

Activity A: Quotes Handout

"I don't know if Stephen Harper thinks there's no history of colonization. I think that he thinks that colonization was benign, was benevolent. So, we didn't have this awful, violent, bloody colonization. We had this peaceful colonization, where very nice European settlers came and made agreements with very nice but savage native peoples. And we helped them out, through Christianity and religion, and we taught them how to farm, and we paid for their school. So, that has been colonization, and it's been a very benevolent one." (Hayden King)

"All of our rights are inherent, that means they were here before anyone else came here. And we had those rights, because we were nations, and we had our own laws and our own territories, and these things all belonged to us before anyone else came here. So all the Royal Proclamation did was recognize that." (Pam Palmater)

"Well, I would forgive anybody for standing on my feet if they ----in' got off... Y'know what I mean?...and stopped doing it. But it doesn't end." (Lee Maracle)

"Colonization, you don't win... You lose. Indigenous peoples and Canadians, we can live the two row Wampum, each in our own canoe. We will honour the treaties in their full, original spirit and intent. We will affirm our place in our traditional territories with the return of our lands. We will speak our languages. We will share our stories. We will respect the land, the water, and the air that we all share. We will find strength in our communities again. We can even change the names of these roads... Because, in spite of everything we've gone through as a peoples, through the strength and the love of our Elders and our ancestors, we are still alive... We are still fighting... We are still here." (Ryan McMahon)

Use your graphic organizers and the quotes above to answer the following questions:

1. What does it mean that "colonization is a structure not an event"? (Patrick Wolff)
2. In what ways can roads and railways be seen as being "like an infection"? (Pam Palmater)
3. In what ways is Colonization Road a "really powerful metaphor"? (Leanne Simpson)
4. What does it mean that "the past and the present and future are actually alive"? (Al Hunter)

5. How can the “Wampum Belt concept” help us move forward in reconciliation? (Pam Palmater)
6. Why are we “talking about reconciliation, but not about land”? (Leanne Simpson)
7. In what ways does the Freedom Road, Shoal Lake story fit in with the movie? What can we learn and what can we do about this issue?
8. What might Al Hunter mean when he says that the resource economy is “short term gain for long-term pain”? What connections can you make to current issues in Canada?
9. In what ways is the government of Canada still “standing on” the feet of indigenous peoples? (Lee Maracle)
10. What does Ryan McMahon’s quote at the end of the film mean to you?