



Keepers of the Water

STEWARDS OF OUR GREAT ARCTIC OCEAN BASIN

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<http://www.keepersofthewater.ca>

Justice for the Peace! Caravan

The Site C Dam project on the Peace River is still in court, although it's already under construction. The final permits were released by the Liberal's Department of Fisheries and Oceans quietly, right before the long weekend, at the end of July 2016. On September 12, the Federal Court of Appeal in Montreal will hear the latest legal challenge to this massive hydroelectric dam on Treaty 8 territory in northeast British Columbia. The legal challenges to this project have been longstanding, and brought by local, affected First Nations.

WE WANT PM TRUDEAU TO KEEP HIS PROMISES TO FIRST NATIONS

First Nations leaders, Elders and other community members from Treaty 8 are driving across Canada to focus attention on the importance of this case to the rights of all Treaty nations and to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's promised new relationship with First Nations. Keepers of the Water Executive Director Caleb Behn, and Keepers of the Athabasca Co-chair Cleo Reece will be on the Justice for the Peace caravan. Their first welcome will be in Edmonton. **On September 6, Elder Nancy Scanie will lead a Water Ceremony at the Alberta Legislature between 8 and 9 a.m., before the caravan leaves. Come gather near the North Saskatchewan River to support the Justice for the Peace Caravan. Bring water from a precious natural place to participate in the water ceremony, and bring yourself in solidarity with people who are protecting land and water for a better future.** Other welcomes will occur in cities en route to Ottawa for the anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to Montreal for the federal court case.

Keepers of the Water understand we are participating in history at this moment. Executive Director Caleb Behn has words for our new government who started out with such promise:

"It looks like the Liberal government is breaking the promises they made on the election trail in the same way this country has broken its promises to First Nations in Treaty. True reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is not for cowards, it is hard work. But the thing about reconciliation with people of the land is it leads us intrinsically towards reconciliation with the land itself and with the species that sustain not only my culture, but all cultures and all living things. That's good business, that's ethical, that's robust, that is resilient for the 21st century and that's not what we're seeing from this government."

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