

# INDIGENOUS VISION QUARTERLY

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR INDIGENOUS GUARDIANS

ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2020



## WATER STORIES

THE RELENTLESS EFFORTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE PROTECTING THEIR SIGNIFICANT PLACES FROM DESTRUCTION.

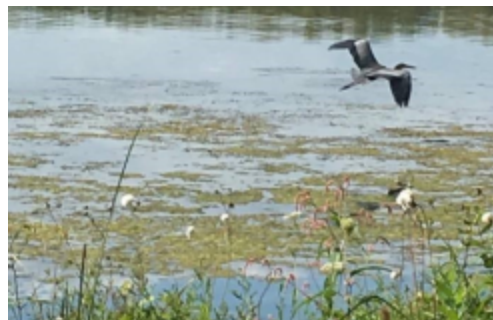
### GRASSY NARROWS, Ontario, Canada

First Nations in Ontario Canada have been exposed to harmful levels of mercury contamination in the Wabigoon River system. This is a direct result from Reed Paper dumping mercury upstream of the communities nearly six decades ago. The impact to the health of the community is alarming and the impact to cultural practices and traditional food systems has had an equally dismal impact. In June, the province of Ontario committed \$85 million to clean up the gross neglect. Work was promised to begin in 2018. As of November 2019 Sol Mamakwa, the NDP's Kiiwetinoong MPP and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Critic, told the provincial government to provide support for the Grassy Narrows community, and the clean-up of mercury in the English and Wabigoon River system.



### ONONDAGA LAKE, Syracuse, New York

Dubbed the most polluted lake in America, Onondaga Lake is traditional land of the People of the Hills, or the Onondaga Nation. This sacred lake was rich with longhouses and cabins until George Washington ordered troops in 1779 to attack the village men, women, and children and burn more than 8 miles of villages and crops. Soda ash production began in 1884 a substance used to make glass, chemicals, detergents, and paper. Byproducts of mercury, chlorine and other chemical waste was dumped directly into the lake. Throughout the Industrial Revolution destruction rippled through the ecosystem unregulated until the EPA was created in 1970.



Swimming was banned in 1920 and 74 years later the lake was designated a Superfund site. Honeywell, predecessor of past companies responsible of dumping, agreed to partial cleanup of the lake and has dredged 2.2 million cubic yards of toxic lake-bottom, capping it with 3 million cubic yards of sand. Honeywell claims the clean-up is a success and that the lake will restore to its natural beauty and value.

The Onondaga Nation sees it differently. They are standing strong in defense and demand nothing less than full cleanup of the lake and restoration of its shorelines. Newer threats increase daily with the discharge of effluent wastewater containing pharmaceuticals. Some reports show 20% of the water flowing into the lake comes from the county water treatment plant.

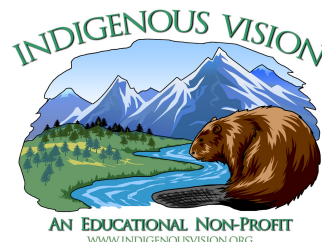
### GREAT READS INSIDE:

- WATER STORIES
- BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST TODAY!
- IVMUSIC
- LIFE SPA 2019
- EQUITY TRAINING: CULTURAL HUMILITY CONCEPTS, PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES
- TRIBAL NONENROLLMENT
- OUTREACH & NETWORKING
- CALENDAR

[www.indigenosvision.org](http://www.indigenosvision.org)

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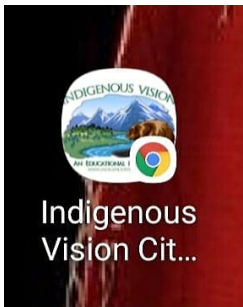
[info@indigenousvision.org](mailto:info@indigenousvision.org)



# Indigenous Vision Launches First Native-Led Citizen Science Project

We've launched our mobile web tool and now you can assist in recording, documenting, and monitoring the impacts of injustice experienced by the land and people! The Indigenous Vision justice mapping project puts data into the hands of Indigenous people concerned about protecting land and water. The project empowers individuals with a tool (their own cellphone) to report, document, and monitor incidents of environmental and social injustices in and around communities and ancestral lands. This project provides an opportunity to look at the big picture of individual and combined injustices like mining extraction, pipelines, dams, agricultural wastewater runoff, industrial activities, and the presence of pharmaceuticals. Our national project is open to all people concerned about inclusive historical education, environment, justice, health and Indigenous rights. The map also identifies and supports Indigenous-led environmental and cultural resiliency efforts in food justice, reproductive justice, alternative energy projects, and activities that empower health and culture. [Explore what's in your own backyard here!](#)

## Become a Guardian today!



Pin the **"submit a report"** website to your phone's desktop.

