

From: Pamela Monfils
To: Lesia Manchulenko <Lesia.Manchulenko@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 12/10/2012 7:45 AM
Subject: Re: Theresa Spence newser at 2:00

Thanks.

>>> Lesia Manchulenko 12/10/2012 7:39:36 AM >>>
She's supposed to be doing a hunger strike on the Hill. I'll try to confirm if the conf will be on-site.

>>> Pamela Monfils 12/10/2012 7:36:38 AM >>>
Sure. Where will she be?

>>> Lesia Manchulenko 12/10/2012 7:29:31 AM >>>
Good morning, guys - I understand Chief Spence will be speaking at 2:00. Can we try to get it? Thanks, L

From: Pamela Monfils
To: Bernard Etzinger <Bernard.Etzinger@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Kareen Hashmi <Ka...
CC: Hurcomb, Jim <Jim.Hurcomb@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 12/10/2012 7:45 AM
Subject: Re: December 10 Early Pack

Yes we are.

>>> Bernard Etzinger 12/10/2012 6:55:46 AM >>>
Re the hashtags in article 1, are we monitoring?

>>> HQ Inform 12/10/2012 5:57:47 AM >>>
<http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/mobile/topstories.aspx?lead=1>

Published | Publi : 2012-12-10
Received | Re u: 2012-12-10 4:29 AM WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
COLUMNS, Page: A8

Rising aboriginal frustration palpable
Show of anger at Commons looks likely to be repeated
Mia Rabson

OTTAWA -- As far as First Nations are concerned, it is fitting that Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Canada had approved the Chinese takeover of two Canadian oil companies from the room on Parliament Hill known as the Aboriginal People's Committee Room. It was just another sign the natural resources First Nations should be benefiting from were being sold off under their noses without their input.

Just days earlier, Chief Patrick Madahbee of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council was among a group of chiefs who tried to force their way into the House of Commons to be heard, angry that the government appeared to be uninterested in listening to or working with First Nations.

Madahbee said last January Harper spent a day listening to First Nations leaders and worked on resetting the relationship between the Crown and indigenous people. That same night, Harper left for Davos, Switzerland, where he delivered a major speech about his plans for the coming years, with a priority focus on selling oil and gas to Asia and pursuing additional trade with Europe and India.

"Immediately, the prime minister jetted off to sell our resources off to the world. He's been constantly doing that," said Madahbee.

For First Nations leaders, the latest international trade deals are another sign of being left out of a deal that could help raise their people out of poverty.

And the anger that has been simmering under the surface for years is boiling over like the early signs of a volcano.

Last week's skirmish outside the Commons only lasted about 30 seconds and was far from out of control, but it is unlikely to be the last event of its kind.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak as good as said so a few hours after it happened.

"This may not be the last time we do this," he said.

The chiefs are backed by a growing grassroots movement that is largely led by young aboriginals who are demanding more for their future.

Hashtags such as #idlenomore and #nativewinter were gaining in popularity on Twitter last week. "It's going to be a long cold #nativewinter" wrote Curtis Dickie, one of many people who posted to the nativewinter hashtag on Twitter last week.

Some are comparing it to the beginnings of the Arab Spring in the Middle East.

A national day of action is planned today, with a rally at the Manitoba legislature this afternoon.

The issues facing First Nations people are many -- high rates of violence against women, education struggles, poverty, addiction and a lack of proper housing among them.

But what First Nations people want and need, which could help address many of those other issues, is to have a chance to do exactly what numerous commenters on the Free Press website demand. A chance to do things for themselves.

But when the natural resources on aboriginal lands reap economic benefits for everyone but First Nations, there is a problem.

"We have zero per cent of the revenues from the natural resources that are developed on our ancestral lands," Nepinak said Friday, at a press conference.

Zero per cent.

The roadblocks are huge when First Nations try to take steps towards an economic prosperity. Take the Kapyong Barracks, for example. Seen by the government as a tract of land with immense value, they sidestepped First Nations to sell it and have the government's Crown corporation land redeveloper take it over. First Nations wanted a chance to buy that land, or some of it, to establish businesses and reap the profits of developing it themselves.

But the government simply ignored them.

Now the whole battle is in court and judges are asked to sort out whether First Nations should have been offered first crack. Meanwhile, nobody benefits. In fact, Ottawa is spending millions to maintain it while it's empty.

The arguments about the land that was taken over are centuries old. But like it or not, treaties signed with First Nations are more than pieces of paper that can be cast aside when there is a good deal to be done with someone else. Decisions about resource development, environmental regulations, housing, fishing, you name it, all must be viewed through the treaty lens.

The courts have repeatedly sided with First Nations when that doesn't happen.

The #nativewinter may not turn into an uprising like the Arab Spring. But chiefs are noticing the unrest in their communities is higher than it has been in a while.

The government, and all Canadians, would do well to take notice.

mia.rabson@freepress.mb.ca

{Ottawa ONT}

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Received | Re u: 2012-12-10 5:29 AM THE GUARDIAN (CHARLOTTETOWN)
CANADA, Page: A7

National chief keeps up calls for inquiry after aboriginal B.C. teen's murder
The Canadian Press

The Assembly of First Nations says the recent murder of a 16-year-old native teen is yet another reason Ottawa should call a national public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.

National Chief Shawn Atleo said Sunday the death of Summer Star Elizabeth Krista-Lee Fowler in British Columbia has triggered an overwhelmingly painful reminder of losses suffered by other families whose loved ones have disappeared or been killed.

The addition of Fowler, also known as "CJ", to the lengthy list of women has prompted him to urge Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make the matter a higher priority in order to prevent further crimes.

"I am profoundly saddened and offer my personal support and that of the Assembly of First Nations to the family of CJ Morningstar Fowler and her community," he said in a statement. "A death such as this touches us all."

Over the past week, members of the assembly gathered and committed to renew efforts to seek safety and justice for aboriginal citizens, as well as accountability for those who have died.

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Received | Re u: 2012-12-10 4:17 AM TORONTO STAR (ONT)
EDITORIAL, Page: A18

Hold an inquiry

It took the gruesome case of pig-farming serial killer Robert Pickton to bring the problem to the public's attention: more than 600 aboriginal women have gone missing or have been murdered in Canada over the last two decades - a grossly disproportionate number of crimes, too many of which have gone unprosecuted.

Now what will it take to get the federal government to do something about it?

If history is any indication, it will take more than the new resolution, passed last week by the chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations, demanding that the government establish a public inquiry into the disappearances and killings. After all, this is the AFN's third such resolution.

While the government has acknowledged that the number of murdered and vanished women is "disturbingly high," calls for an inquiry have gone unheeded. Instead, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson has pointed to a \$25-million investment in programs aimed at tracking and reducing the violence.

But those investments, whatever their merits, were made in the absence of a coherent national strategy, and have done more to obscure than clarify the picture. In 2010, Nicholson withdrew funding for Sisters In Spirit, an organization that maintained a database of aboriginal victims, and put it toward a missing persons police branch without a specific aboriginal mandate. "The logic seems to be that if (the Conservatives) don't make an effort to understand the extent of the problem, then it isn't their responsibility to fix it," said NDP aboriginal critic Jean Crowder.

It's no wonder the government appears reluctant to face the problem in all its complexity; doing so is bound to raise politically sticky, seemingly intractable policy questions. Pickton managed to evade B.C. police for years, preying mostly on aboriginal sex workers whose disappearances either went unreported or uninvestigated. An inquiry into the botched investigation of the killings revealed that many of Pickton's victims had been abused while at residential schools and had subsequently fallen into lives of drugs and prostitution.

A public inquiry would unavoidably raise questions about broader socio-economic problems in First Nations communities and the extent to which those are the result of an unresolved history of failed government policies. It would also have to explain why 50 per cent of violent crimes against aboriginals go unprosecuted, compared to 24 per cent in the general population, likely revealing unpleasant truths about our justice system in the process.

However reluctant the government may be to open up these unsettling questions, it's long past time we got the answers.

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Received | Reçu: 2012-12-10 5:29 AM L'ACADIE NOUVELLE
ACTUALITÉS, Page: 12

Droits des enfants autochtones
l'ONU s'est arrêtée au N.-B.

La vice-présidente du Comité des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies a terminé, vendredi, une tournée de quatre jours au Canada qui l'a menée dans la Première Nation d'Elsipogtog, près de Richibouctou.

Marta Maurás, du Chili, a été invitée par le défenseur des enfants et de la jeunesse par intérim, Christian Whalen, et ses collègues au Conseil canadien des défenseurs des enfants et des jeunes afin de constater sur place comment le Canada s'acquitte de ses obligations découlant de la mise en oeuvre de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies.

La visite fait suite aux observations finales du comité sur les troisième et quatrième rapports concernant la mise en oeuvre de la convention, déposés par le Canada en septembre dernier à Genève, en Suisse.

Dans son rapport, le comité a exprimé son inquiétude devant le peu de progrès enregistré au Canada pour réduire la pauvreté infantile et améliorer la santé des enfants, que ce soit l'obésité ou les problèmes de santé mentale.

Le comité a aussi noté le caractère inadéquat des mécanismes de suivi pour assurer le bien-être des enfants et le manque de coordination consacrée à la prestation des services aux enfants par les divers ordres de gouvernement.

«Selon le classement des pays industrialisés de l'UNICEF, le Canada se retrouve au 24e rang sur 35, où un enfant sur sept, et un enfant des Premières Nations sur quatre, vit dans la pauvreté, a dit Mme Maurás. Nous assistons à un important recul depuis 10 ans.»

Au cours de leur visite dans la Première Nation d'Elsipogtog, Mme Maurás et M. Whalen ont rencontré le chef, des aînés et des fonctionnaires pour discuter des changements apportés récemment au système de protection de l'enfance dans la réserve, ainsi que des améliorations au programme de justice réparatrice de la communauté. Ils ont également participé à un cercle de la parole avec des jeunes de la communauté et des jeunes provenant d'autres régions de la province.

M. Whalen a indiqué que même si des améliorations ont été apportées aux services à l'enfance et à la

famille sur le territoire des Premières Nations depuis la publication du rapport de 2009 du défenseur, Main dans la main, il reste beaucoup de travail à faire. «Il reste encore tant de recommandations du rapport Main dans la main qui tardent à être mises en oeuvre, a déclaré M. Whalen. Nous pourrions commencer avec une annonce formelle sur un accord pour l'application du principe de Jordan au Nouveau-Brunswick, et nous devrions partager le système de gestion de l'information Familles NB avec toutes les agences de protection de l'enfance des Premières Nations.»

Mme Maurás et M. Whalen se désolent que le projet de loi C-420, qui visait la création d'un poste national de commissaire des enfants, n'ait pas été approuvé par le Parlement.

«Son adoption aurait été une étape importante permettant à un organisme indépendant de veiller à la mise en oeuvre de la convention et à la mise en place d'un mécanisme d'examen des plaintes lorsque les droits des enfants sont violés», a dit Mme Maurás.

Malgré les défis qui subsistent, M. Whalen a indiqué que le Nouveau-Brunswick a fait des progrès ces dernières années pour ce qui est de son devoir envers les enfants et les jeunes.

«Notre province a un organisme de surveillance indépendant pour les enfants et les jeunes ayant un large mandat qui fait l'envie de nombreuses autres provinces au pays, a déclaré M. Whalen. Et nous continuons d'aller de l'avant avec la collecte et l'analyse de données de meilleure qualité avec notre Cadre des droits et du mieux-être des enfants.» PHOTO: Acadie Nouvelle: Archives ILLUS: Le défenseur des enfants et de la jeunesse par intérim, Christian Whalen.

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Received | Reçu: 2012-12-10 5:22 AM NEWS NORTH (NWT)

Same old costly mistakes
First Nations balking at devolution left on the outside
Sometimes resistance really is futile. And harmful.

That's the reality that should be starting to sink in for First Nations refusing to participate in a NWT devolution agreement in principle.

Former premier Floyd Roland signed a framework deal in January 2011 to transfer federal powers over resources and land management from the federal government. He invited First Nations to be partners.

The Inuvialuit and Northwest Territory Metis Nation signed on, but other First Nations opposed it.

Then the Sahtu had a change of heart and became a partner.

The Gwich'in were so offended that they filed a lawsuit. However, the Gwich'in people elected new leadership, Bob McLeod became territorial premier and the lawsuit was withdrawn. The group actually threw its support behind the devolution agreement, which would grant the territory \$65 million annually to run transferred programs.

The deal will also result in 50 per cent of resource revenue being turned over from the federal government to the territorial government. Half of that 50 per cent will go to aboriginal groups in the NWT, an estimated \$2 million to \$3 million per year each - for now. Further development projects could raise that figure dramatically

On the outside, by choice, are the Tlicho, Deh Cho and Akaitcho. The latter two groups do not have a settled land claim.

Deh Cho Grand Chief Herb Norwegian, like his predecessor Samuel Gargan, has been vocal in his opposition to the devolution agreement in principle. Norwegian and Gargan view the deal as a means of empowering the GNWT.

"If we're not careful and we're not moving in the same direction, the whole devolution thing could turn into the devil's solution and I think we need to be very careful about that," Norwegian told his fellow chiefs at a Dene Nations assembly in Dettah late last month. "The devil's in the details. And we have to be very careful and very clear on what it is that we're looking at."

In January 2011, Gargan made a comparison between the devolution deal and the revolution that overthrew the government in Egypt. He said the situations were no different.

Of course the difference was, and still is, the ability to participate in decision-making. Citizens of countries ruled by despotic regimes have no say in governance. The Dehcho First Nations, like all aboriginal groups, is welcome to help craft a final devolution deal.

A better comparison for Norwegian to ponder is when Dehcho First Nations took a similar stance during negotiations on the proposed pipeline from Norman Wells to Zama, Alta. in the mid-1980s. The result of doing nothing then was the pipeline was built anyway, as we see it today.

Where are the revenues or other benefits for the Deh Cho from the oil flowing over Deh Cho land? There are none, as former Liidlii Kue First Nation Chief Jim Antoine pointed out recently. Were any lessons learned from that failed leadership? Apparently not. Antoine is the only Deh Cho leader advising co-operation on the devolution deal.

The same thing happened with the present Mackenzie Valley pipeline proposal. The Dehcho leadership refused to participate and instead filed lawsuits to stop it, frustrating aboriginal neighbours and potential partners with an eye to economic development for their people. The Dehcho, sensing they could not stop the project's momentum, wound up dropping the lawsuits and taking \$31.5 million from the federal government in 2005 in return for a commitment not to launch any further court action.

Norwegian is right, the devil is in the details with devolution. For that reason, Dehcho, Akaitcho and Tlicho leaders will be in a better position to understand those details and to modify them by being part of the devolution negotiations process.

Refusing to participate again is futile and robs their people of a chance to become financially and politically self-sufficient. ILLUS: NNSL file photo Former Deh Cho grand chief Sam Gargan, left, and Dene Nation National Chief Bill Erasmus protest the signing of the devolution agreement-in-principle outside the legislative assembly in Yellowknife after it was signed on Jan. 26 2011. Four aboriginal groups have signed on in support of the potential devolution deal. The Deh Cho, Tlicho and Akaitcho remain opposed.

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Deal with feds passes

Paul Bickford Northern News Services Hay River

The annual general assembly of the Northwest Territory Metis Nation (NWTMN) has unanimously passed a motion approving an agreement-in-principle on land and resources with Ottawa and the GNWT.

The historic resolution, passed in Hay River in late November, authorizes NWTMN chief negotiator Jake

Heron to initial the document.

The decision comes 16 years after the NWTMN - then known as the South Slave Metis Tribal Council - signed a framework agreement with Canada and the GNWT.

The formal signing of the framework agreement took place in Fort Smith on Aug. 29, 1996, committing the NWTMN, Canada and the GNWT to negotiate a land and resources agreement-in-principle and, subsequently, a final agreement. The federal cabinet approved the mandate for negotiations in April 1997, and formal negotiations commenced almost immediately.

A news release from the NWTMN refers to a "long, rocky road" until the three parties finally negotiated an AiP earlier this year.

Community information sessions to review the document with NWTMN members were held in Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife over the summer.

Heron recommended that the NWTMN approve the agreement-in-principle.

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Page: A10

Getting at the root problem

Letter of the day

Much of the Phoenix Sinclair inquiry's time and most of the coverage concentrates on which individual or agency is to blame for this poor child's death. Because this tragedy occurred while she was involved with the child-welfare system, the public's eyes have focused on the social workers who were involved with her and her family. But who is responsible for the ills in our society that produce this mess in the first place? Manitoba has Canada's second-highest rate of child poverty (depending on what measure is being used). Manitoba is also the province with the highest proportion of aboriginal citizens. Many aboriginal parents are the children and grandchildren of survivors of the residential school system. They deal with the daily reality of racialized poverty and a legacy of broken promises.

No child-welfare system, no matter how good, can fix the resulting problems. Social workers can't guarantee healthy children any more than doctors can. We have to prevent as many of these problems as possible by ensuring every child has an adequate home and enough of the stuff of life to achieve their human potential. When that is not possible, we do our best at damage control for the unfortunate ones.

As a retired social worker myself, I feel that we as a society should all know the strong relationships between poverty and poor health, poor housing, poor nutrition, poor graduation rates and increased substance abuse. We should all know the impact of these factors on parenting skills. These are the issues that lead to child neglect, increased cases of children in care and overworked and underperforming social workers.

Social workers in child welfare have been given the role of cleaning up the human debris caused by structural issues in society. The inquiry does have the mandate to examine "any other circumstances apart from the delivery of child-welfare services directly related to the death of Phoenix Sinclair." It remains to be seen to what degree this part of the mandate is honoured, but it would be appropriate for the media and others following the inquiry to keep them in mind.

When will our society begin to take responsibility for the vulnerable persons it creates and address the poverty and other structural issues it produces? It is long past time for all governments, First Nations,

agencies, civil societies and yes, businesses, to use the available research and best practices to come up with the policies and practices that will erase this stain on our country.

CLARK BROWNLEE

Winnipeg

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Smith's Landing chief acclaimed

Paul Bickford Northern News Services Thebacha/Fort

Smith's Landing First Nation will have a new chief by mid-December.

Fredrick Andrew Wanderingspirit, currently a band councillor, was the only candidate in a byelection to find a new chief when nominations closed on Dec. 3.

Had there been more than one nominee, a byelection would have been held on Dec. 17.

Al Dumont, the First Nation's electoral officer, announced the result of the nomination process in a news release.

"Mr. Wanderingspirit will be eligible to take office on Dec. 18, 2012, which is the day following election day," Dumont stated.

Wanderingspirit could not be reached for comment on his upcoming role as chief.

The byelection became necessary with the resignation of former chief Cheyeanne Paulette in October.

Wanderingspirit will serve out Paulette's term, and an election for chief and council will be held in June of next year. ILLUS: Fredrick Wandering-spirit

Jim Hurcomb

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For all AANDC-related clippings please go to <http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx>

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From: Pamela Monfils
To: Hurcomb, Jim <Jim.Hurcomb@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Kareen Hashmi <Kareen.Hash...
Date: 12/14/2012 6:32 AM
Subject: Idlenomore

Let's talk today -- maybe we should be commissioning someone to monitor the social media around this more systematically than we can do.

Julien Houle - 0Re: 3Package -- hunger strike

From: Pamela Monfils
To: Jim Hurcomb; Kareen Hashmi
Date: 12/17/2012 10:19 AM
Subject: 0Re: 3Package -- hunger strike

Thanks all. Yes please on the title page.

I lost faith in automated translation systems a few years ago, when we tried one to translate "pan-northern" and what it produced was "casserole nordique".

p

>>> Kareen Hashmi 12/17/2012 10:12 AM >>>

Accepted. Your translation: Grève de la faim. Do you want me to create the title page?

As a side note, I would like to point out that "hungry hungry hippos" is in Termium, and "hunger strike" is not.

K.

>>> Pamela Monfils 12/17/2012 10:04 AM >>>

Thanks Jim.

Kareen, your mission, should you choose to accept it, will be to determine what "hunger strike" is in French.

>>> Jim Hurcomb 12/17/2012 9:30 AM >>>

Will have by 10:30

>>> Pamela Monfils 12/17/2012 8:56:30 AM >>>

Hi Jim:

Further to Bernie's e-mail below, could we do a pack on the hunger strike please, mainstream and social media? This needs to go to Caroline this morning. And a title page of course ...

Thanks.

P

>>> Bernard Etzinger 12/17/2012 8:49 AM >>>

Hi everyone

Could we put something together for the deputy

Pam - could we include media/social media on the hunger strike itself. Could we also include a copy of the letter the min sent (lesia has it).

Sylvie - could I get the latest draft of our CNFG backgrounder

Shirley Anne - could I get the Atta spokes book?

Caroline - could you put it together in a quick binder this morning?

For all - pls let me know if any of the above will take time. I think we have most if not all of it handy.

B

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**Pages 14 to / à 17
are not relevant
sont non pertinentes**

Julien Houle - Fw: Day of Action / Idlenomore Pack

From: Angela Matchim
To: Villeneuve, Josée <Josee.Villeneuve@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 12/13/2012 3:44 PM
Subject: Fw: Day of Action / Idlenomore Pack
CC: Etzinger, Bernard <Bernard.Etzinger@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Mercier, Sylvie ...
Attachments: December 13 Day of Action Pack_1.pdf

As requested for Mme Touchette.

>>> Pamela Monfils 12/13/2012 3:23:47 PM >>>
Looks great. Thanks Lily.

Angela: As requested, for forwarding to whomsoever. This includes coverage from Dec. 10-13 on the Day of Action / Idlenomore issue, including mainstream and social media.

Pam

>>> Lillian Rogers 12/13/2012 3:19 PM >>>
Hi Pam,

Here's the pack.

Let me know if you want me to make any changes!

Lily

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Internal Article / Article interne

Idle No More Tweets

APTNNNews is trying to arrange a sit down interview with Aboriginal Affairs minister John Duncan. Not available today. Stay tuned.

Aboriginal Affairs: parl sec Greg Rickford has asked to visit #Attawapiskat 2 ensure it's ready 4 winter, Chief has yet 2 respond #cdnpoli

Harper's spokesperson said Min of Aboriginal Affairs visited 50 First Nations since 2010. But there are >630 & why hasn't PM done a FN tour?

I don't trust Aboriginal Affairs = FN REZ Genocide v POVERTY + violation of FED Treaty Obligations 4 generations!

Why did mainstream national media ignore #idlenomore rallies? @NtAwNiS has a look at that tonight on the @APTNNNews

YOU are the message. YOU are the change. Be positive. Educate, be kind and enlighten. #IdleNOMore

#idlenomore is bigger than beefs between us. We need to put aside our differences and stick together through this. This is important.

Can't repeat enough: Harper never even went to Attawapiskat to see housing crisis. Now Chief is on hunger strike. #IdleNoMore #cdnpoli

#IdleNoMore rallies should have support from leadership with them humbling themselves to let grassroots speak we've heard the campaign talk!

Just saw #IdleNoMore protesters marching on north Albert in #YQR. CBC was covering it. Good to see.

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Internal Article / Article interne

George Strombouloupoulos Tonight: Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence Says She's "Willing To Die" For A Meeting With Prime Minister Harper

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence Says She's "Willing To Die" For A Meeting With Prime Minister Harper

<http://www.cbc.ca/strombo/canada/attawapiskat-chief-theresa-spence-says-shes-willing-to-die-for-a-meeting-with-prime-minister-harper.html>

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Last year, the Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario was thrust into the national spotlight.

