

## **Support an Indigenous Man's Struggle for Justice and Freedom**

John Moore and his support committee are asking organizations and individuals from across Turtle Island to sign on to the following statement seeking a review of his unjust second degree murder conviction, which led to a ten year sentence in Millhaven Penitentiary and lifelong parole.

### **The statement**

John C. Moore, an Ojibway man from Serpent River First Nation, was convicted of second degree murder in 1979. This happened despite the fact that he was not present when the crime was committed and had no role whatsoever in perpetrating it, and was based solely on him having spent time earlier that day with the individuals who committed the crime. His trials were tainted with systemic racism. The law under which he was convicted was ruled unconstitutional in 1987, and no one would be convicted under similar circumstances today. Yet Moore continues to bear the burden of the stigma of this conviction. He must regularly report to a parole officer and must ask permission if he wishes to leave the city of Sudbury, Ontario, which is impeding his freedom of movement and his capacity to find meaningful work. For all of these reasons, and in recognition of the long history of indigenous people being targeted unfairly by the Canadian justice system, we, the individuals and groups listed below, call upon the Government of Canada to conduct a review of Moore's conviction.

### **An unjust law**

- Based on the idea that Moore should have known a crime was going to be committed because he had earlier spent time with the people who went on to commit it.
- Described as “archaic” by Denis Michel, Moore's lawyer.
- Disallowed more than 20 years ago in another case, with no remedy yet for Moore.

### **A racist conviction**

- No Native people on the juries, despite many living in the area where the trials occurred.
- Of several white people who were connected to the people who committed the crime in the same way as Moore or in more substantive ways, one was charged and acquitted and the rest were never charged.
- A Native Studies professor from Laurentian University who has examined the trial transcripts considers the conduct of the Crown to be racist.

### **What Moore wants**

- Ultimately, he wants full exoneration.
- In the meantime, he wants the federal Department of Justice to conduct a review of his conviction, which can lead to a pardon.

### **Supporters so far**

- Organizational endorsers so far include the Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and the Sudbury and District Labour Council.
- Prominent individual endorsers so far include Charles C. Roach, founding member of the Black Action Defense Committee and well-known Toronto lawyer; Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, a long-time indigenous and feminist activist based in San Francisco; and Glenn Thibeault, NDP Member of Parliament for Sudbury.

### **For more information**

- <http://justiceandfreedomforjohnmoore.blogspot.com>
- Email the committee ([sudburyawo@gmail.com](mailto:sudburyawo@gmail.com)) or Moore ([johnpower1955@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpower1955@hotmail.com)).