

Climate Change in the News



Canadian Chief: Aboriginal rights first step in fighting climate change

By Marc Montgomery

Friday 4 December, 2015

Chief Bellegarde (Assembly of First Nations) was invited as part of Canada's official delegate to the conference and sat alongside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the Foreign Affairs Minister represented Canada at the opening plenary for the COP 21.

When Canada's Prime Minister spoke he mentioned the importance of traditional knowledge of Aboriginal peoples to be included in the effort to deal with climate change.

In an AFN press release, National Chief Bellegarde stated: "It is notable that the Prime Minister recognizes us as Indigenous peoples with all the rights articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that he understands that Indigenous peoples and our traditional knowledge are essential in finding solutions to combat climate change. We are the first to feel its effects and our voices and recommendations must inform the path forward. We fully expect that the final treaty negotiated here will reflect that."

Source: <http://bit.ly/2cSMPfD>