

December 18, 2009
Cobell Case Summary

I have people writing to me with questions and with ideas as to what the Cobell settlement means. I am going to link to two websites that sum it up pretty good. One is an almost hour long video featuring Sen. Dorgan. I find it ironic that he praises Sen. McCain as one of the people who worked so hard to get this case resolved over the last 13 years.

Additional, in print only, information on this settlement can be found at: [HERE](#)

From what I have seen of McCain, he has two faces. He pretends to be sympathetic to Indian Country Issues, but his main effort goes into securing land rights for resource extraction for major companies, most notably, Peabody Coal, in AZ, which has plowed through sacred sites, and who, to this day, due to McCain's constant interventions, pollutes what is left of the air that the poorest Indians in our nation must breathe.

So, Thank YOU Sen. McCain!

The settlement only pays up to the surviving Indians. Unfortunately, it pays nothing to the families and heirs of those Indians who died while this case was being fought and stalled.

What you cannot allow to happen is for this settlement to write a check to your leaders and for them to then take a cut (handling charges) from that, and then distributing it or not, as they see fit.

The one thing to remember above all, is that Cobell fought this case, against a wall of obstacles, relentlessly, for more than 13 years. ALL Indians benefit from the work of this one, primary force, behind the settlement.

This is what ONE Indian can do. But did not do it alone. This is a major feat and it was accomplished by many coming together. It was accomplished by those who did not just get angry and walk away because they did not get what they want.

To say the government 'mismanaged' the resources on Indian land is a laugh. It was systematic theft.

The Senate has to sign off on this before the year's end. Our good senators are too busy posturing and trying to destroy any chance for Health Care to be accessible to all people, so don't count on it. They are too busy lying, misrepresenting, twisting the most important legislation of the last 70 years.

It has become clear to me, that too many of our elected, GOP outright who are willing to allow 45K+ people a year die for lack of health care, in order to say that they beat this president, do not have The People's interests at heart.

Too many, GOP and Dems, are being paid millions of dollars by the Insurance Company lobbies, to ruin the bill so that we don't get health care and the Insurance Companies, who have a list over 200 pages long of 'reasons' to deny claims (Such as childhood acne is a reason to deny cancer treatment. Athlete's foot is a reason to deny care for any injury or illness) (You think I'm exaggerating? I wish I was!).

Our Senate has stated that they are onside with major corporations, not the people. They state it in their outrageous behaviors, lies and their corrupted votes.

Since the Cobell settlement first takes money from the government for "mismanaging" the land resources, (about \$3 Billion, total) it also leaves the door open for 2 very important things:

- 1: That Corporations will now be held accountable for the resources they extract from Federal (Indian) lands. This will drive up their costs significantly because they have, up until this ruling, only had to bribe people in the Dept. Of Interior with cocaine, whores and a few lousy dollars.

- 2: That the accounting will be left open and cases of resource thefts of the past, which can be directly tied to the Dept. Of Interior's corrupt behaviors and the major corporations use of bribes to steal from Indian People, can, in theory, lead to criminal investigations and for Corporations themselves to have to pay up huge fines.

A third issue is that since it is the Taxpayers who are paying for the crimes of the Oil and mineral, timber and water extraction Corporations, could be tapped to pay back to the government, their share of the the revenues generated.

So, my expectations on this are minimal. However, there are some very conscientious 'watchdogs' (Sen. Al Franken from Minnesota, for one) who are very engaged in getting this matter resolved and done so fairly. His questions are about "How do we make sure that each person who is entitled KNOWS they are entitled?"

Even though this is an historic settlement, until you can get ALL the senators to do their job and sign off on this (I am not sure how many are required, but I am assuming a minimum of 60--will continue to look into this)-- until they do that, no one gets anything.

However, as it stands now, the FIRST payment due to ALL Indians is \$1500 each. There is expected to be follow up settlements that relate to this.

YOUR Tribe's web site should have been keeping you posted on this information all along. Your Tribe is paying these worthless webmasters way too much for what pathetic little they are doing. Oh Yeah, related to Turdclan. Well, there ya go!

