

Keepers of the Water II *Keeping the Peace*



WATER IS A SACRED GIFT,
AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT THAT SUSTAINS
AND CONNECTS ALL LIFE.
IT IS NOT A COMMODITY TO BE BOUGHT OR SOLD.
ALL PEOPLE SHARE AN OBLIGATION TO COOPERATE
TO ENSURE THAT WATER
IN ALL OF ITS FORMS IS PROTECTED
AND CONSERVED
WITH REGARD TO THE NEEDS OF
ALL LIVING THINGS TODAY
AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
TOMORROW.*



KEEPERS OF THE WATER › KEEPERS OF THE ATHABASCA

<http://keepersofthewater.ca>

Keepers of the Water is a non-profit organization working with local Keepers organizations in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories to protect watersheds and Aboriginal food supply, health, and way of life. Among its activities, Keepers of the Water holds an annual conference in conjunction with local First Nations communities in areas of concern, drawing 300+ participants from across Canada and internationally. Norine Wark was co-chair of the Keepers of the Water II conference (2007), held in Fort St. John.

Wilton+Wark provides ongoing consultation and media development to develop and promote Keepers of the Water as a national organization, as well as its local chapters, including Keepers of the Athabasca. Beyond providing graphic design services, we are actively involved in the constitution, incorporation, and daily operations of Keepers of the Water. The current Keepers of the Water website is scheduled for significant expansion in 2008-09.

“The programs were beautiful!!!! The delegates really like them and they were very useful for information on the foundation of Keepers of the Water movement.” - C. Bresnahan, Coordinator, Keepers of the Athabasca

Media: posters, brochures, books, programs, T-shirts and product design, website, branding

Keepers of the Water **II** Keeping the Peace



A Watershed Gathering

hosted by

WEST MOBERLY FIRST NATIONS



PVEA

PEACE VALLEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION



Saulteau First Nations

September 27-29, 2007 Fort St. John, British Columbia

For more information and to register, visit us at www.keepersofthewater.ca

KEEPERS OF THE WATER II: POSTER (8.5X11" - ALSO IN 12X18")



Keepers of the Water II

Keeping the Peace

The Peace River and Arctic Ocean Basin need your voice.

Join us for the "Keepers of the Water II: Keeping the Peace" watershed gathering held from Thursday, September 27 to Saturday, September 29, 2007.

Hosted by the West Moberly First Nations, Peace Valley Environment Association, and Sauleteau First Nations, this gathering weaves up-to-date issues and facts on our Basin with light entertainment, cultural activities, family events, and feasts to engage people of all ages and backgrounds.

The first Keepers of the Water gathering (2006 Liidlii Kue, Denendeh) drew national attention to the northern part of the Arctic Ocean Basin, a watershed that covers one-fifth of Canada's landmass and is one of the largest and most pristine freshwater basins in the world. This year's conference calls us southward, uniting around its lifeblood, the Peace River sub-basin. Participants from First Nations and every level of Canadian government, area industries, science, academia, stewardship councils, environmental organizations, alternative energy fields, special interest groups, and local communities will join in building a foundation for a unified watershed strategy.

Be informed. Be involved. Be heard. Be a part of this historic and democratic effort to produce a viable action plan for securing responsible stewardship of our waters.

Check out some keynote speaker and guest participant profiles, discover more about the planned activities, and learn how you might be a part of this by visiting our website: <http://keepersofthewater.ca>. Register today!

Register online, or by email, fax, or post.

website: <http://keepersofthewater.ca>

email: info@keepersofthewater.ca

fax: (250) 785-6378

postal mail: c/o Norine Wark,
RR1 S6 C5, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4E7

Advance registration closes
Friday, September 7, 2007.

Title (circle one): **Chief** **Councilor** **Dr.** **Mr.** **Mrs.** **Ms.** Number of people attending:

Name: _____

Organization/Community: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ eMail: _____

Names of family members or others accompanying this registrant; please indicate ages for those under 18*:

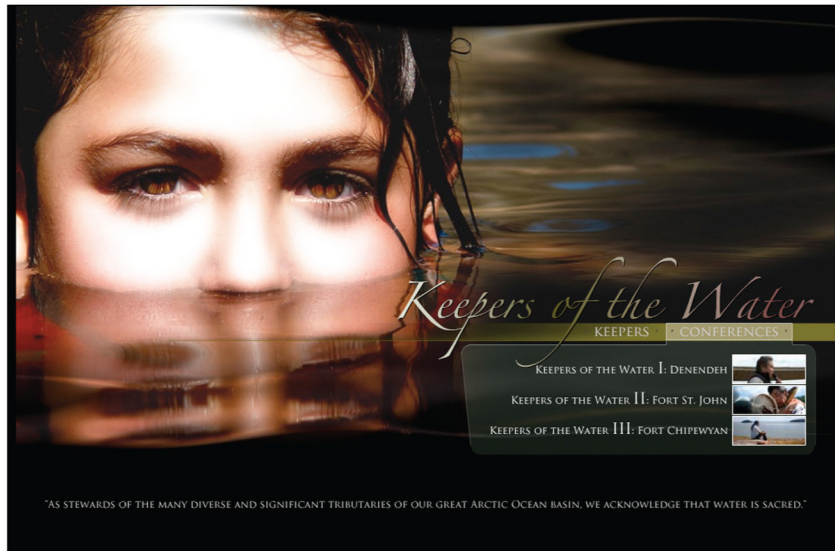
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Children (12/under) and Elders: **FREE** General Public: **\$100** Total registration fees:
Students**: **\$50** Corporate and Government: **\$300**

