



The National Association for Ethnic Studies

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NAES Joins in Solidarity with Idle No More

April 30, 2013 - In response to the Canadian government's proposal of and ultimate passage of C-45, a bill that included provisions to undermine environmental protection and indigenous sovereignty, *Idle No More* has been actively supporting the rights of indigenous communities of Canada to have a voice.

C-45, which passed in December, changes the way that First Nations approve the surrendering or leasing of territory, making it easier to open indigenous treaty lands to development. According to a recent *Rolling Stone* article, the law also reduces the number of development projects that require environmental assessment and dramatically changes the nation's Navigable Waters Protection Act – which, since 1882, has made it illegal to "block, alter or destroy any water deep enough to float a canoe without federal approval." Now, only specifically enumerated bodies of water have that protection."

Despite opinions that *Idle No More* is not "organized," as critics have claimed, we stand with them in spirit as the cause they fight for, merits immediate remedy. We join with *Idle No More* and others to encourage the Canadian government to rescind passage of C-45.

The National Association for Ethnic Studies was founded in 1972. It provides an interdisciplinary forum for scholars and activists concerned with the national and international dimensions of ethnicity.

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