

---

---

# Dispatch from the Frontlines

— Water Protection and Indigenous  
Resistance and Resurgence Along  
the Athabasca River

---

---

Tabatha Plesuk [plesuk@ualberta.ca](mailto:plesuk@ualberta.ca)  
Kendra Cowley [kcowley@ualberta.ca](mailto:kcowley@ualberta.ca)  
Christina Borys [cborys@ualberta.ca](mailto:cborys@ualberta.ca)

# Introductions



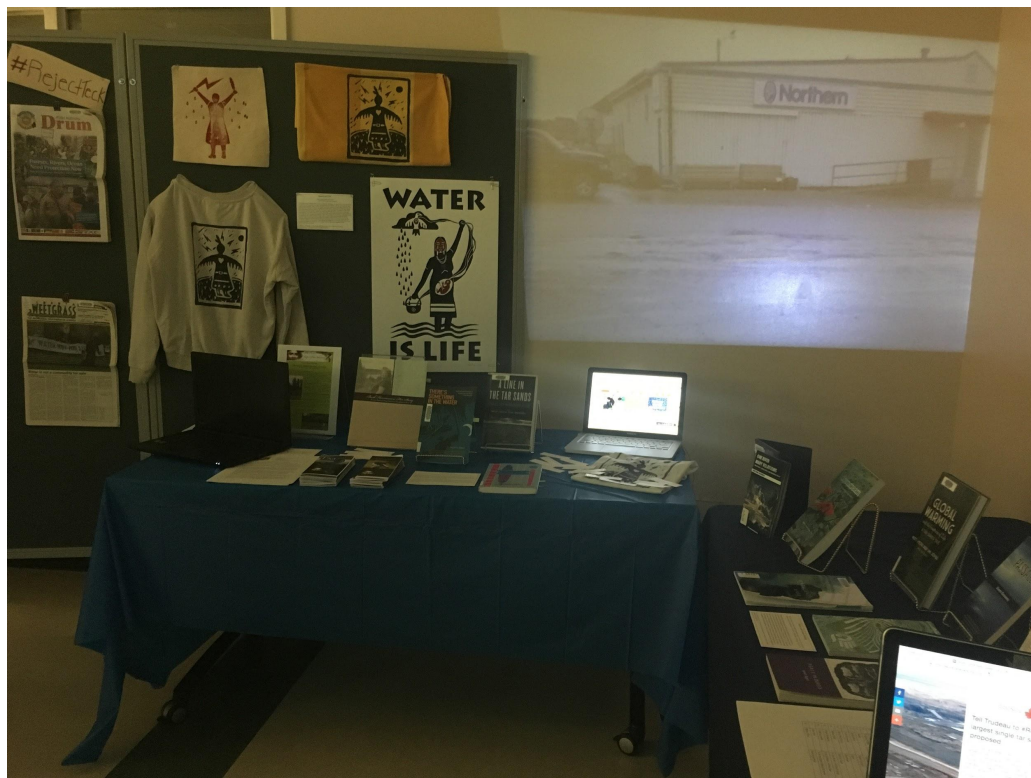
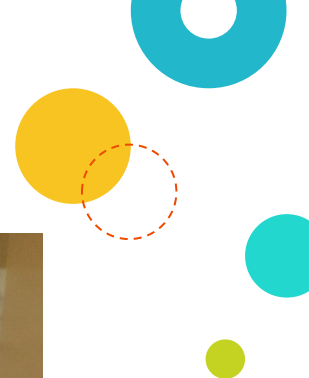
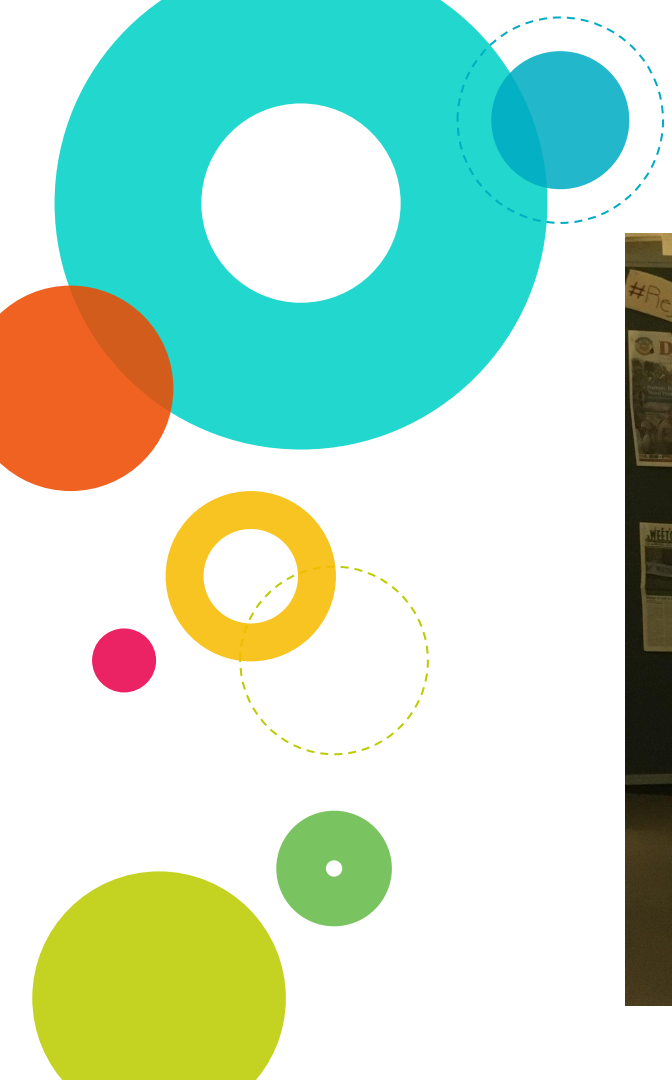
A decorative graphic featuring a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the central text. Various solid-colored circles in shades of teal, lime green, orange, and pink are scattered around the page. Some circles are solid, while others are dashed outlines. A large teal ring is in the top left, and a large yellow ring is in the bottom right.

