

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Environmental Activities

U.S. Activities

International Activities

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Steve Sachs

Environmental Activities

The Indigenous Environmental Network wrote in a June 8, 2023 E-Mail, "**Global Outrage Mounts as United States and Big Polluters Imperil Environmental Justice at UN Climate Change Conference,**"

"International environmental and climate justice leaders representing impacted, frontline communities and grassroots organizations will be holding a press conference regarding the United States, other big polluting countries, and corporations for their investments in fossil fuels and false climate solutions, and obstruction of just and equitable climate action at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) inter-sessional meeting. The press conference will be webcast and recorded.

WHO: Peniel Ibe — Member, The Black Hive at Movement for Black Lives

Adrien Salazar — Policy Director, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Tamra Gilbertson — Climate Justice Program Coordinator, Indigenous Environmental Network

Thomas Joseph — Hupa, Karuk, Paiute-Shoshone, Carbon Pricing Educator, Indigenous Environmental Network

Juan Pablo Gutierrez — Yukpa, Human Rights Defender, National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC)

WHAT: Press Conference at SB58, United Nations Climate Change Conference

WHEN: Friday, June 09, 2023 11:00 am CEST / 5:00 am EST

WHERE: Room Nairobi 4, World Conference Center, Bonn, Germany Streaming via United Nation's Climate Change Conference

BACKGROUND:

The 58th meeting of the Supervisory Body of the UNFCCC (SB58) this week has included a multitude of technical discussions to implement the mechanisms of the Paris Agreement to achieve the temperature goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius. Among key elements, countries are negotiating the implementation of a global carbon pricing and offset system outlined under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

While Global North countries like the United States position to influence key elements of the debate at SB58, including discussions on the global stocktake, Article 6, and loss and damage, they are also opening the door for expanded fossil fuel production and false climate solutions at home and abroad. The debate in Article 6 continues in relation to how or if carbon dioxide removals (CDR), that includes practices and technologies that can harm communities, will be included in Article 6.4. At the same time, with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act in the U.S., new streams of funding were created via increased subsidies for oil and gas corporations to continue to pollute, standing counter to the United States' promises of reducing emissions.

" leaders speaking at the press conference from the Bonn climate meeting represent *It Takes Roots*, a delegation of grassroots organizations and networks in the United States, including Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, Indigenous Environmental Network, Just Transition Alliance, Movement 4 Black Lives Black Hive, and others. This press conference will discuss the role of the U.S. at the SB58, outline some of the key overlapping elements taking place at the conference, and look ahead to the upcoming COP 28. These speakers have participated as official UNFCCC Observers in key meetings, including **negotiations on Article 6, the Loss and Damage Fund, a Just Transition**, and other items on the SB58 agenda."

Jake Johnson, 'Biden Told to Act on His Climate Rhetoric by Halting New Fossil Fuel Drilling: 'President Biden needs to stop approving fossil fuel infrastructure projects, end fossil fuel production on public lands and waters, and declare a climate emergency,' said one climate campaigner,' February 8, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/biden-climate-state-of-the-union>, reported, 'President Joe Biden said during his State of the Union address Tuesday that the climate crisis is an 'existential threat' and political leaders have an obligation to confront it. Seconds later, the president briefly deviated from his prepared remarks to add, 'We're still going to need oil and gas for a while'—prompting applause from Republican lawmakers.

To climate advocates, **Biden's comments underscored the tension between the president's exhortations to treat climate change like the emergency it is and his continued approval of fossil fuel drilling projects that will spew millions upon millions of tons of planet-warming carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, making it more difficult to meet critical emission-reduction targets.**

Biden noted accurately in his speech that the Inflation Reduction Act, which became law last year, is 'the most significant investment' in the nation's history to combat the climate crisis, which is fueling increasingly extreme weather events that displaced more than 3 million adults across the U.S. in 2022—and tens of millions more globally.

But environmentalists said there's much more the president can do, unilaterally, to bring rising U.S. emissions into line with the administration's pledges and phase out fossil fuel production that is driving habitat destruction, species extinction, sea level rise, and other catastrophic outcomes."

Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund wrote March 27, 2023, <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/take-action-tell-your-us-representative-to-vote-no-on-hr1-the-polluters-over-people-act-now>, "**MAGA Republicans' top legislative priority for the year -- HR1 -- would gut every environmental protection law as well as gut investments in green energy infrastructure. It would also take away our right as Native nations and communities to be part of the decision making process on polluting projects that would harm our communities and Mother Earth.**

We're calling this right-wing dirty-energy wish list the "Polluters Over People Act." And it's expected to get a vote in the House this week.

There's no time to lose! Click here to send a message to your U.S. representative right now and tell them to vote NO on HR1 to defend Native sovereignty and protect Mother Earth.

While MAGA Republicans want to take away our right to give input on projects that affect us, we're building our collective political power as Indigenous communities in order to strengthen our sovereignty and be part of the decision making.

Tribes must be allowed to give or deny consent at all phases of development and infrastructure projects that impact lands and waters.

Until free, prior, and informed consent is required by all federal agencies, and strong systems of engagement are implemented, we will continue to see the disastrous results of fossil fuel extraction and toxic mining.

Write to your U.S. representative and tell them to vote NO on HR 1 that prioritizes corporate polluters over Native sovereignty and environmental justice.

Native communities are owed true government-to-government relationships, and that means we cannot allow members of Congress to silence our voices as they prioritize fossil fuel corporations over our rights and our future.

Hawwih (thank you),
Judith Le Blanc (Caddo)
Executive Director

Julia Conley, "Green Groups Defend Biden Decision to Delay Oil and Gas Drilling Leases: 'The energy sector should be looking to the future of justly sourced renewable energy, not pushing outdated technology that exploits people and the planet,'" *Common Dreams*, February 8, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/biden-delay-oil-gas-drilling>, reported, "**More than a dozen groups intervened in a case in Wyoming on Wednesday to defend the Biden administration's decision to postpone the sale of oil and gas leases in the state**, arguing that numerous court ruling and settled laws have affirmed the U.S. Interior Department is free to determine when such sales will go forward—or whether they will at all.

The legal groups Earthjustice and the Western Environmental Law Center are representing 17 national and local groups in the case, in which the state of Wyoming and two industry trade groups sued the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in December over its postponement of sales that had been planned for 2021 and 2022."

350.org wrote in a June 10, 2023 E-mail, "Amidst all of the fear and despair we're feeling, we are immensely proud to know and stand with everyone in our climate movement.

This past Thursday, **hundreds of climate activists from across the US and frontline Appalachian activists braved the wildfire smoke to send an urgent message to President Biden on his own doorstep, calling on him to stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline.**

It could not have been a more poignant — and profoundly jarring — **start to the People vs. Fossil Fuels Coalition's Week of Action calling on Biden to end the era of fossil fuels.**"

"Environmental Groups Sue to Stop Federal Oil and Gas Auction in Gulf of Mexico," EcoWatch, March 8, 23, <https://www.ecowatch.com/gulf-of-mexico-drilling-lawsuit-biden.html>, reported, "**Environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and Earthjustice, sued the Biden administration Monday to stop the sale of oil and gas drilling rights in the Gulf of Mexico.**

The lawsuit, filed in Washington, DC federal court, seeks to prevent the auction of approximately 13,600 blocks on 73.3 million acres by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), a press release from BOEM said. The lease sale, mandated by last year's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), is scheduled for March 29, 2023."

Kenny Stancil, "Climate Campaigners Urge Standard Bank to Ditch 'Alarming' East African Crude Oil Pipeline: Banks should 'abandon the project and instead inject financing into safe, sustainable, community-centered renewable energy solutions to foster a just transition away from fossil fuels in Africa,' said one advocate," *Common Dreams*, June 12, 2023,

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/climate-activists-protest-standard-bank-eacop>, reported, **"Hundreds of climate justice activists on Monday descended upon Standard Bank's offices in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they implored the financial institution to stop backing the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline and other harmful fossil fuel projects.**

The protest, held during Standard Bank's annual general meeting, **sought to draw shareholders' attention to the deleterious effects of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and persuade them to call on the bank to publicly withdraw its support for the development of such polluting infrastructure.**

It was organized by the #StopEACOP coalition, which wants the bank not only to divest from EACOP and multiple liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Mozambique but also to redirect that money toward renewables to increase regional access to clean energy.

"With a powerful collective of South African activists and community organizations raising their voices to demand Standard Bank's withdrawal of support for EACOP, it is long overdue for the bank to pause and genuinely listen,' the coalition's coordinator, Zaki Mamdoo, said in a statement. 'They cannot assume they can sponsor the destruction of other African nations without intervention from South Africans. Today, their misconception has been shattered—our actions against Standard Bank will only intensify until they fully abandon EACOP and all similar project'."

EACOP's aim is to transport heated crude oil nearly 900 miles through Uganda and Tanzania, where it would be shipped from Port Tanga through the Suez Canal to refineries in the Dutch city of Rotterdam and subsequently burned. As Common Dreams has reported, experts estimate that if completed, the project would generate 379 million tonnes of planet-heating emissions over 25 years, threaten biodiversity hotspots, and endanger the Lake Victoria basin on which more than 40 million people depend.

To get started, the project's developers—France-based TotalEnergies and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, working alongside Ugandan and Tanzanian state-owned oil firms—are seeking a \$3 billion loan from some of the largest commercial banks in the world.

Standard Bank, through its subsidiary Stanbic Uganda, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China are acting as the project's financial advisers. According to 350Africa.org, 'These banks are expected to serve as lead arrangers, meaning that they will need to approach other banks to co-finance the deal and are actively raising funds to see EACOP constructed.'

Inside the shareholder meeting, Standard Bank CEO Sim Tshabalala indicated, in response to questions from Khaliel Moses of 350Africa.org, that the bank 'will be providing finance directly" to EACOP. However, when asked for clarification, the bank's chair, Nonkululeko Nyembezi, responded that no decision had yet been made on financing the project. "What you are hearing perhaps is directionally how personally I am leaning,' she said, confirming that the bank is still seriously considering lending to EACOP despite sustained opposition to it.

The #StopEACOP coalition said Monday that **'the detrimental impacts of EACOP are already evident, even before the physical construction of the pipeline' has begun. Communities in Uganda and Tanzania "have experienced the irregular loss of land, undermining livelihoods and exacerbating land degradation," the coalition noted. "The mere presence of EACOP has caused disruption, fear, and uncertainty among local populations who rely on the land for their sustenance and cultural heritage.'**

'This pre-construction phase highlights the urgent need for Standard Bank to withdraw its support, as the project's continuation would only amplify these negative consequences, further jeopardizing the well-being of communities and the fragile ecosystem," #StopEACOP continued.

"The bank needs to recognize the alarming implications of EACOP and take a responsible stance to protect both people and the environment.'

At the shareholder meeting, meanwhile, Earthlife Africa director Makoma Lekalakala presented Standard Bank executives with a certificate of human rights violations on behalf of the communities already affected by EACOP.

'Standard Bank still doesn't get that financing EACOP poses huge risks, not just to the communities it is supposed to serve, but also to the bank itself,' said Ryan Brightwell, director of communications and research at BankTrack. **'This is why their co-advisers SMBC [Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation] have stepped away, and 25 other major banks have declared they won't touch the project. The bank protests outside the bank's annual meeting are getting larger yearly—they would be well advised to listen.'**

In addition to advising EACOP, Standard Bank has also provided \$485 million in financing to Mozambique LNG in Cabo Delgado, a project led by TotalEnergies, and it has also so far refused to rule out funding Rovuma LNG, another fracked gas project in Mozambique.

'As a financier of TotalEnergies' \$24 billion Mozambique LNG, Standard Bank is complicit in its devastation and fueling a war that has left thousands dead and a million displaced,' said Anabela Lemos, director of environmental justice at Friends of the Earth Mozambique. 'Entire communities in Cabo Delgado have been displaced and lost everything, a UNESCO Biosphere will be destroyed, and emissions just from the construction phase will irreversibly damage the climate. With the project still on pause, Standard Bank has the opportunity, and the responsibility, to stop enabling violence and pushing the country even deeper into a debt spiral by canceling its financing.'

Diana Nabiruma of the Africa Institute for Energy Governance in Uganda rejected as 'erroneous' Standard Bank's argument that its continued fossil fuel financing is meant 'to promote economic development and address energy poverty.'

'Available evidence indicates that frontline communities suffer economic setbacks due to losing their land and other economic assets, which aren't compensated adequately and fairly,' said Nabiruma. "Oil-producing countries such as Nigeria also have the most number of people without access to electricity and most of the oil from Uganda and gas from Mozambique is meant for export.'

In the words of Lekalakala from Earthlife Africa, **'Standard Bank has to wake up to the reality that gas and oil are not and cannot be transitional fuels towards a low-carbon development.'**

That sentiment was echoed by 350Africa.org regional campaigner Charity Migwi, who said that 'the financial institutions supporting the fossil fuel industry are fueling the climate crisis.'

A recent report showed that since 2016, the year the Paris agreement took effect, the world's 60 largest private banks have provided \$5.5 trillion in financing to the fossil fuel industry, flouting their pledges to put themselves and their clients on a path to 'net-zero' greenhouse gas emissions as the window to avert the worst effects of the climate crisis rapidly closes.

'These institutions must reconsider their responsibility to the communities within the areas in which they work, which are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, experiencing extreme, crippling weather events,' Migwi continued. 'Rather than expose communities to the harmful effects of projects such as EACOP, we call on Standard Bank and other banks involved in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline to abandon the project and instead inject financing into safe,

sustainable, community-centered renewable energy solutions to foster a just transition away from fossil fuels in Africa."

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Kenny Stancil, "Activists Greet New World Bank President with Demands for Global Just Transition: 'You can't address poverty in a world of climate chaos,' one advocacy group told Ajay Banga. 'End fossil fuel finance now!'" *Common Dreams*, June 2, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/activists-greet-new-world-bank-president-with-demands-for-global-just-transition>, reported, "**Climate advocates on Friday held a demonstration outside the World Bank Group's headquarters in Washington, D.C., where they welcomed the bank's new president, Ajay Banga, and implored him to immediately begin pursuing a global just transition.**

Campaigners from the Glasgow Actions Team, Global Citizen, Friends of the Earth, and Big Shift Global handed their "First 100 Days" demands to World Bank staffers as they entered the building, making the case on Banga's first day at the helm that **he should prioritize four key goals over the next few months: end fossil fuel finance, ramp up clean energy funding, cancel debt for poor nations facing myriad crises, and align the bank's policies with the Paris agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.**"

Mathieu Rosemain and America Hernandez, "Activists sue BNP over energy loans, TotalEnergies over human rights," *Reuters*, February 23, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/bnp-paribas-sued-france-over-fossil-fuel-financing-2023-02-23>, reported, ""BNP, Total sued under French law on corporate duty of vigilance.

BNP case is first against a commercial bank - plaintiffs.

TotalEnergies sued over alleged human rights abuses in Yemen.

Climate and human rights activists sued two of France's biggest corporations over fossil fuel financing and alleged human rights abuses on Thursday, as campaigners increasingly turn to lawsuits to push big companies to change their behaviour."

Brett Wilkins, "Climate Coalition Targets Big Banks and Insurance Giants With New Shareholder Campaign: 'The planet is running out of time and the banks are running out of excuses,' said climate leader Bill McKibben," *Common Dreams*, March 1, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/shareholder-activism>, reported, "**A coalition of more than 240 advocacy groups on Wednesday launched a "Shareholder Showdown" campaign in support of shareholder resolutions urging climate action and respect for Indigenous rights at major U.S. and Canadian banks and insurance companies.**

According to campaign coordinator Stop the Money Pipeline, the resolutions—which were filed by investors including the New York City and state pension funds, Sierra Club Foundation, and others—would require banks and insurance companies to "phase out their financing of companies engaged in fossil fuel expansion, report on projects that could violate Indigenous rights, use absolute emissions rather than emissions intensity targets, disclose 2030 transition plans, and hold directors accountable at banks that are not aligned with 1.5°C pathways."

The resolutions were timed to precede the companies' annual general meetings."

"Tell the Central Banks to protect people and planet, not big oil and gas!" Eko, June 15, 2023, <https://actions.eko.org/pages/tell-the-central-banks-to-protect-people-and-planet-not-big->

oil-and-gas/?akid=122960.1918087.TZfdwi&rd=1&source=fwd&t=11, stated, "From devastating wildfires in North America to tropical temperatures in Siberia, we are facing the direct consequences of the reckless exploitation of fossil fuels.

But right now we have a key opportunity to help stop runaway climate change and protect our precious planet.

In two weeks, 63 central banks from across the world will meet to vote on new rules for ALL the banks of the world -- including their funding of fossil fuel projects. This is our chance to change the rules of the game, right at the top.

Let's pile on now to demand banks stop funding these dirty projects. The Ekō team and several frontline communities and activists from all over the world will be there to deliver our call -- let's make this huge:

Call on the central banks governors now to stop funding fossil fuels and save our future.

Banks are one of the key enablers for fossil fuels projects. No money = no coal mines in Europe, no crude oil pipeline in Africa, no mega-gas projects in the Arctic.

Entire livelihoods and ecosystems are being ripped out in the name of immediate profit -- violating frontline communities' most basic human rights and threatening our chance of a liveable future on our shared home, Earth.

