



Collaborations for Inclusive and Sustainable Futures

**ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORT
2019/2020**



About NORDIK

Incorporated in 2006, NORDIK Institute is a community-based research and development organization affiliated with Algoma University, and has established strong links with other research institutes, universities, and colleges. NORDIK is committed to further developing its own research capacity by working closely with its community partners and providing mentoring to new researchers. To date, it has completed over one hundred research projects at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Vision

Promoting more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, analysis and reflection dedicated to the practice of holistic community development.

Goals and Objectives

- Build Northern Ontario's capacity to conduct research
- Conduct research that contributes to social and economic justice for Northern Ontario communities
- Provide evidence for informed policy and decision-making
- Focus on Indigenous, rural and Northern communities

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Director's Report

SEAN MEADES

2019/20 has seen considerable growth in NORDIK's team, reach, and collaborations. At our 2019 Annual General Meeting, NORDIK approved a process for the affiliation of Faculty at Algoma University, which immediately brought four talented and accomplished researchers and academics into the fold.



Each of these faculty members have been involved with NORDIK in the past, and we expect our new structures for engagement and participation will help support their research contributions to social and economic justice for Northern Ontario and Indigenous communities in the North and around the globe (see page 3 for an introduction to NORDIK's inaugural faculty affiliates). Many examples of their work over the last year are profiled in the pages that follow and illustrate the importance of community-university collaborations, and the importance of research, analysis and reflection to movements for more sustainable and inclusive futures.

Ongoing and new initiatives, spearheaded by our community partners, also saw great progress. The exemplary work of the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains demonstrates the power of long-term commitment, learning and relationship building, while our work with the Timmins Economic Development Corporation, previously focused on social enterprise development, expanded to an international collaboration to build capacity in community-engaged strategic planning with their partners in Bolivia. Our partnership with the Rural Agri Innovation Network's efforts to promote local food brought both new faculty and students into dialogue about how to create policy frameworks that support sustainable and diverse local food systems.

Following the success of the Northern Ontario Social Enterprise Network, NORDIK has now become the Northern Ontario lead for the Women of Ontario Social Enterprise Network, a province-wide collaboration that will contribute to breaking the glass ceiling for women's enterprise development.

New partnerships, such as with Thinking Rock Community Arts, Glendon College, and Laurentian University have each offered us new approaches to collaboration that maximize our respective impacts while ensuring we support critical work in times of great crisis.

The end of this year saw the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary closure of our offices at the end of March 2020. Despite the fear and uncertainty that characterized this time, we succeeded - colleagues and partners alike - in adapting to our new (hopefully temporary) realities through the care that we showed for each other and our commitment to a more sustainable future for our communities where our diversity is respected and celebrated.

Welcome NORDIK Institute's Inaugural Faculty Affiliates

Following the adoption of NORDIK's new Faculty Affiliation policy at its 2018/19 Annual General Meeting, four new faculty from Algoma University have joined its ranks:



DR. NUSRATE AZIZ, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ECONOMICS

Dr. Aziz is an Associate Professor of Economics in the School of Business and Economics at Algoma University. He is also a Fellow of the Global Labor Organization (GLO) and a Member of the International Migration Research Centre (IMRC). He received his PhD (International Economics & Finance) and MSc (Development Economics) from the University of Birmingham. He has published extensively in leading Economics publications, including *World Economy*, *Applied Economics*, *International Review of Economics and Finance*, *Tourism Economics*, *Defense and Peace Economics*, and the *Review of Development Economics*. His current research interests include labour migration, international trade & finance, institutional quality, and economic development. His most recent work in economic development focuses on labour force, migration, and development within the tourism sector.



DR. VIVIAN JIMÉNEZ-ESTRADA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Jiménez-Estrada is an Associate Professor and Chair in Sociology at Algoma University. Her recent 3-year appointment as Academic Lead, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion compliments her activist research work locally with the Indigenous Women's Anti-Violence Task Force, and internationally with the National Coordinator for Indigenous Women in Mexico (CONAMI). She holds a Bachelor and a Masters of Environmental Studies (BES) (MES) from York University. She received her PhD from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. She specializes in global hemispheric Indigenous studies and currently on Indigenous responses to gendered and colonial violence. Her published work has appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Native Education*, the *Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, and the *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*. Her latest chapter will appear in the anthology *Red Dresses on Bare Trees: Stories and Reflections on Indigenous Murdered and Missing Women and Girls*.



