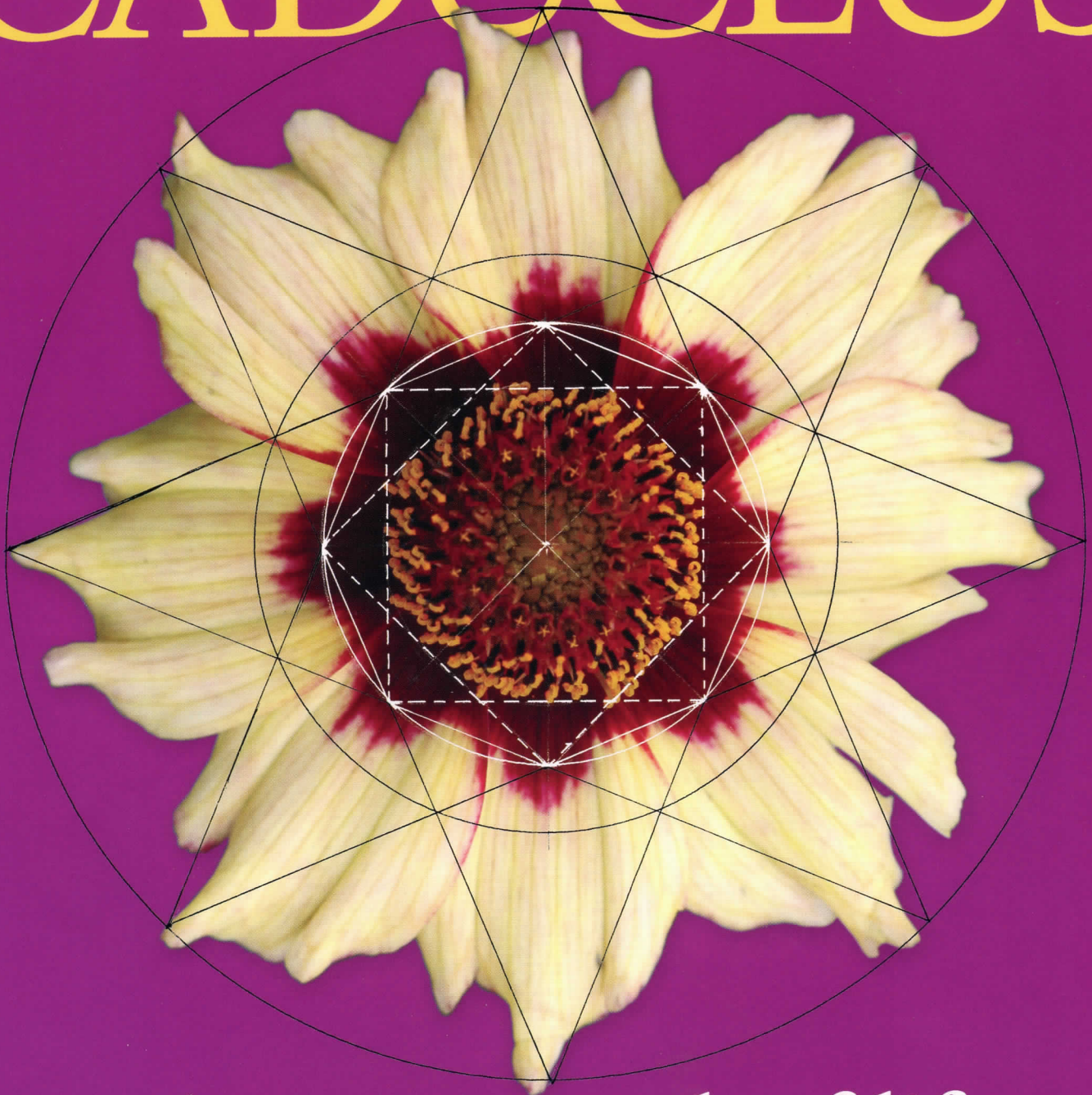


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Canadian First Nations sue Shell over tar sands destruction



Protesters gather outside the Shell Centre in London. Photo: Sam Burcher

The UK Tar Sands Network served papers to Shell UK executives on behalf of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) on 30 November. ACFN plans to sue Shell for failure to meet contractual agreements made between Shell and the First Nations regarding existing tar sands projects within ACFN traditional territory and Canada's pristine Athabasca, a UNESCO heritage site (see p3).