Banks seem like untouchable giants, but they abide by rules too and by changing the rules at the top, we can cut off the roots of the problem.

We can't afford to keep extracting and burning fossil fuels, banks need to invest in sustainable energies and renewable energy projects. This meeting is a unique chance to get all regulators' attention and influence the decisions. Let's show them that thousands of people from across the globe are paying close attention to their votes and calling for a fair and just financial system.

Call on central bankers to stop bankrolling our destruction and adopt new financial rules that put people and planet over fossil profits.

The mobilisation against financial actors is growing -- from Uganda, Argentina, Australia, Korea, the USA, Switzerland, the Arctic, France, the UK... Frontlines communities, Indigenous groups, activists, NGOs, experts and YOU are facing insurers and banks to hold them accountable for their destruction.

We're making them back off from entire fossil projects and adopt new fossil fuel exclusion policies. People power works!

Today, we can change the top rules guiding their investments. But we can't do it alone:

Will you call on central bankers to stop bankrolling our destruction and adopt new financial rules that put people and planet over fossil profits?"

Stop the Money Pipeline stated in a March 20, 2023 E-mail, "Yesterday, the world's most respected climate science organization, the International Panel on Climate Change, released the final installment of its Sixth Report. Its findings were stark: burning fossil fuels is threatening the stability of much of life on Earth, and our chance to avoid the worst impacts is quickly vanishing.

That helps to explain why today, **activists in nearly 100 cities have been out on the streets, cutting up credit cards and protesting outside and inside bank branches.**

In **Seattle**, activists cut up giant credit cards and temporarily shut down three banks. In New York, people marched in front of the UN, and brought children and families to protest Citibank. In **Portland**, even bigfoot showed up to protest Wells Fargo. In DC, elders blockaded

bank branches while sitting in rocking chairs. It was a beautiful day of resistance and activism, and it has felt good to be back out on the streets.

Now, it's all eyes on shareholder season. Five weeks from today, **Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Citigroup host their Annual General Meetings, where investors will vote on a series of climate and Indigenous rights resolutions.**

Ahead of those meetings, we're demanding that the banks' largest investors vote yes on climate and Indigenous rights this spring.

Email your State Treasurer and urge them to vote yes for climate justice and Indigenous rights resolutions this spring (<https://stopthemoneypipeline.com/email-your-state-treasurer-vote/>)."

Jessica Corbett, "After Bank Collapses, US Regulators Urged to Impose Rules on Climate-Related Financial Risk: 'If management at a wide swath of banks failed to properly address a well-understood risk, they cannot be trusted to independently address other complex emerging risks,' argued 50 green groups," *Common Dreams*, March 28, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/banks-climate-risks-regulations>, reported, "**In the wake of recent bank collapses and protests across the United States demanding financial institutions end fossil fuel financing, 50 climate, environmental justice, and Indigenous rights groups on Tuesday advocated for new regulations.**

'We the undersigned strongly urge financial regulators and Congress to learn from the collapse and bailout of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and rapidly implement new regulations to mitigate against climate-related financial risk,' the coalition wrote (https://prowly-uploads.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/uploads/mailling_attachments/25642/6a71691755e1a087765c5ff81bab1b15.pdf)."

Kenny Stancil, "East African Groups Urge Policymakers to Ditch Fossil Fuels for Renewables: The 'further development of oil, gas, and coal should have no space in African countries,' says a new letter. 'We need to shift to clean energy projects that are people-centered and would benefit local communities first and foremost,'" *Common Dreams*, May 12, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/east-african-groups-urge-policymakers-to-ditch-fossil-fuels-for-renewables>, reported, "**More than three dozen progressive advocacy groups implored East African leaders this week to stop funding fossil fuel projects and instead ramp up investment in renewable energy production and other green economic initiatives.**

"The promotion and/or further development of oil, gas, and coal should have no space in African countries," says a **new open letter from 41 East African civil society organizations to the region's heads of state** (<https://www.afiego.org/download/letter-to-ea-presidents-on-eapce-23-10-may-2023/?wpdmdl=3036&refresh=645b404bbf88a1683701835>). "We need to shift to clean energy projects that are people-centered and would benefit local communities first and foremost. We need to promote approaches that strengthen energy access and land rights for all Africans, while ensuring the protection of nature and our common goods."

Olivia Rosane, "Fiji Joins Call for Global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty at UN Climate Talks: 'The time for bold, ambitious, and transformative measures is now,' said a representative of the Fijian government," *Common Dreams*, June 13, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/fiji-raises-voice-for-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty>,

reported, **"Fiji on Monday became the latest country to speak out on the world's stage for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.**

The country had already joined with five other Pacific island nations in backing the treaty at a summit in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in March. Now, it raised its voice to call for a global treaty to phase out fossil fuels at a side event at the ongoing U.N. Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany."

Winona LaDuke, "My **letter to Elon, an Enbridge death spiral and real solutions....**," Honor th Earth, March 15, 2023, https://honorearth.org/news/my-letter-to-elon-enbridge-death-spiral-and-real-solutions?link_id=3&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-my-open-letter-to-elon-musk&email_referrer=email_1841945__subject_2352597&email_subject=my-letter-to-elon-musk, stated. "We are at a time of great transition. The choices we make today will determine how our future will look. We will either be living in a just and sustainable future, or a greenwashed caricature of one. The voices demanding action in the face of the climate crisis have never been louder, but there are many in positions of power who are deaf, apparently living in a different world than those facing fires, floods and drought.

I recently **wrote a letter to Elon Musk**, one of the wealthiest people on the planet, and one of the driving forces behind the proposed Talon Mine in Tamarack. **I suggested to him that rather than use his massive fortune to buy failing social media companies, or fire rockets into the air, he could spend some of that money on truly sustainable efforts that will ensure we are all here in 100 years. He has the resources, but not a good solution to the massive problem he claims to want to fix.** As a I wrote:

'The mining proposed for your electric car batteries is going to destroy a lot of Indigenous territories, including the Talon Mine at Tamarack. That mine proposal is going to destroy an area near Sandy Lake and Lake Minnewawa, where the lakes are shallow, and the huge mining operation will suck the water and lifeblood out of the subsurface waters. That means no rice and lots of contamination, not to mention that the proposal would send hundreds of thousands of train loads full of waste to North Dakota. That's going to really be another mess. And the mermaids will die, along with other magical beings.'

Musk and other wealthy 'green' energy industrialists need to look to the planet they are trying to save for the solutions to saving it, not using more energy to mine and make batteries in some bizarre energy equation. Mining is, after all, one of the largest consumers of energy in the world.

There are better solutions: We need to invest in hemp as a part of the solution to energy storage and capacitors. A new study shows that if Minnesota invests in e-waste recycling, we could create 1738 green jobs, and 3345 new jobs in adjacent industries... reclaiming enough copper for 155,000 EVS per year. We need to invest in electric public transportation, such as trains. Electric cars can be a piece of the overall puzzle (an electric engine is 60% efficient, compared to a combustion engine, at 16%), but the idea that every single person needs their own car is the sort of mentality that got us all into this mess in the first place.

We oppose the proposed Talon Mine in Tamarack because it will poison our waters and leave us to clean up the mess left by a hungry mining giant, the Rio Tinto corporation, known worldwide for human rights violations. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has publicly detailed its concerns about the Talon Mine. Leaders from the Rice Lake and Sandy Lake bands of

Ojibwe have raised alarms about destruction in an area that holds sacred Manoomin (wild rice) and Big Sandy Lake, a scene of long and tragic history for all Anishinaabe people.

Indigenous territories hold many vast minerals in the heart of our lands. Fifty-four percent of the minerals being mined for energy projects are on Indigenous lands. Those lands and waters also hold much the remaining biodiversity in their regions. These mines are an assault on Indigenous rights. Last month, in a welcome step the U.S. took efforts to protect another area of our state from a similar project. The U.S. Interior Department blocked mining in part of northeast Minnesota for 20 years, landing a substantial blow to the proposed Twin Metals copper and nickel mining project. This is the same water.

Protecting our Boundary Waters is critical, but it's not enough. We applaud the Biden Administration and Deb Haaland for protecting our Boundary Waters. Now, less visible to a tourist economy, the waters of our people, full of wild rice, the lands we have died for, need protection, for wild rice is our life. Water is far more valuable to our collective future than batteries made with technologies that are increasingly out of date. A factor in the decision made by the U.S. in this instance was that the area would benefit more economically from tourism than it would from a mine, the same can be said for our ways of life here in our ancestral home. Wild rice and this ecosystem are the economy of the north.

The End is Near, and the fossil fuel industry is feeling it. The recent National Observer story notes that a transition away from tar sands oil is starting to push Enbridge closer to a potential death spiral, as they scramble to increase rates on their customers to pay for new pipes to put through our lands. We have won victories against this adversary, but people in Wisconsin and Michigan are still fighting against their attempts to build Line 5. That's an unneeded pipeline, and there is a way out. That's No Line 5 needed in a real energy transition.

A livable and just economy is about more than electric cars, wind turbines and solar panels—though those technologies are great and will help curb the impacts of climate change. We have to be asking ourselves what we are using energy for. Clean energy to power oil pipelines and sulfide mines that risk greater harm to the environment hardly makes it deserving of the name.

We are continuing to rally for a just and sustainable future, and we will be on the ground floor of the new green economy. Our people rallied at the Minnesota capitol for real solutions, and we are building a path to a green economy with solar and hemp through our work with AAI, Akiing and 8th Fire Solar.

A part of this new green future will need to be the incorporation of more public means of transportation. As we fight the mine in Tamarack, we are also fighting the proposal of using rail as a means for Talon Metals to transport materials across vulnerable areas. The recent derailling of a train carrying chemicals in East Palestine, Ohio is a good enough example that our concerns over this proposal are warranted. What if trains transported people instead of oil or dangerous chemicals? There's a national proposal called Solutionary Rail <https://www.solutionaryrail.org> That's infrastructure for the future, and that's what we need from the Biden Administration—electric trains and clean water pipes for people in Jackson Mississippi and Flint Michigan, not pipelines for oil companies. What if men like Musk decided to use their vast wealth to help create more reliable, electric trains that ran off truly renewable energy?

We have battled and won many times to protect our people and lands from many destructive projects. We need a transition, towards good, not the continued path for greed. We need your help, your voice, and your support. And with our resistance and our work to restore food systems, local energy and build a hemp economy, we will create the green path, the green economy together.

This is why we need your help in this ongoing battle for a green new economy and a truly sustainable way of living for everyone. Sign our petition about the Talon Mine here to get started.

* Here is the **full text of my letter to Elon**. Thanks to the Inforum for publishing it:

Elon, this is your Aunt Winona writing to you. I want to ask you to do some worthwhile stuff for the planet, that's our Mother Earth. She needs some help. Her ecosystems are crashing, the rivers are poisoned, and climate change is wreaking havoc upon us.

You could really change the world with your money and your technological innovations. Disruptive technologies, like the electric car and the worldwide web, transform our societies. I know that no one thought you were going to make it with that Tesla, but wow, you've transformed it all, and now the oil guys are not even the top dogs on the planet, it's the geniuses like you. SpaceX and all that travel is pretty cool for sure. But I know that Twitter has got to be sort of a headache, after that \$44 billion, so here's my suggestion on how to spend your next big pile of cash.

What we need to do is focus on protecting our world so we can all live here a hundred years from now, and maybe be in those cool electric cars and, hopefully, some trains. That means space is not our game.

The mining proposed for your electric car batteries is going to destroy a lot of Indigenous territories, including the Talon Mine at Tamarack. That mine proposal is going to destroy an area near Sandy Lake and Lake Minnewawa, where the lakes are shallow, and the huge mining operation will suck the water and lifeblood out of the subsurface waters. That means no rice and lots of contamination, not to mention that the proposal would send hundreds of thousands of train loads full of waste to North Dakota. That's going to really be another mess. And the mermaids will die, along with other magical beings.

It reminds me a lot of the movie 'Avatar.' In this case I'm the Indigenous people and I am going to ask you to join our side. Kind of like Jake Sully.

Seems that **the mining industry accounts for 10% of world energy consumption**. Mining consumes gigantic amounts of energy which means new power plants, powerlines and, well, sort of a crazy energy equation: We use vast amounts of energy just for batteries.

You are a smart, rich guy. Here's what you could do. Invest in hemp batteries — now. And just imagine, hemp sequesters carbon at the highest rate of any row crop. We in Minnesota could lead the New Green Revolution and save the planet with hemp. There are all sorts of cool guys out there researching hemp, which is capable of creating a high quality material from the biochar, or charcoal, of the hemp. That material has been found to be superior to Lithium-ion batteries in terms of gravimetric energy density, safety and, most importantly, costs and environmental friendliness.

Then to be visionary, you could invest in the electric train. Electric trains are the most efficient way to move people and stuff. Trains are more efficient than cars. Electric engines are 65% efficient, compared to 16% efficient for a combustion engine. That's why Tesla works. The first train we need is the one from Minneapolis, or maybe Rochester to Duluth. The Mille Lacs band of Ojibwe, the people most affected by the bad mine project you are financing, really believe in a train, they even went to the Legislature to talk about it. Nationally, this plan is called Solutionary Rail and that's the infrastructure we need for the future. And, we could all live here on Earth, and not on Mars, and that would be swell.

I am really hoping you will help solve some big problems, and we will all be very thankful to you.

Your space satellites surround us, and you've got a plan for interplanetary travel. This next year, can you stay home, and just focus on the plants and beings here? You're a smart guy. Help your Mother out — I mean Mother Earth."

Miigwech,

Winona LaDuke, Founder and Co-Executive Director, Honor the Earth"

56 Indigenous groups around the Pacific ocean have been demanding that the

International Seabed Authority ban ocean bed mining because of the huge environmental damage it is most likely to cause. The authority has been working to develop rules about sea bed mining, for which the current approach is to dredge with a giant vacuum cleaner to suck up nodules of metals - especially those now in demand for batteries in the shift away from fossil fuels. Many environmentalists also object to this kind of mining as likely to be extremely destructive of whole ecosystems and the life they contain. Currently, there is little knowledge of just what the effects would be of such operations, but some potentially destructive likelihoods have been projected by many scientists ("Pacific, Indigenous Peoples Deny Consent for Deep Sea Mining," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, June 2023).

Zainab Mirza, Lonyx Landry, and Miriam Goldstein, "4 Ways the Biden Administration Can Ensure Offshore Wind Development Benefits Tribes and Indigenous People: To develop offshore wind energy responsibly, both government and industry must involve Tribal and Indigenous leadership throughout the entire process," Center for American Progress (VAP), January 18, 2023, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/4-ways-the-biden-administration-can-ensure-offshore-wind-development-benefits-tribes-and-indigenous-people>, reported, **The Biden administration has given unprecedented prioritization to climate and environmental justice goals. This includes the historic agency and administrative appointments of Tribal advisers and leaders; the restoration of protections to areas of Indigenous significance; co-designing collaborative management of federal lands; and support for the Inflation Reduction Act's landmark \$60 billion investment for environmental justice communities.** Furthermore, a major pillar of the administration's plan to meet global climate targets has been a renewed focus on the clean energy transition, including deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030.¹"

In transitioning from an energy dominated energy matrix, partially built on or near Indigenous land. that marginalized Indigenous communities disproportionately burdening them with environmental health damage, to an environmentally, culturally and economically

just energy system, U.S. policy needs to "ensure Indigenous communities have the standing, capacity, and information they need to engage and benefit." To attain this, "policymakers must make use of several parallel policies and investments to foster engagement, while moving forward at the pace needed to reach U.S. clean energy goals."

This involves four major elements, detailed in the original article:

Ensure robust community and workforce benefit agreements are developed

Support Indigenous-serving educational institutions

Strengthen registered apprenticeship programs for Indigenous communities in economies experiencing energy transitions

Utilize Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge to minimize the environmental impacts of development

"Conclusion

Offshore wind energy is key to meeting the Biden administration's ambitious clean energy goals. To thoughtfully support Tribes and other Indigenous people while meeting its goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, the Biden administration must consider how to grow the capacity of Native and Indigenous people to benefit from the clean energy projects undertaken in their backyards, understand and minimize the environmental impacts of offshore wind development, and ensure these projects are coordinated with other federal priorities such as building out broadband services in Tribal areas. These projects will have a breadth of impacts for Indigenous groups who have sacred relationships with the ocean, river-migrating fishes, wildlife, and lands both coastal and inland that could potentially be affected by offshore wind turbines and transmission infrastructure. Tribes and Indigenous people must be brought into these discussions early so that information-sharing is equitable and the best choices can be made for the energy future, while ensuring that historical wrongs are discontinued and environmental impacts are mitigated."

Kenny Stancil, "Green Groups Sue Biden EPA Over Industrial Water Pollution Failures: 'It's completely unacceptable that EPA has, for decades, ignored the law and failed to require modern wastewater pollution controls for oil refineries and petrochemical and plastics plants,' said one advocate," *Common Dreams*, April 11, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/biden-epa-sued-industrial-water-pollution>, reported, **"A coalition of 13 green groups on Tuesday sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for failing to set limits on harmful chemicals that petroleum-based industries dump into the nation's waterways on a daily basis.**

'The Clean Water Act requires the EPA to limit discharges of industrial pollutants based on the best available wastewater treatment methods, and to tighten those limits at least once every five years where data show treatment technologies have improved,' two of the plaintiffs, the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) and the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), explained in a joint statement.

