

Water is Life by Chief LadyBird

"Water Is life" is a concept that was born from the Standing Rock movement, where water protectors have been fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline, to protect the water and land from the harmful effects of pipelines. It addresses the need for fair access to clean drinking water and opposes environmental racism.

My illustration responds to this movement through the healing symbolism of a jingle dress. The jingle dress originated in Whitefish Bay First Nation and came to a sick girl's father in a dream after he offered his tobacco to the creator to ask for assistance. While dancing in the dress, the girl was able to overcome her illness and has become a symbol for healing. Jingle dress dancers have a big responsibility

because when they dance at pow wows, people will often offer their tobacco and ask them to dance for a sick relative. In the case of this illustration, she dances for the water, which has been poisoned; she dances for the land, which has been destroyed; and she dances for the people, who have been hurt by capitalism and greed.



