

Journal #3006

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Idle No More, one year later

Sean Kilpatrick / THE CANADIAN PRESS Toronto Star

To those involved in indigenous activism across Canada, the Idle No More movement hasn't gone anywhere. And they say the connections it forged, combined with ongoing frustrations, means a resurgence is not just possible, but likely.

Clayton Tootoosis takes part in a Assembly of First Nations rally on Parliament Hill on Tuesday.



By: [Stephanie MacLellan](#) Staff

Reporter, Published on Fri Dec 13 2013

To many Canadians, Tuesday's protest on Parliament Hill against the federal government's proposed First Nations Education Act might have looked like the return of Idle No More.

Since the first national day of action exactly one year earlier, and the [weeks of dramatic protest](#) that followed, the indigenous rights movement has once again slipped below the national radar. The budget bill it was aiming to stop last December has passed into law and differences within the movement have emerged.

But to the people involved in indigenous activism across Canada, the movement hasn't gone anywhere. And they say the connections it forged, combined with ongoing frustrations at government policies, means a resurgence is not just possible, but likely.

"Idle No More cannot be extinguished because it has grown so much that it's reached the homes of a lot of people," said Sylvia McAdam, one of four women who launched the movement. "And when you get into homes, it's difficult to bring it out of there."

Idle No More came out of discussions McAdam was having last fall with three other Saskatchewan women involved in indigenous activism and academics: Jessica Gordon, Sheila McLean and Nina Wilson. At first they didn't know each other personally, McAdam said, but they all shared a belief that indigenous communities deserved to know more about [Bill C-45](#), the Harper government's omnibus budget bill they feared would weaken environmental restrictions and put treaty rights at risk.

The women, and like-minded activists such as Tanya Kappo in Alberta, held teach-ins about the bill and spread the word through social media with the hashtag #IdleNoMore.

Suddenly protests were popping up across Canada, like flash-mob round dances that drew on cultural traditions to capture public attention. To McAdam's surprise, the whole country was suddenly talking about treaty rights and environmental degradation.

While the hashtag was new, the sentiment wasn't — indigenous activist and Ryerson University academic Hayden King calls it "oldest resistance movement in the continent's history." But several factors combined to propel Idle No More to the top of the national conversation: an increasingly educated, young indigenous population; social media to connect them; and years of frustration with government policies reaching a boiling point.

"I think Idle No More was about saying there's a growing level of consciousness and awareness that it's up to all of us," said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo. "This is a real moment that we're in where change is absolutely required. Particularly the young people — they're saying, 'We're ready to be the change right now.'"

Veteran activists look back on last winter as a time of powerful inspiration.

"I've been to a lot of protests and reclamations and I had never experienced the kind of power and joy and this collective sense that native people were rising together," said King.

Kappo said people kept telling her, "For the first time in my life, I'm not ashamed to be an Indian."

To many, it was also the first time that non-indigenous Canadians started paying attention to their issues.

"If you had asked me just over a year ago, before Idle No More, how I could have found that space to have a dialogue with non-indigenous people, I don't think I would have been able to answer it," McAdam said.

Idle No More has spread beyond Canada as a movement for indigenous activists and environmentalists around the world. This week, McAdam and her colleagues were honoured by *Foreign Policy* magazine as some of this year's [top global thinkers](#).

But within Canada, there are signs that the movement is not as cohesive as it appeared last winter. In recent months, the Indigenous Nationhood Movement has emerged as an alternative for activists who felt Idle No More was focused on legislative issues rather than the "nationhood" discussions they wanted to prioritize — issues such as reclaiming traditional lands and re-establishing traditional forms of government, according to Leanne Simpson, a Peterborough writer and community organizer involved in the movement.

Activists aligned with each movement — and many identify with both — insist that Indigenous Nationhood doesn't represent a split, but rather a different approach to the same set of challenges. Both groups emphasize grassroots activism rising from native communities, whether

that involves blockades or cultural teachings. Both rallied support to the recent [Elsipogtog anti-fracking protests](#) in New Brunswick.

Canada's native peoples and their concerns are far too diverse to address with a single body, they say.

"I'm not sure that having one voice or one series of goals is the right strategy for transforming the relationship (between Canada and indigenous peoples) in the way we're trying to transform it," Simpson said.

For many people involved with the movements, the biggest victory that emerged from Idle No More was the connections it forged among activists across the country — both indigenous and non-indigenous — that lay the groundwork for future actions. And with more resource companies setting up in Canada and drawing objections from native communities, from Elsipogtog to the Ring of Fire, they say it's only a matter of time before another movement like last winter's comes along.

