

October 2022

HNP

Newsletter



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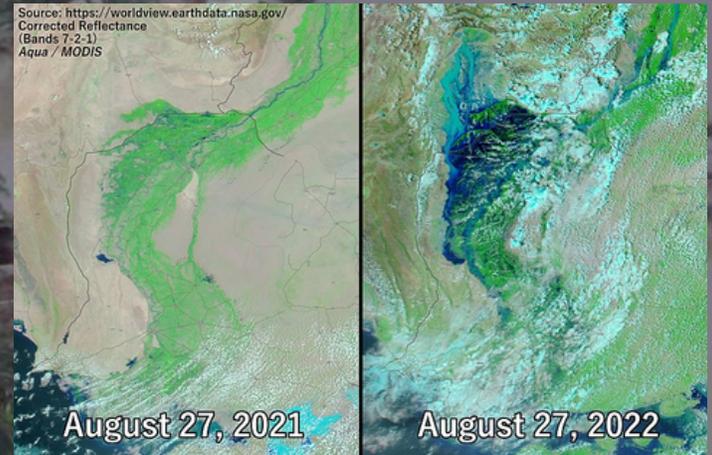
(The Guardian, 2020)

2022 FLOODS OF

PAKISTAN



Pakistan's most dire concerns lately are all related to its recent floods, which have devastated the country, its people, and even its livestock. One-third of the country is reported to be underwater, resulting in damages costing upwards of \$10 billion USD (IRC, 2022). July through September was monsoon season, but the enormous volume of rain in addition to overflowing rivers was too much to contain. The disaster affected over 33 million people, killing thousands and injuring many more (Mallapaty, 2022).



(NASA, 2022)

Atmospheric scientists predict that a heatwave back in April is partially responsible. Glaciers in the Himalayas and Hindu Kush mountain range melted due to high temperatures, and flooded the Indus river, a major waterway touching the entire country (Mallapaty, 2022). Ice dams that once contained lakes had burst, releasing large amounts of water at once. Additionally, heated air retains more moisture, contributing to unprecedented volumes of rainfall. The amount of precipitation during this monsoon season exceeded three times its annual average (IRC, 2022). An underdeveloped drainage system and non-absorbent earth are also making it difficult to remove water, which continues to harm Pakistani infrastructure and propagate disease.



(Khan, 2022)

Despite only contributing to 0.4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan has been disproportionately affected by climate change (Ahmed, 2022).

Severe floods always expose general populations to various types of diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) focuses their concern on the several doctors and healthcare workers that must brace themselves against increasing diseases due to the Pakistan floods (Khan, 2022). For instance, a pediatrician named Sultan Mustafa has treated about six hundred patients at a local clinic in Sindh, an area most impacted by the floods. Most of these patients include women and children with problems such as gastrointestinal infections, malaria, scabies or dengue (Khan, 2022). Aside from the spread of cholera, malaria has been rapidly spreading due to floods as well. Imran Baluch, leader of a government-run hospital, had seventy percent of his three hundred patients test positive for malaria. Diseases such as malaria eventually become involved in other issues such as typhoid fever and skin infections, only worsening as people are forced to wallow in unhygienic conditions (Khan, 2022).



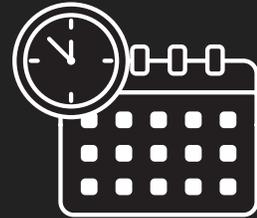
(CBC, 2022)



(Alkhidmat, 2022)

Many sources of relief and funds are being sent to the people of Pakistan. These funds are from the doctors working inside the country to individuals from Canada. Khalid Mushtaq, leader of a team of doctors from the Alkhidmat Foundation and the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association, are treating more than two thousand patients a day. They are donating and supplying items such as water-purification tablets, soaps and other hygiene products (Khan, 2022). The Sindh Health Department has also announced that an astounding number of 2.5 million patients have been treated at varying medical camps across the nation, starting from July 1st to the present day (Khushik, 2022). Statistics by the Sindh Directorate General Health Services report that around 594,241 patients were treated for skin infections, 534,800 for diarrhea, 10,702 for malaria and 1,401 for dengue (Khushik, 2022). Outside relief is also continuing to be supplied, as the Canadian Red Cross has set up accessible services for people to donate money. This includes donating to the Pakistan Floods Appeal through www.redcross.ca or texting PAKISTAN to 20222, automatically enabling \$10 donations (Canadian Red Cross, 2022). These may seem like grand scale numbers but these are the lives of countless individuals, who continue to provide hope for those of us who are worried about the current state of our world.

Community Clean Up



Date: October 16, 2022 (Sunday)

TIME: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM EST

Location: Samuel Connor Pond (Royal West Dr, Brampton, ON L6X 0V4)

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

Noticing litter is a problem is the first step in reducing pollution and creating a greener environment. The next step is to take action. This upcoming Sunday, we will have our second cleanup event at Samuel Connor Pond. Those who wish to participate will receive up to 6 volunteer hours! Participants are also encouraged to bring family and friends on the day of the event. All equipment needed for the cleanup, pizza and additional materials will be provided by HNP! Sign up using the form found in the next page.

