



Annual Report 2021

Water is Life



Keepers of the Water Annual Report 2021

Message from the Executive Director, Jesse Cardinal



It has been another challenging year in a virtual world but here we are still going strong. It just goes to show the resilience and perseverance of the Keepers of the Water (KOW) Board and staff who are dedicated to nurturing and growing an indigenous-led Keepers of the Water Society.

As we look back at highlights from last year, we are grateful for all your support. From our Co-Chairs, Board Members and staff, our Settler supporters, Funders, Donors and most importantly communities, it is all of you that enables us to do on-the-ground work and conduct ongoing research to conserve and protect Water.

We carry out the work knowing that there is a vast amount of wisdom and experience that is a part of Keepers of the Water (KOW), and we use our grassroots connections to ensure our Projects are meaningful to the people who strive to live in harmony with Mother Earth. We are happy to share the highlights and accomplishments in the 2021 KOW Annual Report and look forward to what is to come in 2022.

kinanaskomtinan/Mussi Cho/I Thank You All

Meet our Growing Team

We Are Growing Our Organization to Sustain Our Work



Project Coordinator - Crystal Stamp-Cardinal, BSc.

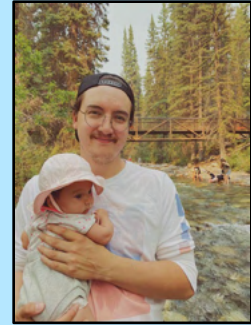
Crystal is a nehiyaw (Cree) from onihcikiskwapowinhk (Saddle Lake Cree Nation) in Alberta, Canada located in Treaty 6. She has many years of experience working with Indigenous communities, governments, and industry to protect our land, water, air and the diverse flora and fauna in our traditional territories.

Using her background with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, she has a strong commitment to ensuring that colonized western science is no longer the norm and there must be the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge and cumulative effects for environmental studies to be considered complete. She has been working with Keepers of the Water since early 2021 and has found a place that truly speaks to her experience, education, and core values.

Office Administrator - Brandon Gauchier

Brandon is Metis from Peavine Metis Settlement in Alberta, Canada on Treaty 8 territory. He has multiple years of Managerial experience with an education background of a Diploma in Business Administration-Accounting and a Diploma in Business Management. His role as Office Administrator is to provide administrative support to our leadership team and oversee Keepers' financial data and compliance. His duties include organizing operations, preparing payroll and financial documents, budgeting and bookkeeping and assisting the Executive Director when necessary.

"Working for Keepers has been fulfilling in allowing me to utilize my education and experience in a meaningful way."



Broadening Our Communications and Community Engagement



Communications Manager - Tori Cress

Tori is Anishinaabe (Ojibway and Pottawattami) from G'Chimnissing, an island community on the shores of Waaseyaagami-wiikwed [Shining Waters Bay (Georgian Bay)], Ontario, in Williams Treaty territory. She has brought her passion for communications work and grassroots community engagement to the Keepers of the Water as our communications manager. Her role includes communication strategy development, managing and maintaining the Keepers of the Water website, development and publishing a quarterly newsletter, social media management and expansion, and regular email updates to our subscribers. Tori's communication training, experience and skills have been nurtured and fully supported by the Idle No More National Communications team, including hands-on training at the Center for Story-based Strategy and as a mentee in the ReFrame Mentorship Program. Tori also brings her Anishinaabe worldview, cultural values and dedicated support of the Water is Life movement to the Keepers of the Water organization.

NWT Outreach Manager - Daniel T'seleie

We work within the Arctic Basin Watershed, our annual KOW gatherings have been co-hosted in Liidlii Kue - Denendeh, Thebacha, Fort Smith, Treaty 8, NWT and Fort Nelson First Nation to name but a few. You can check out past gatherings on our website [here](#). In our commitment to continue our collaborative work we have hired an NWT/Indigenous engagement outreach lead who will be reaching out to the various regions in NWT to help understand issues and concerns as it pertains to water as well as build partnerships in working to protect water.



Creating a New Canada Water Agency

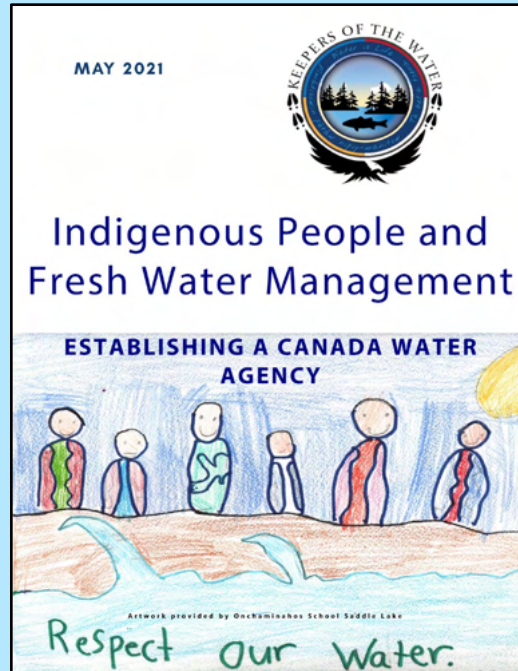
In December 2020, the Prime Minister directed the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (ECCC), with the support of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Special Representative for the Prairies to create a new Canada Water Agency (CWA) to work together with the provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean and well-managed.