"I think whatever comes next won't be Idle No More," King said. "It will just be the next wave, as it has been for the past 150 years."

Mary Gibson via [Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums](#):

[SKC project bringing Salish place names to Google Earth, virtual reality missoulain.com](#)

[PABLO – What Jonathon Richter and Erik Samsøe are doing at Salish Kootenai College – integrating the names Indian peoples gave to places in western Montana with Google Earth –](#)

GrantStation

Libri Foundation

The Libri Foundation helps rural libraries acquire new, quality, hardcover children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy through a matching book donation program. Click above to learn more about the funding guidelines and application process.

Canadian Women's Foundation: Violence Prevention Grants

The Canadian Women's Foundation's Violence Prevention Grants provide support for violence prevention efforts across Canada. Click above to learn more about the funding guidelines and application process.

Fish and Wildlife Service: Wildlife Without Borders Program: Africa

This program provides support in Africa's Congo Basin to improve protected area management, reduce threats to key wildlife populations, and develop the conservation capacity to undertake long-term conservation programs.

National Funding

Support for Social Justice Initiatives Worldwide

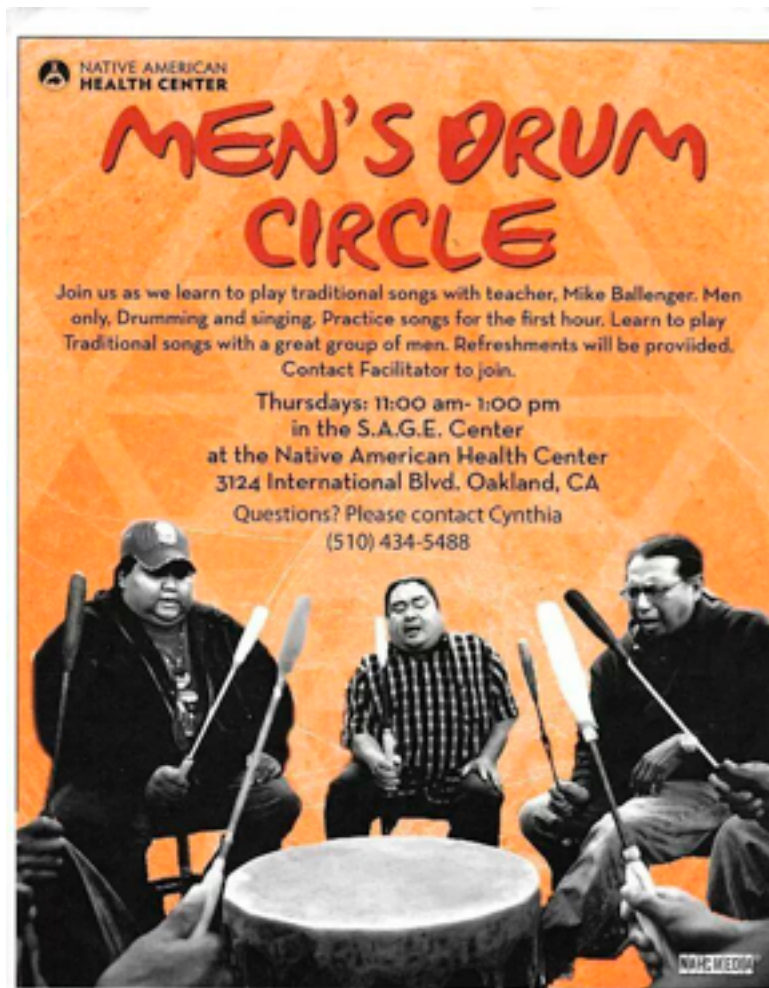
Arca Foundation

The Arca Foundation is dedicated to advancing social equity and justice, particularly given the growing disparities in the world. In the United States, the Foundation is currently interested in supporting national nonprofit organizations that work to promote a more equitable, accountable, and transparent economic recovery. The focus is on [programs](#) that engage citizens in the promotion of greater corporate accountability, and that work to build a movement to advance a more just economy and democracy. (The Foundation's work is national; in order to receive funding local and state-based efforts must be part of a national campaign or project.)

Internationally, the Foundation supports policy advocacy that advances more just U.S. foreign policies and human rights. The next application deadline is February 3, 2014. Visit the Foundation's website for more information on the Foundation's grant strategies.