Another reason for you all to protest and get the Blog opened up so that people can, as grown ups, read the information for themselves and make their own judgments on things. This notion that the website is blocked to protect you, is bullshit. It is blocked to protect those who have committed murders and those who continue to commit crimes against the Good People of Spirit Lake Nation.

This case is monumental in more ways than I can count. It means that the Federal Government can no longer treat Indians as non-persons, with no rights. We still do not have all the Rights, but this is a biggie. This is a path cut through the Red Tape Forest that allows Indian People to actually be compensated for what they have been robbed of. There is much more that can follow this precedent setting case.

Elouise Cobell is the hero here. She is an Indian Woman. She cut this path so that others may follow.

I want to see her raised up as a role model for what can be done by and for Indian People. I want you to teach your children about her, today, as you would teach them about Sitting Bull, Geronimo, Nicholas Black Elk, Fools Crow.

Powerful People

This is what can be done when we don't give up on what we know is right. This is what can be accomplished by ONE Indian with the help of others. This is what can be done when we come together.

This is why Indians are so feared, that Federal Government supports only the corrupt leadership. This is why your corrupt leaders do nothing about rape, drug manufacture and distribution. This is why they look the other way as Alcohol, drugs and underage parties are allowed to run wild on the rez.

They want Indians to feel that they are nothing and that no one cares and that they can do nothing. They want to reinforce the sense of futility amongst us, and the divisions not only between Indian and non-Indian, but racist divisions among various tribes.

This settlement goes to ALL Indians. Yes, non-Indians were shoulder to shoulder with Elouise, and this monumental case came to this settlement. It is not bound to only one tribe or one Indian... It is for ALL.

If Indian People are to ever wake up to what they can do, what they are capable of doing, they must put aside petty differences, demand accountability from their leaders, justice from their courts, and enforcement--EQUAL enforcement from their police departments.

To get that, you must be stronger and healthier than you are now. You must be educated and you must appreciate those who have gone on to gain the necessary education that will make all things more possible in your communities, in your lifetimes. If not in your lifetime, then in the lifetime of your children, and the children just to come.

Young People need role models of health, intelligence and ethics. If they cannot find them in their own homes, they must look at those who do embody these qualities, regardless of where they are at or from, and see how they can grow into that.

The young on the rez are the most abandoned. Many have compared them to the packs of stray dogs that roam the rez, malnourished, dangerous, and dying young.

The body needs good food. The Mind needs Good Teaching. The Spirit NEEDS good guidance and healing.

I urge every young person out there, who is feeling despair and futility, anger and shame... to know this one thing above all other things: You are more important in this world than you will ever know. What you do, now, and later on in your life, will affect people you have never met.

Every one of us has, in our lifetime, at tender age and later on, experienced set backs, let downs, disappointments and tragedy. We survive so that we can help others by what we have learned, both about ourselves and about this world, through this hardest process.

If you are thinking about ending your life, know that you are essentially, ending the lives of many who know you, and many who have not yet met you, because you are willfully removing from this world, your value, your worth, your future good works.

If you abandon the future, others will have less to get them through. The cycle of

abandonment must stop.

Even if you cannot see the point in staying on... know that you cannot see it because it is so huge, you have not yet grown into the size you need to be to understand it. Do not take that away from us. We need you.

Those of you who think you are powerful when you take away someone's self-esteem, or make them feel worthless, know that you are of no value when you do that. Our only value in this world is when we can help another person, in ways large and small, to find the truth about themselves and their value in this world.

We come into this world of struggle and strife with little to help us and so much that can hurt us. All we have is one another to get us through, lift us up, and help us find our way to a better life. It is so very worth getting there.

We were built to help one another find what is the Right Thing to do. Help someone recover from abuse. Help someone recover from addiction. Help someone recover from ignorance, racism, jealousy.

Help someone recover from violence.

Help someone recover from the shame of having murdered so many and gotten away with it, help them to come to Justice. Only when they come to Justice will they ever know Peace. And so will we all.

In seeking Peace, we become our most Powerful.

You know where to find me.

~Cat