Keepers of the Water (KOW) felt it was important to be involved in this process, to have oversight and provide Indigenous input. Funding was provided by ECCC for research and engagement which included moderation of community workshops, conducting phone interviews and creation of an online survey to help us understand Indigenous Peoples' needs and concerns when it comes to freshwater, with the intention of helping to create change that will help protect water for now and future generations.

The information collected informed a Report to the Government of Canada and a Community Booklet – Indigenous People and Fresh Water Management.



Canada Water Agency Community Project Booklet

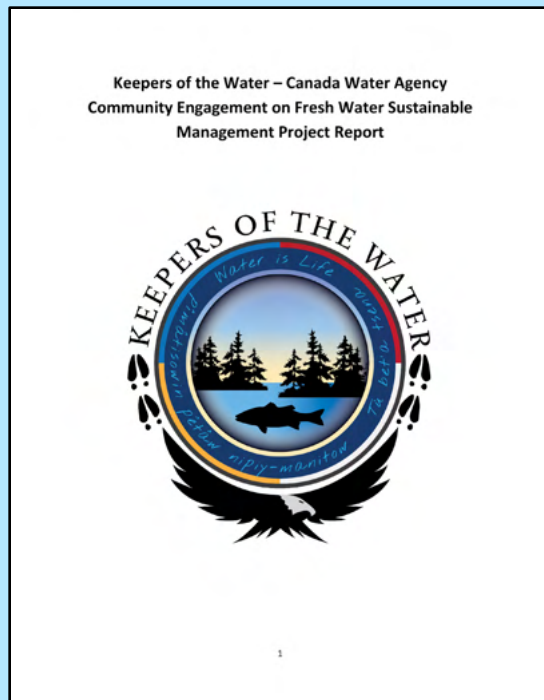


To download and read the Keepers of the Water Canada Water Agency Community Project booklet [click here](#).

The Government of Canada (GOC) published their Public Engagement – What We Heard ([link to the federal report in PDF](#)). Many of their participants underscored support for advancing reconciliation and the importance of greater, more meaningful and direct engagement with Indigenous peoples including government-to-government, Nation-to-Nation, and Inuit-to-Crown involvement in freshwater management and decision-making.

Participants underscored the importance of relationships and partnerships with Indigenous peoples; many commented also on the need to better understand Indigenous ways of knowing and to consider Indigenous Knowledge alongside Western science. Some participants suggested adopting the holistic seven generations philosophy and applying it to freshwater management in Canada.

Read the federal executive summary posted on the Government of Canada (GOC)'s website in the spring of 2021: [Toward the Creation of a Canada Water Agency: Stakeholder and Public Engagement – What We Heard](#)



Some shared overlaps with participants interviewed by KOW and the Public Engagement by the GOC:

“Indigenous Knowledge holders must be full and active participants alongside Western scientists and decision-makers.”

“Bring Indigenous women to the table as water keepers”

“Highest priority is getting clean water to First Nations communities.”

“Want to see an Indigenous Advisory council that is diverse and inclusive”

To download and read the Canada Water Agency Report [click here](#).

Youth Engagement - “What Water Means to Me”

Keepers of the Water strives to include youth and ensure active youth outreach.

In 2021 we had a Youth Engagement Project where we partnered with three schools (Kikino Metis Settlement School, Onchaminahos School in



Saddle Lake, and Caroline Robins School in Saskatoon) and asked for students to create art that answers the question, "What does Water mean to you?"

This topic was able to be included in their curriculum learning and supported discussions of



the importance of clean and fresh water.

All youth engagement artwork is featured on our website [here](#).



Support our Youth Engagement Program where we strive to build online learning resources as well as create a mentorship program! Donate to Keepers of the Water with ease by using our [PayPal](#) link!



Webinars

We hosted three (3) webinars this year with presenters from across Turtle Island! Our online events are always FREE and are live-streamed from the Keepers of the Water Facebook page. All the presentations are also available on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) video channels!

February 16, 2021- Indigenous Knowledge on Mountains

For this webinar, we had four (4) presenters speaking to three different topics - [Link to Webinar here](#).

- **Roxanne Blood and Karen Crowshoe - Sacred Places and Tourist Destinations in Blackfoot Territory**



- **Marie Smallboy – History of the Smallboy Camp** “In the words of her ancestors, she encourages “ahkameyimohk” - continue to move forward, and never give up.”
- **David Khan – Update on the coal situation in Alberta**

March 22st World Water Day Webinar: Indigenous Knowledge on Water & History of Water Licensing in Alberta

For this webinar, we had three (3) presenters speaking on three different topics - [Link to Webinar here](#).