Notes: *Only one registration package will be provided per registration form.

**Students in financial need may apply for a limited number of complimentary registrations; submit a written request to the address above.

KEEPERS OF THE WATER II: REGISTRATION FORM



KEEPERS OF THE WATER II: WEBSITE (SPLASH, INTRODUCTION, TRAILER)



Keepers of the Water II

Keeping the Peace II

Keepers of the Water II

DAY ONE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: BUILDING AWARENESS

Welcome to an action-packed 3-day water gathering!
 Today we hope to answer some very important questions.
 Why did Deh Cho First Nation call a Keepers' gathering last fall?
 What has happened throughout the Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin (AODB) since then?
 Why is the Peace River important to the rest of the Basin?

| WHEN | WHERE | ACTIVITY |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| MORNING | | |
| 7:30am | NPCC main entrance | REGISTRATION: collection of conference materials |
| 8:00am | NPCC concourse | BREAKFAST: Complimentary continental breakfast |
| 9:00am | NPCC theatre | OPENING PRAYERS AND CEREMONIES: Welcome by Saik'uz First Nations Chief Allan Apsassin, West Moberly First Nations Chief Roland Wilton and Peace Valley Environment Association President, Ruth Ann Durnell Keepers 1 - Samuel Gaagan, Assistant Negotiator, Dehcho First Nation Carrying on the vision - Chiefs Apsassin and Wilton Oral history of the Peace River - Doig River First Nation Councillor and Elder Gerry Atkatchie Introduction of moderators - Wayne Sawchuk, Wendy Francis, Art Napoleon |
| 10:00am | NPCC theatre | "Sweet Water to Saltwater" Award winning documentary on the Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin (AODB) by Karl and Inge-Jean Mattson Introduction of documentary on AODB grassroots watershed planning process - Karl Mattson |
| | NPCC parking lot | "Celebrating the Peace" tour departure - Sam Kosolowsky, tour guide and driver |
| 11:00am | NPCC theatre | "Images of the Peace" - Don Petit |
| 11:30am | Youth Centre (next to NPCC) | LUNCH: Hosted by Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre. Participants may also purchase a light lunch from the NPCC "Brewed Awakenings" lunch counter or visit one of our many local restaurants. (Restaurant guide provided in conference package.) |

| WHEN | WHERE | ACTIVITY |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| AFTERNOON | | |
| 12:30pm | NPCC theatre | "Linking Arms" film documentary - Wes Nile Productions with filmmakers, Dan MacKozie and Wes Grycki |
| 1:00pm | NPCC theatre | Reports on the past year's activities throughout the Basin: Keepers 1 - Chris Paci, Deep Consulting Inc., TBA Athabasca conference - Bob Cameron "To the Tar Sands": Athabasca hike expedition - Sharu Khan "Water is Life" Fort Smith conference - Cec Heron |
| 2:00pm | NPCC concourse | BREAK |
| | | MANAGEMENT ISSUES: Uncovering the Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin Watershed |
| 2:15pm-4:15pm | TSTA large boardroom | Watershed Planning Group 1 - Land and water use decision-makers Watershed Planning Group 2 - Public awareness, education & involvement Watershed Planning Group 3 - Water resources inventory & monitoring |
| | TSTA small boardroom | Watershed Planning Group 4 - Sensitivity and vulnerability of ecosystems Watershed Planning Group 5 - Pressure of industry on Basin (oil & gas, tar sands, hydroelectricity, nuclear, coal bed methane) |
| 2:15pm | NPCC theatre | The prehistoric Peace - Tumbler Ridge Dinosaur Discovery Gallery curator and paleontologist, Ruth McGee and Collections Manager Lisa Buckley |
| 2:45pm | NPCC theatre | "Forty years later - how hydroelectricity changed our world", documentaries and slides - Karl Mattson |
| 3:50pm | NPCC theatre | Mt. Milligan mine and the Nation River watershed - Leonard Thomas, Former Chief of Nak'azdli Band and Nak'azdli Negotiator regarding the proposed mine |
| 4:15pm | NPCC concourse | BREAK: complimentary coffee and tea service |
| 4:15pm | NPCC parking lot | "Celebrating the Peace" return from tour - Sam Kosolowsky, tour guide and driver |
| 4:30pm | NPCC theatre | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Simon Jackson, founder of Spirit Bear Youth Coalition, "The Power of One", and soon-to-be released Hollywood animated movie, "The Spirit Bear". |
| 6:00pm | NPCC theatre | "Keepers of the Water", a play by West Moberly First Nations Community |
| 6:20pm | | SUPPER: participants may purchase a light meal from the NPCC "Brewed Awakenings" lunch counter or visit one of our many local restaurants. |
| EVENING | | |
| 7:30pm-9:00pm | NPCC concourse & conference rooms | Meet and greet, non-alcoholic punch and cheese; Alternative energy/sustainable living trade fair |
| 7:40pm | NPCC theatre | ELDERS' GATHERING: Elder Pat Marcel, Chair of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Denesuline Traditional Environmental Knowledge Elders Committee |
| DAY 1 | | |
| 1:00pm-9:00pm | NPCC concourse & conference rooms | ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING TRADE FAIR |

