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Historic Number of Native American Women Are Running for Office: 'We're Helping to Clear a Path'

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Indigenous women kept from seeing their newborn babies until agreeing to sterilization, says lawyer

Sterilizations happened as recently as 2017, Saskatchewan lawsuit alleges
CBC Radio · November 13

At least two women involved in the lawsuit were surgically sterilized after giving birth at the Royal University Hospital, which the Saskatoon Health Region oversees in Saskatoon. (Trevor Bothorel/CBC)

Listen 19:32 [Read Story Transcript](#)

[As a senator calls for a nationwide review of the forced sterilization of Indigenous women](#), a lawyer representing a proposed class action detailed the women's accounts of being sterilized without proper and informed consent.

"In the throes of labour ... they would be approached, harassed, coerced into signing these consent forms," said Alisa Lombard, an associate with Maurice Law, the first Indigenous-owned national law firm in Canada.

The women would be told that they could not leave until their tubes were tied, cut or cauterized, she added, or that "they could not see their baby until they agreed."

At least 60 Indigenous women are pursuing [a class-action lawsuit launched last year](#), alleging they underwent forced sterilizations over the past 20 to 25 years in Saskatchewan. Each woman is claiming about \$7 million in damages.

- ['It steals your dreams': Saskatoon woman not sure whether she will join forced-sterilization lawsuit](#)
- [CBC Massey Lectures](#)
[The 2018 CBC Massey Lectures: All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward](#)

In most of the cases — some happening as recently as 2017 — the "women report being told that the procedure was reversible," Lombard said.

Alisa Lombard is representing at least 60 women in the lawsuit. Each woman is claiming about \$7 million in damages. (Submitted by Alisa Lombard)

She said the procedures, known as tubal ligation, have had a huge effect on the women.

"Many have had bouts and persistent depression, anxiety — many are no longer with us because of those ailments and those circumstances."

In a statement to [The Current](#) following Tuesday's broadcast, Indigenous Services Minister Jane Philpott described forced sterilization as "a serious violation of human rights."

"We all have a role to play to ensure that Indigenous patients receive quality healthcare free of prejudice, including ensuring medical professionals receive cultural safety training, as laid out in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action," the statement continued.

- [Suicide shouldn't be 'normal' in Indigenous communities, says 2018 Massey Lecturer Tanya Talaga](#)

Lombard said the case is being taken against the physicians involved, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the province of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada.

The Current requested an interview with the Saskatoon Health Region and the Saskatchewan Health Authority, but did not receive a response.

If it's happened in Saskatoon, it has happened in Regina, it's happened in Winnipeg.- *Senator Yvonne Boyer*

Following an independent review in Jan. 2017, the Saskatoon Health Region apologized for the past coercion of Indigenous women to undergo surgical sterilization.

"I want to apologize to the women who came forward in the review, who've come forward to us in the past, and who haven't yet been able to come forward to us," said Jackie Mann, vice-president of integrated health services, on behalf of the health authority.

'I'm sorry you were not treated with the respect and compassion you deserved': Jackie Mann becomes emotional apologizing to victims of forced sterilization

Indigenous women coerced into tubal ligation felt 'invisible, profiled and powerless' according to an external report. 0:58

"I am truly sorry for the coercion for tubal ligation that you experienced while in our care," she said during a news conference on July 27, 2017.

The review was conducted by Dr. Yvonne Boyer, a Métis lawyer and former nurse, and Dr. Judy Bartlett, a physician and former professor with the College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. The 57-page report interviewed seven Indigenous women and compiled details described as "scare tactics" to get their consent.` \

[Indigenous women kept from seeing their newborn babies until agreeing to sterilization, says lawyer](#) whitewolfpack.com

[Arctic Ship Traffic Threatens Narwhals and Other Extraordinary Animals](#)

Donna Hauser, Harry Stern and Kristin Laidre, The Conversation

Excerpt: "Americans often associate fall with football and raking leaves, but in the Arctic this season is about ice. Every year, floating sea ice in the Arctic thins and melts in spring and summer, then thickens and expands in fall and winter." [READ MORE](#)

National Museum of Natural History through August 2019

Narwhal: Revealing an Arctic Legend will present Inuit perspectives on their connections to narwhales as well as the latest scientific knowledge about these fascinating animals. Through firsthand accounts from scientists and Inuit community members, the exhibition will reveal how traditional knowledge and expertise, coupled with scientific research, heighten our understanding of these animals -- and our changing global climate.