However, the organizations lamented, **'the agency has never set limits for many pollutants and has failed to update the few decades-old limits that exist—including limits set almost 40 years ago for oil refineries (1985), plastics manufacturers (1984), and fertilizer plants (1986).'**"

Olivia Rosane, "Climate Orgs Launch Week of Action to End the Era of Fossil Fuels: 'Young people are angry and fed up with watching President Biden cave to the fossil fuel industry time and time again,' one activist said," *Common Dreams*, June 7, 2023,

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/climate-orgs-to-biden-end-the-era-of-fossil-fuels.>, reported, **"In the wake of Biden administration decisions like approving CnocoPhillips' Willow project and agreeing to fast-track the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), climate organizations and frontline communities across the country are launching a week of action from June 8 to 11 to demand President Joe Biden honor his promise to be the climate president and end the era of fossil fuels for good.**

The action week will include a Thursday rally and sit-in at the White House along with demonstrations at 65 other locations across the nation backed by 64 different Indigenous, climate, labor, and environmental justice groups."

Olivia Rosane, "13 Years After BP Disaster, Oceana Urges Biden to Block New Offshore Drilling: A report from the ocean conservation organization details how the president can still keep a key campaign promise," *Common Dreams*, April 18, 2023, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/biden-can-prevent-next-deepwater-horizon>, reported, "Thursday will mark **the 13th anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, in which a BP drilling rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, killing 11 workers and hundreds of thousands of animals. The disaster, one of the worst environmental catastrophes in U.S. history, was an object lesson in the dangers of fossil fuels.**

Despite this, **President Joe Biden has so far violated his campaign promise to stop further offshore oil and gas drilling, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)—regardless of its status as the most important U.S. climate legislation to date—actually mandates its expansion.**

'It's as if we learned nothing from the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster,' Oceana campaign director Diane Hoskins said in a statement. "We know that when oil companies drill, they spill. It's not a matter of if there will be another spill, but when. And those spills bring immediate economic and environmental devastation to our coastal communities.'

That's why **Oceana released a new report** (<https://usa.oceana.org/reports/a-simple-solution-how-president-biden-can-meet-offshore-clean-energy-goals-and-prevent-new-offshore-drilling>) Tuesday **outlining how Biden can make good on his promise after 2024 without contradicting the terms of the IRA.** The report, *A Simple Solution: How President Biden Can Meet Offshore Clean Energy Goals and Prevent New Offshore Drilling*, comes weeks after the latest update from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that emissions from already existing fossil fuel infrastructure could blow through the carbon budget for limiting global warming to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, while planned expansion added on top could push the Earth above 2°C."

"Add your name: No logging in Green Mountain National Forest," Environmental Action, March 9, 2023, https://environmental-action.webaction.org/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=53702&supporter_KEY=390263&uid=c65efee59518c9ccddb15cf40882dae8, stated, **"We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project. The project, which proposes logging more than 10,000 acres of old-growth forest, would do irreparable harm to Green Mountain National Forest and the wildlife that live there.**

Green Mountain National Forest's old-growth forest is critical to mitigating the worst impacts of climate change. The trees that make up our forests store carbon and prevent it from

being released into the atmosphere. When those trees are logged, that carbon is released, fueling global warming.

Already, logging accounts for half of all tree deaths in New England. The USFS should protect those that still stand."

Eco wrote in a May 2023 E-mail, "Timber giant Samling wants to take Borneo's forest defenders to court for exposing its destructive logging."

Will you add your name to the petition demanding Samling drop the lawsuit (<https://actions.eko.org/a/samling-drop-the-lawsuit-against-borneo-s-forest-defenders>)?

The timber giant Samling is logging Indigenous land in Borneo without consent. When four forest defenders exposed Samling they were slapped with a lawsuit designed to silence and bankrupt them.

The timber corporations' logging is also fueling the climate crisis and destroying the habitats of endangered gibbons, clouded leopards and pangolins.

Samling could drop the lawsuit at any time - so let's stir up a global outcry to force them to. Will you help, Stephen?

Add your name to the petition demanding Samling drop the lawsuit against Borneo's forest defenders.

The family that owns Samling is worth over \$400 million and this isn't the first time destructive practices have been revealed.

A Samling subsidiary has been fined for bribing forestry officials. A company setup by one of the founders was ordered by a court to pay millions in compensation to Indigenous communities in Papua New Guinea. And just last month the sustainable forestry certification program launched an investigation into Samling's logging and violation of human rights.

Samling's lawsuit against the small four person grassroots organisation, SAVE Rivers, is the act of a bully. Even the UN says the lawsuit may be unfounded and has issued a public statement expressing concerns to the Malaysian government about Samling's dodgy practices.

Sign the petition calling on Samling to stop legal action and respect the rights of Indigenous communities (<https://actions.eko.org/a/samling-drop-the-lawsuit-against-borneo-s-forest-defenders>).

Thousands of us have already chipped in to help fund this legal fight so far. Now we can help by getting the case dropped. Samling might have millions of dollars, but we have millions of people around the world who can shine a spotlight on the lawsuit and demand Samling stop destroying Indigenous land.

Ekō members like you have done this before when more than 200,000 people took action to support Máxima, an Indigenous Peruvian farmer, to keep her land safe from the world's second biggest gold mining corporation. Let's do it again in Borneo.

More information:

Malaysia: UN experts and Human Rights Resource Centre. 2 November 2022: <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/malaysia-un-experts-express-concern-over-samlings-alleged-slapp-against-save-rivers/>.

How Sarawak's Timber Barons Samling Are Evading A Multi-Million Dollar Court Judgement In PNG: <https://www.sarawakreport.org/2020/02/how-sarawaks-timber-barons-samling-are-still-evading-a-multi-million-dollar-court-judgement-in-png/> Sarawak Report. 1 February 2020.

FSC investigation into Samling: <https://connect.fsc.org/actions-and-outcomes/current-cases/samling-global-limited>.

Forest Stewardship Council. 1 May 2023.

300 Long Moh villagers demand justice after unpermitted logging on their land
SAVE Rivers. 10 March 2021: <https://saverivers.org/2021/03/10/300-long-moh-villagers-demand-justice-after-unpermitted-logging-on-their-land/>."

Tennessee Immigrant Rights Coalition wrote in an April 18, 2023 E-mail, "No matter what we look like or where we live, we all want our families to grow up healthy, happy, and safe for generations to come. However, for too long, our leaders have prioritized the interests of corporations who put their profits over our well-being and the future of our communities. From rising temperatures to increased severe weather, many of us have felt the effects of our changing climate, but did you know that climate change disproportionately affects immigrant and refugee communities? **From working in environments and industries that are more weather vulnerable—such as agriculture and construction—to lack of access to disaster response resources, our communities face unique challenges regarding climate resilience.**

As the impacts of extreme weather continue to increase, it's critical we create a collective and unified movement to address climate change's impact on immigrant and refugee communities.

That's why we are launching our climate justice campaign, which aims to build a powerful movement to address the growing impacts of climate change in Tennessee that centers the voices and experiences of immigrants and refugees. Join us this Saturday, April 22nd, for our Climate Justice Summit where immigrants and refugees from across the state will take part in conversation and workshops to learn more on how climate change affects our communities and how we can take action.

Our local communities can advocate for policies that can better protect us from the impacts of climate change, but we need help shaping those priorities. If you are a first or second-generation immigrant and refugee, fill out this quick survey about the climate crisis in Tennessee and help us identify what policy priorities we want our leaders to focus on. We need to hear what matters most to you!

The urgency to address the climate crisis is paramount, and we have an opportunity to act now. So many of our immigrant and refugee communities have already been impacted by the Climate Crisis, and these impacts will only continue in Tennessee. Now is the time for directly-impacted communities to come together and build power—toward a future that works for all of us.

In unity and strength,
Luis Mata (he/él), TIRRC Policy Coordinator"

"Help defend this forest against palm oil giants!" EKO, May 4, 2023, <https://actions.eko.org/a/help-defend-this-forest-against-palm-oil-giants1>, stated, **"Predatory palm oil companies want to tear up a New York City-sized swathe of Indonesian rainforest – a sanctuary for birds of paradise, rare fish and endangered tree kangaroos.**

But the Moi Indigenous people, who live in this sacred place, are fighting back – determined to defend the lush lands their ancestors have peacefully inhabited for centuries. And we can help them do it.

In a huge win for the Moi, **an Indonesian court recently ruled that the tribe has legal rights to its ancestral lands – meaning they could expel palm oil giants from the forest if they can prove it is part of their territory.**

But gathering the evidence needed to protect this cherished forest is arduous and expensive, and the Moi can't do it alone. That's where we come in.

If we all chip in, **we can help hire the experts needed to carefully map the land with GPS, document hunting and fishing patterns and survey historical sites – pulling together definitive proof that this land belongs to people, not rapacious corporations.** And we could step up campaigns to end palm oil destruction everywhere. Are you in?"

"Join the Call: Human Rights Over Corporate Profits in Ecuador!" Amazon Watch, May 18, 2023, <https://amazonwatch.org/take-action/join-the-call-human-rights-over-corporate-profits-in-ecuador>, stated, **"Ecuadorian citizens affected by Chevron's contamination have spent over a decade seeking to enforce the historic \$9.5 billion judgment that the company refuses to pay, denying communities the remediation, clean water, and health care they desperately need. Chevron is using its big oil influence to pressure Ecuador into ignoring the verdict from its own court, assume the company's liability, and pass the bill to the country's taxpayers. And Ecuador's right-wing government with historic Chevron ties is listening.**

That is why **the affected communities recently went to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights to ask that their efforts to seek justice from Chevron be protected from undue interference by the Ecuadorian government.** The government has a choice: defend its own judgment offering justice to its citizens, or give in to corporate pressure."

"Lead the Charge' Campaign Launches with Scorecard Tracking Human Rights and Environmental Policy in the EV Supply Chain – Most Automakers Fail Indigenous Rights Due Diligence." Cultural Survival, March 7, 2023, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/lead-charge-campaign-launches-scorecard-tracking-human-rights-and-environmental-policy-ev>, reported, "



'Lead the Charge' Campaign Launches with Scorecard Tracking Human Rights and Environmental Policy in the EV Supply Chain – Most Automakers Fail Indigenous Rights Due Diligence

A coalition of leading human rights, climate, and environmental organizations, including Cultural Survival and First Peoples Worldwide, today launched the global Lead The Charge campaign. The campaign encourages automakers to leverage the unprecedented opportunity offered by the electric vehicle (EV) transition to radically transform their supply chains to be equitable, sustainable, and 100% fossil free. It also raises awareness of the human and Indigenous Peoples' rights, climate, and environmental impacts that occur throughout auto supply chains, focusing in particular on steel, aluminum, and batteries.

As part of the launch, Lead the Charge unveiled an industry Leaderboard which analyzed the publicly available official reporting of 18 leading automotive manufacturers in the world, ranking their efforts to eliminate emissions, environmental harms, and human rights violations from their supply chains.

While the analysis found that several companies are already working to ensure clean and equitable supply chains, Indigenous Peoples' rights were the lowest-scoring category in the scorecard. Two-thirds of the automakers scored 0%, and the top score, by Mercedes, was just 17%.

General Motors (GM) is notable as the only company with a human rights policy that respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples as 'established and codified' in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention 169. However, the company recently invested in a lithium mine with impacts on Native Nations. BMW has an explicit reference to the UNDRIP in their Supplier Code of Conduct, and Mercedes' Human Rights Principles explicitly mention Indigenous rights though not the UNDRIP.

To date, no automaker has implemented concrete processes and mechanisms to ensure that commitments to the rights of Indigenous Peoples are realized throughout their supply chain. Without explicit mention of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as

enumerated in the UNDRIP, companies are not able to properly screen for Indigenous Rights Risk, leaving them exposed to legal action, to reputational and operational risks, and to material loss.

'As the world scrambles to address the climate crisis, a new 'green' economy is rapidly emerging. However, in this transition, Indigenous Peoples are facing a new wave of extractivism for transition minerals such as copper, nickel, cobalt, and lithium, which are key in battery development for electric vehicles and other technologies. Indigenous lands, territories, and resources are under direct threat as the demand for these minerals increases. Indigenous Peoples also want to see an end to the climate crisis, but this needs to be achieved in a way that respects their rights,"said Galina Angarova (Buryat), Executive Director of Cultural Survival. "For decades, auto supply chains have been riddled with climate, environmental and human rights abuses. The EV transition is an opportunity to change that, but so far it's still business-as-usual for their supply chains, which continue to harm people and the planet. Automakers can stay ahead of the curve by acting now to transform their supply chains and ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and all rights holders, are respected.'

Mercedes leads scorecard rankings overall—demonstrating that automakers can take effective action on both emissions and human rights in their supply chains—while Volvo leads on clean steel and aluminum, and Ford on human rights. While these industry leaders have room to improve, other automakers are lagging far behind. Toyota, the original green leader now EV laggard, is even further behind on supply chains, and while EV leader Tesla has been taking some positive steps on battery supply chains, they are behind overall.

'Indigenous Rights Risk should be a top-line due diligence priority for any company in the electric vehicle and new energy markets. Today 54% of transition minerals projects around the world take place on or near Indigenous Peoples' territories. In the U.S. alone, upwards of 97% of some metals are found within 35 miles of Reservations,' said Kate R. Finn, Executive Director of First Peoples Worldwide. 'Automakers who have made progress in human rights due diligence and responsible sourcing more broadly must leverage this momentum to expressly identify and prevent violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights in their supply chains. Without comprehensive processes to solicit and respect Indigenous Peoples' Free, Prior and Informed Consent, automakers will perpetuate the human rights abuses and environmental harms rampant in the extractive economy even as they purport to move towards a more just and green economy.'

According to Lead the Charge, **the transition to EVs is eliminating the biggest source of transport emissions, the tailpipe. However, as the EV transition accelerates, the emissions profile of the auto industry shifts to supply chain emissions. It is clear that automakers won't meet their climate goals unless supply chain emissions are also tackled with urgency. At the same time, the industry must tackle human rights abuses from mining, refining, and manufacturing in their supply chains. These practices not only harm workers, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples but also pollute local ecosystems and exacerbate the climate crisis.**

Lead the Charge is a diverse network of local, national, and global advocacy partners working for an equitable, sustainable, and fossil-free auto supply chain. Organizations that have contributed to its development include Cultural Survival, Earthworks, First Peoples Worldwide, Industrious Labs, Investor Advocates for Social Justice, Mighty Earth, Public Citizen, Sierra Club, Solutions for our Climate (SFOC), Transport and Environment (T&E), The Sunrise Project and others.

Cultural Survival and First Peoples Worldwide are part of the Securing Indigenous Rights in the Green Economy (SIRGE) Coalition, a coalition of Indigenous Peoples and leaders, who, along with allies, champion a just transition to a low-carbon economy. As the global demand for the minerals necessary for renewable and green technologies continues to grow, SIRGE calls upon government, corporate, and financial decision-makers to avoid the mistakes of the past: avoid dirty mining and protect the rights and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples around the globe, many of whom live in areas rich in these minerals.

For more information about the campaign, visit Lead the Charge's website (<https://leadthecharge.org>), Twitter account (https://twitter.com/lead_thecharge) and LinkedIn account (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/lead-the-charge/>).

Lead the Charge Leaderboard key findings:

While there is some movement by incumbents, like Mercedes and GM, and EV leader Tesla, automakers across the board are falling far short on Indigenous rights. Mercedes was the company with the highest score, but scored only 17%. With a new era of industrial expansion underway, respecting Indigenous Peoples' self-determination and right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent is more important than ever given how many transition minerals are located on or near Indigenous lands.

Mercedes leads the charge with many of the best human rights policies and practices and some of the more comprehensive mapping of their transition minerals supply chain.

Volvo is the stand-out steel and aluminum leader and overall on fossil-free and environmentally sustainable supply chains – but disappointingly came out lower on human rights, including insufficient attention to workers rights and no reference to Indigenous Rights at all.

Ford shows affordable automakers can do it too, ranking top on human rights overall, principally due to its scores on human rights due diligence, responsible sourcing of transition minerals and worker rights.

Toyota, the former green darling now biggest EV laggard, is way behind on their supply chain too. Toyota's supply chain targets and claims seem token at best and as the lowest-ranked automaker for their climate lobbying record by InfluenceMap, they get dragged down even more.

Tesla, the original and still EV leader, has some problems piling up. They already have new competitors snapping at their heels, a fluctuating stock price, investor discontent, and SEC and worker rights investigations – but they also have significant gaps in disclosure and action on fossil free and environmentally sustainable supply chains.

BYD and #2 EV maker, despite their vertical integration, is also far behind. With their extensive overseas market ambitions, BYD is quickly grabbing market share but the further BYD reaches, the more they will be exposed to new regulations and expectations, particularly in Europe.

