

Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion

We have inhabited and governed our territories according to our respective laws and traditions since time immemorial. We possess inherent **Aboriginal Rights** and **Title** as well as **Treaty Rights** that are all protected by the Constitution of Canada.

Indigenous sovereign Nations have a long history of treaty making amongst themselves. Many concern peace and friendship and the protection of Mother Earth.

The expansion of the Tar Sands, a truly monumental threat bearing down on all Indigenous Nations in Canada and beyond, **calls now for such a treaty:**

The goal of doubling and tripling the production of the already extremely polluting and harmful Tar Sands has led to many new projects aimed at building, converting or expanding pipelines as well as introducing or increasing oil train and tanker traffic, which projects threaten many Indigenous Nations' territories, sacred waterways, shores and communities with the very real risk of toxic and hazardous oil spills.

Beyond the devastating damage from oil spills that will be suffered by Nations along the route of such pipeline, rail and tanker projects, every single Indigenous Nation in Canada and beyond will suffer terrible harm as a result of such projects: by leading to the expansion of the Tar Sands, they will unquestionably fuel catastrophic climate change.

The failure to stop the expansion of the Tar Sands would leave our Nations at the mercy of the climate change effects that have already started to endanger our ways of life and which now threaten our very survival. Tar Sands expansion is a collective threat to Indigenous Nations which requires a collective response.

THEREFORE, our Nations **hereby join together under the present treaty** to officially prohibit and to agree to collectively challenge and resist the use of our respective territories and coasts for the expansion of the production of Tar Sands, including for the transport of such expanded production, whether by pipeline, rail or tanker.

As sovereign Indigenous Nations, we act according to our inherent legal authority and responsibility to protect our respective territories from threats to our lands, waters, air and climate. Such right is also confirmed by the Constitution of Canada and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Although we are motivated by the protection of our Nations, we are fully aware that it is in all Canadians' interest to put a stop to the threat of Tar Sands expansion. In fact, **we wish to work in collaboration with all Canadians and all levels of government in creating a clean, just and sustainable economy**, one that will both lead to healthier and more prosperous communities across Canada as well as **preserve and protect** our way of **life**.

Declared and affirmed by the following:

Should you wish to join the treaty, please sign inside the box and email such signature to the following address, accompanied by the name of the authorized representative who signed, the name of the Indigenous government that the authorized representative is signing on behalf of, as well as the date of signature: westmeetseasttour@gmail.com. Please also ensure that you receive confirmation of receipt of your email.