

Artwork: Mni
Wiconi – Water
is Life by Pete
Railand



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#NODAPL



WATER IS LIFE

Environmental Racism: A Resource Guide

By Jenny Amadi, Angela Ciceron,
Sarah Deckert and Florence Lange

chrr.info/just-waters

Purpose

On September 22, 2025, we met at the Assiniboine and Red Rivers to discuss how Winnipeg's wastewater reflects and perpetuates environmental racism and colonialism. Dr. Kathy Bird spoke about the interconnectedness of the waters and reminded us that what we do to the waters in Winnipeg impacts our neighbours downstream. With profound insight and storytelling, she called us to a deep respect for the waters, both in spirit and in action. Dr. Jocelyn Thorpe shared about the reality of sewage that flows into the rivers not only when pipes break but when we have a heavy rainfall and the combined sewers overflow. Finally, Councillor Brian Mayes brought our attention to the need for federal support for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant upgrades, which would greatly reduce the amount of nutrients that flow into Lake Winnipeg.

This resource guide was created as a starting point for those seeking to learn more about environmental racism.



Videos/Podcasts

The Lake Winnipeg Project Documentary

by Kevin Settee
2021

WATCH

The Lake Winnipeg Project is a four-part documentary series that calls attention to stories of ingenuity and resilience in four diverse communities surrounding Lake Winnipeg, at a time when many external forces are imposing change.

Dakota Water Wars Video Series

by Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
2022

WATCH

The tribes of the Oceti Sakowin are united in the mission to stop the Dakota Access pipeline (DAPL). This series describes the conflict from the point of view of the Native resistance.

There's Something in the Water

by Elliot Page and Ian Daniel
2020

WATCH

Elliot Page returns to his home province in Canada to meet with Black and Indigenous women who are working to end the legacy of environmental racism in Nova Scotia. Based on Ingrid Waldron's book by the same name, *There's Something in the Water* traces the environmental catastrophes that plague remote, low income, and often Indigenous or Black communities.

Hyde Park: A Community's Unrelenting Pursuit for Environmental Justice

by Michelle Hansen
2025

WATCH

In Hyde Park, an African American community in Augusta, Georgia, residents fall ill from industrial contaminants. Surrounded by seven industrial facilities and without funds to relocate, citizens-turned-activists pursue justice with a grit that will inspire thousands of U.S. communities facing environmental racism.

In Whose Backyard?

by the ENRICH Project
2014

WATCH

In Whose Backyard? is a 30-minute documentary film on environmental racism in Nova Scotia that was produced by Pink Dog Productions. The film captures the voices of Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian community members who share their stories and struggles against environmental racism in their communities.

Environmental Racism: A Resource Guide

WATCH

Learn about the beginning of the environmental justice movement in this video segment adapted from *Earthkeeping: Toxic Racism*.

LISTEN

Racism and colonialism are deeply entrenched in the field of ecopolitics. In this episode, hosts Peter Andree & Ryan Katz-Rosene talk with Dr. Andil Gosine, professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University, and Tzazná Miranda Leal, Workers Rights Organizer and Community Artist with Justice For Migrant Workers about the ways in which racism is woven throughout Canadian environmental history and its impacts on Canadian environmental policy and research.



Articles

Clean Water and Reproductive Justice: Lack of Access Harms Women of Color

Grounded in the *Intersections of Our Lives* polling data, this brief focuses on the environmental and reproductive injustices experienced by Black, Latinx, and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities as a result of not having access to clean and affordable water.

Websites & Webpages/ Organizations/News Sources

Unicorn Riot, Environmental Racism Archives

Unicorn Riot is a decentralized, educational non-profit media organization. Unicorn Riot reports underrepresented stories and sheds light on alternative perspectives and systems.

Democracy Now!

- Reporting on Environmental Racism
- Reporting on the Dakota Access Pipeline

Democracy Now! produces a daily, global, independent news hour hosted by award-winning journalists Amy Goodman and Juan González. Reporting includes breaking daily news headlines and in-depth interviews with people on the front lines of the world's most pressing issues. On Democracy Now!, you'll hear a diversity of voices speaking for themselves, providing a unique and sometimes provocative perspective on global events.

The Narwhal

- **'A toxic soup': why a Winnipeg neighbourhood is fighting for its right to a healthy environment**

"We tell stories Canada's big news outlets miss and hustle to help our readers make sense of complex (sometimes downright messy) issues. As a non-profit online magazine, our goal isn't to sell advertising or to please corporate bigwigs — it's to bring evidence-based news and analysis to the surface for our readers."

Great Lakes Now: Waves of Change Series

A digital series highlighting the diverse people and perspectives shaping the environmental justice landscape throughout the Great Lakes.

Environmental racism in Canada: What is it, what are the impacts, and what can we do about it?

Ecojustice spoke with Beze Gray, an Anishnaabe land/water protector from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, about environmental racism in Canada, how it impacts their community, and what our government needs to do about it. Beze is [one of seven young people suing the Doug Ford government](#) for weakening Ontario's 2030 climate target.

Water is life: Indigenous communities confront environmental racism by the Canadian Union of Public Employees

Fact sheet on the connections between water, environmental racism, and Indigenous communities.

Flooding forced my family to leave by Kelly-Anne Riess

[The Flatlander](#) teamed up with [The Resolve](#), a great Canadian journalism outlet that aims to amplify the voices and stories of Black, Indigenous, & people of colour (BIPOC) to look at environmental racism.

Art

Justseeds Artists' Cooperative: We Are the Storm and other projects

With members working from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, Justseeds operates both as a unified collaboration of similarly minded printmakers and as a loose collection of creative individuals with unique viewpoints and working methods. We believe in the transformative power of personal expression in concert with collective action.

Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio

Ricardo Levins Morales is an artist and organizer based in Minneapolis. He uses his art as a form of political medicine to support individual and collective healing from the injuries and ongoing reality of oppression.



Art Against Racism, Earth Song Refrain: BIPOC Artists on the Climate and Environment (2023-2024) Gallery

This exhibition presents the perspectives of visual artists and poets of color on the climate crisis and environmental challenges threatening the Earth's health.

Internet image search: #NoDAPL and Stop Line 3 art

Do an Internet search for Indigenous and protest art emerging from the #NoDAPL and Stop Line 3 resistance camps and efforts. Notable artists include Christi Belcourt & Isaac Murdoch (Onaman Collective), Charles Rencountre, Jim Denomie, and Dio Cramer (Spill Paint, Not Oil Collective).

Cannupa Hanska Luger, The Mirror Shield Project

The Mirror Shield Project was initiated in support for the Water Protectors as Oceti Sakowin camp near Standing Rock, ND in 2016. Artist Cannupa Hanska Luger created a tutorial video shared on social media inviting folks to create mirrored shields for use in onsite frontline actions. People from across the Nation created and sent these shields to the Water Protectors.

Books

► ***To Be A Water Protector: The Rise of the Wiindigoo Slayers***
By Winona LaDuke (Fernwood Publishing, 2020)

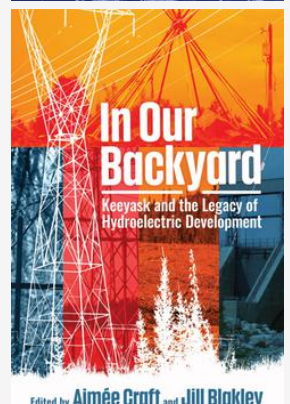
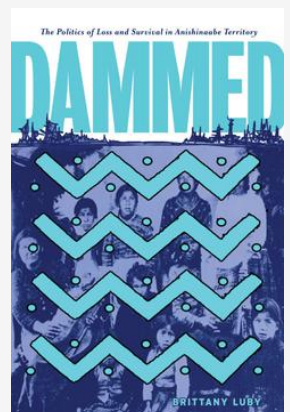
Winona LaDuke is a leader in cultural-based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy, sustainable food systems and Indigenous rights. Her new book, *To Be a Water Protector: Rise of the Wiindigoo Slayers*, is an expansive, provocative engagement with issues that have been central to her many years of activism.

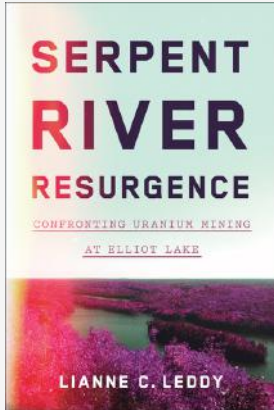
► ***Dammed: The Politics of Loss and Survival in Anishinaabe Territory***
By Brittany Luby (University of Manitoba Press, 2020)

Dammed explores Canada's hydroelectric boom in the Lake of the Woods area. It complicates narratives of increasing affluence in postwar Canada, revealing that the inverse was true for Indigenous communities along the Winnipeg River.

► ***In Our Backyard: Keeyask and the Legacy of Hydroelectric Development***
Edited by Aimee Craft and Jill Blakely (University of Manitoba Press, 2022)

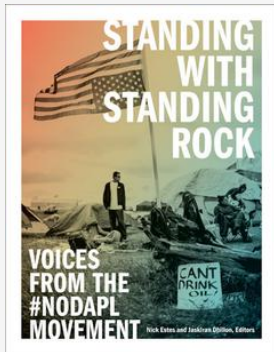
In Our Backyard tells the story of the Keeyask dam and accompanying development on the Nelson River from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, academics, scientists, and regulators.





- **Serpent River Resurgence: Confronting Uranium Mining at Elliot Lake**
By Liane C. Leddy (University of Toronto Press, 2022)

Focusing on the impacts of uranium mining at Elliot Lake, Ontario, this book examines how the forces of the Cold War and settler colonialism shaped the lives of the Serpent River Anishinaabek in the second half of the twentieth century.



- **“They Took Our Footprint Out of The Ground:” An Interview with LaDonna Bravebull Allard,**
in *Standing with Standing Rock: Voices from the #NoDAPL Movement*
By Nick Estes (University of Minnesota Press, 2019)

Through poetry and prose, essays, photography, interviews, and polemical interventions, the contributors to *Standing with Standing Rock*, including leaders of the Standing Rock movement, reflect on Indigenous history and politics and on the movement’s significance. Their work challenges our understanding of colonial history not simply as “lessons learned” but as essential guideposts for current and future activism.

Mental Health Resource

How to Avoid Overwhelm as an Eco-conscious Person With Kristina Hunter

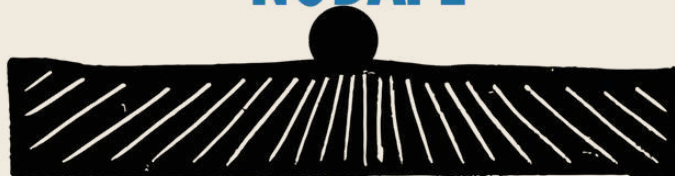
Feeling overwhelmed with the enormity of the environmental and social crises that we are facing is completely justified. The words eco-anxiety and climate grief have become part of our everyday language. But the problem with these feelings of being overwhelmed is that they can keep us from taking meaningful action. We feel like we are spinning our wheels trying to do it all and that it is never enough. Let’s look at evidence-based approaches to get us past the overwhelm and make a real impact, with tangible takeaways that you can implement right away. This means that we can create the future that we want for the next generation, and for ourselves!

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