Hyundai-Kia, now the third-largest automaker in the world and snapping up EV market share, makes sustainable material claims but misses the bigger picture – and opportunity. Sadly, despite slightly outperforming EV leader Tesla in some areas, Hyundai-Kia are trailing overall and have a host of supply chain issues bubbling up, including child labor at suppliers and a subsidiary in the US, and air pollution from steel manufacturing in Korea.

The Lakota Peoples Law Project stated in a June 12 E-Mail, "I remain on **the sacred grounds at Peehee Mu'huh, where the resistance to protect Thacker Pass from a massive lithium mine suffered a major blow last week. On Wednesday, police raided the two prayer camps set up by our Paiute and Shoshone relatives, extinguishing the sacred fire lit since May 11 when the grandmother-led action began, destroying the two ceremonial tipi lodges,**

mishandling and confiscating ceremonial instruments, and arresting an Indigenous land protector. Ox Sam Camp shared a video they captured with us. Please watch how it went down on our Facebook page.

Watch and share on Facebook: footage of the arrest at Thacker Pass captured live last week.

During breakfast, law enforcement arrived. Almost immediately and without warning, a young Diné (Navajo) water protector was singled out by Lithium Nevada security and arrested. Even as two non-Natives were allowed to “move” in order to avoid arrest, the Diné woman was quickly handcuffed and subsequently loaded into a sheriff’s SUV for transport to Winnemucca for processing.

While on the highway, she says — again without warning or explanation — she was transferred into a windowless, pitch-black holding box in the back of a pickup truck. “I was really scared for my life,” she told Ox Sam Camp. “I didn’t know where I was or where I was going. I know that [the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women] is a real thing, and I didn’t want to be the next one.” She was eventually transported to Humboldt County Jail, where she was charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest, then released on bail. Again, I urge you to watch the video. Resisting arrest? I don’t think so.

Just hours before the raid, Ox Sam camp’s water protectors bravely stood in the way of large excavation equipment, shutting down construction at the base of Sentinel Rock for the second time that week. To many Paiute and Shoshone People, Sentinel Rock is a “center of the universe.” It’s been a site to gather traditional medicines, tools, and food supply for thousands of years, integral to many Nevada tribes’ way of life.

On Wednesday, at least five Sheriff’s vehicles, several Lithium Nevada work vehicles, and two security trucks arrived at the original tipi site containing the ceremonial fire. **After the arrest and once the main camp was secured, law enforcement moved to dismantle the tipi site at Sentinel Rock, a mile away. There is a proper way to take down a tipi and ceremonial camp, and then there’s the way Humboldt County Sheriffs proceeded on behalf of Lithium Nevada Corporation. They knocked down tipis, snapped tipi poles, and rummaged through, mishandled, and impounded ceremonial objects and instruments. They approached and secured tents in classic SWAT-raid fashion.**

As we mentioned to you previously, Peehee Mu-huh is the site of two massacres of Paiute and Shoshone people. The remains of the massacred ancestors have remained unidentified and unburied since 1865. They are now being bulldozed and crushed by Lithium Nevada without consent or permission from the area’s Indigenous Peoples.

It’s clear that Lithium Nevada and law enforcement are now doing all they can to stifle this resistance before it can grow. Our videographer, Chuck, was one of several people served with restraining orders over the past several weeks, and we’re hearing threats of further legal action designed to stop continued media coverage of the events now unfolding. Ox Sam Camp has put out a call for legal defense assistance. If you can help, contact them through their website. And please stay tuned for further developments and potential action opportunities.

Wopila tanka — thank you for standing with water and land protectors!

Chase Iron Eyes
Co-Director and Lead Counsel
The Lakota People’s Law Project

In October 2022 in **Guam, Save Ritidian**, a grass roots organization, **protested and presented evidence to the Guam EPA, demanding that the permit not be renewed to allow the Air Force to continue to open burning and deterioration of waste on northern Guam beaches, polluting air, land and sea** (Shaylin Salas, "Guahan Means: 'We Have,'" *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, March 2023).

"Tell the EPA: No more toxic “forever” chemicals in our water!," NRDC, May 15, 2023, <https://action.nrdc.org/letter/1767-pfas-epa-042823>, stated, **"Exposure to PFAS – known as “forever” chemicals because they are extremely resistant to break down in the environment – has been linked to a long list of health effects, including cancer, immune suppression, and developmental harm. And every day, millions of people across the country drink water contaminated with PFAS.**

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed groundbreaking new regulations on six highly toxic PFAS chemicals found in drinking water. And while we need the EPA to do more to protect against PFAS, this is a crucial first step toward tackling this massive public health crisis. Please show your support for these critical new regulations and push back against opposing industries’ efforts to weaken these necessary protections.

Lack of disclosure from Chinese automakers meant they scored very low overall – but Geely shows a glimmer of what could be on fossil-free and environmentally sustainable supply chains. They are the leader amongst East Asian automakers on fossil free and environmentally responsible supply chains, on which they also outperform several of their competitors in Europe and the U.S.

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"Call for Solidarity; Indigenous Group Seeks Response from General Motors Regarding Human Rights Issues at Thacker Pass," *Cultural survival*, May 11, 2023, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/call-solidarity-indigenous-group-seeks-response-general-motors-regarding-human-rights-issues>, Reposted from People of Red Mountain, reported, **"People of Red Mountain (PRM), is an Indigenous grassroots organization that was formed to protect the sacred site, Peehee Mu’huh – Thacker Pass. People of Red Mountain has raised significant and urgent concerns regarding human, religious, and Indigenous Peoples' rights violations by the proposed mine.**

In January of 2023, General Motors provided a \$650 million joint Equity Investment and Supply Agreement with Lithium Americas to develop the Thacker Pass lithium mine at Peehee Mu’huh in Nevada. The SIRGE Coalition and People of Red Mountain prepared a letter to GM highlighting the company’s social policies and requesting a meeting on the human rights implications of this investment. We sent the letter in early March, but have not received a response. Currently, we are asking organizations and investors that support Paiute, Shoshone, and Bannock human rights to reach out to their contacts at GM, and request that the company respond to the letter.

Click on the link to see the letter that was sent in regards to General Motors’ recent \$650 million joint Equity Investment and Supply Agreement with Lithium Americas to develop the Thacker Pass lithium mine at Peehee Mu’huh in Nevada.

Letter to General Motors: https://peopleofredmountain.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/GM-SIRGE-Letter_7-March-23.pdf."

Lyric Aquino, "Tribes Call for Increased Grand Canyon Protections, *ICT*, June 1, 2023, https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/be3b7fb7-8821-1439-beac-39e34581c014/6.01.23_The_Weekly.pdf, reported, "**As a 20-year ban on mining in the Grand Canyon passes its midpoint, Indigenous nations look to continue protections indefinitely.**

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, met with tribal leaders representing a dozen Indigenous nations last weekend in a move that could expand protections for land around The Grand Canyon, permanently safeguarding the region from future uranium mining.

The proposed Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument would convert 1.1 million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park into a National Monument, providing significant protections to tribal water sources, delicate ecosystems, and cultural sites, while curtailing the impacts of uranium mining — a proposal tribes in the area have been fighting for since 1985. Baaj Nwaavjo means 'where tribes roam' in the Havasupai language, I'tah Kukveni translates to 'our footprints' in Hopi."

"On the Taiwan's Lanyu island, inhabited by members of the Tao people, one of 16 government recognized tribes, the government has long had a nuclear waste dump. In response to Tao and other Indigenous protests, the government has long promised to relocate the site, but to date no action has been taken to move it. Local people assert that the site is the cause of rising cancer rates, other health issues and mutated fish (Amy Qin and Chang Chien, "How a Nuclear Dump in Taiwan Turned a Tribe into Activists," *The New York Times*, January 6, 2023).

"Urgent Action Needed: **Stop Plastics from running through your washer and Polluting our oceans, river, and soil!** Please act now!" Friends of Earth, March 9, 2023, <https://action.foe.org/page/49829/action/1?ea.tracking.id=Email&ea.url.id=1664369>, stated, "You know those **laundry detergent pods people throw into their washers? They dissolve, but they DON'T DISAPPEAR!** Research shows over 75% of the plastic from these pods end up in our rivers, oceans, and soil!"

The pods' plastic film is called Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA) -- and it has a dangerous potential to ABSORB TOXIC CHEMICALS, ANTIBIOTICS, and HEAVY METALS before working its way through the food chain. PVA was recently found in drinking water and human breast milk!

..., tell the EPA to BAN PVA PLASTIC from laundry pods and fight the plastics crisis. Please send the EPA a message by 11:59pm TONIGHT!"

"Working With Indigenous Peoples: In New Mexico, we acknowledge and learn from our Indigenous communities," The Nature Conservancy, May 16, 2023, <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/new-mexico/stories-in-new-mexico/working-with-indigenous-peoples>, reported, "At the start of planting season, John Waconda [first-ever Nature Conservancy Indigenous Partnership program director**] uses his plow to turn over the soil. This year, he noticed birds digging in the fresh soil for worms. A sure sign of spring once again. He thought about how his dad and their ancestors passed on these important farming traditions through the centuries and how they continue today.**

John is the New Mexico Chapter's first-ever Indigenous Partnerships program manager. His stories, along with Indigenous perspectives and values, and years of resource management experience make him the perfect person to expand the program. He came out of retirement for this

job because he said there's too much work to do and saw many opportunities that could make a difference.

'I'm concerned about losing tradition and culture and being able to protect and preserve the forest and its many resources,' he said. 'We want the best for our children. I want to leave our homelands in better shape than what I had.'

Connecting with the land is paramount to Native Americans' livelihoods, traditions, and cultures. That connection was torn apart because of colonization, diseases brought into the U.S. from Europe and the removal of fire.

He added: 'Native peoples learned to live with and manage fire for centuries and to use it in ways that enrich their communities. However, the inability to do so on a large scale has caused tension and a deep loss of connection to the land.'

Leading the Way

Since starting his job in October of 2021, **John, a citizen of the Isleta Pueblo, has steadfastly expanded the chapter's collaboration with many of the state's Pueblos. This makes a difference on many fronts, including our forests, water, policies, and farms in the Land of Enchantment.** Learn about some of our collaborations by clicking on the tiles below on [mexico/working-with-indigenous-peoples](#).

Collaborative Projects, Cultures, viable communities and healthy land and water are all interconnected. Conservation success benefits people and nature:

Taos Pueblo Cultural Fire Plan<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/new-mexico/stories-in-new-mexico/working-with-indigenous-peoples>.

Pueblo Forestry, Rio Grande Water Fund, Santa Clara Pueblo Watershed Restoration, Policy Solutions, Buffalo Restoration and Jemez Pueblo Virtual Fence Pilot Learning from the Past with a New Worldview

While TNC has partnered with Indigenous Peoples across the globe for many years, we have made mistakes and are still part of the problem. To that end, **TNC created the North America Indigenous Landscapes and Communities program**, hiring Brie Fraley, a citizen of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, to lead the effort.

We want to support and engage Indigenous peoples as they strengthen their voices, choices and actions to manage their homelands in ways that improve lives and create healthy lands and waters to support sustainable traditional and cultural resource practices. In order to do that, we are taking a close look at our 70-year-old approaches to conservation and investing in review through deep listening, resulting in new approaches in the way we work.

Last year we adopted our human rights policy and have invested in bodies of work such as the Human Rights Guide. In order for our work to be successful and sustainable, we are leaning into developing heartfelt relationships that are leading us to new ways of working.

In my Indigenous worldview, humans are not dominant & separate from the gifts of nature; we are equal to & live in a reciprocal relationship with the land. It's our responsibility to care for our relations as they care for us too.

Brie Fraley, North America Indigenous Peoples and Landscapes Program Director: For Brie, success looks like healthy, thriving Indigenous communities where land and people have healed and there's restorative justice."

The Rainforest Alliance 2022 annual report is available at: https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/annual_report/2022. Headlined on the website is "We are focusing on accelerating the

transformation of key landscapes at a speed and scale we've never seen before. Food, agriculture, forestry—it's a critical agenda that affects us all."

U.S. Activities

Portia K. Skenandore-Wheelock, Congressional Advocate
Native American Advocacy Program, "State of Indian Nations Address Celebrates Victories and Looks Forward," "Native American Legislative Update, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), February 2023, <https://fcnل.actionkit.com/mailings/view/29738?akid=29738.30420.SnkHuW&c0=29738.RL6UUs&rd=1&t=4>, reported, "On Feb. 21, **National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Fawn Sharp delivered the annual State of Indian Nations Address** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL3uNQxDYBw&t=1795s>) at the 2023 NCAI Executive Council winter session. **She highlighted last year's wins to secure advanced appropriations for the Indian Health Service, the reauthorization and expansion of tribal provisions in the Violence Against Women Act, and funding parity in critical legislation for tribes to address broadband, water resources, and climate change.**

"Today the state of Indian Nations is strong because our ancestors worked hard to make it so. If we work together, we can make their legacy—our Tribal Nations—everlasting," said Sharp. "This is the true strength and power of NCAI—the collective strength of Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, our allies—all of us—working together, standing united as one."

Looking ahead to some of this year's priorities for NCAI, **Sharp focused on improving housing and voting rights, defending the Indian Child Welfare Act, and confronting the full pain of the Indian boarding school era. She also spoke about using the farm bill (a multiyear law that covers a range of agricultural and food programs) to protect tribal lands, foods, and medicines.**

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA) delivered this year's congressional response. She highlighted the importance of the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and tribal nations and thanked tribal leaders, advocates, and Native language teachers and learners for their work.

Sen. Warren also defended the importance and constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act. She called on tribal leaders to continue working with her on the Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act (<https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Honoring%20Promises%20One%20Pager%20-%202011.28.2022.pdf>), **which would redress the federal government's systematic failure to meet its trust and treaty obligations to tribal nations."**

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) "Executive Council Winter Session Wrap up Report" is at: https://www.ncai.org/2023_ECWS_WrapUp-Report_FINAL.pdf.

Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund wrote in a May 4, 2023 E-mail, "**Programs for Native peoples are always the last to be funded and the first to be cut,**"

That's why we're fighting back against Kevin McCarthy's right-wing wish list that's a direct attack on Indigenous communities.

Check out my message from yesterday below for more details, then click here to send a message directly to President Biden and your U.S. senators demanding the federal government not

raise the debt limit on the backs of Indigenous people (<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-president-biden-and-the-senate-dont-raise-the-debt-limit-on-the-backs-of-indigenous-people/>).

We demand a clean debt ceiling vote and investments in healthcare, housing, food assistance, education, and more.

The United States must honor its trust obligations to Native peoples, and that means providing more funding for Indian Health Services and other critical programs, and not reducing them.

Thank you,
Tremayne Nez
Policy Director"

"In a major win for Native families, Supreme Court Upholds the Constitutionality of ICWA," The National Congress of American Indians, June 15, 2023, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2023/06/15/in-a-major-win-for-native-families-supreme-court-upholds-the-constitutionality-of-icwa>, stated, **"Today's decision is a massive victory for Native children, Native families, and the future of Native peoples. The Court's decision affirmed that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is constitutional, puts the best interests of Native kids first, and is grounded in tribal sovereignty.** This ruling respects the work that Tribal Nations have done for millennia to ensure Native kids stay connected to their families, communities, and cultures whenever possible.

Not only will this ruling allow Indian Country to continue to advocate for the best interests of Native children, but it also reaffirms what we have said and known all along: Tribal Nations are sovereign nations. Similar to states or foreign countries, Tribal Nations have the inherent powers of self-government and have the right to provide for the social, economic, safety, and cultural needs of their citizens.

For too long, ICWA's opponents have used cases like *Haaland v. Brackeen* to try to undermine tribal sovereignty. Today, the Justices have sent a clear message that these biased, ahistorical attacks have no legal foundation and will not be tolerated. We hope this decision will lay to rest the political attacks, but let this case show that Indian Country and its many bipartisan allies are united in defense of Native children and of tribal sovereignty.

Today's ruling is a ringing endorsement of the protections that ICWA requires. The ruling reinforces that ICWA is binding federal law. The court's opinion adds momentum to collective efforts to increase ICWA compliance, enact state-based ICWA laws that build on ICWA's strong foundation, and continue to support tribal child welfare and justice systems.

Indian Country stands together in joy with the countless allies who have supported us throughout this case.

Statement from NCAI President Fawn Sharp:

'This victory now means the extraordinary vision of Tribal Leaders who fought so long and hard to pass ICWA in 1978 is now perfected and will be the law of the land for generations to come. Our children, our future and our very existence as Native people will no doubt continue to survive and thrive just as our Creator intended and ancestors envisioned. Our prayers were answered and today we honor every voice that joined us to make clear Tribal Nations have an inherent sovereign right to protect the interests of our children and future.'

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About the Protect ICWA Campaign:

The Protect ICWA Campaign (the Campaign) was established by four national Native organizations: the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the National Congress of American Indians, the Association on American Indian Affairs, and the Native American Rights Fund. Together, the Campaign works to serve and support Native children, youth, and families through upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act. The Campaign works to inform policy, legal, and communications strategies with the mission to uphold and protect ICWA."