KEEPERS OF THE WATER II: PROGRAM

Keepers of the Water **II** *Keeping the Peace*



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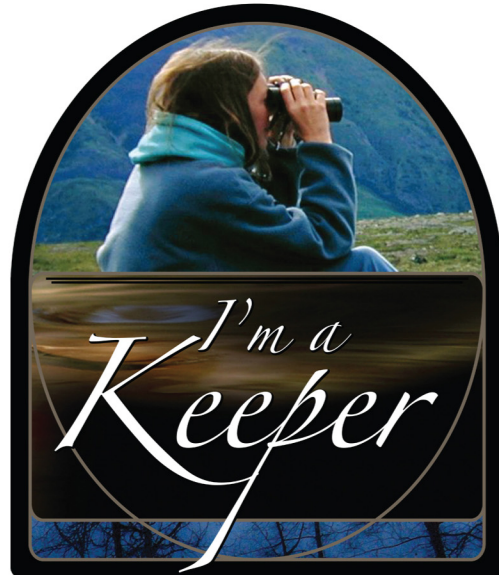


*THE KEEPERS OF THE WATER DECLARATION, FALL 2006

FORT ST. JOHN, BC SEPTEMBER 2007



Keepers of the Water
II
Keeping the Peace



*I'm a
Keeper*

KEEPERS OF THE WATER II: T-SHIRT (BACK, POCKET, SLEEVE)

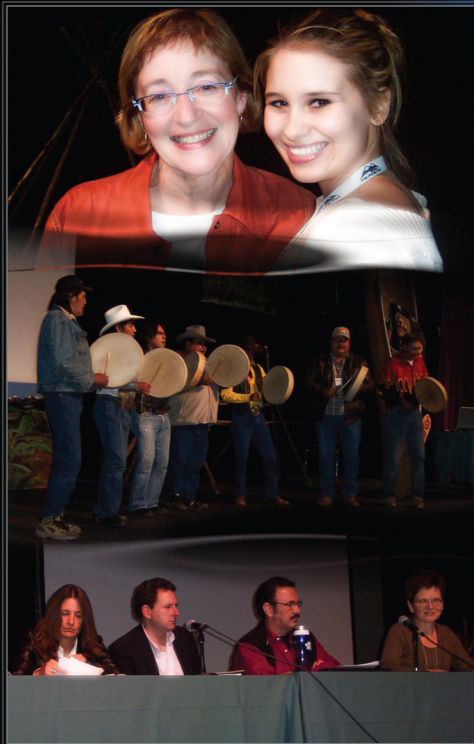
FORT ST. JOHN, BRITISH COLUMBIA
SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2007



* The Keepers of the Water II Resolution, 2007
can be signed today to show your ongoing support at
www.keepersofthewater.ca



Keepers of the Water II
Keeping the Peace
Thank you



CLEAN WATER IS A FUNDAMENTAL
HUMAN RIGHT
AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY AND
HUMAN HEALTH.
AS STEWARDS OF THE MANY DIVERSE
AND SIGNIFICANT TRIBUTARIES OF OUR
GREAT ARCTIC OCEAN
DRAINAGE BASIN,
WE ACKNOWLEDGE WATER IS
SACRED.*

On behalf of WMFN, SFN, PVEA and our conference planning committee, we would like to thank you for making the Keepers of the Water II: Keeping the Peace an event that re-establishes our right for safe, abundant and free fresh water, and the need to return our Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin's ecosystems to a sustainable balance.

You can continue to help build this grassroots momentum by signing the online Keepers Resolution, sharing your ideas and carrying on the dialogue that we began at the conference by visiting our website: <http://www.keepersofthewater.ca>

Encourage others to join us as we gather force at the grassroots level. Our work has just begun.