Follow reporting form instructions to upload sites to the map. Tag us in your map work!

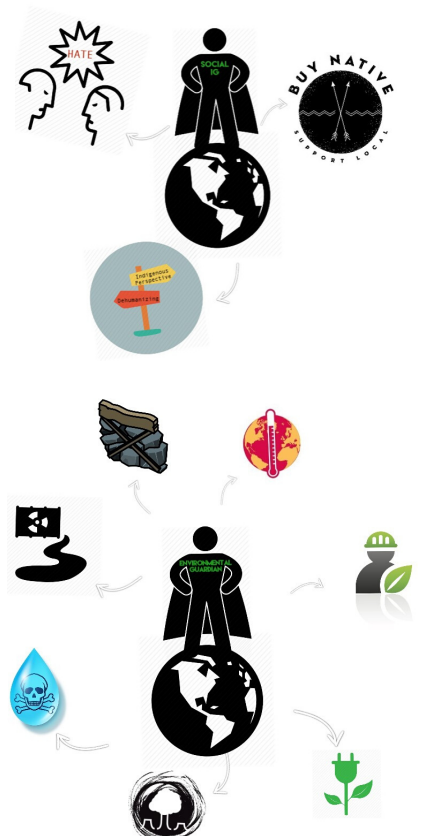
[www.indigenousvision.org/submitreport](http://www.indigenousvision.org/submitreport)



2017 ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) held by Indigenous Nations was accumulated through generations of people observing interactions and effect within their landscapes. In a sense, Indigenous people have always practiced citizen science. The citizen science approach to justice mapping was chosen because of the extent of destruction across the land and the unknown cumulative impacts on human health and the ability to practice our environment-based cultures. This is an extensive citizen science project to explore the impacts on plants, animals, land, and culture of Indigenous people. Indigenous people are 5% of the world's global population, yet the land we steward protects 80% of the world's biodiversity. More than ever Indigenous people and the land have been under attack from aggressive resource extraction and climate change impacts. We are living through the 6th largest mass extinction event in the history of the world. It is the job of everyone to ensure that Indigenous people and our Traditional Ecological Knowledge is honored and protected.

The violence towards the land is mirrored in the violence against the people. The social injustice aspects of the map will provide education and awareness for tribal and municipal leaders by providing a broad visual of all violence encountered and where the worst violence is being experienced. It is time for everyone to take a stand, to document, monitor, and make data available to assist in our decision making.





IVMusic is dedicated to celebrating and reinforcing Indigenous presence in the music industry. IVMusic is a celebration of the musical talents of Indigenous Artists who are featured from every direction, in all genres. [Find your favorite playlist here!](#) **Submit your music to be featured on our next episode!** Email music to [info@indigenouvision.org](mailto:info@indigenouvision.org)



**14.3K**

Total plays!

**128 Episodes**

New episodes uploaded monthly!

**Top Countries**

United States	9,313
Canada	1,099
Australia	281

**Top Cities**

Honolulu	1,795
Phoenix	623
Los Angeles	473

**Start listening today!**  
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**L.I.F.E. Spa 2019 Review  
 LIVING INDIGENOUS &  
 FOSTERING EMPOWERMENT**



**Betty Cooper (Blackfoot)**  
 2019 Montana Mother of the Year  
 & LIFE Spa 2019 Grandma

"On the shores of Flathead Lake, 11 teenage Indigenous women sensed a call from their ancestors to reach out for healing of their broken and pained hearts. The campfire spot where the young women spent much of their four days was the home of a bald eagle couple that showed no reserve to shake a few feathers above them and drop a blessing down while stories were shared. Rustic old cabins encircled by an ambiance of calmness and joy was the picture-perfect setting for mind, body and spirit care. With the love of "aunties," a "grandma," and an Indigenous music video production team, the nearly dozen young ladies aged 11 to 17 found their voice and confidence to soar above the suffering they come to battle in their young lives."