Mardella Sunshine <mardellacostanzo@gmail.com> wrote in a May 11, 2023 E-mail on the , "Artist Act of 2023, "Please be sure to **send a comment to the email below speaking in favor of NOT changing the definition of Indian and removing State recognized tribes.** I have been struggling to understand the true intention of the proposed changes. However a colleague and they shared "They can change the proposed legislation, because it is at the discussion stage..."

You may or may not be aware that the leadership of all three Cherokee Nations are speaking out, very publicly, about removing state recognized tribes from the definition and therefore **removing us from being covered under the Arts and Crafts Act. If we were no longer provided protection under the Arts and Crafts Act then individuals could face federal ramifications for creating beadwork, pottery, baskets and so on. This would also create justification to erase our presence from NMAI.**

Please, please, please act now and send in your comments. Please share this with anyone who is able to provide comments in support of protecting the rights of State Recognized Tribes. If State Recognized Tribes are removed from the Indian definition this could create a slippery slope to removing our availability access several other programs such even including educational resources, boys and girls club funding, HUD and so on.

The deadline listed below is May 19, 2023!

From the proposed legislation

10 KAT23185 PF7 DISCUSSION DRAFT S.L.C. (KAT23185 (senate.gov))

The term ‘Native American creative economy’ means an economy composed of Native American businesses or Native American nonprofit organizations that— 3 “(A) are majority owned or controlled by Native Americans (as defined in section 103 of 5 the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902)); “(B) have their origin in individual creativity, skill, and talent focused on expressions of Native cultures or heritage; or “(C) are composed of Native Americans 11 (as so defined) who are self-employed or sole proprietors whose work has origins in individual creativity, skill, or talent focused on expressions of Native cultures or heritage.

23 USC 2902

§22902. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

(1) The term "Native American" means an Indian, Native Hawaiian, or Native American Pacific Islander.

(2) The term "Indian" has the meaning given to such term under section 7491(3) of title 20.

(3) The term "Native Hawaiian" has the meaning given to such term by section 7517 of title 20.

(4) The term "Native American Pacific Islander" means any descendent of the aboriginal people of any island in the Pacific Ocean that is a territory or possession of the United States.

(5) The terms "Indian tribe" and "tribal organization" have the respective meaning given to each of such terms under section 5304 of this title.

(6) The term "Native American language" means the historical, traditional languages spoken by Native Americans.

(7) The term "traditional leaders" includes Native Americans who have special expertise in Native American culture and Native American languages.

(8) The term "Indian reservation" has the same meaning given to the term "reservation" under section 1452 of this title.

section 7491(3) of title 20.

3) Indian The term "Indian" means an individual who is—

(A) a member of an Indian tribe or band, as membership is defined by the tribe or band, including—

(i)

any tribe or band terminated since 1940; and

(ii)

any tribe or band recognized by the State in which the tribe or band resides;

(B)

a descendant, in the first or second degree, of an individual described in subparagraph (A);

(C)

considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose;

(D)

an Eskimo, Aleut, or other Alaska Native; or

(E)

a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as in effect the day preceding October 20, 1994.

ADVOCACY ALERT: Native American art and craftwork is a nearly \$1 billion industry that is an economic engine for tribes and a full-time job for many American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. Unfortunately, it's an industry that is rife with counterfeits — and it's getting worse. In March, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs announced proposed legislation that would strengthen enforcement of laws against counterfeit Native art and called for comments from individuals and tribes. The deadline for comment submission to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on the discussion draft of the Amendments to Respect Traditional Indigenous Skill and Talent (ARTIST) Act of 2023 has been extended to May 19, 2023. Comments may be submitted to Artist@indian.senate.gov."

"NCAI Statement on Vatican's Repudiation of "Doctrine of Discovery," The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), March 30, 2023, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2023/03/30/ncai-statement-on-vatican-s-repudiation-of-doctrine-of-discovery>, stated, "Today, the Vatican released a statement repudiating long held, church-endorsed concepts that "fail[ed] to recognize the inherent human rights of indigenous peoples, including what has become known as the legal and political 'doctrine of discovery.'" NCAI's official statement:

'The National Congress of American Indians commends Pope Francis and the Catholic Church for finally repudiating the dehumanizing Doctrine of Discovery and acknowledging what Indigenous peoples have known all along—that the Doctrine 'did not adequately reflect the equal dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples'. It is no secret that many governments -- including the United States -- have relied on this doctrine to justify the mistreatment of Indigenous peoples and the taking of our lands. It is our sincere hope that today's announcement is more than mere words, but rather is the beginning of a full acknowledgement of the history of oppression and a full accounting of the legacies of colonialism—not just by the Roman Catholic Church, but by all the world governments that

have used racism, prejudice and religious authority to not only justify past inequalities, but to allow, fuel, and perpetuate the institutionalization of those inequalities that continue to this very day. We thank the Creator that Indigenous peoples are strong, resilient, full of wisdom, faith, hope, and love, and we stand ready to have difficult conversations about the future and to work together to build off of today's step forward to bring about meaningful positive change to our people and nations, and for the healing, reconciliation and restoration of all peoples across the globe."

"NIHB, NCUIH, and NCAI Celebrate Historic Inclusion of Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service," The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), December 23, 2022, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2022/12/23/nihb-ncuih-and-ncai-celebrate-historic-inclusion-of-advance-appropriations-for-the-indian-health-service>, stated, " Today, **Congress enacted a Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 omnibus spending package, including a historic provision providing advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS). Prior to this change, IHS was the only federal healthcare provider without basic certainty of funding from one year to the next.**

The Indian health system serves approximately 2.5 million patients at IHS, Tribal facilities, and urban Indian organizations, and was created to meet the U.S. trust responsibility to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of all Native people to the highest standard. Unfortunately, Indian healthcare remains chronically underfunded – a U.S. policy exacerbated by disruptions in the discretionary appropriations process.

With advance appropriations, American Indians and Alaska Natives will no longer be uniquely at risk of death or serious harm during delays in an FY 2024 funding agreement. Inclusion of IHS advance appropriations in the spending bill means that IHS services will be protected from the harmful effects of disruptions in federal funding for FY 2024 because Congress has agreed to an amount this year that becomes available immediately on October 1, 2023.

'We applaud Congress and the White House for listening to Native communities and doing what is right. For far too long, the federal government has allowed political disputes over budgets to jeopardize the lives of American Indian and Alaska Native people. Every single time there is a stopgap budget, the funding for urban Indian health clinics is deferred and reduced. This compromises the delivery of health care. We look forward to working with our leaders to help the United States make good on its responsibility to provide health care for the people who gave up the land we are on today.'

- Sonya Tetnowski (Makah), President of the National Council of Urban Indian Health

'Including advance appropriations for Indian health in the omnibus is a historic moment for Indian Country over a decade in the making. While Indian health remains chronically underfunded, this provision will help ensure that the Indian Health Service can provide stable, uninterrupted care to our people even when there is a government shutdown. We are confident that we can build on this win and continue our work toward full and mandatory funding for the Indian Health Service, fulfilling the promises this country made to our people over two centuries ago.'

- William Smith (Valdez Native Tribe), President of the National Indian Health Board

'The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in partnership with our invaluable allies at the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) have fought for years to get advanced appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and commends Congress for taking this critically important step for Indian Country. This historic decision comes not a moment too soon as Indian Country continues to be plagued by an ongoing

health crisis that affects all of our communities. This week's action represents a meaningful step taken by the United States towards fulfilling its trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations and we are grateful for it as we continue to call on the United States to make good on all of its promises made to our ancestors so that our communities may continue to thrive.'

- Fawn Sharp (Quinault Indian Nation), President of the National Congress of American Indians
'This success would not have been possible without all the advocacy from Tribes, Tribal organizations and Urban Indian organizations. As part of this effort, the National Indian Health Board, the National Congress of American Indians, and the National Council of Urban Indian Health have been part of a broad coalition of advocates and champions for IHS advance appropriations. Our organizations would like to thank the coalition for its dedication and leadership during this endeavor.

We would like to also provide special thanks to Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and the Biden-Harris administration for championing this historic change, as well as House and Senate appropriators, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the House Committee on Natural Resources, the House Native American Caucus, and all of Indian Country's champions throughout Congress. Finally, we would like to thank Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Becerra, IHS Director Roselyn Tso, and all the OMB and HHS staff who worked tirelessly to realize this moment. Together, we made history.'"

"The National Congress of American Indians Commends Bipartisan Efforts to Urge NAGPRA Compliance," The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), April 21, 2023, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2023/04/21/the-national-congress-of-american-indians-commends-bipartisan-efforts-to-urge-nagpra-compliance>, stated, **"The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) commends the bipartisan group of U.S. Senators who have urged universities and museums to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA).** U.S. Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Vice Chairman of the Committee, have led this effort to ensure that Native American ancestral remains and cultural items are returned to their rightful communities.

The Senators sent letters to the University of California - Berkeley, Harvard University, Illinois State Museum, Indiana University, and the Ohio History Connection following media reports that these institutions have not fulfilled their obligation to return Native American cultural items and ancestral remains pursuant to NAGPRA.

NCAI President Fawn Sharp issued a statement commending the Senators' bipartisan efforts. 'For centuries, our cultural items, our sacred items, and our ancestors have been taken from us and kept from us, but today's efforts acknowledge what we have long said: there is no acceptable reason to continue this practice and no acceptable reason for delays—now is the time to right this historic and ongoing wrong,' Sharp said.

NCAI supports the Senators' call to action and calls on all institutions of higher education to comply with NAGPRA and return Native American cultural items and ancestral remains to their rightful owners. This is an essential step toward acknowledging the historic and ongoing wrongs inflicted upon American Indian and Alaska Native communities."

Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund wrote in a March 4, 2023 E-mail, "**The subcommittee in Congress that oversees all Native issues used to be called the Subcommittee for Indian and Insular Affairs.**

That was until our Native and Tribal communities, working with our allies in Congress -- especially Rep. Raúl Grijalva -- advocated changing the name to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

The reasons are simple. The original committee name was offensive. 'Indian' is a colonizer word and 'insular' means uncivilized, ignorant, and narrow-minded. The new name reflected what we want to be called and more accurately describes our relationship to this land and the U.S. Congress. We are Indigenous to this country. We are sovereign nations. We've been here since time immemorial and should be treated as such.

Now, in a shameful act and an insult to Native and Tribal communities, **MAGA Republicans in Congress have changed the name back to the Subcommittee for Indian and Insular Affairs. They are attempting to diminish our inherent and legal standing as Tribal Nations once again -- as if our Indigenous communities are not a part of the U.S.**

It's unacceptable. They need to call us by what we want to be called, not insult us with terms that the colonizers used. So we're fighting back. Will you contribute \$5 to fund the fight against MAGA Republicans and demand Congress treat us with the dignity and respect our people deserve now?"

"NCAI Urges Confirmation of Patrice H. Kunesh as Commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans," The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), March 7, 2023, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2023/03/07/ncai-urges-confirmation-of-patrice-h-kunesh-as-commissioner-for-the-administration-for-native-americans>, stated, "**The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) renews the call urging the swift confirmation of Patrice H. Kunesh to take place this week so that she can begin to serve as Commissioner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Native Americans (ANA).** ANA works to promote self-sufficiency and economic opportunity for Native Americans by providing funding for community-based projects, training, and technical assistance to eligible Tribal Nations and Native organizations.

'Patrice understands that investing in tribal communities is essential to helping them achieve self-sufficiency and prosperity,' said Fawn Sharp, President of the National Congress of American Indians. "Her commitment to Native language preservation, social and economic development, and understanding of how best to use federal funds will be valuable if confirmed to this important role.'

As Commissioner, Kunesh will be responsible for promoting self-sufficiency through ANA's funding, training, and technical assistance programs. She will also work with other HHS programs and federal agencies such as the Administration for Children and Families to maximize resources on behalf of Native communities.

Kunesh, who is of Standing Rock Lakota descent, is a highly accomplished leader and advocate for Native communities. As the founder of Pe?í? Haha Consulting, she has worked to empower Native populations by augmenting their assets and promoting social and human capital development. Her extensive experience includes head positions at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; as well as teaching faculty roles at University South Dakota School Of Law and various posts at the Native American Rights Fund (NARF).

'Nominee Patrice Kunesh understands the unique needs of Tribal Nations and has been an advocate for their interests throughout her career,' said Sharp. "We strongly urge her swift confirmation as ANA Commissioner to lead the important work of the agency to support all Native peoples."

"NCAI President Fawn Sharp to Attend World Economic Forum," The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), January 16, 2023, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2023/01/16/ncai-president-fawn-sharp-to-attend-world-economic-forum>, reported. **"Today, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Fawn Sharp begins her participation in the week-long World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.** The 53rd annual convening of the WEF will bring together more than 3,000 individuals from both the public and private sector to "engage in peer-to-peer deliberations in the spirit of improving the state of the world" according to the WEF website.

'It is an honor to be able to participate in the World Economic Forum this year and to have an opportunity to work with individuals from around the planet to find a path forward on the greatest threats to our planet and our communities,' said Sharp. 'I am particularly blessed to be able to raise the voice of Indigenous peoples from across the globe during the meetings and make sure that we are heard.'

Sharp's engagement at WEF builds on NCAI's continued dedication to advancing the rights of Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples internationally. Sharp has dedicated much of her life—including her time as NCAI President—to fighting for tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination, including advancing the rights guaranteed to all Indigenous peoples under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

While attending WEF, Sharp's schedule includes involvement in a number of different matters, including addressing global climate change. 'There is no issue more critical to the lives of Indigenous peoples and to the health of our shared home than global climate change,' Sharp noted, 'and even in the face of incredible odds, I know the invaluable contributions to the fight against Climate Change that Native Americans and our Indigenous relatives globally will make to turn the tide.'

Sharp will be in attendance at the WEF through its conclusion on January 20, 2023. To follow Sharp's activities at WEF, visit www.ncai.org or follow NCAI's social media accounts @NCAI1944."

"Sen. Angus King Blocks Beneficial Law for Maine." The Wabanaki Alliance released the following statement in response to Sen. Angus King's decision to block a bill that would have boosted economic development for rural Maine and Wabanaki Nations, December 2022. <https://wabanakialliance.com/response-king/>

Today leaders of the House and Senate announced they had reached a deal on a Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus appropriations bill. Disappointingly, this budget deal omits crucial language previously included in House-passed spending legislation in July that would ensure that the Wabanaki Nations are no longer unfairly excluded from beneficial acts passed by Congress. That language mirrored the Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act (H.R. 6707), legislation that was drafted and supported by Reps. Jared Golden (D-ME) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME), and would have helped begin to right decades of injustice and provide the opportunity for millions of dollars in economic activity in rural Maine.

According to staff in the U.S. Senate, the reason for this omission was Sen. Angus King's (I-ME) active opposition to the legislative language. Wabanaki leaders strongly question why Sen. King continues to block Wabanaki economic development and turn his back on rural Maine. 'Today, the U.S. Congress released a compromise bill for Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus appropriations. Unfortunately, this omnibus bill fails to include the Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act, even though the House of Representatives had included the Wabanaki legislation in an earlier version of its appropriations bill. The main reason for the legislation's exclusion is due to strong opposition from Senator Angus King. This is unfortunate because tribal leaders had directly conferred with Senator King as the legislation was being drafted and purposefully drafted the bill narrowly to address Senator King's concerns. It's hard not to suspect that the senator's opposition to the legislation is political in nature and not substantive. The Wabanaki bill would have been a meaningful step towards modernizing an archaic settlement act, and it would have opened doors for much-needed economic opportunities for our tribal communities and rural Maine. It was supported by the Maine people, the Maine Legislature, and several cities and towns. We want to thank Representatives Jared Golden and Chellie Pingree for making such good progress on a bill that would have helped the Wabanaki people and rural Maine communities, and look forward to continuing to work with them,' stated Chief Kirk Francis, Penobscot Nation.

Chief William Nicholas, Sr. of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkmikuk said, 'I am extremely disappointed that The Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act was not included in the final language for the FY 2023 omnibus appropriations package. There is no legitimate policy justification for the Wabanaki Nations to be treated differently from all other 570 federally recognized Tribal Nations yet that is what this outcome will perpetuate. The time has come for the Wabanaki to have equal access to federal laws intended to promote stronger and safer tribal communities. Though it may not happen this year, we will continue to press Congress to amend the civil and human rights travesty that is the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. The change we seek may not happen today but we will carry this fight forward for the benefit of our future generations.'

Sen. King persists in maintaining the restrictions blocking the Wabanaki from accessing beneficial acts available to all other federally recognized tribes despite more than 2,000 Mainers writing in support of the legislation earlier this year, Orono, Bangor, and Portland approving letters/resolutions backing the legislation, dozens of organizations expressing support for it, and Maine legislative leaders sending a letter endorsing the legislation.

'The Wabanaki Nations have never been closer to amending the poorly-designed and intentionally one-sided Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and our inability to be included in this year-end legislation really stings. The fact that we have come this far and generated this much support from Mainers should serve as a stark reminder to those that oppose Wabanaki equality. We will not stop. We will keep fighting for a brighter future because all of Maine succeeds when the Wabanaki succeeds. We applaud our friends Congressman Golden and Congresswoman Pingree for championing our effort thus far and look forward to building on our work in future Congresses,' observed Chief Rena Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik.

