



**I Stand with Standing Rock**

By: Wab Kniew (MLA in Manitoba Legislature)  
Nov. 22, 2016

"I stand with Standing Rock." I made this statement in the Manitoba Legislature today holding a box of tobacco.

Wopida Madame Speaker,

I stand with Standing Rock.

When water is brought into a Dakota sweat lodge we are taught to say "Mni Wiconi Wakan" - or "sacred water of life." "Holy water" if you will.

That "Mni Wiconi" is now the rallying cry for the people of Standing Rock as they oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline tells us this a spiritual movement.

On Sunday night this movement took a heartbreaking turn as images of peaceful water protectors being injured, tear gas and water cannons flooded social media.

My hunka aunt, a pensioner, told me through tears how worried she is for her grandson who is on the front lines. Yet rather than ask him to come home and get his books for college, she bought him a gas mask.

"Why?," you may ask.

Well, traditional Indigenous people do not see Standing Rock as activism. For people who have heard the words "mni wiconi" since birth, this is simply answering the call of duty.

To underline the point my aunt's son, a US Army veteran, packed up his gear Monday and joined his nephew on the front lines.

Madame Speaker,

Though we may not all agree on how to fight climate change, we should all recognize the situation in North Dakota is a powerful lesson for us in how NOT to pursue reconciliation.

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(From last column) **Standing Rock**

In Standing Rock we see what can happen when development starts without the consent of Indigenous Peoples.

I encourage Manitobans of all backgrounds to reflect on your grandparents. Think of the values they held close to their hearts.

Now think of how strong they would have to believe in those values in order to let their grandchildren go into harm's way to defend that cause.

When you understand that, you will begin to understand the people of Standing Rock, the great Sioux Nation - and how they feel about the words "Mni Wiconi" - water is life.

*Ed.note: Wab Kniew, a powerful and inspiring speaker, participated in the Peace and Justice Studies Association Conference in Nelson/Castlegar hosted by Selkirk College Mir Center for Peace and local peace groups, including the BPI, in September 2016.*



If tyranny and oppression come to this land,  
it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign  
enemy.

*James Madison 4<sup>th</sup> US President*

In an age of deceit, speaking the truth is a  
revolutionary act.

*George Orwell*

**B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition (BCSIPC)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am working on a report from the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition conference held way back in October. I beg your forgiveness for the delay but as always life has a way of interfering in our plans. So, what I will do is begin by sharing with you the Resolutions that we passed, which do reflect the depth and scope of our discussions, for every motion put forward went through a rigorous discussion. The next conference will be in Grand Forks sometime in the spring. A few dealt with internal business and others were political and have been sent to all MPs and concerned organizations. We will start with publishing the internal resolutions below with the rest to follow in subsequent newsletters. I do hope to get the report completed before the next newsletter goes to print as well.

**Affiliation with Canadian Peace Congress**

It was moved by Laura Savinkoff, seconded by Carol Kergan and carried that the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition affiliates with the Canadian Peace Congress.

**BCSIPC Co-coordinator Positions**

It was moved by Ira Zbarsky, seconded by Amber Nedelec and carried that the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition have two co-coordinators, ideally gender balanced.

**Group Contributions to BCSIPC Funds**

It was moved by Don Currie, seconded by Dora Stewart and carried that the member groups of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition make an annual contribution of \$100 per group to the BCSIPC for expenses incurred on behalf of the BCSIPC and the Canadian Peace Congress representative and that if this is too onerous they contact the coordinator.

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(From last column) **B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition**

**BC Southern Interior Conference Schedule**

This motion was rejected.

**Whereas** it is difficult for members to attend biannual meetings on a regular basis,

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the conference of the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition be an annual meeting, rather than semi-annual.

Submitted by Sandra Hartline on behalf of KAIROS--Nelson to the BCSIPC conference Oct. 22, 2016

**Lament for Confederation**

July 1, 1967 from the Vancouver Sun {Ed. Note: As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 Canada begins its 150<sup>th</sup> celebration this reminds us of the unresolved issues that Chief Dan George spoke of 50 years ago}

On Canada's 100th birthday, Chief Dan George silenced a crowd of 32,000 with his "Lament for Confederation" at Empire Stadium. George's mournful speech began with, "Today, when you celebrate your hundred years, oh Canada, I am sad for all the Indian people throughout the land."

George — chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, a Coast Salish band in North Vancouver — was also an author, poet and an Academy Award nominated actor. But above all, he was an activist and an influential speaker on the rights of native peoples of North America. Some of this activism may have stemmed from the fact that, at the age of five, George was placed in a residential school where his First Nations language and culture were prohibited. His "Lament for Confederation" — a scathing indictment of the appropriation of native territory by white colonists — was his most famous speech.

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## What's up?

