

Treaty Pledge: Updates and Opportunities Inbox x



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Dear

Boozhoo and Miigwech for your ongoing commitment to upholding our treaties. As a Treaty Pledge signer, we want to let you know more about Canadian corporation Enbridge's Line 3 tar sands pipeline project here in Minnesota, the ways this project violates treaty rights, and how you can show up to help defend treaty obligations.

Remember, treaties require us to be good neighbors and good stewards of the Earth. Canadian corporation Enbridge Line 3 is a 2.6 billion dollar project that recently began construction across northern Minnesota. Much of the corridor that the Canadian corporation is building on crosses through 1855 and 1854 treaty territories. The language holds that treaty descendants retain usufructuary rights on this land -- rights to hunt, fish, and gather. One of the many specific impacts that the pipeline brings is damage to critical wild rice watersheds, both from construction (which disturbs the delicate ecosystem where wild rice thrives) and, of course, from any oil spills.

Treaties are a government-to-government relationship that carries both governmental and individual responsibilities. Despite the existing State of Minnesota 19-24 [executive order](#) to require consultation with Native nations, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) adopted the position of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) that [treaty rights are irrelevant to this project and did not consider them when making its decision](#). In addition, the Trump administration (which issued a water crossing permit for the project just before the presidential transition) did not review treaty impacts.

Red Lake and White Earth Nation and the Mille Lacs Band are challenging the PUC now at the Minnesota Court of Appeals. A decision on that court case is expected in June. Red Lake and White Earth are also in state court against the MPCA's approval of key water permits, and in federal court against the Trump administration's decision. This shows our state and federal governments once again failing to carry out their treaty obligations, and is a call to all of us to stand up.

As promised, this is the first periodical follow-up email with updates and opportunities for education and involvement.

Events:

1. [Palisade Midwinter Just Future Gathering](#) on Saturday February 6 from 12-2 pm will be a socially-distanced, family-friendly gathering to celebrate winter, water and our love for the Mississippi River, share educational information, and build community around a just transition for rural northeastern Minnesota.
2. Watch the recordings of the recent Stronger Together to Stop Line 3: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives event ([part one](#) & [part two](#)) to learn more about this critical issue which is impacted by the Line 3 project.

In addition, many resistance camps are looking for water protectors who are able to show up in support of treaty rights. A general overview can be found at [Stop Line 3](#). Given the number of resistance camps across the state, we thought it helpful to detail the purpose and history of each camp, as well as some general guidelines to keep in mind if you're interested in showing up.

First of all, remember that camps are Native-led. There are many places to show up in this movement, not all of which are at resistance camps, but supporters who do show up at a Native-led resistance camp are asked to respect that leadership. Before heading to camp, make sure to check in with camp leaders ahead of time unless there is a public call for people to show up, as not all camps are looking for visitors. Dress warmly, bring your own food and water. There are many roles to fill that differ between camps, ranging from cooking, holding signs to risking arrest. Although specific to the Palisade camp, the Welcome Water Protectors website provides a generally useful [list](#) of considerations to review before potentially showing up to the frontlines.

1. [Red Lake Treaty Camp](#): Near Thief River Falls, this camp focuses on Native cultural activity within treaty lands. They also focus on awareness around treaty rights and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. The Red Lake Treaty Camp is looking for more folks to show up and hold space around the clock, but anyone interested in going should reach out on Facebook first.
2. [Water Protector Welcome Center at Palisade](#): Founded by Winona LaDuke and hosted by [Honor the Earth](#), this camp is a ceremonial and prayer space that also engages in direct action. Located along the Mississippi River near Palisade, this camp welcomes supporters "to pray, to witness, and to resist the destruction of these public lands and waterways in Anishinaabe territory." They are looking for more folks to show up. New supporters are welcomed at 10am each day.
3. [White Earth Camp](#): Located on the White Earth Reservation, this camp was founded by Dawn Goodwin from R.I.S.E. Coalition, (Resilient Indigenous Sisters Engaging) with our Allies. R.I.S.E. stands "in solidarity to protect the land, water, fire, and air for the next seven generations" by "educating, empowering, and inspiring our neighbors, friends, and allies." This camp is designated for organizers and the media, and focuses on holding space by hunting, fishing, and gathering along the 1855 treaty route. The camp's location moves along the route as Canadian corporation Enbridge moves forward with construction. Non-Native and Native supporters alike are encouraged to show up in solidarity.
4. [Camp Migizi](#): Founded by Taysha Martineau of the Fond du Lac Reservation, this camp engages in direct action with the goal of stopping Canadian corporation Enbridge's Line 3 and protecting the land for "the next seven generations."
5. [Giniw Collective](#): Founded by Tara Houska, this frontline resistance effort is led by indigenous women. Giniw is an "encampment focused on direct action trainings, community outreach and education, supporting and engaging in traditional lifeways and cultural teachings, and relationship-building within the broader movement against fossil fuels and structural racism." Previous actions by Giniw have included tree sits and halting construction at worksites.

One common question many people have before going to a frontline camp is what level of risk they might expect, especially for camps that have done nonviolent direct action (NVDA) where water protectors have been arrested. There are many non-action roles at camps that do not involve an arrest risk. For attendees who do choose to participate in NVDA, while there are no universal answers, in general, action leaders will try to describe specific levels of risk so that participants can make their own choices. These levels may be described using a color code similar to a stoplight. For example:

- Green = taking every reasonable measure to avoid arrest risk -- staying on public right of way / away from the center of action / etc.
- Yellow = not planning to be arrested, overall risk is low -- taking up space in an area where law enforcement might ask people to disperse from, and moving once a dispersal order is given, etc.
- Orange = not planning to be arrested but greater risk exposure -- often supporting those who take on a red risk
- Red = planning to take action that carries a high likelihood of arrest -- communicating that this is because of treaty responsibilities, etc.

This list isn't definitive but is intended as a general guideline for concepts that various resistance efforts may use when discussing action. Wherever you may go, it is important to check in with the leaders on the ground, come in community if you can, and take care of each other, knowing that NVDA is one part of how some people choose to defend treaties.

Be on the lookout for another email with opportunities and information in the near future.

Respectfully,

The Treaty Pledge Team

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