It came to light that many people in the community were living in atrocious and inadequate housing as winter rolled in.

Now, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence is on a hunger strike to try and force a meeting between Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the Crown, and First Nations leaders. She stopped eating early yesterday morning.

She plans to drink only water (once in the morning and once in the evening) and fast in two teepees, one on Parliament Hill during the day and another on Victoria Island.

Spence says she wants a meeting to create "a better dialogue."

"[We need] a partnership... as we speak, our people are suffering because of the decisions that are made by the government," she told reporters on Parliament Hill.

"I'm willing to die for my people and the First Nations people," she said. "The pain is too much and it has to stop."

The federal government sent modular homes to the Attawapiskat community last year to help relieve the housing crisis.

They also put the First Nation under third-party management - a move the Federal Court called "unreasonable" back in August.

The Prime Minister's office has referred media requests for comment on Chief Spence's actions to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development John Duncan.

Duncan has said he would be happy to meet with Spence, and that he was not aware of an official meeting request.

"I've met with her before. I'd be happy to meet with her again. I think we, as a government, we've made good progress and there is a little bit of politics at play here," he said.

Greg Rickford, the Parliamentary Secretary of Aboriginal Affairs, says the department wrote to Spence last week offering to visit Attawapiskat to ensure the community has everything it needs as winter approaches.

"We've made repeated requests and offers including support to work with the community to help develop a long-term housing strategy and we're waiting for that report," Rickford told APTN. "This is a governance issue and we hope that Chief Spence and her council put that housing strategy out to us."

The hunger strike coincides with a program of activism called "Idle No More."

According to its website, Idle No More "calls on all people to join in a revolution which honors and fulfills Indigenous sovereignty which protects the land and water."

Idle No More is partly a response to Bill C-45, the omnibus budget bill which includes changes to the Indian Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

But the manifesto on the Idle No More website discusses the latest bill in the context of the broader relationship between Canada and First Nations.

It refers to "a history of colonization which has resulted in outstanding land claims, lack of resources and unequal funding for services such as education and housing."

Idle No More protests took place in cities across Canada on Monday, with thousands of people coming out to speak out against the bill.

"Bill C-45 is not just about a budget, it is a direct attack on First Nations lands and on bodies of water we all share from across this country," said Sylvia McAdam, one of the four founding activists.

Supporters of Idle No More say the changes to the budget bill were written without adequate consultation with aboriginal groups and violate treaty and land rights.

"The way all these things are coming from the government, it's crippling our people. It's not our way," Spence said.

Idle No More is also using social media to spread the word. The #IdleNoMore hashtag is being used in hundreds of messages on Twitter.

And there are other actions planned related to the Idle No More protests. Today, members of the Samson Cree Nation blocked a section of highway outside Edmonton from 11:15 am and 12:15 pm local time.

The blockade was peaceful, but intended to bring attention to Idle No More and this specific date.

"We are taking the opportunity, coinciding with the 12th hour of the 12th day of December 2012, to bring awareness to First Nations opposition to legislation proposed by the Harper government," said a statement on the band's website.

For a personal take on the Idle No More protests and what they mean to many First Nations people, check out this thought-provoking opinion piece titled 'The natives are getting restless. Wondering why?'

It's from the Apihtawikosisan blog written by Chelsea Vowel, a 34-year-old Métis woman who lives in Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta. The piece is set up as an imaginary conversation between Vowel and a non-native acquaintance, and in it, Vowel stresses that media attention has been too focused on Bill C-45.

She believes that the broader issue is the relationship between Canada and the First Nations, and that treaty agreements have not been respected.

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DEH CHO DRUM (NWT)

Rallying against omnibus bills

Idle No More march held in Fort Simpson

Roxanna Thompson Northern News Services Liidl 

Carrying banners and flags, banging pot lids, and shouting slogans, a group of approximately 30 people took to the streets in Fort Simpson on Dec. 10.

The Idle No More movement began in Saskatchewan as a way to bring attention to and protest against legislation that the federal Conservative government has put forward in Bill C-45 and other bills. The movement's organizers say Bill C-45 is an attack on **First Nations'** rights and land and **water** across the country.

Precious resources

Mandy Bayha, Liidl  Kue **First Nation's** communications manager, heard about Idle No More on Facebook and suggested holding a march in Fort Simpson. The movement is about informing people about the legislation that is being passed, said Bayha.

"These are major effects for the future," she said.

In the North, there are so many precious resources including clean **water**. This is our ancestral land and the responsibility of protecting the land and the **water** is ours now, said Bayha.

"We really need to be more involved in what's going on in it," she said.

With assistance from Jermaine Gargan, Bayha organized the march in the village in the course of a few hours, placing calls to the high school and local leadership. At 3 p.m., participants walked down the village's main street from the band office to the Nahendeh building and back again.

Chief Keyna Norwegian, who carried a sign during the march, said she was supportive of Bayha's idea of holding an event. Similar marches and rallies were held in a variety of cities across Canada on Monday including Yellowknife.

"We thought why not do it here, too," she said.

Norwegian said she is very concerned about the omnibus bills such as C-45. As part of the bill amendments to the Navigable Waters Protection Act thousands of lakes and streams have been removed from federal oversight.

It's scary what Prime Minister Stephen Harper is doing, said Norwegian. It will affect the **Deh Cho** where **First Nation** groups have been working to protect waterways.

"Our ancestors have worked hard to keep our rivers clean for future uses," she said. "**Water** is our livelihood."

Norwegian was excited by the number of people, particularly youths, who came out to support the march. Liidl  Kue **First Nation** will also be sending out news releases and notices to show that it doesn't support what the government is doing, she said. ILLUS: Roxanna Thompson/NNSL photos Rebecca Tsetso, left, Rosalie Norwegian and Chantal Tonka were among approximately 30 people who participated in an Idle No More march in Fort Simpson on Dec. 10.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Northern News Service: Marchers protest broken promises to aboriginal peoples

Protest in the cold

Marchers protest broken promises to aboriginal peoples

Laura Busch

A small but dedicated group of protesters marched down Franklin Avenue on Monday afternoon to express opposition to recent federal legislation they say undermines treaty rights and the authority of aboriginal people.

Grey Gritt holds a protest sign on Franklin Avenue during an Idle No More demonstration, as Goota Ashoona looks on. - Laura Busch/NNSL photo

The protest was part of the national Idle No More movement, in which public marches were planned by First Nations groups in Vancouver, Whitehorse, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Sask., Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Ont., Toronto, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, N.L., and other communities on Dec. 10.

"We stand on the path of our ancestors and hold strong to our nation to nation relationships though Treaty 8 and 11. The Dene have always been and continue to be sovereign people," said Melaw Nakehk'o, as she addressed the crowd with her critique of Bill C-45, the federal government's omnibus budget bill which includes amendments to the Indian Act, among other legislative items.

"The passage of these bills is another colonial act that speaks to a small segment of society. Changes to any legislation must be conducted in the spirit and intent of our treaties with both nations having equal say. This legislation represents another attempt by the Canadian state to undermine indigenous sovereignty and the inherent right to land and resources of First Nations people."

The protest started off sparse, with about seven participants leaving from the Dene Nation building on 50 Street. More joined in as the group made its way along Franklin Avenue to the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development building, where Nakehk'o gave her public address.

The marchers demonstrated their commitment as the temperature dropped to -46 C with windchill over the noon hour, according to Environment Canada.

"I might lose a toe but at least someday hopefully my kids will have clean water," Kiera Kolson told Yellowknifer.

Kolson said she took inspiration for the event from one of her mentors, who told her, "They promised us as long as the grass grows and the river flows and the sun shines. But if they stop the grass from growing, the sun from shining and the rivers from flowing, that's when we have to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves."

Frustrations voiced during the protest were wide ranging. Some of the issues raised during the event included a lack of respect on the part of the federal government for aboriginal treaty rights and First Nations sovereignty, discrimination against First Nations people and the undermining of environmental management and protection.

"It can be easy to say, 'Oh, the Indians are mad,': Kolson said. "But why are we angry? What are we challenging? We are challenging something that is an enshrined and judiciary obligation by the aboriginal-Crown relationship. That is our treaties and that is what (Prime Minister Stephen Harper) is trying to remove."

Beyond anger, Kolson said she also finds reason to hope among other members of her generation.

"I'm so honored to be able to stand with these young people here because we are understanding and recognizing where our capacity and our strength is in this generation," she said. "Thirty-five years ago, our ancestors stood up and made history with the Berger Inquiry and, you know what, this government can get ready because our generation is educated and we are empowered."

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Netnewsledger.com: It has come to this? Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has started on a hunger strike

There are videos associated with this story at <http://www.netnewsledger.com/2012/12/11/attawapiskat-chief-theresa-spence-has-started-on-a-hunger-strike/>

It has come to this? Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has started on a hunger strike

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has started on a hunger strike. The goal is to have a treaty meeting with Prime Minister Harper.

Today, in Ottawa at the Peace Flame on the walkway leading up to the House of Commons, Timmins James Bay MP Charlie Angus presented Chief Spence with some symbolic gifts as she starts this journey toward trying to gain what she believes in for her people.

Angus has been outspoken in his support of the community of Attawapiskat. His words, and his efforts have certainly not been appreciated by the Conservative government.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Greg Rickford, the MP for Kenora Rainy River and Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs stated, "Since 2010, the minister has visited 50 first nations communities and held hundreds of productive meetings with chiefs, councillors and members of aboriginal communities across Canada. In fact, every year over 5,000 consultations are held with first nations. The government upholds its duty to consult with first nations and, if necessary, it responds to their demands".

There are about 275 First Nations Reserves in British Columbia alone, by the Parliamentary Secretary's own admission the Minister has not even been to 20 percent of the reserves in his own province let alone across Canada.

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has not visited Attawapiskat either during the emergency declared last year, or since. Simply put that message sent by those actions has led to where Canada sits today with First Nations leaders and grassroots support building across Canada for action.

As an aside, that action is continuing. In Alberta the Samson Cree are planning to block and shut down Highway 2A on December 12 2012. It is likely should the federal government continue on their plans with legislation that the Aboriginal community is seeing as being done to harm their communities and culture, there will be far more protests.

The Attawapiskat Chief's efforts were talked about in Parliament. NDP MP Jean Crowder called on the Conservatives on the issue. "We have Chief Theresa Spence on the Hill commencing a hunger strike today. The Idle No More campaign was launched on social media by young aboriginal women and men who want more for their future. These women and men are tired of the Conservative empty promises, unilateral decision making and court challenges. As the national chief has said, the clock is ticking and patience is running out".

Greg Rickford, the MP from Kenora responded, "That is how we came to the action plan for water and waste water treatment, consulting from coast to coast to coast. We heard from grassroots community members from coast to coast to coast with respect to increasing financial transparency and accountability, and we are delivering on that legislation. We are taking every opportunity we can to share our priorities and consult appropriately with first nations on all of these key files".

What was not shared was that the funding to implement the water and waste water treatment that is needed to achieve the goal of clean and safe drinking water.

It is a far cry from putting words in place to having deeds and actions in place.

Perhaps a simple demonstration would come in the Northern Food Plan. This plan is designed to equalize prices for food in Northern Communities and help make it easier on residents to afford healthier food choices. Would you pay almost \$20.00 for a pound of grapes?

You would if you lived in Northern Ontario where that is the case, and the savings offered by the government's program provides a subsidy of \$0.66 under the new program.

Would you pay almost \$20.00 for a pound of grapes?

It appears a program was put into place that isn't doing what it is designed to do.

Over the coming days, weeks and even months, it is likely that there will be lots of roads being blocked, railway lines being blocked and other peaceful protests put in place by First Nations people across Canada.

It is obvious certainly that the federal government has almost no grasp of the speed of communications, the skill at organizing and implementing plans that First Nations youth and elders now have.

What is truly sad is that in a country as rich in resources, as rich in intelligence and a Canada with a rich history of doing better than it has come to this.

As a youth I used to listen to reports of Irish members of the IRA who were on hunger strikes. I wondered how come a government could be so unconcerned as to allow it to come to this. Now I see it in the Canada that I, along with so many others once thought was so much better than the rest of the world.

Now, sadly and let's be blunt here, it is not just the Conservative government's problem, the same issues have happened under the Liberals as well, we are seeing the anger, angst and the unrest.

It is time that we all stepped up and started to make sure that as Canadians we are all doing the best we can for all of us.

James Murray

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Huffingtonpost.ca: I'm in a Life-Threatening Abusive Relationship...With my Government

<http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/chelsea-vowel>

I'm in a Life-Threatening Abusive Relationship...With my Government
Chelsea Vowel (Métis from Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta)

Although thousands of indigenous people all over Canada rallied together under the banner of Idle No More on December 10, there has been very little media coverage on the movement. Most of what is being said in the mainstream media is focused on Bill C-45. I'd like to make it clear...they're getting it wrong.

Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat did not launch a hunger strike over a single piece of legislation. The women who are planning on supporting her in a nationwide fast, in relay, are not doing this because of a single piece of legislation. Canada, this is not just about Bill C-45 or even all the other Bills rammed through Parliament lately.

I'm going to go to the Idle No More page and click on "Manifesto":

We contend that:

The Treaties are nation to nation agreements between Canada and First Nations who are sovereign nations. The Treaties are agreements that cannot be altered or broken by one side of the two Nations. The spirit and intent of the Treaty agreements meant that First Nations peoples would share the land, but retain their inherent rights to lands and resources. Instead, First Nations have experienced a history of colonization which has resulted in outstanding land claims, lack of resources and unequal funding for services such as education and housing.

We contend that:

Canada has become one of the wealthiest countries in the world by using the land and resources. Canadian mining, logging, oil and fishing companies are the most powerful in the world due to land and resources. Some of the poorest First Nations communities (such as Attawapiskat) have mines or other developments on their land but do not get a share of the profit. The taking of resources has left many lands and waters poisoned -- the animals and plants are dying in many areas in Canada. We cannot live without the land and water. We have laws older than this colonial government about how to live with the land.

We contend that:

Currently, this government is trying to pass many laws so that reserve lands can also be bought and sold by big companies to get profit from resources. They are promising to share this time...Why would these promises be different from past promises? We will be left with nothing but poisoned water, land and air. This is an attempt to take away sovereignty and the inherent right to land and resources from First Nations peoples.

In short, this is what we have always been talking about. Whether the particular focus has been on housing, or education or the environment, or whatever else. What lies at the heart of all these issues is our relationship with Canada. And Canada? This relationship is abusive.

Things are not getting better. In fact, many of us feel that things are getting worse. Many of us feel that the reason things aren't getting any better, is because Canada has forgotten it is a Treaty nation too.

When the relationship between indigenous peoples and Europeans first began here, it was based on Treaties of Peace and Friendship. As indigenous peoples understand this relationship, it is one that should work to the mutual benefit of all involved. That relationship quickly became overshadowed by one more focused on extinguishing aboriginal rights, particularly as they relate to the land.

I am not speaking about events hundreds of years ago. I am telling you that Canada continues to focus on stripping away all of our rights and land while at the same time telling the world that it is doing the opposite.

In this document Canada clearly lays out its interests in any negotiations it enters into with indigenous people. The term "certainty" has replaced "termination," but the intent is still the same.

I can go find dismal statistics on pretty much any aspect of life for indigenous peoples in this country; trot them all out and say, "look it's really bad" and you will nod and say, "wow it sure is," but that still won't make it clear for you. I need you -- WE need you, to see the forest and not just the trees.

Aaron Paquette does a wonderful job of highlighting why this is not just about indigenous peoples. It is about everyone living in Canada:

This is much greater than angry protesting natives, this is about becoming aware of the world in which you live.

First they gutted the sciences, long term studies that would help us understand our ecosystem better so we could develop more responsibly, and no one said a word.

Then they cut funding for our shared history and those who work to preserve it, while at the same time dumping tens of millions of dollars into celebrating a British colony war that happened before we were even a country, and still no one said anything.

Then the world was made aware of the shameful conditions for small children growing up on underfunded, polluted Reservations. A small murmur and then nothing.

And now, because of the apathy they see, this government has taken galling steps to sell out our wilderness, our resources and sovereignty. And not even to the highest bidder. It's a yard sale with no regard for responsibility or care for anyone who might be negatively affected (in other words, all of us).

From millions of protected waterways a couple weeks ago, we now have hundreds. Yes, you read that right.

So why are Canada's Indigenous Peoples the only ones who are standing up? Why are they now the World's Protectors?

What are the issues? The issues are many. The issues are well documented. The issues have been studied and researched and reported on ad nauseum until we have literally filled libraries with the issues and the recommendations and words, words, words.

What it all boils down to is this: Canada has not committed itself to addressing the colonial relationship it still has with indigenous peoples. Canada is in denial about that relationship. I think it's fair to say that most Canadians believe that kind of relationship no longer exists. We are trying to tell you that you are wrong.

Contrary to popular perception, indigenous peoples are not just about blockades and protests. We have engaged in every dialogue Canada has been willing to enter into since before Canada was even a nation. When the requirements changed, often arbitrarily, we complied. When Canada pulled out of the structures it built, dumping years of work down the tubes only to decide to set up a different structure and begin again, we were there, at the table, ready to do it over.

This has gone on for too long. The Canadian government continues to mouth platitudes about its supposed dedication to this relationship, while it slashes funding, ignores our emergencies, pulls out of comprehensive land claim discussions,

"consults" with us and then ignores everything we told them, all while pursuing a hard-line agenda which accepts only termination as a result.

We have been backed into a corner and we are literally fighting for our lives. We are literally dying, in so many preventable and unacceptable ways. I'm not being poetic or hyperbolic here and I don't just mean culturally. We are dying.

No one should expect us to stay quiet or polite about this. We have done what has been asked, we have played along to the constantly changing rules. It hasn't worked. It hasn't saved us. Idle No More is about saving ourselves.

We will continue to talk, and meet, and submit hundreds of thousands of reports each year...but we will also rise. We are rising. You will find that you have many issues in common with us, as Aaron pointed out. This is not us against you. This is hopefully all of us. Together.

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The Gazette

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Chief vows to die to help First Nations people

Attawapiskat leader goes on hunger strike to protest lack of respect for aboriginals

TERRY PEDWELL, The Canadian Press

Aboriginal Affairs Minister **John Duncan** is offering to meet this week with a northern Ontario chief who embarked on a hunger strike Tuesday out of frustration with the federal government.

Chief Theresa Spence of the remote Attawapiskat **First Nation** has vowed to "die" unless the government starts showing more respect to **First Nations** concerns and **aboriginal treaties**.

Spence wants the Crown, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and **aboriginal** leaders to work together to forge a new relationship.

An offer was extended last week to have Duncan's parliamentary secretary visit Attawapiskat to ensure the reserve has what it needs to get through the winter, said Jan O'Driscoll, a spokesman for the minister.

"We continue to look forward to her response," O'Driscoll said.

Duncan would also be prepared to meet Spence this week in Ottawa to discuss the state of her community, he added.

But the issues go well beyond Attawapiskat, Spence said in a statement.

The Harper government has embarked on an "aggressive, assimilatory legislative agenda" that flies in the face of the **United Nations** declaration on the rights of **indigenous** peoples, she complained.

And she accused Duncan's office of misleading the public about the social realities facing Canada's **First Nations**.

Spence was at the centre of an international media storm last year because of a winter **housing** crisis in her remote community.

She says she wants the federal government to withdraw recent legislation she claims was forced on **aboriginals**. She also wants it to reverse its decision to cut funding to **First Nation** organizations and communities.

Thousands of protesters in cities across the country took to the streets Monday in what has been dubbed the Idle No More movement against what they say are unilateral actions by the Harper government.

They are angry over a number of bills before Parliament, including one that would force **First Nations** to disclose their financial statements and the salaries of chiefs and councillors.

They are particularly upset with Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation, which they say weakens environmental laws.

For Spence, the pain of watching her people suffer through a lack of **housing** and inadequate **water** supplies proved a tipping point.

"The **treaty's** been violated (for) so many years and it's time for the prime minister to honour it," said Spence.

"I am willing to die for my people because the pain is too much and it's time for the government to realize what it's doing to us," she said.

One post on social media websites set up by the Idle No More organizers accuses the prime minister of abandoning **aboriginal** people.

"A few Canadians get E. coli sickness and Harper shuts down XL Foods," reads the post. "But Cree are dying in (Fort Chipewyan, Alta.) from toxins in their **water**, yet Harper keeps the tarsands open."

The government has said it holds thousands of consultations with **aboriginal** leaders every year and that Duncan has visited dozens of reserves over the last two years.

And it says it's still waiting for a strategy from Attawapiskat to deal with the community's **housing** shortage. ILLUS: JEAN LEVAC, POSTMEDIA NEWS / Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, at the centre of the Attawapiskat **housing** crisis last year, announced the beginning of a hunger strike on Parliament Hill on Monday.;

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YELLOWKNIFER

Protest in the cold

Marchers protest broken promises to aboriginal peoples

Laura Busch Northern News Services

A small but dedicated group of protesters marched down Franklin Avenue on Monday afternoon to express opposition to recent federal legislation they say undermines **treaty rights** and the authority of **aboriginal** people.

The protest was part of the national Idle No More movement, in which public marches were planned by **First Nations** groups in Vancouver, Whitehorse, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Sask., Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Ont., Toronto, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, N.L., and other communities on Dec. 10.

"We stand on the path of our ancestors and hold strong to our nation to nation relationships though **Treaty 8** and **11**. The Dene have always been and continue to be sovereign people," said Melaw Nakehk'o, as she addressed the crowd with her critique of Bill C-45, the federal government's omnibus budget bill which includes amendments to the **Indian Act**, among other legislative items.

"The passage of these bills is another colonial act that speaks to a small segment of society. Changes to any legislation must be conducted in the spirit and intent of our **treaties** with both nations having equal say. This legislation represents another attempt by the Canadian state to undermine indigenous sovereignty and the **inherent right** to land and resources of **First Nations** people."

The protest started off sparse, with about seven participants leaving from the **Dene Nation** building on 50 Street. More joined in as the group made its way along Franklin Avenue to the **Aboriginal Affairs** and Northern Development building, where Nakehk'o gave her public address.

The marchers demonstrated their commitment as the temperature dropped to -46 C with windchill over the noon hour, according to Environment Canada.

"I might lose a toe but at least someday hopefully my kids will have clean **water**," Kiera Kolson told Yellowknifer.

Kolson said she took inspiration for the event from one of her mentors, who told her, "They promised us as long as the grass grows and the river flows and the sun shines. But if they stop the grass from growing, the sun from shining and the rivers from flowing, that's when we have to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves."

Frustrations voiced during the protest were wide ranging. Some of the issues raised during the event included a lack of respect on the part of the federal government for **aboriginal treaty** rights and First Nations sovereignty, discrimination against **First Nations** people and the undermining of environmental management and protection.

"It can be easy to say, 'Oh, the **Indians** are mad,': Kolson said. "But why are we angry? What are we challenging? We are challenging something that is an enshrined and judiciary obligation by the **aboriginal**-Crown relationship. That is our **treaties** and that is what (Prime Minister Stephen Harper) is trying to remove."

Beyond anger, Kolson said she also finds reason to hope among other members of her generation.

"I'm so honored to be able to stand with these young people here because we are understanding and recognizing where our capacity and our strength is in this generation," she said. "Thirty-five years ago, our ancestors stood up and made history with the Berger Inquiry and, you know what, this government can get ready because our generation is educated and we are empowered." ILLUS: Laura Busch/NNSL photo Grey Gritt holds a protest sign on Franklin Avenue during an Idle No More demonstration, as Goota Ashoona looks on.

