

PEB 2010322

Kwey to all the people of the land gathered here today, I would like to thank the Lenape nation for allowing us to meet on their traditional territory here in Manhattan. My name is Emilio Wawatie and I am an Algonquin from Barrier Lake First Nations, un-ceded territory. I am here on behalf of my Nation and representing the non Government Organization; Wapikoni Mobile.

Over two hundred years ago the Algonquin nation made an agreement with the French and the English nations. This agreement was to ensure that neither the French nor the English would interfere with the way of life of the Anishnabe people. This agreement was supposed to be blessed and recognized by the Vatican church. Embedded onto wampum belts there are three people holding hands; representing the trilateral agreement between the three nations. Beside the three people was a cross, to signify the acknowledgement from the Vatican church. The lack of recognition of this agreement that was created before the confederation of Canada is in direct violation of *Article 37 in the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples*.

First Nations rights have been in constant violation more and more within the past century when it comes down to co-operation between the First Nations, and corporations. The lack of responsible consultation towards families and communities for their traditional family trap lines has created un-repairable amount of damage towards ceremonial sites, historical sites, burial grounds, moose dens and bear dens alike. The inconsideration of having a First Nations input to what happens on their traditional lands by corporations is in direct violation of *Article 11 in the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Our rights to exercise and practice our sovereignty by appointing chiefs traditionally through our customs have been disrupted multiple times by higher powers to appoint chiefs whom they may favor. These actions are in direct violation of *Article 4 in the United Nations Declarations on the rights of Indigenous Peoples* by interfering with our rights to self-government and disrupting internal and local affairs within communities and nations alike.

Recent changes in legislatives within Canada have left ninety nine percent of the bodies of fresh clean water within the country un-protected. The new laws will allow companies to pump chemicals into the land to extract oil, and to allow nuclear waste to be stored some four hundred to five hundred feet beneath several nations' traditional territories. This will greatly affect the overall living conditions of already poor communities, and it will also affect the personal and spiritual aspects of the relationship with the water and land by First Nations people. These actions are in direct violation of *Article 19 and Article 25 in the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

A Land claim process that is also currently under going with the Algonquin Nation will affect our traditional ways of life by taking away our inherit rights to hunt, fish, trap and camp freely on our territory, away from us. Only one community out of nine from the Algonquin nation is agreeing to this land claim, while others are trying to fight it. If the one community moves forward with the agreement, it will create a domino effect and will

inevitably affect the nation as a whole. These actions are in direct violation of *Article 18 of the United Nations Declarations of Indigenous Peoples*.

As a young First Nations filmmaker participating with Wapikoni Mobile, they have given me the opportunity to be here to participate at the United Nations permanent forum on Indigenous issues. Wapikoni has created over nine hundred short films and musical works and has expanded internationally into countries like; Chili with the Mapuche people, Peru, Bolivia, New Caledonia and Panama. I encourage Indigenous film making because it is a great way of preserving our cultures, languages and our oral histories. For more information come and see me and other members of the Wapikoni crew wearing the same shirt as me. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

~~- From first contact to the present there have been a constant series of broken promises between First Nations and European governments. Even today neo-colonialism plagues our First Nations communities by the government appointing chiefs to their likings, interfering with our own customs of self-governance and sovereignty. The divide and conquer techniques that were used so frequently for centuries, still silently plague our communities and our ability to unite and move forward as a nation.~~

~~In recent years the government has been trying to encourage the Algonquin nation to push forward with a land claim, which supposedly will help the Nation "manage" resources and give more control over the land they occupy. To one community, Golden lake, which is the only Algonquin community in Ontario located just over a hundred kilometers from Ottawa, it seems like a deal that should be taken advantage of. But, on a broader perspective, what happens when the land claim goes through is that –~~