DR. SHEILA GRUNER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Sheila Gruner is an Associate Professor of Community Economic and Social Development (CESD), Algoma University, Adjunct Research Faculty at Carleton University, and Visiting professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Rural Studies, Universidad Javeriana (Colombia). Critical educator, researcher and activist, Dr. Gruner works with women's, Indigenous, Afro-descendent, rural and environmental organizations in Canada and Colombia, accompanying efforts for the protection of gender, political and territorial rights. Her research draws on critical, participatory, decolonial and institutional ethnography methodologies, to explore issues related to development, violence/conflict and displacement; transitional justice and culturally-based alternatives to development; environmental and land defense movements; as well as gendered and racialized violence. Dr. Gruner currently acts as a Coordinator of Colombian Truth Commission in Ontario, gathering testimonies of victims of armed conflict in exile, and is researching issues related to the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter of the Colombian peace accords. She has published in both English and Spanish.



DR. LAURA WYPER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Laura Wyper is an Assistant Professor of Community Economic and Social Development and holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Midwifery from Laurentian University, a Bachelor of Education from Trent University, a Master of Arts in Adult Education and Community Development from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, and a PhD in Adult Education and Community Development with a specialization in Comparative, International and Development Education from OISE, at the University of Toronto. She has worked in community development for more than twenty years in women's health care, community-based adult education, literacy and basic skills, and post-secondary education. Dr. Wyper's current research interests include food sovereignty, translanguaging, and community mobilization.

Research

THE LIVING WAGE OF SAULT STE. MARIE

In 2019, Tamanna Rimi, NORDIK Research Assistant and PhD Candidate in Family Finance and Consumer Economics at Iowa State University, conducted an analysis of the living wage for Sault Ste. Marie following the Canadian Living Wage Framework: A National Methodology for Calculating the Living Wage in Your Community developed by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) and the Ontario Living Wage Network's family expense workbook.

A living wage is the hourly wage a worker needs to meet their necessary expenses and enjoy a decent standard of living beyond poverty. It is calculated with a consideration of community-specific family expenses and includes basic costs such as food, rent, clothing, childcare and transportation, as well as items such as extended health care, recreation and a modest family vacation. This hourly wage reflects an adequate income for a family of four (two full-time working adults and two children) to cover their reasonable needs and participate socially in their community. The report concludes that an hourly wage of \$16.16 is what would be necessary for a dual-income family with two children to meet basic expenses and enjoy a modest, but decent standard of living. The final report was prepared by Tamanna Rimi, Sean Meades and Jude Ortiz.

SUPPORTING NORTHERN ONTARIO'S TOURISM SECTOR

In the fall of 2019, Dr. Nusrate Aziz and Prof. Sean Meades began a research collaboration exploring means to support the development of Northern Ontario's Tourism Sector. The collaboration focuses on five principle objectives, namely (1) understanding how tourism-based economies have grown historically; (2) an environmental scan of the resources available within the region; (3) identifying barriers to industry growth within the region; (4) identifying assets to lever through capacity building and product development to position the region to take advantage of emerging trends; and (5) identifying policy and regional strategy level changes that could support development within the sector. CESD placement Student, Mohammed Ali, contributed to a literature review informing the project, with support from Tamanna Rimi. Unfortunately the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted progress on the project and turned the tourism industry on its head overnight. Since the onset of travel restrictions, Aziz and Meades have reoriented the project to integrate the impacts of the pandemic, including changes in prospective clientele, and have developed partnerships with regional tourism agencies including Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma Country, Destination Northern Ontario, Indigenous Tourism Ontario, and the Société Économique de l'Ontario.

