

Mallory

Pinette, Susan

From: Gagnon, Aida
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Pinette, Susan
Subject: FW: LD 2094 , 2/14/2020, 9 am

From: Emma Macaillen <em.macaillen@hotmail.com>
Sent: February 13, 2020 2:14 PM
To: Legislative Information Office (legis.info@legislature.maine.gov)
<LegislativeInformationOffice@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: LD 2094 , 2/14/2020, 9 am

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Date: February 10, 2020
From: N. Emma Macaillen Mallory
Re: LD 2094
To: The Judiciary Committee

Dear Sen. Carpenter, Rep. Bailey, and Members of the Judiciary Comm.,

I am writing in support of LD 2094. I believe that before these bill discussions begin, we must first recall the truth of colonization. It needs to remain in the forefront of our thinking so we do not continue to perpetuate it.

Martin Luther King, Jr says: "Our nation was born in genocide....We are perhaps the only nation which tried as a matter of national policy to wipe out its indigenous population. Moreover, we elevated that tragic experience into a noble crusade. Indeed, even today we have not permitted ourselves to reject or feel remorse for this shameful episode".

In 1993, David Stannard, a credible historian, authored "The American Holocaust", Oxford Press. In this work he stated that after he and his colleagues reviewed settler records, they could surmise that the death toll of First Nations People who died as a result of settling this country was between 60 -100 MILLION. That left 2% of the Wabanaki People in the Dawnland/Maine, stripped of all rights and imprisoned on reservations for many years. (Please see attached Fact Sheet.)

Currently the US Nat'l Crime Info Center statistics of the Murdered Missing Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG), the current perpetuation of genocide and racism, states that in 2016 alone, 5,712 indigenous females were killed or missing in 2016 alone. Many are not reported because seldom is anything done about it. This means that the number is far larger. Murder is the third leading cause of death for indigenous women with 2 out of 3 a victim of violence.

To help deal with this issue in our State, the Maine Legislature passed The VAWA (Violence Against Women's Act) Bill six months ago and it has been sitting on the Governor's desk. Why? Because it is tied to Sovereignty.

It would open that door. The issue is that Tribal Courts do not have the jurisdiction to try non native alleged perpetrators in their courts. White trials of these predominantly white men (97%) are a farce. Seldom are they found or identified to go to court and if they are, they are freed with a wrist slap. This is one of the most egregious acts of today's racism and it remains caught in the imperialist web and is all about the letting go of power that is being held by one nation over other nations who have lived here at least 15,000 years with successful governance and stewardship of the earth's resources.

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Henry Crow Dog, Lakota Sioux speaks simply but eloquently of White Privilege, racism's counterpart. I picture him looking across at what settlers named Mt Rushmore. He says, "And the landmark they had in Black Hills..... they carved George Washington and the others there. Them people didn't own that piece of land but they make carvings there. Anybody could realize you have to go to Washington, Europe, and carve my face over there."I think he says it all. We naturally assume it's our right to think and act on what we see without thought, input, or considerations, because we are white.

In working intensely to decolonize my own white privilege and racism over these past ten years, a lifelong process, I think I've made a little progress, but it's constant trial and error, and those errors have consequences in my relations. In the process of understanding and deciding about this bill, I respectfully request that you first recognize that you have White Privilege and Racism, the consequences of which can influence the fate of four Nations. Your job mandates that you put aside your biases and view issues from an objective and reasoned position. Thank you to those who are working hard to do so. It has helped to begin and develop a foundation from which to now examine huge and substantive issues that were dictated by race and privilege..

You have been charged with one of the most serious and compelling history breaking and remaking tasks. Given that it is the 200th year celebration of the colonization of this country, you have the opportunity to make changes that can begin to make historic differences in how we can come together finally, nation to nation in a just and egalitarian way. This is the year, this is the time, to be able to turn around toward true reconciliation and reparation to begin to heal the atrocities of what our ancestors perpetrated. We can then grow true unity between Nations which may be key to our survival.

N Emma Macaillen-Mallory
Orono,

FACT SHEET

Timeline of Rights "Awarded" to Indigenous People

- 1924, became American Citizens, could leave their reservations
- 1934, allowed to establish Tribal Government, land protected from seizure,
- 1965, allowed to "vote" in all states, we continue to thwart this process
- 1968, given the rights to free speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and full rights to a fair trial
- 1978 awarded religious freedom, children could no longer be removed from their native homes without just cause
- 1990 allowed to use and study their own languages.

In the United States the reservations comprise 2% of its land mass.

Pope Nicholas IV of the 1400s, was an instigator in creating oppression and racism by his penning of the Doctrine of Discovery which was an official charge by the Church to explorers to go forth into the world to find lands and resources to be colonized by white European countries. His plan was genocide of all pagans or those who did not believe in Christ. He advocated the taking of their lives, goods, lands, children, culture, and spirituality. And this continues in covert ways with the oppression of Sovereignty, the freedom of self rule, which is the right and heritage of the Wabanaki Nations.