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Las Vegas powwow is showcase of Native American cultures, food and crafts

By JOHN PRZYBYS LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL October 24, 2013

Think of it as a fun weekend outing for the family. Think of it as a way of appreciating Native American culture. Think of it, even, as an educational afternoon for the kids.

On second thought, don't dwell too much on that last one when you tell the kids you're going to the Las Vegas Intertribal Veterans Powwow this weekend at Sunset Park.

After all: Why ruin the fun?

This year's powwow, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, is the ninth anniversary edition of the event, said Regina Brady, vice president of Native American Community Services, the nonprofit organization that organizes it. It's also the first year that the powwow will take place at Sunset Park, after having spent several years near Sam Boyd Stadium.

All veterans, both Native American and others, will be honored during this year's powwow through the conducting of a special ceremony and the presentation of medals, Brady said.

It is, she added, "an opportunity for us to give back to the veterans, because we consider veterans warriors."

Each performance will include a grand entry, which precedes a powwow and "which is basically bringing in the colors," Brady said. The veterans medal ceremony will follow.

To participate, veterans are asked to register at the booth at the main gate. Veterans will be asked to provide their names, branch of service and last rank, and proof of service (for example, a discharge form or a membership card of a recognized veterans organization).

There is no cost to veterans for either the medal or to participate in the powwow, Brady said. Military veterans — as well as police officers and firefighters — also will be admitted into the powwow at no charge.

Each day's roster of events will include a grand entry before each session, as well as such activities as dance competitions, singers, drummers and people wearing traditional Native American dress.

The Gourd Dance, in which the circle is blessed before dancing begins, is scheduled for 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday. Grand entry is scheduled for noon and 7 p.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday.

Also featured at the powwow will be food and craft vendors and Native American dancers and drummers.

“What it is, is, we’re sharing our culture with people,” Brady said.

The annual event typically attracts several thousand people, she added. “People come from all over. We get calls from Canada. We’ve gotten calls from Washington.”

Because the powwow is open to members of any Native American nation, Brady said visitors will view a broad cross-section of Native American culture.

“We are a combination of all different tribal nations that have moved to Las Vegas,” she said. “A lot of native people like myself ... were not raised on reservations. We were raised in, say, urban (areas).”

Native American Community Services, she added, was created as a vehicle to “bring those people together.”

The powwow also is designed to be affordable, so admission is \$5 per person or \$10 for families, Brady said. “The reason we do charge is, we have to pay for the park and we have to pay for medals. And, this is our fundraiser. But, yes, we want it to be a family event.”

Limited bleacher seating will be available, so guests can bring blankets and chairs, Brady said.

Note that powwow etiquette requires asking participants for permission before taking their photos. Also, no pets of any sort will be permitted, and drugs, alcohol and firearms are prohibited.

Plans are to continue holding the Las Vegas Intertribal Veterans Powwow as an annual community event, Brady said. “This is something we want to continue and be part of for the Las Vegas community.”

The goal, she added, is that “you’re going to be able to go and enjoy a family event and understand some of the culture of Native Americans.”

Contact reporter John Przybys at jprzybys@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0280.

Chevron Sues Rainforest Communities It Contaminated

By Kevin Koenig, EcoWatch 18 October 13

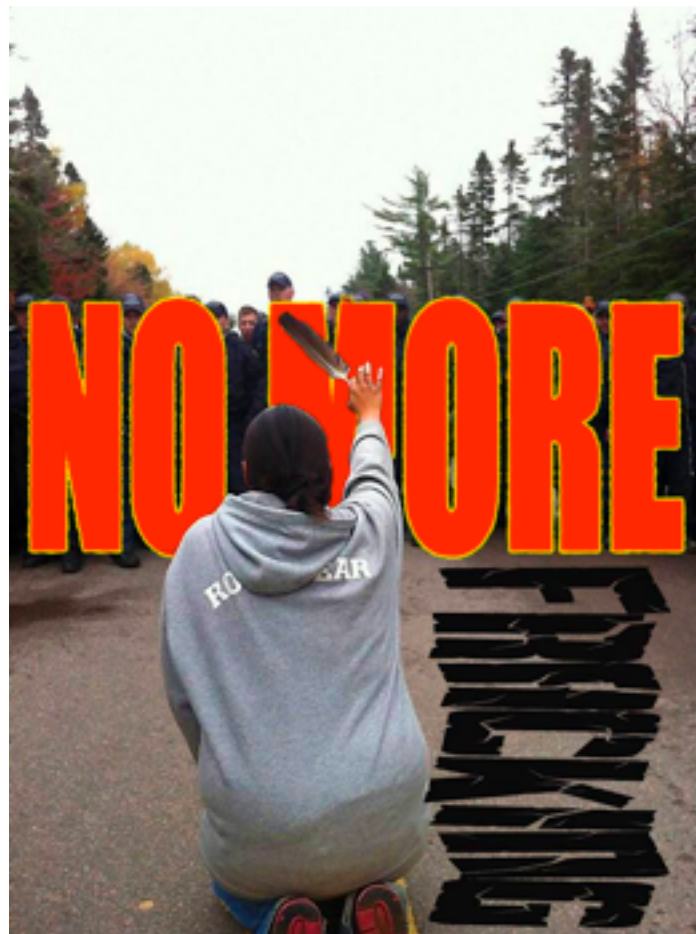
The Gambino crime family. The Chicago outfit. The Latin Kings. You've probably heard of these infamous crime families-a.k.a., the mob, the mafia. "Don" Corleone. Capiche?