Should the BIA get out of the blood degree business?

The CDIB, as it's known, is one of the principal documents tribal citizens use to obtain educational or health services, apply for grants or loans, or use for other purposes related to tribal business. Story by Deb Krol [Read more](#) newsmaven.io



Records/Archives Matter:

['Someone threw my file out': County officials on Standing Rock... 'Someone threw my file out': County officials on Standing Rock... SIOUX COUNTY, N.D. — A Native voting rights group is raising questions about a lack of documentation to support voting precincts in... www.thedickinsonpress.com](#)

Native Financial Education Coalition Launches New Website/ Resource Center

Today, the Native Financial Education Coalition officially launched its [new website](#), which is designed to serve as living online resource center for tribal leaders, financial education practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders interested in learning more about the state of Indian Country financial education and how to strengthen it.

The New NFEC site features a comprehensive array of resource components designed to keep site visitors up to speed on the latest information, research, data, best practices, and tools focused on this critical topic, including:

News & Updates ticker: featuring the latest news about Indian Country financial education, upcoming events, and new grant opportunities

Latest Research & Data: the ten most recent research- and data-based resources added to the NFEC site

Tools & Resources: Toolkits, handbooks, tip sheets, mobil apps, online financial education programs, and other useful online tools and resources

Research Catalogue: a comprehensive catalogue of research-based, grouped into nine main topic areas dealing with particular aspects of financial education, ranging from "Access to Capital & Credit" to "Taxation"

Help Us Grow Our Site: enabling site visitors to recommend that NFEC add specific new resources to the site

To access the NFEC website, please click [here](#).

About NFEC: The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) serves as the lead steward of the Native Financial Education Coalition, which was founded in 2000 as a result of a U.S. Department of Treasury Initiative on financial literacy. NFEC's mission is to (1) **increase awareness** of the need for adequate personal finance skills in Native communities, (2) **build**

the capacity of tribal governments and Native organizations to provide financial education; and (3) support the efforts of Coalition partners and stakeholders to promote financial management skills through information sharing and collaboration.

NCAI Contact: Tyesha Ignacio, Second-Year Wilma Mankiller Fellow, tignacio@ncai.org



Pow Wow Dancers needed for Half Time

Please contact Stephanie with questions swyatt1031@gmail.com *****

How six women are leading the charge for clean water

https://www.google.com/about/stories/cleanwater/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=hpp&utm_campaign=USA *****

I Love America. That's Why I Have to Tell the Truth About It TIME

What it means to love my country, no matter how it feels about me [Read the full story](http://time.com/5455490/american-like-me/) <http://time.com/5455490/american-like-me/> *****

Senate Taking Up Heitkamp's Savanna's Act

After Another Horrific Attack on Native Woman

Nick Martin, Splinter News

Martin writes: "Last week, Sheena Between Lodges, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, was brutally beaten into a coma." [READ MORE](#)

Crab Fisherman Sue 30 Fossil Fuel Companies, Citing Economic Losses Due to Climate Change

Tara Duggan, San Francisco Chronicle

Duggan writes: "The day before commercial fishermen were due to bring the first of the season's Dungeness crab to Bay Area docks, they made other news." [READ MORE](#)

Project Censored reveals the 10 most under-reported stories of 2018

9. Legal rights for nature

In March 2017, the government of New Zealand ended a 140-year dispute with an indigenous Maori tribe by enacting a law that officially recognized the Whanganui River, which the tribe considers its ancestor, as a living entity with rights.

The tribe’s perspective was explained to the Guardian by its lead negotiator, Gerrard Albert.

“We consider the river an ancestor and always have,” Albert said. “We have fought to find an approximation in law so that all others can understand that from our perspective, treating the river as a living entity is the correct way to approach it, as in indivisible whole, instead of the traditional model for the last 100 years of treating it from a perspective of ownership and management.”

But that could be just the beginning. “It is a critical precedent for acknowledging the Rights of Nature in legal systems around the world,” Kayla DeVault reported for YES! Magazine. Others are advancing this perspective, DeVault wrote:

“In response to the Standing Rock Sioux battle against the Dakota Access Pipeline, the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin amended its constitution to include the Rights of Nature. This is the first time a North American tribe has used a Western legal framework to adopt such laws. Some American municipalities have protected their watersheds against fracking by invoking Rights of Nature.”

