

Fridays for Future Toronto Members in Solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Jurisdiction and Governance

Fridays for Future Toronto is part of the global climate strike movement demanding climate action to prevent runaway climate change. We have been striking for climate action over the past year, and our demands have progressed from simply demanding emissions reductions to calling for climate justice, including standing in solidarity with Indigenous land defenders opposing pipelines on their land.

Our members have been closely monitoring the situation on Wet'suwet'en territory, and are appalled by the statements and actions of the Trudeau Liberal government, the Horgan NDP BC government, the BC courts, Coastal Gas Link, TD bank, the Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCO), other financial backers and the RCMP.

Wet'suwet'en territory is unceded land, and their title to the land was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1997 Delgamuukw decision. Furthermore, the Canadian and BC governments have made commitments to uphold the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which includes requiring free, prior and informed consent for any development on Indigenous land. In addition, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has issued a call for the halting of construction on the CGL LNG pipeline, along with the Site C dam and the Trans Mountain Expansion pipeline, because of the failure to uphold UNDRIP. Therefore, it is sheer hypocrisy for BC Premier John Horgan justify the BC court injunction and force through the construction of the pipeline.

Last January, the RCMP violently raided Gidemt'en checkpoint to clear away resistance to their fracked gas pipeline making 14 arrests and injuring Wet'suwet'en elders and their guests in the process. It is outrageous that the RCMP has been used as an invading army sent to attack Wet'suwet'en land defenders on their unceded land. Recently the RCMP have set up a roadblock on Wet'suwet'en land to restrict access to the territory. This is a violation of Indigenous rights in article 35 of the constitution and mirrors actions taken by the RCMP prior to the raid last year.

These human rights violations and the threat of violence towards Wet'suwet'en people is unacceptable for a country that supposedly adheres to UNDRIP and claims to be a climate leader. The Wet'suwet'en Chiefs have said they do not consent to any pipelines on their land as they are a threat to clean water sources, will disrupt trap lines that are a means of livelihood for the people. CGL construction has already damaged burial grounds and other culturally significant areas.

The Anuc 'nu'at'en is clear (Wet'suwet'en law).

According to the January 4, 2020 press release from the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs:

Anuc 'nu'at'en is not a “belief” or a “point of view”. It is a way of sustainably managing our territories and relations with one another and the world around us, and it has worked for millennia to keep our territories intact. Our law is central to our identity.

To force through pipelines over the objections of Indigenous people is criminal from a climate and a human rights perspective.

Fridays for Future Toronto stands in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en People at the Unist'ot'en camp, at the Gidem't'en checkpoint and throughout all Wet'suwet'en territory and joins many others across the Turtle Island and the world who are demanding:

- That the RCMP remove the road block and “exclusion zone”, and that the RCMP forces get off Wet'suwet'en territory.
- That Wet'suwet'en law be respected as the law of the 22,000 square kilometres that is unceded Wet'suwet'en territory.
- That Prime Minister Trudeau, BC Premier John Horgan and the Commissioner of the RCMP agree to meet on a nation-to-nation basis with all five Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to establish diplomatic relations as they have requested.

Fridays for Future Toronto,