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Assemblée des Premières Nations - Le Chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations dit que les traités et que la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones doivent être mis en uvre pour réaliser les changements requis et mérités

Le Chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations dit que les traités et que la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones doivent être mis en uvre pour réaliser les changements requis et mérités

<http://www.newswire.ca/fr/story/1087269/le-chef-national-de-l-assemblee-des-premieres-nations-dit-que-les-traites-et-que-la-declaration-des-nations-unies-sur-les-droits-des-peuples-autochton>

OTTAWA, le 10 déc. 2012 /CNW/ - À l'occasion de la Journée internationale des droits de l'homme, le Chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations (APN), Shawn A-in-chut Atleo a souligné encore une fois l'importance de la mise en uvre des traités et des principes de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones. Ce geste deviendrait la base sur laquelle les changements essentiels recherchés pour les Premières Nations au Canada pourraient être réalisés.

« Il est complètement inacceptable, dans un pays comme le Canada, qu'une frange de la population ne puisse pas vivre dans un logement acceptable ou avoir accès à de l'eau potable, que des femmes disparaissent ou soient assassinées ou que des enfants ne disposent pas d'école à proximité. Ensemble, les Premières Nations se dressent avec toute leur force et toute leur énergie pour faire que ce moment inaugure une période de changement, un changement dont nous avons besoin et que nous méritons », a déclaré le Chef national de l'APN, Shawn Atleo. « Aujourd'hui et tous les jours, les membres des Premières Nations de tout le pays revendiquent leurs droits à la terre et aux territoires ainsi que les responsabilités qui y sont rattachées et défendent leurs collectivités et leurs peuples. Seule la mise en uvre complète des traités et des autres accords évolutifs, documents et témoignages de reconnaissance permettra d'entreprendre les transformations essentielles pour nos peuples. »

Pas plus tard que la semaine dernière, les Chefs des Premières Nations ont accepté, dans une déclaration unanime d'unité, de se dresser pour la défense de leurs terres, de leurs territoires, de leurs peuples et de leurs champs de compétence et de protéger l'intégrité des traités et des droits inhérents afin d'atteindre la stabilité économique et de protéger l'environnement. La déclaration, appuyée par les Chefs à l'Assemblée extraordinaire des Chefs de l'APN, le 7 décembre, demande la participation et l'appui pleins et entiers de tous les peuples des Premières Nations aux décisions ayant une incidence sur leurs droits inhérents et leurs droits issus de traités. En outre, les peuples des Premières Nations rejettent unanimement les politiques, les processus ou les lois d'assimilation ou de résiliation imposés par d'autres gouvernements. La déclaration vise à canaliser l'énergie des peuples autochtones pour qu'ils agissent dès maintenant de même qu'à faire de ce moment une période de changement fondée sur leurs droits et leurs responsabilités inaliénables.

L'APN s'est jointe aujourd'hui à la Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants, à l'Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, au Musée canadien des droits de la personne et au Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights pour lancer une initiative nationale sur la formation aux droits de la personne.

C'est le 10 décembre 1948 que la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme a été adoptée. Cette date marque depuis la Journée des droits de l'homme, célébrée dans le monde entier, au cours de laquelle on défend les droits de la personne et la pleine jouissance de tous les droits de la personne par tous et partout. Le thème de cette année, « Ma voix compte », vise à encourager les femmes, les jeunes, les minorités, les invalides, les peuples autochtones, les pauvres et les marginalisés à se faire entendre sur l'espace public et à participer aux décisions politiques.

« Aujourd'hui, dans tout le pays, des gestes ont été posés en vue du changement par nos peuples et pour nos peuples. Ils montrent que les Premières Nations sont là pour rester et qu'elles ne resteront pas inactives devant les mesures unilatérales adoptées par d'autres gouvernements », a déclaré le Chef national Atleo. « Ensemble, nous devons canaliser cette énergie, appuyer le changement fondé sur des gestes et créer un meilleur avenir pour nos peuples, avenir fondé sur des responsabilités et des droits clairs. »

Au cours de ce qu'on a appelé une journée nationale d'action et de solidarité, ou « Idle No More », des membres des Premières Nations et des sympathisants ont organisé des rassemblements et des manifestations dans tout le pays pour montrer leur opposition à une loi du gouvernement fédéral touchant les Premières Nations et pour faire comprendre que les besoins fondamentaux des Premières Nations doivent être satisfaits.

Le Canada a souscrit à la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones en novembre 2010.

L'Assemblée des Premières Nations est l'organisme national qui représente les citoyens des Premières Nations au Canada. Suivez l'APN sur Twitter : @AFN_Updtates, @AFN_Comms.

SOURCE : ASSEMBLEE DES PREMIERES NATIONS

Renseignements :

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Internal Article / Article interne

CTV Edmonton: Hundreds of First Nations, Métis, rally against Bill C-45

Hundreds of First Nations, Métis, rally against Bill C-45

A massive march was held in downtown Edmonton Monday, against the recently passed omnibus bill in Parliament.

Hundreds of people in Edmonton joined countless more across the country on Monday for a rally in opposition of the federal government's Bill C-45.

First Nations, Métis and supporters in Edmonton came together for an Idle No More' demonstration downtown Monday afternoon.

Police estimate more than 1,500 people attended the demonstration, which coincides with International Day for Human Rights.

Hundreds of Edmonton's First Nations, Metis and supporters gathered downtown on Monday in an Idle No More rally in opposition of the federal government's contentious omnibus budget bill.

First Nations, Metis and supporters across Canada are protesting Bill C-45, which they say infringes on treaty rights.

Hundreds of people in Edmonton joined countless more across the country on Monday for Idle No More rallies in opposition of the federal government's Bill C-45.

Police estimate more than 1,500 people attended Edmonton's Idle No More rally on Monday, Dec. 10, 2012.

"The reason we're gathering as one nation is because the Government of Canada, Stephen Harper, has put through an omnibus bill that will affect the treaties and the ability for the people on the treaty territories to make decisions in regards to land, resources and minerals," said Elder Taz Bouchier.

Bill C-45 was more than 400 pages long and, like its predecessors, made changes to a myriad of rules and regulations.

First Nations groups are concerned over changes to the Indian Act, some of which may affect the leasing of reserve lands and how decisions involving band territories are made. First Nations are also opposed to amendments to the Navigable Waters Protection Act, which removed thousands of lakes and streams from federal protection under that law, something the Conservatives said would help remove red tape that held up projects along waterways.

Opposition parties argue that it removes environmental oversight of some of Canada's most valued lakes and rivers.

"Bill C-45 specifically attacks the treaty statuses and treaty rights around lands in Canada and therefore we as a people have decided there needs to be mass movements across the nation, helping this government understand we are still here, the treaties are still alive and they need to be abided by," Bouchier said.

A group of First Nations chiefs frustrated with what they say is a lack of consultation over measures in the bill attempted to get in the chamber of the House of Commons last week and had a brief confrontation with security staff.

Pam Palmater, chair of indigenous governance of Toronto's Ryerson University told CTV's Power Play last week that

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CBC Northbeat Idle No More Campaign Protests Bill C-45

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Randy Henderson, Host: A grass roots protest movement has taken hold across the country. Idle No More sprang up to protest the governments omnibus budget bill, and the effects on First Nation communities. Leonard Linklater has this report on what took place in Whitehorse today.

Leonard Linklater: It was quickly organized outside Yukon MP Ryan Leif's office. Approximately 80 people showed up and only 2 of the Yukon's 15 Chiefs. Organizers say changes to legislation that would affect First Nations are being made without their input. The protesters used the Navigable Waters Act as an example.

Cherish Clarke, Organizer: So we have a huge movement happening and anything that happens to the land and happens to the water affects First Nations people so we need to stand unified and in solidarity

Leonard Linklater: While the protest came out of the First Nation communities, other groups say the issues affect the human rights of all Canadians to a clean environment and a say in how it's protected.

Sarah Newton, Council of Canadians: You can't take away human rights! You can't take away environmental rights! These are the rights we need to stand up and protect!

Leonard Linklater: Organizers want the Yukon's MP to vote against the omnibus bill. But their message is just as much for Yukon Chiefs who oppose Ottawa's efforts.

Cherish Clarke: That's what our ultimate goal is today, to have our First Nations leaders know we stand behind them and that we're here and listening and paying attention to what's happening in the country and happen here in the Yukon.

Leonard Linklater: First Nations concerns are being overlooked in the Peel planning process and oil and gas development in the territory. Leonard Linklater, CBC News, Whitehorse.

Randy Henderson: The turnout for Idle No More wasn't quite the same in Yellowknife.

A handful of people march from the Dene Nation office to the federal government's Greenstone building. The Dene nation says changes to environmental protection laws and Bill C-45 and C-27 violate Aboriginal treaty rights. Over a dozen rallies took place in places like Vancouver, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Edmonton.

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APTN interview with Idle No More founder Nina Wilson

>>Host: The Idle No More movement made its way across Canada today and despite the freezing weather in Winnipeg hundreds of people showed up to protest. They gathered at the steps of the Manitoba provincial legislative building, all against amendments to the Indian act that could affect the lives of many First Nations people. Nina Wilson explained why she and three other women began this movement four weeks ago.

>>Nina Wilson: There are sessions where we can educate about these bills, we can educate about legislation that directly affects our people. We can educate about the things that hold us back from being able to move and to act.

>> Michael: Nina Wilson is one of the people who got the Idle No More movement going. We spoke to her earlier this afternoon. You've had a busy day today. How are you feeling about the turnout in Winnipeg and across the country?

>>Wilson: I'm really happy. I'm proud of our people. I'm just -- I was overwhelmed earlier, kind of emotional because to see that many people coming together for something we all want, it's just overwhelming and awesome to see.

>> Michael: Good, good. Can you tell me a little bit, how did the Idle No More movement begin?

>>Wilson: Well, the Idle No More movement began with four ladies. We were all were involved in the talks and listening to different perspectives on what was going on with our people. We kept seeing things going by, these different kinds of things like the missing women, the direct attacks using legislation to undermine our Chiefs, undermine our leadership, and it really got to us. We decided to put something together and Idle No More became what it is. It just started with four people.

>>Michael: Did you know each other or was it something that started through social media?

>>Wilson: Well, I knew Sylvia, we just met through Facebook. We also met the others through Facebook. I like to use Facebook in a positive way. I like to use it for things that can move people past issues and things like that. I like to use it that way. This was a perfect chance to connect with all kinds of different people in different areas and that was perfect for us.

>> Michael: Maybe your mentioning of social media might add to this question. We often hear about apathy around our people. I helped plan a number of events, it can be hit or miss. The issues are always big, but whether people show up or not, you never know. In your mind, what does it take to get our people out on the street?

>>Wilson: Our people are the ones who do that. They are the movers and the shakers. They are the ones, they are hungry for something that will help us with the things going on with our communities, the deplorable ways we are living on and off reserve. There is a cry out there for the divide and conquer tactics that are used. We wanted to put something out there and it just took off, the people took off with it. They are the ones who made Idle No More what it is. It started out as something, we didn't realize it would become like this.

>> Michael: Is there something in the air? Is there something in the ground that has made this seed grow where others seeds haven't?

>>Wilson: I think it's just the ongoing onslaught with all the legislation that keeps sliding through. They are not properly being discussed with us. There is no nation-to-nation. They are being embedded in things like Budget Bills, things that are hard to understand, very bulky, very dense. People are getting tired of just being idle. People wanted to make a move and that's what's happened.

>> Michael: What happens now? We have seen this before where there is a movement and it dies out quickly, or it doesn't get the action it is looking for. So what will happen now? What happens if no action comes?

>>Wilson: I think people mistake this as another just talk about it. I think just the getting people to use their voices, getting

people to move and act is huge, and to be proud of the people that have done even the smallest things, that we consider small, and even those things are moving us out of that apathy, moving us out of that state where we don't know what to do. We have to remember that this is always the focus is the land, the water, the people. We have people right now that are struggling up North because the corporations are coming in with their nuclear waste storage and that's dangerous, that's scary. So what Idle No More wants to do in the beginning and continuing today is to create what we call teach-ins. What these do is help people go out there and discuss what these things are. I'm no expert. I learned by a crash course. I had to learn fast. I had to learn that people want this information. It's time now that we can start encouraging and being proud of the people that are making these efforts to make this happen.

>> Michael: Are you proud of yourself and First Nation people today?

>>Wilson: I'm very proud of our First Nation people. I don't know that I am proud of myself. I'm proud to be a part of this day and this movement, because I love our people. I love everything that's behind what we're trying to do. I'm very proud of our people.

>> Michael: I'm proud of our people, too.

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CBC Newsworld report on Chief Spence's hunger strike

>>Host: The Chief of Attiwapiskat is on a hunger strike. Meagan Thomas is following this story from Sudbury, Ontario.

>> Reporter: We were able to speak with Chief Spence yesterday and she tells us she's seen too much suffering over the years her community. You of course remember that Attiwapiskat was thrust into the headlines just about a year ago in fact due to a housing crisis. A couple of dozen people were living in tents and shacks without adequate plumbing and heating. That did prompt a response from the federal government. It did send some prefabricated homes to the community to help ease that crisis. But the reserve is still dealing with issues of poverty and overcrowding, and now Chief Spence traveled to Parliament Hill yesterday and she, in front of the Parliament, said that she is going to go on this hunger strike, and she is demanding a meeting with the Prime Minister. She wants him to agree to meet to talk about treaty issues for First Nations across the country. I should also mention that this comes on the heels of a day of rallies in several Canadian cities, a grass roots campaign called "Idle no More" was gathering people together, trying to educate them and express concerns about recent federal legislation that they say is an attack on First Nations rights and also that would give the federal government more control over reserve land. So now we have Chief Spence with the lone protest in Ottawa, and we are seeing a growing wave of frustration across the country.

>> Suhana: Any response from the Harper government?

>> Reporter: At this point we had a statement from Minister John Duncan, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and the statement does highlight consultation efforts with First Nations. It says there's been some 5,000 consultations in the last couple of years. So we will have to see now that Chief Spence has commenced this hunger strike this morning in Ottawa. We'll have to see if there's more of a response from the Harper government.

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CP: Chief vows to "die" if necessary to improve the lot of aboriginal people

Chief vows to "die" if necessary to improve the lot of aboriginal people

OTTAWA - Aboriginal protests against recent federal legislation are gaining momentum, with at least one prominent chief vowing to die for her people.

Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat started a hunger strike this morning, hoping to persuade the prime minister and the Queen to build a better relationship with aboriginal leaders. Spence's northern Ontario community was at the centre of an international media storm last year because of a winter housing crisis.

Thousands of protesters in cities across the country took to the streets Monday in what has been dubbed the Idle No More movement against what they say are unilateral actions by the Harper government. They are angry over a number of bills before Parliament, including one that would force First Nations to disclose their financial statements and the salaries of chiefs and councillors.

They are particularly upset with Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation, which they say weakens environmental laws.

For Spence, the pain of watching her people suffer through a lack of housing and inadequate water supplies was the tipping point. "The treaty's been violated (for) so many years and it's time for the prime minister to honour it and respect our leaders," said Spence, who is staying in a cabin on an island in the Ottawa River while she goes without food. "I am willing to die for my people because the pain is too much and it's time for the government to realize what it's doing to us," she said. "I am not afraid to die. If that's the journey for me to go, then I will go."

One post on social media websites set up by the Idle No More organizers accuses Prime Minister Stephen Harper of abandoning aboriginal people. "A few Canadians get E.coli sickness and Harper shuts down XL Foods," reads the post, referring to the recent closure of an Alberta meat processing plant over a contamination scare. "But Cree are dying in (Fort Chipewyan, Alta.) from toxins in their water, yet Harper keeps the tar sands open."

The government says it holds thousands of consultations with aboriginal leaders every year and that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan has visited dozens of reserves over the last two years.

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Assemblée des Premières Nations - Le Chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations dit que les traités et que la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones doivent être mis en uvre pour réaliser les changements requis et mérités

Le Chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations dit que les traités et que la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones doivent être mis en uvre pour réaliser les changements requis et mérités

<http://www.newswire.ca/fr/story/1087269/le-chef-national-de-l-assemblee-des-premieres-nations-dit-que-les-traites-et-que-la-declaration-des-nations-unies-sur-les-droits-des-peuples-autochton>

OTTAWA, le 10 déc. 2012 /CNW/ - À l'occasion de la Journée internationale des droits de l'homme, le Chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations (APN), Shawn A-in-chut Atleo a souligné encore une fois l'importance de la mise en uvre des traités et des principes de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones. Ce geste deviendrait la base sur laquelle les changements essentiels recherchés pour les Premières Nations au Canada pourraient être réalisés.

« Il est complètement inacceptable, dans un pays comme le Canada, qu'une frange de la population ne puisse pas vivre dans un logement acceptable ou avoir accès à de l'eau potable, que des femmes disparaissent ou soient assassinées ou que des enfants ne disposent pas d'école à proximité. Ensemble, les Premières Nations se dressent avec toute leur force et toute leur énergie pour faire que ce moment inaugure une période de changement, un changement dont nous avons besoin et que nous méritons », a déclaré le Chef national de l'APN, Shawn Atleo. « Aujourd'hui et tous les jours, les membres des Premières Nations de tout le pays revendiquent leurs droits à la terre et aux territoires ainsi que les responsabilités qui y sont rattachées et défendent leurs collectivités et leurs peuples. Seule la mise en uvre complète des traités et des autres accords évolutifs, documents et témoignages de reconnaissance permettra d'entreprendre les transformations essentielles pour nos peuples. »

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Le Canada a souscrit à la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones en novembre 2010.

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SOURCE : ASSEMBLEE DES PREMIERES NATIONS

Renseignements :

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CBC World Report: Day of Action

>>Host: There is a growing unrest among Aboriginal communities over at the federal government's plan to change the Indian Act. They say the changes will make it easier for Ottawa to control reserve land. That has one Chief northern Ontario starting a hunger strike today. The Chief of the Attawapiskat First Nation says she won't eat until the Prime Minister agrees to a treaty meeting for all First Nations. Meghan Thomas has more on that story.

>>Reporter: Standing on Parliament Hill Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence says she's watched too much suffering.

>>Chief Spence: It's been so many years this has been happening.

>>Reporter: Pictures from Attawapiskat of shacks and tents without proper heating and plumbing made national headlines last year.

>>Chief Spence: It's time to tell the government we need to have a better dialogue, to have a partnership. You know, as we speak our people are suffering because of the decision that's made by the government.

>>Reporter: The federal government rushed to ship prefabricated homes north to help ease the crisis, but like many northern reserves Attawapiskat continues to deal with poverty and over-crowding. The hunger strike comes on the heels of a national day of action from Aboriginal communities called "Idle no More". It was called to raise awareness about new federal legislation some say attacks the rights of First Nations. The protest in front of the Manitoba Legislature drew three hundred people yesterday. A couple of dozen people occupied the lobby of an Aboriginal Affairs office in Thunder Bay. The protests around the country caught the attention of Members of Parliament.

>>Jean Crowder (NDP): We have Chiefs driven to desperate measure. The Idle No More was launched on social media by young Aboriginal women and men who want more for their future.

>>Greg Rickford: We're taking every opportunity we can to share our priorities and consult appropriately with First Nations on all of these files.

>>Reporter: Meanwhile, Chief Spence from Attawapiskat says she will stay on a hunger strike until she feels the federal government has addressed her concerns.

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OTTAWA CITIZEN (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A5

Chief to go on hunger strike until PM meets with her

'I'm willing to die,' leader says

Cullen Bird, Ottawa Citizen

Attawapiskat **First Nations** Chief Theresa Spence said Monday she was ready to die in her campaign to get a treaty meeting with the prime minister.

"I'm willing to die for my people because the pain is too much and it's time for the government to realize what (it's) doing to us," she said Monday on Parliament Hill, where she announced her intention to go on a hunger strike until Stephen Harper and a representative of the Queen agree to a meeting.

"If that's the journey for me to go, I'll go."

Monday marked a day of protest for people of the Idle No More movement, which seeks to force action on the issue of land treaties. One of the driving forces behind the movement is the imminent passage of the omnibus budget bill, Bill C-45, which makes changes to protection of lakes and rivers, among other changes.

"The way all these things are coming from the government, it's crippling our people. It's not our way," Spence said.

Spence said that it was not the prime minister's right to take control away from **First Nations** leadership.

"That's not his role. His role is to work together (with **First Nations**) and build a future together."

Spence said that she was driven to go on a hunger strike after chiefs at the annual Assembly of **First Nations**, held last week in Gatineau, raised concerns about the state of the treaties and decided to take those concerns to the Hill.

The group tried to walk into the floor of the House of Commons to demand they be heard, but were stopped at the door by parliamentary security.

One of the supporters at Monday's press conference was Cliff Summers, a Mohawk of the Oneida nation who has lived in Ottawa for 12 years.

"There was a decision by a lot of the grassroots people that we have to take a stand and we have to take action, because inaction is what's killing our people," Summers said of the Idle No More movement.

Spence plans to begin her hunger strike at a sunrise ceremony Tuesday morning on Victoria Island.

The conditions at Attawapiskat first came to national attention a year ago, when it was revealed that dozens of residents of the Northern Ontario reserve were living in atrocious accommodations as winter approached. ILLUS: Jean Levac, Ottawa Citizen / Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, speaking on Parliament Hill Monday, announced the beginning of a hunger strike until the prime minister meets with her to discuss treaties.;

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Winnipeg Free Press

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400 First Nations protesters march for treaty rights

Rallies organized on social media

Alexandra Paul

Canada's **aboriginal rights** activists stressed peace as the watchword for Winnipeg supporters who tuned in to Twitter and turned out for a lunchtime rally. Michael Champagne, a North End community organizer, told a crowd of 400 that Monday's event at the legislature was the start of building an active grassroots movement from one end of the country to another.

"We are demanding to be taken seriously as one nation by the government of Canada," said Champagne, who spent the last year leading rallies at the Bell Tower on Salter Avenue to build up community spirit. "And we will not be ignored."

The message is stern but the methods aren't, said the slight young man with the engaging grin.

"We will stand together in a peaceful revolution... This is our land and we are not going anywhere," he declared.

Under the banner Idle No More, a grassroots movement used Facebook and Twitter to call for simultaneous rallies across the country Monday. Attacks on **aboriginal rights** galvanized the buzz for rallies in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay and Toronto.

The intent is to use social media to mobilize and draw attention to threats to land and **treaty rights**. The round of rallies wraps up with a rally on Parliament Hill on Dec. 21.

The Winnipeg crowd waved flags and sang on the steps of the legislature about an hour after the rally started at noon.

Community leaders and rights activists took turns at the microphone. Many of the province's **aboriginal** leaders attended, but for the most part, they stood behind the organizers.

The task was to lay out the details of a suite of federal bills that alter **aboriginal rights**. Chief among them is the federal omnibus budget bill that would erode land and **treaty rights** and laws that once protected the environment.

The sharp tang of sage filled the air as Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak joined a drum group in a rendition of The Longest Walk, the anthem of the American **Indian** Movement. AIM led an armed standoff that ended in the death of two FBI agents in Wounded Knee, S.D., in 1973.

One of the Idle No More organizers cautioned the crowd that the federal government may try to cast the rallies as radical.

"They are trying to make us look like radicals but that's not what we stand for," Jerry Daniels said.

Master of ceremonies Wab Kinew urged people in the crowd to work at home to make a better life.

"Take the energy you have here today back to your community so we truly will be idle no more," he said.