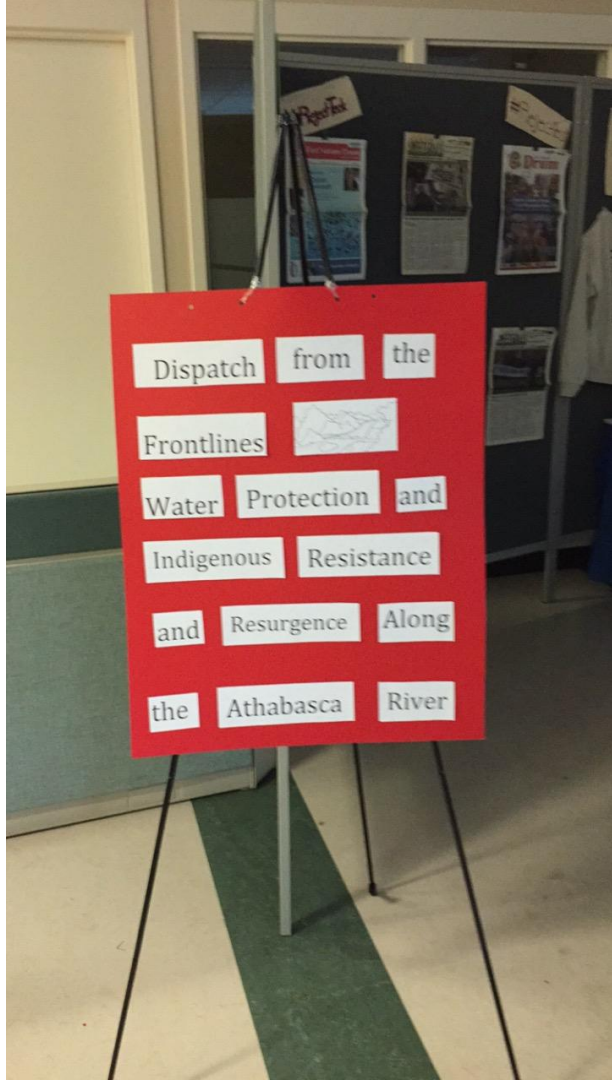
LIS 598 Indigenous  
Contexts for Library and  
Information Studies in  
Canada

The background features a collection of colorful geometric shapes. In the top left, there is a large orange ring with a dashed white inner circle, overlapping a yellow circle. Below it is a small pink circle. In the bottom left, there is a large lime green circle, a small cyan circle, and a small green circle with a dashed white border. In the top center, there is a large, empty dashed light blue circle. In the top right, there is a green circle with a white dot, a small orange circle, and a lime green circle with a dashed white border. In the bottom right, there is a large cyan ring and a cyan circle with a dashed white border.