ARK PROJECT

Riley Tessier was hired as a summer research assistant through Canada Summer Jobs to work with Dr. Laura Wyper on the Slow Food in Canada Ark of Taste, which was integrated into Dr. Wyper's Fall 2019 course, *CESD2406: Environment and Community Resilience Project*. This course-based project saw Dr. Wyper lead students through the process of researching candidates for the Canadian Ark of Taste related to food biodiversity that is at risk of being lost due to cultural, economic or environmental factors. Dr. Wyper also worked in consultation with Slow Food International's Ark of Taste Coordinator to ensure she and her assistant could continue with needed background research on some of the potential Ark candidates prior to their candidacy and publication of the students' work. This research is ongoing for Dr. Wyper as a Board member for Slow Food in Canada as their Ark of Taste Liaison.

THE STORY OF OUR STORIES: COLLABORATIONS WITH COMMUNITY-ARTS PRACTITIONERS

NORDIK Institute entered into a collaborative partnership with Thinking Rock Community Arts for a research project, The Story of Our Stories. Dr. Lisa Meschino, NORDIK's Manager of Communications and Learning Solutions, took the lead as Research Project Coordinator. The Story of Our Stories brought together community-engaged artists and community-engaged arts organizations working in the rural and First Nation contexts of Northern Ontario to address what social impacts community-engaged artists are seeing their arts projects have on the Northern Ontario communities, and what structural changes (i.e. supports, resources, and policies) will make this kind of work more sustainable in the future. A final report is expected in December 2020.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE ECONOMY

NORDIK Director Sean Meades, Deb Pine, and Dr. Gayle Broad published their article, "The emerging indigenous language economy: Labour market demand for Indigenous language skills in the Upper Great Lakes" in the Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development. The research examines the relationship between indigenous language skills and economics, and particularly, the need for Anishinaabe language speakers within the regional labour market.

EXILED COLOMBIANS TELL THEIR STORIES

Over the past year while on research leave, as a Coordinator of the Ontario Node of the Commission for the Clarification of the Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition (the Colombian Truth Commission), Dr. Sheila Gruner has been conducting interviews with Colombians who sought asylum in Canada as a result of the internal armed conflict. The Truth Commission is one of three pillars of the transitional justice component contained in the internationally recognized Colombian Peace Accords, aimed at achieving peace after the decades-long conflict. The efforts of Dr. Gruner and other volunteers were profiled in various media sources, including the CBC, the Toronto Star, EFE, la Jornada among other outlets in English and Spanish, and the group has made significant contributions to fulfilling the mandate of the Commission, including a differential analysis of the conflict on women, Indigenous and Black communities, among others. For more detailed coverage in the CBC on the work of Dr. Gruner and the the Ontario node see: <https://pathofex.com/exiled-colombians-in-canada-share-stories-of-death-threats-violence-that-made-them-flee-home-cbc-news/>



NORDIK SUPPORTS LAURENTIAN'S RESEARCH ON HOMELESSNESS

Dr. Carol Kauppi, Director of the Centre for Research in Social Justice and Policy at Laurentian University, has been leading homelessness research in Northern Ontario for over 20 years. During the period 2017-20, her research in the Cochrane District was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which required an external evaluator for the project. Dr. Gayle Broad, Research Associate for NORDIK, fulfilled that role by reviewing research methodology and results, interviewing researchers and attending a public engagement session in Timmins.

The evaluation of the research revealed some key learnings for researchers in small rural, Northern and Indigenous communities, and had some important implications for policy makers across the region. First, conducting research on homelessness has always been challenging due to the nature of the population, and while the 24-hour 'point-in-time' method of collecting data has been effective in larger urban centres, Kauppi determined that a longer, 7-day process had greater efficacy in smaller communities. Her research, supported by NORDIK's evaluation, demonstrated that a 7-day process which engaged service providers in identifying locations for interviewing people experiencing homelessness, and employed community members in the research, revealed much higher numbers with greater diversity of experience. Second, the greater community engagement resulting from the community-based methodology strengthened relationships between service providers and galvanized social change and policy.

