from that [i.e. Oka]. It’s so destructive.”

In Club Native, Deer’s eye turns back to her community and on the issue of band membership. It is a taboo topic. In the film, she follows four women who are either struggling to attain or retain their membership. It is a process fraught with history and emotion.

During the film – which uses inventive animated sequences produced by native animator Jesse Bochner – Deer explains that band membership is now determined by band councils. Ironically, those councils have reverted back to an archaic, colonial system of determining one’s status: blood.

“What inspired me was my younger sister in Texas. She fell in love with this white guy,” explains Deer. According to the rules, neither her sister’s partner nor any of their children would get band membership.

“I told her, ‘stick it out, happiness is more important’ and then, she got pregnant! I thought, ‘wow, this is perfect.’” Deer is smiling again, her zeal and warmth are infectious.

Attacking the way band membership is done – i.e. you have to prove all four of your grandparents were band members – was not an easy task for Deer.

“Nobody talks about it. It was tough for me, even as an aboriginal person.”

Deer likes to point out that becoming a band member wasn’t so stringent even in the days prior to European arrival.

“We have a long history of mixing. Genetically, we are mixed but then came the Indian Act.”

The act – which once served as a blueprint for South Africa’s apartheid policy – determined who could be called “Indian” based on percentage of Indian blood. That all changed in 1985 when the government allowed each band to decide how to determine membership. According to Deer, little has changed.

“The Indian Act affected your very survival. We had lived under it for 100 years. Generations were brainwashed into how important their blood lines were.”

Deer wants to change that. She’d like to live in a world in which love and family are important above all else.

One of the film’s most compelling sequences concerns Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller, who courageously tells of her emotional breakdown and of the man who helped her through the dark haze.

Horn-Miller was a member of the Canadian women’s polo team at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. One might recall the stunning shot of a nude Horn-Miller on the cover of Time Canada (holding a strategically placed polo ball). She exuded grace, power and beauty.

But in Deer’s film, a diametrically different story emerges. Horn-Miller worked behind Mohawk lines during the Oka crisis. She was 14. Near the end of the dispute, she was stabbed by a Canadian soldier. Club Native contains riveting footage of Horn-Miller as she faced off with Canadian soldiers.

Post-Sydney, Horn-Miller went into a tailspin. She did not know who she was anymore. During this time, she started seeing another athlete, a non-native guy. It would turn serious.

“Who knew the person I would fall in love with would be white,” says the former Olympian in the film. Conflicted but proud about her Mohawk heritage, Horn-Miller decided to lay all her cards on the table. She made a crucial phone call.

“I said to him: ‘I need to have native children.’”

There was a pause and the answer would knock the athlete off her Mohawk stance.

“He said: “Waneek, I would never stand in the way of anything you wanted to do for your community. Do what you have to do.”

Suffice to say, Horn-Miller is now living with her man on the reserve. It is a bone of contention with her family.

“Why can’t they consider the quality of your character?” asks Horn-Miller.

Deer says her community has to question its desire for survival with the kind of lessons it is imparting on the women of the reserve.

“To reproduce with a native is your number one responsibility. But our standards are so low, so what if he’s an alcoholic or abusive?” points out Deer, who herself is getting married in 2009 to a native man.

The filmmaker has screened Club Native on the reserve and reaction has been good.

“People have come up to me to say ‘thank you.’”

There is one incident that makes Deer feel optimistic about the future.

“One of the native guys went up to Keith [Horn-Miller’s partner] after the screening, shook his hand and said: ‘Welcome to the community.’”

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## 4. Social Justice Calendar

Monday November 3, 6.30pm

Canada, a Pariah State? Indigenous rights in Domestic and International Law

@ Moot Court, McGill University faculty of Law, 3644 Peel Street

Speaker: Arthur Manuel

How well does Canada live up to its reputation as a human rights champion? When it comes to the situation of Indigenous peoples, it falls dreadfully short. Few people know that the Canadian government is regularly and roundly condemned by the United Nations. Canada doesn't only ignore minimum provisions of international law -- it also thinks little of domestic legal standards set by the Supreme Court. In its determination to retain control over the lands and resources of Indigenous peoples, Canada runs rough-shod over the emerging framework of the international and domestic law supporting the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and ownership of their traditional territories.

Few people can speak better to this reality than Arthur Manuel. Former Chief of the Neskonlith Band and chairperson of the Interior Alliance of BC First Nations, Manuel has been a leading voice of opposition to the Canadian government's agenda to "extinguish" Aboriginal and Treaty rights and assimilate Indigenous peoples into the Canadian body politic. Active locally in the defense of Shuswap land (during the expansion of the Sun Peaks resort), and at the national level, he has also taken the struggle "international," following in the path of his father, the late George Manuel, President of the National Indian Brotherhood and founder of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. Manuel will lay out an alternative agenda for First Nations to achieve, through direct action and independence from government funding, economic empowerment, third order government, and justice. Sponsored by: McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, QPIRG McGill, Barriere Lake Solidarity Collective

Tuesday November 4, 6pm

Protectors of the Forest: The Barriere Lake Struggle Continues

@ Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, 2001 blvd St Laurent & Ontario (metro St-Laurent)

Free dinner served by Midnight Kitchen. For childcare or translation call 514..., 48 hours in advance.