# Assignment







## Display Summary and Content Groupings

- ◎ Theoretical Texts/ Government Documents
- ◎ Newspapers
- ◎ Poetry/ Music/ Video
- ◎ Art (Banners, Screenprinting, Poster)
- ◎ Activism (Individual and Organizational)

A decorative graphic featuring various colored circles (teal, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink) and dashed lines of different colors (teal, green, yellow) arranged in a circular pattern around the text.

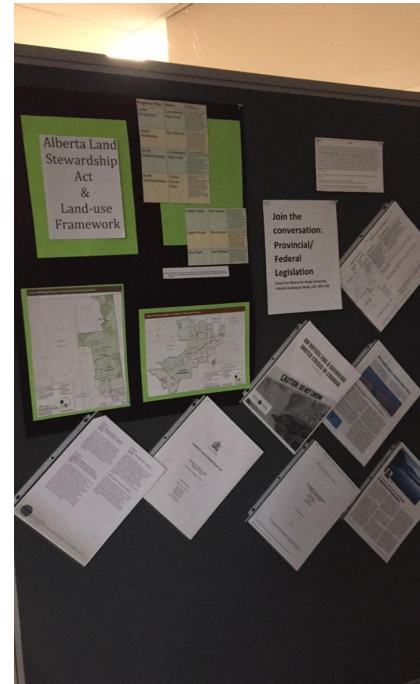
# Theoretical Texts

*“Resurgence decentres colonialism by re-imagining, and re-creating diverse Indigenous worldviews and practices”*  
(Coburn, 2015, p. 32).

