



## **Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies: Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence**

***A partnership of Native Youth Sexual Health Network and Women's Earth Alliance***

**SUMMARY.** *“Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies: Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence”* is a community-based research and advocacy project aimed at documenting the experiences of Indigenous women, youth and community members whose sexual and reproductive health and rights have been affected by gas and oil development, mining, and pesticides—something known as “environmental violence”. This initiative is a collaboration between the Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN) and Women’s Earth Alliance (WEA).

**THE NEED.** While some research has shown that Indigenous women and youth are generally most “at risk” for sexual and reproductive violence, stories from Indigenous communities reveal a need for more information about the link between these types of violence and the rapid growth of environmentally harmful industries. There is also a need to document the available grassroots and legal advocacy strategies communities can use to address this issue. Over the course of this year-long initiative, NYSHN and WEA will work with Indigenous community members and legal advocates in Canada and the U.S. to conduct interviews, gather testimonies, and document strategies to include in a comprehensive report meant to further grassroots, policy and human rights advocacy efforts.

**OUR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE.** NYSHN and WEA staff will partner together to provide one another—and our communities—with the support, legal/community networks, and resources necessary to shed light on this critical issue and work toward environmental, sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice. *“Violence on the Land, Violence on our Bodies: Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence”* will be available in March 2015.

**The Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN)** is an organization by and for Indigenous youth that works across issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice throughout the United States and Canada

**Women's Earth Alliance** (WEA) promotes clean water, healthy food, protected lands and climate adaptation in impacted communities worldwide through strategic investments in grassroots women's leadership. By allying with grassroots, Indigenous-led organizations in North America, our Advocacy Network aims to increase access to free advocacy tools and resources for environmental justice campaigns to protect sacred lands, traditions and communities in the face of mining, industrial development, climate change and other environmental injustices.

**If you would like to offer your testimony, or other forms of knowledge or service to this initiative, or for more information, please contact:**

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