

Declaration of Support for the Standing Rock Sioux

We stand here today, in our feast hall, where our laws guide our way forward, to extend our full support with the Dakota Sioux Peoples in Standing Rock who are heroically standing their ground against the Dakota Access Pipeline. We have been witnessing the outright abuses against Indigenous and human rights that are occurring on the ground there and denounce the violence and force used against the Indigenous peoples, the media, and the land itself. The acts by these companies and the governments that are supporting them are utterly shameful.

Our nation has also been standing up against fossil fuel companies, including the Enbridge Northern Gateway bitumen project and numerous fracking projects that are threatening to build a carbon corridor across our beautiful yintah (traditional territory) and our life-giving rivers and streams. As sovereign indigenous nations, who have not ceded or surrendered our territories, land management decisions must respect our Anuk Nu'at'en (Wet'suwet'en Law). This is often not the case however, and we have lessons to share about the divide and conquer tactics used against us. We have seen many divisions in our community, especially when it comes to fracked gas, our own people used against us. But we urge you at Standing Rock to stand strong and continue the fight of our ancestors. We can't eat money, we can't drink oil.

Our stance as the Indigenous peoples, the hereditary governments of our lands, is a stance not just for our people, but for all people for the next seven generations. We celebrate our traditional ways, our values, and beliefs because they hold the wisdom of our ancestors, a way for all of us to live sustainably in our lands.

We understand the interconnectedness of all things!

We understand that water is life!

We understand that a new way of life is possible because we have lived that life!

The people of the earth united, will never be defeated.