

Standing Rock Is Everywhere

A call for continued efforts to protect our water and our Earth

Chief Arvol Looking Horse

Note from the editor: *The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a 1200-mile pipeline that transports oil across four states. It runs close to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation on land that the Sioux nation says was taken from them illegally by the U.S. government in 1868. The Standing Rock Sioux claim that construction of the pipeline will destroy some of their sacred sites and could pollute their only water source, the Missouri River. In 2016, thousands of people went to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation to protest the pipeline (#NoDAPL). They lived in camps and participated in direct action against construction of the pipeline. In early 2017, President Trump signed an executive order allowing the pipeline to be built. Today, the pipeline transports 470,000 gallons of crude oil per day. The Standing Rock Sioux continue to fight for protection from the dangers associated with oil leaks. The following is an excerpt of an article that was published in <theguardian.com>.*

Water is Life

[...] Our collective water has been assaulted for many generations to the possible point of no return. Our Elders foretold of a Black Snake and how the Water of Life – *Mni Woc’oni*, which is our



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first medicine – would be affected if we did not stop this oncoming disaster. [...] Water of Life [is] a living spirit: it can heal when you pray with it and die if you do not respect it. We wanted the world to know there have been warnings in our prophecies and, as we see it, those warnings are now taking place. It was said water would be like gold. It was said that our spirit of water would begin to leave us.

We are at the crossroads.

Taking Action Against the Pipeline

In April 2016, after receiving concerns about the construction of an oil pipeline, I was invited to Sacred Stone Camp at the northeastern border of the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota to assist with a water ceremony. At that time, not many were there, but it was enough to create a prayer to wake up the people.

Later that month, our Indigenous youth set out on foot to run from the Standing Rock Reservation to Washington, DC, in an attempt to bring attention to the poisonous bitumen oil pipeline coming through our treaty territory. For our young people, it was important to explain to U.S. government leaders that this was unacceptable.

[On December 4, 2016, we created a circle of prayer.] Our traditional Elders asked all nations to join us and stand in prayer. Thousands, including many religious representatives, joined in prayer on that very cold day.

Continue to Work Together

What happened at Standing Rock has awakened many of my own people and people across the world. Standing Rock marks the beginning of an international movement that will continue to work

peacefully, purposefully, and tirelessly for the protection of water along all areas of poisonous oil pipelines and across all of Mother Earth.

Water is a source of life, not a resource.

In our tradition, we pray for everything we eat and drink so our minds can be good. When the environment that we live in is sick and suffering, so too are the minds and decisions of our leaders.

We must continue to work together for the health and well-being of our water and our Earth.

In a Sacred Hoop of Life, there is no ending and no beginning.

Hec'ed Onipikte (that we shall live).

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Rally in San Francisco: Stand with Standing Rock, November 2016. This photo and the photo on the previous page (lower) are by Pax Ahimsa Gethen from <wikimedia.org>.