

CREATE H2O AND WATER RIGHTS 2014 SUMMER CONFERENCE

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ADVOCACY FOR FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

- There has been a lack of support in advocating for water/sanitation issues in First Nation communities.
- Could be due to 'small' audience for such issues.
 - Why?
- People have a pre-conceived notion that enough funds have been provided for these issues
- Issues affecting Indigenous people have been normalized in many ways.
- People know about these issues but not willing to donate time or support.

SHANNEN'S DREAM

- The First Nation Child and Family Care Society of Canada has been described to have one of the most successful campaign related to indigenous rights.
- This campaign focuses on all the important issues related to education in First Nation communities.
- The campaign has varied targets from government to children.
- It counters claim that Indigenous people are treated well
- Youth and children heavily involved.
- This has resulted in a case filed with the Human Rights Commission.

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

- **Using elections**

Using upcoming elections as a leverage and talking to MP's about issue.

- **Education Departments**

Using education departments especially elementary and secondary schools. Making children understand the issue through talks

Also working with teacher education programs and giving them a right understanding of the issue.

Working with various student associations in universities

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

- **Churches**

The recent works of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has made a lot of churches leading advocates for first nations issues.

e.g. Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement of Ottawa

- **Media**

Meet with editorial teams of newspapers and television networks to make them understand these issues better.

- Winnipeg Free Press

- Globe and Mail

- Uniter

- APTN

- CBC

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

- **Social Media**

Social media is a great way to create excitement and get messages out there.

The right hashtag can create all the buzz we need.

- Twitter

- Facebook

- Blog Post

ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

- **Advocacy Organisations/Movements**

Allying with liked minded organisations or groups who share the same passion on indigenous rights issues

- Amnesty International
- Assembly of First Nations
- Idle No More
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Island Lake Tribal Council
- Center for Human Rights Research

TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY

- Postcards
- Walks/Protest
- Making of videos
- Plays performed by school children
- Twitter/Facebook

Conclusion

- Advocacy for water/sanitation rights in First Nations faces an uphill battle due to misconceptions
- An advocacy campaign for this issue should be modelled on other successful ones such as Shannen's Dream
- Multiple organizations and movements working on similar issues should work together to raise greater awareness of water rights in First Nations communities.