

Dear friends:

## HOW THE UPRISING BEGAN

When the original site for the DAPL pipeline was rejected by the city of Bismarck, ND because it could harm the city water. the company took the line down through the Standing Rock reservation. Standing Rock was not informed or ask. In response, the elders dispatched their youth to run all the way to Washington, DC with a message to President Obama to stop the pipeline.

## TIPPING POINT

Several of our friends in various networks have asked for our impressions and experiences of participating in the Standing Rock camps near Cannon Ball ND to protect the water being threatened at the confluence of the Missouri river and cannon ball river. We spent 11 days in one of the camps called the Sicangu ( Lakota) with native friends from the Little Thunder family.

We arrived the day after the attack dogs and pepper spray made international news as native protectors of water and cultural burial ground were attacked on the front line where the pipeline company ( Energy Transfer Partners) had their bulldozers tearing up what would be discovered to be some ancient burial grounds. What followed was global outrage which ignited national/international media coverage from: Democracy Now ( Amy Goodman ) and Lawrence O'Donnell of MSNBC. Social media grew like wild fire and has ever since.

While there, we witnessed the camp tripling in size to about 7000. Many are still there. Over 280 tribes have come in solidarity with their support. Their tribal flags line the main road of the camp. While many of the tribes are from north America others have come from around the world continuing to show up and pledge solidarity. Tribes from Europe, South America, Australia and middle east were observed while we were there.

## EVERYDAY LIFE IN PROFOUND COMMUNITY

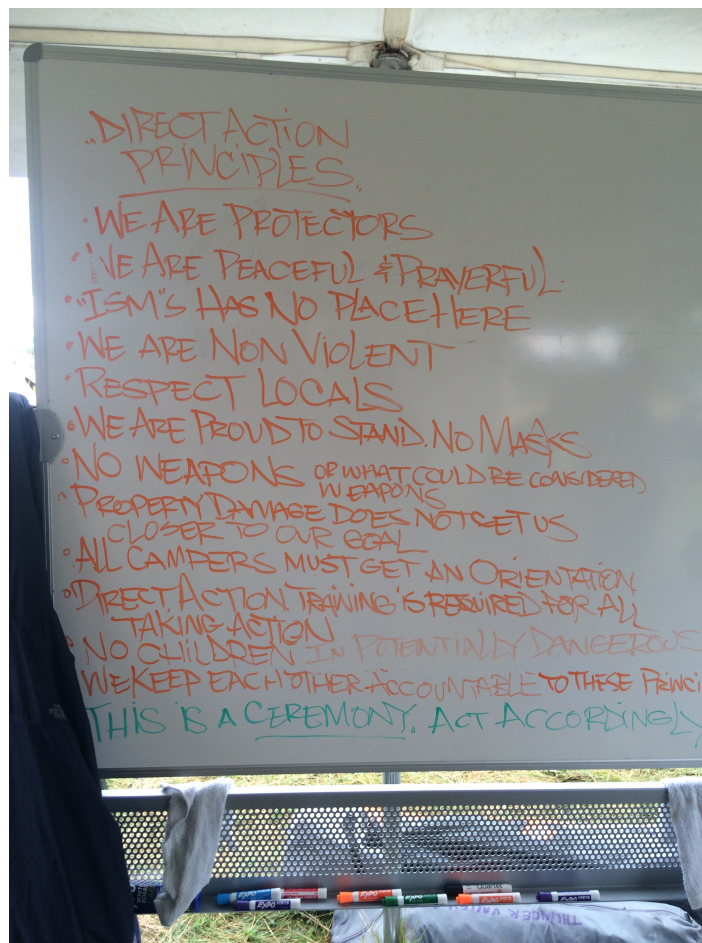
We, as well as all showing up, bring food, fire wood, meds and camping supplies as well as clothing as winter approaches. Financial donations are also most welcome for legal defense and more infrastructure for the winter ( see below for how you can participate). We filled our car with as much as it would hold and went immediately to the place where they took in our gifts. Most of the participation was thru self organizing systems. If you saw the need for firewood to be chopped or carried to a fire, or a need for food prep and organizing donations in tents where they could be accessed by those in need: you did it.

Most days were started with a camp fire started next to our tent. Native and other friends would come by for warmth, conversation and coffee which would be followed by prayer ceremony. Then it was off across the cannon ball river to have one of 3 great free meals provided to all campers over wood grills ( now replaced with solar).

Much time was spend around the ceremonial grandfather fire ( never was left to go out) to receive new delegations, hear talks, dance and hear singers from many lands and languages. Joan Baez showed up to march with us as well as give her support and singing voice upon occasion. Just sitting around the fire and meeting new people was astounding. All focused on one thing: protecting the water. What started as a small unnoticed protest event has become a Global Indigenous Forum. More and more we hear water is not a commodity to be sold but a basic human right.

## THE ROLE OF ELDERS

The elders have set the framework for living in a non violent community by outlining 10 values everyone is asked to adhere to. We believe these ten can be used in any community where non violent direct action against forces that prevent access to basic human needs like safe water and air and more is needed. We decided to be trained in non violent direct action.



As part of training we self selected to be in one of 3 teams: Green team( ready to go to the front line); the yellow team ( ready to step up into the front line as back up); and the blue team ( ready as support to photo/ media document the event,carry posters and back up).

While we didn't go to the front line, we were there for support as needed. We were ready to be arrested if that became the situation.

## LEGAL/FUTURE PORTENTS

Cannonball Ranch, which is full of sacred burial sites and artifacts, was sold on September 22 to Dakota Access LLC.

• Read more: <http://freethoughtblogs.com/affinity/2016/09/23/sacred-burial-ground-sold-to-dakota-access/#ixzz4L7WZ61aD>

• What is the future of the camp long term? Right now they have announced campers will stay into January. They continue to say, "We will

not leave.” We hear each camp group are being asked to find a way to be self sustaining. We hear talk of structures like long houses, refugee tents that are created to handle winter, and questions of whether structures must be on skids and removable. Stay tuned.

Paul Harken’s research in “Blessed Unrest” gives images of the next great movement being made up of the Indigenous, the Environmental and peace movements. This could be it. We need 10 million Sacred Stone Camps.

## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE

1) Get the Indigenous Voice out to your local media and networks with messages in this email and your own research. The key posters we helped create and marched with carried these messages

"Water is Life" , “ Mother Earth Matters” and “NODAPL”. These have become the key themes driven home by social media, major media, and the bloggers. Democracy Now and MSNBC are continuing with coverage as well as Indian media present on site.

2) A more direct NVDA you can take is to boycott banks investing in the pipeline and other fossil fuel investments. Here’s who is banking the pipeline: see recent McKibbin article in attachment.

3) Direct participation to the Standing Rock Reservation:

<https://www.gofundme.com/sacred%20stone%20camp>

While the battle at Standing Rock has been won for now this is long march. Let’s Stand with Standing Rock on the tipping point of the entire environmental movement that has been built off the shoulders of so many for so long. As many of the Elder leaders said: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH? WATER IS LIFE!

Salvatore Caruso

9/24/16