Among the crowd were **university** students and band members bused in from **First Nations** outside the city, such as Sandy Lake **First Nation**, 165 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg.

Arron Levasseur, from Sandy Bay, carried a sign that read, "If you don't want to honour our **treaty rights**, go home, Harper."

alexandra.paul@freepress.mb.ca

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The StarPhoenix

THE STARPHOENIX (SASKATOON) (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A1 / FRONT

Protesters rally against omnibus bills

Hannah Spray, The StarPhoenix

Hundreds of people rallied in Saskatoon to oppose the federal government's omnibus budget bill and other legislation they say threatens **aboriginal rights**.

"We are here in a peaceful way because our human rights have been violated and will continue to be violated if we continue to stand idle," Dion Tootoosis said Monday before leading the large group from a community centre on 20th Street to Conservative MP Kelly Block's constituency office on 22nd Street.

Once there, the crowd first occupied one lane of westbound traffic, plus the parking lot outside Block's office. Police arrived after about 10 minutes and blocked the westbound lanes of travel, directing traffic in a detour around the rally.

People continued to arrive at the rally between noon and 12:45 p.m., with the crowd swelling to about 500.

The protesters then marched east to the Ramada Hotel on Idylwyld Drive, where speakers addressed the crowd.

The rally was part of at least 13 nationwide rallies held on Monday, part of a movement called Idle No More.

Organizer Jessica Gordon said Stephen Harper's government has been systematically attacking **aboriginal rights**.

"We're asserting our sovereignty against the colonial legislation being pushed through by the government," she said.

One of the provisions in the omnibus budget bill, which was passed last week, changes the **Indian Act** so band councils no longer need majority community support to lease out parcels of reserve land, a change that protesters say was made without any consultation with **First Nations**.

Protesters are also concerned about changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Fisheries Act that reduce federal environmental oversight of bodies of **water**. Those changes affect all Canadians, not just **First Nations**, said Priscilla Settee, a professor at the **University** of Saskatchewan.

"It's not just indigenous rights," she said in an interview before the rally began.

"It's everybody's rights - safety of **water**, land, decisions that are really going to impact all Canadians' rights."

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde spoke to the crowd at the Ramada Hotel, picking up on that theme.

He said there are more than 850 "pieces of information" in the government's two omnibus budget bills.

"How can anyone get their head around that and deal with it?" he asked.

"It is not only our right, but it's our responsibility as indigenous peoples to be stewards of the land and protect mother Earth," Belle-garde said.

"When the waters are affected, that affects all of us."

hspray@thestarphoenix.com ILLUS: Gord Waldner, The Starphoenix / Protesters march to Conservative MP Kelly Block's constituency office on 22nd Street on Monday.; Gord Waldner, The Starphoenix / Protesters block traffic on Monday as part of a Idle No More rally.;

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THE CALGARY SUN (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: 18

Natives rally against budget bill

SHAWN LOGAN CALGARY SUN

Hoping to turn the tide against legislation they fear threatens traditional **treaties**, some 500 **Natives** and supporters gathered downtown to rally against the federal government.

Calgary's protest, done in conjunction with similar "Idle No More" rallies in a dozen Canadian cities, primarily focused on opposition to Bill C-45, an omnibus federal budget bill including changes to the **Indian Act**.

Through a din of drums and chants, the gathering of Alberta **Treaty 7 Natives** marched from Olympic Plaza to the federal Harry Hays building.

Autumn Eaglespeaker, a member of Alberta's Kinai **First Nation** and one of the principle organizers of Calgary's rally, said both Bill C-45 and a host of other proposed pieces of legislation aim to "divide and conquer" **Aboriginals** and their leaders.

"They're trying to impose municipal- style governing on **First Nations** people," she said. "We need to send a clear message. We're tired of our leadership and we're calling on our people to take action."

Eaglespeaker said among the more troubling proposals are changes to rules around land negotiations, band elections and imposing provincial jurisdiction on **schools** on reserves.

shawn.logan@sunmedia.ca @SUNShawnLogan ILLUS: photo by Mike Drew, Calgary Sun Native protesters gathered in front of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's constituency office to deliver letters of protest to the federal government Monday, specifically against the federal budget bill that could change how **Aboriginals** interact with their governments.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CTV Calgary: Day of Action protest in Calgary

>> Chris: Hundreds of people rallied outside Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Calgary office. They're protesting against Bill C- 45, the far reaching bill includes changes to the Indian Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Fisheries Act among others. Many First Nations groups say these changes will have a drastic effect on their communities and that there should have been a lot more consultation. The protesters want Canadians to know that this is only the beginning of their opposition to the controversial Omnibus Bill.

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Internal Article / Article interne

QP: Day of Action

>> Carolyn Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the outrage of first nations leaders across this country is not only understandable, but justified. This paternalistic government refuses to listen to or partner with first nations and has broken their trust. On education, housing, water, tragic gaps in health outcomes, insulting lack of consultation on a mountain of legislation it's imposing on first nations. Attawapiskat chief Theresa Spence will have a hunger strike here. Will the minister of aboriginal affairs meet with Chief Spence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> Greg Rickford (PS): We have a strong desire to continue working in partnership with the first nation leadership to improve the quality of life in Attawapiskat. In fact by the end of this year, we will have spent over \$131 million in that community. We started on construction of a brand-new school to benefit more than 500 students. We have built, delivered or renovated more than 60 homes, and we remain committed to supporting this community and we urge the chief and council to accept our repeated offers to develop a long-term housing strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**

>> Jean Crowder: Mr. Speaker, today, aboriginal men, women and leaders will take part in over 13 demonstrations across the country. December 10th will now be known as the National Day of Action and Solidarity against the Conservatives' legislative agenda which is attacking the rights of the first nations without consulting them. When will the Conservatives finally keep the promises made during the meeting between the Crown and the first nations?

>> Greg Rickford (PS): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since 2010, the minister has visited 50 first nations communities and had hundreds of productive meetings with chiefs and councils and aboriginal communities across the country. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we are conducting more than 5,000 consultations with the first nations every year. Our government respects its duty to consult the first nations and, if necessary, to respond to their requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> Jean Crowder: Mr. Speaker, we have chiefs driven to desperate measures. Chief Theresa Spence is on the hill commencing a hunger strike today. The campaign was launched on social media by young aboriginal men and women who want more for their future. They're tired of the Conservative empty promises, unilateral decision making and court challenges. As a national chief has said, the clock is ticking and patience is running out. Will the minister listen to the grass roots voices who are demanding a say in their future?

>> Greg Rickford (PS): Well, we certainly will, Mr. Speaker, and we certainly have. That's how we came to the action plan for water and waste water treatment, consulting from coast to coast to coast. We heard from grass roots community members from coast to coast to coast with respect for increasing financial transparency and accountability. And we're delivering on that legislation, Mr. Speaker. We're taking every opportunity we can to share our priorities and consult appropriately with first nations on all of these key files. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Winnipeg Free Press: Several dozen brave cold at aboriginal rally

With hand drums and a cluster of symbolic flags, about 75 supporters are rallying for aboriginal rights in Winnipeg.

And they've moved the afternoon event across the street to the steps of the legislature. The rally started at Memorial Park but moved at noon to the steps.

Under the banner, Idle No More, a grassroots movement driven by Facebook and Twitter, is staging rallies in Canadian cities from Calgary to Ottawa Monday to draw attention to aboriginal treaty and land rights.

One aboriginal chief's adviser in Winnipeg said Monday that some people are calling it a 'Red Tide' sweeping the country, much like the Arab Spring did in the Middle East. The chiefs are standing behind the organizers but they're not organizing the events, the adviser said.

Winnipeg's rally is to be held at Memorial Park across from the legislature from noon until after 3 p.m.

There's an agenda for the rally that lists entertainers and lots of community leaders. The MC is Wab Kinew, the hip hop artist-turned CBC journalist who now heads up a directorship on indigenous issues at the University of Winnipeg.

By 11 a.m., a couple of thousand had clicked on "Going" on the event's Facebook site.

Some of Manitoba's chiefs wrap up the speakers' podium part; before the music starts at 3 p.m. with aboriginal singers Tracey Bone and J.C. Campbell.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC: Idle No More rally draws 100 to Manitoba legislature

First Nations across Canada are holding rallies to express opposition to proposed legislation by the federal government that they feel is a direct attack on aboriginal rights.

The national day of action and solidarity, called Idle No More, drew about 100 protestors to the Manitoba legislative grounds on Monday, despite the bitter cold.

Many held signs and flags in protest to bill C-45, the federal government's omnibus budget bill, which proposes significant changes to the Indian Act, including changes to land management on reserves that make it easier for the federal government to control reserve land, rally organizers said.

The Idle No More movement emerged about four weeks ago in Saskatchewan as an effort to educate First Nations people on the multitude of legislation being put forward by the government.

People at the Winnipeg rally chanted "we have a voice" alongside traditional drummers and singers.

Organizers said the rally is also about a larger issue, that of the federal government's habit of making changes to the Indian Act without consulting First Nations people beforehand.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CKOM Regina: Hundreds of First Nations gather to protest C-45

Hundreds of First Nations gather to protest C-45
Chelsea Laskowski

A cold day didn't keep hundreds of First Nations people and supporters from rallying against the federal omnibus budget bill at the legislature in Regina on Sunday.

Summer Weasel was among them.

"My hands are frozen but I feel like I'm doing the right thing."

She came with friends who said they were there to stand up for their treaty rights. Among other things, Bill C-45 will change management of reserve land and protection of rivers and lakes across the country.

"We're not going to let Stephen Harper do this to us because it's just wrong. He has no right to do it, to break another treaty. A lot of people would be really mad."

Chief Barry Kennedy from Carry the Kettle First Nation spoke to the large crowd about treaty rights that his ancestors fought for.

"It's being broken by a disrespectful government. One that has no regards for me, you, your children, nothing," he said, pausing as the crowd to cheer and beat a drum in agreement.

"We own this land. We are the landlords. It's time, it's time for the warriors to stand up. And a warrior is two things. One is to protect their family and the other is to provide. These bills are taking all of that away from you. They're taking your land, they're taking your water. Your inherent right to water."

A drum circle, dancers, smudge ceremony and speeches made for a lively prayer gathering.

They prayed for people across the country and in Ottawa who are rallying against the bill with the Idle No More campaign.

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Internal Article / Article interne

APTN News: Attawapiskat chief launches hunger strike to force treaty meeting with PM, Queen

Attawapiskat chief launches hunger strike to force treaty meeting with PM, Queen

OTTAWAAttawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence plans to begin a hunger strike in Ottawa this week and continue until Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Queen agree to a treaty meeting with First Nations in Canada or she meets her "ancestors."

Spence was supposed to begin her hunger strike in Ottawa Monday morning but weather delayed her flight into the city from Toronto. Spence arrived in the city at about 11 a.m. and she planned to hold a press conference later in the day. She was also scheduled to have a conference call with former AFN candidate Pam Palmater and members from the Idle No More campaign, which also kicked off Monday.

Spence plans to begin her hunger strike on Tuesday morning.

Spence said in an open-letter she wouldn't end her hunger strike until Harper and Queen Elizabeth II or one of her representatives agreed to the treaty meeting.

"I will return to my traditional territory after such a meeting is held, or return to spend time with my ancestors in the traditional lands of my people," said Spence, in an open letter released early Monday morning.

In the open letter, Spence said she decided to go on a hunger strike after "months" of consideration and meetings with elders.

"After a long period of reflection, the time is at hand for a clear statement," said Spence.

Spence said the Canadian government was trying to "isolate" and "assimilate" First Nations people.

"This process of marginalizing our political leadership, along with the enforced segregation of our people is part of a deliberate (attempt) to isolate our people, marginalize our people and ultimately assimilate our people so that our rich heritage can be wiped out and the great bounty contained in our traditional lands be made available for exploitation by large multi-national companies," said Spence.

Spence plans to spend her days during the hunger strike on Parliament Hill and her evenings on nearby Victoria Island where she will sleep inside a cabin there.

The Attawapiskat chief will be meeting with Assembly of First Nations officials before beginning her hunger strike. The AFN is helping her with her protest, said Danny Metatawbin, from Attawapiskat. An AFN spokeswoman said Spence's hunger strike was "a personal initiative."

Spence's community of Attawapiskat burst onto the national consciousness last fall after images of the community's deplorable housing flashed across the country's television screens.

The Harper government, however, attacked the community, blaming the band for its housing situation. Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan took away the band's control over its finances and imposed a third-party manager.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC Thunder Bay: Interview with Pam Palmater on Day of Action

>>Host: First Nations people say they're fed up with government decisions that continue to leave them at a disadvantage and it's time to do something about it. Grassroots leaders are trying to gain support for their cause. Today, the international day of human rights, they're calling for a national day of action. There are several rallies taking place here in Northwestern Ontario. Pamela Palmater is Chair of indigenous governance at Ryerson University. This morning by the way she is in Saddle Lake First Nation in Alberta. I want you to explain exactly what this no more campaign is all about.

>>Palmater: Well it's really you know a collective of grassroots people all across the country saying it's time that we pushed back. The Canadian government has continued to push and push and push against the most impoverished people in this country. They continue to exclude us. Now we're just saying we're not going to take it anymore essentially.

>Host: Is there anything that sparked it right now?

>>Palmater: Oh yeah, most definitely, The kind of trigger was you have this Crown First Nation gathering where the Prime Minister says, you know, we are going to have a new relationship, don't worry I'm not going to unilaterally impose legislation or change in the Indian Act or do anything, let's just kind of start over. The Crown First Nations gathering didn't get two seconds to be over when he just implemented this massive legislative agenda which if you put all of that ten or eleven pieces of legislation together is essentially like the white paper from 1969 which just wanted to get rid of us all together. Then you have massive funding cuts to both First Nations advocacy organizations and individual communities, and we're already at the bottom of the barrel here. What do we have to lose by standing up to the bullies?

>>Host: We've got three rallies taking place that I know of here Northwestern Ontario, one in Thunder Bay today, one in Dryden, one in Kenora. What kinds of action are people taking across this country?

>>Palmater: Well, the great thing about it is it's all varied, so there is no one leader no election, no one getting paid to do this, so it is coming from the grassroots. With some it'll be information sessions in their communities to help bring people up to speed. For some it'll be rallies, others it will be marches, others it'll be protests before government building, for some they'll be doing cultural ceremonies. For others, if you look at Chief Spence from Attawapiskat, she'll be doing a hunger strike in Ottawa. There is just a wide range of events.

>>Host: What are you doing today?

>>Palmater: Well I'm in Saddle Lake First Nation to bring the community members up to speed on what all the legislation is doing, how devastating it is, the level of funding cuts and helping to co-ordinate strategic action going forward, and then I'm going to Edmonton because there are protests in Edmonton, so we're going to join in there.

>>Host: And I understand that here in Thunder Bay there's a rally happening in Eagle Lakes and they're holding a rally as well and in Kenora outside MP Greg Rickford's office. Where do you go from here?

>>Palmater: Well that's the thing, so we're sending a really strong message to Harper that you know when we talk about reset the relationship we mean we are resetting it right now today, so withdraw the legislation withdraw the funding cuts because if not then this is just going to get bigger and bigger and bigger, and the last thing we want is for things to escalate for him to hear us. We would much rather have him revert back to a democratic process than the current one that he'd engaged in.

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Internal Article / Article interne

City-TV Winnipeg: Day of Action

>> Host: Manitoba's Aboriginal community is holding a day of protest today to show opposition to Bill C45 being discussed in Ottawa. It's part of a grassroots movement called "Idle no more", where people will hold rallies against the Bill. They say Bill C45 will give the federal government more power over indigenous lands and give energy companies easier access to lands. First Nations are upset they were never consulted on the Bill and accuse the government of ignoring treaties.

>>Grand Chief Derek Nepinak (AMC): We are and will remain the indigenous people of these lands. We have been here for 30,000 years, and no legislation, no act of government, no regulation or policy created by a settler society government like the Conservative government is going to replace or terminate the existence of our people.

>>Host: The Winnipeg event starts at noon today on the front steps of the Manitoba Legislature. Other protests will be held across the country.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Turlte Island Native Network: "Idle No More" Day of Action Rallies

"Idle No More" Peace March and Peace Rally - National Day of Action Monday, December 10, 2012. Locations: Calgary, Alberta 11:30 a.m. Peace March 3 Street & 8 Avenue, SW; down Stephen Avenue to Olympic Plaza 12:30 p.m. Peace Rally at Olympic Plaza Calgary, Alberta Constituency office of Prime Minister Stephen Harper Glenmore Landing, Suite A203, 1600 90 Av SW. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan 12:00 p.m. Gathering at Rainbow Community Center (808 20th Street) 1:00 p.m. March to MP Kelly Block's Office. Happy Valley Goose Bay, Labrador MP Peter Penashue's Office at 217 Hamilton River Road 12 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - North Battleford, Saskatchewan Parking Lot across from the Court House 12 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Standoff, Alberta Red Crow Park 12:00 p.m. - Thunder Bay, Ontario Indian Affairs Building, 100 Animkii Drive 10 a.m. 2 p.m. - Vancouver, B.C. 11:00 am Depart from Native Education College (located at 285 east 5th) to march to the Vancouver Art Gallery. Winnipeg, Manitoba Legislative Building 12 p.m. - Whitehorse, Yukon Outside of MP Ryan Leef's Constituency Office, corner of Black Street and Second Avenue. 12 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Why: We will not be Idle No More. This is a call for unification of Indigenous Peoples and allies, in protection of the lands and waters shared by us all.

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Internal Article / Article interne

December 11 Tweets of Idle No More and Day of Action

Amazing day, huge turn-out at #idlenomore Edmonton. Thanks to the amazing organizers! And where's the nat'l media?

You can pass laws to run roughshod over First Nations, but you will need the National Guard to protect unwelcome industry

Harper really doesn't care what happens to First Nations

Lots of talk of how mainstream media is ignoring this...meanwhile, First Nations chiefs are ignoring media!

Why are you not reporting on what is going on with the Bill C-45 issue and First Nations.

Got Arab Spring? Minister of AANDC John Duncan seems to be dismissive of #IdleNoMore says it is just "social media".

AA Minister John Duncan asked by #cbc what #idlenomore is about: "Thats social media, they're there b/c of social media"

"That's social media, so we'll just have to see where that goes." Aboriginal Affairs Minister on what #idlenomore is about

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Internal Article / Article interne

Facebook posts on Day of Action

Atleo met with the Feds ..GRRR... I hope he either resigns, or the Chiefs put forward a non-confidence motion. Either way, he HAS to be done!

Harper's War on the First Peoples has gone on far too long. While the people have been sleeping he has established a beachhead in the cultural extermination of the original owners of this country. It is already late in the game so the response from FN and aboriginal peoples must be strong steadfast.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Day of Action Tweet pack 2

Today is national action against Harper's Bill C-45 attack on First Nations & Cdn waters idlenomore.com

Rallys to support the rights of Canadian First Nations are taking place across Canada today. What better way to...

Today First Nations will stand up to you and the Conservative Government. We say no to Bill C-45!!

First Nations people are going to have protest against bill-c45 and none have the News media have covered any of it....yet!

There's a protest going on today in Ottawa, chief of Attawapiskat is going on hungry strike for our treaty rights & our Rez

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence begins hungar strike, says she's prepared to die for treaty rights.

Attawapiskat chief Theresa Spence to start hunger strike today, until Ottawa makes commitment to honour treaties. Lets show her our support!

Published | Publié: 2012-12-10
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Internal Article / Article interne

Day of Action Tweet pack 1

There has to be a #revolution, Canada! #Indigenous homelands ARE NOT FOR SALE

Bundle up for #Idlenomore in Winnipeg!! It'll be cold but worth it!! To show the world we're united, Canada.AMC will be there

Rise up my people!

Prayer. Peace. Protest. When the sun rises tomorrow, so shall we.

Revolution time Canada!!

Non-Indigenous responsibility to act, support and be in solidarity today (and every day)

Attawapiskat Chief Spence says in her letter hunger strike will last until Ottawa, Queen take treaties seriously #IdleNoMore #cdnpoli

Nothing in the news today about #IdleNoMore, it's like living in parallel worlds that don't touch. Hopefully today will break that barrier!

No students protesting or even noticing #IdleNoMore in Montreal, though indigenous issues glaringly absent from that struggle so...

"Bill C 45 is not just about a budget,

Indigenous land rights! No more tar sands!

The Conservative Government thinks can get away with bullying Indigenous people & ignoring 60% of Canada. Guess again.

Native People will be gathering across Canada today for our rights, women and children.

Firstnations will be heard today, #idlenomore lets impeach the crime minister !

Time for solidarity across Indian Country

Stand up for your rights and against government ignorance and greed.

FirstNatons need to be heard, and today will be it

Calling all citizens in #Canada to support First Nations brothers & sisters in #idlenomore. Now is the time to reconcile.

Julien Houle - Re: Idle No More blockade

From: Ellen Funk
To: Bernard Etzinger; Carole Myers; Lesia Manchulenko
Date: 12/14/2012 2:02 PM
Subject: Re: Idle No More blockade

media are now reporting that the blockade will take place tomorrow. It's being organized by a resident of Sandy Bay First Nation. RCMP are responding to questions about the blockade itself.

Link to media story below:

[//www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/Sandy-Bay-residents-to-shut-down-Trans-Canada-Highway-Saturday-183518341.html](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/Sandy-Bay-residents-to-shut-down-Trans-Canada-Highway-Saturday-183518341.html)

>>> Carole Myers 12/14/2012 12:39 PM >>>
Thanks for the heads up Ellen.

>>> Ellen Funk 12/14/2012 1:18 PM >>>
Hi Carole,

Just fyi - we are hearing reports of an "Idlenomore" blockade on number 1 highway between Winnipeg and Brandon.

Julien Houle - Fw: Idle No More

From: Michael Wernick
To: Etzinger, Bernard <Bernard.Etzinger@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 12/19/2012 10:15 AM
Subject: Fw: Idle No More
Attachments: Idle No More News Release.docx; Idle No More Detailed timeline & to do list.docx

>>> Peter Dinsdale <PDinsdale@afn.ca> 12/19/2012 10:12:02 AM >>>

From: Lynda Kitchikeesic [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 5:41 PM
To: Jenna Young; Jennifer Brennan; wayne russett; Phong N; bensonm@ottawapolice.ca; Jason (JUS) Findlay; [REDACTED] chuck; Pertrina.Bonia@ottawa.ca; demonstrations daigle; [REDACTED] cfilazzola@nan.on.ca
Cc: KeeleyE@ottawapolice.ca
Subject: Re: Idle No More

Hi Y'All,
 Here is the updated todo list (with sound people/vehicle identified) & working timeline
 AND the news release with speakers list that went out late today.
 Meegwetch,
 Lynda [REDACTED]

From: Lynda Kitchikeesic <lkitchikeesic@yahoo.com>
To: "jyoung@afn.ca" <jyoung@afn.ca>; "jbrennan@afn.ca" <jbrennan@afn.ca>; wayne russett <wayne.russett@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>; Phong N <LeP@ottawapolice.ca>; "benonm@ottawapolice.ca" <benonm@ottawapolice.ca>; Jason (JUS) Findlay <Jason.Findlay@ontario.ca>; [REDACTED] chuck <chuck.kaizer@ontario.ca>; "Pertrina.Bonia@ottawa.ca" <Pertrina.Bonia@ottawa.ca>; demonstrations daigle <CI-ParliamentHill-ICCollineduParlement@pch.gc.ca>; "pdinsdale@afn.ca" <pdinsdale@afn.ca>; "cfilazzola@nan.on.ca" <cfilazzola@nan.on.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2012 7:17:22 PM
Subject: Idle No More

Hi Y'All,
 Here's what's happening on Friday with respect to the ceremony, march, and speakers rally.
 Meegwetch,
 Lynda Kitchikeesic [REDACTED]

TUC Anti-Spam Center - If this was spam, please update your personal settings by clicking the following link - [Train as Spam](#)

IDLE NO MORE Ottawa

Contact: Lynda Kitchikeesic Juden
613.761.7127

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22 January 2013

Thousands expected at Ottawa protest on Friday

First Nations people and their supporters are uniting under the banner Idle No More against the federal government's changes to legislation which will affect treaties and traditionally used lands.