Latino Arts Organizations Funded

National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures: Fund for the Arts



The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) is dedicated to the promotion, advancement, development, and cultivation of the Latino arts field in the United States. Now in its ninth cycle, the Fund for the Arts is NALAC's flagship grant program that supports important and innovative artistic works and practices in every discipline and region of the country. The Fund provides a variety of grants to support U.S.-based Latino artists and arts organizations in the development, creation, presentation, and sustainability of artistic excellence, as well as the opportunity to participate in activities that contribute to professional and organizational growth. Awards are available in three fixed amounts of \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$15,000. Applying to the Fund is a benefit of NALAC Membership. To renew or establish Membership visit

www.nalactienda.org. The [application](#) deadline is February 6, 2014. Visit the NALAC website to access the Fund's application guidelines and instructions.

Grants Promote Veterans' Job and Entrepreneurial Skills

Blackstone Charitable Foundation: Veterans Grant Program

The Blackstone Charitable Foundation is committed to helping people rediscover their spirit of entrepreneurship, harness their talents, and transform their creative ideas into viable companies that will contribute to the economic rebuilding of the global economy. The Foundation's Veterans Grant Program supports nonprofit organizations that show unique and impactful approaches to helping veterans either secure jobs or start their own businesses. The current Request for Proposals (RFP) is intended to identify organizations that focus on providing business assistance and entrepreneurial skills for veterans. Grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 will be provided in two program areas: Promoting Job Skills Development, and Advancing Veteran Business Development and Support. The application deadline is February 14, 2014. Visit the Foundation's website to download the Veterans Grant Program RFP.

Filmmaker Training Programs Supported

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: Educational Grants Program

The Educational Grants Program, an initiative of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, provides support to nonprofit organizations and educational institutions that assist aspiring filmmakers gain the skills and knowledge they need to make theatrical motion pictures. Grants are awarded to film-related nonprofit organizations, including universities, museums, and career development programs. Grants of \$5,000 to \$15,000 are awarded for a range of activities including craft workshops, training programs, filmmaking seminars, and visiting artist programs. The application deadline is January 31, 2014. Visit the Academy's website for program guidelines and application instructions.

Regional Funding

Funds for Youth Projects in Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, and Tennessee

PeyBack Foundation

The mission of the PeyBack Foundation is to promote the future success of disadvantaged youth by assisting programs that provide leadership and growth opportunities for children at risk (ages 6-18). The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the states of Indiana, Louisiana, and Tennessee, and in the Denver, CO, metropolitan area. Priority is given to programs addressing the following categories: Leadership and Life Skills, Mentoring, After-School/Summer Programming, and Healthy Living. Grants may range up to \$15,000, although most grants funded are in the \$10,000 range. The application deadline is February 3, 2014. Visit the Foundation's website to download the application form.

Grants Address School Library Needs in Communities Affected by Disasters

American Association of School Librarians: Beyond Words: The Dollar General School Library Relief Fund

Beyond Words: The Dollar General School Library Relief Fund, administered by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), supports public school libraries in the communities served by Dollar General. The Fund provides grants of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to preK-12 public schools whose school library programs have been affected by a natural disaster, fire, or an act of

terrorism. Schools that have absorbed a significant number of displaced/evacuee students are also eligible to apply. Grants are intended to help replace or supplement books, media, and/or library equipment. Eligible applicants must be located within 20 miles of a [Dollar General store, distribution center, or corporate office](#). Grant applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and are reviewed monthly. Visit the AASL website to submit an online application.

Support for Community Programs in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California

Pacific Power Foundation

The Pacific Power Foundation supports the growth and vitality of the communities served by the company, including locations in northern California, Oregon, and central/southeastern Washington. The Foundation provides grants in the following categories: The Education category supports pre-K-12 through higher educational institutions. The Civic and Community category targets environmental issues, affordable housing, and park/recreation programs. The Arts and Culture category focuses on the performing and visual arts, museums, and historic preservation. The Health, Welfare, and Social Services category supports United Ways, hospitals, health and human service agencies, and youth services. Grants generally range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Requests are reviewed quarterly; application deadlines vary by grant category. Visit the company's website to review the application guidelines.



Support
for

Healthcare

Programs in Maryland and DC

Quality Health Foundation

The Quality Health Foundation is dedicated to enhancing healthcare in Maryland and Washington, DC, through measurable outcome improvement projects. Priority areas include the

following: improved treatment through the use of best practices, improved access to healthcare services, and improved understanding of health issues. The Foundation funds a wide range of programs, including service, demonstration, education, and clinical programs producing high impact results on health outcomes. Grants of up to \$50,000 are provided. Applications will be accepted through January 30, 2014. Application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website.