But have you heard of Hugo Camacho? Or Javier Piaguaje? They're not exactly household names. Nor gangster names for that matter. And that's because one is a campesino farmer that makes about \$200 a month growing cacao. The other is a leader of the Secoya indigenous people, and both are from the rainforests of Ecuador's Amazon. Their crime? Suing the second largest oil company for the worst oil-related environmental disaster on the planet. And winning.

But starting today in a lower Manhattan courthouse, they are being accused using the same criminal statute under which the big crime bosses of our time have been prosecuted: Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). It's the latest in [Chevron's](#) scorched earth campaign to avoid paying a record environmental verdict against the company for massive contamination stemming from its operations in Ecuador's Amazon between 1964 and 1990.

The implications of Chevron's tactics are immense and should send shivers down the spine of anyone concerned about justice, human rights, the environment or corporate responsibility. The U.S. oil giant has taken "blame the victim" to a new extreme in its attempt to avoid the \$19 billion guilty verdict handed down by an Ecuadorian court in February 2012. Upheld on appeal, the verdict was based on much of Chevron's own evidence, and in a forum of Chevron's choosing. Chevron has no assets in Ecuador, and has thumbed its nose at the verdict, adding insult to injury for communities who have sought a clean up, clean water and funds for [health care](#) for 18 years. The affected communities are now forced to pursue Chevron assets around the globe in order to get the justice they deserve.

Piaguaje, Camacho and some 30,000 others first brought their lawsuit in 1993 in New York, using the Alien Tort [Claims](#) Act, a little-known law from 1789 that originally provided a forum for victims of transnational pirates in the home country of the pillagers. The case was brought in the state of New York because there, in White Plains, Texaco Petroleum Company developed an [oil production](#) system for its operations in Ecuador intentionally designed to pollute. Texaco calculated that, by using out-of-date technology and deliberately violating industry standards, it could save a couple of dollars per barrel.



And pollute it did. Unlike a one-time spill such as the [Exxon Valdez](#) or [BP Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico](#), Texaco's operations were systematically drilling and dumping 24/7 for almost three decades. Over those 28 years, it spilled some 18 billion gallons of toxic wastewater, and roughly 17 million gallons of crude. The region, once a pristine tropical rainforest and an idyllic home for five indigenous groups, became a wasteland of superfund-worthy waste pits, gas flares, hundreds of miles of oil-covered roads and zigzagging pipelines, and flow lines that dumped toxins directly into streams and rivers that local communities used to drink, bathe, fish and wash their clothes.

The company turned over operations in 1992 to state-run oil company Petroecuador. Given that the company's former concession—an area the size of Rhode Island—was an environmental free-fire zone and people were sick and dying, communities there filed suit. Texaco hoped to make it go away by conducting a sham "clean up", which was little more than pushing dirt on top of open waste pits.

Chevron bought Texaco in 2001, and assumed what was a known and growing liability. Chevron, as Texaco had for almost a decade, argued before New York courts that the case belonged in Ecuador, hoping to take advantage of its tremendous political sway over right-wing, business-friendly Ecuadorian governments. It submitted 12 affidavits attesting to the transparency and independence of Ecuador's judiciary.

