

**Tobique First Nation, NB January 2014**

# **Wulustuk Times**

Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St. John River

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### **Wulustuk Times:**

Each month we gather and publish the latest, most current and relevant native information for our readers. Proceeding with this concept, we feel that a well informed person is better able to see, relate with, and assess a situation more accurately when equipped with the right tools. Our aim is to provide the precise tools and the best information possible.

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## **OUR WINTER SOLSTICE MESSAGE OF LIGHT, LOVE, PEACE AND HAPPINESS**

### **The Peace of Spirit**

Once again it is the time when our Mosums (Grandfather) Sun stops his journey south and turns to begin his journey north. It is Winter Solstice. Winter Solstice is the point upon the Great Hoop of Life where the sacred relationship between the Great Mother, and the Great Father becomes more observable to the People. Our original instructions teach The People that we should make special observances of this natural phenomenon through ceremony and through passing on those Original Instructions, which are our Traditional Teachings. We learn through this sacred relationship about how we are to create and maintain similar sacred relationships. Relationships that are in balance and in harmony and that are loving, equal, respectful and nurturing. Winter Solstice is when our People slow down all of our activities and sit quietly in order to be in the Present, in the Now, in the Beginning, It is also a time for remembering and honoring our sacred oneness with all of Great Creator's Creation and our oneness with the Love and the Peace and the Joy that is Great Creator.

The love, joy, peace and compassion which is evident at this time is ever so good for our hearts; and what is good for our hearts is good for our Earth Mother.

To all of our relatives (and we are all related) we send you strong, loving and healing energy so that today your heart, your home, your lives and your spirit are filled with love, peace, joy and happiness.

We send strong healing energy to our relatives who are suffering, in pain, in turmoil, or are otherwise in need of love and healing. May the sacred life force of Love bring healing and may it lift heavy hearts.

We share your love, peace, joy and laughter. Your joy and happiness lifts the hearts of Grandmother and Grandfather.

Whenever we are in ceremony you are all carried within the light of our hearts and are lovingly remembered through spirit, through light, through peace and through love.

As human beings, and as the designated protectors of the land, we have a responsibility to all living things, all of creation: the two-legged, the four-legged, those creatures that fly, all creatures that swim, all plant life, the trees, the water, the air, the land - every living thing. It is our responsibility to love, honour, respect and protect all of creation. In doing this we honour our birth rights. We also honour the Ancestors who kept our traditional teachings alive and we honour the Seventh Generation yet to come.

We conclude by recognizing, acknowledging and respecting our sacred relationship to all other living things - past, present and future. Our sacred Earth Mother requires our love and respect if she is to continue to sustain us.

From our lodge to yours we send you light, love, peace and healing.

All My Relations,

The Ennis'

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**ENBRIDGE TAR SANDS PIPELINE TO B.C. WILL NEVER BE BUILT, DESPITE SUPPORT FROM REVIEW PANEL; KEYSTONE XL IS THE LYNCHPIN FOR TAR SANDS EXPANSION**

Elizabeth Shope

Yesterday, the Joint Review Panel that has been reviewing the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway tar sands pipeline that would carry 525,000 barrels per day of tar sands from Alberta to the Northern British Columbia Coast issued a report recommending approval of the pipeline with 209 conditions. The response from First Nations and environmental groups in B.C. was swift and strong, issuing one clear message: this pipeline and the associated tar sands development and tanker traffic are not in the public interest, and it will never be built. These are not idle words. This project needs support from First Nations and social license to be able to proceed – neither of which it has. In fact, First Nations have said they are prepared to go to court in order to fight this project, and more than 15,000 people have signed on to a Solidarity Accord, pledging to stand with the Yinka Dene Alliance and, “with your voice, in the streets, or on the land. Whatever it takes, we will stop this project from ever being built, together.” This all goes to show that Keystone XL – not Northern Gateway – is the lynchpin for tar sands expansion, as Enbridge’s misguided project isn’t going anywhere any time soon.

