



Laureates:

Mairead Maguire, Ireland (1976)
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala (1992)
Jody Williams, USA (1997)
Shirin Ebadi, Iran (2003)
Wangari Maathai, Kenya (2004)
Aung San Suu Kyi (1991) - Honorary

NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH IDLE NO MORE

January 7, 2013

The Nobel Women's Initiative strongly supports First Nations grassroots activists leading and taking part in the Idle No More movement sweeping across Canada. We stand in solidarity with them, and all Canadians demanding change in how the Canadian government treats First Nation's peoples and communities.

We thank Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence for her tremendous bravery in launching a hunger strike to demand a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Johnston. Chief Spence, who on January 7, entered day 28 of her hunger strike, has provided other First Nations youth, women, and men with a powerful model for non-violent action. Chief Spence's action has catalyzed other Canadians to take positive action.

Since November 2012, grassroots activists have spontaneously organized across the country in demonstrations, flash mobs, and blockades under the banner Idle No More in response to the recent omnibus Bill C-45, introduced by the Canadian government. The bill includes numerous measures that threaten rights of the First Nations, guaranteed by previous treaties, notably by weakening environment protection laws. Prime Minister Harper will hold a "working group" with a delegation of First Nations chiefs on January 11, including Chief Spence who will mark one month on hunger strike. Activists are preparing for a global Day of Action alongside the meeting, to give visibility and show solidarity of the Indigenous peoples movement around the world.

The Nobel Women's Initiative sent a delegation in October 2012, led by Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams, to the tar sands of Alberta and along the planned Northern Gateway pipeline route in British Columbia. The delegation heard first-hand from the women, many from First Nations communities, about concerns with growing development projects in the area.

Women repeatedly voiced their hopes for a sustainable economy based on dignified employment and respect for the environment. Today, many of these women are at the forefront of the Idle No More protests, and we proudly support their leadership

Advocating for peace, justice and equality



Laureates:

Mairead Maguire, Ireland (1976)
Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Guatemala (1992)
Jody Williams, USA (1997)
Shirin Ebadi, Iran (2003)
Leymah Gbowee, Liberia (2011)
Tawakkol Karman, Yemen (2011)



Advocating for peace, justice and equality

430-1 Nicholas Street, Ottawa ON K1N 7B7 Canada T: +1 613 569 8400 F: +1 613 691 1419
www.nobelwomensinitiative.org info@nobelwomensinitiative.org