A recent report released by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development found that eliminating the restrictive language of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA) would result in critical economic development for the Wabanaki and rural Maine. According to the report, Wabanaki Nations 'could be expected to support hundreds of millions of dollars of gross state product and thousands of spillover jobs, with the preponderance of these jobs being held by

non-Indian workers. This economic activity would also support tens of millions of dollars of government revenue at tribal, state and local, and federal levels.'

'Perhaps no better economic development policy costing so little money could be implemented now in the State of Maine than removing the restrictive language of MICSA. Yet Sen. King refuses to support it,' declared Chief Clarissa Sabattis, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

While the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Penobscot Nation were parties to the MICSA agreement, the Mi'kmaq Nation was excluded from the process and have a separate settlement act approved in 1991.

'The Mi'kmaq Nation was unfairly left out of the process that led to enactment of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and, today, the inequity, which has flowed from that exclusion for the past 40 plus years will continue. Our lack of access to laws enacted by Congress to promote tribal self-governance and self-determination has and will continue to drag down and obstruct positive growth in our Wabanaki communities. Special interest groups and those rooted in the dark history of the Settlement Act will continue to fight for the 'status quo' but they ignore the obvious reality that the Settlement Act prevents progress in tribal and non-tribal communities and must be changed," stated Chief Edward Peter-Paul, Mi'kmaq Nation."

The Wabanaki Nation of Maine has asked the Maine State legislature to pass legislation that would provide it with self-determination, revising the Settlement act which denies the nation the rights and benefits of federally recognized tribes. The tribe would then seek federal recognition (U.S.: Wabanaki Nations Push for Federal Recognition," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, June 2023).

"National Native Organizations Respond to South Dakota Revisions to K-12 Social Studies Standards," The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), April 26, 2023, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2023/04/26/national-native-organizations-respond-to-south-dakota-revisions-to-k-12-social-studies-standards>, stated, "On April 17, 2023, **the South Dakota Board of Education Standards, in a 5-2 decision, voted to adopt new Social Studies standards. After a two-year transition period, the standards will be taught state-wide in the fall of 2025. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) stand in solidarity with the South Dakota Education Equity Coalition (SDEEC) and the nine Tribal Nations of South Dakota in opposition of the revisions to the K-12 Social Studies Standards.**

NIEA Executive Director Diana Cournoyer commented, 'It is disappointing that South Dakota has rejected calls from Tribal Nations to engage in **meaningful consultation and collaboration on standards that are important not just for Native students, but all students in the state. Tribal Nations have been vocal in their opposition to the proposed standards and have provided solutions to address state education leader's concerns. Ensuring Native history and culture is accurately represented in South Dakota's newly adopted standards will be difficult without consultation and collaboration with Tribal Nations.** Despite these setbacks, we know our communities will continue to advance their educational goals and support the teaching of a full and accurate history of tribal communities in and around South Dakota. We hope South Dakota will learn from other states, like North Dakota, which recently passed Senate Bill 2304, ensuring Native history is taught as a requirement for high school graduation.'

NCAI President Fawn Sharp responded to the adoption of the standards, saying, 'The state of South Dakota failed to adequately consult Tribal Nations before adopting standards that will not only greatly impact all Native children, but also affect how Native people are understood across the entire state. Now, not only will Native children be robbed of educational opportunities to learn about their history and heritage, but this week's decision by the South Dakota Board of Education continues centuries of trying to erase Native people from history and make us invisible—but we are here, we are resilient, and we won't rest until we ensure equitable and respectful treatment of all our peoples and all of our histories.'

Numerous South Dakota Educational Organizations, including SDEEC and the South Dakota Great Plains Tribal Education Directors called upon the South Dakota Department of Education to engage in effective tribal consultation and collaborate with Indigenous educators to ensure adequate representation of Native peoples and cultures.

In 2018, the South Dakota State Board of Education adopted the Oceti Sakowin standards, a set of essential understandings developed by tribal working groups. In 2021, a workgroup that included tribal representation and leadership presented a draft of standards that incorporated the Oceti Sakowin essential understandings throughout K-12. The new standards eliminated many of these earlier inclusions, and were adopted despite 1,137 comments in opposition, 121 comments in favor, and 37 neutral comments.

The new standards include only six, of more than one hundred total, that directly reference Native peoples. Under the newly approved changes, after a student exits the seventh grade, they will encounter only two standards that directly reference Native peoples during the final five years of their public education.

NCAI and NIEA urge all educational standards be developed with meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations in order to halt the continued marginalization of Native voices and history."

Lakota Peoples Law Project wrote in a February 6, 2023 E-mail, "**Today marks a shameful anniversary. It's now been 47 years since our Lakota and Ojibwe relative, Leonard Peltier, was arrested after taking part in the 1975 American Indian Movement (AIM) standoff at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Wrongly convicted on false testimony for killing FBI agents, Leonard is now 78 years old and suffering with various health ailments in a federal penitentiary in Florida.**

The good news is, the world has never forgotten Leonard, who during his lengthy incarceration has run for both President and Vice President of the United States. Today, 'Rise Up for Peltier' events are happening in cities across the globe — including Paris, Rome, and Berlin. As part of this day of solidarity, our friends at the Red Nation Movement are also asking people to assist Leonard through their social media channels by sharing content and raising awareness.

As Carol Gokee, co-director of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, wrote to you via our Lakota Law platform a year ago, the list of people who have supported clemency for Leonard is long and impressive. It includes Nobel Peace Prize winners Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and Rigoberta Menchú; former Chief Judge of Tennessee's U.S. District Court, Kevin Sharp; Sens. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT); Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ); and James Reynolds, the chief prosecutor who originally put Leonard behind bars.

As we approach the anniversary of AIM's Wounded Knee stand later this month, we'll have much more to share with you. Lakota Law organizers Madonna Thunder Hawk and DeCora Hawk are on the ground helping to prepare a big event, and you'll hear more from them this week.

In addition, our video team is working on setting up live video feeds and our communications staff is working on an action you'll be able to take to demand clemency for Leonard.

You can find more info and other ways to assist right here (<https://www.whoisleonardpeltier.info/>). Please stay tuned and stand ready. We must do everything we can to right a grievous wrong. After nearly a half century, It's long past time to free Leonard Peltier.

Wopila tanka — thank you for your solidarity!

Chase Iron Eyes

Co-Director and Lead Counsel

The Lakota People's Law Project."

"Kansas City Chiefs face new call to drop 'insulting' name and symbol: Group gathered outside Arizona stadium to protest the team's name and the insulting gesture and chant performed by its fans, *Guardian*, February 13, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/feb/13/protesters-demand-kansas-city-chiefs-drop-name>, reported "**The Kansas City Chiefs** may have won the Super Bowl in an epic game, but for some there will be no victory until the football team changes its name and symbol and its fans stop performing an insulting gesture and chant.

A small but loud group protested outside the stadium hosting the Super Bowl in Arizona on Sunday, aggrieved that the team from the city that straddles the Kansas-Missouri border continues to refuse to drop its name and arrowhead symbol, which Native American leaders class as a racist mascot and symbol that devalues Native traditions."

Lakota Peoples Law Project wrote in a February 4, 2023 E-mail, "A few weeks back, I wrote to you about director James Cameron's movie *Avatar: The Way of Water*, and **the need for better representation and agency for Indigenous people in the telling of our stories onscreen.** As always, a number of you responded by sharing your own perspectives on this issue — and I thank you for your good feedback! Among the emails we received was one from Lakota Law supporter Naomi, who suggested we adapt that email into a '**petition to be presented to the producers of Avatar, and/or as an open letter to Hollywood.**'

We thought that was a great idea! After further discussing the issues we have with the movie, Native agency in Hollywood, and what we should do about it, we designed a specific list of asks for Mr. Cameron and other filmmakers. So today I ask that you give our petition a read, sign it, and share it with your network to help us increase Indigenous agency in movies and television!

We believe that we can help change the game. Native agency has already moved forward by leaps and bounds with movies like *Prey* and television shows like *Reservation Dogs*, *Rutherford Falls*, and *Three Pines*. TV's biggest phenomenon, the *Yellowstone* franchise — which does, admittedly, have a few issues of its own — employs my friend, Mo Brings Plenty (Cheyenne River), as both an actor and consultant, as well as Gil Birmingham (Comanche) and other Native actors. And "Avatar: The Way of Water" stars Cliff Curtis, a talented actor of Maori descent, in a pivotal role.

I want to be clear. **From my perspective, it isn't a problem when non-Native people like Yellowstone creator Taylor Sheridan and Cameron want to help tell Indigenous stories. They just need to do it in the right way. And I understand those in our communities who call for boycotts and who are working to create their own path to Indigenous agency. But I see the best way forward as a collaborative approach that helps our stories get told more**

frequently, in better ways, and on larger platforms. So, today, please sign and share our open letter to James Cameron and Hollywood. Let's see if we can change the game even more — instilling in Hollywood more Indigenous representation and agency — to help our society understand some deeper truths through the media it consumes.

Wopila tanka — thank you for helping us tell our own stories!

Chase Iron Eyes

Co-Director and Lead Counsel

The Lakota People's Law Project

First Nations Development Institute, March 17, 2023. E-Mail, stated, "New Study Examines Housing Experiences of Urban Indigenous People," **"A national study is being launched on the housing experiences of American Indian and Alaska Native people living in urban areas.** The Aspen Public Radio article, which cites research from First Nations, describes how this type of data is sparse but essential when it comes to how funds are allocated or reallocated. American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in or near urban areas in the U.S. are invited to join the study. **More information, along with a link to the sign-up form, is here:** <https://www.aspenpublicradio.org/health-and-wellness/2023-03-08/new-study-examines-the-housing-experiences-of-urban-indigenous-people>.

Megan Gleason, "Chaco Canyon Protest Blocks Event Celebrating Oil, Gas Leasing Ban," *ICT*, June 15, 2023, https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/6026e41d-dbc4-14ca-b182-740798d79354/6.15.23_The_Weekly.pdf, reported, **"Land allottees from the Navajo Nation who receive royalties for mineral exploration block U.S. Interior Sec. Deb Haaland from entering and holding commemoration at national monument."**

Their shouts telling non-Navajo people to go away emanated beyond a long line of cars unable to get through the roadblock to enter Chaco Culture National Historical Park, where U.S. **Interior Sec. Deb Haaland (Laguna) planned to be that morning following a recent 20-year federal ban on new oil, gas and mining lease.**" The ban was supported by other Indigenous groups and environmentalists.

In Albuquerque, members of Navea and allies have been protesting city action to expand development into the area of the Petroglyphs National Monument, agreeing the city needs more housing, but saying this is the wrong place to locate it (commination from Navea, May 15, 2023).

"Tell your Representative: Save Oak Flat!" Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund, April 23, 2023, https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-your-representative-save-oak-flat/?link_id=1&can_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&source=email-re-tell-congress-save-oak-flat-while-we-still-have-time-to-protect-this-sacred-site&email_referrer=email_1891438&email_subject=re-tell-congress-save-oak-flat-while-we-still-have-time-to-protect-this-sacred-site, stated, "As part of the federal government, Congress has a responsibility to protect sacred Indigenous places located on federal lands and our right to practice our belief systems. **Congress has a responsibility to honor Native sovereignty.**

That includes protecting the sacred place known as Oak Flat, which is part of U.S. Forest land in Arizona. The proposed mining project would deplete and poison already

limited water supplies, and would forever destroy the culture and religion of Indigenous peoples -- all for corporate profit.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva recently introduced the Save Oak Flat from Foreign Mining Act, which would repeal the 2014 law that authorized the land transfer to a multinational mining corporation with a history of violating human rights and destroying Indigenous sacred places in other countries as well.

Please sign now to tell your Congressional Representative to support the Save Oak Flat from Foreign Mining Act while we still have time to protect this sacred place."

"First Nations' 2022 Impact Report is Out Now," First Nations Development Institute, March 17, 2023. E-Mail, stated, "This week, **First Nations published our 2022 Impact Report. Themed *Native Values, Native Voices*,** the report exemplifies how Native values are the foundation behind all the great things happening in Native communities. Among the highlights of the year from First Nations: over \$12.5 million invested in grassroots initiatives, 410 grants distributed to community partners, and over 140,000 changemakers reached throughout Indian Country. Access the full report here: <https://www.firstnations.org/impact-report-2022>."

"Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Evaluation: Improving Philanthropic Practice, 2023, First Nations Development Institute, April 25, 2023 <https://www.firstnations.org/publications/indigenous-data-sovereignty-and-indigenous-evaluation-improving-philanthropic-practice>, announced. "**This First Nations report highlights the need to change evaluation and data collection practices in Native American communities.**

Indigenous peoples have been some of the most studied peoples around the globe. But in most cases, research and evaluation studies have been extractive and predatory and continue to perpetuate false narratives that frame Indigenous life and communities through a deficient-based lens.

This new report highlights ways to improve data and research practices, especially in philanthropy, by following principles and practices of Indigenous data sovereignty and Indigenous evaluation.

This report stems from a gathering of Native community leaders from across the United States hosted by First Nations in August 2021. This meeting focused on ongoing challenges Native people have when it comes to research and evaluation, and explored ways to put Native people and communities in control of research and evaluation in their communities."

To download the report go to: <https://www.firstnations.org/publications/indigenous-data-sovereignty-and-indigenous-evaluation-improving-philanthropic-practice>.

Lakota Law Project stated, May 22, 2023, <https://lakotalaw.org/2022-annual-report>, "Read on to view **the Romero Institute's 2022 Annual Report.** Together we made great impacts in Lakota Country and across this land — wopila tanka!

The Lakota People's Law Project is a part of the Romero Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Click here (<https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/romeroac-stage/uploads/2022-Romero-Institute-Annual-Report-20230522.pdf>) to view the Romero Institute's 2022 Annual Report. **The report outlines the mission, accomplishments, and financials of the Romero Institute and its programs, including the Lakota People's Law Project and Let's Green CA!"**

International Activities

"Emergency Draft Resolution #02/2023, AFN Special Chiefs' Assembly, April 3-6, 2023, Ottawa, ON, <https://afn.bynder.com/m/1aa708729d416293/original/ER-02-2023-Revised-Final-Settlement-Agreement-on-Compensation-for-First-Nations-Children-and-Families.pdf>, stated, **"Revised Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families**

Child and Family Services

Ogimaa Kwe Linda Debassige, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON
Chairperson Khelsilem, Squamish Nation, BC

The First Nations-in-Assembly honour all the children, youth, and families, those with us and those lost, who experienced egregious harms by Canada and its colonial structures, the impacts of which continue to be felt today. We dedicate ourselves to ensuring justice for all affected children, youth, and families.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:

Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 7 (2): Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 22 (2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to prompt decision

The First Nations-in-Assembly commend the Representative Plaintiffs for their strength and resilience in pursuing the Class Action against Canada's discrimination under the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and the improper implementation of Jordan's Principle seeking fair and equitable compensation for individuals impacted by this profound discrimination.

In 2022, Canada and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) sought the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's (CHRT) approval of the \$20 billion Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on Compensation. On October 24, 2022, the CHRT issued a letter decision confirming that the FSA on Compensation substantially, but not fully, satisfied its orders on compensation. The CHRT provided its full reasons on December 20, 2022 (2022 CHRT 41). procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to through just and fair effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

The First Nations-in-Assembly mandated the AFN by way of Resolution 28/2022, Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families, to, among other items:

support compensation for those entitled under the FSA and those entitled to \$40,000 plus interest under the CHRT compensation orders;

direct the AFN to return to the First Nations-in-Assembly to provide regular progress reports and seek direction on implementation issues, and,

expressed support for the Representative Plaintiffs and all victims and survivors of Canada's discrimination and sought to ensure that compensation would be paid as quickly as possible.

The Representative Plaintiffs, youth in care and formerly in care, and those with lived experience in other class actions have expressed that supports for class members are imperative to their wellbeing, including mental wellness supports, financial literacy, and supports for youth past the age of majority, including for high needs Jordan's Principle recipients.

Canada, the AFN, Moushoom counsel, and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada ('Caring Society') thereafter came together to amend the FSA on Compensation to address the concerns identified by the CHRT in 2022 CHRT 41. In these negotiations, the AFN advanced the mandates directed by the First Nations-Assembly in Resolution 28/2022.

The Parties have negotiated a revised Final Settlement Agreement (Revised FSA) on Compensation, providing over \$23 billion in compensation for the survivors and victims of Canada's discrimination, while addressing the issues highlighted by the CHRT in 2022 CHRT 41 and pursuing fair compensation for the Classes dating back to 1991.

The Representative Plaintiffs, the AFN, and the Caring Society are recommending that the First Nations-in-Assembly endorse the Revised FSA on Compensation.

Pending approval of the Revised FSA, the AFN will present the revised agreement to the CHRT for approval. Once approved by the CHRT, the revised agreement will then be presented to the Federal Court of Canada for approval to ensure the timely distribution of compensation to the survivors and victims of Canada's discrimination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

Fully support the Revised Final Settlement Agreement (Revised FSA) on Compensation in principle and authorize the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) negotiators to make the necessary minor edits to complete the Revised FSA.

Support the AFN in seeking an order from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) confirming that the Revised FSA on compensation fully satisfies its compensation orders.

Direct the AFN, upon the endorsement of the Revised FSA on Compensation by the CHRT, to seek approval of Revised FSA on Compensation by the Federal Court of Canada on an expedited basis.

