

Canadian Political Science Students' Association 2016 National Conference on Sovereignty

Please forward this message to any students who may have interest:

Dear Students;

On behalf of the Canadian Political Science Students' Association, I would like to invite you to attend the 20th annual CPSSA National Conference, 2016. The conference will be held at the University of Victoria from January 27th to the 31st. This conference is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. The focal theme for next year's conference will be "Sovereignty". Due to the universal relevance of this subject, the CPSSA encourages the attendance of students of all faculties. The discussion of sovereignty and issues arising from competing sovereignties are relevant to many disciplines, and contributions from those studying in fields such as Politics, Economics, Business, Indigenous Studies, Arctic Studies, Philosophy and Environmental studies would greatly enhance the conference experience. The "mountain region" of Canada (BC, Alberta and the Yukon) has a lot of invested interest in sovereignty issues.

From aboriginal treaty and land sovereignty disputes to resource development and pipeline infrastructure, the question of land control and who has sovereignty over it has never been so pressing. With Recent Northern Gateway Pipeline, site C dam and purposed Chevron Kitimat oil tanker terminal BC is facing tough decisions on land sovereignty. The outcomes of these decisions will have ramifications all over Canada. Does government give control and veto to First Nations groups over projects on their land? Are governments morally or legally obligated to do so?

In the last 20 years, Canada's arctic sovereignty has been under attack. With recent UN guidelines establishing that countries may own arctic land as far as their continent's land mass extends, arctic bordering governments race to claim what could be the world's last remaining untapped oil reserves. Leaving Canada in caught in a modern gold rush. The outcomes of this race will have a lasting impact not only on possible resource extraction and economic gain but on the lives and traditions of the northern peoples.

Lastly Canadians as global citizens must ask themselves, if global warming is displacing others from their homes or decreasing the quality of their lives and Canada continues to extract oil from Alberta, are we then committing a crime unto those sovereign states? How about closer to home. The pollution and resource development of lands traditionally occupied by first Nations groups; Should government be the only body reviewing projects or should first nations be given title and veto over their traditional territory?

With the New Democratic Party forming a majority in the Alberta provincial government how will this new philosophy affect the producer and consumer sovereignty? With a more left-wing approach to government, how will the individual feel the effects of the new state ideology?

The topic of Sovereignty is very relevant to the lives of western Canadians and CPSSA 2016 will be the perfect venue to discuss, debate and decide what sovereignty mean to you.

The conference is comprised of academic sessions provided by scholars, professors and students as well as social activities. This conference is a very unique opportunity for students to create connections with scholars, professors and other students across the nation. In addition to organizing the annual conference, the CPSSA also offers a Graduate Guide, which outlines the types of Graduate programs and opportunities available to students after they complete their undergraduate studies. We have focused this year especially too be able to provide competent Graduate Guide information and connections for students looking at graduate school all over this great country.

Aside from attending the conference at the University of Victoria, there are many ways in which students can participate in the CPSSA, including in the association's academic journal (Expressions). Expressions is a national undergraduate journal, and is open to submissions from Canadian undergraduate students writing on the conference theme each year. Expressions is a valuable opportunity for students to be published in an academic journal and to gain editing experience in an academic setting.

For more information about the conference, journal or grad guide, please do not hesitate to contact me, or to visit our website at cpssa.ca, or on Facebook at Canadian Political Science Students' Association. Also, if you would like to send a delegation to the conference, I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have and help facilitate your attendance at the CPSSA. Please forward this invitation to any undergraduate or graduate students who may be interested.

I will be following up as details on keynotes speakers for the conference get finalized by the organizing committee. I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting with you all next year!

Best wishes,

Seth Jex

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