Chief Roland Willson, West Moberly First Nations
Aboriginal Peoples and the Future of Water Management in Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta / June 2010

Our chief difficulty was the apprehension that the hunting and fishing privileges were to be restricted. The provision in the treaty under which these privileges are to be treated was explained to the Indians, who admitted that it would be impossible to furnish them with means of hunting and fishing if laws were to be enacted which would make hunting and fishing so restricted as to render it impossible for them to make a livelihood by these pursuits. We had to solemnly assure them that only such laws as were in the interest of the Indians and were found necessary in order to protect the fish and fur-bearing animals would be made, and that they would be as free to hunt and fish after the treaty as they were before the treaty entered into effect.

We assured them that the treaty would not lead to any forced interference with their mode of life, nor would they be placed in a position of any tax, and that there was no fault in their mode of life which the treaty would interfere with.

We have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servants,

D. L. Ross,
J. A. J. McKenna

Indian Treaty Commissioners.
Our Past
Dunne-zza on the Shores of Moberly Lake  My Uncle Don on the Finlay River before it was Flooded

Nonsensical Protection
Contaminated Water for Moose  Clean Water for Industry

PROJECT CONCLUSIONS
1. 7 sumps and 13 flare pits are open and exposed to wildlife.
2. 75% (12 out of 16) sites tested were contaminated.
3. Animals such as moose, deer, elk and bear ingest chemicals out of sumps and flare pits.
4. There is a risk to wildlife of exposure from contamination due to oil & gas activities.
5. Even sites that are not “contaminated” still pose a potential risk to wildlife through long term ingestion of low level compounds such as salts, metals and hydrocarbons.
PRESENT DAY
Oil & Gas Well-Sites in Sites on Treaty 8 Territory

Gulf of Mexico

Out of Sight, Out of Mind
Technology Fails

Pine River Pipeline Oil Spill
Aug 2000
951 m³
200 kms impacted

Significant Adverse Effects
Up to 100,000 Fish Killed
Unknown Amount of Wildlife Killed

RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT
What Happens When They Think No One is Watching
Large Hydroelectric Dams and the Creation of Recreational Opportunities

Boating? Swimming?

Landslides: As Far as the Eye can See

Beachfront Property Dust Storms

The Attachie Landslide in 1973
Building Site C will Intensify current Impacts from WAC Bennett

Not Clean, Not Green
Fish Poisoned with Mercury       My Son’s first Fish

“No Forced Interference”
- Caribou are Threatened
- Grizzly Bears, Buffalo, Mountain Sheep, and Goats are all on their way to being Threatened
- Lake Trout in Moberly Lake are nearly Extirpated
- Oil & Gas has polluted the water and contaminated the Moose
- Edible and Medicinal Plants are killed and ruined by Pesticides
- An Ecosystem-Based Study of the Upper Moberly Watershed demonstrated it’s No Longer Ecologically or Culturally Sustainable
Power Consumption at 2 am
“Waste Not, Want Not”

Our Future
- All living things need water
- Of all Provinces, BC has the most potential for renewable energy development
- Before even considering Site C, a comprehensive cumulative impact assessment must happen
- Making amends for the destruction of our culture and environment that were adversely effected by the WAC Bennett and the Peace Canyon dams

Our Past, Our Future, are all Tied to our Spirituality
Water is the Lifeblood of Every Living Thing