Federal Funding

Program Supports the Development of Rural Health Networks

[Department of Health and Human Services](#)

The Rural Health Network Development Planning Program provides support to assist in the development of integrated healthcare networks, with the goal of strengthening the rural healthcare system as a whole. The application deadline is January 16, 2014.

Coastal Sustainability
Efforts Supported

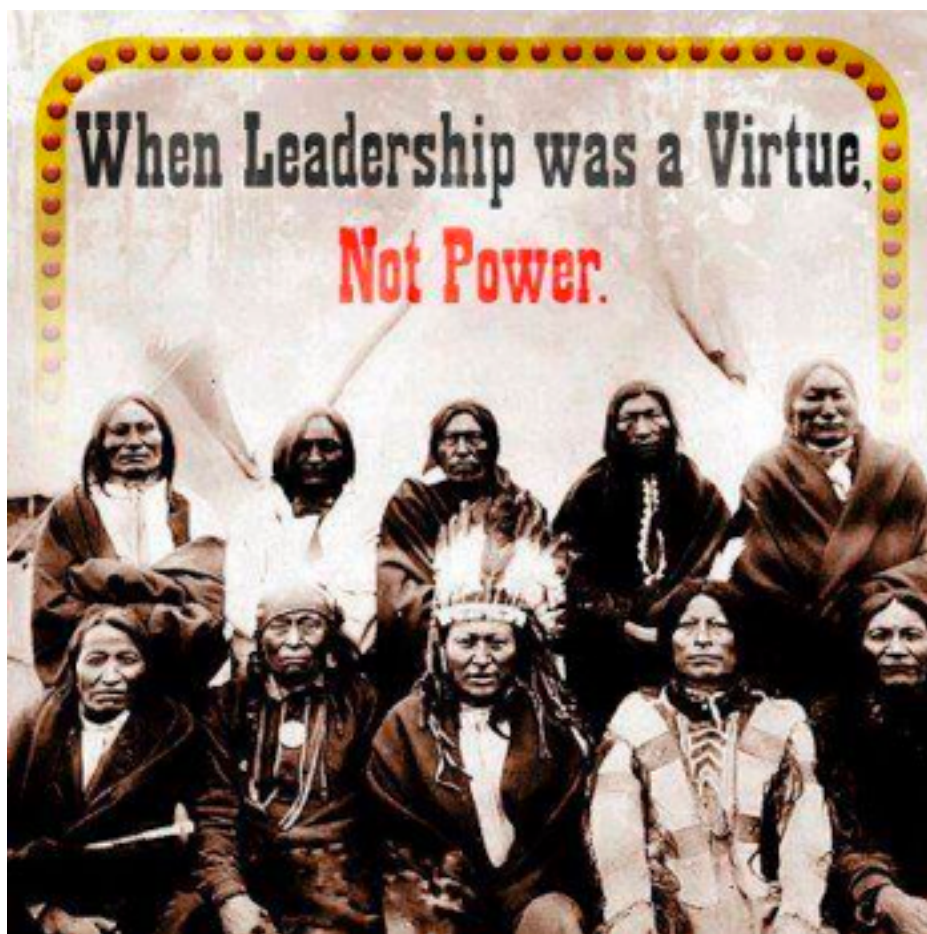
[National Science Foundation](#)

The Coastal SEES (Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability) program provides support to enhance coastal sustainability. The application deadlines are January 21, 2014, and October 2, 2015.

Funds Available for
Brownfield Activities

[Environmental Protection Agency Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund](#)

grants are available to address issues related to brownfield sites. The application deadline is January 22, 2014.



Program Supports Occupational Training for Students

[Department of Labor](#)

The Youth CareerConnect Program offers support to provide high school students with education and training focused on specific in-demand occupations and industries, including science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) industries. The application deadline is January 27, 2014.