At noon on Friday, December 21st, a grassroots led protest is expected to attract thousands of Aboriginal people to a ceremony at Victoria Island, who will then march in solidarity on to Parliament Hill. Idle No More Ottawa will feature voices from many nations and political stripes in a speakers rally that will last until dusk.

The peaceful event page, which organizers simply posted on facebook and twitter, has elicited support for change from around what's known as Turtle Island and follows several similar protests held across Canada.

On the following page is a timeline and speakers list for Idle No More Ottawa.

Here is a link for [Idle No More Ottawa on facebook](#).

Page 1 of 2

Lynda Kitchikeesic Juden

@Megawitch

IDLE NO MORE Ottawa

Ceremony, March & Speakers Timeline for Friday Dec. 21st

- 12:00 NOON** Algonquin Elder Jose Dewache Whiteduck conducts a Ceremony.
The Elder will say when it is okay to take pictures.
- 1:30 PM** Ottawa Police Service officers close northbound traffic at Wellington & Victoria Island.
Marchers assemble on Wellington Street and proceed head south/east on Wellington towards
Ottawa along the closed left (westbound) lane to the Metcalfe gate of Parliament Hill.
- 2:30 PM** Chief Gilbert Whiteduck will welcome us to Algonquin Territory.
- 2:35 PM** Sylvia McAdams is an Idle No More movement founder
- 2:40 PM** Charlie Angus is the Timmins member of Parliament for the NDP
- 2:45 PM** Chief Theresa Spence Chief of Attawapiskat First Nation or spokesperson
- 2:50 PM** Wes Prankard a youth, has an organization called Northern Starfish
- 2:55 PM** AFN Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde (Saskatchewan)
- 3:00 PM** Carolyn Bennett Aboriginal Affairs Critic for the Liberal Party of Canada
- 3:05 PM** AFN Regional Chief –Ontario
- 3:10 PM** Lorraine Rekmans Aboriginal Affairs Critic for the Green Party
- 3:15 PM** AFN Regional Chief Roger Augustine (New Brunswick / PEI)
- 3:20 PM** Bridget Tolley heads up Families of Sisters In Spirit
- 3:25 PM** Clayton Thomas-Mueller represents the Indigenous Environmental Network
- 3:30 PM** Tori's speaker to be confirmed
- 3:35 PM** Michelle Audette is Executive Director of the Native Women's Association of Canada
- 3:40 PM** Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
- 3:50 PM** Elder smudges crowd for safe travel.
- 3:55 PM** Head for the buses lined up along Wellington westbound for passenger pickup
- 4:00 PM** End of day.

Idle No More - Ottawa - December 21st 2012

TO DO list

Action item	Contact people	Further action required	Responsible	Completed w details
Get demo and hill permits for December 21 st	Lynda Kitchikeesic [REDACTED] Tori Cress [REDACTED]	City permit # T07-15-12-0604 Hill permit #:	me	City Permit all good. Should receive it now...
Route on city roads	Sgt. Marc Benson x2492 613.236.1222 OPS Special Events x2487 Wayne Russett 566.1088	Have decided right / westbound side of Wellington to be closed off as of 12 noon	Me, ops, rcmp	All good.
Parade Marshalls	1. Lyndon Juden Kelly 2. Kimberly Smith 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11.	[REDACTED]	Lyndon and Kimberly will handle communications with the bus drivers, the bus drop off area at Victoria Island and pick up area at Parliament Hill	AFN to provide 10 marshalls & vests & radios Please supply names & contact #'s
Bus details for passenger drop off	Marc Benson OPS + Wayne Russett RCMP approved and helped with this plan + Volunteers to keep road closed into island circle	Buses to drop off passengers at Army mess on Middle Street access via Booth Street at 11:30-12noon. <u>bus drop off on Middle street off Booth</u> Buses can then go and park on Commissionaire Rd. off Fleet Street.	Update web page and fb w/ bus drop off & pick up info	All good. Have two people Kim, Lyndon to stop vehicles and get driver phone numbers.
Bus details for passenger pick up	Detailed Instructions for Idle No More bus drivers need to be posted in the accommodations feed and on web	Buses to line up at 4:00pm on Wellington <u>Buses to line up in the westbound lane in front of Parliament Hill</u> so nobody has to cross the street to get to them	Marc OPS said to get bus driver phone numbers so they can be called if sitch changes for earlier or later pick up	All good.
Permission to use island	Claudette Commanda [REDACTED] Chief Gilbert Whiteduck 819.449.5170	Will welcome people to Victoria Island Will welcome people to Parliament Hill	me	All good.
Ceremony	Algonquin Elder	Am consulting w/ Algonquin Elders re protocol for sacred fire(s)	[REDACTED]	All good.
Media releases		Writing	me	All good
Media contacts	Use any lists offered to us	By AFN partner - supporter org	AFN	AFN will send out news release for me.
Speaker scheduling	done	Need 1 confirm	me	See Timed Scenario
Technical needs	Minivan Ford Windstar 2002 Black, Licence plate [REDACTED]	Electricity on the Hill and Stairs AFN has sound system	AFN	Driver's name [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Idle No More - Ottawa - December 21st 2012

Ceremony, March & Speakers Timeline for Friday

TIME	SCENARIO	DETAILS
11:00 AM	Lynda, Tori & Lyndon arrive at Victoria Island Lynda identify Marshalls to any OPS personnel on site or roadway	Ongoing site clean-up is needed Volunteers still needed.
12:00 NOON	Algonquin Elder [REDACTED] will conduct an Opening Ceremony. The Elder will say when it is okay to take pictures.	
1:30 PM	Ottawa Police Service officers close northbound traffic at Wellington & Victoria Island. Marchers assemble on Wellington Street. They head south/east on Wellington towards Ottawa and Parliament Hill along the closed left (westbound) lane and sidewalk.	AFN has offered the 10 marshalls I agreed with Ottawa Police to provide for public safety assistance during the march. As #s warrant an increase can AFN provide more?
1:30 PM	Someone needs to be setting up sound up at Parliament Hill right about now as well	AFN will take care of sound system a contact person and vehicle info is needed for the Hill permit.
2:30 PM	The last person leaves roadway at the Metcalfe gate at Parliament Hill approximately 1hour later. Tori & Lynda up on stairs thanking people, encouraging to move in closer	
2:30 PM	Chief Gilbert Whiteduck will welcome us to Algonquin Territory.	
2:35 PM	Sylvia McAdams Idle No More movement founder	
2:40 PM	Charlie Angus Timmins member NDP	
2:45 PM	Chief Theresa Spence Chief of Attawaspiskat First Nation or spokesperson	
2:50 PM	Wes Prankard - Northern Starfish	
2:55 PM	AFN Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde (Saskatchewan)	
3:00 PM	Carolyn Bennett Aboriginal Affairs Critic for the Liberal Party of Canada	
3:05 PM	AFN Regional Chief - Ontario	
3:10 PM	Lorraine Rekmans Aboriginal Affairs Critic for the Green Party	
3:15 PM	AFN Regional Chief Roger Augustine (New Brunswick / PEI)	
3:20 PM	Bridget Tolley Families of Sisters In Spirit	
3:25 PM	Clayton Thomas-Mueller Indigenous Environmental Network	
3:30 PM	Tori's speaker to be confirmed	
3:35 PM	Michelle Audette from the Native Womens Association	
3:40 PM	Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo	
3:50 PM	Elder smudges crowd for safe travel.	AFN Elder here maybe?
3:55 PM	Head for the buses lined up along Wellington westbound 4 passenger pickup	
4:00 PM	Event is over. Permit expires.	Site clean-up finished

Page 0
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Pages 71 to / à 72
are not relevant
sont non pertinentes

Julien Houle - Fwd: Day of Action tweet pack 1

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:43 AM
Subject: Fwd: Day of Action tweet pack 1
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

Jim Hurcomb

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>>> HQ Inform 12/10/2012 10:47 AM >>>

There has to be a #revolution, Canada! #Indigenous homelands ARE NOT FOR SALE

Bundle up for #Idlenomore in Winnipeg!! It'll be cold but worth it!! To show the world we're united, Canada.AMC will be there

Rise up my people!

Prayer. Peace. Protest. When the sun rises tomorrow, so shall we.

Revolution time Canada!!

Non-Indigenous responsibility to act, support and be in solidarity today (and every day)

Attawapiskat Chief Spence says in her letter hunger strike will last until Ottawa, Queen take treaties seriously
#IdleNoMore #cdnpoli

Nothing in the news today about #IdleNoMore, it's like living in parallel worlds that don't touch. Hopefully today will break that barrier!

No students protesting or even noticing #IdleNoMore in Montreal, though indigenous issues glaringly absent from that struggle so...

"Bill C 45 is not just about a budget,

Indigenous land rights! No more tar sands!

The Conservative Government thinks can get away with bullying Indigenous people & ignoring 60% of Canada. Guess again.

Native People will be gathering across Canada today for our rights, women and children.

Firstnations will be heard today, #idlenomore lets impeach the crime minister !

Time for solidarity across Indian Country

Stand up for your rights and against government ignorance and greed.

First Nations need to be heard, and today will be it

Calling all citizens in #Canada to support First Nations brothers & sisters in #idlenomore. Now is the time to reconcile.

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Day of Action Tweet pack 2

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:43 AM
Subject: Fwd: Day of Action Tweet pack 2
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

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>>> HQ Inform 12/10/2012 12:20 PM >>>

Today is national action against Harper's Bill C-45 attack on First Nations & Cdn waters idlenomore.com

Rallys to support the rights of Canadian First Nations are taking place across Canada today. What better way to...

Today First Nations will stand up to you and the Conservative Government. We say no to Bill C-45!!

First Nations people are going to have protest against bill-c45 and none have the News media have covered any of it....yet!

There's a protest going on today in Ottawa, chief of Attawapiskat is going on hungry strike for our treaty rights & our Rez

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence begins hungar strike, says she's prepared to die for treaty rights.

Attawapiskat chief Theresa Spence to start hunger strike today, until Ottawa makes commitment to honour treaties. Lets show her our support!

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Facebook posts on Day of Action

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:44 AM
Subject: Fwd: Facebook posts on Day of Action
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

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>>> HQ Inform 12/10/2012 1:18 PM >>>
Atleo met with the Feds ..GRRR... I hope he either resigns, or the Chiefs put forward a non-confidence motion.
Either way, he HAS to be done!

Harper's War on the First Peoples has gone on far too long. While the people have been sleeping he has established a beachhead in the cultural extermination of the original owners of this country. It is already late in the game so the response from FN and aboriginal peoples must be strong steadfast.

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Day of Action Tweet Pack #3

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:44 AM
Subject: Fwd: Day of Action Tweet Pack #3
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

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>>> HQ Inform 12/10/2012 1:58 PM >>>

#idlenomore is trending in Canada

It's kind of incredible watching the #IdleNoMore feed. Aboriginal people and allies across Canada taking action.

It was clear years ago that Harper and Flanagan wanted to get rid of indigenous people's rights. #idlenomore
 Now he's attacking them.

Canadian news media need to get their priorities straight. Can we move on from the #ikeamonkey already?
 #idlenomore #CDNpoli

Harper's brutality has unleashed the power of #FirstNations and their allies, ENOUGH #idlenomore

That's a long haul hunger strike Theresa Spence, but it highlights our FN plight & how dire our situation is in
 Canada #idlenomore

I stand in solidarity with the comrades in the north, fight on brothers and sisters, never stop fighting
 #IdleNoMore

Its not the size of the rally that matters - its the collective movement, sharing of information, & continuing 2
 build momentum. #IdleNoMore

"Every corridor, every pipe line, goes through First Nations territories." #toronto #idlenomore

today we make history as first nations people we realize the power we have when we #standtogether &
 #standstrong #idlenomore

Scary things happening in Canada. Solidarity with Canadian First Nations Communities.
[http://intercontinentalcry.org/harper-launches-major-first-nations-termination-plan-as-negotiating-tables-](http://intercontinentalcry.org/harper-launches-major-first-nations-termination-plan-as-negotiating-tables-legitimize-canadas-colonialism/)
[legitimize-canadas-colonialism/](http://intercontinentalcry.org/harper-launches-major-first-nations-termination-plan-as-negotiating-tables-legitimize-canadas-colonialism/) ... #idlenomore

"This will be a long year for the Canadian government" #toronto #idlenomore

"If the only thing they listen to is money, we will stop their money.". #toronto #idlenomore

There's no hockey. Real #Canadian culture is happening at #IdleNoMore. Grab your drum & bell. Head to the Peace Rally. Treaty ON!!! #cdnpoli

heard there was a rally happening now in Ottawa - where??? The hill? Victoria Island? #IdleNoMore

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Latest Tweets on "Idle No More" and Day of Action

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: Latest Tweets on "Idle No More" and Day of Action
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

Jim Hurcomb

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>>> HQ Inform 12/11/2012 12:55 PM >>>

Amazing day, huge turn-out at #idlenomore Edmonton. Thanks to the amazing organizers! And where's the nat'l media?

You can pass laws to run roughshod over First Nations, but you will need the National Guard to protect unwelcome industry

Harper really doesn't care what happens to First Nations

Lots of talk of how mainstream media is ignoring this...meanwhile, First Nations chiefs are ignoring media!

Why are you not reporting on what is going on with the Bill C-45 issue and First Nations.

Got Arab Spring? Minister of AANDC John Duncan seems to be dismissive of #IdleNoMore says it is just "social media".

AA Minister John Duncan asked by #cbc what #idlenomore is about: "Thats social media, they're there b/c of social media"

"That's social media, so we'll just have to see where that goes." Aboriginal Affairs Minister on what #idlenomore is about

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Tweet on noon rally on Parliament Hill

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Subject: Fwd: Tweet on noon rally on Parliament Hill
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

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>>> HQ Inform 12/12/2012 12:00 PM >>>

Rally in support of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence @ noon on parliament hill. Spence in day 2 of hunger strike.

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Updated tweets from #IdleNoMore

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: Updated tweets from #IdleNoMore
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

Jim Hurcomb

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>>> HQ Inform 12/14/2012 10:19 AM >>>
at least 4 #idlenomore protests today. Halifax, Sydney, NB and Kahnawake, QC.

Students will stand in solidarity with First Nations people today at #idlenomore in #halifax 1PM @ the St Mary's Basilica Church

Sandy Bay First Nation intends to shutdown Trans-Canada Highway in Manitoba

Our relatives in the south are organizing events to support #IdleNoMore. One in LA (Dec 19) & in Mineapolis (Dec 21).

This #idlenomore movement is interesting. There's no substitute for grassroots movements against the man.

"The colonizer likes nothing more than when we fight amongst each other. Let us stand together"

Don't lose momentum over the holidays- #ChiefSpence is on hunger strike and we will be there to back her up

send concerns for Bill C-45 to sencom@sen.parl.gc.ca

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Noon Twitter update on Idle No More

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: Noon Twitter update on Idle No More
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

Jim Hurcomb

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>>> HQ Inform 12/14/2012 12:55 PM >>>
Googoo says protests will continue, grow if Bill C-45 not changed

Retweeted by APTNNews afixedaddress 11:18am via Twitter for iPhone Senator Patrick Brazeau was just interviewed by @APTNNews on the Hill. He says he voted today in support of Bill C-45.

#idlenomore Mi'kma'ki Rally of Solidarity happening now in Halifax & Sydney

Everyone against the Harper agenda should stand with us! It's about the violation of ALL rights!

Always carry #IdleNoMore with positivity- yet partner it with power. Violence will get us nowhere!

Everyone against the Harper agenda should stand with us! It's about the violation of ALL rights!

Canadian Gov. has pushed 1st Nations to spark a civil right movemnt. #idlenomore . A chief is on day4 of her #hungerstrike

@Carolyn_Bennett: Conservatives confrontational approach = justified Aboriginal backlash

@Carolyn_Bennett: Lapproche conflictuelle des conservateurs=tollé justifié chez les Autochtones

#FirstNations can assemble huge numbers for an injustice. Rest of Canada needs to take a stand as well.

"We WILL be consulted on issues that affect us! It is for the children that we must stay united to fight"

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Latest tweets from #idlenomore (12:55)

From: HQ Inform
To: Julien Houle
Date: 1/17/2013 10:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: Latest tweets from #idlenomore (12:55)
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

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>>> HQ Inform 12/17/2012 12:56 PM >>>

pmharper the Indian problem will not go away it is just beginning, and now we r educated and know the game
#IdleNoMore grassroots rising up

Leaving on a bus to Ottawa from Regina to march with the #IdleNoMore movement

What is #idlenomore all about? Land, culture and language. The three criteria for nationhood.

Did you hear about #idlenomore movement, the peaceful blockades today or Chief #theresaSpence and her hunger strike?

One more final and then en route to Ottawa! #Saskatoon #idlenomore

Too many in poverty, low education, and no solutions from gov't. That is why I support #TheresaSpence & #IdleNoMore.

Honour the Indigenous ppl of your country.

idlenomore seems to be a rejection not only of Ottawa but, in some cases, of hierarchical groups like the AFN:

Parliament Hill right now.

When injustice becomes law #IdleNoMore #cdnpoli #humanrights

Clonsilla & Lansdowne - marching to Del Mastro's Office at 2:30pm

Peaceful demonstrations, NOT war drums.

#cbc #global #ctv #aptn #cnn #fox #cbs should use their power for good: pressure @pmharper to meet w/ chief spence!

The prime minister should cut through the bureaucracy and sit down w the chief

Idle No More supports Chief Spence as she goes on 7th day of NO FOOD

Mainstream Media: Ur silence on #IdleNoMore is deafening. Protests, blockades and a leader starving herself? Not newsworthy enough?

Leaving on a bus to Ottawa from Regina to march with the #IdleNoMore movement

Anybody know how many meals oil sands lobbyists had to skip to get PM's ear?

If you stand for nothing, you'll fall for anything #idlenomore

Dear @pmharper Most of Canada hates you. We are too polite. Pissing off #FirstNations will change that.

globaltvnews pls cover the #idlenomore movement! @CBC doesn't have the balls

Jim Hurcomb

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Latest tweets from #IdleNoMore

From: HQ Inform
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Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf; HQ Inform2.vcf

Jim Hurcomb

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>>> HQ Inform 12/17/2012 3:12 PM >>>

Anyone who can, should be in Ottawa this Friday. Show support. #idlenomore #canpoli #cndpoli #ChiefSpence #Aboriginal

Are you going to the #idlenomore rally on Friday in Ottawa? We've begun filling buses in toronto

When will #idlenomore stop?When the world sees justice.When wanton self interest is no longer law.When all life is honoured. It's just begun

Is the issue rights? Justice? Water and Land? Is it every needful thing for all life on earth? If yes, your cause is just. #idlenomore

.@cbcnews when will Canada stand up, and fight w #ChiefSpence right to prevent genocide, and hostile takeover of #Attawapiskat #idlenomore

"Local aboriginal groups block highways, plan a week of protests <http://bit.ly/WjFjvK> via #cdnpoli #IdleNoMore"

#2012TaughtMe that #IdleNoMore is here and we need more to become aware of Bill C45's destructive potential on this Land.

Prayers and ceremony will stand First Nations in good stead for the upcoming December 21 #IdleNoMore rally in Ottawa. We are one.

The culture of death,of greed, is no longer acceptable. We will nurture a culture of life, of community.The world deserves Treaty #idlenomore

Bill c45 is not us verse Canada it's about the land and all our responsibility as a country to demand Harper put the land first #IdleNoMore

"Indigenous people in Canada are frustrated with broken promises and lack of aboriginal participation."
 #IdleNoMore

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Local+aboriginal+groups+block+highways+plan+week/7710053/story.html>

...

Before taping the AFN letter to the iron gates of Stephen Harper's home, GC Nepinak sprinkled a little tobacco on the ground. #idlenomore

Solidarity w Chief Theresa Spence, Attawapiskat First Nation - her hunger strike: 7 DAYS NOW!!! Talk to her, @pmharper! #cdnpoli #idlenomore

We need to reach out to our Native brothers and sisters: let them know we respect and value them. Build a new Canada. #idlenomore

Jim Hurcomb

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>>> HQ Inform 12/19/2012 12:52 PM >>>
This is beautiful! --> Highway 401 blockade in progress near London, ON.

We're definitely ramping it up. It's going to be a revolution in Aboriginal rights.

We are finally getting somewhere!!!! We are finally being heard!!!! We are strong when we come together

Funny how Harper can comment on the lockout, but not the hunger strike, or the #idlenomore movement, maybe we need to be louder?

Harper "saddened" by NHL lockout & "feels sorry" for players/owners - not worried about #ChiefTheresaSpence

Harper will try and divide us, let us stay focused,together and positive.

Just in case non-Canadians are wondering, First Nations ppl here are rising up. And they have my full support.

Aboriginal affairs is federal responsibility. Harper is head of fed gov. A chief would like to meet w/ him. He'd rather she die.

Jim Hurcomb

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Page 89
is not relevant
est non pertinente

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: GOC-COG <goc-cog@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Hallman, Ron <Ron.Hallman@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Tara Shannon <Tara.Shannon@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Donna Brennan <Donna.Brennan@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Mario Roy <Mario.Roy@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Keddy, Daisy <Daisy.Keddy@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Cole, Geoff <Geoff.Cole@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Adam Schjott <Adam.Schjott@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; OPSCentre - NOB <OPSCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Horton, Christopher <Christopher.Horton@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Barbara Senchuk <Barbara.Senchuk@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Filbee, Sara <Sara.Filbee@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; White, Danielle <Danielle.White@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Elizabeth.Tromp@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca <Elizabeth.Tromp@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Mitchell, Gail <Gail.Mitchell@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Colleen Swords <Colleen.Swords@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Bernard.Etzinger@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca <Bernard.Etzinger@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Mary Jane Armstrong <MaryJane.Armstrong@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
CC: Nathalie Nepton <Nathalie.Nepton@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 12/7/2012 11:19 PM
Subject: AANDC - EIMD - Heads up: Potential Day of Action on Monday

Please see email below regarding national day of peaceful protest planned for Monday, December 10, 2012. No notification is being issued at this time.

Blair Brimmell
AANDC EIMD Weekend Duty Officer
819 997 6552

>>> Michelle Ring 12/7/2012 10:47:08 PM >>>
FYI - heads up, will provide more details as we become aware of them.

Michelle
-----Original Message-----
From: Leslie Trobak
To: Rob Harvey
To: Riel Bellegarde
To: Loree MacPherson
To: Brett Currie
To: Michelle Ring
To: Kirby Korchinski
To: Dwayne Johns
To: Cheri Moreau
To: Cathy Huber
Subject: Potential Day of Action on Monday
Sent: Dec 6, 2012 4:26 PM

APTN is reporting that with the assistance of social media - a day of action is being planned for Monday, December 10. Chief Fox won't detail plans but there is more info in the APTN story excerpt.