Call on the Prime Minister of Canada to make a formal and meaningful apology to the Representative Plaintiffs and the survivors of Canada's discrimination and those who have passed away.

Continue to support the Representative Plaintiffs and all survivors and victims of Canada's discrimination by ensuring that compensation is paid and adequate supports are provided as quickly as possible to all those who can be immediately identified and to continue to work efficiently to ensure that compensation reaches all those who are eligible.

Direct the AFN to return to the First Nations-in-Assembly to provide regular progress reports on supports, implementation and the claims process and seek direction where required."

"AFN – Specific Claims Reform Proposal: Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specific Claims (ICRSC)," AFN, April 22, 2023, <https://afn.bynder.com/m/d757126559cfc1f/original/22-04-06-SPECIFIC-CLAIMS-REFORM-PROPOSAL-1.pdf>, stated (only items 1-3.1 are included here, the rest are available at the above URL).

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This Reform Proposal prepared by the Assembly of First Nations calls for the creation of the Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specific Claims (ICRSC). The ICRSC incorporates the adjudicative function of the existing Specific Claims Tribunal into a new, fully independent body established to resolve specific claims, Canada’s outstanding lawful obligations to First Nations. The ICRSC will also house: The Commission, which will provide First Nations with a venue for facilitated negotiations; a Resource Hub, which will support First Nations in the development of their claims; a Funding Division, which will provide First Nations with financial resources to resolve their claims; and, a Registrar, which will manage the ICRSC’s operations. The combined functions of the ICRSC will provide First Nations with a fair, independent, flexible, and efficient process to resolve their claims. The ICRSC will be based on the overarching principle that all claims should have equal access to a fair process of redress that fits the needs and priorities of the First Nation claimant. It will be fully independent, uphold the Honour of the Crown, reflect legal pluralism via the integration of Indigenous laws, and be free from arbitrary limits on financial compensation.

1.0 Executive Summary

The resolution of Canada’s outstanding lawful obligations to First Nations requires a specific claims process that is independent, fair, open, transparent, and in compliance with domestic and international law. The existing specific claims process suffers from several flaws. Canada is in a position of conflict because it is the defendant to claims, determines the level and method of funding First Nations participation, reserves for itself a preliminary review of its legal obligations, and makes the final decision whether and what will be negotiated. Additionally, the existing specific claims process is slow, inflexible, and burdened by arbitrary limits on financial mandates. Finally, the specific claims process is unable to provide restitution to First Nations through the return of lands, territories, and resources. First Nations have long demanded that the specific claims process be reformed to eliminate Canada’s conflict and address these issues. First Nations have also called for the process to recognize and respect Indigenous laws.

In 2016, Canada committed to working jointly with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to reform the specific claims process. In the same year, the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) was created to facilitate this reform process.¹ In 2018, Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) received a mandate to explore what a fully independent specific claims process would look like. The AFN carried out engagement sessions with First Nations in all regions in 2019 to receive input on the reform of the specific claims process. The AFN drafted this reform proposal based on submissions received during the engagement sessions.

This reform proposal calls for the creation of the Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specific Claims (ICRSC or “the Centre”). The ICRSC will support and manage the specific claims

process from claim preparation through to claim resolution. The ICRSC will be an independent body that combines the adjudicative function of the existing Tribunal with four other core functions: the Registrar, the Funding Division, the Resource Hub, and the Commission. The Registrar will provide administrative infrastructure and manage specific claims. The Funding Division will administer funding to participating First Nations. The Resource Hub will store research materials and provide support to First Nations researchers. The Commission will facilitate the resolution of specific claims through negotiated settlements. Finally, the Tribunal will continue to play an adjudicative role throughout the ICRSC's resolution process.

The existing Tribunal and a newly established Commission will both operate under the ICRSC which will enable resolution of First Nations claims through facilitated negotiations and/or adjudication of all or parts of their claims. To this end, the Commission will provide First Nations with a venue for facilitated negotiations if they so choose. The Tribunal will continue to be an adjudicative body but will have expanded powers: parties at the Commission will be able to refer issues of fact and/or law to the Tribunal. Additionally, the Commission may prompt intervention by the Tribunal to impose penalties on parties for bad faith or uncooperative behaviour. The combined functions of the Tribunal and Commission will provide First Nations with a fair, flexible, and efficient process to resolve their claims. The Tribunal and Commission will operate in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner.

A fundamental feature of the ICRSC will be the recognition of and respect for Indigenous laws. The ICRSC will support the recognition of the laws, legal orders, and dispute resolution mechanisms as articulated by participating First Nations. The recognition of Indigenous laws may impact the conduct of adjudication, dispute resolution, mediation, and negotiation. Through all of its core functions, the ICRSC will provide due recognition and respect to the Indigenous laws of participating First Nations. In doing so, the ICRSC will respect the diversity of laws and legal traditions that First Nations may choose to rely on. The ICRSC will be free from arbitrary limits on financial compensation. This means that there will be no financial limit on the jurisdiction of the Tribunal or the Commission. By recognizing Indigenous laws and eliminating arbitrary limits on compensation, the ICRSC will give First Nations access to a fair process of redress that fits their needs and priorities.

A system of governance will be established to ensure that the core functions of the ICRSC work in an efficient and complementary manner. The Advisory Committee on the Application of Indigenous Laws will assist the ICRSC with the application of the laws and protocols of participating First Nations. An Oversight Committee will be established to monitor the ICRSC's annual reporting on its core functions. Together, these mechanisms will facilitate the swift and just resolution of outstanding specific claims through the new, independent specific claims process.

3.0 Background

Specific claims are claims made by First Nations against Canada in relation to the non-fulfilment of a historic treaty, the mismanagement of First Nations land or assets, or the Crown's failure to fulfil its lawful obligations to First Nations. The specific claims process constitutes the central redress mechanism for resolving Canada's outstanding lawful obligations to First Nations. Since the 1940s, First Nations have advocated for a fair and fully independent specific claims process. During this time, Canada has maintained exclusive authority to assess whether it has breached a lawful obligation, to formulate policies that direct the funding of specific claims for development, and to determine whether claims will be negotiated.

To uphold the Honour of the Crown², Canada must ensure that it is not in a position of conflict. Currently, the Minister is responsible not only for the review of specific claims, but also

for formulating the policy and process related to the development of specific claims and the conduct of their negotiation. These dual roles create a conflict of interest that directly impact the ability of First Nations to obtain justice and resolve their outstanding historical grievances. This has resulted in hundreds of specific claims remaining unresolved, rising costs, and further erosion of the relationship between the Crown and First Nations. This conflict of interest must be eliminated. While the Tribunal is an independent element of this process, it addresses only one element of independence: adjudication. Independent adjudication, however, does not ensure independence throughout the rest of the process, or for claims that are beyond the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.³

Canada must ensure that the specific claims process is consistent with the standards set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In particular, the specific claims process must be consistent with articles 18 and 26-28 of UNDRIP.

Article 8(2)(b) of UNDRIP provides that: States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:

(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

Article 19 of UNDRIP provides that:

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 26 of UNDRIP provides that:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27 of UNDRIP states that Canada:

shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.⁴

Article 28 of UNDRIP provides that

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act obliges Canada to take all measures necessary to ensure that its laws and policies are consistent with UNDRIP.⁵

In order to meet its obligations under domestic and international law, Canada must adopt a new approach to specific claims. This approach must eliminate Canada's conflict of interest throughout all aspects of claim resolution. Moreover, Canada must ensure that Indigenous laws, traditions, customs, and land tenure systems are given due recognition throughout the specific claims process. Failure to undertake this reform may lead to continued erosion of trust in the specific claims process.

3.1 Context for Reform

The current specific claims process is slow, inflexible, and characterized by a growing backlog of claims. As of March 22nd, 2022⁶, there are:

- 162 claims "under assessment"
- 394 claims "in negotiations"
- 396 claims where "no lawful obligation [has been] found"
- 55 claims "in active litigation"
- 68 claims "active at the Specific Claims Tribunal" and
- 309 "file closed."⁷

In addition, large numbers of claims are currently being researched or are under development. More claims have yet to be identified.⁸ It is against this growing volume of unresolved specific claims that the Joint Technical Working Group continues its work to transform the approach to settling specific claims.

Under the current process, the Tribunal is only available to First Nations who accept its restricted financial jurisdiction. First Nations have consistently pointed out that the \$150 million limit on financial compensation through the Tribunal is an arbitrary barrier to justice. Furthermore, First Nations consistently report that funding and resources to pursue specific claims are insufficient.⁹ Canada, on the other hand, has significant resources at its disposal to defend itself against specific claims.

The Specific Claims Tribunal Act was unilaterally amended in 2014 by Canada and subsumed into an administrative structure called the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada (ATSSC). As a result, the Specific Claims Tribunal lost its dedicated registry and the ability to manage its own administrative affairs. Full independence requires the return of the Tribunal's dedicated registry, the return of Tribunal control over its administrative operations, and the removal of the Tribunal's administrative offices from a federal government department."

1 The JTWG was created in 2016 as Canada sought to respond to the recommendations in the report of the Office of the Auditor General (Report 6—First Nations Specific Claims—Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; available at http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_201611_06_e_41835.html). The JTWG is composed of representatives from Canada and the AFN, along with technical representatives from other organizations.

* This reform effort is expressly being undertaken without prejudice to First Nations currently involved in the existing specific claims process, including active negotiations and claims before the Specific Claims Tribunal.

2 According to the Supreme Court of Canada, "[I]n all its dealings with Aboriginal peoples, from the assertion of sovereignty to the resolution of claims and the implementation of treaties, the Crown must act honourably" (Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), [2004] 3

S.C.R. 511 at paras. 16 - 18. The Honour of the Crown dictates how obligations that attract it must be fulfilled including fiduciary obligations, treaty making, treaty interpretation and treaty and statutory obligations (Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada (Attorney General), 2013 SCC 14 at paras. 36, 73. Such treaty and statutory obligations are the domain of the Specific Claims Policy and Specific Claims Tribunal Act, S.C.2008, c. 22.

3 Moreover, some would argue that the Tribunal is not fully independent owing to federal control of funding and the registry's governance structure being controlled by the Administrative Tribunal Support Services Canada Act.

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Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

4 UN General Assembly, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Resolution, Adopted by the General Assembly, 2 October 2007, A/RES/61/295 at Article 27.

5 House of Commons of Canada, Bill C-15, An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2020).

6 https://services.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/SCBRI_E/Main/ReportingCentre/External/externalreporting.aspx as of March 1st, 2021. This figure is derived from data provided in the Specific Claims Branch's Online Reporting Centre, a public facing database that lists the status of claims submitted claims. It does not include the hundreds of claims that are currently being researched and developed. Currently public reporting for claims in development does not occur. Nor does it reflect the complexity of claims negotiations or accurately characterize the unresolved nature of claims whose files are administratively "closed".

7 Large volumes of specific claims have been unilaterally rejected or "closed" by Canada. These claims remain unresolved.

8 The number of these claims are not currently publicly tracked.

9 Insufficient funding may lead to specific claims being abandoned or delayed. Moreover, the claimant may need to accrue debt to pursue their claim. Overall, insufficient funding prevents access to justice."

El Sur Resiste, "Schools for Chiapas, April 29, 2023, <https://schoolsforchiapas.org/store/gifts-of-change/elsurreviste>, stated, "**The South Resists! In the face of the incessant war against indigenous peoples territories, and the exploitation and dispossession driving the planetary devastation, the National Indigenous Congress (CNI) has summoned the Caravan and International Gathering 'El Sur Resiste' across the Southeast of Mexico, and convening at the International Gathering at the Zapatista Caracol Jacinto Canek in San Cristobal de las Casas April 25th -May 7th.**" (see a report of government violence against Camp Tierra y Libertad in International Developments).

The CNI calls upon us "all organizations, communities, movements, collectives and people in solidarity to join the global fundraising campaign, holding forums, talks, shares, festivals, dances, collections, raffles, cooperachas, passing the hat, printing and selling t-shirts, posters, stickers and everything possible to support the collective financing of these activities..."

So, WE URGE YOU, to support this movilization and the ones that will follow this, to stay informed of how policies in the north are affecting devastation in the south, to stand with defenders

of land and territory everywhere, and to DONATE to the Raffle to Resist the Megaprojects for all your friends and family!

In tremendous gratitude as always for your heart and support!"

"The International Indian Treaty Council Communicates Urgent Violations Against Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala to United Nations Human Rights Bodies," IITC, October 10, 2022 (Visited Jun 2023), http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1383891/bfcd1bbb9a/test/test/%7bvr_hosted_link%7d, stated, "On October 6th, 2022, **the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) filed urgent communications to five United Nations Human Rights mechanisms addressing severe violations of the rights carried out against the Q'eqchi' Mayan Indigenous community of Xeinup, municipality of El Chal, Department of Peten.**

IITC's submissions address an incident that took place on the night of September 30, 2022, when approximately 150 men with covered faces carrying high-caliber assault rifles violently entered Xeinup, shooting indiscriminately, and attacking families physically and verbally. They ordered the Mayan families not to move or call the National Civil Police under threat of death. They then burned their homes, farms and belongings and killed their livestock. Community members were held at gunpoint and were not able to save their belongings, clothes, animals or household items.

The submission notes that **the land in this area has been under dispute between the traditional land holders, the Q'eqchi' Mayan Indigenous Peoples of Xeinup, and private interests.**

IITC's communications were sent to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures as well as United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, on violence against women and girls, on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.

The Q'eqchi' Mayan leaders and members of the Xeinup community are calling for the government of Guatemala to be held accountable for this act of paramilitary violence and to ensure that no further acts of violence are carried out against the families of this community or any other Indigenous Peoples of Guatemala. They also call upon Guatemala to immediately investigate this act of violence and punish those responsible.

IITC's submission contains testimonies from Xeinup community leaders and members detailing widespread panic and chaos caused by the destruction, gunshots, and death threats. They stated that families dropped to the ground, and others ran for their lives to hide in the hills. Since it was nighttime, sleeping children were taken out of their homes naked. Many families spent the night in the streets of the community. 51 houses were burned, affecting 53 Mayan families including 76 girls, 64 boys, 57 men, and 60 women, totaling 257 people. These families lost all of their possessions, grains, animals and other means of livelihood. At the time of reporting, the community had not yet received any assistance from the government.

For follow-up communication or more information regarding this case, please contact IITC's office in Guatemala via juanleon@treatycouncil.org or call +502 42102584."

The Mayan Community in Guatemala, in December 2022, demanded the return of artifacts from the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. that had been illegally exported

to the Museum in 2021 ("Guatemala: Maya Peoples Demand Return of Sacred Artifacts," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, March 2023).

"Survival International statement on Yanomami health emergency: a genocide foretold," Survival International, January 24, 2023, <https://survivalinternational.org/news/13608>, stated, "Organization calls for six-point plan to address crisis

'The unprecedented and catastrophic health crisis engulfing the Yanomami people in northern Brazil is a genocide that's been years in the making' said the head of Survival Brasil Sarah Shenker today.

'Former President Bolsonaro deliberately opened the gates to the territory and encouraged thousands of gold miners to flood in. He dismantled the Indigenous health service; cheered on the miners invading Indigenous territories; and ignored the desperate pleas for action from Indigenous organizations, Survival and many others when the scale of the crisis became clear.

'The miners – the diseases they've brought in, the mercury they've poisoned the rivers and people with, the forests they've destroyed and the violence they've unleashed – are the clear and obvious cause of this disaster.

The results are well documented: **570 Yanomami children under 5 have died of preventable diseases** since Bolsonaro came to power; **Yanomami children are dying of malnutrition at a rate 191 times higher than the national average; 8 out of 10 Yanomami children in the regions of Auaris and Maturacá have chronic malnutrition;** and so on.

'We're pleased that President Lula has now called this what it is – a genocide. We're calling for a six-point plan to be enacted as a matter of extreme urgency:

1. Remove the miners. This has been done before, in the 1990s, but it needs real political will, and the funds to carry it out.
2. Send in the health teams who are desperately needed, and ensure they have long-term funding.
3. Prosecute the politicians and businesspeople who have been profiting from this genocide, both in the state of Roraima and elsewhere.
4. Dismantle the violent criminal gangs who now operate in the area and prosecute those who attacked and murdered Yanomami.
5. Clean up the supply chains to ensure anyone buying Brazilian gold can be sure it's been legally produced.
6. Ensure this can never happen again: Indigenous territories need proper protection from invasion and land theft, and the will to enforce it. Official monitoring posts near uncontacted Yanomami communities need reinforcing.

'The early signs of action from President Lula and his team are encouraging. They don't have a minute to lose, and Brazil's Indigenous organizations and Survival will be watching closely to see if deeds follow words./

Notes to Editors:

Both Survival's Research and Advocacy Director Fiona Watson, and head of Survival Brasil Sarah Shenker, know the Yanomami territory well and are available for interview.

Survival has fought alongside the Yanomami for decades. We led the international campaign for the demarcation of the Yanomami territory, along with Davi Kopenawa Yanomami and the Pro-Yanomami Commission (CCPY).

The Yanomami live in northern Brazil and southern Venezuela."