The BPI and the BCSIPC wish our global family the very best in 2017. As Canada celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, it's important the peace and social justice movement reminds us that not all of our history was good for everyone and there is need for much improvement in our country and planet.

**No Boundaries Film Festival** is coming up quickly in February. *Watch for details as the time draws closer.* Contact Laura at 250-442-0434 to volunteer or donate to the BPI. This is our biggest and most times our only fundraiser of the year so we do welcome your financial support.

## (From page 2) Lament

What follows is the complete text:  
**Lament for Confederation**

How long have I known you, Oh Canada? A hundred years? Yes, a hundred years. And many, many seelanium more. And today, when you celebrate your hundred years, Oh Canada, I am sad for all the Indian people throughout the land.

For I have known you when your forests were mine; when they gave me my meat and my clothing. I have known you in your streams and rivers where your fish flashed and danced in the sun, where the waters said 'come, come and eat of my abundance.' I have known you in the freedom of the winds. And my spirit, like the winds, once roamed your good lands.

But in the long hundred years since the white man came, I have seen my freedom disappear like the salmon going mysteriously out to sea. The white man's strange customs, which I could not understand, pressed down upon me until I could no longer breathe.

When I fought to protect my land and my home, I was called a savage. When I neither understood nor welcomed his way of life, I was called lazy. When I tried to rule my people, I was stripped of my authority.

My nation was ignored in your history textbooks - they were little more important in the history of Canada than the buffalo that ranged the plains. I was ridiculed in your plays and motion pictures, and when I drank your fire-water, I got drunk - very, very drunk. And I forgot.

Oh Canada, how can I celebrate with you this Centenary, this hundred years? Shall I thank you for the reserves that are left to me of my beautiful forests? For the canned fish of my rivers? For the loss of my pride and authority, even among my own people?

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## (From last column) Lament

For the lack of my will to fight back? No! I must forget what's past and gone.

Oh God in heaven! Give me back the courage of the olden chiefs. Let me wrestle with my surroundings. Let me again, as in the days of old, dominate my environment. Let me humbly accept this new culture and through it rise up and go on.

Oh God! Like the thunderbird of old I shall rise again out of the sea; I shall grab the instruments of the white man's success-his education, his skills- and with these new tools I shall build my race into the proudest segment of your society.

Before I follow the great chiefs who have gone before us, Oh Canada, I shall see these things come to pass. I shall see our young braves and our chiefs sitting in the houses of law and government, ruling and being ruled by the knowledge and freedoms of our great land.

So shall we shatter the barriers of our isolation? So shall the next hundred years be the greatest in the proud history of our tribes and nations.

## Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honor, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

**BPI web site:** [www.boundarypeace.20m.com](http://www.boundarypeace.20m.com)

*BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet regularly monthly. For information call (250) 442-0434 or email [LApeace@telus.net](mailto:LApeace@telus.net).*

## US Iraq War Resister

**Whereas** the Liberal Party of Canada, while in opposition, twice voted in Parliament to grant Refugee and Conscientious Objector Status to the US Iraq War Resisters

**And Whereas** deportation orders were issued to War Resisters in 2015

**And Whereas** to date no decision or action has taken place to either rescind the orders or to follow through with deportation leaving the War Resisters and their families living in limbo

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Government of Canada now enacts the two motions passed in Parliament granting Refugee and Conscientious Objector Status to all War Resisters remaining in Canada

**And Be It Further Resolved** that the Government of Canada grant all the War Resisters that have been deported the opportunity to return to Canada if they so choose.

Unanimously passed at the B. C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference  
October 22, 2016



## Book Recommendations



### **Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq**

By: Dahr Jamail © Oct. 1 2008

Publisher: Haymarket Books

“Every conflict spawns a handful of journalists who are willing to not only brave the war zone but to seek out the stories ignored by the press pack. The Iraq War has brought us Dahr Jamail. . . . I suspect Jamail's account will prove an enduring document of what really happened during the chaotic years of occupation, and how it transformed ordinary Iraqis. . . . It tells everything.”- Mother Jones

“From the earliest days of the war, Dahr Jamail has been a human conduit for the voices of Iraqis living under U.S. occupation. In the face of tremendous personal risk, his commitment to the crucial, principled task of bearing witness has never wavered, and this extraordinary book is the result.”-Naomi Klein

Dahr Jamail is an independent journalist who has covered the Middle East for more than four years. Jamail writes for the Inter Press Service and many other outlets and is a regular guest on Democracy Now! He lives in California.

*Ed Note: If you read a book or see a film you feel may be of interest to others, please let me know at [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net) .*

The BPI welcomes your input. But articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-442-0434** or **L4peace@telus.net**.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, the Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Go to the Government of Canada website for the emails of MPs at

<http://www.canada.gc.ca>