Prizes & Sponsors:

\$50 gift card (1) **Mermaid Straw**

30% off coupons with promo code (3) **allBambu**

Rayne Mini bag (1) **La Leur**

\$50 gift card (1) **Wanderruff**



Community Clean Up

SIGN UP FORM

LINK TO SIGN UP:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/CLJBFXAZVIABEZUZ7](https://forms.gle/CLJBFXAZVIABEZUZ7)

QR CODE:



Environmental Struggles



IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



(MUN Gazette, 2022)

INTRODUCTION

As we past the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, we need to recognise the environmental issues that plague Indigenous communities. Environmental issues, such as climate change, pollution and deforestation, threaten Indigenous communities' way of life because of their interdependence on the land and its associated resources which sustain their way of life. These issues can ultimately lead to the “loss of traditional knowledge, disintegrating traditional governance structures and their cultures” as communities have to adapt to new ways of life to because of anthropogenic environmental activities (United Nations, 2022).

Some Indigenous communities are subsistence based, communities that hunt/gather/fish on their lands to meet their needs.

Global warming and climate change risk their livelihoods as environmental changes shift migration patterns, hunting/fishing seasons, and wildlife population levels (UN Environment Programme, 2020). This has lead to severe food crises in Indigenous communities, including First Nations communities in Canada, pushing their members into levels of “food poverty” (Human Rights Watch, 2020).

In Canada, this crisis is in part due to melting ice in the arctic regions, which shortens the hunting seasons for Inuit hunters, affects migration patterns of wildlife, lowers population numbers of wildlife, and increases the dangers of hunting on ice [as it becomes thinner and less stable] (The Guardian, 2018).



(CBC, 2021)

This has impacted the mental health of communities, such as Rigolet in Labrador, as community members turn to drugs and alcohol to cope with the stress and losses of their ways of life. Unfortunately, this has led to increased rates of suicide (The Guardian 2018).

Moreover, Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected by anthropogenic actions such as pollution. This is because the lands on which Indigenous communities hunt, fish, and gather have a disproportionate number of “polluting infrastructures” such as mines, oil pipelines in their communities.

This has had horrifying impacts on Indigenous communities’ health and safety, with unsafe drinking water that impacts access to potable drinking water and personal hygiene; and a wide range of health concerns arising from dangerous levels of pollution, such as “certain cancers, respiratory diseases, high rates of miscarriage, kidney diseases, etc” (Université McGill, 2020).

SPOTLIGHT: AAMJIWNAAG FIRST NATION

Indigenous Peoples are more likely to experience severe pollution in reserves due to lack of sovereignty; First Nations disproportionately suffer from toxic waste exposure. These adversities are negative reflections of Canada’s prioritization of Indigenous Peoples (or lack thereof) and of Canadian environmental racism (CBC, 2022). This is evident in many Indigenous communities including the Aamjiwnaag First Nation near Sarnia, Ontario. It is a prime example of a population exposed to what is referred to as the “Chemical Valley” (read: a conglomeration of petroleum plants and refineries). Ultimately, this phenomenon resulted in grave implications for those residing in the community, including poor air and soil quality alongside infested waterways. Oftentimes, these conditions go ignored by Canadian government officials and undermined or unbroadcasted to the Canadian public because of prejudice—as

opposed to the ever flowing attention and resources sent to non-Indigenous Canadian communities facing environmental crises. Many Indigenous Peoples believe that reconciliation goes beyond recognizing and admitting to historic racism and discrimination but instead actionized solutions. While the National day of Truth and Reconciliation is a monumental day, it does nothing without exercising plans to stop systemic environmental racism. Indigenous Peoples are more likely to experience severe pollution in reserves due to lack of sovereignty; First Nations disproportionately suffer from toxic waste exposure. These adversities are negative reflection of Canada's prioritization of Indigenous Peoples (or lack thereof) and of Canadian environmental racism (CBC, 2022).



(CBC, 2013)

Bill C-230

Bill C-230, a recently implemented piece of legislation protecting those most vulnerable to environmental racism. When introduced, it was the first bill to gather statistical evidence of potential environmental hazards across Canada in order to create connections between race and health impacts. It begs for financial compensation for Indigenous communities suffering from environmental damages as well as advocating for safe drinking water and air. This bill has the potential for great improvements in environmental racism for Indigenous communities across Canada (CBC, 2021).



(CBC, 2021)



(Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada, N.D)

Executive of the Month



congratulations



Kelly Li

Hi! My name is Kelly and I am a Website Manager/Developer for HNP Ontario. I am currently a grade 10 student at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School! In my spare time, I enjoy coding, drawing, and playing video games. I joined HNP to advocate for the environment and make friends!



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Environmental Struggles in Indigenous Communities

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Meet Our Comms Team



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