



For Immediate Release

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Another pipeline break devastates Northern Alberta before Gathering

The Keepers of the Water will hold our ninth annual Gathering at Bushe River next week, co-hosted by the Dene Tha' and Beaver First Nations. Keepers' Gatherings include speakers, workshops, discussion, meetings, and cultural activities, and our co-hosts had requested a workshop on methods for cleaning oil out of water. The impacts of many pipeline breaks over the past years, with significant results still on the landscape, call for a concerted effort to clean up.

Unfortunately, yet another pipeline break has occurred that is challenging our co-hosts. Near Chateh, on Dene Tha' Traditional Territory, Nuvista Energy spilled 100 cubic metres of "emulsion" (bitumen, sand, and waste water) over a 13,200 square metre area.

Chief Pastion of Dene Tha' First Nation relates: "These spills are reoccurring throughout the vast oil fields that are within our homelands and traditional territories. The immediate containment and reclamation is important, the long term effects are lasting and are a real threat to our way of lives and culture as we harvest throughout the four seasons.. All efforts and avenues must be considered in minimizing further damages to the environment."

Keepers' Oil/Water Clean-up workshop must use bottled oil, as liabilities exist for transporting actual contaminated water from any of the nearby sites. Co-presenters Satoko Nakajima, of Green Circles Salons, Baptiste Metchooyeah, Acting Lands Director for Dene Tha' First Nation, and Mandy Dumansky for the Alberta Energy Regulator will examine the effects of peat bog moss (Traditional Ecological Knowledge for diapers), local saw dust from popular trees, local lawn grass cuttings, spill wetlands mulched cattail grass, human hair, and commercial booms on oil impacted water.

Keepers encourages constructive dialogue and action to help the environment, as it is the heritage of our children, grandchildren and all the future generations. The rapidly compounding effect of today's environmental devastation challenges this work, but we must stay focused. As the Elders of Chateh have said, "We are not permitted to give up hope: passing hope on to the next generation is our responsibility."

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