

Our mission TO UNITE THE PEOPLES OF THE ATHABASCA RIVER AND LAKE WATERSHED TO SECURE AND PROTECT WATER AND WATERSHED LANDS FOR ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.



CLEAN WATER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY AND HUMAN HEALTH. AS STEWARDS OF THE MANY DIVERSE AND SIGNIFICANT TRIBUTARIES OF OUR GREAT ARCTIC OCEAN DRAINAGE BASIN, WE ACKNOWLEDGE WATER IS SACRED.

THE KEEPERS OF THE WATER II RESOLUTION, 2007 -

Yes! I want to be a Keeper.

name: _____

address: _____

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optional: Donation amount (circle one):

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Please send to: Treasurer, Keepers of the Athabasca
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Tax receipts can be issued on request, thanks to our charitable partner, the Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee.

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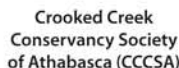
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keepersofthewater.ca/athabasca



Treaty 8 Tribal Association



with additional support from

Alberta EcoTrust Foundation • Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
 Beaver First Nation • Council of Canadians • Dene Tha First Nation
 Fort McMurray First Nation • Glasswaters Foundation • Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program • Greenpeace • KAIROS
 Mikesew Cree First Nation • LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
 Metis Nation of Alberta • North Peace Tribal Council • Safe Drinking Water Foundation of Canada • Sierra Club of Canada
 Smith Environmental Society • Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee • South Peace Environmental Association • Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
 United Church of Canada • University of Alberta
 West Athabasca Watershed Bioregional Society

Keepers of the Athabasca



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE WATERS OF THE ATHABASCA RIVER BASIN
 WATERSHED GATHERINGS



Keepers of the Athabasca

We are First Nations, Metis, Inuit, Environmental Groups, and Watershed Citizens working together for the protection of water, land and air and thus for all living things today and tomorrow in the Athabasca River Watershed.

Principles

We are guided by both indigenous elders' traditional knowledge and western science.

We recognize and honour the legal importance of First Nations' and Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the waters, lands and livelihood rights.

We recognize that significant negative cumulative impacts are compromising the health and integrity of the Athabasca River and Lake Watershed, all of which appear to be negatively affecting fish and wildlife populations and adversely affecting the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights to hunt, trap, and fish within indigenous peoples' traditional territories.

We acknowledge that clean water is a fundamental human right and is essential for environmental, community and human health. As stewards of the Athabasca River and Lake Watershed, one of the many diverse and significant tributaries of our great Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin, we acknowledge water is sacred.

Follow our activities online at www.keepersofthewater.ca/athabasca and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheAthabasca

Our Goals

Build capacity for informed and effective watershed stewardship and advocacy throughout the communities of the Athabasca River and Lake Watershed.

Provide access to and promote the understanding of traditional knowledge and ecologically-based theory and practice in the management of human impacts on the watershed ecosystem and the living Earth.

Promote awareness of Keepers' principles through education and cultural experiences and celebration of place.

Promote the recognition of the Constitution Act, section 35 on Aboriginal treaty rights.

Keepers of the Water Gatherings

The Keepers of the Water movement, encompassing the entire Arctic Basin, was born in 2006 during the first Keepers of the Water Gathering in Liidlii Kue, Denendeh (Fort Simpson, NWT). The Keepers of the Water continues to grow as we travel through a series of powerful and moving Gatherings across our wide North, expanding our vision, strengthening our resolution, and deepening our sense of interconnection and unity.

Keepers of the Athabasca supports and participates in these important and powerful annual Gatherings.

Keepers Accomplishments

- Conferences with Treaty 8 and the University of Alberta on the effects of open pit and in-situ tar sands mining on surface water, wetlands and groundwater.
- Co-sponsorship of an annual *Healing Gathering for the Land and Water* (2015-on: Facebook) and previous *Healing Walk* (2010-14: healingwalk.org) in "ground zero" of the tar sands at Anzac, in partnership with Fort McMurray First Nation, Red Cross, and others.
- Flowing into Right Relationship workshop series: *Exploring the Treaties, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation, Indigenous Water Governance, Community Climate Action, State of the Watershed, KAIROS "Blanket Exercise"*.
- 2015 We Are The Land Conference in partnership with University of Alberta, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, and others.
- Solar installations in partnership with Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, and Sucker Creek First Nation.
- Registered intervener with the Canadian Environmental Assessment joint review panel to Teck Resources Inc.'s proposal for a new bitumen mine in Northern Alberta.
- Successful challenge to the operating Approval for the Swan Hills (hazardous waste) Treatment Centre, requesting environmental testing further than 20 km away.
- Support for *Keepers of the Water: Hay River Basin Pollution Investigation* and revealing some of the problems within the Alberta Energy Regulator.
- Press releases and advocacy on issues related to the adverse effects of pollution, industrial development, and Treaty violations in the watershed.
- Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) training and water monitoring through Living Lakes Canada's *Community-based Water Quality Monitoring* program. (livinglakes.ca/community-based-water-quality-monitoring)
- Monitoring data funded by Keepers of the Athabasca for 2012-2016 is available at the Mackenzie Data Stream under 'Upper Athabasca community based monitoring'. mackenziedatastream.ca
- Sponsorship and participation in annual Keepers of the Water gatherings.