-Clarence and Norine

KEEPERS OF THE WATER II: THANK YOU CARD

ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION
PROUD HOSTS OF THE 2008

Watershed Gathering

AUGUST 15-17, 2008 · FORT CHIPEWYAN, AB

Keepers of the Water III

WATER IS BOSS



Chipewyan Keeper design by Kim Marcel

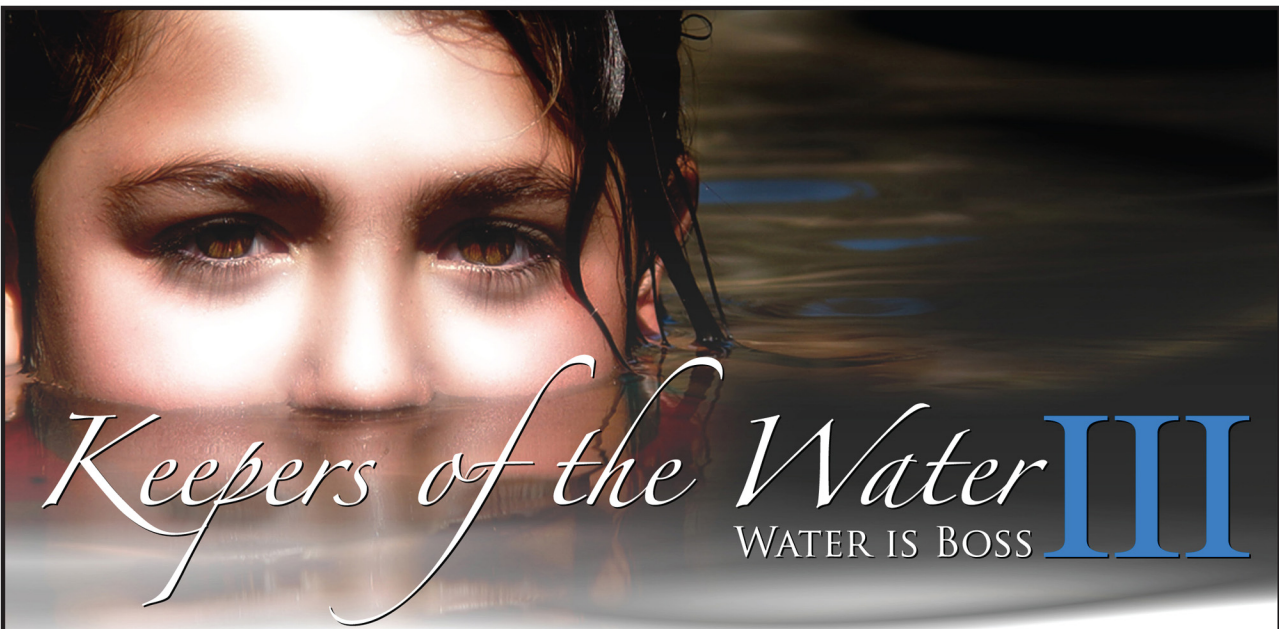


WWW.KEEPERSOFTHEWATER.CA



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KEEPERS OF THE WATER III: POSTER (8.5x11")



Keepers of the Water III

WATER IS BOSS

The Waters of Athabasca and the Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin need your voice.
 Join us for Keepers of the Water III: Water is Boss watershed gathering
 held in Fort Chipewyan, AB from Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17, 2008.

Fort Chipewyan, the oldest community in Alberta, and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation are proud to host this year's annual Keepers of the Water conference.

This watershed gathering builds on the grassroots declaration, resolutions and rough watershed plan, which began in Liidlil Kue, Denendeh (Fort Simpson, NWT) in September 2006, and continued in Fort St. John, BC in the fall of 2007.

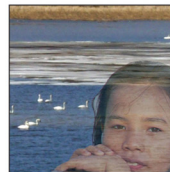
This year we focus on Athabaskan water issues, discussing water quality, human health, environmental justice, and Treaty and Aboriginal Rights concerns and solutions. We establish partnerships and collaborations, which will effectively address health and water concerns. We identify responsible authorities, educate them, and encourage them to respond appropriately. In short, our goal for this gathering is determining viable solutions by identifying concrete and tangible water management actions.

All levels of Canadian government, involved industries, First Nations and Metis peoples, ENGOs, NGOs, doctors, scientists, academics, stewardship councils, community members and concerned citizens of every age and

walk of life are cordially invited to work on a democratic, all-stakeholders' grassroots watershed plan for one of the largest freshwater basins in the world. Now is the time to take action.

We call on you to join us on these courageous and vital next steps. Create a unified watershed action plan and a clear plan for its follow-up. Be informed. Be involved. Be heard. Be part of an unforgettable historic, democratic plan to secure responsible stewardship of our life-giving waters.

Check out keynote speaker and guest participant profiles, discover more about the planned activities, and learn how you might be a part of this critical event by visiting our website. Register today!