- **Dr. Darlene P. Auger- Indigenous knowledge of Water** A Nehiyaw-Nahkawayiniw (Cree/Saulteaux) woman originally from Wabasca, AB, who resides in Edmonton (Amiskwâci Wâskahikan), is a fluent Cree speaker who is passionate about passing on

her language through song, story and drama. Darlene holds a Psychology Degree from the University of Alberta and a Doctoral Degree from the University Nuhelotine Thayotsi Nistameyimakanak Blue Quills in “Iyiniw Pimâtisiwin Kiskeyihtamowin” (Indigenous Life Knowledge).

- **Jeremy Schmidt - *Water in Alberta: Settler Colonialism in the 21st Century and the history of Water licensing.*** An Associate Professor of Geography at Durham University. He was born on Treaty 1 lands, and raised in Treaty 6, although nobody taught him that at the time. His research on water and energy in Alberta examines contemporary challenges both in the context of settler colonialism and in view of the planetary impacts that unsustainable resource policies have on the Earth.

July 13, 2021- Coal 101 Webinar, Answering your Questions about Coal Mining; Why we should all be concerned.- For this webinar, we had three (3) presenters speaking to three different topics - [Link to Webinar here.](#)



- **Fraser Thompson with Ecojustice 'Coal 101'**, His work focuses mainly on climate change and the impacts of coal, oil and gas operations and transportation on communities. His work has included successfully opposing a thermal coal export facility in Surrey BC and coordinating Ecojustice’s opposition to coal projects including proposed mines in Alberta and other coal-related projects.
- **Latasha Calf Robe the work being done by Niitsitapi Water Protectors** Latasha is the founder of the Niitsitapi Water Protectors and has been working to protect the headwaters of the Oldman Watershed from molestation at the hands of open-pit mining.
- **Adam North Paigan; Consultation and Engagement on the grassroots community level.** Adam is President of the “Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta” and was recently elected as the National President of the Legacy of Hope Foundation in Ottawa. He is also the Chairman of the Piikani “Mountain Child Valley Society” as they work to ensure their ancestral territory is protected in the Blackfoot Confederacy from projects that are a threat to the environment. Adam’s work has paved the way for meaningful reconciliation in Canada for the Indigenous people of Turtle Island.

Artist Corner

Marius Paul

Keepers of the Water Board Member



Marius Paul is a person of the Poplar Tree Home Dene from English River First Nation in northern Saskatchewan. He is an accomplished artist whose northern landscapes and geometrical paintings show a deep connection to the beauty of northern Saskatchewan. In recent years he has been carving unique jewelry pieces from moose bone. The moose is a magnificent creature that has taken care of the Dene people since antiquity. Each piece is carved out of respect for the spirit of the moose. He is a natural musician whose music resonates with the peace of the land and lakes and rivers.