The Joint Review Panel process was flawed from the beginning, failing to include many important impacts, such as from extracting and refining the tar sands the pipeline would carry, or from burning the fuel. If it weren’t dealing with such a serious issue, it would be comical. The report indicates:

Many people said the project would lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental and social effects from oil sands development. We did not consider that there was a sufficiently direct connection between the project and any particular existing or proposed oil sands development or other oil production activities to warrant consideration of the effects of these activities.

Not a sufficiently direct connection? So, the tar sands that the pipeline would transport would somehow not actually be extracted from anywhere? What is this even supposed to mean? What’s worse, as Chris Turner from Desmog Blog points out, while the panel didn’t think the environmental and social effects from

tar sands development made sense to consider because there's supposedly no direct connection with tar sands development, they did consider the purported economic benefits: "We have taken into consideration that Western Canadian crude oil supply and the demand for imported condensate are forecast to grow significantly over the life of the project."

The Panel's report reads in other places somewhat like one of those drug advertisements that tell you that sometimes heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, liver failure, and even death may occur from taking the drug, but it's really great, so you should take it anyways! Talking about the possibility of a large oil spill, the JRP writes:

In the unlikely event of a large oil spill, we found that there would be significant adverse effects on lands, waters, or resources used by Aboriginal groups. We found that these adverse effects would not be permanent and widespread. We recognize that reduced or interrupted access to lands, waters, or resources used by Aboriginal groups, including for country foods, may result in disruptions in the ability of Aboriginal groups to practise their traditional activities. We recognize that such an event would place burdens and challenges on affected Aboriginal groups. We find that such interruptions would be temporary. We also recognize that, during recovery from a spill, users of lands, waters, or resources may experience disruptions and possible changes in access or use.

Ian McAllister of Pacific Wild Alliance responded to this by saying, "It is inconceivable how the NEB could dismiss the impacts that an oil spill could have on the B.C. coast as being 'significant' but not 'permanent', while Alaskans are still living with the devastation to their coastal environment caused by the Exxon Valdez disaster more than 20 years later."

Spills were just one of the many concerns voiced by the 1,161 people who spoke publicly at the hearings – where all but two people were opposed to the Northern Gateway project. In Section 2.3 of the Northern Gateway report, entitled "What were the public concerns?" the JRP notes that people had many concerns – about the likelihood and consequences of malfunctions and accidents; the effects of construction and routine operations on the environment; the economic soundness, costs, benefits, design, construction, and operations; and the effects of the project on society, culture, and Aboriginal people. Yet they brush it off, saying that "Northern Gateway made commitments during the hearings to address many of these concerns." Never mind the fact that there is no way to enforce most of their commitments.

So the report is shockingly bad, which is disappointing, but not really very surprising – but it really doesn't matter, because even if Prime Minister Harper goes ahead and approves the pipeline (approval or denial by the Prime Minister is the next step in this process), it's still not going to be built. Chief Marilyn Slett from the Heiltsuk Nation said,

"It is us who will bear the risks to our economy, our environment, our way of life and to our cultural identity if the Project moves forward.... We will use any means necessary – including legal action – to protect our Aboriginal Rights and Title. That's the message we delivered to the JRP and that's the message we will continue to share until Enbridge's Northern Gateway Project is dead."

The Lake Babine First Nation shared a similar message from their Chief Wilf Adam, disparaging the process and project:

"The JRP process simply isn't designed to properly consider the full impacts of the pipeline on aboriginal rights, which are protected by the Constitution of Canada. The Federal Government has gutted Canada's environmental laws and streamlined the environmental assessment process to the detriment of all Canadians, but it has not taken away the constitutional protection given to our aboriginal rights. The JRP recommendations have made it clear to us that we are being forced to go to the courts to protect our aboriginal rights."

