

Call for Community Aid: Help Us Bring Stories of Resistance and Health Back Home

My name is Marian (Ayan) Caterial Sanchez. As a PhD student, I've had the profound privilege of working alongside *Sumkad para iti matagoan, karbengan, daga ken dayaw Movement* in Kalinga Province, Northern Philippines. They welcomed me not as an outside researcher, but as someone committed to walking with them as they rise, resist, and defend their ancestral land and health rights from a proposed hydro-electric power plant project.

Through Our Work Together- We have documented personal and group stories that deeply share how ancestral lands have sustained families' health and wellbeing for generations. We've witnessed community members actively contest energy projects and assert their continued survival as peoples living on their lands. Through an ongoing knowledge scoping and synthesis, we've joined Sumkad members in articulating how displacement would cause severe ramifications on their food systems, community relations, medicinal practices, and spiritual wellbeing. The connection between land and health isn't abstract in our collaborative endeavor—it's lived expertise. Sumkad is not just a name; it is a declaration of agency and commitment.

But here's what keeps me up at night as I continue my studies in Canada while working remotely with Sumkad: all these powerful stories about ancestral land struggles, all this incredible wisdom about defending territory and maintaining Indigenous health rights—they're ready to return home as tools for resistance, but we need to make that happen.

Our Planned Events

Community members have expressed their desire to see their stories transformed into creative pieces as vessels of resistance. In partnership with [CWEARC](#) and [Gantala Press](#), we're building two collaborative events that fulfill this aspiration:

A Creatives' Solidarity Events (face to face and online) where artists, writers, and other creatives will hear these stories and create artworks as solidarity offerings for Sumkad. Imagine movement members seeing their fights reflected in powerful art or having anti-dam posters and songs created by artists who understand that land and health are inseparable.

A Comics Creation Workshop where we'll work directly with young people from Kalinga to turn stories of land defense and health promotion into a comics anthology they can share throughout their communities. Comics cross language barriers, reach all ages, and spread Indigenous land rights messages far beyond academic papers.

We Need Your Support For:

- **Travel and logistics:** Bringing our Philippine team to Kalinga for comic workshops
- **Materials and production:** Purchase of supplies and printing of creative outputs
- **Event hosting:** Venue space and refreshments for the solidarity event and workshop
- **Community compensation:** Stipends for community organizers and workshop facilitators
- **Outreach and recruitment:** Calling artists and creatives to participate as collaborators
- **Creative participation:** Engage with the resistance stories and contribute your artistic voice

Even small contributions matter. \$20 can help buy workshop supplies. \$50 can cover morning refreshments. \$100 can aid in securing a conducive workshop venue. A poem offering will build a compilation of creative vessels.

How You Can Help:

Financial contributions can be made via

- a. Electronic money transfer to mcsanche@ualberta.ca (outside Philippines)
- b. Cash or check deposit to BDO Kabayan Peso Account #000940430894 (within Philippines); or
- c. Cash donation pick up (within Baguio City)

Material donations can be dropped off at CWEARC Office, 16 Loro Street, Baguio, 2600 Benguet, Philippines

If interested to be a creative event participant or if you have questions: please reach out to Ayan at mcsanche@ualberta.ca

This isn't charity—it's solidarity and active participation in creating tools for Sumkad's land defense. Your support ensures knowledge flows both ways—not just from communities to universities, but back to communities in forms they can use to defend their territories.

To everyone who's read this far—thank you for caring about work that honors Indigenous knowledge and supports community resistance.

Sincerely,

Ayan