Website: <http://www.keepersofthewater.ca>
 Email: alice.rigney@siscanada.ca
 Fax: (780) 697-3500
 Mail: Attention: Alice Rigney
 Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
 PO Box 366
 Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0

Title (circle one): **Chief** **Councilor** **Dr.** **Mr.** **Mrs.** **Ms.** Number of people attending:

Name: _____

Organization/community: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Names of family members or others accompanying this registrant; please indicate ages for those under 18:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 |

Preferred accommodation (circle one): **Host family billet** **Tent** **Tipi** **Will bring own tent for camping**

Date/time and airline: Arrival: _____ Departure: _____



ATHABASCA WATERSHED SUMMER EVENTS

Join Keepers of the Water in honouring the sacred Arctic Ocean Drainage Basin waters this summer. Celebrate the rare and dynamic life-giving beauty of the Athabasca as we tour watershed communities with Keepers of the Athabasca, and then gather at the Keepers of the Water III: Water is Boss conference in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, where we take the next step in developing a viable, grassroots watershed plan. Together we write concrete action plans and accompanying measures of success, using the Water Declaration drawn up at the first Keepers of the Water conference, the Resolutions drafted during the Water is Life conference, the Keepers of the Water II: Keeping the Peace rough Watershed Plan, and the inspiration, wisdom and insight of this year's participants.

Learn about the burgeoning demands upon our waters and their cumulative effects on local wildlife and human health from Indigenous leaders like Deh Cho Grand Chief George Mackenzie, Assembly of First Nations NWT Vice-Chief Bill Erasmus, Chiefs/leaders representing each watershed within the Arctic Ocean Basin, and health experts like Dr. John O'Connor. Uncover the science behind water issues from internationally recognized experts, such as Dr. Kevin Timoney, and take part in our Youths' community water monitoring demonstration. Obtain a copy of our newly released *State of the Athabasca Watershed* report. Discover more about our documentary film projects, including our latest one, "Keeping the Athabasca". Understand First Nations Treaty rights, current Canadian federal and provincial legal practices, and how this governance affects water, wildlife and human health. Embark upon a 3-hour boat tour of one of the world's largest freshwater deltas, the Peace-Athabasca Delta. Thrill and nurture your spirit with our numerous entertaining and cultural events.

All people are welcome: First Nations and Metis leaders and community members; provincial, federal, and municipal political leaders; Elders; youth; ENGOs, scientists, academics, and lawmakers; Keepers; and anyone else who is interested in water preservation.

Help secure and protect our watersheds for ecological, social, cultural and community health and well-being today and for generations to come. Take part in making history with us. Together we will ensure safe, abundant and free fresh water for all.

2008 ATHABASCA COMMUNITY TOUR

Lac La Biche: August 7

Janvier, Fort McMurray and Fort McKay: August 8-12

KEEPERS OF THE WATER III: WATER IS BOSS CONFERENCE

Elders and Youths Gathering: August 13-14, 2008

Conference: August 15-17, 2008

Food and accommodations

All meals, billets, and some tents and tipis are generously provided by our conference host, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. (Billets are reserved for those who cannot camp out for health reasons.) Please bring your own bedding, toiletries, and eating utensils.

Transportation

Ft. Chipewyan is located on the northwest corner of Lake Athabasca. We are a fly-in community in the summer months; we have scheduled flights from Sunday to Friday:

- Air Mikisew Ltd.
Reservations: 780-743-4090, toll free: 1-800-268-7112, office: 780-743-8218, or online at www.airmikisew.com. Please ask for the "Keepers of the Water III Conference Rate."
- McMurray Aviation
Reservations: 780-791-2182, toll-free: 1-877-877-2359, fax: 780-790-2364, or online at www.mcmurrayaviation.com

Registration

Thanks to the generosity of our host, the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, and our many devoted sponsors, registration is free.

Keepers of the Water
"WATER IS SACRED."

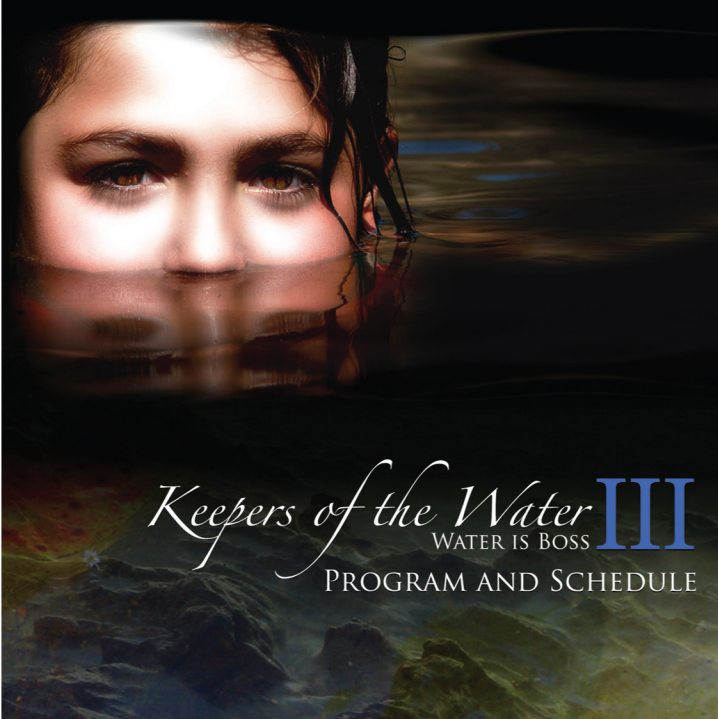
For more information on these summer water events or to register, visit us at: <http://www.keepersofthewater.ca>

