

**Center for Engaged Learning Abroad  
Service Learning Plan**

**University/Group Name:** BGINS, Carleton University

**Name Project Leader/Professor:** Chris Brown <[ChrisBrown@Cunet.Carleton.Ca](mailto:ChrisBrown@Cunet.Carleton.Ca)>

**Project Title:** Socialization of Maya Development Vision

**Name of Local Organization and contact information:** Maya Leaders Alliance/Toledo Alcalde Association (MLA-TAA)

**Name and contact information of other partners:**

**Project Description:** (Describe the project in a few paragraphs (background; problem and why it is important; how it fits with the work of local organization/community and student's/academic program interests/goals.)

In 2015 the Maya people of Southern Belize as part of their struggle for physical and cultural survival obtained a ruling through the Caribbean Court of Justice affirming their rights to land. Having obtained legal protection for their lands as their fountain of sustenance and as a place for being, they are now able to focus more directly on increasing wellbeing and revitalizing their communities. In 2017 the MLA-TAA commissioned the elaboration of a Maya development vision through a consultative and participatory process that involves formal village leaders and community representatives (youth, women and elders). This process to be completed in early 2018 will result in a Maya development vision document that will help communities both individually and collectively to plan their development path and guide the engagement of agencies working with Maya communities.

While the development vision would have been generated through the participation of community representatives, it will be necessary to socialize the vision as widely as possible to generate ownership and promote its use both internal and external to the communities. To this end, the Maya leaders alliance would like to develop socialization material that will reach widest possible sectors of Maya society and key external agencies. The service-learning project proposed here aims to contribute to this very goal. Carleton University students with the guidance of Filiberto Penados who facilitated the development of the vision and Academic Director of CELA; the Maya leaders Alliance and the Alcalde Association will work along with a team of local leaders to develop and pilot dissemination material.

**Project Goals:**

- A. Service Goals: (What will the project deliver to the organization/community)
  - a. Develop and pilot material to communicate and promote the ownership and use of the Maya Development vision.
- B. Learning Goals: (What will the students learn in the process of delivering the service

- a. Develop an understanding of Maya land rights as an example of indigenous struggles.
- b. Develop an understanding of the challenges and possibilities of indigenous Development
- c. Develop an understanding of Maya culture.
- d. Develop an understanding and basic skills in popular education and communication.

### **Goals of the socialization initiative:**

#### **General Goal:**

Maya communities and members will be more clear and united on their vision of the future and external agencies will be familiar with the aspirations of Maya people.

#### **Specific Goals**

Through the socialization initiative, Maya community members will:

1. Be aware of their rights to development as articulated in UNDRIP, ILO Convention 169 and OAS Declaration
2. Be familiar with indigenous development thought and practice and the experiences of other indigenous communities.
3. Be aware of how the Maya development thought and practices harmonies with Belize's national development priorities such as the SDGs, Horizon 2030.
4. Appreciate the opportunity opened by the CCJ land rights affirmation for the exercise of their right to development.
5. Recognize the wealth of cultural and natural resources that they possess.
6. Appreciate the responsibility of current generations to secure the wellbeing of future generations
7. Be familiar with the challenges and opportunities for Maya development
8. Be familiar with the Maya development vision statement and the process that was used to arrive at it.
9. Consider ways in which the MDV can be used by their community/organization

Through the socialization initiative, key **external agencies** will:

1. Be aware of the rights to development of indigenous peoples as articulated in UNDRIP, ILO Convention 169 and OAS Declaration
2. Be familiar with indigenous development thought and practice and the experiences of other indigenous communities.
3. Be familiar with the Maya development vision statement and the process that was used to arrive at it.
4. Be aware of how the Maya development thought and practices harmonies with Belize's national development priorities such as the SDGs, Horizon 2030.
5. Consider ways in which the MDV can inform their work with Maya communities.

**Project Activities:** (Describe the main project activities)

1. Familiarization with context and knowledge base development: Carleton students will become familiar through readings and talks with the:
  - a. History, culture, current reality and struggles of Maya peoples in southern Belize.
  - b. Indigenous development thought and practice
  - c. Indigenous development rights and indigenous development experiences
  - d. Belize Development plans
  - e. Maya development vision
  - f. Communication and education methodologies
2. Establish MLA-TAA Maya Development Vision Socialization Committee (MDVSC). The Maya organizations will establish a small committee to work along with Carleton students to develop and pilot the education pieces.
3. Identification and characterization of the target groups in collaboration with MDVSC.
4. Identification and development of key messages in collaboration with MDVSC
5. Development of communication and education pieces in collaboration with MDVSC
6. Piloting of communication and education pieces with audience selected by MDVSC
7. Finalize communication and education pieces.