On Facebook and Twitter, a grassroots movement under the name Idle No More has been picking up steam and there are now planned Dec. 10 day of actions across the country under its banner. Plans for the day include protests at city halls, legislative assemblies and outside corporate offices.

The movement, founded by a group of women from Saskatchewan, initially began with a focus on the omnibus bill, but has since included the broader cause of Indigenous rights, said one of the founders Jessica Gordon, 34, from Saskatoon.

?It is our time now. We have been restless, we have been waiting for a moment to show that we need to be heard and we have been looking for a way to come together,? said Gordon.

Gordon said the movement is committed to peaceful means with the broader aims of sending a message to Ottawa and educating the Canadian public about First Nations issues.

?We say keep it peaceful,? she said. ?The pipe will be raised. When we do that, we know that no that there is no violence involved at all.

Full story at:
<http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2012/12/06/true-warriors-dont-reveal-plans-to-enemies-says-chief-fox/>

From: Ellen Funk
To: Alvin Kaskie; Amanda Lamy; Angela Bidinosti; Anna Fontaine; Audrey Kozak-Dobush; Avery Wolaniuk; Benedict Dacanay; Betty Jagodnik; Betty-Ann Scott; Bonnie Dee; Brock Holowachuk; Carmen Kardoos; Chantelle Berthelette; Charles Marcoux; Christopher Horton; Cindy Ranville; Connie Coutu; Dale Mann; Daniel Benoit; Daniel Moroz; Danielle Black; Darrell Fiel; Denys Choquette; Derek Bradley; Diane Bodnar; Dianne Vanstone; Dina Juras; Donald Scott; Dustin Remillard; Gregg Campbell; Heather Kelly; Jackie Muska; Jan O'Driscoll; Jason MacDonald; Jeff Solmundson; Jennifer Malazdrewicz; Jill Aquino; Jim Hurcomb; John Slyker; Jordan McPeek; Joshua Rose; Kelly Becker; Kimberley Rey; Larina Ragbir-Manmohan; Leona Tencha; Lesia Manchulenko; Lorna Monkman; Louis Dion; Louise Jutras; Lucy Baziuk; Marge Murdock; Maria Pikta; Marianne Gobeil; Marilyn Maltman; Mark Glendenning; Matthew Eldridge; Melody Raabe; Michel Muller; Moira Wolstenholme; Mona Mesa; Nathan Nuytten; Nikki Roy; Nina Forbes; Norm Lavallee; Patrick McNeill; Prem Kaushal; Rhonda James; Rod Graham; Ron Payne; Rose Kuzina; Ryan Young; Sandra Laughren; Sarah Donnelly; Shannon Petrishen; Shelly Johnson; Sherry Beardy; Sid Dutchak; Stephen C White; Tanya Brunel; Tara Shannon; Tara Urniezius; Tina Kabestra; Valerie Ferguson; Wilmalee Pruden; Winona Embuldeniya
Date: 12/6/2012 9:43 AM
Subject: Re: Manitoba News Summary - December 3 PM

Headlines:

From a grassroots hashtag to a real opportunity for change Kinewview, Winnipeg Free Press, December 6 - Wab Kinew

Manitoba chief gets injunction extended to ban office occupation by band members - Winnipeg Free Press and Canada News Wire, December 6, 2012

TCIG's shareholder action familiar to CP rail, Martin Cash Winnipeg Free Press, December 6

From a grassroots hashtag to a real opportunity for change Kinewview, Winnipeg Free Press, December 6 - Wab Kinew

When First Nations chiefs angry with the federal omnibus budget Bill C-45 scuffled briefly with RCMP on Parliament Hill on Tuesday, it certainly made for compelling images. It also raised some compelling questions. Are we seeing a renewed militancy in the aboriginal community? Is this a "tipping point" of sorts? What can we expect next? To me, the most interesting question is what was the catalyst for this showdown? It was actually a simple message, likely unintelligible unless you are an avid Twitter user:

"Tweeting up on Sunday, December 2, the #IdleNoMore event in Alberta. Lets get it trending! Here is the FB event..."

Not necessarily "I have a dream" type material, but significant in its own right. Tanya Kappo Tanya Kappo (@Nehiyawskwew) posted that on Nov. 30 to drum up support for an event she organized called "Idle No More." Her fellow organizers began using the "#idlenomore" hashtag (hashtags are Twitter's way of grouping messages together by topic) and so did their followers.

Kappo told me she expected her event to be "15 people in a room listening to what I thought about the legislation." Instead, 150 people descended on Louis Bull First Nation in Alberta to hear Kappo and her co-organizers speak against Bill C-45.

Kappo and many First Nations people object to provisions in the bill that reduce the amount of federally protected waterways and increase the minister of aboriginal affairs' power to sell off reserve land. It is also seen as part of a broader agenda to impose legislation on aboriginal people without their consent. Some people have even begun to blame indigenous leaders for allowing this agenda to proceed.

At the Idle No More event last Sunday, Kappo says many people were upset their chiefs were not talking about the bill. "There was angst building against our leadership. People asked 'What's (the Assembly of First Nations) doing?' and 'What are the chiefs doing?'" People at the meeting kept tweeting and the hashtag took off.

It grew beyond the Alberta event. Soon all sorts of messages about indigenous issues included the hashtag. There were more messages critical of First Nations leaders. Even non-aboriginal people started using the hashtag to express their support. The hashtag went viral.

Then on Tuesday this social media talk hit the floor of an Assembly of First Nations meeting in Ottawa. Soon National Chief Shawn Atleo and others called for a march to Parliament. Fast-forward a few hours and suddenly chiefs and Mounties were shoving each other outside the House of Commons chamber.

In the aftermath, one of those leaders, Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, appeared on CBC television and tipped his hat to the Twitterati.

"As chiefs, we always watch what our young people are doing.... They're putting their words out on social media saying, 'What are the chiefs going to do?', 'We need to stand up now.' We are going to act and this is just the beginning of it."

What is the lasting impact of the "#idlenomore" hashtag? Will it be as momentous as the "#jan26" hashtag that started the protests in Egypt that led to Hosni Mubarak's removal from power? Or is it just another online fad that will come and go?

The hashtag "#Idlenomore" did not stop bill C-45. It ended up passing unamended. The true impact, however, is that it showed grassroots aboriginal people they can influence their leaders through social media. Kappo says Tuesday's events "closed the gap" between the chiefs and their constituents, adding, "If there's going to be real and profound change, it's not only about the relationship with the feds, but also the relationship with ourselves." Now she and others are planning other events to raise awareness under the Idle No More banner and the chiefs in Ottawa are discussing their next move.

This has implications far beyond the aboriginal community. From proposed changes to the Indian Act to proposed pipelines, there are many issues looming that have the potential to galvanize indigenous people into protest. If First Nations people are mobilized by any one of them, I suspect that some of the other tensions faced by our community will begin to boil over. Poverty, rundown homes, bad schools, children in care, missing and murdered women... the list goes on. In short, we could soon see a lot of conflict and acrimony.

Yet, it can be avoided. What Kappo and the others behind "#idlenomore" are asking for is simple: for the government to listen to First Nations people. Not imposed legislation. Not political rhetoric. Not games. Simply, to listen to the vision First Nations people have for our future, and work with us to make it happen. The architects of this nascent movement have already succeeded in getting aboriginal leaders to listen to that message. Perhaps others in Canada will soon pay attention.

Wab Kinew is the Director of Indigenous Inclusion at the University of Winnipeg. His hip hop has won an Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award. His journalism has won an Adrienne Clarkson RTNDA Award, a Gabriel Award and been nominated for a Gemini Award.

Manitoba chief gets injunction extended to ban office occupation by band members - Winnipeg Free Press and Canada News Wire, December 6, 2012

BUFFALO POINT, Man. _ A Manitoba court has extended an injunction that bars First Nation members from occupying their chief's offices.

The order issued by Court Queen's Bench also orders RCMP to take whatever measures are necessary to remove the band members from the offices of Chief John Thunder of Buffalo Point First Nation.

Thunder had asked the court to order the RCMP to use physical force against the band members.

A group of 18 _ fully 20 per cent of the entire population of the tiny band southeast of Winnipeg on Lake of the Woods _ has been occupying the chief's offices since Oct. 19, when a dispute arose over a land referendum.

Mounties called the chief and the band members together for a meeting after the court issued the order.

Since a court appearance last week, lawyers for the band members also confirmed federal Aboriginal Affairs officials have met with their clients but only to repeat Ottawa's refusal to be involved, saying the issue is a matter to be settled internally between the chief and the band members.

Band members argue the chief is trying to disenfranchise them of their land rights as part of his development plans. Thunder claims he is the hereditary chief and it is his work that has developed an economic base for the First Nation.

Thunder has said in the past that he wants to expand development.

Buffalo Point is better known as the location of an upscale cottage development and resort. There are 450 cottagers on the property to the 115 registered band members.

TCIG's shareholder action familiar to CP rail, Martin Cash Winnipeg Free Press, December 6

No one wants to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

Tribal Councils Investment Group is that kind of goose.

It has distributed handsome dividends over the years to its shareholders, the seven tribal councils of Manitoba.

Since it was formed in the early 1990s, it made some savvy acquisitions and increased its distributions to the tribal councils. A few years ago, each of them was receiving \$110,000 per year.

It's not surprising there was not much dissension in the ranks while that was occurring.

But as time has passed -- and profits turned to losses and dividends morphed into patronage payments -- various stakeholders have come to understand TCIG's role in the community in drastically different ways and have started asking questions, to which they are not getting answers.

Is it strictly a private equity firm charged with producing a return on investment or does it also have a greater social mandate to generate wealth and economic development opportunities for its First Nations owners?

Those are clearly not mutually exclusive scenarios, but they may have something to do with a growing chorus of shareholder (and First Nation chiefs') discontent over what they see as a lack of accountability and transparency from management.

Questions from those parties about management spending, especially at a time when austerity measures were being implemented and staff laid off, don't seem unreasonable.

But some say it's the board members who need to be asking those questions. The unique governance structures of First Nations and their tribal council affiliations may give TCIG some of its own governance quirks.

Some of TCIG's distinctive elements may become more public after one of its founding shareholders, Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council through its investment arm Dakota Ojibway Investments, filed a notice of application with the Manitoba courts seeking a shareholder-oppression remedy.

TCIG chief executive officer Allan McLeod and TCIG's lawyers argue it had adhered to all of the corporation's disclosure obligations.

Some say the shareholder action will not succeed. After all, shareholders of public companies do not typically have any rights as to how a corporation is managed. If they believe the company is mismanaged, often their only recourse is to sell their shares.

But these days, the business pages regularly feature stories of activist shareholders who mount boardroom revolts, either deposing management or causing a significant shift in direction for the company.

One of the latest examples of such a palace coup was the ouster of Fred Green, the former CEO of Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd., after a months-long campaign headed by activist investor Pershing Square Capital Management.

Not only were the activists successful in installing their management choice -- former CN chief executive Hunter Harrison is now in charge of CP -- but this week CP announced a major round of job cuts. Regardless of the wisdom or effectiveness of the action, you can bet it was something Pershing Square Capital

wanted to see happen. Investors were clearly pleased by the announcement since CP shares were up four per cent Wednesday.

In addition to the chiefs from the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council, several other chiefs have said they support the shareholder legal action, although only George Kemp of Berens River First Nation and Alex McDougall of Wasagamack First Nation have done so on the record.

There are close to 60 First Nations represented by the seven tribal councils and each of them elects a chief and council for terms of two years at a time.

It's not surprising that in those pressure-cooker political environments, making tough calls -- especially when they may impact whether or not a cheque will be sent -- are hard to do.

Pershing Square owned enough public shares in CP to get what it wanted.

TCIG is a private company, but management is still accountable to the board of directors who represent the seven shareholders.

From: Luc Dumont
To: Doucet, Daniel; Etzinger, Bernard; Hallman, Ron; Shannon, Tara; Tromp, Elizabeth
CC: Horton, Christopher; Laverdière, Celine; Myers, Carole; Simard, Camil
Date: 12/19/2012 4:48 PM
Subject: FYI:: COMMUNIQUÉ -- Idle no more - manifestation à Québec le 21 décembre

Ron, Daniel , Bernard, Tara and Elizabeth: cc: Camil, Christopher, Celine et Carole

for your information, please find below information regarding planned protest for this coming Friday in Quebec city.

It seems the protest will not be at our offices.

We will monitor as usual.

Luc

16:15 2012-12-19 >>>
Réseau jeunesse des Premières Nations / First Nations Youth Network (<http://www.facebook.com/rjpn.fnyn?ref=stream>)

TRÈS IMPORTANT - Manifestation Idle No More - Ville de Québec - 21 décembre 2012, à midi

Vendredi, le 21 décembre 2012, aura lieu à Ville de Québec une manifestation pacifique et spirituelle en appui au mouvement Idle No More et à la Grande Chef Theresa Spence, qui a entamé une grève de la faim pour toutes les Premières Nations afin de réclamer une rencontre avec le Premier Ministre Harper et la Reine.

Dans la Vieille Capitale, les Autochtones, leurs familles et enfants ainsi que tous les Québécois de la région de Québec, sont invités à prendre part à cette manifestation pacifique et spirituelle qui débutera à midi en face de Radio-Canada Québec sur la rue Saint-Jean pour se diriger vers le Parlement du Québec, où se tiendra des

chants et des prières pour Theresa Spence et toutes les Premières Nations du Canada. Nous vous invitons à amener vos tambours et pancartes, vous-mêmes, ainsi que vos amis pour appuyer cette démarche importante pour les droits des Premières Nations.

Des manifestants se rassembleront à travers le Canada pour protester contre l'adoption du projet de loi omnibus C-45 et contre l'indifférence du gouvernement du Canada à l'égard des Premières Nations. Des dizaines de manifestations sont prévues, allant de Vancouver à Halifax, et maintenant Québec et Montréal. Le mouvement Idle No More demande à tous les gouvernements du Canada et du Québec, un plus grand respect envers les droits constitutionnels issus de traités des Premières Nations du Canada et de consulter les Autochtones avant de faire des changements aux lois qui les concernent eux ou leurs terres.

« Nous ne sommes pas heureux de ce qui se passe en ce moment. Il y a une Grande Chef qui est en train de faire un jeûne pour nos droits autochtones et de mettre sa vie en péril pour nous tous. Fallait-il en arriver là? Je suis très sensible au geste que madame Spence pose, car elle veut aussi que les Premières Nations se lèvent debout et qu'à l'avenir nous soyons tous ensemble pour comprendre ce qui nous arrive. Ce mouvement ce n'est pas seulement pour surveiller les gouvernements, mais pour que nous aussi en tant qu'Autochtones on se surveille et que nous regardions de plus près ce qui se passe avec les droits humains et territoriaux des Premières Nations. Nos ancêtres seront fiers de nous, fiers de nous voir nous lever enfin tous ensemble. Je souhaite que nos Chefs et Grands Chefs se rallient à nous pour protéger nos droits, les femmes et nos enfants », a déclaré madame Shanipiap Geneviève Mckenzie Sioui organisatrice de la marche de Ville de Québec.

La manifestation du 21 décembre se veut un premier effort de mobilisation au Québec et les membres du mouvement entendent poursuivre leurs actions jusqu'à l'établissement d'un réel dialogue de Nation à Nation entre le gouvernement du Canada et les Premières Nations. Ils invitent également toutes les organisations sympathiques à leur cause à le manifester publiquement et à se joindre à eux le 21 décembre.

Le mouvement et la marche de Qu bec sont appuy s par madame Jocelyne Gros-Louis directrice du Centre d'amiti  autochtone de Qu bec et ancienne Grande Chef de Wendake. Une grande manifestation se d roulera aussi   Montr al le 21 d cembre prochain   midi.

-30-

Source : Shanipiap Genevi ve Mckenzie Sioui
idlénomoreqc@gmail.com

From: Avery Wolaniuk
To: MB NEWS GROUP
Date: 12/10/2012 9:43 AM
Subject: Manitoba News Summary - December 10

Headlines:

Rising aboriginal frustration palpable - Show of anger at Commons looks likely to be repeated, Mia Rabson, Winnipeg Free Press, December 10

Private, public sectors should build northern homes: report, Bob Weber, The Canadian Press in Winnipeg Free Press, December 10

First Nations serve notice - Plan to enhance global profile, Alexandra Paul, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

All MLAs back rights motion, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

'Confidentiality breached,' Kapyong settlement delayed, Mia Rabson, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

Manitoba chiefs support national land rights movement, plan rally, Canadian Newswire, December 8

The long road - Grassy Narrows blockade fortified by people, not barriers. Anna J. Willow, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

Of note: IDLE NO MORE - Winnipeg: Agenda

Master of Ceremonies - Wab Kinew

12:00 pm GATHER @ Memorial Park - Opening Prayers/ Pipe Ceremony/ Song Elder)
Opening Remark from MC - Wab Kinew

Remarks from organizers - Michael Champagne - Jerry Daniels - Xavier Gould - Kyra Wilson - Douglas Gladue - Allan Cochrane Nick Courchene - MFNYC (Grassroots speaker)

1pm - MARCH TO LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
Nina Wilson - Origins of "Idle No More"
Derrick Gould (Advocate for First Nation Issues)
Chickadee Richard (Guest Grassroots Speaker)
Jenna Licious (Drummer/ Activist)
Ko'ona Cochrane - Guest Grassroots Speaker
Romondo Nilles (Poet)
Roberta Goosehead (Guest Grassroots speaker)

2:15 pm - Tracy Bone & JC Campbell (Sharing support with music)
Words from Leadership (Chiefs and Grand Chiefs Invited to share words)
Notice of Events to come

3:00 pm - Closing of event Round Dance around Legislative Building/ Closing prayer by Elder

Rising aboriginal frustration palpable - Show of anger at Commons looks likely to be

repeated, Mia Rabson, Winnipeg Free Press, December 10

OTTAWA -- As far as First Nations are concerned, it is fitting that Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Canada had approved the Chinese takeover of two Canadian oil companies from the room on Parliament Hill known as the Aboriginal People's Committee Room.

It was just another sign the natural resources First Nations should be benefiting from were being sold off under their noses without their input.

Just days earlier, Chief Patrick Madahbee of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council was among a group of chiefs who tried to force their way into the House of Commons to be heard, angry that the government appeared to be uninterested in listening to or working with First Nations.

Madahbee said last January Harper spent a day listening to First Nations leaders and worked on resetting the relationship between the Crown and indigenous people. That same night, Harper left for Davos, Switzerland, where he delivered a major speech about his plans for the coming years, with a priority focus on selling oil and gas to Asia and pursuing additional trade with Europe and India.

"Immediately, the prime minister jetted off to sell our resources off to the world. He's been constantly doing that," said Madahbee.

For First Nations leaders, the latest international trade deals are another sign of being left out of a deal that could help raise their people out of poverty.

And the anger that has been simmering under the surface for years is boiling over like the early signs of a volcano.

Last week's skirmish outside the Commons only lasted about 30 seconds and was far from out of control, but it is unlikely to be the last event of its kind.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak as good as said so a few hours after it happened.

"This may not be the last time we do this," he said.

The chiefs are backed by a growing grassroots movement that is largely led by young aboriginals who are demanding more for their future.

Hashtags such as #idlenomore and #nativewinter were gaining in popularity on Twitter last week. "It's going to be a long cold #nativewinter" wrote Curtis Dickie, one of many people who posted to the nativewinter hashtag on Twitter last week.

Some are comparing it to the beginnings of the Arab Spring in the Middle East.

A national day of action is planned today, with a rally at the Manitoba legislature this afternoon.

The issues facing First Nations people are many -- high rates of violence against women, education struggles, poverty, addiction and a lack of proper housing among them.

But what First Nations people want and need, which could help address many of those other issues, is to have a chance to do exactly what numerous commenters on the Free Press website demand. A chance to do things for themselves.

But when the natural resources on aboriginal lands reap economic benefits for everyone but First Nations, there is a problem.

"We have zero per cent of the revenues from the natural resources that are developed on our ancestral lands," Nepinak said Friday, at a press conference.

Zero per cent.

The roadblocks are huge when First Nations try to take steps towards an economic prosperity. Take the Kapyong Barracks, for example. Seen by the government as a tract of land with immense value, they sidestepped First Nations to sell it and have the government's Crown corporation land redeveloper take it over. First Nations wanted a chance to buy that land, or some of it, to establish businesses and reap the profits of developing it themselves.

But the government simply ignored them.

Now the whole battle is in court and judges are asked to sort out whether First Nations should have been offered first crack. Meanwhile, nobody benefits. In fact, Ottawa is spending millions to maintain it while it's empty.

The arguments about the land that was taken over are centuries old. But like it or not, treaties signed with First Nations are more than pieces of paper that can be cast aside when there is a good deal to be done with someone else. Decisions about resource development, environmental regulations, housing, fishing, you name it, all must be viewed through the treaty lens.

The courts have repeatedly sided with First Nations when that doesn't happen.

The #nativewinter may not turn into an uprising like the Arab Spring. But chiefs are noticing the unrest in their communities is higher than it has been in a while.

The government, and all Canadians, would do well to take notice.

Private, public sectors should build northern homes: report, Bob Weber, The Canadian Press in Winnipeg Free Press, December 10

Private-sector help and innovative designs are making headway in improving substandard housing in Canada's North, says a new report from the Conference Board of Canada.

But the demand still outstrips supply and the need for government-funded building isn't going to diminish anytime soon, said author Anja Jeffrey.

"There is simply not enough fully subsidized public housing available for people in the North," said Jeffrey. "Private market housing in the North is still a long ways off."

Her report, Framing Sustainable Options for Housing in Canada's North, was released Monday by the board's Centre for the North.

Substandard housing has long been an issue in the North, from northern aboriginal reserves in the provinces to the Inuit communities of Nunavut's High Arctic.

Studies have revealed that northern housing stock tends to be the oldest, most run-down and crowded in Canada. Those living conditions are in turn linked to everything from poor health to domestic violence to low educational achievement, all of which are common in the North.

But Jeffrey's report has found some good news in the effort to improve those conditions. She found four case studies that demonstrate it's possible for public- and private-sector groups to come together to build quality housing.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation and Kott North built 142 homes throughout the territory that are so well-insulated they're expected to use half the heating fuel of a standard home.

In La Ronge, Saskatchewan, the Northern Teacher Education Program has built affordable, quality student housing to make it easier for aboriginal students to attend college.

A coalition of private-sector builders and aboriginal organizations including the Assembly of First Nations are currently working out ways northern First Nations can fund and construct sustainable homes on their lands.

And in the Yukon, local bands, developers and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation have worked together to design and build a new energy-efficient and culturally appropriate house in Dawson that's intended to be a template for use across the territory.

The key, said Jeffrey, is for builders, funders and other agencies to pool their resources and work together.

"It's really only when private developers come together to build affordable housing for the community and where they're willing to take a risk that you see the private-sector engagement that's truly needed to fill that housing gap," she said.

Designers have to consider factors they wouldn't normally worry about in the south.

All materials have to be either flown in or come in by sea lift, to be unloaded on a beach. Builders may not have the same skills as southern tradespeople, and the construction season is short.

"Unless you have innovative approaches and designs, you will typically have built an infrastructure that is not durable, will have condensation and will not be inspected afterwards," said Jeffrey.

Still, Jeffrey sees little sign of the development of private real estate markets anywhere in the North outside the major centres.

"The problem, often, is the lack of critical mass," she said. "I just don't think there is enough private market housing available to offer it at a competitive rate."

Market solutions need enough of a market to function," said Jeffrey.