Alice Rigney
ACFN Host Committee Chair
alice.rigney@siscanada.ca
(780) 697-3730

Connie Bresnahan
Coordinator, Keepers of the Athabasca
Athabasca Watershed Community Tour
athabasca.bio.soc@hotmail.com
(780) 816-0654



CLEAN WATER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY AND HUMAN HEALTH. AS STEWARDS OF THE MANY DIVERSE AND SIGNIFICANT TRIBUTARIES OF OUR GREAT ARCTIC OCEAN DRAINAGE BASIN, WE ACKNOWLEDGE WATER IS SACRED.
- THE KEEPERS OF THE WATER II RESOLUTION, 2007 -



Keepers of the Water III
WATER IS BOSS III
PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>Special Events Going Green Conference Chairs Master of Ceremonies</p> <p>10</p> | <p><i>Keepers of the Water III</i></p> <p>SPECIAL EVENTS</p> <p>YOUTH HANDS-ON COMMUNITY MONITORING DEMONSTRATION Learn how to monitor the environment in your neighbourhood (water, plants, and insects) to develop baseline measures of environmental health, sample water, plants and insects using standard monitoring methods. Friday, August 15, 1:00pm Sponsored by Wood Buffalo National Park.</p> <p>PEACE-ATHABASCA DELTA BOAT TOURS The Peace-Athabasca Delta tours will last approximately three hours. Experience the delta and river channels. Stops at basins, and tour vegetation monitoring by Parks Canada staff since 1993. Learn about the complex flow of water into the delta (the gathering of water from one of the largest freshwater basins in North America). See wildlife in their natural habitat. Saturday, August 16, 1:00pm Sponsored by Wood Buffalo National Park.</p> <p>GOING GREEN</p> <p>We are working hard to make this an environmentally friendly conference. Our registration forms, letters and most other conference documents use Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper. Digital versions of all resource documents are accessible through our website.</p> <p>Conference participants are encouraged to bring their own eating utensils; those who do not will be charged a nominal fee for use of disposable plates, bowls, cups and cutlery provided by the conference hosts.</p> | <p>WATERSHED GATHERING · FORT CHIPEWYAN, ALBERTA · AUGUST 15-17, 2008</p> <p>CONFERENCE CHAIRS AND MASTER OF CEREMONIES</p> <p>GEORGE POITRAS PROGRAM CHAIR AND MASTER OF CEREMONIES</p>  <p>George Poitras is a member of the Mikisew Cree First Nation and previously served as Chief of the Mikisew Cree.</p> <p>His activism as a political leader has recently allowed him the opportunity to successfully protect the interests of the Mikisew Cree in a Supreme Court of Canada trial against the federal government. This unanimous landmark 9-0 Supreme Court of Canada victory for the Mikisew Cree in November 2005 was instrumental in changing the Aboriginal legal landscape in Canada and raising the standards for governments legal obligation to adequately consult First Nations. The Mikisew Cree Supreme Court of Canada decision is now the subject of many legal forum discussions and national conferences dealing with Aboriginal law in Canada.</p> <p>George continues to act in an environmental/advocacy role and has taken steps to raise awareness to the Indigenous community of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Albertans and Canadians generally. He has spoken at rallies on global warming and climate change and speaks to high schools, colleges and universities while he isn't traveling internationally delivering lobbying messages including the destruction of Indigenous lands, water, air, and threat to the human and animal health of his people from tar sands development.</p> <p>FRANCOIS PAULETTE PROGRAM CHAIR</p>  <p>François is Dene Suline and member of the Smith's Landing Treaty 8 First Nation. As Chief and vice-chief of the Dene Nation, he has fought for land and treaty rights such as in the historic Paulette case and the Berger Inquiry. Trained in Negotiations from the Harvard and Banff Schools of Management, he has been a negotiator and consultant for his and other Dene First Nations.</p> <p>François has spoken on Dene history and Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and has been called on to testify in the courts as an expert witness on Treaty 8, most recently in the Bennett taxation case. He was a founding member and Chairman of the Dene Cultural Institute in 1986. Francois has also worked as a cross-cultural trainer and facilitator for more than twenty years, and has collaborated on a number of Canadian and international documentary films.</p> <p>11</p> |
|--|---|--|

KEEPERS OF THE WATER III: PROGRAM

MISSION AND RESOLUTION

Our mission TO UNITE THE PEOPLES OF THE ATHABASCA RIVER AND LAKE WATERSHED TO SECURE AND PROTECT WATER AND WATERSHED LANDS FOR ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.



