

DEFENDERS OF THE LAND GATHERING

Indian and Métis Friendship Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba

November 12-14, 2008

November 14, 2008

Mr. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Mr. Prime Minister:

We are here in Winnipeg attending a gathering of spokespeople of Indigenous Peoples from across Canada who are engaged in land use/natural resource conflicts involving hydro, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, mining, uranium mining, oil and gas exploration and development, tar sands and of course urbanization and tourism, including impacts from the preparations for the 2010 Olympics.

From the presentations we have heard at our gathering it is clear that the federal government is responsible for violations of our Inherent, Aboriginal, Treaty and Human Rights, by issuing unilateral self-government and land claims policies and related negotiation processes.

These federal policies are designed to give the provinces, industry and third parties priority over our traditional lands, resources and waters.

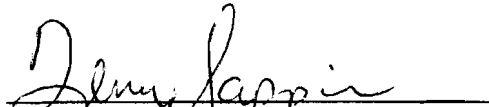
As the spokespeople for our respective Indigenous communities we must insist that your government take immediate steps to:


1. Adopt and implement the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;** and
2. Jointly change the federal policies on self-government, land claims and historic Treaties with Indigenous communities;
3. Cease the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples when they are exercising their rights to lands, resources and self-determination and direct the provinces to do the same.


We will be watching your government's actions and if your government does not accede to our reasonable requests, we commit that we the undersigned who are attending our gathering here in Winnipeg will take coordinated action to convince your government to respect our Indigenous Peoples and communities by acting on our requests presented in this letter.

In Defense of Our Mother Earth,

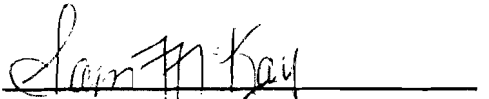
COMMUNITY SPOKESPERSONS:

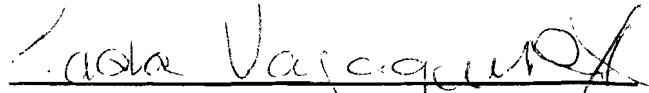

Tobique, Maliseet Nation



Algonquins of Barriere Lake

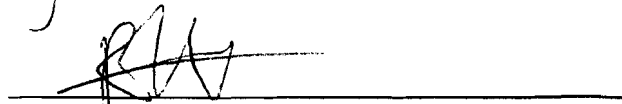

Ardoch Algonquin First Nation

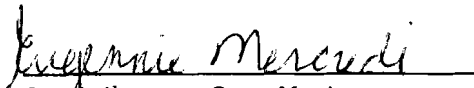

Six Nations, Grand River

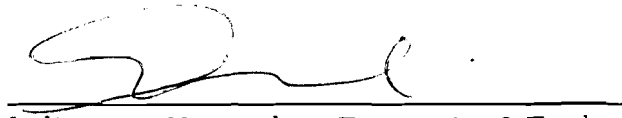

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig


Youth Rep., Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation


Indigenous Environmental Network



Redwire Native Youth Society


Pimicikamac Cree Nation

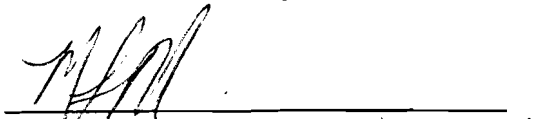

Indigenous Network on Economies & Trade



First Nations Environmental Network

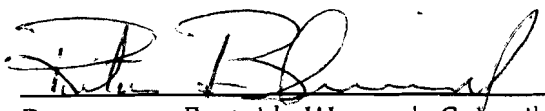

Swel'wek'welt Protection Centre


Asubpeeschoseewasong
Anishinabe Territory


Lonefighters Society, Blackfoot Confederacy



Lubicon Lake Cree Nation (member)


Native 2010 Resistance, British Columbia


Downtown Eastside Women's Council
Elders Council, Vancouver

INDIGENOUS INDIVIDUALS:


Russell Diabo, Member, Mohawk Nation


Damien Lee, Member, Ojibway Nation

Clayton Thomas-Muller, member, Cree Nation

Jocelyn Cheechoo, member, Cree Nation

Ila Bussidor, member, Dene Nation

Joseph Dore, member, Anishnabe Nation

Kaaren Dannenmann, member, Anishnabe

Lawrence Angeconob, member, Anishnabe

Ben Powless, member, Mohawk Nation

Lionel Lapine, Athabasca Chipewyan

Kandi Mosset, member
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nations

Dustin Johnson, member, Tsimshian Nation

Harmony Rice, member,
Wasauksing First Nation

SOLIDARITY GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS:

Barriere Lake Solidarity Collective

No One Is Illegal, Vancouver

Mike Hudema, Greenpeace Canada

No One Is Illegal, Montreal

No One Is Illegal, Toronto

Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid

Catalyst Centre for Popular Education

Environmental Justice Organizing Initiative

Public Service Alliance of Canada

OCAR
Ontario Coalition Against Poverty

Jessie Lyons

Tyendinaga Support Committee

SUPPORTERS

Shiri Pasternak

Shiri Pasternak

Martha Stiegman

Martha Stiegman

Courtney Kirkby

Courtney Kirkby

Carmelle Wolfson

Carmelle Wolfson

Susanne Hare

Susanne Hare, Clayoquot Sound

Peter Kulchyski

Peter Kulchyski

my

Tarband Teeth Macdonald
Stairway