



The Water is Life Alliance was formed at the 2017 Strengthening the Great Lakes Commons Summit, that was held in Flint, MI, USA. Dozens of grassroots nonprofits and tribal nations came together with a common goal of working together to protect the waters throughout the basin. We continue to work together to protect the sacred waters of the Great Lakes Basin and secure the human right to water in all our communities.

Water is Life, and we plan to protect it.

WaterIsLifeAlliance.net

2019 WILA Summit Water Justice in a Climate Emergency

University Community Centre
Western University
Saturday, September 28, 2019

McKellar Room, 3rd Floor

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| 8:00-9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00-9:30 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 9:30-12:30 | Keynote Speeches
Maude Barlow, Honorary Chair, Council of Canadians
Lela Yeyatalunyuha George, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Claire McClinton, Democracy Defense League Water Task Force, Flint, Michigan |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch & Tabling
Maude Barlow Book Signing: <i>Whose Water is It, Anyway?</i> |
| 1:30-2:30 | Water Justice & Climate Change Panel
Keith Brooks, Environmental Defence
Jana Levison, University of Guelph
Lara Treemore Spears, Wayne State University
Deb Hansen, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light |
| 2:30-2:45 | Break |
| 2:45-3:45 | Legal Frameworks for Water Justice
Theresa McClenaghan, Canadian Environmental Law Association
Nick Leonard, Great Lakes Environmental Law Association |
| 3:45-4:00 | Break |
| 4:00-5:00 | Water is Life, Indigenous Speakers Panel
Vanessa Gray, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Edward George, Saugeen First Nation
Lj Denemy, Anishinabe Odawa, & Ojibway |
| 5:00-5:15 | Break |
| 5:15-6:00 | Open Discussion with Speakers, Closing |

The Wave, 2nd Floor

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| 8:00-10:00 | James Gordon's <i>Emergency Climate Musical</i> |
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Maude Barlow is the Honorary Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and chairs the board of the Washington-Based Food and Water Watch. She serves on the executive of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature and is a Councillor with the Hamburg-based World Future Council.

Maude is the recipient of fourteen honorary doctorates and many awards, including the 2005 Right Livelihood Award (known as the “Alternative Nobel”), the 2005 Lannan Foundation Cultural Freedom Fellowship Award, the Citation of Lifetime Achievement at the 2007 Canadian Environmental Awards, the 2009 Earth Day Canada Outstanding Environmental Award, the 2009 Planet in Focus Eco Hero Award, and the 2011 EarthCare Award, the highest international honour of the Sierra Club (US).

In 2008/2009, she served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the UN General Assembly and was a leader in the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the UN. She is the author of dozens of reports and 19 books, including her latest: *Whose Water Is It, Anyway? Taking water protection into public hands.*

Lela Yeyatalunyuha George is from Oneida Nation of the Thames in Southwold, Ontario. She is mohawk wolf clan, and Ojibwe, but she was raised on Oneida and Fort Erie, and currently resides in London, Ontario.

Lela enjoys devoting her time leading rallies and speaking about Indigenous issues, defending our inherent rights, raising awareness about stopping the framework, and our fight for clean water.

Lela also has experience in the role of master of ceremonies.

She is the indigi-con character for Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, raising awareness with their comic book about addictions and public safety.

Most recently Lela is the owner of a blog called www.unbiasedopinion.net where she enjoys writing about real-life issues, her passions, and overcoming her personal obstacles.

In her spare time, she enjoys painting, sewing, and spending time with her child.

Claire McClinton, is a current member of the Democracy Defense League Water Task Force in Flint, Michigan. Her social activism has included advocacy for the homeless and welfare rights. She is a retiree from General Motors and proudly served in various positions at the United Auto Workers Local 659. She was born and raised in Flint, and attended Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Claire often speaks on the Flint water crisis, the dismantling of democracy in Michigan, and the fight for toxic-free and affordable water as a human right.

In addition to speaking about the water crisis in Flint, and in America, Claire discusses how today’s new technology could make a new society possible - a world where life could be better for all.

Keith Brooks is Programs Director at Environmental Defence. His passion for the environment was born in a canoe on the rivers and lakes of Northern Ontario. Keith pursued a Bachelor of Environmental Sciences from the University of Guelph and then worked for a number of years in the environmental consulting field, before enrolling at York University where he earned a Master of Environmental Studies. The move from scientist and consultant to advocate was provoked by the recognition that more science cannot solve the environmental challenge on its own. Our challenge lies not in knowing what must be done, but in doing it. It is this outlook that led Keith to his current role.

