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Statement from York University delegates to the United Nations Water Conference

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We call for all UN water initiatives to lead with water protectors—those who are Indigenous, elders, women, youth, and marginalized peoples. We urge the UN to commit to the following:

That water be honoured, recognized, and celebrated with opportunities for cultural expressions and ceremonies.

To follow the leadership of Indigenous peoples, to acknowledge water as a living entity/entities in interrelational accord with all existence, not as a resource for profit and extraction.

To move beyond rights frameworks, toward responsibilities to protect water.

To support self-determination of Indigenous peoples, including decisions about issues that may impact their territories and peoples.

To respect indigenous knowledge. Indigenous peoples should lead research that affects them, and should own and have access to their data and information.

Sincerely yours,

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