

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**For Immediate Release**

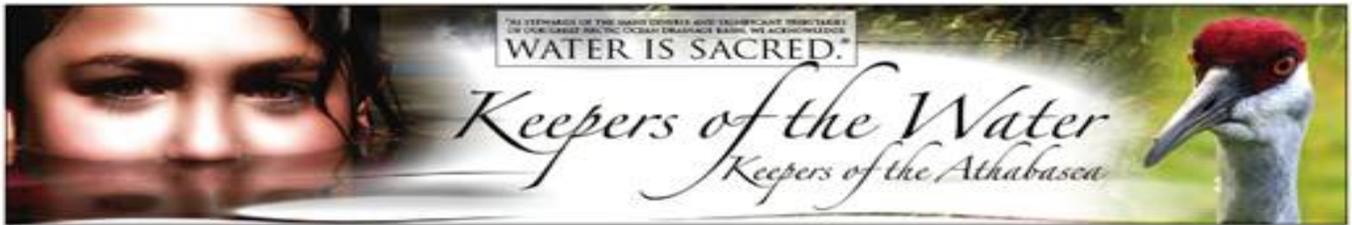
**Statement from Keepers of the Athabasca and Keepers of the Water regarding:  
CNRL oil spill in Cold Lake on the Cold Lake Air Weapons range, the Primrose  
project.**

Due to the weak environmental laws and the short assessment time frame, and communication with the People, the **Keepers of the Water and Keepers of the Athabasca** must compensate for the legal vacuum left by governments and industries. Living with changing conditions, global warming, climate change, changing dynamics due to industrial development, and the treatment to our water, land, wildlife and the air we all breathe is an issue we all face.

As indigenous tribal societies, regardless of where we live on this continent we have a moral duty to protect mother earth.

We all face crisis today. As people of the land and water, we can contribute towards the halting of ecological degradation from industrial developments, pollution, contaminations, oil spills, floods, fires, wildlife extinctions, illnesses and a very weak government laws and enforcements.

Indigenous Peoples have experienced countless difficulties, colonialism, starvation, disease, illnesses and now the ecological destruction to their homeland and have always manage to overcome it, why, we always believe in our children and future generation will survive and thrive.



The CNRL spill is of great concern to us, as it impacts all of the above. The leaderships of the neighboring First Nations have not been given access to do their own assessments of the spill or the site. This is unacceptable. We must know firsthand, what is really going on at this oil spill. The last report we have is that oil is seeping up from underground at the site of CNRL's Cyclic Steam Extraction (CSS) operation. We are also told that the spill has been killing wildlife, birds and land, and the spill cannot be stopped at this time and that the company will just 'let nature run its course'. Reports we have received is that this spill has been ongoing for 10 weeks as it was first reported on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

There is a concern about contamination of both surface and groundwater in the area. It seems at this time that the Company, and the Government of Alberta are not taking the protection of groundwater seriously, to allow these types of incidents to occur for so long.

We need the Government of Alberta and the Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. to be transparent, to all Albertans on this issue. The trust is not there, so their word is simply not enough, we need to know that the leaders of Beaver Lake Cree Nation and Cold Lake First Nation have been on the site to assess it with elders and their own science people. Only then will we understand where the situation is really at.

In response to a call out for help, a rally has been planned in Calgary, at the CNRL (Canadian Natural Resources Ltd) head office on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Where members of the Cold Lake First Nations, other Nations and allies will come together to ask for answers.

Keepers of the Water Declaration 2006  
'Water is Sacred'

Sam Gargan – Keepers of the Water  
(867) 699-3171

Jesse Cardinal- Keepers of the Athabasca  
(780) 404-5315