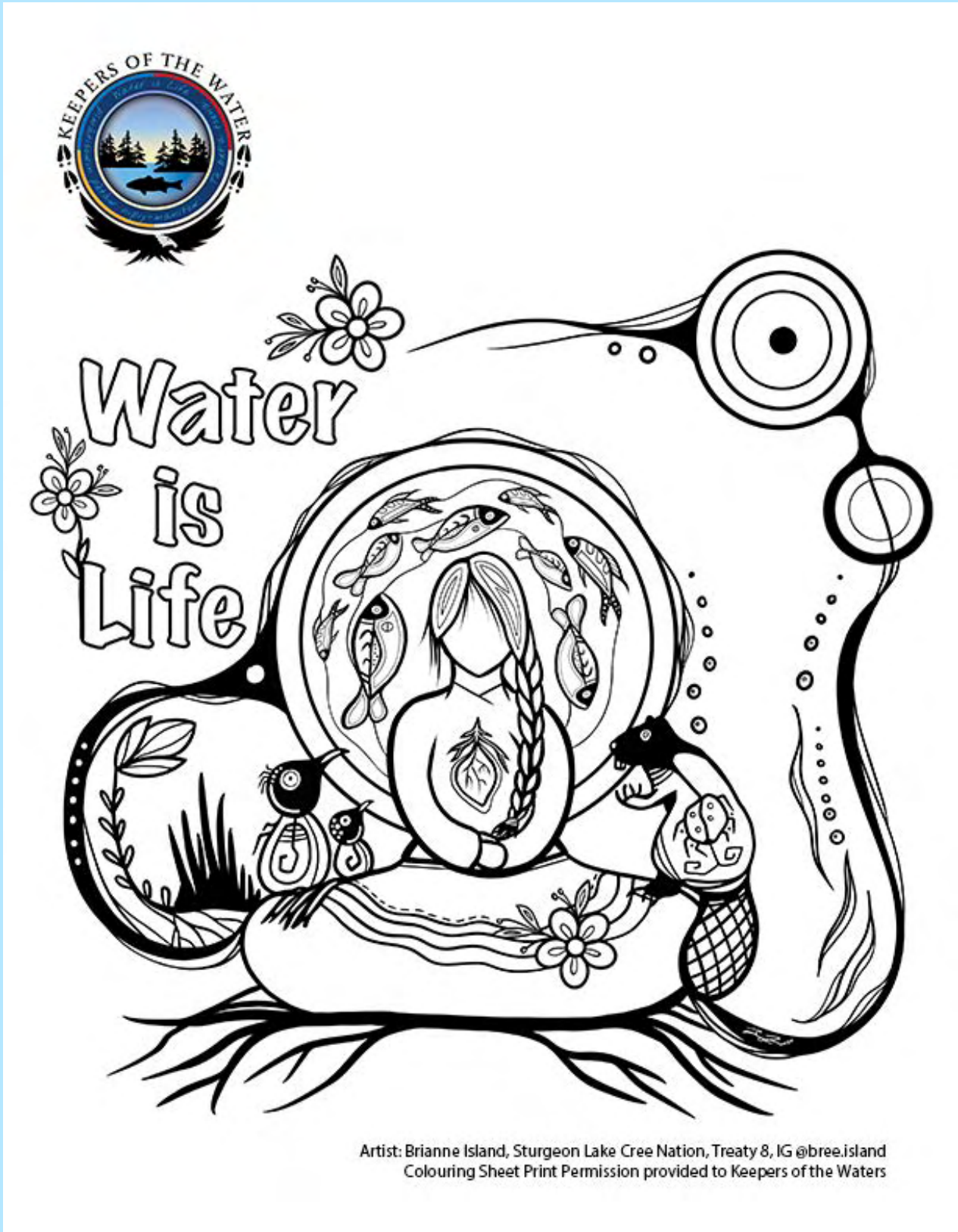
As a traditional land user, he built two log homes for his family and lived many years off-grid. This helped to heal him from the effects of colonization he experienced as a child who went through the residential school system.

He has been a teacher for more than 30 years. His experiences within the system led him to develop an indigenous-based pedagogy. In 2002 he founded the Reclaiming Our Youth Home Front School which he operated successfully for 12 years. There he encouraged youth to be life-long learners and land stewards.



Free COLORING Pages

We have provided some images for you to enjoy! These are free colouring pages provided by: Brianna Island, Visual Artist is a nehiyaw iskwew, unsettled nomad + traveller from Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Treaty 8, Instagram: @bree.island



Artist: Brianna Island, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Treaty 8, IG @bree.island
Colouring Sheet Print Permission provided to Keepers of the Waters

Water is our inherent right since time immemorial and Indigenous Peoples have treaty rights as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the waters flow.



Artist: Brianne Island, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Treaty 8, IG @bree.island
Colouring Sheet Print Permission provided to Keepers of the Waters

Nov 16-18, 2021- Water is Life International Virtual Conference

Virtual Conference YouTube [Playlist](#)

Keepers of the Water hosted a Virtual Conference on November 18, 19 and 20th. Over 3 powerful days, we shared amazing learning opportunities as we hosted speakers both locally and internationally who spoke on topics all related to water such as; food security, culture, language as well as the current industrial impacts on watersheds across the land.

The 3 days offered amazing learning opportunities as we heard from the voices of the water.

We had participants from across Turtle Island, Amazon and New Zealand.



Day One Presenters

Water Crisis in Northern Ontario Indigenous Communities by Keynote Speaker, Sol Mamakwa - [YouTube Link](#)

Food Security Presentation: Community Garden by Dr. Alex Wilson - [YouTube Link](#)

The Global Fight for the Right to Water, Where Are We Now?, by Maude Barlow - [YouTube Link](#)

Saskatchewan Water Walk by Waasekom Niin - [YouTube Link](#)

Niitsitapi Water Protectors by Latasha Calfrobe - [YouTube Link](#)

Gidimt'en Checkpoint on Wet'suwet'en Territory Update by Sleydo' (Molly Wickham) - [Facebook Link](#)

Day Two Presenters

Water and Land Protection, Line 3 Pipeline, Food Security in Indigenous Communities by Keynote Speaker, Winona LaDuke - [YouTube Link](#)

Hidden Scourge, The Effects of the Fossil Fuel Industry on Ecosystems and Our Democracy by Kevin Timoney - [YouTube Link](#)

Tar Sands Panel - Protecting the Dehcho Watershed, moderated by George Poitras - [YouTube Link](#)

Water Sovereignty by Dr. Diana Steinhauer - [YouTube Link](#)

Day Three Presenters

Indigenous Voices from the Amazon, Protecting Waters and Lands Panel, moderated by Susana Deranger - Yumi Pujutan Sukagtawai-Water is Life - [YouTube Link](#)

Healing through Inupiaq Skin-Sewing by Amy Topkik - [YouTube Link](#)

Rivers and Rights: An Indigenous View from Aotearoa, New Zealand by Makere Stewart-Harawira - [YouTube Link](#)

Included in our conference, we drew attention to Food security as it is directly linked to requiring access to freshwater. As we move to become more self-sufficient in our communities, growing our own food is inevitable. Keepers of the Water understand this direct link between growing food and access to water.

