



Water is Sacred.  
Water is Life.

Keepers of the Athabasca Watershed Council  
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Greetings from the Keepers of the Athabasca,

We write to acknowledge and thank the Safe Drinking Water Foundation (SDWF) and their Advanced Aboriginal Water Treatment Team (AAWTT) for their support in arranging for Tony Steinhauer, the Waterkeeper at Saddle Lake Cree Nation, to so generously share their important pioneering work in natural drinking water filtration. Their research into water treatment systems has established a nonchemical and safe alternative for saving our waters and protecting our health.

The Keepers of the Athabasca were very fortunate to be able to have had Tony join us on our Athabasca Basin Community Tour and speak to community water treatment staff, councilors, Elders and citizens at Driftpile FN, Athabasca Town and Calling Lake/Bigstone FN. His wonderful Power Point presentations and conversations taught us much about the problems with conventional chemical systems and how Saddle Lake has struggled and succeeded in developing a natural, nontoxic alternative which other communities can learn from and emulate.

The Keepers of the Water, an Arctic/Mackenzie Basin Alliance of FNs, Metis, Inuit and other citizens concerned about our water and watersheds met for their third annual gathering at Ft. Chipewyan Aug 13-17, 2008. Elders and leaders from all over the Basin gathered to share traditional wisdom and knowledge and other science information and to develop plans for protecting and restoring our water, livelihoods and lands. Clean drinking water for humans and all other living things is an important aspect of this and we very much appreciated that Tony was able to share his messages of Saddle Lake Cree Nation water system and of the Safe Drinking Water Foundation [SDWF]. He presented to the plenary, to drinking water specialists and participated with the Elders Gathering.

We are a developing volunteer alliance with very limited resources at present. We depend on the SDWF and the AAWTT for their services and look forward to the development of their new project: A Community Framework for Safe Drinking Water. Their good work in pioneering natural water restoration is important to all and we thank you again for any support you might be able to give to allow SDWF and the AAWTT to continue spreading this hope for us all. As you will know providing quality drinking water for Aboriginal and other small communities is a big challenge. Saddle Lake's (and other Aboriginal communities helped by the SDWF) model needs to be shared with the world.

Kindest Regards,

Harvey Scott, CoChair, Keepers of the Athabasca