

Anti-War @ Laurier

ANTI-WAR AT LAURIER (AW@L) DEMONSTRATES IN SOLIDARITY WITH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR GRASSY NARROWS

WATERLOO, ON - Anti-War At Laurier (AW@L) today delivered a letter to Grand & Toy, requesting that their Waterloo-based sales office remain closed for the morning of Wednesday January 30th in solidarity with the International Day of Action for Grassy Narrows & Indigenous Self-Determination.

Every year, Grand & Toy sells millions of dollars worth of paper products sourced from the traditional territory of the community of Grassy Narrows. The millions of trees necessary as raw material for these products are taken using highly mechanized industrial techniques which destroy trap lines, eliminate berry and medicine patches, damage the soils, and disrupt wildlife populations and game animals. In early 2007, Grassy Narrows community leaders declared a moratorium on all industrial activity within their traditional territory without community consent, yet one year later Grand & Toy continues to profit from the logging of Grassy Narrows and the destruction of an Ontarian community.

AW@L representative Mark Ciesluk explained that, "Grand & Toy purchases paper products which are sourced from wood taken from the traditional territory of the Grassy Narrows community. We support the residents of Grassy Narrows in demanding an end to the illegal logging of their lands, and urge Grand & Toy and others to respect their right to self-determination through abiding by the moratorium on Grassy Narrows' lands."

AW@L member Patricia Veiga added that, "It is the legal right of the people of Grassy Narrows to be able to live peacefully on their land without the fear of corporate interference resulting in mercury poisoning, destructive clear-cutting, and ultimately a loss of culture. We are campaigning to draw attention to this serious issue which unknowingly affects many who purchase paper products from companies like Grand & Toy."

AW@L will begin demonstrations at 9:45am on Wednesday January 30th at Grand & Toy's Waterloo sales office (588 Colby Dr) in order to ensure that Grand & Toy recognises the importance of standing in solidarity with the community of Grassy Narrows.

For more information please contact:

Mark Ciesluk @ AW@L

mark.ciesluk@gmail.com

519 588 6678