Development

INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION BROUGHT TO SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INNOVATION

As current challenges such as climate change and the COVID pandemic have highlighted, current societal 'norms' are no longer meeting the global needs of its people nor its environment and world leaders are searching for innovative solutions. Greater and greater attention is focusing on innovation in economic relations, and social enterprise in particular is gaining momentum as a credible alternative. The 2019-20 year provided a number of opportunities for NORDIK to showcase the work of its pan-Northern collaboration to build a supportive eco-system for social enterprise development.

NORDIK and the CESD program at Algoma University have been research, education and development leaders in increasing the visibility and credibility of community efforts to propose alternative economic arrangements to resource extraction. For the past six years, NORDIK has led a consortium of over twenty groups across Northern Ontario to build support and infrastructure for youth social entrepreneurship development. From that initial three-year focus on youth, with asset mapping and pop-up events, to a two year regional networking and train-the-trainer programs for economic and business development officers, to its current focus on women's social entrepreneurship, NORDIK staff and its numerous partners have created a true 'social entrepreneurship ecosystem' across Northern Ontario.

Some of the key learnings show that the partnership's strong emphasis on community engagement and empowerment, and the cyclical nature of the community-based research methodology has enhanced the sustainability of the ecosystem and leads to systemic social innovation and transformation.



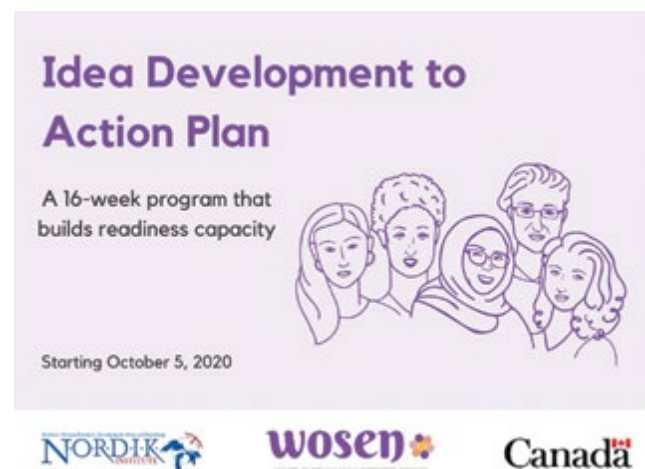
In 2019-2020, lead researchers Dr. Gayle Broad and Dr. Jude Ortiz presented their work and learnings at two symposia in Vancouver, BC and Glasgow, Scotland respectively, and have recently published an article (Broad, Gayle & Ortiz, Jude (2020) Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Sparking Social Transformation. *ANSERJ Vol. 11, No. 1 Spring / Printemps 2020 pp. 62 – 75*) bringing the learnings and success of these initiatives to an international audience. Two journals have invited more articles examining different facets of how this research and development may contribute to both social and economic transformation.

SUPPORTING UNDERREPRESENTED WOMEN THROUGH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Northern women, typically excluded from the dominant resource-extractive economy, face longstanding and systemic barriers to success and are underrepresented in businesses.

Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (SEE) has shifted its focus to unlock the potential of women-identified and gender non-binary led social enterprises through a suite of programs and services geared to support their launch or scaling. Programming for all stages of the entrepreneurial journey are being offered or developed, including *Idea Development*, *Funding and Capital*, *Financial Literacy*, and

tailored coaching opportunities. Serving both Anglophone and Francophone communities in the North, networking between founders and business service providers, and broader community uptake of SE as innovative solutions will also be promoted. The provincial partnership between SEE, Pillar Nonprofit, Centre for Social Innovation, and SVX is collectively branded as the Women of Ontario Social Enterprise Network (WOSEN). It is funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic and Development Agency for southern Ontario (FedDev) and sunsets March 2023. NORDIK's involvement in WOSEN has been led by Dr. Jude Ortiz, Krista Bissiallon, Maureen Strickland, and Diamyn Lauzon.