"[If the New Zealand Whanganui River settlement] was able to correct the gap in Western and indigenous paradigms in New Zealand, surely a similar effort to protect the Missouri River could be produced for the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River nations by the American government,” DeVault wrote.

The same could be done with a wide range of other environmental justice disputes.

Mihnea Tanasescu, writing for The Conversation, described the broader sweep of recent developments in the “Rights of Nature,” noting that significant problems have resulted from the lack of specific guardianship provisions, which are integral to the Whanganui River law.

“By granting natural entities personhood one by one and assigning them specific guardians, over time, New Zealand could drastically change an ossified legal system that still sees oceans, mountains and forests primarily as property, guaranteeing nature its day in court,” Tanasescu concluded.

[**A new study shows that students learn way more effectively from print textbooks than screens**](#) businessinsider.com

[Why the Sioux Are Refusing \\$1.3 Billion](#) pbs.org
Members of the Great Sioux Nation could pocket a large sum set aside...

[Standing Rock Dakota Access Pipeline Opposition](#)
2011 article. Still true. You can't pay for broken treaties. "The Sioux tribes have always maintained that that confiscation was illegal and the tribes must have some of their ancestral lands returned to them, and they've maintained that position since 1877" [#HonorTheTreaties](#)

[EPA Plans to Allow Unlimited Dumping of Fracking Wastewater in the Gulf of Mexico](#) occupy.com



[Permaculture Garden Produces 7000 Pounds of Organic Food Per Year on a Tenth of an Acre](#) returntonow.net

The Red and the Black: Remembering the Legacy of Jack D. Forbes
[newsmaven.io/indiancoun...](#) via @IndianCountry #NAHeritage

Clovis Paleo-Indian impact.

City-size impact crater found under Greenland ice, scientists say
National Geographic

The first large crater ever found under ice, the discovery could possibly be linked to a controversial extinction theory. [Read the full story](#)



A bald eagle in the Lower Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge.

[Dan Hutcheson/CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

The Klamath Basin along California's border with Oregon hosts the **largest concentration of wintering bald eagles in the lower 48 states**. Hundreds of the majestic raptors — sporting wingspans as broad as eight feet — migrate from points north into California in search of food. They usually start showing up in November.

From Project Censored reveals the 10 most under-reported stories of 2018

4. Wireless companies and cellphone safety

Are cellphones and other wireless devices as safe as we've been led to believe? Don't bet on it, according to decades of buried research reviewed in a March 2018 investigation for the Nation by Mark Hertsgaard and Mark Dowie.

“The wireless industry not only made the same moral choices that the tobacco and fossil-fuel industries did, it also borrowed from the same public relations playbook those industries pioneered,” Hertsgaard and Dowie reported. “Like their tobacco and fossil-fuel brethren, wireless executives have chosen not to publicize what their own scientists have said about the risks of their products. ... On the contrary, the industry—in America, Europe and Asia—has spent untold millions of dollars in the past 25 years proclaiming that science is on its side, that the critics are quacks, and that consumers have nothing to fear.”

A Kaiser Permanente study (published December 2017 in Scientific Reports) found much higher risks of miscarriage. A study in the October 2017 American Journal of Epidemiology, found increased risk for glioma (a type of brain tumor), and a disclosure by the National Frequency Agency of France found that nine out of 10 cellphones exceed government radiation safety limits when tested in the way they are actually used, next to the human body.

As the Nation reported, George Carlo was a scientist hired by the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association in 1993 to research cellphone safety and allay public fears, heading up the industry-financed Wireless Technology Research project. But he was fired and publicly attacked by the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association in 1999, after uncovering disturbing evidence of danger.

Carlo sent letters to each of the industry's chieftains on Oct. 7, 1999, reiterating that the Wireless Technology Research project had found the following:

"The risk of rare neuro-epithelial tumors on the outside of the brain was more than doubled ... in cellphone users," there was an apparent "correlation between brain tumors occurring on the right side of the head and the use of the phone on the right side of the head;" and "the ability of radiation from a phone's antenna to cause functional genetic damage [was] definitely positive."

