



Press Release

BROCK UNIVERSITY MEDIA ADVISORY

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Brock University experts available for comment on Idle No More campaign

As Idle No More heats up nation-wide, the spotlight is being put on the controversial omnibus legislation Bill C45 and its many implications. The Bill's potential impact on First Nations' treaty rights is among the campaign's most visible concerns.

First Nations, environmentalists, and others are also concerned about Bill C45's impact on the physical environment. They fear changes to legislation - such as the Navigable Waters Protection Act, Fisheries Act and the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act - will water down or eradicate environmental review processes regulating Canada's lakes and rivers, among other things.

Bill C45's passage comes at a time when Minmetals Resources Ltd. - a Chinese state-owned mining company - is negotiating with the Canadian government to set up a massive mining project known as the "Izok Corridor proposal" that would see the draining of four lakes and the construction of open-pit mines, dams, roads, ports and other infrastructure in environmentally-sensitive areas across northern Canada. Many fear that Bill C45 is paving the way for that investment.

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/12/27/izok-corridor-china-arctic_n_2369365.html#slide=676007

For journalists wishing to pursue these angles, Brock University has three experts who can comment on: the Idle No More campaign/First Nations issues and Canada-China relations/foreign policy.

* **Sakoieta Widrick** is a lecturer with the Tecumseh Centre for Aboriginal Research and Education. He is a cultural awareness educator and a traditionalist belonging to the Mohawk Wolf Clan. He can speak on:

- treaty rights
- First Nations-Canadian government relations
- the impact of resource development projects on First Nations communities
- any other issues concerning First Nations

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* **Janet Conway** is a Canada Research Chair in Social Justice who specializes in studying social movements such as the anti-globalization movement and Occupy Wall Street. Her most recent book, *Edges of Global Justice: The World Social Forum and its 'others'* (Routledge 2013), addresses the relations between indigenous people and the anti-globalization movement. She can comment on the Idle No More campaign in areas such as:

- a comparison of this to other social movements, such as Occupy Wall Street, and to indigenous movements in other parts of the world
- the relations between indigenous peoples' movements and other social justice movements
- the use of such a campaign to affect change and its effectiveness so far
- Aboriginal rights in Canada

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* **Charles Burton** is a political science associate professor specializing in comparative politics, government and politics of China, Canada-China relations, and human rights. He has written, and been quoted extensively, in national and international media. He can speak on:

- China's politics and economics
- Canada-China relations
- Chinese investment in Canada
- Canada's foreign policy towards China

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