3 greenhouses were raffled off locally (valued at \$1500 each). The winner chose a greenhouse for either their community school, existing community garden, Indigenous University or Indigenous Community College.

The recipients chosen were; Kihew Asiniy High school in Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Awo Taan Indigenous Women's Shelter in Calgary, Treaty 7 Territory and Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik School in Bigstone Cree Nation. We are currently working with the recipients to ensure the purchase, set up and use of greenhouses. A photo journey will be highlighted on our website, stay tuned!

Please support our ongoing Education and Awareness Programs!

We plan to expand our education program in 2022. We strive to get back to Covid safe In-Person Gatherings when and where possible and we are committed to education and outreach in the most meaningful and safest ways possible.

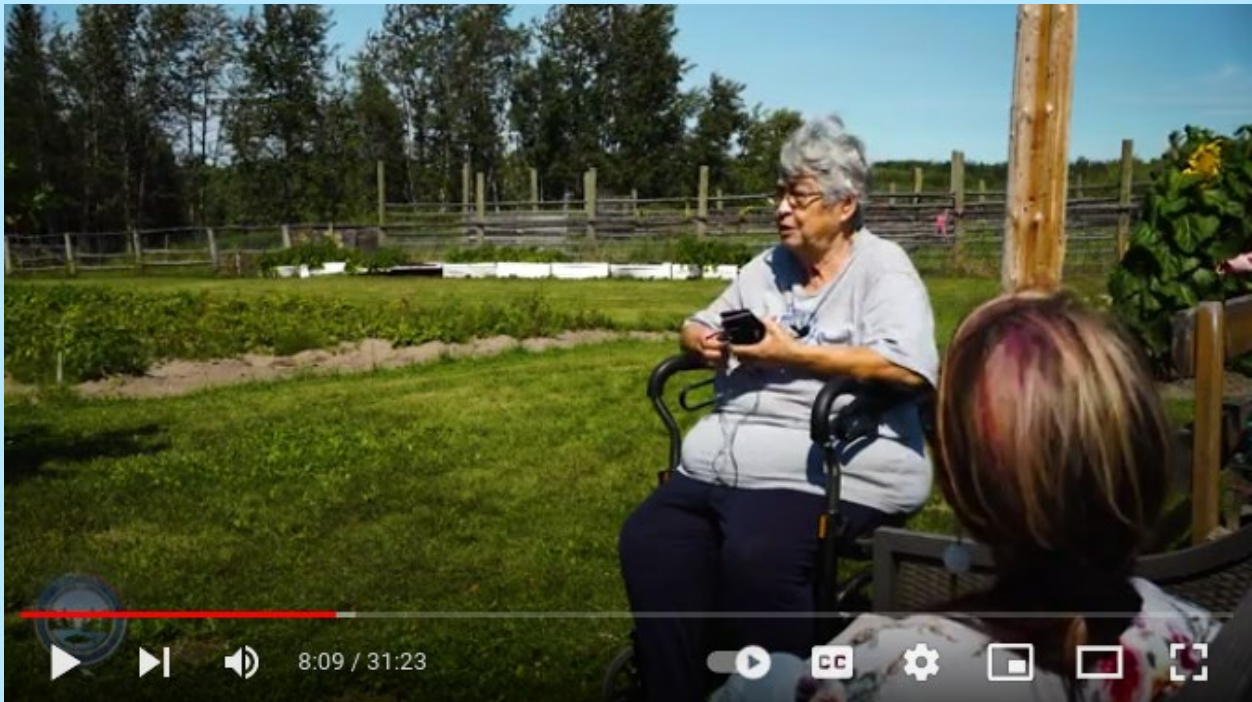
Support our work today by donating directly on our website, [donate here.](#)

Food Security - How One Indigenous Family is Accessing the Land for a Sustainable Future

Food security and access to clean water go hand in hand. Throughout the Covid times, we have seen grocery store shelves go empty and in that time Indigenous communities turned to the land more than ever to provide for our needs.

