

Idle No More – Indigenous Activism and Feminism

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The grassroots movement “Idle No More,” although founded and carried by Indigenous women, does not identify as a women’s nor as an indigenous organization but as a movement led by indigenous women. With a basic-democratic approach and intersectional alliances the women successfully generated broad support for their main concerns – protecting the environment and treaty relationships against patriarchal policies of the Canadian government. This movement demonstrates that Indigenous feminism and decolonization complement and foster each other. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2015 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

KEYWORDS: Idle No More, Indigeneity, Decoloniality, Social Movement, Empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

The grassroots movement Idle No More spread over the North American continent like a fire on the prairie. In October 2012 Sheelah McLean, Sylvia McAdam, Nina Wilson and Jessica Gordon, four women from the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, protested the federal omnibus budget bills C-45 and C-31, that would substantially diminish First Nations treaty, sovereignty and land rights. Idle No More locates itself within the framework of Indigenous renaissance, decoloniality and

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