"The kindled love, lifetime relationships and healing happened at the four-day weekend LIFE Spa held at the United Methodist campgrounds in Rollins on June 13 – 16. "As Native people we're all processing historical trauma to some extent and every small effort can make a difference in promoting healing and community well-being," said Indigenous Vision founder and executive director Souta Calling Last (Blackfeet/Blood)."

**Click here to read more about LIFE Spa 2019 in the Char-koosta News feature by Lailani Upham July 11, 2019**



**CLICK PHOTO ABOVE TO WATCH LIFE Spa 2019 Music video**

# Equity Training: Cultural Humility Concepts, Principles & Practices



Indigenous people live in a complex multicultural world. Within Indigenous nations there are sub-cultures, societal practices, clans, and families that all influence the identity of an average Indigenous person. Unfortunately, American Indian education in our school system is generally minimal and often untrue which leads to lifelong biases that are harmful towards Indigenous communities.

Our equity training focuses on understanding and applying the concepts, principles, and practices of cultural humility to build trustful partnerships with individuals, families, and communities by creating a safe and positive place to learn from one another in group dialogue on issues surrounding identity, culture, race, power and privilege, and more. The cultural humility model replaces the insufficient notion of "cultural competence" with a cyclical approach that embraces critical self-reflection as a lifelong learning process to create a broader, more inclusive view of the world. Book your training today! All proceeds go to the Indigenous Vision Justice Map Project.

Learn more at [www.indigenousvision.org/equity-training](http://www.indigenousvision.org/equity-training)

## Identity Crisis: Tribal Nonenrollment & Its Consequences for Children

[Click here to Watch The Video and  
Get The Action Guide](#)

On July 23, 2019, Indigenous Vision joined the [EmbraceRace.org](http://EmbraceRace.org) community for a webinar conversation on how a growing number of children across the U.S. and Canada born to Indigenous parents who are not being enrolled as "tribal members" because they are not eligible under blood quantum requirements. Lacking the documentation of their membership in a state or federally recognized Indian tribe, this generation of "Paperless Indians" are also not eligible for a wide range of tribal government services - from health care, housing, and jobs to hunting and fishing rights, religious protections and much more. Widespread non-enrollment of Indigenous children contributes to a widespread identity crisis among native youth, and raises the question of whether independent, sovereign Indigenous nations will survive into the next seven generations or be completely dissolved and assimilated into American society.

### Building inclusive communities and strong Indigenous youth.

At Indigenous Vision, we work to revitalize Indigenous Communities by providing educational resources through quality programs that promote well-being. We work a lot with Indigenous youth, among whom suicide has reached epidemic levels. In our experience and according to the research, culturally affirming approaches to youth development saves lives.

Misinformation about Indigenous communities is everywhere. These hurtful narratives negatively impact Indigenous youth and their sense of place and purpose. They also perpetuate environments that are hostile to Indigenous communities.

Whether you're an insider or ally, you, too, can support Indigenous youth and communities by challenging the anti-Native narratives that dehumanize and otherwise bring harm to our youth and communities. The following action steps are a great start.

## Calendar

- **Cultural Humility Dialogue: Advocating & Maintaining Institutional Accountability.** January 30, 2020, in Phoenix, AZ. Hosted by the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at the University of Phoenix.
- **Arizona Community Foundation Native American Initiative Summit,** February 26-27, 2020, in Camp Verde, AZ.
- **Guest Lecture at Colorado College,** March 25, 2020, in Colorado Springs, CO.
- **White Privilege Conference,** April 1-4, 2020, in Mesa, AZ

Learn more at [www.indigenousvision.org/ivevents](http://www.indigenousvision.org/ivevents)

**Cultural Humility Dialogue | Institutional Accountability**

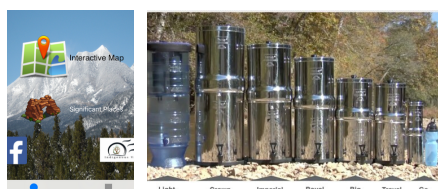
by Indigenous Vision, an educational nonprofit

Follow

**Date And Time**  
Thu, January 30, 2020  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM MST

**Location**  
Free

Register



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