



Web Issue 3517

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**Co-op backs tribe's environmental lawsuit**

People in the UK are being urged to support a legal fight by a Canadian Cree community against tar sands" - a form of fossil fuel that campaigners warn could help push the world into a climate disaster.

The Co-operative Financial Services is backing the Beaver Lake Cree nation, who are fighting the extraction of tar sands from their ancestral lands in the boreal forest of Alberta because of the damage it is doing to their environment.

The Beaver Lake Cree claim the strip mining, drilling for oil and prospecting for fuels through the forest is harming human health and wildlife and polluting rivers, lakes and water supplies.

A charitable trust fund has been launched to allow people to donate money to the Cree's legal fight, with the financial group donating £53,000 to the cause.

The donation follows £50,000 given by the Co-operative to help record the testimony of Cree elders for the case about the damage being done to their environment.

Tar sands are a mixture of sand or clay and bitumen, which are either pumped from underground using steam or dug out in strip mines and which need pre-processing or upgrading" before they can be refined.

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