



# Who Speaks for the River?: The Oldman River Dam and the Search for Justice

*Robert Girvan*

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Who Speaks for the River? tells the true story of the collision between power and justice in the desperate final battle between the Alberta Government, Friends of the Oldman and members of the Piikani First Nation surrounding the building of Alberta's Oldman River dam. Environmentalist Martha Kostuch uses the law and "Woodstock of the Environment," the largest environmental rally in Canada to stop construction of the dam. Piikani First Nation activist Milton Born With A Tooth and his group The Lonefighters, use protests, bulldozers to divert the Oldman River, and one shotgun which Milton fires at police. Those shots result in Milton facing an unfair trial, which one observer characterizes as "what Native people have faced for a century."

*"My world cannot be documented on your white paper with words. Your dictionaries reveal the white society and show how whites go in circles. Words simply refer to words and are only excuses for what's real. The real world is about fresh air as medicine going into my lungs and the enjoyment of each meal as my last one."*

—Milton Born With A Tooth, from a Southern Alberta Jail, while waiting for his first trial.

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