Chief Allan Adam, along with the ACFN's entire council, simultaneously rallied outside Shell Canada corporate

HQ in Calgary to hold a press conference. After years of agreements with Shell Oil, the Athabasca Chipewyan people have decided to risk everything by challenging Shell's practices.

'We're drawing the line and taking a strong stand against Shell. ACFN wants no further developments until Shell is brought to justice and our broader concerns about the cumulative impacts in the region are addressed,' stated Chief Adam.

The agreements were meant to ensure Shell would provide a number

of measures to lessen the impact of tar sands mines on ACFN. Besides the lawsuit, ACFN also plans to oppose all future tar sands projects by Shell.

'Tar sands have been widely recognized as the most destructive project on Earth because of the serious impacts on treaty and aboriginal rights, ecological destruction and global greenhouse gas emissions,' said Suzanne Dhaliwal of the UK Tar Sands Network (www.no-tar-sands.org).

Shell Canada recently submitted proposals to expand its current tar sands operations which, if approved, would more than double their production. This would translate into further encroachment of open pit mines on ACFN traditional lands and into the pristine wilderness of the Pierre River, a previously untouched area.

Chief Adam stated, 'We don't want our community to become the next Niger Delta, where Shell's unregulated actions have left communities devastated and the need for a 30-year clean-up estimated to cost \$1bn.'

An international coalition of indigenous and environmental groups, including Keepers of the Athabasca, Greenpeace, Indigenous Environmental Network, Sierra Club Prairie, AWA, Pembina, Council of Canadians, International Indigenous Treaty Council, Dene Nation, Platform, London Mining Network, UK Tar Sands Network and People & Planet endorsed the action.

Seaweed Health Foundation

The Seaweed Health Foundation has been launched as an independent, not-for-profit forum for research, aimed at raising awareness of the benefits of human food quality seaweed for food and health.

Owned by its members on an equal basis, they work together to achieve their aim of acting as a platform to represent the entire seaweed supply chain. Getting seaweed into the daily diet underpins their research focus of various aspects of nutrition and wellness, salt replacement, obesity and weight management as a wholefood and standards development.

Members and partners have won numerous accolades, such as: a paper on obesity in Appetite for Sheffield Hallam University using Seagreens; and grant funding for Gee Lawson and Teesside University to investigate salt replacement in ready meals. Their salt replacement work in bread was highlighted by Research Councils UK in

their Big Ideas for the Future report (www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/publications).

More information: Dr Craig Rose: craig@seaweedhealthfoundation.org.uk

East Whins Co-housing at Findhorn

The East Whins Co-housing cluster, currently being developed in the heart of The Park Ecovillage at Findhorn, sees the fruition of a long-held dream to create homes for more people who share the transformative vision of this remarkable place.

This co-housing cluster is the next step in Findhorn's commitment to living lightly on the land. The houses and flats have been designed to high ecological specifications and encourage social integrity by incorporating shared facilities, such as a common room with kitchen, laundry and drying room.

The project is being developed by Duneland Ltd, a community company set up to ensure any future develop-

ment of land is in keeping with the community's overall ethos. To find out more, visit www.duneland.co.uk

Giordano Bruno GlobalShift University

The Giordano Bruno GlobalShift University, the first online university to make high-quality, fully accredited university education accessible to young people in all parts of the world, held its Founding Congress at the Budapest Historical Museum in the Royal Castle of Hungary on 9 September and will open for degree enrollment on the five continents as of March, 2012. Prof Ervin Laszlo is Chancellor of its Centre for Advanced Study.

Its first program, 2012: *Know The World, Know Yourself* is open to action-oriented change agents of today, for tomorrow, from any walk of life. No previous experience or schooling necessary – only a passion to question everything and a desire to change the world. More details: <http://bit.ly/vwrZ9J>