Just before Canadian Thanksgiving this year, forty of us gathered North of the Arctic Circle in Storforsen, Sami Territory, Sweden. We were funded to gather by the Church of Sweden and the Canadian Council of Churches to raise-up stories of how Climate Change is currently impacting lives of people in the Arctic. Why? Because it is understood that Climate Change evidence from the Arctic reveals what's to come for the rest of the planet, what people will eventually experience, suffer, if the pace of change is not checked. The hope is that these stories of lived impacts of Climate Change *today* would move the 40,000 leaders from "government, business and industry" attending COP21 in the interests of securing life for all moving forward.

How so? A new agreement is currently in the advanced pre-negotiation stage for the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (Paris2015). After the Kyoto Protocol (2005), and the Copenhagen Agreement (2009), the 196 international State governments that will be coming together for this 21st Convention of the Parties (COP21) have recognized how far reaching the implications of this November Convention might be. As such, delegations of governments have been mobilizing "business, leaders and investors"[i] to draft and pre-negotiate a succinct outcome document that aligns with their interests.[ii]

As International Chief Wilton Littlechild, has pointed out with colleagues in the Arctic Caucus, the Pacific Caucus, and the Women's Caucus, there is a "challenge to inclusion" with the near finalized draft currently in pre-negotiations for COP21.

Our highly regarded Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner has asked all of us for an immediate response called #MakeItOperative to realign COP21 for the sake of justice.

He is asking all of us to agree through Social Media that the following paragraph should be made operative in the outcome document:

> **All Parties shall, in all climate change related actions, respect, protect, and fulfil human rights for all, including the rights of indigenous peoples, gender equality and the full and equal participation of women, food security and intergenerational equity as well as a just transition of the work force that creates decent work and quality jobs and upholds the integrity and resilience of natural ecosystems**

We have until mid-November to take simple actions to create evidence that the people of the world think the voices and interests of Indigenous Peoples, youth, elders, women should also be upheld in this far-reaching international Climate Change Agreement.

Readers are asked to please go to your email and send #MakeItOperative to MakeItOperative@aol.com. Or tweet, post, send out #MakeItOperative through your Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. Readers are encouraged to ask their contacts to take the action as well.

Our Storforsen delegates told important stories that few COP21 attendees have access to. They described elders eating overly expensive, salty, packaged foods because the flesh of the fresh fish running in the water outside their door has changed color, and because the mammals of their cultural heritage have disappeared with shifting water temperatures and changing ice conditions. They described the mental hopelessness that comes from the loss of intergenerational family bonding and spiritual connection when herds of reindeer starve due to changes in vegetation, caribou become infected by warmer climate diseases and berries shrivel and deform before ripening.

As Sheila Watt Cloutier so brilliantly explains in her book, *The Right to be Cold*, changes to the earth's way of being are shown in the magnitude of the waves to ripples effecting the food chain causing social disruption, physical and mental illness as well as collective despair. These impacts of Climate Change are most easily observable in the Arctic. It is not only that pollutants from south of the Arctic Circle speed their way to congregate in the open space of the Arctic, which they do and so Arctic people already suffer international injustice disproportionately for the polluting industrialization others nations profit from. But it is also that most of the rest of the planet send delegations to COP21 who push to make global policy based on the urgencies they experience from what are still climate ripples in their homelands. COP21 delegates with the most voice to protect their interests in the outcome document from Paris2105 are mostly informed by climate change experiences of smaller magnitude in the daily lives of their people.

Our Storforsen gathering intends to amplify marginalized voices, those of global Indigenous people, particularly from the Arctic, in order to better educate the 40,000 attendees about what might be most in the interests of their people, their shareholders and stakeholders long term, big picture. The outcome document already in pre-negotiation by these 40,000 attendees leads to international laws and policies that will more or less protect us all. Much is at stake not only for the Arctic, but for all life.

Indigenous people across the globe live closest to the land and water. They are often first observers of change. They are also long-term observers of such change and can contextualize change. Indigenous peoples and scientists are now collaborating and co-operating to help the world understand what's happening in the global web of life based on what's already happening north of the Arctic Circle.

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[i] https://youtu.be/N9EZtKWrItM at about 50 seconds

[ii] http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmp11/what-cop21-cmp11