

KEEPERS OF THE WATER

Tú bet 'a tsena Water Is Life Nipiy Pimatisiwin

Welcome to Keepers of the Water's Podcast!

With this podcast, we hope to uplift the collective work and voices of our communities in the protection of water. We are First Nation, Métis, Inuit, environmental groups, and concerned citizens working together to protect water, air, and land. We acknowledge that all water is connected and that water is sacred.

We are passionate about amplifying the voices of Indigenous traditional land users and community members living through the devastating impacts of the ever-growing extraction industries in their territories.



Brought to you by Keepers of the Water, our production team and our sponsors.

Available on our [Website](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#).



Our First Episode features:

François Paulette

Denesuline from Smith's Landing First Nation, Treaty 8. An advocate of Treaty and Indigenous rights. He has spoken to international audiences on human rights, spiritual healing from colonial oppression, and environmental protection. In this episode, François speaks to us about the historic Paulette Case ([PAULETTE v. THE QUEEN](#))

You can help sustain our work by donating to our podcast project here: [DONATE TODAY](#)



This issue:

Listen to our New Podcast
PAGE 01

World Water Day 2024
PAGE 02

Watch our Uranium
Webinars
PAGE 02

We are in a DROUGHT
PAGE 03

RBC Convention and
UN Rapporteur Visit
PAGE 04

HELP KOW go to COP 29
and COP 16
PAGE 05

Announcements and Events
PAGE 06

World Water Day - 2024 | Uranium Webinars Series

Protecting Our Water For Future Generations

Partnering with the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta in amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton), Alberta. This event was geared towards First Nations, Metis Settlements, consultation staff, educators, health practitioners and friends of our communities.

MC and musician Curt Young guided us through the day with his bountiful energy, participants heard from many presenters and community leaders. Opening the day was Grand Chief Arthur Noskey of T8FN along side Jesse Cardinal. KOW Executive Director.

Keepers shared an update on the proposed dumping of the tar sands tailings ponds, the Alberta Energy Regulator and impacts on Treaty rights and the spreading drought situation across our territories.



Jesse Cardinal - Executive Director KOW

Alberta Wildlife Association sharing concerns of impacts on wetlands in Treaty 8 territory and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment introduced the Place Based Power Project, initiated by physicians concerned about unchecked energy extraction, Alberta's Tar Sands and Fracking in BC.



“Human health depends on planetary health”
- Dakota Norris, CAPE



Live streams of the event can be found here: <https://loom.ly/YVPJpGU>

Uranium Mining in Northern Saskatchewan - What You Need To Know Four-Part Webinar Series

A Webinar series that will help you know more about what is happening with uranium mining in Northern Saskatchewan. While many people have been busy in survival mode and exhausted from wars around the world, and the extreme rising cost of living, uranium mining lobbyists and governments have been taking advantage, passing industry-favourable laws that will further degrade and threaten freshwater systems already desperately overburdened by farming and mining use and wastewater byproducts.

Find our Webinars HERE: Health Impacts of Uranium Mining on Indigenous Bodies, Small Nuclear Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Consent in Saskatchewan: What You Haven't Been Told, Health Impacts of Uranium Mining on Indigenous Bodies #4 COMING MAY 9th

Drought Update: Stage 4 of 5 in Alberta

Indigenous Water Governance - Protecting and Conserving Water is a Fundamental Teaching from Our Elders

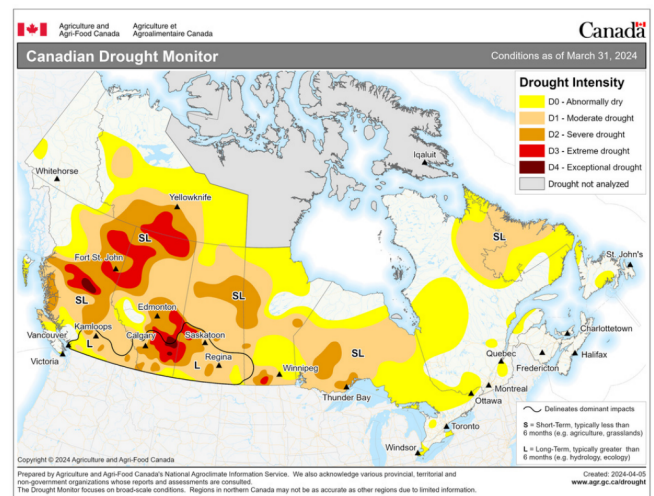
Alberta is experiencing extremely low water levels in many parts of the province due to below-average snowpack and precipitation over the past several months, resulting in less runoff to rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. This is contributing to widespread dry conditions and water shortages, especially in southern Alberta.

Irrigation is the biggest consumer of water in the province, by far, but there are also 4.8 million people to hydrate. Add the unchecked freshwater use by oil and gas, which consumes billions of litres of freshwater each year and often removes that water permanently from the water cycle, the colonial water management system in Alberta cannot sustain the status quo.

We are reminded by our Elders that we must “prepare”, we do not know what our ancestral territories will have to endure as the climate rapidly changes and waters are continuously being mis- and over-used.