Absolutely a must watch: <http://www.upworthy.com/a-boy-was-born-without-a-hand-i-couldnt-have-guessed-what-his-dad-made-for-him-mind-blown>

[Margaret Stewart: Beautiful photography of Pyramid Lake](#), lovely song.
[Whitney Myer "Wake And Watch" Official Music Video](#) youtube.com

[All rights reserved by Whitney Myer under 'The Art Of Luminous Nature'. Purchase the new EP on iTunes "Articles Of Luminous Nature" https://itunes.apple.com/...](#)

[Lesley Williams](#)

Vint just got asked if he was putting to use what he learned at basketweaving class ... he's weaving a tsokono'o... he said I didn't learn this in a class... I was taught the old way... why don't people think before they speak??? Sad though that people assume the only way you know a traditional craft these days is by taking a class. There is a reason why our culture is dying.

By voting to break away from a corporate utility and form its own municipal power company, Boulder, Colorado is leading a national shift towards local control and renewable energy.

[The Transformation of America's Energy Economy](#) truth-out.org

[Opponents of the effort had themselves put the question on the ballot in order to block measures by the city council.](#)

[WEWIN – Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations](#) www.wewin04.org

[We, the Indian women founders, who have common values and goals, do hereby establish "Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations because we are committed and dedicated to the following purposes":](#)

[The Public Eye: Federal government faces unusual lawsuit over tribal road project in Inyo County...](#) sacbee.com

[Can the United States – a sovereign nation– be sued in the tribal court of a sovereign Indian nation?](#)

Policy Alert

EDITORIAL: Free our land LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

The state's campaign to wrest control of massive stretches of land from the federal government is under way, thanks to the opportunity created by this year's passage of Assembly Bill 227.

As reported Dec. 7 by the Review-Journal's Sean Whaley, the law created the Nevada Land Management Task Force, which is charged with evaluating whether the state should consider assuming responsibility for some public land managed by federal agencies.

We already know the answer to that question: Yes.

Washington controls about 85 percent of the land in the Silver State; 76 percent is overseen by the Bureau of Land Management. It's an outrageous amount of property, especially when compared with the amount of land the federal government controls east of Texas. At a Dec. 6 meeting of the task force in Carson City, state Sen. Pete Goicoechea, R-Eureka, rightly pointed out that Nevada and all Western states "want to be admitted to the Union on the same footing as the eastern states, where only 4 percent of the land is federally controlled."

Kyle Davis, the political and policy director of the Nevada Conservation League, argued against the idea of the state taking over federal land on the basis that Nevada has not demonstrated the capability and willingness to manage that land.

And the federal government has shown that capability and willingness? The same government that spends millions of dollars killing off the Devil's Hole pupfish, an endangered species the public never gets to see? The same government that, in California, once ostensibly marched hundreds of desert tortoises to their deaths in an effort to return them to their "natural" habitat?

The largest problem with federal control is that, more often than not, "control" is the operative word. From wild horses to wildfires, the government's land management track record in Nevada and the rest of the West is downright awful.

For Nevada's economy to grow and diversify — especially in rural areas of the state — this land must be free of federal restrictions on its use. Without those restrictions, Nevada could join the country's energy boom and explore opportunities in technology and aerospace. The best way to accomplish that is to eventually get vast acreage into private hands to generate job creation *and* property tax revenue. The government pays the state pennies on the dollar — if that — for all the land it owns. The land would be better managed if the people who are closest to it are in charge of it.

The task force will submit its findings to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands by Sept. 1.

Getting federal land into private hands is a process that could go on for generations. It won't be easy, but it's incumbent on Nevada and other Western states to keep this issue at the forefront, and for local entities — both public and private — to prove they are indeed capable and willing.

[**Ho-Chunk pay tribute to code talkers in special ceremony in Baraboo**](#) [**jsonline.com**](#)
[**Hundreds gathered Friday to honor seven World War II Ho-Chunk veterans who served as cold talkers.**](#)

[**Researchers reveal Stonehenge stones hold incredible musical properties**](#)
[**ancient-origins.net A team of researchers from London's Royal College of Art \(RCA\) have discovered that the stones used to construct Stonehenge hold musical properties and when struck, sound like bells, drums and gongs. It is suggested that these properties**](#)

[**Archaeologists unearth oldest musical instruments ever found - The Boston Globe**](#)

boston.com

[Archeologists announced today that they had unearthed the oldest musical instruments ever found -- flutes that inhabitants of southwestern Germany laboriously carved from bone and ivory at least 35,000 years ago.](#)

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/67097-1>

"[Washington U.S.] Senator [Slade] Gorton and Jewell Praying Wolf James [National Sovereignty Day Vigil] debated cuts in federal programs for Native Americans." The program starts at 1 hour, 42 minutes, 33 seconds.

Submitted for your historical pleasure by Guy Rocha, former NV Sate Archivist

