

...continued from page 10

games themselves, and they will attack colonialism's corporate sponsors and profiteers. We must all remember that we have the ability (and a responsibility) to do the same in our own communities.

Gentrification is rampant across the country—in Calgary, Kitchener, Toronto, and many other Canadian cities. Colonialism and all its ills are suffered by First Nations and by indigenous communities and individuals on a persistent and ongoing basis—there is no place in Canada that is not implicated in some kind of Indigenous struggle, be it land protection, in the legal system, against racism, against systemic poverty and marginalization, against police brutality, against legislative oppression, or for sovereignty. There is a struggle in every province and territory against the crippling symptoms of hundreds of years of attempted cultural genocide and abuse—addiction, domestic violence, suicide. These are all battles against colonialism, and they are all struggles we can directly support and confront in our own communities.

Blunt concludes her essay by asking, "What sort of position do we want to be

in after the Games? How do we survive, evade, and resist the occupation? ... What next?" What is next will be that we continue what we have been doing: we continue fighting against injustice and oppression and we continue linking together our local struggles and supporting each other. We continue building trust between the disparate constituencies of our movement and we continue deepening our analysis along with our commitment to a better world. We continue to make space for the building of a better future, and we continue to seize every moment and every opportunity to recognize, disrupt and replace the systems that destroy so much and oppress so many.

The Olympic Resistance Network in Vancouver describes itself as "exist(ing) as a space to coordinate anti-colonial and anti-capitalist efforts against the 2010 Games". They recently released a Statement on Solidarity and Unity. That statement included the following:

"Despite our differences in analysis and strategies we believe we have a significant opportunity to come together and voice our opposition to the 2010 Olympic Games. This statement of unity does not call for us to fully

agree or stand by each other's tactics or ideas, although we believe we have much to learn and understand from one another. Rather, this statement calls for a basic unity in expressing our critique of the 2010 Olympics Games and committing to finding ways to work and support each other in our complementary efforts to expose this two-week circus and the oppression it represents to so many communities and sectors."

Alex was a founding member of AW@L and WLU's JHR chapter. He has spent much of the last three years committed to solidarity activism, primarily with Grassy Narrows First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. He has facilitated activism and decolonization workshops at Universities across Ontario. Alex was involved in organizing the blockade in Toronto of the CP Rail Olympic Spirit Train that was conducted by AW@L and grassroots activists from Six Nations. For more information about AW@L visit [www.peaceculture.org](http://www.peaceculture.org)

