

As Long as the Rivers Flow



Chief Roland Willson, West Moberly First Nations
 Aboriginal Peoples and the Future of Water Management in Alberta
 Edmonton, Alberta / June 2010



Treaty No. 8 REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TREATY No. 8

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, 22nd September, 1899.

The Honourable
 CLIFFORD SIFTON,
 Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
 Ottawa.

Our chief difficulty was the apprehension that the hunting and fishing privileges were to be curtailed. The provision in the treaty under which ammunition and twine is to be furnished went far in the direction of quieting the fears of the Indians, for they admitted that it would be unreasonable to furnish the means of hunting and fishing if laws were to be enacted which would make hunting and fishing so restricted as to render it impossible to make a livelihood by such pursuits. But over and above the provision, we had to solemnly assure them that only such laws as to hunting and fishing as were in the interest of the Indians and were found necessary in order to protect the fish and fur-bearing animals would be made, and that they would be as free to hunt and fish after the treaty as they would be if they never entered into it.

We assured them that the treaty would not lead to any forced interference with their mode of life, that it did not open the way to the imposition of any tax, and that there was no fear of enforced military service.

We have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servants,

DAVID LAIRD,
 J. H. ROSS,
 J. A. J. McKENNA

Indian Treaty Commissioners.

Our Past

Dunne-za on the Shores of Moberly Lake



My Uncle Don on the Finlay River before it was Flooded



Nonsensical Protection

Contaminated Water for Moose

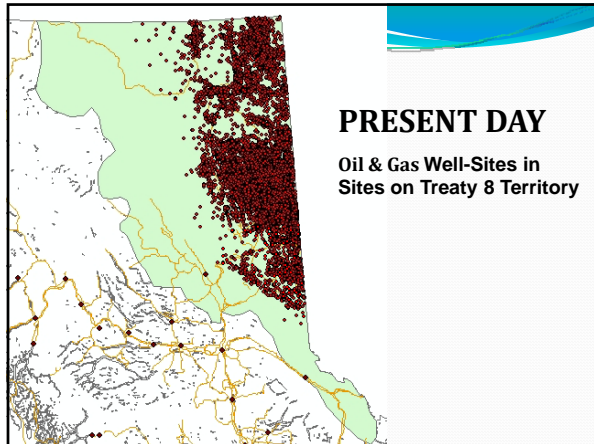


Clean Water for Industry

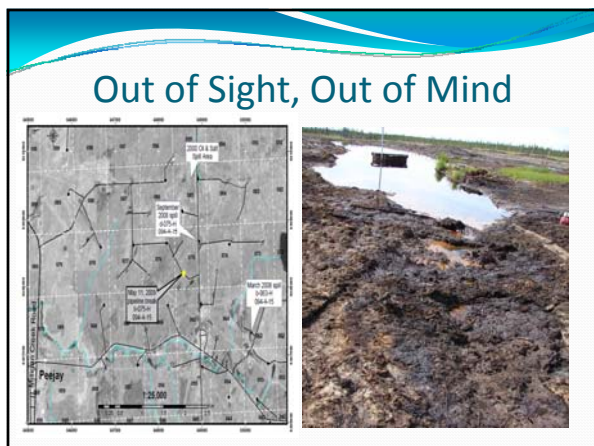


PROJECT CONCLUSIONS

1. 7 sumps and 13 flare pits are open and exposed to wildlife.
2. 75% (12 out of 16) sites tested were contaminated.
3. Animals such as moose, deer, elk and bear ingest chemicals out of sumps and flare pits.
4. There is a risk to wildlife of exposure from contamination due to oil & gas activities.
5. Even sites that are not “contaminated” still pose a potential risk to wildlife through long term ingestion of low level compounds such as salts, metals and hydrocarbons.







Technology Fails

Pine River Pipeline Oil Spill
Aug 2000
951 m³
200 kms impacted



Significant Adverse Effects

Up to 100,00 Fish Killed

Unknown Amount of
Wildlife Killed



RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

What Happens
When They
Think No One
is Watching



Large Hydroelectric Dams
and the Creation of Recreational Opportunities

Boating?



Swimming?



Landslides: As Far as the Eye can See

Beachfront Property



Dust Storms



The Attachie Landslide in 1973

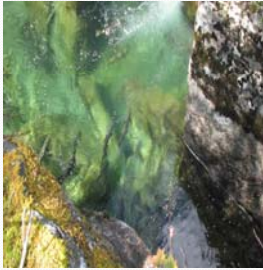


Building Site C will Intensify current Impacts from WAC Bennett



Not Clean, Not Green

Fish Poisoned with Mercury



My Son's first Fish



“No Forced Interference”

- Caribou are Threatened
- Grizzly Bears, Buffalo, Mountain Sheep, and Goats are all on their way to being Threatened
- Lake Trout in Moberly Lake are nearly Extirpated
- Oil & Gas has polluted the water and contaminated the Moose
- Edible and Medicinal Plants are killed and ruined by Pesticides
- An Ecosystem-Based Study of the Upper Moberly Watershed demonstrated it's No Longer Ecologically or Culturally Sustainable





Our Future

- All living things need water
- Of all Provinces, BC has the most potential for renewable energy development
- Before even considering Site C, a comprehensive cumulative impact assessment must happen
- Making amends for the destruction of our culture and environment that were adversely effected by the WAC Bennett and the Peace Canyon dams



Our Past, Our Future, are all Tied to our Spirituality Water is the Lifeblood of Every Living Thing