The Kaiser Permanente study involved exposure to magnetic field nonionizing radiation associated with wireless devices as well as cellphones and found a 2.72 times higher risk of miscarriage for those with higher versus lower exposure. Lead investigator De-Kun Li warned that the possible effects of this radiation have been controversial because, "from a public health point of view, everybody is exposed. If there is any health effect, the potential impact is huge."

While some local media have covered the findings of a few selected studies, Project Censored notes, "the norm for corporate media is to report the telecom industry line—that is, that evidence linking Wi-Fi and cellphone radiation to health issues, including cancer and other medical problems, is either inconclusive or disputed. ... As Hertsgaard and Dowie's Nation report suggested, corporate coverage of this sort is partly how the telecom industry remains successful in avoiding the consequences of [its] actions."

Michigan waited years to heed warnings on PFAS dangers, expert says By Jim Malewitz, [Bridge Magazine](#)

Testifying Tuesday, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Superfund specialist, Robert Delaney, said he believed federal laws were enough to protect the public health and track thousands of chemicals from the moment manufacturers release them to the public.

Delaney said he realized he was wrong in 2010. That's when he found widespread contamination from hazardous and indestructible perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda and learned more about the industrial chemicals' dangers and abundance in Michigan and across the nation.

PFAS: What You Need To Know

Chemical contaminants called PFAS, toxic to humans at minuscule doses, are the tip of the spear for threats to groundwater in Michigan and nationally. Nitrates, industrial chemicals, and pathogens have been swept underground for decades. What else is in groundwater and seeping into drinking water? And what are the risks? Experts are calling the situation a "groundwater emergency."



A marble-filled bath tub is hidden in plain sight in Death Valley National Park.

[Back Country Explorers](#)

Call it a cartographic prank. **Tucked behind a rock in Death Valley is an unlikely bath tub**, installed in the dirt and filled with bright blue marbles. Some old maps gave the wrong location for a spot known as Marble Bath, a set of shallow depressions near the Last Chance Mountains that fill with rainwater. In the early 1990s, someone thought it would be funny to put the cast iron bathtub at the bogus location. And there it's remained ever since.

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[Major Colorado River water user floats Arizona drought plan](#)

[By Felicia Fonseca, The San Luis Obispo Tribune, 11/15/18](#)

A major Colorado River water user has proposed an interim plan for Arizona as ... determines how much water can be sent to Arizona, Nevada and California ...

Democrats Will Hold Two Whole Days of Hearings on Climate Change

Zoya Teirstein, Grist

Teirstein writes: "Representative-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez joined 150 young activists crowded into Nancy Pelosi's office on Tuesday for a sit-in. Their goal? To get Pelosi, who hopes to become the next Speaker of the House, to commit to what they consider a 'real' climate agenda. They're pushing for something that was part of Ocasio-Cortez's platform: a Green New Deal." [READ MORE](#)

A Historic Number of Native American Women Are Running for Office: 'We're Helping to Clear a Path' Nov 17, 2018 7:01 PM

<https://www.elle.com/culture/a20060325/native-american-women-are-running-for-office/>

Historic Wave of Women Candidates Sweep to Power on Guam

JON LETMAN, TRUTHOUT

On November 6, voters in the US territory of Guam elected their first female governor, first openly gay lieutenant governor and a 15-person legislature in which 10 senators are women. Newly elected officials are aiming to address the territory's status as a US colony and the terms of US military presence, while tackling many ongoing problems, including health care and climate change. [Read the Article →](#)

Robert D. Gibson: First African American To Receive The Remington Medal, Pharmacy's Highest Honor

Posted by [storyteller](#) - November 14, 2018 -

In 2006, Robert D. Gibson was awarded pharmacy's highest honor, the Remington Medal, making him the first African-American to receive it. Gibson's career as an educator at the University of California, San Francisco, was hallmarked by his efforts to gain inclusion for all minorities.

While Gibson was a Fulbright Scholar from 1955 through 1957, he worked with graduate students in pharmaceutical chemistry at the College of Pharmacy at Cairo University. In addition to his academic efforts, Gibson was elected the president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in 1984 to 1985 and as president of the APhA from 2000 to 2001. In his Remington address, Gibson said his ancestors were slaves, Cherokee Indian, Creole and Jewish, a fitting recognition of his message of inclusion and dignity.

article found at: www.pharmacypracticenews.com/ViewArticle.aspx?id_id=206&a_id=6657##sthash.oBvxSJrY.dpuf