

Smoke Signals Radio Archive Episode 1993-01-02
Segment 4
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Guest speaker Harold Kohler reads an announcement from Andrew Bigsmoke about Protectors of Earth Day. After, Dan Smoke introduces the next segment, a review of the film The Last of the Mohicans.

Host(s): Dan Smoke
Guest(s): Harold Kohler

DAN SMOKE: You're listening to Smoke Signals, a First Nations Radio Program here at Radio Western, CHRW 94.7 FM. We are heard every Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00, changing the face of radio. My name is **Dan Smoke**, and I'm in the studio today with co-hostess **Mary Lou Smoke** and **Hal Gilpin**. Right now, we're going to listen to one of our brothers, **Harold Kohler** who has a news item that he brings down from **Northern Saskatchewan**, from the **Canoe Lake** region, which I believe is **Cree Nation**. Harold?

HAROLD KOHLER: Protectors of **Mother Earth Day**. Be ready for an information phone number at the end of this reading. **Protectors of Mother Earth Day** – there's a new acronym for you: **PoME**. A date has been set for Friday February 19th, 1993, from **Andrew Bigsmoke**, PoME of Canoe Lake. Please contact all people who are interested in your territory. I have discussed this matter of Protectors of **Mother Earth** with the elders of PoME. We are now into seven months of the blockade at **Wiggin's Bay**, to protest clearcutting of trees. The effects this has on Mother Earth is a crime, not only to the people of the territory, but to the world as a whole. For the trees are now the protectors of the people who are on Mother Earth. For this reason, it not only concerns the people, but also the world. We, the **Red Nations of the Four Colours**, were given the instruction to be caretakers of the Earth. We would be given knowledge of plants, grass, medicine, trees, and the power that is in this plant life. We would be in harmony with the Earth and all life. That is from our source of life, Mother Earth. We, the Red Nation, are in the sacred time of the **Seventh Generation Fire**. We will go back to our teachings of all life and harmony. We will be a people that will become an all-powerful people. Unity, prayers, and knowledge are our responsibility as caretakers of Mother Earth. This is the reason why now, in the short pass, that people have come to say "no more" of this destroying our way of life and our beautiful Turtle Island, the Earth. Blockades have been set up throughout **Canada**, from the west coast peoples to the east coast peoples, of the **Red Peoples**. This is why we must come, one and all, to acknowledge the duty we are doing, for there will be a day of prayer, knowledge, feast, dancing, sharing, and caring that will make up this day, and we will call it "Protectors of Mother Earth Day, PoME." At sunrise in your territory, start with prayer – pray your way of the sunrise ceremony. Pray land, life, pray our voices be heard, pray earth, air, water, fire, including peace, power, righteousness, and unity, that we may be heard from all life. Then, hold a peaceful protest in front of the **Minister of Environment** in the afternoon, and rally with speakers and elders.

Children should have honour at this time, with the spiritual people paying respect. If the protest is not held at a provincial and federal environment building, it can be held at a city hall, city centre, or centre street in your village. Then, supper time: have feast, potluck, at this time. Then, a dance of your kind of happiness, even though it is sad what is happening to our **Mother**, but

we will be given respect for our **Heavenly Father**, the creator of all life. Dance will bring harmony and pride to what we are doing. Then, closing ceremony. Then it is good. Whoever is going to take this duty, it will be in your hands. But keep the way of opening, throughout the closing, as I have written. However you want to do it – press, radio, television, paper, magazines should be notified, for we will be sending big smoke signals to the country.

Express that clearcutting causes the weakening of the ozone layer, water pollution, and air pollution. Stress this can be done in a good way without much work. Bring people in unity and it will go in a sacred way. Stress no money should, and will not be asked for, on this particular day – not even a donation box at the door of the building. You will hold a dance feast. As **Sitting Bull** said, “money is a disease with them.” As **Crowfoot** said, “it will burn, it will blow away, if it gets wet, it will rot but the Earth will always be with us.” And as a Cree prophecy says, “only after the last tree has been cut down, only after the last river has been poisoned, only after the last fish has been caught, only then we’ll find that money cannot be eaten.” So, my people, your concern and duty has been asked for in a kind, respectful way. So help your territory, and you’ll find your prayers will be heard. In all life and honour, of great people, the **Red Man**.” These have been the words of Andrew Bigsmoke from Canoe Lake, Saskatchewan. And I’m Harold Kohler, from **London, Ontario**. If you want a copy of PoME, call [redacted], extension [redacted].

DS: Nya:weh, miigwetch, Harold. That was a pretty timeless piece. Andrew Bigsmoke—wow. He certainly deserves to be heard on Smoke Signals. Any time he has something to say, I think we’ll pick him off of the web network and share with our listeners those good, fine, words of wisdom. Right now, we’re going to listen to one of our foremost journalists in Indian country. He’s a past editor of **Akwesasne Notes**. He comes from the **Mohawk Nation**. His name is **Doug George-Kanentiio**. When we were down at **Oneida, New York**, Mary Lou and I were guests of the Doug George, **Joanne Shenandoah** household, and they welcomed us and they fed us and it was really nice to spend time with Doug. You see, Doug and I go back...way back to '75 when we first met when he was a student at **Oswego State College**. I was on the **White Roots of Peace** travelling communications tour, and that’s when we first initially met. Over the years we’ve maintained a rapport and a relationship, brother to brother, and he has come to know my family and I have come to know his family. In the summer, when we travelled on the **Great Law of Peace Tour** which we talked about earlier at the outset of this show, he was also a gracious host in **Oneida Territory** when the Peace Tour arrived at the Oneida Nation in Oneida, New York. So, this is Doug George, and this is a review of what he thought of the stereotypical image portrayed in the movie **The Last of the Mohicans**. [Inaudible] **Russell Means**, in **Indian Country** communications from **Hayward, Wisconsin**, and I will be reading that. But now, Hal will be reading about *Last of the Mohicans*.