

Members of CASCA are invited to contribute to a discussion of the issues raised by *Idle No More* in the pages of the CASCA newsletter, Culture.

We Are All Treaty People:

Taking the Hand of *Idle No More*

The events of this winter have reminded all Canadians of our shared character as a nation built, still imperfectly, on the visions of mutual respect and reconciliation enshrined in our foundational documents. These include the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the historic and modern treaties and agreements made earlier and later, as well as those that remain in negotiation. Against this backdrop, the founders and activists of *Idle No More* have raised contemporary questions about the nature of the relationship between First Nations peoples, the Inuit and the Métis, and those who arrived and settled on these lands later. These questions are concrete and important. They remind us to consider our ties to and stewardship of the lands and waters that nurture all of us, and to remember the treaties and the democratic and consultative processes that govern our lives. Canadian anthropology and anthropologists have always been engaged with such issues, and we support the efforts of *Idle No More* to raise them to a new level of national debate. In public and virtual spaces, the sisters and brothers of *Idle No More* are voicing their views and engaging all willing Canadians, working with leaders from every quarter and talking directly with each of us, sharing their knowledge and renewing our relationships. These gatherings have been profound in the generosity with which they have reached through generations of tenuous and broken promises. We have each been welcomed to listen and to talk together, and to share a cup of water, offer a prayer, and join hands in a round dance. We are being invited to take the hand of *Idle No More*, lift our feet and dance toward a better and shared future.

Ellen Judd

for the CASCA Executive