Keepers of the Water, with thanks to NDN Collective, highlight how one Indigenous family is accessing the land to grow food and helping to feed the family, including children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Food Security in Indigenous Communities



(Watch the YouTube video [here](#))

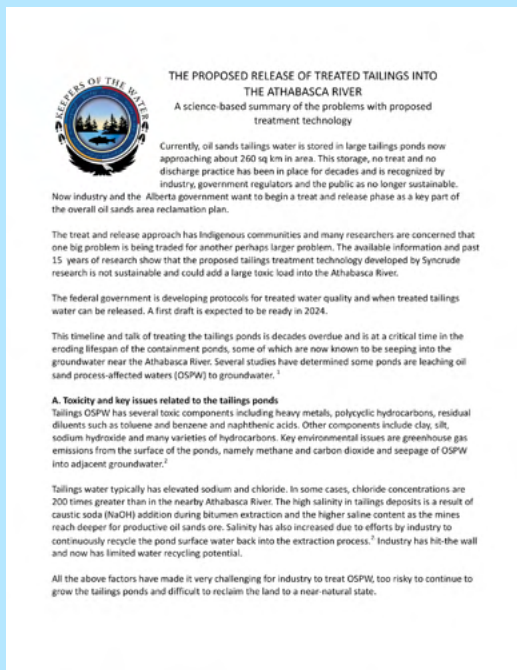
Protecting the Dehcho (Mackenzie) River Watershed

The Deh-cho (Mackenzie) River Basin is fed by four major rivers in Canada. It is a massive and powerful water system that supports life in a vast territory. The Athabasca River originates in Jasper National Park and travels 1,230 km northeast draining into the Peace-Athabasca Delta near Lake Athabasca, south of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta. The Peace River with its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains of northern British Columbia is a 1,923 km long river that flows to the northeast. The Peace-Athabasca Delta flows into the Slave River, which empties into the Great Slave Lake and discharges through the Deh-Cho River system into the Arctic Ocean.

Indigenous peoples named the Deh-cho (Mackenzie) River; in the Slavey language, Deh-cho [tèh tʃhò], literally means big river; and in Inuvialuktun, the word Kuukpak [ku: kpak] literally means great river. The big river flows through a vast, thinly populated region of forest and tundra entirely within the Northwest Territories in Canada, its many tributaries reach into five other Canadian provinces and territories.

We want to continue the conversation to declare Personhood status for the Dehcho River. In early 2022 we plan on exploring opportunities to discuss this with Northern communities that will be coordinated by our NWT Outreach Manager.

See our current research [Personhood for the Deh-cho \(Mackenzie\) River Report](#)



Stop the Dumping of Toxic Tailings into the Athabasca River

(Read the full report [here](#))

We are working tirelessly to STOP the Alberta and Federal governments' proposed policy changes that would allow the release of the toxic tailings ponds into the Athabasca River.

Tailings are toxic to people and ecosystems, and there is no science establishing that tailings can be treated to levels that make them safe. The treated tailings still retain high levels of naphthenic acids and salinity. Releasing tailings to the watershed is not a safe or just option for solving Alberta's growing tailings crisis. It is a handout to oil companies that allows them to avoid reclamation costs. It is a decision that accepts northern Indigenous communities and

lands will remain a sacrifice zone for the profit of settler governments, southern populations, and some of the world's richest corporations.

Indigenous peoples in our movement have already experienced the negative impacts of tar sands extraction on our lands and our ways of life. Myriad impacts, such as low water levels and loss or contamination of critical species, have effectively forced some of the people we represent off their own land. Entire traditional economies have been lost. These impacts are exacerbated by increasing impacts from climate change and other industrial activity. Given that Indigenous culture, language, spirituality, and history are all intimately tied to the land, the loss of our land-based way of life infringes on our basic human rights to pass on essential aspects of who we are as peoples to future generations. This proposed release of tailings is a clear violation of both Dene law and Cree Natural law and is something we cannot allow to happen.

Furthermore, the release of tailings without the free, prior, and informed consent of downstream Indigenous nations is a clear violation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the “Declaration”). Articles 18 and 19 of the Declaration recognize the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in state legislative and policy initiatives that may impact their rights using their own representatives and in accordance with their own decision-making and governance procedures. States must seek to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples via these processes before proceeding with the proposed legislative or policy initiative.

Given the potentially severe impacts of tailings release on downstream Indigenous nations, it is our position that the requirement imposed by the Declaration is one of mandatory consent. I.e., Canada must obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of downstream Indigenous nations before approving ANY release of tailings. This is required, at the least, by Article 29.

Keepers of the Water researches available science/technical data as well as Indigenous Ecological knowledge on the treatment used and proposed by Industry to treat the tailings ponds and provides our expert opinion on the cumulative adverse environmental impacts to the Athabasca River and associated tributaries.

Keepers of the Water will be continuing this work in full force moving into 2022. To support on the ground/community and campaign/communications actions you can donate to ensure we have the staff and resources to elevate voices, collate data and outreach.

Protecting Headwaters- Thermal Coal



This westslope cutthroat trout is missing its gill plate which is a common symptom of selenium poisoning.¹

Coal mining puts many of Alberta’s iconic wildlife species at risk, including grizzly bears, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout. Thermal Coal is threatening entire healthy ecosystems and contributes to massive air pollution and impacts clean freshwater tributaries that feed major rivers which millions of people depend on for their drinking water supplies.

