



Our support for the Beaver Lake Cree Nation

The Co-operative has been championing the cause of the Beaver Lake Cree since February 2009. We see the Beaver Lake Cree's challenge as perhaps one of the best hopes we have to stop tar sands expansion. Here's a run down of our support for the Beaver Lake Cree to date:

As at the end of September 2010, The Co-operative's own donations, its members and customers donations and campaign t-shirt sales had raised over £200,000 for the Beaver Lake Cree's legal fight.

September 2010

Chief Al Lameman and other members of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation visited the UK, as our guests, following their application for a judicial review to protect caribou habitat in northeast Alberta (made possible by Co-operative funded research). Whilst in the UK, we organised a series of events around the country to draw attention to their plight and legal action.

April 2010

'Beaver Lake Cree vs the Tar Sands Monster' t-shirts went on sale via the Toxic Fuels campaign website, The Co-operative's 'Ethics in Action' webpage and New Internationalist magazine's online shop. Designed by world renowned artist Pete Fowler and made to high ethical standards, every penny from their sale goes to the charitable trust set up to support the Beaver lake Cree's legal action, with The Co-operative covering all the production costs.

October 2009

The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments, announced the results of its Toxic Fuels Customer Vote. As a result of the vote, donations were made to charities working to 'support First Nations', 'protect endangered wildlife' and 'inspire UK activism'. Amongst these donations, the RAVEN Trust received a further £23,000 to support the Beaver Lake Cree's legal challenge and the David Suzuki Foundation received £32,000 to fund a wildlife impact assessment within the Beaver Lake Cree's traditional territories. The study will assess the impacts of tar sands developments upon the now endangered Woodland Caribou.

July 2009

The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments organised a press trip to visit the Beaver Lake Cree Nation and Albertan tar sands, with a BBC film crew, the Press Association and Ecologist magazine. The trip also attracted a great deal of press attention in Canada for the Beaver Lake Cree's plight. At their annual pow-wow we announced the first donation (\$100,000 or £53,000) to a new charitable trust set up to support their legal case (the RAVEN Trust).

February 2009

Chief Al Lameman and other senior members of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation visited the UK, as our guests, to highlight their plight and help support the launch of our Toxic Fuels campaign. At the launch, The Co-operative Bank, Insurance and Investments announced a donation of £50,000 to fund the filming of elder depositions, which will document the Beaver Lake Cree's traditional way of life and the impacts tar sands developments are having upon the Cree and their ancestral lands. Some of the resulting video will be used in court and some on this campaign website, and they will also act as a historical record documenting a culture and a community under threat.



The Co-operative has every confidence that the Beaver Lake Cree will eventually win their legal action, but they need as much support as possible to make this happen. [Donate now.](#)

Related links:

- [Beaver Lake Cree Nation](#)
- [RAVEN Trust](#)
- [David Susuki Foundation](#)