



2017/18 REPORT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Don Alexander, Chair

I took over chairing the committee on an interim basis from Eliza Gardiner in the early Fall of 2017. Since then, I have attended two provincial meetings as the representative of Local 8 and supported and/or organized activities on campus and in the community. One of our first sponsorships was donating money to help bring the film "Stairs" (\$300.00) and its director to campus. This was organized by Laura Suski, and was a documentary focusing on drug addiction and associated issues in the Regent Park housing complex in Toronto.

After that we provided support for "Sansei: The Storyteller" (\$150.00), a theatrical production about the internment of Japanese people during World War II put on by Theatre One; we also contributed funds towards the travel expenses of one of the speakers for the Urban Issues Film Festival (\$125.00) whose focus was arts and culture and tactical urbanism. In the late Fall and early Winter, I tried to arrange for a showing of "Gold Fever" (about Goldcorp's abuse of indigenous people in Guatemala), which would have featured a talk by Napoleon Gomez, the president of the Mexican Mineworkers' Union, who resides in Vancouver. The immediate impetus was the Media Luna strike in Mexico, where two strikers had been killed in a conflict involving a Canadian-owned mining company. However, Mr. Gomez proved to be too busy to come to Nanaimo.

In the Spring, we provided financial support for another theatrical production, "The Japanese Problem" (\$250.00), for a teach-in on the Korean crisis, organized in part by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (\$185.00), and made a contribution to the costs of Nanaimo Global Issues Film Festival (\$250.00). We were unable to provide support for another production by Theatre One on women's labour history, as we had run out of money.

Major initiatives in the future include hosting a speaking tour by one or more of the contributors to the provincial HRISC/ FPSE project "Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization," and partnering with Laura Suski and others to bring in speakers from InterPares on women's reproductive rights. We are also working on partnering more closely with members of an ad hoc committee on campus concerned with how our pension monies are invested. The head of this committee, Robert

Pepper-Smith, is the VIUFA rep on the FPSE Pension Advisory Committee's SRI (Socially Responsible Investment) Sub-Committee.