

Let's Occupy #Attawapiskat in Twitter on December 7

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Friday, December 02, 2011

<https://politicsrespun.org/2011/12/lets-occupy-attawapiskat-in-twitter-on-december-7/>

[I wrote a piece the other day on Attawapiskat](#), and how it enrages me.

Not just the case in those communities, but how it's representative of Canada's largely racist relationship with first nations and, frankly, all “disposable” people.

This, by the way, is an amazing piece with essential information about the bureaucracy/politics of Attawapiskat from âpihtawikosisân: <http://apihtawikosisan.wordpress.com/2011/11/30/dealing-with-comments-about-attawapiskat/>. Truly essential reading.

Some of us have been working up an idea to draw and focus attention on the need to not only address Attawapiskat, but the overall systemic problem.

Let's occupy the #Attawapiskat hashtag in Twitter for most of the day on Wednesday, December 7. Hashtag occupation is an activist technique in Twitter to push a message around a new or existing hashtag. If the hashtag ends up trending in a city/province/country, all the better.

And if you aren't around/available on the 7th, you can use [Hootsuite](#) or some similar Twitter interface to write some scheduled tweets to go out on the 7th.

And I'm thinking that around mid afternoon in each of our time zones, we can start focusing tweets directly at John Duncan's email/phone number. Clever fellow doesn't have a Twitter id.

And remember, you tweeps are often the sources of information an insight in your social networks outside the echo chamber of Twitter. Make sure you encourage your people in [Facebook](#), [Diaspora](#) and other social circles to take part by sharing their hopes and wishes for a national dialogue on our dysfunctional relationship with first peoples.

If you aren't in Twitter, but know someone who is, but cares about healing this core failure of Canada as a whole, please ask them to take part. Here's what I'm thinking:

1. On December 7, from 8am EST to 5pm PST, each participant makes 3-6 tweets about this topic.
2. Hashtags to use: #Attawapiskat for sure, plus any of these that fit your individual tweets: #NativeSpring #AFN, #indigenous, #aboriginal, #cdnpoli, #onpoli, #racism, etc. Use your province's hashtag for your tweets, like #bcpoli #onpoli #skpoli, etc. because hashtag cross-pollination is a powerful thing and our nation's systemic problem exists in your province too!
3. People to include in tweets:
 1. Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan [john.duncan@parl.gc.ca, 613-992-2503, 250-338-9381]
 2. Stephen Harper [stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca, @pmharper in Twitter, 613-992-4211,

403-253-7990]

4. Liberally retweet fellow activists' tweets on December 7 by [monitoring the #Attawapiskat hashtag](#)

5. Remember, the current event is Attawapiskat, but the systemic problem is nation-wide. And if you're inspired to be thinking on systems-wide level, [enjoy this piece](#).

6. Content suggestions for your tweets:

- Comment on healing our relationship with first peoples.
- Why do Canadians allow such poverty among first peoples?
- Why are so many first peoples living in abject poverty?
- What needs to be healed in our relationship with first peoples?
- Is Attawapiskat symbolic of larger issues in Canada?
- Your vision on healthy relationships with first peoples.
- What poverty means to you.
- Why you want our governments to begin a sincere national dialogue on healing our racist, imperialist, dysfunctional relationship with first peoples: acknowledging the problems of the past and present, and expanding solutions and best practices around the country into the future. To move forward we need to heal the past and build a respectful future.
- See [the piece and comments here](#) for more inspiration for your tweets, as well as the âpihtawikosisân piece above.

So if you could spare a couple minutes, 3-6 times during the above time range on December 7, to stimulate a healthier nation, thanks! And again, if you know of any Twitter folks who care about this issue, please consider asking them to take part.

And if you have any new ideas for hashtags, event logistics or content suggestions, please toss them into the comments below and I'll incorporate them into this post.