

## **Idle No More – What’s It About?**

### **What Are Aboriginal People Protesting?**

Aboriginal communities are protesting a group of new or changed federal laws. These new laws will seriously harm Aboriginal rights, and destroy the environment. There was no proper consultation with Aboriginal communities about this legislation. This is part of a larger concern about an ongoing lack of respect by Canada for Aboriginal communities and their rights and issues.

### **What is “Idle No More”?**

Four Aboriginal women started a ‘grassroots’ campaign called “Idle No More” to focus on the above concerns. There are no official leaders for Idle No More. Locally organized protests spread around Canada and the world since early December. Many involve “round-dances” in public places such as malls and major roads. Some block road or rail lines. Most are spontaneously organized using social media including Facebook, Twitter, and blogs.

### **What Does This Have to Do With Chief Theresa Spence?**

Chief Spence of Attawapiskat First Nation started a hunger strike on December 10. Without food for 44 days, she intended to stop when the Prime Minister and the Governor General meet with First Nations leaders to talk about restoring a respectful treaty relationship between Canada and First Nations. This never happened.

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## **Idle No More – What’s It About?**

### **Why Should Non-Aboriginal People Care?**

The proposed legal changes affect us all. The last government budget bills, Bills C-38 and C-45, changed over 100 Canadian laws without normal Parliamentary debate. The changes were rolled into huge ‘omnibus’ bills, totaling almost 1000 pages, involving many nonbudgetary changes, and limiting the Parliamentary debate.

All Canadians should be concerned about this failure of democracy, about the gutting of Canada’s federal environmental laws, and about unjust laws affecting Aboriginal people. “We are all treaty people” – we all benefit from the treaties that opened this country for settlement and we are all responsible for upholding the honour of the treaty relationship.

### **Where Can I Find Out More?**

<http://idlenomore.ca/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/IdleNoMoreCommunity>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idle\\_No\\_More](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idle_No_More)  
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