"Somebody needs to find that sweet spot where the private sector believes that there is enough return on investment. Then there has to be public-sector encouragement to go in and do it."

First Nations serve notice - Plan to enhance global profile, Alexandra Paul, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

First Nations leaders are reaching out to leaders abroad and linking arms with activists here to send out a single message: If you're doing business in Canada, do it with First Nations.

On Friday, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs leader Derek Nepinak presented a united front with

activists behind a national campaign for a day of action Monday. He said Manitoba's leaders are working with Prairie chiefs in talks with OPEC leaders and Ontario chiefs in similar talks with China.

The focus is to advance land rights and the aboriginal profile of Canadian First Nations on the world stage.

"What we're hoping to get across is to send a message to the members of OPEC, to China and other members of the international community that we did not cede, release or surrender our natural resources to a colonial government... we are waking up from a 100-year slumber and we are going to impose our own laws," Nepinak said.

This week, Nepinak and Ontario Nishnawbe Aski Grand Chief Stanley Beardy met with a senior official from the Canadian Chinese Consulate to discuss business possibilities with China.

Nepinak was among the chiefs on Parliament Hill this week who protested the federal omnibus budget bill on the grounds it attacks aboriginal land rights.

The Harper majority could pass the bill, C-45, through Parliament at any time despite public criticism that it streamlines oil and mining projects at the expense of environment and fisheries protection.

That, along with a suite of federal legislation that would alter treaty rights, are behind a grassroots movement spreading through links on Facebook and Twitter.

The focus so far is to roll out rallies in cities across Canada, including Winnipeg, next week in support of aboriginal land rights.

Nepinak, flanked by Southern Chiefs leader Murray Clearsky, said there is momentum building among aboriginal people. To prove the point, he relinquished the podium at a press conference to a young aboriginal activist.

"I need to make something clear," said Leo Baskatawang, one of half-a-dozen First Nations social activists. "Treaties are nation-to-nation agreements, and I think that's not understood in Canada and it's something that needs to be recognized.

"There are movements growing across Canada and this is going to be the beginning of further action that takes place."

A rally planned for Winnipeg takes place Monday outside the legislature from noon until 5 p.m. It isn't the first time Manitoba chiefs have shown a united front against poverty, poor social conditions and soaring rates of violence for aboriginal people.

The momentum is building from the grassroots up and not trickling down from the leaders.

Most of the Facebook and Twitter buzz is generated under the banner: Idle No More.

alexandra.paul@freepress.mb.ca

Highlights of legislation affecting First Nations

Here are the highlights of half-a-dozen pieces of legislation that directly affect First Nations:

-- Bill C-27: to impose reporting mechanisms and make chiefs and councils accountable for

finances. Introduced in 2011, it is before Parliament for passage, with new amendments.

-- Bill C-45: Jobs and Growth Act -- This is Part II of the government's omnibus budget bill and was introduced in October. It reverses previous laws to protect the environment, fisheries and navigable waters, and makes it easier to surrender Indian lands.

-- Bill S-2: Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests of Rights Act -- introduced and passed in the Senate, it's now at the second of three readings in the Commons. It would protect women's rights to on-reserve matrimonial homes.

Private member's bill:

Bill C-428, an act to replace the Indian Act -- introduced by Saskatchewan Conservative MP Rob Clarke in June and now in its second reading. The Indian Act is federal legislation that governs civic and economic life on Canada's 633 First Nations. Clarke's bill would delete references in the act to residential schools and repeal or amend other sections dealing with wills, education and bylaws. Canada's aboriginal affairs minister would be required to make annual updates on progress to replace the rest of the act.

-- In Canada, legislation must pass three separate readings in both the Commons and Senate before Parliament can proclaim new laws.

For comprehensive information on all legislation, visit
www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/Home.aspx?languageE&Parl41&Ses1

All MLAs back rights motion, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

MANITOBA Progressive Conservative Leader Brian Pallister was "pleasantly surprised" Thursday when the NDP, along with Liberal Leader Jon Gerrard, unanimously backed his motion calling for Ottawa to get on with passing a bill to extend marital property rights to aboriginal women living on reserves. Pallister has been fighting to extend marital property rights to reserves since he was an MP. He left Ottawa in 2008 and was elected the provincial Tory leader last summer. Such legislation has been on the books in Ottawa four times. The first three times it died on the order paper because Prime Minister Stephen Harper prorogued Parliament or an election was called.

It was introduced for the fourth time in September 2011 and has made it through the Senate and partway through the House of Commons. The bill now awaits a committee hearing.

Pallister said he hopes the fact all three parties in Manitoba back the bill will help ease its path the rest of the way.

"I hope that this show of unanimity... will send a message," Pallister said.

The division of property when a marriage breaks up is normally dictated by provincial laws, but the Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that provincial laws didn't apply on reserves.

Because the Indian Act is silent on the issue, there are no laws that govern marital property rights on reserves.

It means women on reserves are often left without anything when their marriage breaks down.

Bill S-2 fills that void by providing some temporary rules to follow until First Nations can enact their own laws to address the use, occupation and possession of family homes and the division of

other property between spouses and common-law partners.

'Confidentiality breached,' Kapyong settlement delayed, Mia Rabson, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

OTTAWA -- There is still hope the Kapyong Barracks dispute can be negotiated to a settlement, but the solution is no longer imminent. More than a week ago, Sagkeeng First Nation Chief Donavan Fontaine said he was told a settlement was nearly complete to solve the years-long fight over the prime south Winnipeg real estate.

But it appears negotiations quickly fell off the rails. Peguis First Nation Chief Glenn Hudson said Friday that "because the confidentiality was breached," both First Nations and the federal government backed off.

Sources said Ottawa had offered the Treaty 1 First Nations, who are challenging the sale of the Kapyong Barracks, up to half the site's 65 hectares at the corner of Grant Avenue and Kenaston Boulevard.

Hudson would not confirm that was the offer or whether Ottawa rescinded it after the stories hit the media.

The two parties were in court last week in Winnipeg fighting the case before a judge.

The Kapyong Barracks were abandoned in 2004 when the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry unit was moved west to Shilo.

In 2007, Ottawa moved to sell the land to the Canada Lands Co. for about \$8.5 million. Shortly after that, the seven Treaty 1 First Nations went to court to stop the sale, arguing they should have first crack at the land as part of treaty entitlements.

That case has been before the courts ever since. Originally, a federal judge sided with the First Nations and said Ottawa had to properly consult them before selling the property.

That decision was overturned on appeal and the case was sent back the lower court for reconsideration. That happened last week, but there is no word on when a decision might come.

Fontaine said there was nothing further to say about Kapyong this week. He and many other Manitoba chiefs were in Ottawa for a special chiefs' meeting of the Assembly of First Nations.

Hudson said just because the court case proceeded does not mean negotiations have stopped completely.

"Clearly, we've always been open to settling," he said. "There is still the option to negotiate, regardless of the court hearing."

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Manitoba chiefs support national land rights movement, plan rally, Canadian Newswire, December 8

WINNIPEG _ The leader of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs says he supports a national initiative to convince foreign leaders to work with First Nations first if they're doing business in

Canada.

Derek Nepinak says a day of action will be held Monday, and that Manitoba First Nations are working with others on the Prairies and in Ontario.

He says the focus is to advance land rights and the aboriginal profile of Canadian First Nations on the world stage.

He says they hope to send a message to members of OPEC, to China and others in the international community that they "did not cede, release or surrender our natural resources to a colonial government.

He says aboriginals are "waking up from a 100-year slumber" and will impose their own laws.

This week, Nepinak and Ontario Nishnawbe Aski Grand Chief Stanley Beardy met with a senior official from the Canadian Chinese Consulate to discuss business possibilities with China.

Nepinak was among the chiefs on Parliament Hill this week who protested the federal omnibus budget bill on the grounds it attacks aboriginal land rights.

The Harper majority could pass the bill, C-45, through Parliament at any time despite public criticism that it streamlines oil and mining projects at the expense of environment and fisheries protection.

That, along with a suite of federal legislation that would alter treaty rights, are behind a grassroots movement spreading through links on Facebook and Twitter.

The focus so far is to roll out rallies in cities across Canada, including Winnipeg, next week in support of aboriginal land rights.

The long road - Grassy Narrows blockade fortified by people, not barriers. Anna J. Willow, Winnipeg Free Press, December 8

In May 2003, Anna J. Willow, now an anthropologist at Ohio State University, set out to "discover what motivated members of Grassy Narrows First Nation to take direct action to protect their homeland from industrial clear-cutting." Her study of activism at Grassy Narrows and the complex relationship between the environment and traditional indigenous concerns, was published this year as *Strong Hearts, Native Lands: Anti-Clear-cutting Activism at Grassy Narrows First Nation* (University of Manitoba Press). In this excerpt, adapted from the book, Willow describes the trip down Highway 671 north of Kenora, Ont., and the experience of first encountering the Grassy Narrows blockade.

The road to Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows First Nation) winds like the tangled waterways of the English-Wabigoon River system. Or like the story of the Anishinaabe people who live there. It winds up hills and past soaring outcroppings of Precambrian granite, down again and around a bend to reveal a vast expanse of silent lake. In the summer months, sedges and aquatic grasses ring nearly every lake, begging the attention of passing moose. In winter, when few but coniferous trees and ravens seem to look on, each lake outlines a desolate plain of ice and snow.

From the Trans-Canada Highway near Kenora, one heads north on Ontario Provincial Highway 671 and makes slow progress toward the reserve, just over 50 miles and an hour and a half (give or take) away. Past Island Lake, Silver Lake, Wild Lake, Keys Lake, and Havik Lake, to name just

a few. In fading yellow paint, outdated messages on rock faces inform visitors: "Powwow 40 minutes." "Powwow 20 minutes." Of course, no one from Grassy Narrows needs any reminders of their whereabouts. They know this road and its landmarks well. Most of the travellers on Jones Road (as the highway is commonly called) are destined for Grassy, although anglers and a few campers add to the traffic in summer months and sports hunters appear in fall. The occasional flatbed truck roars perilously past, hauling granite monoliths from a privately owned quarry. There are, however, no logging trucks. For those accustomed to travel in the region, their absence is palpable.

Only a couple more bends in the road and the highway comes to its official end. Here, one must make a choice: To the left lies the Grassy Narrows reserve, blandly designated English River #21 on most official maps. A hand-painted sign bearing the First Nation's clan-inspired insignia clearly marks the way to the reserve community. If, however, one continues to the right, past the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) station and its glaring lights, the pavement abruptly turns to gravel. After a 10-minute drive to the north -- bumpy and rutted in the summer and slightly smoothed by packed snow and ice in the winter -- the Slant Lake site comes into view.

For most of the blockade's first year, a stick blocking half the road demanded closer inspection. Supported by others of its kind, the stick hovered at waist height, bedecked with reflective orange-mesh vests. A mustard-coloured sign hung from the centre of the stick, proclaiming in bold letters:

PUBLIC NOTICE: YOU ARE IN THE GRASSY NARROWS TRADITIONAL LAND USE AREA. THIS IS THE ABORIGINAL TERRITORY OF THE ANISHINABE PEOPLE OF GRASSY NARROWS FIRST NATION.

This unassuming display, more than any other single object, represented the concrete, physical blockade as it stood when I arrived in Grassy Narrows. Yet its diminutive and impermanent presence fades rapidly in comparison to other features of the Slant Lake site, the activities that occurred there, and the rich meanings that underlie the events of the blockade.

The modest appearance of the Slant Lake blockade says a great deal about its social and cultural significance. When activists at Grassy Narrows make plans to head to the blockade to fish, share a meal, enjoy a campfire, or to spend a peaceful night in the on-site cabin, the physical barrier is not what they have in mind. No impermeable fortification ever stood here to stop the logging trucks. One blockader told me some of the Mohawk warriors who came to lend a hand during the blockade's exciting early weeks had quite a chuckle over the humble barricade. This was clearly not what recent Mohawk history, marked by the notorious 1990 Oka incident, had taught them to perceive as a roadblock. Here at Grassy, she seemed proud to report, people are the real blockade. Taken literally, her statement conjures images from the first night of the blockade, when Grassy Narrows youth stood in the stark glare of truck headlights with outstretched arms. But it is also true in a figurative sense; rather than the brief moments of confrontation portrayed by the media, it is the steady flow of social activity at the blockade that visitors like me remember most.

And so, assuming that one stops to read the sign (as many curious non-native anglers and hunters do), one's attention would instantly be drawn to the left. There blazes a campfire in a stone ring, perhaps tended by someone frying fresh walleye, perhaps simply enjoyed among friends and family. A pre-relocation-style log cabin-erected as part of a traditional skills youth education program-lies a bit farther from the road. Children play contentedly, happy to be outdoors and surrounded by playmates. For Anishinaabe activists and their families, the places to congregate, cook, and unwind are what the blockade is all about. The blockade is much more than a physical barrier; it is a way of being and a site of conscious cultural revitalization.

Somewhat ironically, the Slant Lake blockade makes use of an abandoned logging camp turnaround. Vacant for at least 40 years, thick brush covers two long-discarded cars from this distant era. Poplar sapling flagpoles propped in small spruce trees wave the flags of the Kanehsatake Warrior Society and Grassy Narrows First Nation. An upside-down Canadian flag -- the flag of a Canada in distress -- also flies. The sacred fire stands just behind, inside a teepee with a ragged appearance that bears witness to several fires. The sacred fire burned steadily from December 2002 until the fall of 2003 and is still periodically relit by community members.

While hardly a display of physical power, the blockade is both a symbol and an act of resistance.

To be sure, at times the blockade at Grassy Narrows was glamorous and confrontational. At these moments, it attracted the kind of media attention that thrives on such excitement. But for the most part, the blockade quietly endured -- and continues to endure -- as a symbol of the ongoing negotiations of power and identity that shape contemporary First Nations life. At least as important as its status as a site of overt resistance, the Grassy Narrows blockade is also a place where Anishinaabe people resist through the simple act of living.

The concept of resistance appears to implicitly call for an opponent -- for something or someone to actively resist. On the surface, it would be easy to point to the logging corporations that operate in the area as this necessary "enemy." And, at one level, this assessment would be accurate; when asked about the purpose of the blockade, most of the First Nation's activists initially cite a desire to bring the clear-cutting to a halt. But deeper issues are also at play. As my book describes, the story of the Grassy Narrows blockade cannot be understood as separate from the community's multi-generational struggle to endure in the face of political, cultural and environmental domination. As Grassy Narrows' deputy chief Steve Fobister once told me, "It's a long road."

From: Avery Wolaniuk
To: MB NEWS GROUP
Date: 12/11/2012 9:21 AM
Subject: Manitoba News Summary - December 11

Headlines:

Seven-week occupation of First Nation office in Manitoba comes to an end - Canadian Press Newswire - December 11

Nepinak gets it half right - Winnipeg Free Press editorial - December 11

School asbestos to be reviewed, Jen Skerritt, Winnipeg Free Press, December 11

Canada - US group turns off tap - Commission has 'issues' with city water plan, Bartley Kives and Jen Skerritt, Winnipeg Free Press, December 11

400 First Nations protesters march for treaty rights - Rallies organized on social media, Alexandra Paul, WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, December 11

Twitter: Marilyn Maki (CBC): Bitterly cold weather in Northern Manitoba for the next couple of day. Windchill value between -45 and -50 are in the Very High Risk range, as exposed skin can freeze in 2 to 5 minutes. Dec 11 at 7:18:36 AM

Seven-week occupation of First Nation office in Manitoba comes to an end, Canadian Press Newswire, December 11

BUFFALO POINT, Man. _ A seven-week occupation of a First Nation's band office has come to an end.

Eighteen protesters who occupied the offices at the Buffalo Point First Nation called it quits and went home Monday.

The group set up camp in the offices by day and patrolled them at night.

The protest started after a dispute over a land referendum in October.

The protesters fear all the reserve land will be turned over to cottages and they'll be forced out.

They want the hereditary chief, John Thunder, removed from office before that can happen but Ottawa has ignored calls for a new election.

Meetings last week with federal aboriginal affairs officials were disappointing, said Elliott Cobiness, a leader of the protesters.

And Thunder won an court extension to an injunction against the protesters.

The real victory for the chief came when the Court of Queen's Bench agreed with his lawyers that the RCMP had to take action to remove the protesters.

The RCMP notified the protesters they would be arrested Monday if anyone remained at the band office, the leaders said.

But Cobiness said they won't abandon their cause.

"We're not giving up. We just don't want to be arrested," Cobiness said.

His brother, who led the protest from within the band office, called their action a success despite the judge's ruling.

"We did make people aware of what was going on here," Ernest Cobiness said.

Buffalo Point, located about 170 kilometres southeast of Winnipeg, is better known as a cottage resort for affluent retirees.

There are 487 cottages and half a dozen homes and an apartment complex for the 118 band members.

In a November email, Thunder wrote that he and his father, former chief Jim Thunder, developed a multimillion-dollar business out of nothing on the reserve.

"Buffalo Point has accumulated about \$50 million in assets, businesses, and infrastructure that sits on the peninsula," he wrote.

"Out of that we have a \$3-million deficit. That is better than most non-aboriginal communities."

He said the reserve had all been but abandoned when his father started building the development in the 1970s.

Now a plan to raise taxes from cottagers and band members will lead to more development, Thunder wrote.

"Altogether this peninsula has a total of \$100 million invested to date and our new master plan is worth \$300 million," Thunder said.

Nepinak gets it half right, Winnipeg Free Press, Editorial, December 11

Manitoba's aboriginal leaders announced last week they're involved in discussions with China and OPEC members about aboriginal land and resource rights in Canada. Collateral to that announcement, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak made press-conference comments about aboriginal rights to Canada's resources that managed to be both inflammatorily wrong and historically correct. "What we're hoping to get across is... that we did not cede, release or surrender our natural resources to a colonial government... we are waking up from a 100-year slumber and we are going to impose our own laws," Nepinak said.

The wrong part was his threat "to impose our own laws in" Canada.

First Nations leaders are angry with the federal Conservative government for pending legislation that both alters treaty rights and streamlines oil and mining projects at the expense of environment and fisheries protection. But First Nations have no unilateral right to presume to enact or enforce laws that infringe on the rights of other Canadians. And making idle threats to do so won't win them allies of any political stripe.

The correct part was Chief Nepinak's and other activists' attempts to set the historical record straight. First Nations social activist Leo Baskatawang was right when he said: "Treaties are nation-to-nation agreements, and I think that's not understood in Canada and it's something that needs to be recognized."

Historically, the British Crown and later the Canadian government, dealt with aboriginal tribes not as wards, but as equals. Tribes and governments maintained diplomatic relations and their dealings were governed by treaty agreements. Sometimes treaties were reduced to writing, sometimes not. But in either case, binding legal promises were exchanged.

And because treaties are contracts between nations, modern tribes retain the right to insist governments perform their defaulted-upon obligations, or pay monetary damages if they don't, or can't.

Governments' records of abiding by treaties started off well, but became increasingly tarnished as decades went by.

The British Crown and later the Canadian government desperately wanted and urgently needed treaties with sundry tribes to permit peaceful settlement of parts of Ontario and Western Canada. Initially, there was little hesitation to acknowledge the sovereignty of native peoples. Governments dealt with them as they would any foreign power.

But, over time, willingness to deal with tribes as equals waned, and then vanished. Treaties

began being ignored or overruled in the late 19th century. Politicians came to believe treaties were absurd concessions to a silly fiction of Indian sovereignty, with no place in modern society.

Mr. Baskatawang's point is well made.

Treaties entered into 100 or 200 years ago remain legal obligations today. And that's why, where supported by persuasive evidence, Canadian courts give them full weight and accord.

First Nations leaders should abandon strategy that puts them outside the law. Better they attain their objectives by invoking the historical rule of law -- which is patently on their side.

School asbestos to be reviewed, Jen Skerritt, Winnipeg Free Press, December 11

THE province has launched a review to determine why 25 bags of asbestos were stored underneath a First Nations school.

Berens River band council ordered the community's kindergarten-to-Grade 9 school closed last week after a worker discovered the asbestos in the school's crawl space. Community leaders felt it was unsafe for the school's 350 students and 100 staff to go into the school until an independent investigation determines there is no health danger.

Officials from the province's workplace safety and health division ordered the school closed on Friday until results from further tests deem it safe for children to return.

Deputy education minister Gerald Farthing said officials have launched a review to examine why the asbestos was stored at the school, how long it's been in the school's crawl space and whether the situation should have been handled differently.

"First of all, we don't think it should've been stored there in the first place, properly or not," he said Monday. "We want to make sure that every time we're dealing with asbestos in schools, it is handled in a safe and transparent way."

Farthing said provincial education officials will conduct the review with the school division, community and federal government officials.

Results from air, soil and surface samples taken from classrooms, the furnace room and the crawl space will be available in the coming days, Farthing said, and a Calgary-based engineering firm will conduct further testing on today.

"Right now, we have to figure out whether or not kids can go back to this school," he said.

Berens River Chief George Kemp said residents are particularly concerned because 60 children have sought treatment for respiratory illnesses in recent months, although no one knows whether the illnesses are linked to the school.

Frontier School Division chief superintendent Ray Derksen said the school will be closed until Jan. 7. He said asbestos remediation was done with renovations to the mechanical system, and the asbestos was stored according to regulations and was to be removed by winter road this year.
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400 First Nations protesters march for treaty rights - Rallies organized on social media, Alexandra Paul, WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, December 11

Canada's aboriginal rights activists stressed peace as the watchword for Winnipeg supporters who tuned in to Twitter and turned out for a lunchtime rally. Michael Champagne, a North End community organizer, told a crowd of 400 that Monday's event at the legislature was the start of building an active grassroots movement from one end of the country to another.

"We are demanding to be taken seriously as one nation by the government of Canada," said Champagne, who spent the last year leading rallies at the Bell Tower on Salter Avenue to build up community spirit. "And we will not be ignored."

The message is stern but the methods aren't, said the slight young man with the engaging grin.

"We will stand together in a peaceful revolution... This is our land and we are not going anywhere," he declared.

Under the banner Idle No More, a grassroots movement used Facebook and Twitter to call for simultaneous rallies across the country Monday. Attacks on aboriginal rights galvanized the buzz for rallies in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay and Toronto.

The intent is to use social media to mobilize and draw attention to threats to land and treaty rights. The round of rallies wraps up with a rally on Parliament Hill on Dec. 21.

The Winnipeg crowd waved flags and sang on the steps of the legislature about an hour after the rally started at noon.

Community leaders and rights activists took turns at the microphone. Many of the province's aboriginal leaders attended, but for the most part, they stood behind the organizers.

The task was to lay out the details of a suite of federal bills that alter aboriginal rights. Chief among them is the federal omnibus budget bill that would erode land and treaty rights and laws that once protected the environment.

The sharp tang of sage filled the air as Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak joined a drum group in a rendition of The Longest Walk, the anthem of the American Indian Movement. AIM led an armed standoff that ended in the death of two FBI agents in Wounded Knee, S.D., in 1973.

One of the Idle No More organizers cautioned the crowd that the federal government may try to cast the rallies as radical.

"They are trying to make us look like radicals but that's not what we stand for," Jerry Daniels said.

Master of ceremonies Wab Kinew urged people in the crowd to work at home to make a better life.

"Take the energy you have here today back to your community so we truly will be idle no more," he said.

Among the crowd were university students and band members bused in from First Nations outside the city, such as Sandy Lake First Nation, 165 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg.

Arron Levasseur, from Sandy Bay, carried a sign that read, "If you don't want to honour our treaty rights, go home, Harper."