An element of concern is Selenium which can contaminate waters hundreds of kilometres downstream from the initial mining site, leading to poisoned fish and aquatic birds, and to polluted wells, irrigation systems, and drinking water.

Coal projects – such as the proposed Vista coal mine expansion – threaten the climate, human health, biodiversity, and the air, land, and water.

Thermal coal is the world's dirtiest fossil fuel, toxic to human health and disastrous for the climate. In fact, [burning coal is responsible for nearly half of carbon emissions around the world](#).

Keepers of the Water are concerned about the Vista coal mine expansion and we are taking action.

If built, the proposed expansion could result in the extraction of up to 15 MT of coal per year. When shipped and consumed abroad, burning this much coal could lead to 33 MT of carbon. By comparison, the largest single source of carbon in Canada is currently another coal plant in Alberta that emits 12.7 MT of carbon dioxide a year – just over one-third of Vista's total projected emissions.

We have been working with Ecojustice; a legal environmental organization and wrote to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to demand he designate the Vista coal mine expansion for a federal impact assessment. Impact assessments are critical tools that help the government understand and limit harm to the environment, the climate, human health, and Indigenous Peoples.

Ecojustice also led work in getting [46 other](#) environmental, Indigenous, health, civil society, and faith organizations, and tens of thousands of Canadians to support our ask. We were witness to an important victory when the Minister agreed to designate the Vista expansion for an assessment.

But Coalspur would not give up without a fight. The company filed for a judicial review of the government's decision and named Keepers of the Water as a respondent. On our behalf, Ecojustice participated in the judicial review to ensure that the Minister's decision would be upheld and Canada's environmental assessment laws would stand.

In July 2021, a decision in [another judicial review](#) – to which Ecojustice was not a party – overturned the Minister's order to designate the Vista mine expansion for a federal impact assessment. Coalspur was then allowed to proceed without an assessment of all the environmental harm the expansion will bring.

Now, the Minister must decide whether to designate the Vista mine expansion for federal impact assessment once again. In the meantime, Keepers of the Water, along with Ecojustice continues to call on the government to build on its climate leadership by ensuring that all of the mine's impacts are considered in the impact assessment.

¹ Retrieved from: <https://ab4coalfreerockies.ca/blog/loam-impacts>

Keepers of the Water wants to continue our work in protecting headwaters from mega thermal coal projects that would devastate freshwater streams and impact endangered species one step closer to extinction.

Support our work today by donating directly on our website, donate [here](#).

Water and Medicine Gatherings

Keepers of the Water has been partnering with Kaniyasihk Culture Camps for the past 2 years to co-host a land-based gathering. The gathering takes place at Kaniyasihk Culture Camps on the Ministikwan Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, Treaty 6.

Each year of 2020 and 2021 we understood the critical need to create space to gather on the land safely. During this time we brought in Water Scientist Bill Donahue to give a presentation on impacts to underground water caused by Insitu mining, which is a form of mining for bitumen underground that uses extreme pressures of water and other chemicals to heat the bitumen and move it to the surface. While this is praised by the Industry that uses this technology as a less impactful option, we have learned that it uses a lot of freshwaters, causes underground contamination and has a large overall cumulative impact on the land, air and water.

We also hosted many Indigenous knowledge keepers who shared teachings on harvesting medicine and teachings on water.

Keepers of the Water is looking to co-host the 3rd gathering with Kaniyasihk in the summer of 2022.

This will be an important gathering as it will bring Indigenous people from many communities where we will discuss Climate Change Impacts, changes, future predictions and solutions for our communities. During this time, we also do training for the Community water monitoring as the gathering will be held on the lakeshore in the First Nation of Ministikwan Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. As well as the land-based teachings of harvesting medicines and protecting and caring for water and to gain a deeper understanding of our sacred connection to water.







Join us in working to protect water, honour the Treaties, protect Indigenous rights, cultural revitalization, language retention, educational partnerships and land-based community engagement. Every dollar donated directly supports Keepers of the Water community work and will help us to expand our community engagement reach even further!

While Cree, Dene and Metis communities continue to demonstrate deep understanding and leadership on water rights issues, there is still a tremendous amount of work to do to ensure that those communities most impacted by the devastating effects industry has on the water they rely on, have the ability and knowledge to protect the life-giving water that surrounds them. It is the people in these communities that continue to be empowered and recognized as leaders in this work. In particular, ensuring that Indigenous community leaders and members are able to

exercise effective and knowledgeable leadership skills in dealing with the extraction industry is resource and time-intensive, but essential to realizing our organization's long-term potential.

As Keepers of the Water looks to 2022 and beyond, we know that only sustained organization and broad education campaigns can achieve transformational change. That means building out all our grassroots community leadership so that our engagement is broad and deep, and rooted in Indigenous traditional knowledge. When the ground is prepared in that good way, collectively, walking alongside our non-Native partners, we can organize and build a strategy that will win.

