



RAVEN



ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION

RESTORING THE RIVER, RESTORING JUSTICE

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) is taking legal action to hold the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) accountable for toxic tailings spills that have contaminated key areas of their traditional territory, including the Firebag River Corridor – a clear violation of the Treaty 8 agreement, and a disruption to their ability to assert sovereignty and practice Dene law on their land.

ACT IN SOLIDARITY WITH ACFN AS THEY UPHOLD THEIR TREATY AND INHERENT RIGHTS



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For nine months, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) concealed information from ACFN about toxic tailings discharges from the Kearl Oil Sands facility. From May 2022 to November 2023, there were three uncontrolled discharges of industrial wastewater at the Kearl Facility, resulting in over 5.3 million liters of tailings and 670,000 liters of other contaminated water being released in the ACFN's territory. Despite knowing about the ongoing tailings discharges for those nine months, the AER failed to notify ACFN or take adequate action to mitigate harm. Throughout that time, families hunted, fished, and harvested on poisoned land and water. Not only are the AER's actions negligible, they are a betrayal of Treaty 8 and a violation of Dene law. Now, ACFN is holding the AER accountable in court. The ACFN isn't only relying on s. 35 rights to hold AER to account, they are also bringing claims of negligence and nuisance, private law claims that, if successful, will help establish private law avenues for Indigenous Nations to seek redress for regulatory negligence. They are demanding justice for the harms caused by toxic spills and accountability from the regulators who failed to act in good relations with the ACFN and the territories they steward. A legal challenge like this has the potential to see real transformative change and movement towards redress

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NATION IN ACCESSING JUSTICE**

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