

International Indian Treaty Council



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IITC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY OF ACTION ON THE TAR SAND AND KEystone XL PIPELINE, WASHINGTON DC, SEPTEMBER 2ND 2011

August 31st, 2011: The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) expresses its firm solidarity and support for the Indigenous Nations, Tribes, Peoples, Organizations and Communities taking part in the Indigenous Peoples Day of Action against the Tar Sands and Keystone XL Pipeline Projects in Washington DC on September 2nd, 2011.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and formally endorsed by both the United States and Canada in 2010, now provides an internationally-recognized framework for upholding and implementing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in these countries and around the world. The Declaration recognizes, affirms and calls upon all States (countries) to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, traditional lands and resources, sacred sites and cultural practices, subsistence, health, free prior and informed consent, and the rights affirmed the Treaties they concluded with Indigenous Nations, among others.

Article 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples specifically affirms the responsibility of States (countries) to uphold Indigenous Peoples and Nations' right to free prior and informed consent regarding development projects as follows: "*States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.*"

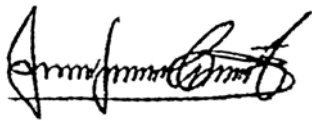
Impacted Indigenous Peoples including Tribal Nations, National Representative Bodies and Indigenous Peoples' organizations have expressed their firm opposition to both the Tar Sands Development in Alberta Canada and the Keystone XL Pipeline project in the United States. These include the Dene National Assembly, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Treaty Chiefs of Alberta, Assembly of First Nations, National Congress of American Indians, Oglala Lakota Nation, various Lakota Treaty Councils, Sauk and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, the North America Regional Indigenous Peoples Caucus, Indigenous Environmental Network and International Indian Treaty Council, among others.

It is clear that the recognized right to free prior and informed consent, as well as the rights affirmed in Treaties concluded by the US and Canada with many of the impacted Indigenous Nations are being violated.

We therefore call on the US and Canada to uphold their obligations to Indigenous (Indian and First Nations), Tribes and Peoples under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Nation-to-Nation Treaties they concluded with Indigenous Nations, and legally-binding International Conventions and Treaties such as the UN Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), by immediately halting these environmentally and culturally-destructive projects being carried out in violation of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We also call upon the governments of the US and Canada, as well as the Washington DC police and city officials, to respect the rights of the Indigenous representatives and others who are peacefully protesting to make their voices heard in opposition to these very destructive projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco Cali', written in a cursive style.

Francisco Cali, Board President, International Indian Treaty Council
Mayan Kaqchikel

Ron Lameman, Board Treasurer, International Indian Treaty Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Carmen', written in a cursive style.

Andrea Carmen, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council
Yaqui Nation

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The IITC is an Organization of Indigenous People from North, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Pacific with General Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.