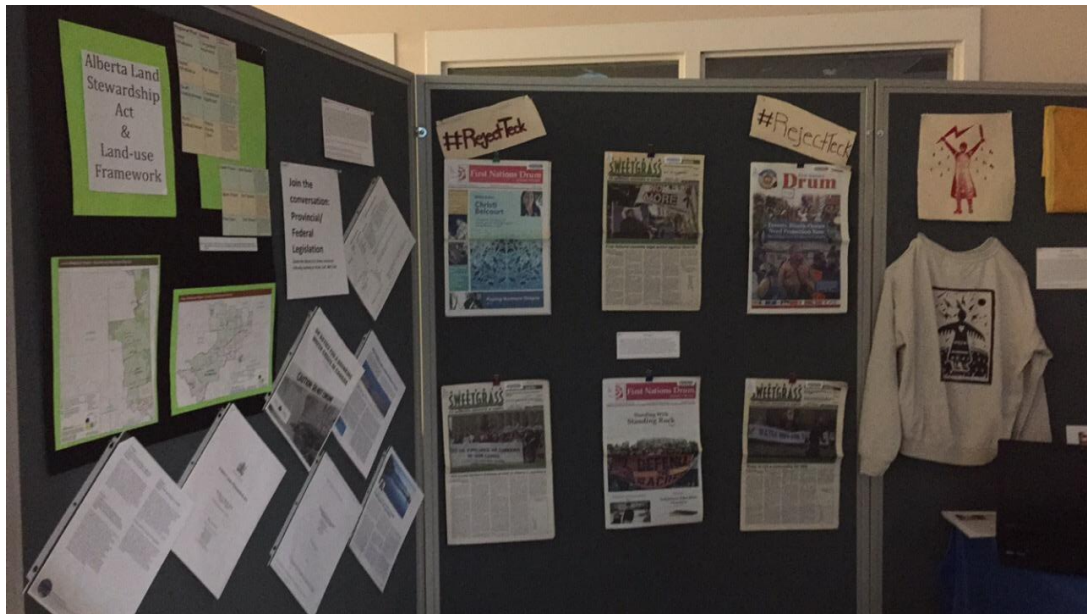


# Government Resources

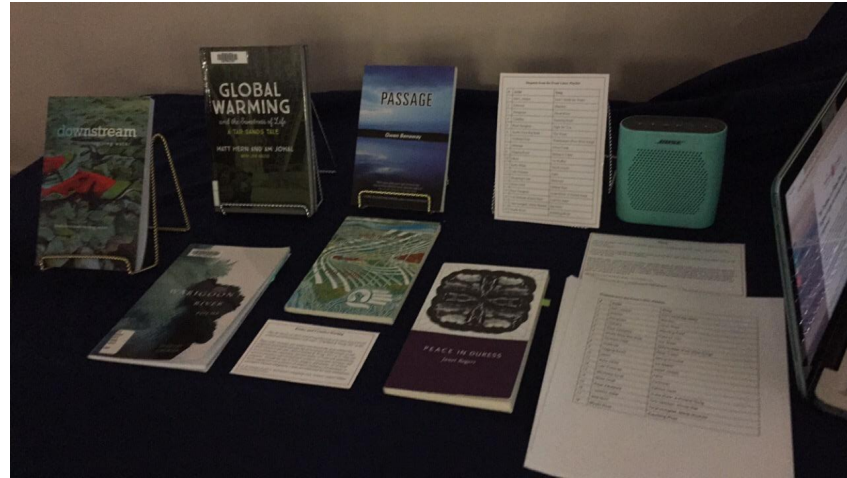
- © Land-use Framework
- © Alberta Land Stewardship Act gave the framework legal effect.
- © Regional Plans
- © Included these documents alongside the critiques of them (from a multiplicity of voices; and encouraged people to join in the conversation)



# Newspapers



# Poetry



*“May the stories we share and tell together help us to move forward with wisdom and determination with water” (Christian & Wong, 2017 p.18)*

# Music

*“Water protectors and like-minds fight crime and let their light shine against companies who want their pipeline, their lifeline for a lifetime”*

-- Def-i & Ariano

| #  | Artist                        | Song                         |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1  | Def-i, Ariano                 | Don't Drink the Water        |
| 2  | Ziibiwan                      | Manitou                      |
| 3  | Shingoose                     | Silver River                 |
| 4  | Uyarakq                       | Standing Rock                |
| 5  | Raye Zaragoza                 | Fight for You                |
| 6  | Snotty Nose Rez Kids          | The Water                    |
| 7  | Northern Cree                 | Waterkeeper (Pow-Wow Song)   |
| 8  | Shawnee                       | Silver Creek                 |
| 9  | Digging Roots                 | Spring to Come               |
| 10 | Iskwe                         | Ice Walker                   |
| 11 | Kelly White                   | Salish (coast)               |
| 12 | Lido Pimienta                 | Agua                         |
| 13 | Mourning Coup                 | Destroyer                    |
| 14 | Mista Chief                   | Salmon Says                  |
| 15 | Raye Zaragoza                 | In the River: A Protest Song |
| 16 | Cris Derksen, Kinnie Starr    | I see/Icy water              |
| 17 | Terje Isungset, Maria Skranes | Sea Horn                     |
| 18 | Mystic River                  | Rambling River               |