Working alone, none of us can succeed in protecting water, ensuring the safety of the biospheres we live in, or protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the non-humans we share this planet with. Indigenous communities protecting water need the strength of numbers, organization, and reach that non-Native allies can bring. Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, their will to act, and their legal, moral, and geographic power are among their strongest assets.

Keepers of the Water are actively seeking to build strong relationships with non-Native groups that have compatible goals and values. These relations must be founded on a basis of mutual respect, with the recognition that the legacy of injustice and colonization requires different kinds of work from each of us.

Moving into 2022, Nurturing Spirit

Keepers of the Water was formed in 2006 and has been involved in many major projects, movements and campaigns such as the Tarsands Healing Walk, Reject Teck Frontier Mine, Freedom Train and the Keepers of the Water Annual Gatherings. We have conducted numerous research studies and provided presentations on the reports to impacted communities. We are always willing to discuss our knowledge and findings with the media in order to reach a broader audience, with hopes that more will be informed and join in this sacred walk of protecting water.

Highlights of Our Upcoming Work for 2022

- Community Monitoring Program - We have started planning our grassroots program for this year by purchasing water and air testing equipment and will reach out to communities to participate. Training and guidance will be provided by our Science and Technical Team throughout the year.

If your community is interested in participating in the program please contact: Jesse Cardinal at nipiy3@gmail.com

Support our Community Monitoring Program to ensure Indigenous Knowledge is included in western science and environmental protection. Donate [here!](#)

- 3rd Annual Water and Medicine Gathering - We will be hosting many Indigenous knowledge keepers to share teachings on harvesting medicine and teachings on water.

Keepers of the Water is looking to co-host the 3rd gathering with Kaniyasihk in the summer of 2022. If you are interested in co-hosting please contact Jesse Cardinal at

nipiy3@gmail.com

- Stop the Tailings dump into the Athabasca River
- Transition from Thermal Coal, preventing the building of the largest Thermal coal mine in Canadian history (Vista)
- Building our online resource tools for use by schools and communities- indigenous knowledge on muskegs and wetlands
- Expanding our education program of both Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Traditional teachings and Western Science

Your Funding Provides Opportunity to Support Indigenous People of Canada. We are freshwater stewards who protect our ecosystems, combat climate change and advance Reconciliation. Support our growth and sustainability as an Indigenous-led, grassroots environmental non-profit organization.

As we continue to develop and grow our organization it has become apparent that KOW has become a vital voice for water and indigenous knowledge. We bring the unique perspectives of grassroots voices to the table and we need your help to do this. We are requesting your financial support moving into 2022 to echo strong, the voice of the 'Mighty Peace River', the voice of the Dehcho (big river), the life of the Athabasca River and the spirit of knowing, all water is connected.

Your contributions would have a real impact on providing public awareness and education on the protection of water. When our environment is healthy communities can thrive including, our children, youth, adults and our knowledge holders. Together we can all continue to be stewards of our waters for the next seven generations. Your consideration and contribution would be greatly appreciated by the Keepers of the Water community.

Join us in this voice, help us bring water protection to the forefront, donate today.

You can help protect the Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin and become a one-time donor using our [website](#)! If you would like to donate towards a specific program, please indicate which one in the e-transfer memo or PayPal note so we know precisely which program to direct your generous support towards. We also welcome monthly or annual donations and again you can request to support specific Keepers of the Water programs or campaigns listed here:

- Community Monitoring Program
- Annual Water & Medicine Gathering
- Stop the Tailings Dump Campaign
- Transition from Thermal Coal Campaign
- Building Up Online Educational Tools
- Expanding the Ecological Knowledge Program and Partnerships

Charitable receipts available upon request.

PayPal: [Keepers of the Water](#)

Cheque: payable to **Keepers of the Water**

Etransfer: keepersofthewaterdonate@gmail.com

Other Ways to Support Our Work

- Partnerships are a huge part of community engagement, educational tool building and we are always looking to connect with communities, colleges and university educators to strengthen our relationships with current partners and build meaningful connections with new ones
- Help us to connect with potential donors who share the same core values and goals we carry so that we can reach out to them directly
- Volunteer your skills and knowledge



Thank You to Our Supporters



**Glasswaters
Foundation**

NDN Collective

**Makeway
Foundation**

**The David and
Lucille Packard
Foundation**

**Rockefeller
Foundation**

Ecojustice

Rain Forest Network

**Kaniyasihk Culture
Camps**

**Society of High
Prairie Regional
Environmental
Action Committee**

**Cold Lake First
Nation**

**Athabasca
Chipewyan First
Nation**

**Niisitapi Water
Protectors**

Louis Bull Tribe

**Woodland Cree
First Nation**

**Mikisew Cree First
Nation**

Piikani Nation

**Caroline Robbins
School, Saskatoon**

**Onchaminahos
School, Saddle Lake
Cree Nation**

**Kikino Metis
Settlement School**

**Mountain Child
Valley Society,
Treaty 7**