

## Open Statement of Support for Wet'suwet'en from SJE and CTL

The Departments of Social Justice Education (SJE) and Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning (CTL) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto, have been closely monitoring the RCMP invasion of unceded Wet'suwet'en territory on behalf of Coastal GasLink with growing concern.

We commend the courage and vision of Unist'ot'en Camp and are in solidarity with land defenders and the collective hereditary governance of the Wet'suwet'en who are enforcing Wet'suwet'en laws on their unceded lands. We also thank them for protecting the land and water for all our relations and future generations across Turtle Island.

We denounce the governments of British Columbia and Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as well as the Coastal GasLink Pipeline for their violent interference with the rights of the Unist'ot'en to occupy, manage and maintain their unceded lands.

The invasion of Wet'suwet'en territory by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is in violation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([UNDRIP](#)) – specifically the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and the prohibition on forced removal in Article 10; the [B.C. Declaration](#) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2019; Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982; and the 2014 [Tsilhqot'in](#) and 1997 [Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa](#) Supreme Court rulings. The violent imposition of an extractive project also shows disregard for the [Final Report](#) of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S) which highlighted the link between “man camps,” resource extraction projects, and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited people.

We ask that the governments of British Columbia and Canada uphold their legal obligations as laid out in international, Canadian and Wet'suwet'en laws and collective Title by immediately revoking Coastal GasLink's permit and removing all RCMP and Coastal Gaslink personnel and equipment from unceded Wet'suwet'en territories. Failure to do so exposes the hollowness of Prime Minister Trudeau's proclaimed commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Forcing the demands of industry at gunpoint shows the government's contempt for the human rights of Wet'suwet'en people and the inherent rights of Indigenous nations to self-government.

Canada invades. Invades on behalf of industry. Invades during ceremony. Canada tears us from our land. Tears us from our families, from our homes. Takes our drums away. Takes our women away. Jails us for protecting the land, for being in ceremony, for honouring our ancestors. [Unist'ot'en Camp](#)

We support the Wet'suwet'en people's insistence "that any and all actions taken by the federal and provincial government, industry, and policing agencies must be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Anuk Nu'at'en (Wet'suwet'en laws) and collective Title." We call on the government of Canada to act immediately to ensure that Wet'suwet'en people are not evicted from their territory, that the RCMP withdraw from Wet'suwet'en land, and that the use of lethal weapons against Indigenous land defenders be prohibited. Given the University of Toronto's commitment to responding to the [TRC](#) calls to action, **we** also call on other departments at the University of Toronto as well as other institutions across Turtle Island to act in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en land defenders, hereditary chiefs, and their allies in their tireless defense against ongoing colonization and genocide.

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