NEWS: Peru & Brazil's Indigenous people join forces to combat 'Genocide Bill,'" Survival International, June 13, 2023, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/13697>, reported, "**An Indigenous delegation from Brazil has flown to Peru to join forces with Indigenous organizations there in a desperate bid to stop a Congressional bill known as the "Genocide Bill."**

The bill, being pushed by Congressional allies of Peru's oil and gas industry, would:

- **Make it possible to revoke the official recognition of any uncontacted tribe's existence.**

- **Make it possible to revoke already-established Indigenous reserves for uncontacted and recently-contacted tribes (who are collectively known in Peru by the acronym PIACI).**

- **Open the territories of uncontacted tribes to oil and gas drilling, logging and mining.**

- **Block the creation of desperately-needed reserves for uncontacted tribes whose territories currently have no protection.**

A key Congressional committee, the 'Decentralization Committee,' is due to debate the bill on Wednesday June 14. Indigenous organizations fear that if the Committee votes in favor of the bill, a full vote in Peru's Congress could happen shortly after.

A delegation from UNIVAJA, the organization of Indigenous peoples of the Javari Valley in Brazil, is now in Peru to lend support to Indigenous efforts to stop the bill. They will join AIDSESEP and ORPIO in a joint meeting in Congress today. The Javari Valley contains more uncontacted tribes than anywhere else on Earth, and many are related to other uncontacted tribes across the border in Peru, who would be devastated if the bill is passed.

The bill has generated enormous worldwide concern. More than 10,000 people have sent protest emails to the Peruvian authorities, while the Ambassadors of Britain, Canada and Germany have written a joint letter to the Committee expressing serious concerns at the bill's consequences for uncontacted Indigenous peoples and Amazon deforestation.

Tito Sajami Andrade from Indigenous organization FECONAPRE (Federation of Native Communities of Requena province) (Federación de Comunidades Nativas de la provincia de Requena) said: 'We're here for our uncontacted relatives... They need protection [from] the evil idea of a pro-Fujimori congressman who's trying to belittle and violate the rights of our uncontacted brothers and sisters. It's intolerable that people are trying to attack the rights that we've fought for for years – they're people who just want to get rich, so now deny the uncontacted tribes' existence.

'The Indigenous peoples of the Peruvian Amazon are standing up. Our uncontacted relatives exist and need our support.'

Teresa Mayo of Survival International said today: "The Genocide Bill is the most serious attack on Peru's uncontacted tribes in decades. All the rights and protections that Peru's Indigenous people and their allies have fought so hard for, over many years, are now at risk of being extinguished with a stroke of the pen.

'These rights are under attack in Brazil too, which is why Indigenous people have joined hands across the Peru-Brazil border to fight these genocidal plans. It's a moment of desperate danger – the very survival of dozens of uncontacted tribes is now at risk.'

"Cultural Survival Condemns the Vile Murder of A'i Cofán Land Defender Eduardo Mendúa," Cultural Survival, February 28, 2023, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/cultural-survival-condemns-vile-murder-ai-cofan-land-defender-eduardo-mendua>, stated, "As an

Indigenous-led organization that advocates for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, **Cultural Survival condemns the vile murder of Eduardo Mendúa (A'i Cofán), land and environmental defender and Head of International Relations of the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE). Mendúa was killed on February 26, 2023, in his residence in the Province of Sucumbíos in the Ecuadorian Amazon.**

We hold the government of President Guillermo Lasso and the company Petroecuador responsible for Eduardo Mendúa's murder and we demand due diligence bringing the perpetrators to justice and taking good faith action to prevent further violence against Indigenous defenders. This murder did not take place in a vacuum. The oil company Petroecuador is prospecting to dig 30 oil wells in the A'i Cofán de Dureno community's territory, disregarding the State's obligation to obtain the community's Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Our community partners, as well as the Ecuadorian Human Rights Alliance's statement, affirm that this right to consultation and consent has been violated. Ecuador is violating its obligations to Indigenous Peoples under International Labour Organization Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A suspect has been arrested as of February 27. Eduardo was aware that a price had been put on his head, a fact to which at least five people have testified since his murder, and the State failed to take any action to protect him. Eduardo's brother was killed less than a year ago with no perpetrator brought to justice, and community members opposed to oil extraction have been asking for protection ever since, to no avail. The community now fears the development of further violence due to the conflict the company has generated.

Mendúa's assassination is yet another example of the systematic violence that Indigenous Peoples face and the increasing need to protect, preserve, and advocate for the lives and rights of Indigenous leaders and land defenders who live in fear of being attacked or killed while defending their inherent rights and territories.

When Eduardo was alive, in an interview with Cultural Survival in late January 2023, he emphasized the community's great need for international solidarity at this time of struggle: 'We invite all the organizations that can join us because our struggle is not only to conserve the forest. The climate crisis is affecting us and it is evident what is happening worldwide. To conserve the forest is to conserve for the common good of all people.'

Cultural Survival expresses our profound sorrow to Eduardo Mendúa's family, the A'i Cofán de Dureno community, and the forest in his territory that will no longer have him to defend them. We demand that the government of Ecuador comply with its international obligations to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, freedom of expression, and to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and that it bring the perpetrators of Mendúa's and other Indigenous land defenders' murders to justice."

Victoria Klesty, and Gwladys Fouche, "Thunberg, Indigenous protesters block Norway energy ministry over wind farms," Reuters, February 27, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/thunberg-other-protesters-block-norway-energy-ministry-over-wind-farms-2023-02-27>, reported, "Summary

Climate action cannot be at expense of Indigenous -Thunberg.

Wind farms violate Indigenous rights, supreme court ruled.

Demonstration marks 500 days since supreme court ruling

Energy ministry says needs time to find compromise

Environmental campaigner Greta Thunberg and hundreds of other activists on Monday blocked entrances to Norway's energy ministry, protesting against wind turbines built on land traditionally used by Indigenous Sami reindeer herders."

"Kenya's Borana people denounce 'skullduggery' over carbon credit scheme used by Netflix and Meta." Survival International, March 30, 2023, <https://survivalinternational.org/news/13672>, reported, **"One of the Kenyan Indigenous peoples affected by a notorious carbon trading scheme used by Netflix and Meta has issued a strongly-worded denunciation of the project.**

The Northern Kenya Grassland Carbon Project (NKGCP) is run by the controversial Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT). A Survival International report (https://assets.survivalinternational.org/documents/2466/Blood_Carbon_Report.pdf) published two weeks ago revealed that the project relied on breaking down the Indigenous people's traditional grazing practices, and had not received their Free, Prior and Informed consent.

Verra, the organization that certifies carbon offset schemes, has recently suspended the issuance of carbon credits from the project, in a sign of significant concerns over NRT's claims for it.

Now the Borana Council of Elders has released a statement (https://assets.survivalinternational.org/documents/2476/230327_Borana_Council_of_Elders_R_letter.pdf). In it they say:

- There have been 'gross human rights violations by NRT against the Indigenous pastoral communities in Northern Kenya.'

- 'We now understand that NRT's push to frustrate community land registration processes is driven by massive commercial interests and benefits it derives from these Indigenous communities' unregistered land.'

- '[We] categorically state that no Free Prior and Informed Consent process was followed and obtained from our communities.'

- NRT's Northern Kenya Grassland Carbon Project is a 'green scam.'

- 'We demand that NRT vacates our community land [and] makes public its audited financial accounts for this project.'

The Borana also say that they are considering 'instituting further legal actions against NRT for its continued robbery of community resources.'

Watch Borana leader Abdullahi Hajj Gonjobe denounce (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iNxMz6VAu8>) the devastating impact the NRT's conservancies have on their pastoralist way of life.

To interview Borana spokespeople, Survival researchers, or the author of Survival's report, please email press@survivalinternational.org"

"Maasai Delegation to Meet European Leaders in a bid to end the forced evictions and human rights abuses they are facing in Tanzania," Survival International, May 25, 2023, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/13689>, reported, "22.05.2023, A high-profile delegation of Maasai representatives starts a tour in several European countries this May, seeking international support to halt the ongoing forced evictions and human rights abuses against the Maasai people in Tanzania.

The Maasai have lived for generations in the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania and have shaped and protected these lands, preserving wildlife and biodiversity in areas such as Loliondo, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the now Serengeti National Park. However, they have been systematically marginalised and violently evicted from their ancestral lands to make way for conservation projects, tourism, and trophy-hunting schemes, severely violating their human and constitutional rights. This has also happened with the support of conservation NGOs like the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and European funding.

In recent years, the Tanzanian government has been running a brutal campaign against the Maasai, characterised by forced evictions which have already affected tens of thousands of Maasai people across various regions. In 2022, the evictions of the Maasai in Loliondo to make way for a tourism and conservation operation were marked by extreme violence. The Tanzanian government has also paralysed the availability and access to vital social services, such as health services in Ngorongoro, as a weapon to force the Maasai out of their ancestral land. The government is running a brutal campaign against Maasai in Tanzania.

European governments, EU institutions and NGOs like FZS are involved directly or indirectly in tourism and conservation projects in Tanzania, including in the Ngorongoro district. Therefore, the delegation will visit Germany, Austria, and the EU headquarters in Brussels to raise their concerns. Its goal is to ensure these government entities take measures to respect and promote the human rights of the Maasai and prevent their financial support to the Tanzanian government from enabling further forced evictions and violence.

The Maasai delegation insists on the need to change the current tourism and conservation model, which promotes the vision that nature protection must be separated from human settlement. Indigenous peoples in many countries are being evicted in the name of conservation, and their livelihoods are destroyed, such as the lives of the Maasai. The delegation demands that: i) EU Member states and European institutions halt funding for tourism and conservation projects that violate human rights and ii) they ensure that international partnerships fully respect and promote land rights and human rights.

The Maasai delegation hopes that by raising awareness of these issues and garnering international support, they can help end the ongoing forced evictions and human rights abuses against their people in Tanzania. They also wish to show the dark side of tourism and correct the false assumptions about conservation, which have devastating consequences on their lives and lands. The Maasai's traditional way of life is not incompatible with the protection of the environment. On the contrary, the Maasai shape and protect nature and biodiversity – if only they are free to access and move in their lands.

Background information on the conflict and demands of the Maasai:

- Tanzania: Maasai Forcibly Displaced for Game Reserve: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/27/tanzania-maasai-forcibly-displaced-game-reserve>

- Community opinions on socio-economic, cultural & ecological status in Ngorongoro: <https://pingosforum.or.tz/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Ngorongoro-Community-Report.pdf>

- Open Letter from Survival International to the Executive Director of the Frankfurt Zoological Society: <https://www.survivalinternational.org/articles/letter-to-FZS>

- The Tanzanian government recently issued a publication denying the Maasai's status as an Indigenous People to justify the violation of their rights and the theft of their lands. In a public statement, the Maasai of Tanzania refute these allegations and denounce this serious undermining of their rights (<https://www.fian.de/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Debunking-Government->

Claims-The-Truth-About-Maasai-Rights-in-Ngorongoro-and-Loliondo-Tanzania-May-2023.pdf).

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The Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organization's Forum (PINGO's Forum: <https://pingosforum.or.tz>) is an advocacy coalition of 53 indigenous peoples' organisations working in Tanzania for the rights of the marginalised indigenous pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities. It was established in 1994 by six pastoralist and hunter-gatherer organisations in their struggle for land rights and development.

The Maasai delegation to Europe is supported by a group of NGOs and civil society organisations in solidarity with the Maasai people of Tanzania. They work to raise awareness, foster international solidarity, and give Maasai people a voice as they are being criminalised. They further advocate for policy changes that will help the Maasai communities live in harmony with their land and wildlife, free from forced evictions and human rights abuses."

"Tribal peoples across India join forces to denounce Protected Areas on their lands," Survival International, March 24, 2023, <https://survivalinternational.org/news/13666>, reported, **"Hundreds of Indigenous (Adivasi) people from Protected Areas across India joined forces in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve in southwest India for an unprecedented week-long protest march against the seizing of their lands to create so-called 'Protected Areas' for conservation, including tiger reserves.**

The protest was centered on the world-famous Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, which was imposed, without consent, on the ancestral land of the Jenu Kuruba, who are renowned for their prowess as honey collectors, as well as the Beta Kuruba, Yarava and Pania tribes.

While Protected Areas welcome in foreign tourists, Adivasis are refused entry and barred from their forests. In tiger reserves across India, tribal people have been evicted from their ancestral lands or are threatened with eviction in the name of conservation. They also face killings, violent assault and harassment.

Nagarhole is now bordered by coffee plantations, surrounded by electric fences. There are significant overlaps between plantation owners, tourism operators and the local 'conservation' lobby.' Jadeya, one of the protesters, explained: 'The electric fences are not to protect the animals but to prevent them from entering the coffee plantations, and to keep people out of their own lands.'

For many tribal people, being thrown off their lands results in destitution. Many Adivasis end up working in local coffee plantations, in what the protesters described as almost slave-like conditions. Speaking from the march, Arjun, from the Bhunjia community in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, said: **'The estates make Adivasis slaves on their own lands.'**

The marchers stopped every day at sacred sites which had been stolen from them. In what they saw as an attack on both their beliefs and land rights, the protesters found that many of the sites had been covered by Hindu symbols.

The marchers are highlighting:

- **The wave of human rights abuses against them, including killings and assaults, stemming from the growing militarization of conservation**
- **The central role played by organizations like the Wildlife Conservation Society**

(WCS), WWF, Wildlife Protection Society of India, Wildlife Trust of India, Wildlife First, and Conservation International in a conservation model that destroys their communities.

**- The evictions that violate their rights under national and international law.
- Their demand to live on their own lands, upon which Protected Areas are imposed, and for evictions to end.**

While conservation organizations and officials claim that 'relocations' are 'voluntary', research shows that in reality tribal people are harassed, threatened and intimidated into 'agreeing' to leave – in violation of international law.

The resistance in Nagarhole is continuing in the form of an indefinite protest involving Adivasis from 46 villages now being held in front of the Forest Department Offices of the Tiger Reserve. It will continue until the demands of the communities are met.

One of the slogans chanted during the march was, 'The Nagahole forests belong to our ancestors. The animals and forests are part of us – our families'.

The march was followed by a two-day 'inter-communities dialogue' on resistance to Protected Areas, in Bangalore from March 22nd to 23rd entitled, 'Debunking the idea of Protected Areas - Community ownership of forests and commons ... where forest, peoples and animals are equals.' (Their demands are here: <https://survivalinternational.org/news/13666>).

Survival's Director Caroline Pearce said today: 'This protest is a powerful statement from the Adivasi peoples who have, for far too long, been evicted and abused in the name of conservation. Their shared experiences of violence and dispossession make it painfully clear that this is systemic abuse, endemic to the colonial and militarized model of conservation practiced in India and elsewhere. This inspiring resistance movement is part of a struggle that goes beyond national boundaries and laws. It is a struggle for the survival of Indigenous people and their ways of life.'

Note to Editors: Survival has photos and video of the protests, and can arrange interviews with those involved.

The march (known in India as a 'Padayatra') was joined by people from many Protected Areas including Kaziranga, Similipal, Achanakmar, Udanti-Sitanadi and Nagarhole."

"Malaysia: Investigate and Hold Officials Accountable for Roles in Rohingya Human Trafficking Syndicate: Four Thais extradited, charged in Malaysia for crimes related to transnational trafficking syndicate," Fortify Rights, June 29, 2023, <https://mailchi.mp/fortifyrights/malaysia-investigate-and-hold-officials-accountable-for-roles-in-rohingya-human-trafficking-syndicate>. stated, "**Malaysian authorities should open a new investigation into mass graves of Rohingya discovered in Wang Kelian and prosecute Malaysian officials already found to be negligent in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of a human trafficking syndicate**, Fortify Rights said today. Last week, a court in Malaysia's northern state of Perlis charged four Thai nationals, extradited by the Thai government, with offenses under Malaysia's Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act. The charges relate to the trafficking of ethnic Rohingya from Myanmar to Malaysia in 2015."

Hilary Whiteman, "Every year, 'Invasion Day' forces Australia to confront some painful truths," CNN, January 27, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/27/australia/australia-invasion-day-indigenous-voice-intl-hnk-dst/index.html>, reported, "**On January 26, 1788, the Union Jack was raised at Sydney Cove, beginning the European colonization of a country occupied by the world's oldest continuous culture for more than 65,000 years.**"

The day has been annually celebrated by European Australians. Indigenous protests began in 1938, when Indigenous activists in Sydney declared January 26 a “Day of Mourning.”

"This year the federal government and some large companies told employees they could work on January 26, once a hallowed day off. Victoria’s state government called time on Melbourne’s Australia Day parade after two years of Covid cancellations, and Kmart, a normal go-to for party supplies, announced it wouldn’t be stocking traditional Australia Day merchandise – clothing, plates, napkins and other memorabilia draped in the Australian flag. A Kmart spokesperson said in a statement that the company aims to 'foster an environment that is inclusive and respectful.' Meanwhile, **Aboriginal people and a growing number of supporters held protest rallies on January 26, many of them recounting the history of massacres of their people and other destructive acts of colonialism.**

Over the past few years, **public opinion in Australia has been changing and the governing party was developing a referendum for the country in winter 2023 on the question, “Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?”**

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