In 2002, a judge remanded the case to Ecuador, and bound Chevron to abide by Ecuadorian jurisdiction and any decision that came from Ecuadorian courts. However, after plaintiffs refilled in 2003, Chevron immediately claimed Ecuador had no jurisdiction over the company. It met with government officials on ten different occasions trying to pressure Ecuador to quash the case, which the government rightly resisted given it's a suit brought by private citizens.

After almost ten years of litigation and more than 100,000 soil and water samples, Chevron was found guilty and ordered to pay \$19 billion in damages. But here's the catch: Chevron knew from the get-go that it had an escape route. When the Second Circuit Court of Appeals for New York remanded the case to Ecuador, a caveat of Chevron's compliance with any judgment was if any type of fraud occurred. And that is what Chevron is conveniently now claiming. And fraud did occur alright, and many of Chevron employees should be in jail for engaging in it.

During the trial in Ecuador, Chevron:

- Orchestrated a deceptive "sting" operation involving a former Chevron employee and a convicted felon who attempted to bribe the sitting judge.
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- When the scandal unraveled, Chevron helped move the former employee to the U.S. and continues to pay his rent, legal counsel and a generous monthly salary, though he does no work for the company.
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- Worked with the Ecuadorian military to fabricate a false military report which delayed crucial judicial inspections of contaminated sites.
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- Selected soil and water samples from conveniently illogical places, such upstream from contamination sources.
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- Used an "independent" laboratory operated by the wife of a Chevron employee to process its sampling evidence, where samples were swapped or destroyed.
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- Offered a former judge in the case a literal "suitcase full of cash" and helped move him to the U.S., where Chevron provides him with payments of \$144,000 per month-approximately 30 times the basic salary in Ecuador.
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- Offered the judge who issued the verdict a \$1 million bribe in exchange for a favorable verdict. He rejected the bribe.

More on Chevron's fraudulent actions can be found here. But, in an aberration of justice, much of this evidence, and all of the evidence of Chevron's contamination, won't be admissible in the RICO trial. In fact, there won't even be a jury. After forum shopping for several years, Chevron found an ally in Judge Lewis Kaplan, who had worked previously for a firm that represented Chevron. Kaplan actually invited Chevron to bring RICO charges. He has given the company everything it has asked for, except for a small handful of carefully orchestrated decisions denying minor Chevron motions in order to not be removed from the case for bias by the Court of Appeals. So Kaplan alone is judge and jury, and will surely give Chevron what it wants, as he has for the last three years in the run-up to the trial.

What's even more absurd is why a New York judge has taken it upon himself to decide whether an Ecuadorian court case was fairly adjudicated. A judge who speaks no Spanish and is unfamiliar with Ecuador's law or legal system—who has never even been to Ecuador—will be deciding this case completely on his own.

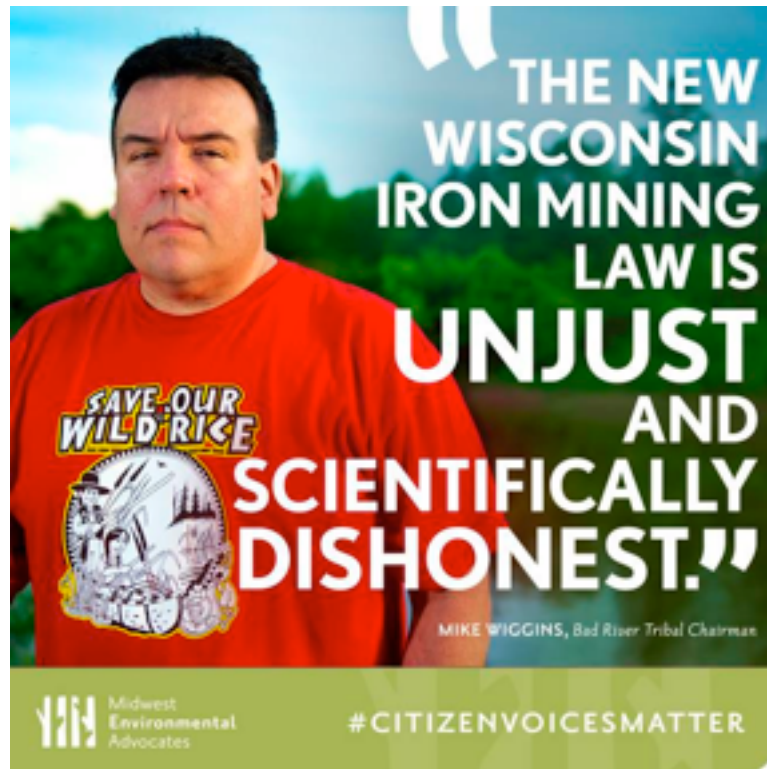
Chevron is on the lam, a fugitive from justice and doing whatever it can to avoid responsibility, including going after the very people whose lives it devastated, and anyone willing to support them. According to Chevron, people like Hugo and Javier are the criminals, while the company, tried and convicted, is the victim. But also included with Camacho and Piaguaje is [Steven Donziger](#), a legal advisor to the plaintiffs. Achieving justice for the Ecuadorians has been his life's crusade, and he has worked with them for over twenty years.

