

West Broadway CLT Session 2 - A CLT on Treaty One?

Date: Thursday, January 9 Time: 5-8pm Location: Cornish Library (Room C)

1. Introductions

- a. The first community land trust (CLT) started by a Black liberation society in Georgia. Modeled from Israeli cooperatives of Palestinian land. Important question through process: Asking how we deal with settler colonialism.
- b. Recap:
 - i. CLT's are organizations run by the community for community. WBCO proposes to protect rental properties. WB had a CLT in 2000's. Report coming.
 - ii. Writing a business plan including stakeholder mapping.
 - iii. Monthly sessions until April. Next three-facilitated to establish guiding principles. Weekly Tuesday Coffee House at WBCO (748 Broadway) from 4-6 pm: structured convos, guest speakers, movies. All welcome.
 - iv. Mailchimp for updates. Send Stefan – housing@westbroadway.mb.ca an email or sign up at westbroadway.mb.ca
 - v. Using minutes to capture meetings. Will post on WBCO. First sharing through Mailchimp and welcome revisions.

2. Speakers

- a. **Audrey Logan** is Neheyawin/Metis from Treaty 6 area. She lives in Treaty 1 territory and is a knowledge keeper for land stewardship at Spirit Park. Lived in WB for 20 years.
 - i. Sees the upkeep of Spirit Park as a CLT.
 - ii. Shares traditional Indigenous food cultivation and preserving with anyone who comes by. Predominantly Indigenous plants. Promotes a hands-on park while encouraging the preservation of root systems.
 - iii. Welcomes everyone to bring gloves/snips and take part. Starts back up in May.
- b. **Minawaanigogizhigook** (Dawnis Kennedy) holds an LLM from the University of Victoria and a JD from the University of Toronto.
 - i. Expertise in treaty law and Anishinaabe land practices. Both family lines are Treaty 1 information carriers.
 - ii. Found colonial education system harmful. Returned to post-secondary education to pursue law, revitalise traditions.
 - iii. Committed to learning about treaty and what she would have known without colonization.

3. Open discussion about a CLT's responsibilities on Treaty One Territory

- a. Audrey -sense of ownership so different between Indigenous and colonial settlers.
 - i. Indigenous people believe in land stewardship, matriarch society. Land needs people walking on it, spread seeds and spores, maintain it, visit the trees you take sap from.
 - ii. Spirit Park struggles with funding, staff changes at WBCO. Fundraising helps but the park has not been revitalised in 20 years. These are things to think of for a CLT. You need to collect the rent, deal with the complaints, look at all aspects.
- b. Dawnis thinks about connections to land through treaty.
 - i. Her student once wrote "If I ask you to close your eyes and think about treaty, what would you think about? For me, I think about our first treaty. With the

earth, unwritten, unspoken, but understood to me. We will take care of her. As she takes care of us.”

- ii. Treaties are not negotiations for a used car. They were sealed with the smoke of a pipe. We all share the same goal, eat from the same dish. Law is only take what you need. You don't take from those who are sick. You wait. You eat what's in abundance and you share everything you take.
4. Introductions with the approx. 32 people in attendance.
 - a. Discussed relations to WB and how we got here.
 5. Questions/comments from the group:
 - a. Indigenous land trust movement. Started a women let CLT in Southern California.
 - i. Thought about things like: housing, emergency services, teachings.
 - b. What's the plan for our CLT? Concepts?
 - i. Working through the next three sessions to figure out. WBCO has money to buy the first building which will be used as affordable housing.
 - ii. In the first session we talked about rooming houses and providing housing to marginalized community members. There is an opportunity to take over rooming houses from owners looking to get out. If not, we may lose that housing.
 - iii. Questions about the standard of rooming houses, whether we should aim for something better.
 - iv. One person shared that she lived in a rooming house and had a good experience. Sees the value investing in one.
 - c. The idea of coming to these meetings for the land – not to be a landlord.
 - i. Came to sessions not to talk about landlords but instead to talk about things that exists outside of this system.
 - ii. As long as we don't have folks from rooming houses – we can't give our opinions. Principle of nothing about us without us.
 - iii. The language can really reflect our intentions – it is important to think of these things. We need new terminology to set up our intentions.
 - d. Dawnis-treaties is about how we live together. Setting values for what we want to see..
 - i. It's a principal of participatory democracy.
 - ii. That can include healing. Think about the words that we want to put in there-do we want to take something that actually exists? Or do we want to create something totally different?
 - e. Anny asked the group to think about for next time:
 - i. If we are missing people in the room – how do we get them here?