

# GLOBE AND MAIL

Toronto, Saturday, December 31, 1994

C A N A D A ' S  
N E W S P A P E R .  
N A T I O N A L



D. B. JOHNSON/Los Angeles Times Syndicate

## Honour the treaties signed by the natives

What what I have learned on this sacred mother earth is that the people everywhere are becoming very weak in their minds and very cold in their hearts. Native elders are saying that we must stay strong by keeping our traditional culture alive; that means living our sacred ways as much as possible. Our chiefs, clan mothers and people are continually being disrespected, ignored and exploited; there are no words to count or calculate how much destruction has been done to us or to mother earth now.

Today the so-called geniuses and engineers have decided to make more elaborate laws, policies and rules to profit from this sacred mother earth. Free trade, GATT and broken treaties are the works of so-called educated economists and graduates. As the world crisis escalates with problems such as acid rain, ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, AIDS and overpopulation, how can these problems not be addressed before human energy is wasted on short-term profit?

The earth economy is once more neglected by ignorant engineers and intellectuals who have no concern or any real understanding for the earth or for our children. If the real earth knowledge and real earth management is ignored any longer, then the survival of our children's future is at risk. The indigenous peoples of the world have been continually exploited, ignored, raped and controlled. Until the earth community learns to respect, listen to and learn

from the indigenous knowledge, the world will be missing the most important link for survival if survival is to be taken seriously.

The Mohawk and other native nations fought alongside the British in the 18th century to make Canada free from the United States. It was the Crown that signed sacred treaties for non-taxation for natives in return for the use of their land. It is illegal for Canada to violate sacred treaties.

How long will it take these so-called educated graduates to see where their time and energy belongs? I feel terrible for the little ones who will have to suffer from the consequences of ignorance and greed. Maybe one day in North America sacred treaties will be honoured. Maybe one day natives in Canada will live with respect and not have to fight for their basic human rights. Maybe one day all the rich will pay their fair share of taxes so that the poor and native people are able to live with food, shelter and peace.

When Europeans came to America they were treated kindly and generously — it says so in Columbus's diary. Why hasn't this same respect been returned? We must put our minds together now to create peace. We must not create more pain on this sacred mother earth for our future generations.

Danny Beaton  
Turtle Clan Mohawk  
Six Nations, Toronto