But Chevron, armed with more than 60 legal firms, some 2,000 legal professionals, top PR companies, the shadowy "investigative and risk" management firm Kroll and endless resources, has tried to outlast and vanquish the Ecuadorians and their advocates like Donziger. Unable to put a pair of cement shoes on him and drop in the Hudson, Chevron has ironically gone after Donziger and the Ecuadorians with a statute that is better applied to the company itself. Is there a business more fitting of RICO charges than the oil industry?

The RICO case that begins today is a new low for the legal establishment. It goes down in the books alongside the [Twinkie defense](#), among other ludicrous ways in which companies get off the hook for clearly punishable crimes and other travesties of justice. But at the end of the day, the trial is a sideshow, an attempt by the company to keep its investors from jumping ship.

The communities are actively pursuing Chevron assets in Argentina, Brazil and Canada, all countries where Chevron hopes to develop and secure new access to reserves that are its economic life blood. And a RICO verdict from a court with no jurisdiction over the Ecuadorian verdict or people will weigh little for most of the world. And that's bad news for Chevron, and good news for Hugo, Javier, and the other thousands of people who are waiting for justice to be served.

Without consulting governments such as the River Tribe, Wisconsin legislators passed a law exempting iron mining from environmental protections. They didn't listen, but you can share what those who live near proposed mine have to about it.



**Bad
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say**

Calendar : PowWows, Trainings, Art and Grants

November 16 - 17, 2013 **BLUE RIDGE AMERICAN INDIAN FESTIVAL**
adjacent to Blue Ridge Flea Market Georgia [View Pow Wow Details](#)

November 29 - 1, 2013 **35th Annual Chambers Farm Fall Family Powwow**
Chambers Farm Florida [View Pow Wow Details](#)

November 23–24
45th Annual Southern California Indian Center Powwow, Orange County Fair Grounds, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. For more information, call (714) 962-6673 or visit www.indiancenter.org.

November 29 - 30, 2013 **Cedar Band of Paiutes Thanksgiving Powwow**
PITU Gymnasium Utah [View Pow Wow Details](#)

November 30 - California State University, Northridge 30th Annual Indigenous Awareness Month Gathering Pow Wow Enter Campus at Reseda Blvd & Plummer St
[View Pow Wow Details](#)

December 1 - 6th Annual All Nations Powwow of ADA Oklahoma
Kerr Activity Center East Central State University Oklahoma [View Pow Wow Details](#)

Board of Commissioner/ Housing Board Training (HUD/ONAP) Nov. 12-13 Reno, NV

This FREE 2-day training provides an overview of Housing Board roles and responsibilities pertaining to the provision of affordable housing for tribal communities. Experienced trainers will provide examples and scenarios to inform and educate about these important roles to insure successful tribal housing for eligible community members under HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant program. For more info., visit www.naihc.net or call (202) 789-1754.

Federal Procurement (HUD/ONAP) Nov. 14-15 Reno, NV

This FREE two-day course will bring you up-to-date on current procurement practices as they affect contract administration and procurement in the purchasing of materials or services for tribal housing organizations. The interactive course provides classroom theory as well as practical application through exercises, case studies, role plays, discussions and quizzes. Participants will develop a solid foundation in Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funded procurement & contract management. Training topics will range from careful preplanning and the basics of purchasing to unique factors in tribal housing purchasing, the practical how-tos of procurement planning and policy development as well as specific regional issues. Management activities intended to avoid sanctions, penalties, and indictable offenses will also be discussed. For more info., and to register visit www.naihc.net or call (202) 789-1754.

**Indian Housing Plan/Annual Performance Reports (IHP/APR) - HUD/ONAP
Nov. 19-20 Reno, NV**

FREE interactive 2-day training. Grantees receiving funds under HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program are responsible for meeting program requirements including submission of Indian Housing Plans (IHPs) and Annual Performance Reports (APRs). This course will assist grant recipients in understanding the important IHP/APR components, deadlines and other requirements. For more info., visit <http://registration.firstpic.org> or call **1-202-393-6400**.