CLEAN WATER IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY AND HUMAN HEALTH. AS STEWARDS OF THE MANY DIVERSE AND SIGNIFICANT TRIBUTARIES OF OUR GREAT ARCTIC OCEAN DRAINAGE BASIN, WE ACKNOWLEDGE WATER IS SACRED.

THE KEEPERS OF THE WATER II RESOLUTION, 2007

2008 ATHABASCA COMMUNITY TOUR

JULY 6
JASPER

JULY 8
HINTON

JULY 10
WHITECOURT

JULY 11
FORT ASSINIBOINE

JULY 13
DRIFTPILE

JULY 15
CALLING LAKE

AUGUST 7
LAC LA BICHE

AUGUST 8-13 (TBA)
JANVIER

AUGUST 8-13 (TBA)
FORT McMURRAY/FORT MCKAY

AUGUST 14-15
FORT CHIPEWYAN

KEEPERS OF THE WATER III - WATER IS BOSS

Alice Rigney
ACFN Host Committee Chair
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keepersofthewater.ca





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KEEPERS OF THE WATER 2008

Keepers of the Athabasca



SUPPORTERS AND CO-SPONSORS OF THE 2008

Keepers of the Water III
WATER IS BOSS
WATERSHED GATHERING



PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

Principles

We are guided by both indigenous elders' traditional knowledge and western science.

We recognize and honour the legal importance of First Nations' and Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the waters, lands and livelihood rights.

We recognize that significant negative cumulative impacts are compromising the health and integrity of the Athabasca river and Lake watershed, all of which appear to be negatively affecting fish and wildlife populations and adversely affecting the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights to hunt, trap, and fish within indigenous peoples' traditional territories.

We acknowledge that clean water is a fundamental human right and is essential for environmental, community and human health. As stewards of the Athabasca River and Lake Watershed, one of the many diverse and significant tributaries of our great Arctic Ocean drainage basin, we acknowledge water is sacred.

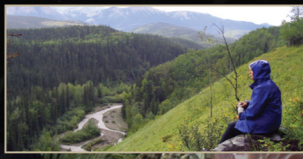
Goals

Build capacity for informed and effective watershed stewardship and advocacy throughout the communities of the Athabasca River and Lake watershed.

Provide access to and promote the understanding of traditional knowledge and ecologically-based theory and practice in the management of human impacts on the watershed ecosystem and the living Earth.

Promote awareness of Keepers principles through education and cultural experiences and celebration of place.



Promote the recognition of the Constitution Act, section 35 on Aboriginal treaty rights.



WHO WE ARE AND OUR ACTIVITIES

Keepers of the Athabasca

We are First Nations, Metis, Inuit, environmental groups, and Watershed citizens working together for the protection of water, land and air and thus for all living things today and tomorrow in the Athabasca River Watershed.

Our Activities in 2008

State of Athabasca Watershed
A report

2008 Athabasca Community Tour
(see reverse for tour dates)

Keepers of the Water III
Fort Chipewyan, August 14-17, 2008



Keeping the Athabasca
Documentary film project

SUPPORTERS

Thank you!

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Bigstone Cree First Nation
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Crooked Creek Conservancy
Driftpile First Nation

Fond du Lac First Nation
Foothills Ojibway Society - Hinton
Fort McKay First Nation
Fort McMurray First Nation
Greenpeace
Keepers of the Water Saskatchewan
Lac La Biche Metis community
Mikesew Cree First Nation
Metis Nation of Alberta
Nuclear Free Alberta (Tipping Point and SPOC)
Safe Drinking Water Foundation of Canada
Sierra Club of Canada
Slave Lake Regional Environmental Action Committee
Smith Environmental Society
Sucker Creek First Nation
Prince Albert Grand Council - Prince Albert SK
United Church of Canada
West Athabasca Watershed Bioregional Society
World Wildlife Fund

KEEPERS OF THE ATHABASCA: BROCHURE



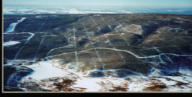
"THE ATHABASCA WATERSHED HAS MANY VALUES AND IS RICH IN RESOURCES. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RESOURCES IS NOT TAKING THE ENVIRONMENT INTO ACCOUNT ADEQUATELY, AND AS A RESULT SOME TOXINS HAVE ALREADY REACHED DANGEROUS LEVELS AND OTHERS ARE INCREASING, AND WE HAVE NOT SET ASIDE ENOUGH AREAS THAT ARE PROTECTED FROM INDUSTRIAL USE.



"IT IS TIME TO TAKE A PAUSE IN MAKING DECISIONS ON FURTHER NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WATERSHED UNTIL THE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES ARE TAKEN CARE OF NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE.