Food sovereignty has become foremost in our minds, with our thoughts on food security and climate change infrastructure, we look to those who can guide us to ensure we can thrive as the Earth rapidly changes.

We know that education, collaboration and communication with those who share our vision for sustainable water protection and conservation is key.



Canadian Drought Monitor - March 31, 2024

For More Information on the Current Drought - Watch our YouTube Channel

WATCH VIDEO

Let's Talk About the Worst Drought Conditions in Colonial History Happening in Alberta Right Now

RBC Convention | UN Visits Fort McMurray

Keepers of the Water Joins Indigenous Delegation Demanding Action on Indigenous Rights Violations and Fossil Fuel Financing at RBC's AGM

Tkaronto, Apr 11 2024 - For the second year in a row, KOW participated in a rally outside the Royal Bank of Canada's (RBC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) to call out RBC's continued support for fossil fuel expansion projects that violate Indigenous sovereignty and rights globally.

Led by Indigenous and Frontline Land Defenders, our demands were clear: RBC must rapidly phase out fossil fuel financing, respect Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and ramp up investments in climate-safe solutions.



Photo credit: Joshua Best

“Keepers is here to give voice to the Water and the living systems depending on clean, fresh water for planetary survival. RBC shareholders and Canadians can no longer turn a blind eye to the destruction of the water, land, biodiversity, and people caused by their reckless investments.”

Jesse Cardinal KOW Executive Director

“Canada's failure to provide First Nations with clean drinking water constitutes a flagrant human rights violation”

- United Nations special rapporteur Pedro Arrojo-Agudo (CBC News)

United Nations special rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation visited Fort McMurray on April 12 meeting with representatives of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and Keepers of the Water.

“Arrojo Agudo expressed concern that extractive activities including mining and hydrocarbon exploration continue breach human rights, particularly the right to water of Indigenous Peoples.

“Indigenous Peoples disproportionately face the brunt of risks of toxic water contamination with serious health impacts,” he said. “It is regrettable that those who cause damage to or pollution of water sources are not being held accountable and required to compensate for the harms,” Arrojo Agudo added.”

- Office of the High Commissioner United Nations Human Rights

HELP Keepers of the Water take a seat at the table!

UN INC-4 2024

UN Climate Change Conference 2024 - COP29

UN Biodiversity Conference - COP16



Mother Earth is entering “uncharted territory”, rising temperatures are contributing to more intense wildfires worldwide and the lowest water levels are being seen by our Elders within their lifetimes.

Achieving climate justice requires support, resource rights, and sovereignty for the Peoples who are struggling with climate change impacts.

This tells us that there is an urgent need for Indigenous science and ecological knowledge to be heard, understood, respected and embraced as critical solutions to overcome our water and climate crisis’.

IT IS TIME TO DEMAND OUR GOVERNMENTS ADDRESS AND FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE ROOT CAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE: PRODUCING AND BURNING FOSSIL FUELS!!

Help Us to Raise Our Collective Voices Against Fossil Fuels!

DONATE NOW

- ***UN Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024 (COP 29) and the;***
- ***2024 UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties in Cali, Columbia from October 21 to Nov 1, 2024 (COP 16)***

Donations can be made via:



Send e-Transfer donations to:
keepersofthewaterdonate (at)
gmail (dot) com

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Healing Our Waters” Gathering 2024 - August 1-3 K’atl’odeeche First Nation (Hay River), NWT

Keepers of the Water (KOW) has been co-hosting an Annual Gathering in different Indigenous Communities within Alberta, B.C, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and N.W.T since 2006.

Lasting two or three days, the gathering includes education, report back on research, introduction of solution-based water and land management, techniques to respond to climate change, cultural events and community connections. The Gathering is also a time to be together in ceremony.

Contact Jesse at ed@keepersofthewater.ca for more information.

4th Water and Medicine Gathering 2024 - July 16 - 18 kâniyâsihk Culture Camps Ministikwan Cree Nation l.r. 161, Loon Lake, Saskatchewan.

Since 2020, we have understood the critical need to create a safe space to gather on the land. A place for healing and ceremonies for First Nations and Métis families that includes; sharing circles, traditional teachings, healing sessions, harvesting traditional medicines and the opportunity to attend a sweat lodge and water ceremony. Our gathering supports on-the-land activities that reflect our Indigenous way of sharing traditional knowledge, practices, experiences, and teachings. There will be ceremonial teachings on water, water songs and protocols for harvesting medicines.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER FOR REGISTRATION, COMING SOON SPACE IS LIMITED

University of Alberta - The True Cost of Oil - Canada’s Oil Sands and the Last Great Forest



“The True Cost of Oil” an exhibit by editorial and fine art photographer Garth Lenz, contrasts Alberta’s oil sands - one of the biggest industrial projects in the world - and the surrounding Boreal Forest, an essential carbon storehouse and home to countless, unique species.

Launch Details

Location: Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta, room 2-20

Date and Time: May 16th, Doors Open 6:00 MT

REGISTRATION IS FREE