Lj Denemy’s presentation Niibi Bimaadziwin Aawan; “Water IS Life” will open your perspective and inspire your curiosity. Journey with Lj from a youth retreat when he was 20, where he received a prophecy that led him through Oceti Sakowin/Standing Rock and on to Cross Village, Michigan, the heart of Turtle Island. Lj reminds us of the importance of water, how water is literally life, how water is medicine, and how connected we are in every way.

Edward George is from Saugeen First Nation who has developed a unique following of people who have watched him travel across the Great Lakes to raise awareness regarding water. Edward is known as a water-walker, as someone who continuously fights and supports water efforts across Turtle Island. As a young person seeking knowledge, Edward shares his perspective on what he believes Indigenous knowledge looks like.

Vanessa Gray and her sister Beze have dedicated themselves to protecting the land and water of Aamjiwnaang, an Indigenous community of 800 residents, from being smothered by Canada's petrochemical industry. The chemicals produced by the 57 petrochemical factories that surround their community are known to have a devastating impact on the health and well-being of residents in both Aamjiwnaang and the surrounding Sarnia-Lambton County. Vanessa and Beze are grassroots organizers, land defenders and educators. They work to decolonize environmental justice research by linking scholarly findings to traditional teachings.

Rev. Deb Hansen is a board member with Michigan Interfaith Power & Light, a small, but mighty organization that connects people of faith in northern Michigan. Deb served on the steering committee for Oil & Water Don't Mix, the campaign to decommission Enbridge's Line 5. She's been active in advocating for a just transition to clean energy and access to clean, affordable water for nearly 10 years. Her work is currently focused on community empowerment, clean energy solutions, and eco-ministry. After working in corporate America for 20 years, Deb served as a hospital chaplain at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit.

Nick Leonard is the Executive Director and lead attorney for the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, a Detroit-based nonprofit that uses the power of the law to help residents throughout the Great Lakes region address environmental issues impacting their health and quality of life. Nick has worked extensively on environmental justice issues, particularly those impacting Southeast Michigan. These issues include air quality, the siting of hazardous waste facilities, and drinking water quality and affordability.

Jana Levison is a professional engineer, with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering (environmental option) and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (focus: anthropogenic impacts on fractured bedrock aquifers) from Queen's University. She is an Associate Professor in the School of Engineering (Water Resources Engineering and G360 Institute of Groundwater Research) at the University of Guelph. Dr. Levison is conducting novel research related to agricultural and climate change impacts on groundwater quality and quantity.

Theresa McClenaghan is the Executive Director and Counsel at the Canadian Environmental Law Association. She holds an LL.B. from Western and an LL.M. in constitutional law from Osgoode as well as a diploma in Environmental Health from McMaster. She was called to the Bars of Manitoba and Ontario and focuses on environmental health and safety, particularly in the areas of energy and water. Theresa has practiced public interest environmental law for over 25 years both in private practice and at CELA. In 2006-7, Theresa was senior policy advisor to the Ontario Minister of the Environment where she was responsible for overseeing the passage of the Clean Water Act.

Lara Treemore Spears is a research project manager with the Healthy Urban Waters program in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Wayne State University. She brings a background in aquatic and terrestrial ecology, resource conservation, water chemistry and wetland construction. She currently manages a team addressing micro plastics in the Great Lakes. Earlier this year, she opposed the expansion of a hazardous waste plant by documenting the relationship between toxins in the sewers with public health issues such as pre-term births, which will only intensify with climate change as the infrastructure is battered.

James Gordon's *Emergency Climate Musical*

Before the last Canadian federal election, songwriter/activist James Gordon barnstormed his way across the country with his hugely-successful one-man show "Stephen Harper: The Musical".

It worked. You're welcome.

Now he's back with his "Emergency Climate Musical." (Got a crisis? A musical can solve it!) It's a 90-minute theatrical investigation of what surely is The main issue facing us today. Filled with 20 compelling songs along with videos, images, stories, rants, laughter, tears, audience participation, and some concrete suggestions for facing this crisis, James promises to entertain, inform, and leave you with homework. Come along for the ride as he outlines his premise that we need a total political, societal, and economic reboot to face the incredible challenge ahead.

This time he's got the cred for the job: he moonlights as a Guelph City Councillor, where he's been a strong climate advocate, and he's a member of the Climate Leadership Caucus. Come and see the show. It's an emergency!