



Indigenous Women's Divestment Delegation - October 2018 Delegations Members

Media Contact:

Emily Arasim – emily@wecaninternational.org

Michelle Cook - divestinvestprotect@gmail.com



Wasté Win Yellowlodge Young (Ihunktowanna/Hunkpapa of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer)

Wasté Win Yellowlodge Young (Ihunktowanna/Hunkpapa) is an enrolled member the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2001 and worked for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office from 2003-2015 including seven years as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Her family was camped at the Očeti Šakowin Camp during the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) protests from August 2017 until February 22nd, when law enforcement and military forcibly removed water protectors. Wasté Win was one of 72 people arrested on February 1st at Crazy Horse's "Last Child Camp" at Očeti Šakowin for peacefully maintaining a physical and spiritual presence on Sioux treaty land. She currently faces criminal charges along with over 700 individuals who were arrested during the six month occupation. Wasté Win is married and has four children and currently resides in the Long Soldier Community on Standing Rock. Mni Wiconi! Water is Life.



Jessi Parfait (United Houma Nation, Graduate student at Louisiana State University exploring impacts of oil and gas on Houma tribal communities)

Jessi Parfait is a graduate student in anthropology at LSU studying the adaptive capacity of her tribe, the United Houma Nation. Before graduate school, she built the tribal archive, digitizing and organizing many of the tribes historical documents for the first time. Her work has taught her a lot about the history of Terrebonne Parish where many tribal members reside and she has become particularly interested with how oil and gas have affected tribal communities.



Tara Houska (Couchiching First Nation Anishinaabe, Tribal attorney, National Campaigns Director of Honor the Earth, and former advisor on Native American affairs to Bernie Sanders)

Tara Houska (Couchiching First Nation Anishinaabe) is a tribal attorney, the National Campaigns Director of Honor the Earth, and a former advisor on Native American affairs to Bernie Sanders. She advocates on behalf of tribal nations at the local and federal levels on a wide range of issues impacting indigenous peoples. She spent six months on the frontlines in North Dakota fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline, and is heavily engaged in the movement to defund fossil fuels and a years-long struggle against Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline. She is a co-founder of Not Your Mascots, a non-profit committed to educating the public about the

harms of stereotyping and promoting positive representation of Native Americans in the public sphere.



Michelle Cook (Diné, Human rights lawyer, and Founder and Co-Director of the Divest, Invest, Protect campaign)

Michelle L. Cook is human rights lawyer born of the Honagháahnii (One Who Walks Around You) Clan of the Diné (Navajo) Nation. She is a current Commissioner on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) Candidate at the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program. Her dissertation concerns the intersections of indigenous human rights, divestment, and gender in the United States. She is also the Founder and Co-director of the Divest, Invest, Protect campaign.



Leoyla Cowboy (Diné, member of the Red Nation, and community organizer for the Water Protector Legal Collective)

Leoyla Cowboy is Diné from the Navajo Nation. As an enrolled tribal member Leoyla stands for Native liberation. She is a member of the Red Nation and a community organizer for the Water Protector Legal Collective that was initiated at Standing Rock during the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline.