

Keepers of the Water joins the ICA delegation in Egypt for COP27



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ICYMI - Keepers of the Water, NWT Outreach Manager Daniel T'seleie has recently travelled to Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt with the [Indigenous Climate Action delegation](#) for #COP27

Signed in 1992 at the Earth Summit hosted in Rio de Janeiro, the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) is an international response to climate change. It is an agreement between 198 Nation States to outline obligations for how to combat climate change which came into force in 1994. The United Nations then began hosting a yearly UN Climate Change Conference to serve as the formal meeting of the UNFCCC Parties which then evolved into the Conference of Parties, which we now know as COP.

"The UNFCCC was established before the affirmation of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP), and thus advocates for Indigenous rights and sovereignty have had to work extremely hard to ensure Indigenous leadership is heard with respect to creating climate solutions." Indigenous Climate Action

Daniel, our sole representative at this year's annual COP event, is present to raise awareness on two fronts; the potential expansion of the Vista Coal Mine near Hinton, AB. If approved will be the largest Thermal Coal mine in Canada, and a federal proposal for changes to the Fisheries Act which could allow for the "treatment" and release of the ever-expanding toxic tailings ponds. Both mega projects will directly affect the downstream Indigenous communities already negatively impacted by the cumulative effects of the extraction industry, and without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

"When Indigenous Peoples withhold consent, that is a positive exercise of their jurisdiction and authority to protect their language, culture, and spirituality. They have made a decision that some proposed activity would have a severe enough impact to the land that it would somehow impact their fundamental human rights, and they are making a conscious decision to withhold consent in order to protect those rights" Daniel T'seleie

To support our work, [send a letter to Steven Guilbeault](#), the Minister for Environment Climate Change Canada, saying NO to the release of "treated" tar sands tailings effluent into the Athabasca River. It is unacceptable to continue to violate the rights of and sacrifice northern Indigenous communities and lands to industry profit.

For more information contact Tori Cress by email communications@keepersofthewater.ca or Daniel T'seleie by email nwtoutreach@keepersofthewater.ca



Daniel T'seleie is K'asho Got'ine Dene from Radili Ko (aka Fort Good Hope). He is a retired lawyer who currently works with Indigenous communities and organizations on issues relating to Indigenous rights and land protection. Daniel has been advocating for action on climate change for over a decade and is a novice trainer in non-violent direct action tactics and strategy with a focus on environmental justice and Indigenous sovereignty. Daniel works part-time for Keepers of the Water as the N.W.T. Outreach Manager.