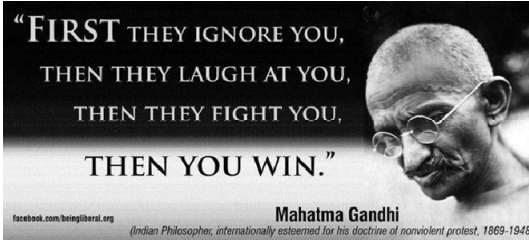


**“If you do not take us seriously...”:  
Protest and Direct Action in Pursuit of Justice**

INDG 419 / Crim 419  
Fall/2023

SFU



**Indigenous Protest: Some History**

- ◉ In Canada, Indigenous leaders consistently sought Premiers, Prime Ministers, Kings, Queens when treaty promises regarding self-governance and sharing the land were not kept



**Indigenous Protest: Some History**

- ◉ In the 1950s and 1960s Canada and the US sought to implement termination and assimilation policies to end “the Indian problem” by ending recognition of unique Indigenous rights
- ◉ Native Youth, AIM



### Alcatraz 1969-71

#### WE HOLD THE ROCK

The Indian Occupation of Alcatraz  
November 20, 1969 to June 11, 1971

When 78 young Indian men, women and children occupied the island of Alcatraz on November 20, 1969, they took a stand against broken promises, and broken lives suffered by America's native people since the arrival of European settlers in the fifteenth century.

These occupiers and thousands more from the Bay Area, Indian countries to look Alcatraz for 18 months in a non-violent act that drew attention to the general search in the development of the country's Indian people. Experience the occupation through the eyes of those who were there.



### Wounded Knee 1973

AIM militants at their checkpoint on road leading into Wounded Knee 1973.



### George Erasmus (1988)



### Kanehsatake/Oka 1990



### Gustafsen Lake 1995



### Ipperwash 1995



### Sun Peaks 2001





## Post 9/11

- "Terrorism" is a word that starts to be used in relation to Indigenous activists
- Evidence of that from here to Geneva
- Former PM Harper continued that spin via Bill C-51

**ACTIVISM 101**

**Burned Street Bridge Takedown**

By James Siskel Wood  
East Coast Wankie Society

This summer in a dramatic and forceful takedown, the RCMP, Vancouver Police and a Federal Anti-Terrorism Team apprehended members of the West Coast Wankie Society. This was the beginning of the end for the society who disbanded shortly afterwards. James Ward, a key leader with the East Coast Wankie Society and a trainer with the Outdoor Indigenous Traditional Training (OIT) centre tells us his story in this SPIRIT EXCLUSIVE.

We estimate there were 15 to 20 police officers in this takedown, blocking the bridge.

## Post 9/11

- A period of militarism followed by more emphasis on non-violent protest

### Standing Rock 2016



### Kinder Morgan 2014



### Wet'suwet'en 2020



### Is It Worth It?