NRDC will continue to stand by the more than 130 First Nations opposing and fighting the Northern Gateway tar sands pipeline, but right now, despite yesterday's report, we think its chances are slim. We will continue to review the Joint Review Panel report over the coming days, but right now, it's looking like this pipeline's chances are even lower than the also-misguided Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. Financial analysts give this pipeline very slim chances of ever being built due to the strong opposition it faces from First Nations. In the mean time, Alberta is rapidly running out of pipeline capacity to export their tar sands. Those who try to say that Keystone XL will not affect tar sands production because the tar sands will just be sent to China have no idea what this pipeline is up against. I am proud to be standing with the Yinka Dene Alliance in opposing Northern Gateway, and you can, too, by signing on to the Solidarity Accord or writing to B.C. premier Christy Clark and asking her to stand up for B.C. She has rejected the Enbridge pipeline and we hope she will make it clear to Harper that she will not grant the permits necessary for this project to go ahead, no matter what the JRP says.

### **COURT OK'S COMPANY TO FRACK FOR SHALE GAS ON LUBICON CREE LAND**

Lubicon Lake Nation

December 16, 2013 / Little Buffalo, AB / At approximately, 5:00 MST, a Calgary Judge granted an order of injunction against a peaceful gathering organized to protect Lubicon traditional territory from fracking by oil giant Penn West Petroleum Ltd.

Penn West filed for an injunction late last week asking that a 7 day order of injunction be granted. The judge in this case went beyond the request and granted a 6 month order of injunction, which requires two days' notice according to the Public Lands Act. According to Cynthia Tomlinson, Lands & Negotiations Advisor for the Lubicon Lake Nation, that notice was not given. "Two business days were not provided to properly consider the case. Our legal counsel were only informed Thursday evening that this case was coming forward on Friday morning and reheard on Monday."

The Lubicon people have been braving extreme winter temperatures for the last three weeks to prevent fracking on a swath of land that holds deep cultural, historical, and environmental significance for the Nation located between Sawn and Haig Lakes. "This is not the end of this fight, on the land or in the courts," Said Cynthia Tomlinson.

The Lubicon Lake Nation is calling on the international community to stand up and take notice of their struggle. "This is yet another example of what the United Nations has already ruled in the Lubicon case. We as people do not have effective redress in the Canadian legal and regulatory system and it is actively being used as a tool to exterminate us in favor of natural resource development" said Chief Bernard Ominayak following the hearing result and indicated that the Lubicon Lake Nation would be bringing forward an appeal as they were clearly denied the opportunity to respond to the court in this case.

The Lubicon Lake Nation is home to the longest unresolved land claim in Canadian history. The Nation's traditional territory includes some of the richest oil and gas reserves on the planet. The federal and provincial governments have undertaken to support outside economic development instead of recognizing the inherent rights of the Lubicon people. To date, more than \$14 billion worth of oil and gas has been extracted from their territory without their consent.

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## **WE'RE STILL UNDER ATTACK FROM GREEDOCRACY PILLAGE AND PLUNDER**

People in Mi'kmaq territory get a bit of a break for awhile now after SWN Corp., on behalf of Irving Oil, pulled out last week. They face ongoing police harassment, court cases and lawsuits. Four Mi'kmaq men remain in custody since the RCMP attack on October 17. Now out of the media spotlight, will the Mi'kmaq Original People get the support they need to recover??

Meanwhile, all across Turtle Island, the struggle to protect Mother Earth and our Future Generations is far from over.

It looks to us like Cleveland-based Cliffs Natural Resources' recent "cancellation" was a ruse, a bluff to secure cheap electricity for their proposed multi \$\$\$billion chromium project in the "Ring of Fire". Now, while Ontarions will pay higher and higher electricity costs, Cliffs will get a special deal. Ontario has to build all the infrastructure too - roads, rail, dams and transmission lines - which means taxpayers foot the bill. Yet these polytricksters want to assure us that we will benefit. "Where is the precedent for that?" we must ask.