"THE LONGER WE WAIT TO DO THIS, THE HARDER IT WILL BE."



CONTENTS:
VALUES OF THE WATERSHED
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THE CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY NORTHERN ALBERTA
TO


*Keepers of the Athabasca
Keepers of the Water*



STATE OF THE ATHABASCA WATERSHED 2008

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JASPER NATIONAL PARK (AEP, 1997)

Jasper National Park is the largest of Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks and part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Jasper spans 10 678 square kilometres (4120 square miles) of broad valleys, rugged mountains, glaciers, forests, alpine meadows and wild rivers along the eastern slopes of the Rockies in western Alberta. Large numbers of elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer and other large animals, as well as their predators make Jasper National Park one of the great protected ecosystems remaining in the Rocky Mountains. This vast wilderness is one of the few remaining places in southern Canada that is home to a full range of carnivores, including grizzly bears, mountain lions, wolves and wolverines.

CARDINAL RIVER HEADWATERS (AEP, 1997)

Together with McLeod River headwaters, one of the most extensive, continuous vegetated Alpine habitat complexes in the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains. The Cardinal River headwaters contains a diversity of features including tarns, waterfalls and cascades with an abundance of periglacial features including patterned ground. It includes extensive, diverse Alpine and Subalpine habitats, including spruce-fir and lodgepole pine woodland interspersed with large, high-elevation wetlands comprising sedge and grassy meadows and shrubbery, diverse meadow wetlands-spring complex (including major springs) includes calcareous springs and tufa deposits. It has provincially rare vegetation type and nationally and provincially uncommon, rare and distinct plants and invertebrate animal species. It is habitat for bull trout and key habitat for elk, grizzly bear, mountain goat, wolverine and fisher.

TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOODS: FISHING, TRAPPING, DUCKS, TRANSPORTATION

1.3

FISHING

"Commercial fishing became viable in northern Alberta only after rail links were established, making it possible to transport fish to southern markets in a fresh state. Once these rail links were in place the fishing industry expanded rapidly and with it a cycle of depletion of stocks and search for new unexploited lakes (Wetherell and Kmet, 2000). Once the supply of new lakes and healthy fish stocks was exhausted, the commercial fishing industry in Alberta collapsed (see Figure 1.3). From a high of almost 8000 commercial operators in 1959, there remain today less than 1000 operators (SC, 1983; AEP, 1998b). Lake whitefish and bullhead make up about 80% of the current commercial catch, with the remainder made up of northern pike, walleye, and incidental catches (AEP, 1998b). The total commercial catch in Alberta in 1997 was worth \$2.8 million (Stelfox and Wynne, 1999)" (Schneider, 2002).

"In the latter half of the 20th century, sport fishing overtook commercial fishing as the dominant form of fish harvesting. The number of sport anglers increased steadily until the early 1980s, and then declined by about 35% in the latter half of that decade (ASRD). Since the early 1990s the number of anglers has been relatively stable. It is estimated that about 350 000 people fished in 2000 (ASRD, 2001d) and that approximately 86% of the total fish catch in Alberta now goes to sport anglers (AEP, 1998b). Walleye, northern pike, walleye, and trout species account for 95% of the sport catch. Approximately \$349 million were spent on sport fishing in Alberta in 1994, including expenditures on gear (Stelfox and Wynne, 1999)" (Schneider, 2002).

"Even though sport fishing is highly regulated, the rate of harvest does not appear to be sustainable. There are simply too many anglers relative to the number of fish-bearing lakes and streams in Alberta. With the tremendous increase in access throughout the north in recent decades, fish stocks have come under extreme pressure. For example, in Wapiti Lake, 2000 anglers per year caught an average of 0.25 fish per hour in the early 1980s, but by the 1990s, 10 000 anglers per year experienced a catch rate of only 0.02 fish per hour (Pett et al., 2002). Twenty-one of 27 walleye populations for which data exist have collapsed as a result of overfishing. Pike populations now also show evidence of overexploitation leading to collapse (Pett et al., 2002). Finally, arctic grayling and lake sturgeon have each been listed as a species of special concern in Alberta as a result of declining populations and vulnerability to angling pressure and habitat destruction (AEP, 1999)" (Schneider, 2002).

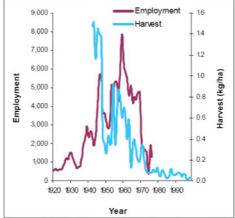


Figure 1.3: Number of commercial fishing operators in Alberta and rate of commercial walleye harvest: 1920-1998 (SC, 1983; AB Environment records).

"AS STEWARDS OF THE MANY DIVERSE AND SIGNIFICANT TRIBUTARIES OF OUR

GREAT ARCTIC OCEAN BASIN, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WATER IS SACRED."

KEEPERS OF THE ATHABASCA: REPORT