

# *Water is Life—Protect Water Now!*

INDIGENOUS DECLARATION ON WATER  
JULY 8, 2001, MUSQUEAM TERRITORY

## *As Indigenous Peoples,*

*we raise our voices in solidarity to speak for the protection of water.*

*The Creator placed us on this earth, each in our own sacred and traditional lands, to care for all of creation. We have always governed ourselves as Peoples to ensure the protection and purity of water. We stand united to follow and implement our knowledge, laws and self-determination to preserve water, to preserve life.*

*Our message is clear: Protect Water Now!*

## *As Indigenous Peoples,*

*we recognize, honor, and respect water as a sacred and powerful gift from the Creator.*

*Water, the first living spirit on this earth, gives life to all creation. Water, powerful and pristine, is the lifeblood that sustains life for all peoples, lands and creation. We know that by listening to the songs of the water, all creation will continue to breath. Our knowledge, laws and ways of life teach us to be responsible at all times in caring for this sacred gift that connects all life.*

*In ceremony and as time comes, the water sings. Her songs begin in the tiniest of raindrops, transform to flowing rivers, travel to majestic oceans and thundering clouds and back to earth to begin again.*

*When water is threatened, all living things are threatened.*