

## Urgent Communiqué' "GRASS ROOTS COMMITTEE ONTARIO"

To all nations; Grass roots movements, supporters and allies.

Caravan from T.O (highway 401 East) to Ottawa on January 28<sup>th</sup>

December 30, 2012.

The main reason for this event is to highlight our issues at the local, national and international level on the Canadian Government legislations aimed at First Nations people. More specifically, the Omni bus bill C-428, to name a few examples, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Fisheries Act, and the Navigable Waters Act, along with the proposed Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act, all have profound implications for the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the treaties, affirmed in the Canadian constitution, and protected by the international human rights standards.

These bills and amendments should only have been brought forward after good faith consultation with indigenous peoples and only if their rights have been appropriately considered and protected and this did not happen. The responsibility for this serious breach of Canada's legal obligations toward indigenous peoples lies not only with the Department of Indian Affairs, but with the Canadian Government as a whole.

The Supreme Court of Canada has said there must be "reconciliation" between the power of the state and the prior sovereignty of indigenous peoples. Laws passed by Parliament must be balanced against the laws, customs and perspectives of indigenous peoples and "equal weight" must be given to each. Any infringement of the constitutionally protected rights of indigenous peoples must be strictly justified.

The government must always deal "honourably" with the established and asserted rights of indigenous peoples and to ensure that indigenous people's concerns are "substantially addressed."

International human rights standards, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, require that decisions affecting the rights of indigenous peoples be made only with their full and complete participation. When decisions are made that concern the lands and resources of indigenous peoples, the appropriate standard is that of "free, prior and informed consent".

To this end, we are spear heading a caravan from Toronto to Ottawa on January 28, 2013 on the first day that Parliament opens. This caravan will leave on or about 4 a.m. in Toronto (East 401). Our initial meeting point on this day will be at Yorkdale mall located at 1 Yorkdale Rd, Toronto On. (Main entrance)

A second route outside of Toronto will be on an "Enroute" ramp (401 east) located outside of Oshawa to allow for vehicles to catch up if they missed the first meeting point. We will proceed to Ottawa on highway 401 East thereafter. (We will do what we can to coordinate vehicles to travel as one!).

We would like all nations to join us on this day to travel with us. I am asking for grass roots members to begin preparing, arrange transportation, make signs and join us on this very important day. We need to be united all around to make this a successful caravan!

We will need drums and singers and eagle staffs for this event. This will be an important gathering as the MP's and all leaders will be in Ottawa. It is very important that we make our presence known!!!!!! If you require any other information, please email me at [johnfox1@live.ca](mailto:johnfox1@live.ca).

In brotherhood/sisterhood.

John Fox, Chair- Grass Roots Committee Ontario.