Since the Department of Indian Affairs ousted their Customary Chief and Council in March 2008 and used the Surete du Quebec to forcibly impose the authority of a minority community faction, the Barriere Lake Algonquins have been organizing to roll-back the quiet coup d'etat. They are campaigning to make the government honour a number of agreements, including the Trilateral, a internationally praised land co-management and resource-revenue sharing deal the Algonquins signed with Canada and Quebec in 1991. It would significantly protect their forests from clear-cut logging, but it remains unimplemented. They first signed the agreement after a campaign of logging road blockades, which culminated in a one-day blockade of highway 117, a crucial economic vein in Northern Quebec, in 1990. In October, 2008, Barriere Lake once again blockaded the 117, to force the government to respect their agreements and their leadership customs. The SQ brutally put down the peaceful action.

Community representatives will be joined by Arthur Manuel, spokesperson of the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade, and Russell Diabo, a noted aboriginal policy analyst and advisor to Barriere Lake. Sponsored by: QPIRG McGill, Barriere Lake Solidarity Collective

Wednesday November 5, 6.30pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS with Jasbir Puar: Homonationalism in a Queer Time

@ Leacock Building, Room 232, 855 Sherbrooke St, McGill University

Professor Puar will examine the connections between sexuality, race, gender, nation and class in relation to the construction of terrorist bodies and the logistics of war machines

Professor Puar is Associate Professor of Women's & Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Puar's research interests include gender, sexuality, globalization; postcolonial and diaspora studies; queer theory; South Asian cultural studies; and tourism studies. Professor Puar is the author of *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke University Press 2007) as well as numerous articles that appear in *Gender, Place, and Culture*, *Social Text*, *Radical History Review*, *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*, *GLQ*, and *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. She has also edited a special issue of *GLQ* titled, "Queer Tourism: Geographies of Globalization" and co-edited a volume of *Society and Space* titled "Sexuality and Space".  
Sponsored by: Queer McGill, QPIRG McGill, 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy, QPIRG Concordia

Thursday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.

A reading, lecture and book signing by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore from her latest novel *So Many Ways to Sleep Badly*

@ Room S 1/4, Stewart Biology Building, 1205 Dr. Penfield Avenue

Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore is a writer, editor, activist, critic and troublemaker based in San Francisco. Most recently, she is the editor of the Lambda-nominated *Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity* (Seal, 2007), and an expanded second edition of *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation* (Soft Skull, June 2008). Sponsored by: Queer McGill

Thursday, November 6, 6pm.

The Commission on Francophone Affairs (CAF) presents: Maurice "The Rocket" Richard : The movie

@ Gert's Bar, Shatner Building, 3480 McTavish

Maurice Richard was a francophone hockey player who made his place within an Anglophone hockey world. His ascension represents not only a hockey revolution, but also the revolution of the entire Quebec francophone population. Sponsored by: Commission on Francophone Affairs

Friday November 7, 8pm

Pièces de la Résistance: art auction fundraiser for the Tyendinaga Support Committee

@ Ste. Emilie Skillshare, 3942, rue Ste-Émilie (Metro Place St. Henri)

Pièces de la Résistance: art auction fundraiser for the Tyendinaga Support Committee This show is a sequel to the highly successful "Shawn Brant Is No Criminal" art auction which took place in Toronto last spring. It contains art that reflects on anti-colonial resistance, decolonization as a way-of-life, Indigenous sovereignty and the abolition of the Canadian state. Sponsored by: Ste. Emilie Skillshare

Friday November 7, 10.30pm

Shades of Gay: We have more colours than the rainbow

@ Alize, 900 Ontario east, Tickets 5-10\$

Dance to everything from bhangra to dancehall to hip hop to dubke and much more! Sponsored by: Queer McGill and QPIRG McGill

Monday November 10, 6.30pm

Human Rights Law and Palestine/Israel: Exploring the Apartheid Paradigm

@ Leacock Building, Room 232, 855 Sherbrooke St, McGill University

Speakers: Noura Erakat, Dina Awad, and local organizer from Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (ASSÉ) student union. Moderator: Scott Weinstein of Independent Jewish Voices. As part of the national and international mobilization to mark the 60th year of the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe) and the 6th international week against the apartheid wall. Sponsored by: SPHR McGill, Tadamon, QPIRG McGill

Monday November 10th, 7-10pm

Political Prisoner Calendar launch, Book launch & Vernissage  
@ Le Cagibi, 5490 St Laurent (corner St Viateur)

Calendar launch --> Certain Days 2009 Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar 42 gorgeous full-colour pages of art & writings, featuring DRUM (Desis Rising Up and Moving), Philly's Pissed, Incite!, Sumoud, Alvaro Luna Hernandez, Inside Books Project, Laura Whitehorn, Robert Seth Hayes, David Gilbert, Herman Bell, Peter Collins, The Cuban Five, Victory Gardens, Common Ground, Native Youth Movement and more! The calendar is a joint fundraising and educational project between organizers in Montreal and Toronto, and three New York state Political Prisoners: Herman Bell, David Gilbert and Robert Seth Hayes.

Book launch --> LET FREEDOM RING: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners

Edited by Matt Meyer. Let Freedom Ring presents a two-decade sweep of essays, analyses, histories, interviews, resolutions, People's Tribunal verdicts, and poems by and about the scores of U.S. political prisoners and the campaigns to safeguard their rights and secure their freedom.

Vernissage --> "Voices from Outside: Artists Against the Prison Industrial Complex". In connection with the historic Critical Resistance 10th anniversary conference Just Seeds Artists Cooperative has produced a print portfolio project that they are donating to prisoner justice organizations across North America. The portfolio consists of 20 prints, each by a different artist, that all either critique the prison-industrial complex or address alternatives to incarceration. One copy of the portfolio is currently touring Canada. It will be exhibited at le Cagibi from November 10 to the 16 inclusive.