Most of Ontario is part of Anishnaabe territory, which was negotiated in fraudulent treaties whereby the Crown never acted with honour or in good faith. All the treaties must be renegotiated to ensure Indigenous sovereignty and rights which have been continually breached, trampled and ignored for far too long.

The oligarchs always act as if their projects are a done deal and an absolute necessity. Keep in mind that the major use of such minerals as chromite is for the military and perpetuation of a global empire.

It's a sellout sellout on every level.

The below article mentions Capreol, a town near the proposed chromite mine site. Is it a coincidence that the "Indigenous" member on the NEB National Energy Board is a man from near Capreol which is a proposed location for the DGR Deep Geological Repository for nuclear waste?? What kind of military stronghold is being built on Anishnaabe Aki??

It sure looks to us like the ultimate destruction of Anishnaabe heartland is being planned.

Over in northern Alberta, the oil mongers - Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Marathon Oil Corp. and Chevron Corp. - have come up with an utterly insane idea to expand their multi \$\$\$billion bitumen mining operations at JackPine, about 70 km north of Fort McMurray in Cree territory. They want to destroy 8500 hectares of wetlands and set aside a protected area of 730 hectares of grasslands to compensate for this destruction.

According to CBC, "Shell's assessment projects that 185,872 hectares of wetlands in the area will be lost or altered as a result of the Jackpine Mine expansion and other industrial activity... 21 kilometres of the Muskeg River would be destroyed as a result of the mine extension." And that's Shell's calculations! What about ours??

This is brutal. Keep in mind too, a significant percentage of oil is used to fuel the huge number of wars of occupation taking place all over Planet

Earth. War itself is the biggest business keeping the capitalist "economy" going!!

Canada's Federal Environment Minister Leona "PosterGirl" Aglukkaq said she reviewed "mitigation measures" she considers appropriate when she made her decision on Jackpine. "I determined that the designated project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects." Ms. Aglukkaq referred to the Tory cabinet [who get their marching orders from the PCO Privy Council Office] which "decided that the significant adverse environmental effects that the designated project is likely to cause, are justified in the circumstances."

Can someone let the migratory birds know that instead of resting and feeding in their usual marshes, they will have to touch down in an old cow pasture some hundreds of km away. The caribou also need to be notified of these changes to their ancient habitual routes. And the fish in the water, will they understand what is happening when they suffocate to death?

Let's not be fooled anymore by these sleazy performers and tricksters. They have no intention of sharing the phenomenal wealth under our feet, the wealth that mingles with the dust of Our Ancestors. They'll pay off a few traitors and sellouts. They will never ever do anything that will make us stronger than them such as leaving our ties to Mother Earth intact.

Canadian born celebrity musician Neil Young has scheduled 4 concerts to raise funds to help fight the oil sands expansion. He says it looks like "Hiroshima". Other stars are likely to jump on board.

It's up to us to secure our territories and resources for future generations. We know the most important things we have are land, water and air. Keep strong and stay focused.  
All Our Relations, Kittoh

### **DEAN'S DEN: Living With It**

My nose is stuffed up  
And my muscles are achy  
My heads like a pun'kin  
My legs are all shaky,  
My windows are frosted  
Iced up by Ole Jack  
A cruel wind is trying  
To sneak in thru a crack,  
The bee's have buzzed off  
With the robin's and finches  
I look out my window  
Where its a matter of "inches",  
My driveway is grinning  
C'mon, git your shovel in gear  
Its a wild wonderland  
Old Man Winter is here,  
Sometimes, for sure  
It can seem like a dud  
But I'm not running away  
Its here ... in my blood,  
The bad roads, the hard trails

The ice and the crust  
I don't try to beat it  
Living with it ... a must,  
I like it, I love it  
Dazzling snow in the sun  
The seasonal sports  
But ... I'll be glad when its done!

-D.C. Butterfield

Happy Birthday to Clover Lynn!! She is our second to youngest grand daughter and Seren would like to wish her Happy Birthday Clover Lynn!! she will be one January 12, 2014

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you can be successful or be happy.