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Canada - US group turns off tap - Commission has 'issues' with city water plan, Bartley Kives and Jen Skerritt, Winnipeg Free Press, December 11

A Canada-U.S. commission has put a plug in Winnipeg's plan to sell water to neighbouring

municipalities, emboldening First Nations already opposed to the idea.

The City of Winnipeg announced Monday it has put off a plan to extend water pipes into the rural municipalities of Rosser and West St. Paul. Council approved the idea in 2011 as part of proposed service-sharing deals that would also see the city treat its neighbours' sewage.

The city turned off the tap after receiving a letter from the International Joint Commission (IJC), a Canada-U.S. body that prevents and resolves cross-border water disputes. A report to council said the IJC has undisclosed "issues" with the city's plan.

Winnipeg chief operating officer Deepak Joshi said the IJC wants to know whether the city's service-sharing plans comply with a 98-year-old agreement governing the watershed.

"They wanted to get a better understanding that we are still within the order from 1914," said Joshi, who declined to share a copy of the letter.

IJC officials could not be reached for comment.

Earlier this year, two Ontario First Nations situated along Shoal Lake, the source of Winnipeg's drinking water, launched a court challenge against the city's move. Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 First Nation and Shoal Lake No. 40 argue Winnipeg must but did not obtain their consent.

Shoal Lake 40 Chief Erwin Redsky said the international body's letter supports the First Nations' position that Winnipeg does not have the legal authority to move ahead with plans to extend water pipes beyond its borders.

Redsky said his community's land is directly affected by the water sale and the First Nation may file a separate application to the IJC.

"Like I've said many times, I would rather negotiate than go through the courts," he said.

Most of Shoal Lake is in Ontario, except for the western half of Indian Bay, which is in Manitoba. Winnipeg gets its water from Indian Bay through a 155-kilometre aqueduct completed in 1918. Ontario and Ottawa gave Winnipeg permission to draw water from Shoal Lake in 1913, while the IJC followed suit in 1914. Shoal Lake 40 has land near the aqueduct intake; Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 is farther east.

In spring, Winnipeg chief administrative officer Phil Sheegl said he wasn't concerned with the lawsuit from the two communities.

"We've done our due diligence and we feel comfortable with our position," the CAO said then.

The city's decision to hold off on extending water pipes into Rosser has complicated efforts to finalize a deal to extend water and sewer services to 405 hectares of industrial land set aside for CentrePort Canada, an international trade hub under development near Richardson International Airport. While some businesses that have purchased CentrePort land have dug wells to ensure they can fight fires, other companies have held off until the RM secures a deal with Winnipeg. CentrePort officials were not aware of the city's move to delay water services, but they are familiar with the issues involving Shoal Lake and will wait and see what council decides, said marketing and communications director Riva Harrison.

"Not having water servicing at CentrePort would be a problem for us, and I imagine our board would need to discuss the implication of that, should council go that way," Harrison said.

The city is proceeding with plans to extend sewage-treatment pipes to both Rosser and West St. Paul. The city has the capacity to treat more sewage and more water, Joshi said.

The city is also considering a plan to provide municipal garbage and sewage-disposal services to Shoal Lake 40, whose landfill closed earlier this year. The move will alleviate environmental concerns along Indian Bay, Joshi said.

The city may provide Shoal Lake 40 with Dumpsters, which could then be taken to Winnipeg for disposal along the Greater Winnipeg Water District Railroad. Since the First Nation does not have year-round road access, it would require a barge or a revamp of the band's existing ferry.

Redsky said the city has helped find a temporary solution for his community's waste issues.

"We are very pleased, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the federal government," he said.

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From: Avery Wolaniuk
To: MB NEWS GROUP
Date: 12/19/2012 9:15 AM
Subject: Manitoba News Summary - December 19

Note: This morning CBC radio reported on Little Saskatchewan First Nation evacuees who are spending their second Christmas at Misty Lake Lodge.

Opposition calls on Harper to avoid a 'personal tragedy' in aboriginal protest, Terry Pedwell, The Canadian Press in Winnipeg Free Press, December 19

OTTAWA - The federal opposition parties and the head of the Assembly of First Nations are urging Prime Minister Stephen Harper to take steps to end a prominent aboriginal leader's hunger strike before it's too late.

The call came as an aboriginal elder in northern Manitoba embarked Tuesday on a hunger strike of his own.

In his letter to Harper, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair called on the prime minister and the Governor General to meet with aboriginal leaders to end the protests.

Chief Theresa Spence of northern Ontario's remote Attawapiskat First Nation stopped eating a week ago, vowing to die unless the government started showing more respect for aboriginal treaties.

"I ask that you please act swiftly to avoid a personal tragedy for Chief Spence," Mulcair wrote.

"I look forward to your early positive response to this urgent matter."

Spence has been living in a tipi on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River, less than a kilometre from Parliament Hill, since beginning her fast Dec. 11.

Victoria Island is considered by the Anishinabe as traditional territory. New Democrat MP Paul Dewar visited Spence on the island Tuesday and reported that she is so far in good health.

Last week, Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan proposed a meeting with Spence to discuss issues affecting Attawapiskat, but there was no response.

Harper met with Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo as recently as Nov. 28 to review progress the government has been making in addressing aboriginal issues, said spokeswoman Julie Vaux.

"The prime minister hosted an historic gathering of the Crown and First Nations this past January," Vaux said in an email.

"Since then, the government has been working with First Nations leadership to make progress in several areas, most notably education and infrastructure on reserve."

The Liberals and the Assembly of First Nations also sent letters Tuesday to Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston, calling for an urgent meeting to discuss Spence's demands.

"I urge you to agree to participate in this meeting and meet with Chief Theresa Spence to hear directly from her why she has felt it necessary to take such drastic action," wrote Liberal

aboriginal affairs critic Carolyn Bennett.

Spence's hunger strike has become a cause celebre for some First Nations activists, prompting widening aboriginal protests across the country.

Attawapiskat was in the spotlight last winter when the reserve's severe housing crisis made international headlines.

More recent protests, however, have centred around aboriginal concerns with the Harper government's omnibus budget legislation, Bill C-45.

Supporters of a growing grassroots movement known as Idle No More have complained that the Harper government's policies have directly -- and negatively -- impacted aboriginal communities and the environment at large.

They want First Nations to be recognized as sovereign stakeholders in decisions affecting the country's land and resources.

Elder Raymond Robinson of the Cross Lake First Nation in Northern Manitoba launched his own hunger strike Tuesday, with the support of the AFN's Atleo and other aboriginal leaders.

"Now more than ever, we must see immediate and urgent attention and concrete commitments by government to work together with First Nations to address the unfulfilled promises, commitments and agreements that leave First Nations people struggling to meet the basic standards of life on a daily basis," Atleo said in a statement issued after a meeting of leaders in Cross Lake.

"First Nations stand in solidarity and will not back down. The time is now -- and this must be met with urgent and priority attention by government, there are lives at stake."

From: Ellen Funk
To: MB NEWS SUMMARY GROUP
Date: 12/7/2012 5:02 PM
Subject: Manitoba News Summary

First Nations assert rights to resources on international stage

By: Alexandra Paul Winnipeg Free Press

First Nations leaders are reaching out to leaders of other nations and linking arms with activists here to get the message out that anyone who wants to a piece of Canada's resources must be prepared to do business with them, first.

In a press conference Friday, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs leader Derek Nepinak presented a united front with activists behind a national campaign for a Day of Action next Monday.

And he announced Manitoba's leaders are working with prairie chiefs in talks with OPEC and with Ontario chiefs in similar talks with China, with a view to advancing the land and treaty rights profile of Canada's First Nations on the world stage.

"What we're hoping to get across is to send a message to the members of OPEC, to China and other members of the international community that we did not cede, release or surrender our natural resources to a colonial government... we are waking up from a 100-year slumber and we are going to impose our own laws," Nepinak declared.

Nepinak was among the chiefs on Parliament Hill this week who protested the federal omnibus budget bill on the grounds it attacks aboriginal land rights. That, along with a suite of federal legislation that would alter treaty rights, are behind a grassroots movement spreading through links on Facebook and Twitter. Right now the focus is to roll out rallies in cities across Canada next week in support of aboriginal rights.

Nepinak, flanked by Southern Chiefs leader Murray Clearsky, said across the country there is momentum building among aboriginal people from the kitchen to the podium to assert land and treaty rights in the streets and internationally.

It's born of a sense of frustration over broken treaties in this country that has boiled over now because of federal bills in the House of Commons and the Senate that chip away at aboriginal rights that are supposed to be protected by Canada's constitution, aboriginal activists said.

"I need to make something clear," said Leo Baskatawang, one of half a dozen First Nation social activists who shared the podium Friday. "Treaties are nation-to-nation agreements and I think that's not understood in Canada and it's something that needs to be recognized. There are movement growing across Canada and this is going to be the beginning of further action that takes place."

The rally planned for Winnipeg takes place Monday on the steps of the provincial legislature at noon until 5 p.m.

It isn't the first time Manitoba chiefs have shown a united front against poverty and the social conditions that plague aboriginal people on and off reserve. What's different this time is the momentum appears to be building up from the grassroots and not trickling down from the leaders, a point made earlier this week (

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/from-a-grassroots-hashtag-to-a-real-opportunity-for-change-kinewview-182324221.html>) in a column by University of Winnipeg's director of indigenous inclusion, Wab Kinew.

Manitoba's Grand Chief picked up on that element Friday by paraphrasing a quote from India's Mahatma Ghandi who famously said that when people lead, leaders must follow.

"The chiefs across this country, particularly in Manitoba, have grown tired of dealing with a Conservative government that continues to act like we do not exist," Manitoba's Grand Chief said.

Most of the Facebook and Twitter buzz is generated under the banner "Idle No More."



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Attawapiskat: You Want to Be Shown the Money? Here it Is.

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[Attawapiskat Crisis](#) , [Attawapiskat Red Cross](#) , [Attawapiskat Stephen Harper](#) , [Chief Theresa Spence](#) , [Aboriginal Affairs](#) , [Aboriginal Funding](#) , [Attawapiskat](#) , [Attawapiskat Emergency](#) , [First Nations Funding](#) , [Canada Politics News](#)

Reading the news coverage on Attawapiskat doesn't feel very healthy sometimes. There are so many racist rants and outright ignorant responses that it can bog you down. Where do you even begin, when the people making these comments do not seem to understand even the bare minimum about the subject?

Well, you can try to answer questions with facts. Here are some of those facts, if you're interested.

Harper said Attawapiskat got \$90 million, where did it all go!?

Yes, Prime Minister Harper is apparently scratching his head about where \$90 million in federal funding to Attawapiskat has gone. Many commentators then go on to make claims about lack of accountability and no one knowing what happens to the money once it is 'handed over' by the federal government.

Let's start simple.

First, please note that \$90 million is a deceptive number. It refers to federal funding received since Harper's government came into power in 2006. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, Attawapiskat received \$17.6 million in federal funds (PDF). The document linked to shows the breakdown of federal funds in case you wanted to know how much is allocated to things like medical transportation, education, maternal health care and so on.

Thus, \$90 million refers to the total of an average of about \$18 million per year in federal funding since 2006.

[As an aside, you will often see the figure of \$34 or \$35 million in funding given to Attawapiskat a year. This actually refers to total revenues. As noted, federal funding was \$17.6 million, and provincial funding was \$4.4 million. The community brings in about \$12 million of its own revenue, as shown here. So no, the "government" is not giving Attawapiskat \$34 million a year.]

Okay fine, but where did it go?

Attawapiskat publishes its financial statements going back to 2005. If you want to know where the money was spent, you can look in the audited financial reports. [This document](#) (PDF), for example, provides a breakdown of all program funding.

Just getting to this stage alone proves false the claim that there is no accountability and no one knows where the money goes.

But \$90 million could have built the community 360 brand new houses!

Assuming, as Grand Chief Stan Louttit of the Mushkegowuk Council has stated, that a new house costs \$250,000 to build in Attawapiskat (with half of that being transportation costs), then yes, 360 new units could have been provided by \$90 million.

However, this money was not just earmarked for the construction of new homes.

An important fact that many commentators forget (or are unaware of) is that section 91(24) of the Constitution Act of 1867 gives the Federal Crown exclusive powers over "Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians."

You see, for non-natives, the provinces are in charge of funding things like education, health care, social services and so on. For example, the Province of Ontario allocated \$10,730 in education funding per non-native pupil in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. For most First Nations, particularly those on reserve, the federal government through INAC is responsible for providing funds for native education.

How is this relevant?

It helps explain why the entire \$90 million was not allocated to the construction of new houses. That \$90 million includes funding for things like:

- Education per pupil
- Education infrastructure (maintenance, repair, teacher salaries, etc)
- Health care per patient
- Health care, infrastructure (clinics, staff, access to services outside the community in the absence of facilities on reserve)
- Social services (facilities, staff, etc.)
- Infrastructure (maintenance and construction)
- A myriad of other services

These costs are often not taken into account when attempting to compare a First Nation reserve to a non-native municipality. In fact, many people forget that their own health care and education are heavily subsidised by tax dollars as well.

What's the point here?

How much money was actually allocated to housing in 2010-2011? Page 2 of [Schedule A](#) (PDF) shows us that out of the \$17.6 million in federal funds, only \$2 million was provided for housing.

Yes, even \$2 million would be enough to eight brand new homes, if those funds were not also used to maintain and repair existing homes. The specific breakdown of how that money was spent is found in Schedule I.

Now, I admit I am confused about something. The Harper article states:

According to figures providing by Aboriginal Affairs, the Attawapiskat Cree band has received just over \$3 million in funds specifically for housing and a further \$2.8 million in infrastructure money since 2006.

That is actually less than I estimated it would be, going by the 2010-2011 figures. I estimated \$10 million for housing, but INAC (now Aboriginal Affairs) is saying it was \$5.8 million.

Anyway, that isn't too important. The point is, if INAC is correct, only \$5.8 million has gone towards housing for Attawapiskat. At most that could have built the community 23 new houses, if Attawapiskat had merely let the older houses go without any repairs or maintenance for five years. Letting existing homes go like that is not a great strategy, however.

The point here is, \$90 million sounds like a huge amount, but the real figures allocated to housing are much, much smaller.

Fine, they got \$5.8 million for housing, surely that is enough?

Again, assuming 23 new homes were built, and all older homes were left without maintenance and repairs, and the people in charge of housing worked for free and there were no other costs associated with administering the housing program, Attawapiskat would still be experiencing a housing crisis.

It is estimated that \$84 million is needed for housing alone to meet Attawapiskat's housing needs (you'll find those figures in a small table on the right, titled "Attawapiskat by the numbers").

The feds are just handing that money over and the Band does whatever it wants with it!

Many people seem to be labouring under the misapprehension that all or even most First Nations have self-governance and run themselves freely. This is far from the truth, but given that most Canadians are familiar with the municipal model, the confusion is actually understandable. It isn't as though Canada does a very good job of teaching people about the Indian Act.

Section 61(1)(a-k) of the Indian Act details that: "With the consent of the council of a band, the Minister may authorize and direct the expenditure of capital moneys of the band" for various purposes.

What this means is that Ministerial approval is actually a requirement before any capital expenditures can occur on reserve. In practice, a Band will generally pass a Band Council Resolution (BCR) authorising a certain expenditure (say on housing), and that BCR must be forwarded to INAC for approval.

That's right. Most First Nations have to get permission before they can spend money. That is the opposite of "doing whatever they want" with the money. Bands are micromanaged to an extent

unseen in nearly any other context that does not involve a minor or someone who lacks capacity due to mental disability.

Any claims that INAC has no control over what Bands spend their money on is false.

I would hope by now you'd ask the following question:

If INAC has to approve spending, why is Harper so confused?

There is a tendency to believe that our government officials do things in a way that makes sense. This, despite the fact that most of us don't actually believe this to be true. We want to believe. I know I do.

So upon learning that the federal government is the one in charge of providing services to First Nations that are provided to non-natives by the province, we might assume that the provision of these services are administered in a comparable manner.

Not so! And it actually makes sense why not, when you think about it for a moment. Have you ever seen a federal hospital, for example? No, because almost all hospitals are built, maintained, and staffed by the provinces. Thus, when a First Nations person needs to access health care, they usually cannot access federal infrastructure. They must access provincial infrastructure and have the feds rather than the province pick up the tab.

If only it were as easy as federal funding via provincial structures.

The auditor general of Canada speaks up.

The auditor general of Canada released a report in June of this year examining Programs for First Nations on Reserve. A similar report was published in 2006. This report identifies deficiencies in program planning and delivery by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Health Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

The reports also provide a number of recommendations to improve these deficiencies. The 2011 report evaluated the progress made since the 2006 report, and in most areas, gave these federal agencies a failing grade.

Don't worry, there is a point to this, stay with me.

The 2011 report has this to say:

In our view, many of the problems facing First Nations go deeper than the existing programs' lack of efficiency and effectiveness. We believe that structural impediments severely limit the delivery of public services to First Nations communities and hinder improvements in living conditions on reserves. We have identified four such impediments:

- lack of clarity about service levels,

- lack of a legislative base,
- lack of an appropriate funding mechanism, and
- lack of organizations to support local service delivery.

I know this is going to look like mumbo jumbo at first, so let me break it down a little for you. This will help explain why millions of dollars of funding is not enough to actually improve the living conditions of First Nations people, particularly those on reserve.

Lack of clarity about service levels

As explained earlier the federal government is in charge of delivering services that are otherwise provided by the provinces to non-natives. The auditor general states:

It is not always evident whether the federal government is committed to providing services on reserves of the same range and quality as those provided to other communities across Canada.

Shockingly, the federal government does not always have clear program objectives, nor does it necessarily specify specific roles and responsibilities for program delivery, and has not established measures for evaluating performance in order to determine if outcome are actually met.

What!?

That's right. The federal government is not keeping track of what it does, how it does it, or whether what it is doing works. The auditor general recommends the federal government fix this, pronto. How can a community rely on these services if the federal government itself isn't even clear on what it is providing and whether the programs are working?

Lack of a legislative base

Provincial legislation provides a basis of clarity for services delivered by provinces. A legislative base for programs specifies respective roles and responsibilities, eligibility, and other program elements. It constitutes an unambiguous commitment by government to deliver those services. The result is that accountability and funding are better defined.

The provinces all have some sort of Education Act that clearly lays out the roles and responsibilities of education authorities, as well as mechanisms of evaluation. There is generally no comparable federal legislation for the provision of First Nations education, health care, housing and so on.

As noted by the AG, legislation provides clarity and accountability. Without it, decision can be made on an ill-defined "policy" basis or on a completely ad hoc basis.

Lack of an appropriate funding mechanism

The AG focuses on a few areas here.

Lack of service standards for one. Were you aware that provincial building codes do not apply on reserve? Some provincial laws of "general application" (like Highway Traffic Acts) can apply on reserve, but building codes do not. There is a federal National Building Code, but enforcement and inspection has been a major problem. This has been listed as one of the factors in why homes built on reserve do not have a similar 'life' to those built off reserve.

Poor timing for provision of funds is another key issue. "Most contribution agreements must be renewed yearly. In previous audits, we found that the funds may not be available until several months into the period to be funded," the auditor general states.

This is particularly problematic for housing as "money often doesn't arrive until late summer, past the peak construction period, so projects get delayed and their costs rise," the CBC says.

Lack of accountability.

It is often unclear who is accountable to First Nations members for achieving improved outcomes or specific levels of services. First Nations often cite a lack of federal funding as the main reason for inadequate services. For its part, INAC maintains that the federal government funds services to First Nations but is not responsible for the delivery or provision of these services.

The AG also refers to a heavy reporting burden put on First Nations, and notes that the endless paperwork often is completely ignored anyway by federal agencies.

Lack of organisations to support local service delivery

This refers once again to the fact that there are hardly any federal school or health boards, or federal infrastructure and expertise. Some programs are delivered through provincial structures, while others are provided directly by the federal government, with less than stellar results.

As the auditor general states, "**Change is needed if meaning full progress is to be realised.**" There is extreme lack of clarity about what the federal government is doing, why, how, and whether it is at all effective. No wonder Harper is confused!

Tired yet?

Don't worry, the commentators aren't finished, and neither am I.

The chief of Attawapiskat made \$71,000 last year while her people live in tents!

Apparently we are supposed to be outraged at the excess involved here. This of course follows on the heels of a report by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation about 'jaw-dropping' reserve

salaries. It's become fashionable to rant about chiefs making more than premiers (though no one could make that claim here).

Attawapiskat publishes its salaries, travel expenses and honorariums (again, nothing being hidden here). Chief Theresa Spence was paid \$69,575 in salary and honorariums in 2010-2011, and had \$1,798 in travel expenses for a total of about \$71,000.

If you are like most people, you don't spend a lot of time looking at what public employees actually make. What number wouldn't shock you in the absence of such context? \$50,000? \$32,000? I suspect any amount would be offered as some sort of proof of... something not right.

Well okay. Why don't we take a look at some other salaries? But first, note that Ontario Premier McGuinty made \$209,000 in 2010, and apparently over 100 public service executives made more than he did. (This is a big deal to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, not me.)

It is difficult to do a really accurate comparison of salaries, because Ontario's Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act (doc) of 1996 only requires that salaries over \$100,000 be reported. (In addition, if the salaries are reported elsewhere, they are not necessarily included in this report.) However, the annual reports are a fantastic resource. Here is the list of various public sector employees making over \$100,000 a year. I offer this merely in order to ask, were you aware these people were making this amount of money?

I sure wasn't. These are salaries paid by tax dollars too. I have no idea if the director of Quality Services for the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation should be paid \$147,437.58 a year. (Sorry to single you out, sir, I chose randomly.) If this corporation were in the news and having financial difficulties, I have no doubt this salary would be brought up as somehow relevant... but is it?

I don't know if it is. That's the point. I don't think the people bringing it up know either. I haven't been able to find a source listing the salaries of mayors of municipalities in Ontario to compare to Chief Spence's salary. Then again, I doubt anyone would seriously claim that if she worked for free, the housing crisis in Attawapiskat would be over.

A good comment was sent to me recently on the issue of salaries that I'd like to share. "Whenever one is talking about the salaries of say a [premier or a] prime minister versus someone else, two things: 1) parliamentarians get very good pensions and for a relatively short time of service; 2) more particularly, a post like the prime ministership or the presidency of the United States opens up all kinds of doors for later life. So even if the salary is \$200,000, the person is virtually guaranteed a very comfortably post-office life. Counsel in a big law firm. Paid corporate director. University professor. Etc. etc. I don't think we imagine that the Barrick Gold Corporations of the world will be banging down the door of a past chief of Attawapiskat in a comparable way."

I wonder what kind of pension Chief Spence can count on?

The more you know...

I know I haven't dealt with all of the accusations and arguments being made about Attawapiskat on various forums and comments sections of online news articles. However I think you now have

at least a base to begin with, whether you honestly just want to understand the situation a little better, or want to fight those comment battles.

Third party-management

An article by [Michael Posluns](#) sheds some light on what third party management means in practice.

A final word

Above all, my relations, don't let it get you down.

You will see people call for the abolition of the Indian Act, for the abolition of reserves and the "assimilation" of First Nations into "Canadian society." You will see horrible things said about aboriginal culture. What you will rarely see are people responding to facts. Don't be discouraged when facts are brushed off in favour of accusations. We do have the power to educate those around us, and even if we can't reach the most vocal of bigots, we can reach the "average" Canadian who is merely unaware rather than necessarily outright hateful.

This post previously appeared on [Apihtawikosisan.wordpress.com](#).