**Legal Landscape of Tribal Renewable Energy Development CLE Conference
Nov. 21-22 Tempe, AZ**

Agenda & Registration online at: law.asu.edu/ILPTribalEnergy2013 Register now! Co-hosted by the Indian Legal Program/SDOC and Office of Indian Energy/DOE. Free to Elected Tribal Officials. Special Rate for ILP Alums. Join us to celebrate the ILP 25th Anniversary on 11/22 & /11/23

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November 1-10

*38th Annual American Indian Film Festival*, Delancey Street Theatre, 600 Embarcadero Dr., San Francisco. Shorts, feature films, and documentaries from Native American and First Nations

peoples. The festival will conclude with an awards show Sunday night at the San Francisco Jazz Center, 201 Franklin St. For more information, visit [www.aifisf.com](http://www.aifisf.com).

### **November 9**

*Native Literature Showcase: Meet the Authors!*, California State Indian Museum, 2618 K St., Sacramento. Authors from across the country will be here to discuss and sign their latest publications on Native topics. Lectures begin at 10 and continue on the half hour throughout the day. For more information, please call (916) 324-0971 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum](http://www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum).

### **November 9-10**

*American Indian Arts Marketplace at the Autry*, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles, CA 90027. (323) 667-2000. [TheAutry.org/marketplace](http://TheAutry.org/marketplace).

### **Through 2013**

*A Visit from Old Friends*, Barona Cultural Center and Museum, 1095 Barona Rd., Lakeside. Rarely viewed artifacts and historic photographs from the San Diego Museum of Man's collection of Kumeyaay cultural materials. Tue.–Fri. noon to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (619) 443-7003 or visit [www.baronamuseum.org](http://www.baronamuseum.org).

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NB3F's Native Strong: Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Promising Program Grant RFP

Oct. 28 Promising Program Grant - The Notah Begay III Foundation (NB3F) is committed to the prevention of childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes among Native American children. NB3F's Native Strong Promising Program Grant partners with Native communities to strengthen existing youth focused physical activity and/or healthy nutrition programs and build capacity for program evaluation. An informational webinar was held on Oct. 2. To access the webinar and/or for info. about this grant opportunity, or to access the application, visit the Promising Program

Grant webpage. As many as 12 grants up to \$40,000 each will be awarded. Applications will be accepted from throughout the U.S. However, preference will be given to grantees from three specific regions – the Southwest (New Mexico, Arizona), the Upper Midwest (Minnesota, Wisconsin) and the Southern Plains (Oklahoma, Texas). For more, contact Michelle Gutierrez, Program Officer, (505) 867-0775, or email us at grants@nb3f.org.

Exchange Network Grant Program Nov. 8

Tribes and inter-tribal consortia of federally recognized tribes are eligible. Program provides funding for States, Territories, and Tribes. For more information, visit EPA's Exchange Network Grants and Funding and Apply for a Network Grant.

Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Nov. 12

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking grant applications from organizations to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development. Grant program generates economic activity in rural areas. Qualified intermediary organizations receiving the grants will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects. Recipients will be nonprofit organizations, low-income rural communities, or federally recognized tribes.

Intermediary organizations must provide matching funds at least equal to the RCDI grant. Funds are not directly provided to business recipients by USDA under the program. Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development state office where the applicant's headquarters are located. A list of these offices is available on the USDA website. For more info., see www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-08-14/pdf/2013-19773.pdf.

BIA FY13 Climate Adaption Grants for Tribes Nov. 29

Funding is available to Tribes, Inter-tribal organizations, tribal colleges, and nongovernmental organizations with documented tribal support. Successful grant applications will propose adaptation planning that supports the greatest number of tribes, range of tribal programs, or tribal communities. High level tribal adaption plans (covering all tribal programs), vulnerably assessments, or data downscaling that covers multiple tribes will receive priority in the grant evaluation process. Leveraged funding is also encouraged and will improve ranking. Inquiries and proposals can be sent to this email address: climate-adaption-grant-info@bia.gov

Traditional Foods and Contemporary Native Peoples

This is a collection of current projects promoting traditional foods and agriculture, as well as several publications about diet and health of native peoples today.

["Traditional Foodways of Native America – Oral Histories of Native Food Revitalization" Audio Recording Project](#) The Cultural Conservancy, 2010.