FORMER NORDIK RESEARCHER LAUNCHES NEW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Elizabeth MacMillan, an AU CESD grad and former NORDIK Researcher, registered a new non-profit organization, Sharing Knowledge Interactive Learning Local Sustainability (SKILLS). SKILLS is focused on building an innovative and sustainable urban agriculture industry, including greenhouses and communal garden-spaces. As a local social enterprise, the year-round greenhouses will produce fresh food for local businesses, employ folks from vulnerable populations in a safe and healthy environment, provide regular donations to the local Soup Kitchen, and support current educational gardening efforts by amplifying their capabilities and resources. As a supporting partner to the SKILLS team from the start, NORDIK wishes Elizabeth every success with SKILLS.

SAULT STE. MAIRE POVERTY ROUNDTABLE: PROGRESS ON IMPACT REPORT

The Poverty Round Table is a group of organizations and community stakeholders who are committed to collectively reducing the impact of poverty in the lives of low income people in Sault Ste. Marie. Since its inception in 2015, the Poverty Round Table has been primarily concerned with increasing communication and partnerships to achieve its Poverty Reduction Strategy comprised of four priority areas: Food Security, Crisis Diversion & Resolution, Housing and Workforce Entry.

Throughout 2019 and early 2020, NORDIK Institute worked with the United Way, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, and FutureSSM's Social Equity Coordinator, Lauren Doxtater, and Algoma Workforce Investment Corp. to develop an evaluation framework and collect baseline data. The Progress on Impact report was created to maintain the Poverty Round Table's accountability to the community at large, and encourage broader engagement in reducing poverty. This report provides, per priority area, contextual information, strategic goals, a baseline measure of indicators associated with each goal, opportunities to strengthen members' collective impact, and calls to action. The indicators presented provide a baseline picture of measurement that can be used to track the progress and impact the initiatives are making on reducing poverty over the upcoming years. The information found in the report has been collected for work completed in 2018 by the Poverty Round Table. NORDIK's contributions were made by Dr. Jude Ortiz and Tamanna Rimi.

While there is considerable collaboration amongst members in some priority areas leading to optimistic results, the report indicates overall issues associated with poverty are on the rise. A number of opportunities to strengthen and broaden partnerships and coordinate actions to foster innovative local solutions in meeting its goals were identified.

SUPPORTING STRATEGIC PLANNING CAPACITY AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN NORTHERN ONTARIO AND COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA

Dr. Sheila Gruner and NORDIK Director Sean Meades participated in a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) development initiative in Cochabamba, Bolivia from September 28th to October 6th of 2019 as part of their Partnerships for Municipal Innovation-Local Economic Development program. As part of a multi-year capacity development and exchange program FCM paired the Timmins Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) with the municipality of Vinto in Bolivia. Gruner and Meades were recruited by the TEDC to deliver a week-long training session in community and strategic planning for senior municipal staff of Vinto, the communities of Pailón and Matero, with whom FCM had been working on related projects, as well as staff from the Asociación de Gobiernos Autónomos Municipales de Cochabamba (AMDECO), a representative and advocacy association of municipalities in the Department of Cochabamba. More than 20 senior staff participated in the training, strengthening knowledge in community-based and participatory methods in strategic planning, developing site-specific approaches to planning, facilitating connections and new networks, both locally and internationally. Local entrepreneurs of Vinto who had received small-business start-up and planning assistance from previous collaborations with the TEDC shared their business plans in a local showcase on the final day of the session.



NEW SHINING MOON WORKSHOP SERIES

Upon the cancellation of its annual gathering due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Northern Lights Collaborative shifted the gathering to a series of online workshops to be held throughout the month of April. The New Shining Moon Workshop Series included workshops on cooking, movement, writing, and the Art of Hosting, as well as virtual sharing circles. The format may have changed, but the intention and purpose stayed the same – that is, to provide an opportunity for youth (ages 15-25) to connect and build relationships with other young people while developing leadership and storytelling skills. The NLC is composed of NORDIK Institute, CatalystX, YSI, PARO, Thinking Rock Community Arts, The Sault Community Career Centre, and The Small Change Fund, and Krista Bissillon was NORDIK's lead in the collaborative.

