

## FIRST NATIONS ACROSS CANADA LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST TD BANK'S ROLE IN FINANCING THE KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE

For immediate release

**March 10, 2017, Montreal/Vancouver** – As the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other Indigenous Nations and grassroots leaders marched on Washington today, First Nation leaders and allies in Canada rallied in front of TD Bank locations in Montreal (Mohawk Territory) and Vancouver (Coast Salish Territory) to oppose the bank's leading role in helping to finance the Dakota Access and Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Expansion oil pipelines. The rallies marked the launch of a new campaign by the [Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion](#), with more than 100 Nations across Canada, to pressure TD to end its involvement in the two pipeline projects. This is in line with the campaign by opponents of the Dakota Access pipeline to pressure banks and investors to divest from the project, including recently convincing the city of Seattle to divest \$3 billion from Wells Fargo over its pipeline loan.

“Christy Clark and Justin Trudeau's misguided attempts to push the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion through the territories of opposing First Nations will represent the most egregious error of their collective careers. We will ensure that the banks supporting these projects share the enormous risk and growing liability cost of trying to run roughshod over the Title and Rights of Indigenous peoples,” said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC).

First Nation leaders who are part of the Treaty Alliance will be seeking a meeting with top executives at TD to try to persuade them to end their involvement in both pipelines. First Nations will also be holding rallies, special events and gatherings over the coming months to encourage Canadians, municipalities and companies to stop doing business with TD until such time as TD stops to stop acting as an agent for Kinder Morgan in helping the beleaguered company seek financial backing. First Nations will also be seeking an end to the \$365 million loan that TD has provided to finance the Dakota Access pipeline project.

“We're rallying today on the same day as Standing Rock because no matter what happens with the Dakota Access pipeline, that movement born in Standing Rock of Indigenous People asserting themselves and allying together to protect their waters and their lands is alive and well and making its presence felt across the world, including through our struggle against Kinder Morgan,” said Chief Judy Wilson of Neskonlith Indian Band and member of the executive of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

“You can expect opposition all over this country if Kinder Morgan tries to put a shovel in the ground”, added Grand Chief Serge Simon of the Mohawk Council of Kanesatake. “TD and other potential investors in the Trans Mountain Expansion project are going to feel the heat – they are going to be made to see that there are better and easier ways to make money than by poisoning our water, harming the climate and violating our rights.”

122 First Nations and Tribes have now signed the *Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion* stating their official opposition to the expansion of the Alberta tar sands and barring the passage of proposed tar sands pipeline and rail projects, including their associated tanker traffic. The signatories are working collectively to enforce the ban which covers the following pipeline projects, which threaten our water and our coasts and which would fuel catastrophic climate change effects (by making further tar sands expansion possible): Kinder Morgan, Line 3, Keystone XL, Energy East and Northern Gateway, which many of our members stopped long ago.

For more info on the Treaty Alliance, visit our website here:

<http://www.treatyalliance.org/>

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Media inquiries:

Don Bain, Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Phone: 604 684 0231

Grand Chief Serge Simon

Mohawk Council of Kanesatake

Phone: 514 269 9152

Eric Lescarbeau

Climate Convergence Vancouver (organizing partner for Vancouver event)

Phone: 604 442 2312