

Notice of a Special Event during the UBCIC 48th AGA

Signing of a Treaty between Indigenous Nations from across Turtle Island to stop the threat of Tar Sands pipelines, tankers and trains

Thursday September 22, 2016

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**Musqueam Community Centre, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Territory)
6735 Salish Drive, Vancouver BC**



At this moment of exceptional peril for Indigenous Peoples from climate change but also at this time of exceptional Indigenous solidarity, the UBCIC is pleased to announce that Chiefs from BC will have the opportunity to sign the Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion joined by Chiefs invited from outside of BC.

Meanwhile, at exactly the same time, Chiefs from across Quebec and their invited guests will also be signing the Treaty at a Chiefs' assembly in Montreal.

(Please refer to the enclosed Treaty information package, which includes the text of the Treaty)

The UBCIC 48th Annual General Assembly will be available via webcast at www.ubcic.bc.ca

For more information contact Don Bain at (604) 831-9709 or donb@ubcic.bc.ca



TREATY ALLIANCE

AGAINST TAR SANDS EXPANSION

We have inhabited, protected and governed our territories according to our respective laws and traditions since time immemorial. Sovereign Indigenous Nations entered into solemn treaties with European powers and their successors but Indigenous Nations have an even longer history of treaty making amongst themselves. Many such treaties between Indigenous Nations concern peace and friendship and the protection of Mother Earth.

The expansion of the Alberta Tar Sands, a truly massive threat bearing down on all of the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island and beyond, calls now for such a treaty between Indigenous Nations:

Plans for major increases in the production of the Tar Sands have led to many new projects aimed at building, converting or expanding pipelines as well as introducing or increasing oil train and tanker traffic, all of which threaten many Indigenous Nations' territories, waterways, shores and communities with the very real risk of toxic and hazardous oil spills.

The expansion of the Tar Sands would also lead to increased destruction and poisoning of the lands, waters and air of the Indigenous Peoples directly on the frontlines and downstream of the Tar Sands.

In addition, every single Indigenous Nation on Turtle Island will suffer terrible harm if such pipeline, rail and tanker projects move ahead because, by leading to the expansion of the Tar Sands, such projects will unquestionably fuel catastrophic climate change. Climate change has already started to endanger our peoples' way of life and now threatens our very survival.

Tar Sands expansion is a collective threat to our Nations. It requires a collective response.

Therefore, our Nations hereby join together under the present treaty to officially prohibit and to agree to collectively challenge and resist the use of our respective territories and coasts in connection with the expansion of the production of the Alberta Tar Sands, including for the transport of such expanded production, whether by pipeline, rail or tanker.

As sovereign Indigenous Nations, we enter this treaty pursuant to our inherent legal authority and responsibility to protect our respective territories from threats to our lands, waters, air and climate, but we do so knowing full well that it is in the best interest of all peoples, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to put a stop to the threat of Tar Sands expansion.

We wish to work in collaboration with all peoples and all governments in building a more equitable and sustainable future, one that will produce healthier and more prosperous communities across Turtle Island and beyond, as well as preserve and protect our peoples' way of life.



Should you wish to join the above treaty, please sign inside the box and email such signature to the following address, accompanied by the name of the authorized representative who signed, the name of the Indigenous government that the authorized representative is signing on behalf of, as well as the date of signature: westmeetseastour@gmail.com (Please also ensure that you receive confirmation of receipt of your email)



ABOUT THE TREATY

The Treaty is an expression of Indigenous Law prohibiting the pipelines/trains/tankers that will feed the expansion of the Alberta Tar Sands.

The alliance is part of an Indigenous Sovereignty resurgence taking place all over Turtle Island where Indigenous Peoples are reasserting themselves as the legitimate governments and caretakers of their territories.

The allied signatory Indigenous Nations aim to prevent a pipeline/train/tanker spill from poisoning their water and to stop the Tar Sands from increasing its output and becoming an even bigger obstacle to solving the climate crisis.

The world might not be able to immediately stop using oil tomorrow, but the last thing it needs is more oil, and especially not more of the dirtiest oil on the planet. It is critical that we urgently start building a more equitable and sustainable future and signatory Nations plan on being at the heart of that building process.

The Treaty's ban includes the following new, converted or expanded pipeline infrastructure projects in Canada and the US, any of which, if allowed to proceed, would lead to a major expansion of the Tar Sands:



*“We urgently need to get off oil to prevent a climate disaster for our People—
not to dig a deeper hole.”*

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs



MORE INFORMATION ON THE TREATY

Tar Sands and Water Don't Mix



The expansion of the Tar Sands would lead to increased destruction and poisoning of the lands, waters and air of the Indigenous Peoples directly on the frontlines and downstream of the Tar Sands. In addition, Tar Sands expansion has given rise to pipelines/trains/tankers which threaten Indigenous Peoples' rivers, lakes, coasts and communities with toxic oil spills that would destroy ecosystems and could not be cleaned up.

Tar Sands = Climate Change



The expansion of the Tar Sands has been the biggest obstacle in Canada to addressing the climate crisis: since 1990, Tar Sands expansion has represented close to half of the total rise in Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Yet governments are allowing the Tar Sands to increase production even more – an astounding 50% increase in the coming years! But Tar Sands expansion can only happen with the help of new or expanded pipeline outlets.

Indigenous Leadership is the Only Solution



While Indigenous Peoples have contributed the least to climate change, they stand to lose the most. Indigenous Nations have already led the charge with their allies against the Enbridge Northern Gateway and Keystone XL Tar Sands pipelines. This Treaty will take the fight the final step by ensuring that the Tar Sands are not able to escape by another pipeline route and thereby cripple efforts to fight the climate crisis. Otherwise, none of our peoples will be safe.

Building A Better Future— All Together



Indigenous Nations need to also be equal partners in developing the responses and solutions to our climate crisis. And in the course of urgently getting off fossil fuels, it will be critical to ensure that no one is left behind, especially those in the environmental sacrifice zones like the many Indigenous communities near the Tar Sands: investments in climate responses and solutions must start in such communities and be controlled by them.