Ideas, Analysis & Dialogue

BRING FOOD HOME - ALGOMA

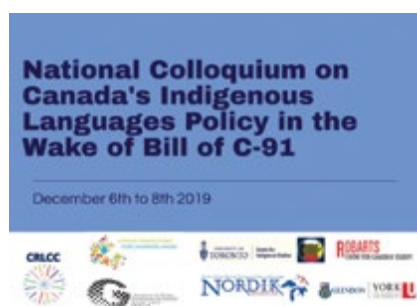
On October 10th, 2019, NORDIK faculty and staff helped to facilitate the first *Bring Food Home* Regional Conference in the Algoma District. The conference linked presenters and participants from Ottawa and Algoma via video conference, with Just Food and Algoma regional partners including Rural Agri-Innovation Network, Algoma Public Health, Johnson Farmers' Market and the United Way of Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District's Harvest Algoma, co-hosting a province-wide panel and discussion on the systems-wide consequences of Canada's new Food Guide.

Powerpoints from the morning panel, as well as the afternoon event that continued in Algoma, are now available online and we encourage you to check them out on RAIN's website at <http://rainalgoma.ca/resources/>.

The lively discussion explored how to support local and regional food systems, how the new food guide can shape our food systems and impact where we get our food, and what this means for agriculture, producers, community organizations, government and local consumers. NORDIK Institute facilitated discussion circles and collected contributions for the initial summary that went out to participants for verification.

The summary contributed to the Bring Food Home policy paper, which was released in May 2020, highlighting the needs and challenges within the current food system, including the need for education about food production and processing, meeting food needs related to the region's existing and emerging cultural diversity, and increasing access to healthy local food. It also underscored the need for cross-sector collaborations and diversifying local food production and promoting sustainable production methods. The policy paper that emerged from the conference was compiled by Dr. Laura Wyper, David Thompson, and Sean Meades.

NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON CANADA'S INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES POLICY IN THE WAKE OF BILL C-91



In December 2019, NORDIK sponsored the National Colloquium on Canada's Indigenous Languages Policy in the Wake of Bill C-91, referencing the federal government's *Indigenous Languages Act* which received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019. The colloquium took place at York University's Glendon College and featured presenters from British Columbia, to Nunavut and Nova Scotia, and profiled the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous language speakers, learners, advocates and educators that remain unresolved

at a critical juncture concerning the transmission of these languages to future generations. A communiqué issued after colloquium noted that "Presenters and participants from across Canada attended to voice current best practices and highlight additional needs in their communities, including: the need for accessible services for those within the deaf Indigenous language community; the need for more services to be available, from education to the justice system, in Indigenous languages, and; the lack of protections for Indigenous languages that could rival the Official Languages Act, given that Bill C-91 creates a hierarchy between French and English and Indigenous languages in Canada."

REGIONAL BOOK LAUNCH OF *UNEARTHING JUSTICE: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY FROM THE MINING INDUSTRY*

NORDIK's role as a 'think tank' prompted a collaboration with Clean North, the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy, and Algoma's Water Tower Inn to host a book launch for author and Adjunct CESD professor Joan Kuyek in January 2020. Part of a cross Canada tour, her new book, *Unearthing Justice: How to Protect Your Community from the Mining Industry*, challenges the dominant image projected by the mining industry of creating "sustainable development, responsible mining, community engagement, and environmental protection...realizing community benefits, and advancing the participation of Indigenous people." Her presentation particularly focused on some of the misconceptions about the community benefits of mining in the "Ring of Fire" area of Northern Ontario and its environmental impact on tertiary 'benefits' such as the smelter proposed for Sault Ste. Marie.

Over sixty people attended the launch and a lively discussion followed Kuyek's presentation.

Books may be purchased directly from the publisher 'Between the Lines', and are available on loan at both the downtown public library and Algoma University, due to the kind donation of an anonymous donor.

GROWTH FOR SAULT STE. MARIE'S FUTURE: A REVIEW OF THE RURAL AND NORTHERN IMMIGRATION PILOT

In February 2020, Dr. Nusrate Aziz and NORDIK Director Sean Meades released a review of the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP), which suggests retention of post-secondary students would increase by widening eligible occupational categories to better align with local labour market needs.

