



DECLARATION OF PROTECTION FOR OUR LANDS & WATERS

WE, AS THE GRASSROOTS of TREATY 9, who are Indigenous rights holders and our consultation and consent required prior to any development in our territories

JOINED BY our friends and allies, as signed below

MAKE THIS DECLARATION OF PROTECTION FOR OUR LANDS AND WATERS under our Natural Laws and as our commitment to the next seven generations and in recognition of our shared responsibility to uphold Treaty rights to be kind, to be honest, to share the land

RECOGNIZING

- We rely on the waterways, including the Attawapiskat, Kapiskau, Ekwan, Opinnagau, Albany and Winisk Rivers, for access to our sacred traditional territories where we exercise our Treaty rights to harvest food and medicine;
- We depend on the lands for food, water, medicine and cultural and sacred spaces for traditional practices and ceremonies;
- The health of these lands and waters are vital to maintaining our connection to our ancestors and to the land, water and wildlife;
- We are all Treaty people and are legally bound by the promise “for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, the water flows and the wind blows and the Anishinaabe are here”;
- Our Clan and family are Treaty people and will continue to abide by Creator’s laws and protect the water and land that provides life for all people here on Earth;
- Our Constitution encompasses not only the humans but its animals, insects, birds, fish, and those lands and water;



- Our Natural Laws require upholding promises of being kind, being honest and sharing the land;
- The ancient peatlands of this region continue to serve as significant carbon sinks and have been cooling the whole earth for millennia;
- The Hudson Bay-James Bay Lowlands, including the Attawapiskat, Kapiskau, Ekwan, Opinnagau, Albany and Winisk Rivers, are carbon rich, sensitive watersheds and critical to protecting biodiversity;
- Canada's international commitments require the protection of 30% of lands and waters by 2030 and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders, as we are as stewards of the land;
- Living up to the promise of reconciliation means taking action now to prevent further violations of Indigenous rights;
- Crown interest and short-term business interests cannot continue to be prioritized over the health, lands, and Natural Laws of Indigenous communities;
- Canada and Ontario have never received our consent or permission to sell our natural resources to the world; and
- The Crown has manipulated and eliminated the effectiveness of their environmental laws to protect the land and our inherent and treaty rights.

HEREBY CALL ON THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ONTARIO to

- Uphold this declaration in order to protect the lands and waters that, since time immemorial, have sustained Indigenous peoples;
- Recognize we must leave the land the way we found it, take only what you need, share what you have, and waste nothing; and



- Honour and protect Indigenous and Treaty rights, and to take immediate actions to address the urgent health, housing, and water crises facing communities.

TOGETHER RECOGNIZING that we are the river and the river is us.