



Why Are Native People and their Allies Protesting?

Indigenous First Nations and Native American communities are protesting a group of new federal laws in Canada. These new laws will seriously harm Native rights, and **destroy** the environment. There was no proper consultation with Native communities about this legislation. This is part of a larger concern about an ongoing lack of respect by Canada and America for Indigenous communities and their rights and issues.

What is “Idle No More”?

Three Indigenous women and one non-Native ally started a grassroots campaign called “Idle No More” to focus on the above concerns. There are no official leaders for Idle No More. Since early December 2012, locally organized, peaceful protests have spread across Canada and the world. Many involve “round-dances” in public places such as malls. Some choose to peacefully block roads or rail lines, while rallies are organized outside important federal buildings. Most are spontaneously organized using social media including Facebook, Twitter, and blogs.

Why Should Non-Native Americans Care?

The proposed legal changes affect us all. We should all be concerned about this failure of democracy, about the gutting of federal environmental laws. This legislation will destroy the clean water and air, first on the reserves, lakes, rivers and reservations, and then for everyone. “We are all treaty people” – we all benefit from the treaties that opened this country for settlement and we are all responsible for upholding the honour of the treaty relationship. What they do to the Earth Mother, they do to humanity and all of our Relations.

What can I do to help?

Check out the links provided and educate yourself. Write to your government officials. Attend teach-ins and rallies. Network with local people to put the goals of Idle No More – grassroots, nonviolent activism to protect our landbase and water, and to respect Indigenous Sovereignty – into action.

Fight cultural appropriation. If you are not part of a traditional, Native American or First Nations community, do not pretend to be Native. Do not use their songs, names or ceremonies. Everyone's ancestors had earth-honoring ways. Find those roots. It's far more spiritual to know who you really are than to steal from others. Respecting Indigenous Sovereignty means respecting Native people's rights to own their identities and cultural property.

Where Can I Find Out More?

Official website: <http://idlenomore.ca/>

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Idlenomore.official/>

Idle No More Wabanaki West:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/inm.wabanakiwest/>

Two Row Wampum:

<http://www.akwesasne.ca/tworowwampum.html>

NAFPS: <http://www.newagefraud.org>

CAORANN – anti-racist Celts:

<http://www.bandia.net/caorann/>

Your local, federally-recognized, land-based First Nation or Native American community.