# Video



# Art+Banners

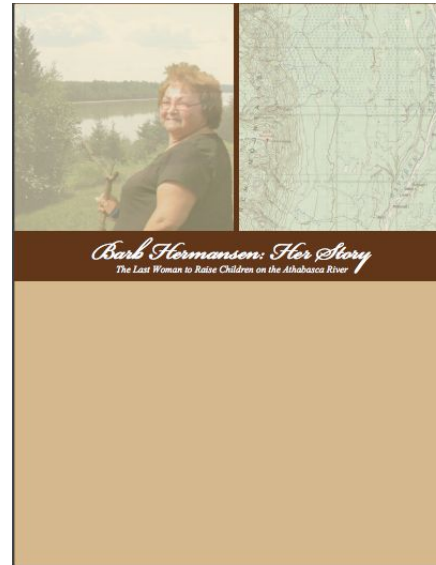
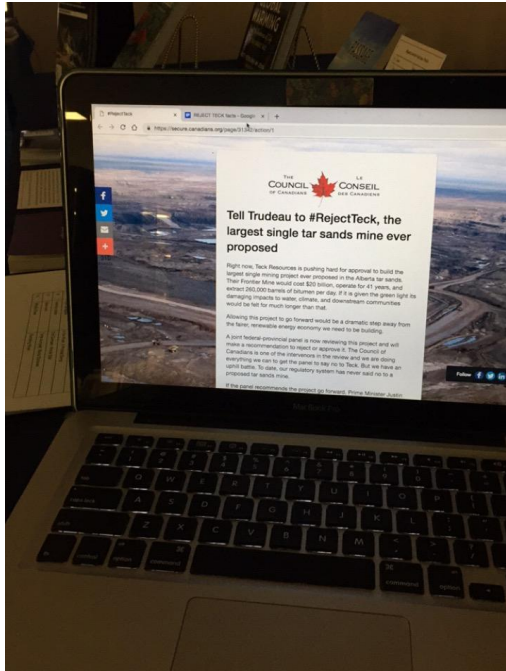
*“Water is life, protect  
the sacred”*

- Christi Belcourt and  
Isaac Murdoch



# Activism

## Individual and Organizational



A decorative graphic consisting of various colored circles (teal, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink) and dashed lines of different colors (teal, green, yellow) arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

# Context

Community Based Approach  
to  
Relationship Building





# Community Based Approach

- ◎ Equitable partnership
- ◎ Shared responsibility
- ◎ Enhance well-being of community members
- ◎ Co-learning

The background features a collection of colorful geometric shapes. In the top left, there is a large orange ring with a dashed white inner circle, overlapping a yellow circle and a small pink circle. In the top right, there is a green circle with a white center, a small orange circle, and a lime green circle with a dashed white border. In the bottom left, there is a lime green circle with a dashed white border, a small cyan circle, and a large lime green circle. In the bottom right, there is a large cyan ring with a white center and a small cyan circle with a dashed white border. A large, light blue dashed circle is centered in the upper half of the page.

# Analysis and Challenges

A decorative graphic featuring a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the central text. The background is white and is adorned with various colorful geometric shapes: a large teal ring in the top left, a smaller teal circle next to it, a large lime green circle in the top right, a smaller green circle overlapping it, a large orange ring in the bottom right, a smaller orange circle next to it, a large green circle in the bottom left, a smaller green circle overlapping it, a large yellow-green circle in the middle left, a smaller yellow-green circle overlapping it, a small orange circle below the yellow-green one, and a small pink circle to the right of the orange ring. The word "Conclusion" is centered in a simple, grey, sans-serif font.

Conclusion

A decorative graphic featuring a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the central text. Scattered around this circle are various solid-colored circles and arcs in shades of green, yellow, orange, red, and teal. Some circles are solid, while others are hollow or have a small white dot in the center. The overall aesthetic is modern and vibrant.

“

*“If you drink water, this is your issue.”*

-- Sylvia McAdams, co-founder of Idle No More, (as cited in Wong, 2017, p. 9)

A decorative graphic consisting of a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the central text. Various colored circles are scattered around the perimeter of this dashed circle. The colors include teal, light blue, yellow-green, lime green, orange, and pink. Some circles are solid, while others are hollow or have a dashed outline. The overall style is modern and playful.

Questions?



## References

Christian, D., Wong, R. (2017). *Downstream: reimagining water*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Coburn, E. (2015). *More will sing their way to freedom: Indigenous resistance and resurgence*. Winnipeg, MB: Fernwood Publishing

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6zsNkWlpCu50QUKFNGJZhB?fbclid=IwAR3e4YuZ8GBGE SCYPNimoZFijDwRPSoDhH527yAotT1d439C7bV3Zt1yzM>.

McLachlan, S. & Tyas, M. (Directors). (2014). *One River Many Relations: The Oil Sands, Environment, and Indigenous Rights* [Motion Picture]. Winnipeg, MB: Environmental Conservation Lab University of Manitoba.