Northern Ontarians have spent most of the 21st century concerned about our region's declining population, which due to a combination of outmigration and declining birth rates has either declined or been relatively stagnant since the late 1990s. While these declines are somewhat offset by the population growth in Indigenous communities throughout the region, if this demographic trend does not reverse itself, Northern Ontario will lack the human resources to fill local labour market needs and the regional tax base will continue to shrink, resulting in a region that is less productive, economically less active, and risks further decline. The RNIP makes important contributions to reversing this trend, and broadening its reach could help attract and retain more immigrants to the region.

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES, TERRITORIES AND PEACE IN COLOMBIA IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

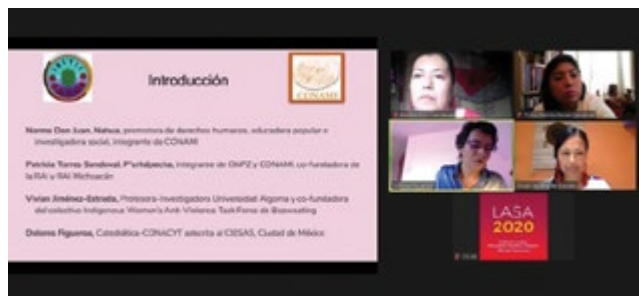
Dr. Gruner took part in organizing the May 28th online-panel, *Ethnic Communities, Territories and Peace in Colombia in the Era of COVID-19*, which featured dialogue between activists, scholars, and leaders of Colombia's Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. The panel series is co-sponsored by NORDIK, Carleton University, University Javeriana, the National Afro-Colombian Peace Council, Ethnic Commission for Peace and Defense of Territorial Rights, the Global Centre for Pluralism, Common Frontiers Canada, Steelworkers Humanity Fund, Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Colombian Truth Commission, and the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

CAPT representatives Dorothy Macnaughton, and Linda Savory Gordon, with the support of NORDIK Intern Diamyn Lauzon drafted a grant proposal with MTA Inc for Innoweave's Investment Readiness Program (IRP) funded by the Government of Canada. The IRP supports social enterprises as they contribute to solving pressing social, cultural and environmental challenges across Canada.

CAPT continues to lobby the federal government to provide Transport Canada funding for the operation of the Bear Train. Such support would be an opportunity for the Federal government to help to correct the unjust acquisition of land for and building of the Algoma Central Railway by ensuring that the passenger service plays its important role as essential transportation infrastructure for the regional economic development of the First Nations through whose territories it passes.



INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ANTI VIOLENCE TASK FORCE & INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY



The IWAVTF has been busy throughout 2019-20 with significant engagements from NORDIK and Algoma University faculty and students. The IWAVTF, with the support of Dr. Vivian Jiménez-Estrada, has been engaged in building dialogue and solidarity with an Indigenous women's organization in Mexico, the National Coordinator of Indigenous Women in Mexico (CONAMI).

Drawing on the support of other allied scholars from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS) Mexico, the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS), Algoma University, University of Calgary, and the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS), the participating organizations have been exploring ways to gather contextualized data on the types of violence impacting Indigenous women and their communities in Canada and Mexico. On May 16, 2020, the collaborative held a virtual panel for the Latin American Studies Association with Dolores Figueroa (CIEASAS Mexico), Norma Don Juan and Patricia Torres (CONAMI), titled "Retos para documentar el feminicidio en zonas Indígenas en México y Canadá desde una perspectiva interseccional."

Building on the outcome of engagements with the community and service providers working with Indigenous people's dealing with the justice system, led by NORDIK Researcher Krista Bissiallon and funded by the Ontario Law Foundation, the IWAVTF collaborated with NORDIK and FutureSSM's Social Equity Coordinator on the submission of a funding application to Heritage Canada's Anti Racism Action Program for a strategy to develop a community based justice model. The application was one of fewer than 90 successful applications across Canada from over a thousand submissions, and will support a two-year project promoting dialogue on community-based justice processes and strategies for diverting Indigenous peoples from incarceration.

RESEARCH, DIALOGUE, ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION

Thank you to our partners and funders:

