

2019

Resurgence, Decolonization and Recognition: Action-research with Minwashin

Dominic Lapointe

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Kevin Papatie

Minwashin, Canada

Cassiopée Benjamin

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

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Recommended Citation

Lapointe, Dominic; Papatie, Kevin; and Benjamin, Cassiopée (2019) "Resurgence, Decolonization and Recognition: Action-research with Minwashin," *Critical Tourism Studies Proceedings*: Vol. 2019 , Article 42.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.tru.ca/cts-proceedings/vol2019/iss1/42>

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CTS 2019

Title: Resurgence, Decolonization and Recognition: Action-research with Minwashin

Authors:

Dominic Lapointe
Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Kevin Papatie
Minwashin, Canada

Cassiopée Benjamin
Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Abstract:

Following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a consensus is emerging that relations between Canada's aboriginal peoples and the mainstream society need to be rethought. If a political process is under way and put into practice, at the community level, the question of the modalities of the implementation of this intercultural dialogue in a perspective of a resurgence and decolonization remains to be thought out (Coulthard, 2014). Reindigenization would go through the resurgence of the territory as a space of meaning (Simpson, 2014) following decades of territorial reduction (Simard, 2003) and political compartmentalization (Alfred et Corntassel, 2005). These clearly situate the individual and collective experience of indigenous peoples as a source for establishing the *modus operandi* of the cultural resurgence where the solution would be found in the aboriginal agency and in the redefinition of indigenous knowledge of the relationship to culture and territory (Weber, 2014).

This communication will present the framework and methodologies of the partnership with Minwashin, an Anishnabe organization, and a social innovation, in the Abitibi-Temiscamingue. Minwashin proves to be an initiative that seeks a recodification of the links between cultures and territory in a process of resurgence of culture where territory is an essential element of living together and meaning (Betasamosake Simpson, 2014, Wazyatawin, 2012). Considered as social innovation Minwashin suggests to approach the latter in a relational perspective where the indigenous cultural ideal is expressed through history, ceremonies, language and the territory (Holm et al., 2003).

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