[Indigenous Health/Native Circle of Food.](#)

The Cultural Conservancy, 2010.

[Farm to Cafeteria Initiatives: Connections with the Tribal Food Sovereignty Movement.](#)

Dwyer, Emily. 2010. National Farm to School Network and Urban & Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College.

[Food Sovereignty and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.](#)

International Indian Treaty Council, 2009.

[Traditional Native American Farmer's Association.](#)

[Native American Community Health Program.](#)

Seva Foundation, 2011.

Three projects of this program are:

- [Ilinniagvik Attautchikun: Northwest Arctic Healthy Traditional Foods Project.](#)
- [Brave Heart Society: Good Heart Garden.](#)
- [Intertribal Friendship House: Living Native: Reconnecting with Our Mother Earth.](#)

[White Earth Land Recovery Project.](#)

While this project encompasses more than traditional foods, it does address several food-related topics. One of the project's programs is the [Mino-Mijjim \(Good Food\) Program](#).

[Dream of Wild Health.](#)

This native-owned organic farm in Minnesota uses heirloom indigenous seeds and has several educational programs.

[Navajo Nation Traditional Agricultural Outreach.](#)

Developing Innovations in Navajo Education Inc. (Diné Inc.)

[A New Generation of O'odham Farmers.](#)

TOCA: Tohono O'odham Community Action.

[Pueblo Farming Project.](#)

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, 2012.

[Oneida Farms/Agriculture Center \(ONFAC\).](#)

Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, 2012.

[Native Wild Rice Coalition.](#)

[InterTribal Buffalo Council.](#)

Seeds and Seed Sovereignty

[Native Seeds/SEARCH.](#)

"Native Seeds/SEARCH conserves, distributes and documents the adapted and diverse varieties of agricultural seeds, their wild relatives and the role these seeds play in cultures of the American Southwest and northwest Mexico."

[Indigenous Seed Sovereignty Network.](#)

White Earth Land Recovery Project & Native Harvest Online Catalog, 2011.

[Save the Seeds.](#)

This site provides a collection of information on seed sovereignty.

[New Mexico Food & Seed Sovereignty Alliance.](#)

New Mexico Acequia Association, 2012.

Publications on Diet and Health

[Health and Dietary Issues Affecting American Indians.](#) Kennedy, Stacey. 2008. California Food Guide: Fulfilling the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

[Diabetes epidemic in newly westernized populations: is it due to thrifty genes or to genetically unknown foods?](#) Baschetti, Riccardo. 1998. Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine 91(12): 622-625.

This article argues against the "thrifty genotype" hypothesis.

[Ironies most bittersweet.](#) Hall, Philip F. 1999. Canadian Medical Association Journal 160(9): 1315-1316.

This editorial argues for the "thrifty genotype" hypothesis.

[Traditional foods and physical activity patterns and associations with cultural factors in a diverse Alaska Native population.](#) Redwood, Diana G., et al. 2008. International Journal of Circumpolar Health 67(4):335-348.

[Factors related to fruit, vegetable and traditional food consumption which may affect health among Alaska Native People in Western Alaska.](#) Johnson, Jennifer S., Elizabeth D. Nobmann, and Elvin Asay. 2012. International Journal of Circumpolar Health 71, 8 pp.

News Stories

[Tribal clinic uses native foods to fight diabetes.](#)
Brown, Patricia Leigh. California Watch, 12 Apr. 2012.

[Young Native Americans Innovate to Revive Food Traditions.](#)
The Christensen Fund, 13 Feb. 2012.
A story on projects in the Southwest.

[Back-to-the-Earth Food Movement Leads to More-healthy Diets.](#)
de la Harpe, Jackleen. Indian Country Today Media Network, 8 June 2011.

[American Indian food: A comeback.](#)
Severson, Kim. *The New York Times*, 24 Nov. 2005.

[Why climate activists should get over their preoccupation with pipelines](#)

Yes, Keystone XL is horrible, but so are lots of other fossil-fuel projects. Four grassroots activists argue that it's time for a new approach.

BY ARIELLE KLAGSBRUN,
DAVID OSBORN, MARYAM
ADRANGI AND KIRBY
SPANGLER



***** CTV reports that the raid of the Mi'kmaq anti fracking blockade will cost the RCMP \$500,000. They never mention the cost saved by having clean water for generations. <http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/price-tag-from-shale-gas-protest-expected> toexceed-500k-1.1508647