

# CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TEAMS CALLS ON FAITH COMMUNITIES TO STAND WITH WET'SUWET'EN

The province of British Columbia alongside Coastal Gaslink are continuing their plans to build a pipeline through the unceded territories of the Wet'suwet'en. The 5 Hereditary Chiefs and land defenders of Wet'suwet'en have denied access to Coastal Gaslink fearing the pipeline will cause irrevocable ecological damage. Despite lack of consent, the province and CGL continue to try and advance the pipeline. This is in contravention to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (which the province of British Columbia has signed on to) which preserves the right to free, prior and informed consent by Indigenous communities before extractive industries can access their land.

In January 2020, the RCMP began enforcing a court injunction on behalf of a natural gas pipeline development, setting up a checkpoint on the Wet'suwet'en territory. This injunction violates Wet'suwet'en law, the right to free, prior, and informed consent, and ignores the call by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to immediately suspend work on the Coastal GasLink pipeline until consent is obtained. Also concerning is the RCMP's demonstrated willingness a year ago to use lethal force to enforce this injunction during a militarized raid on the Gimid'ten checkpoint.

**CPT calls on faith communities to take action and support the land defenders of Wet'suwet'en!**

Historically the Christian Church, the Canadian state, and capitalist industry worked together to colonize Canada and displace Indigenous peoples from their land. Today across Canada, many churches are rising up in the spirit of Jesus' message of peace and justice, and learning about the history and reality of colonization, apologizing for their involvement and/or complicity in colonialism, and getting involved in activities that situate their solidarity with Indigenous peoples and not with the colonial state. Now is the time to continue that support and take action! This is our chance, as the Christian Church, to demonstrate Christ's radical love by standing in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en. *(Graphic taken from sign at solidarity rally in Winnipeg).*



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## IF YOU ARE A FAITH COMMUNITY IN THE AREA OF WET'SUWET'EN

### DONATE:

As the camp continues, the land defenders are in need of supplies. Food, fuel, tools, and much more! If you can contribute supplies, please check out the most recent 'wish list' online: <https://unistoten.camp/support-us/wishlist-needslist/>

### HOST A SOLIDARITY ACTION:

It's important that the land defenders know they have allies in the settler communities that surround them. Host a solidarity action /public prayer witness in your community!

### HOST A LETTER WRITING PARTY AND/OR WRITE TO YOUR MLA AND PREMIER JOHN HORGAN:

Host a letter writing party at your church. Invite your community to join together and hold Premier John Horgan accountable, reminding him that the BC government has adopted the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Let him and your MLA know that as a BC resident, you do not support a pipeline being built without the consent of the 5 Hereditary Chiefs and the land defenders of the unceded territory of the Wet'suwet'en.

Premier John Horgan  
Langford – Juan de Fuca Community Office  
122 – 2806 Jacklin Road  
Victoria, BC V9B 5A4

### BOYCOTT:

As you try to be neighbours to all your neighbours, it can be an especially fraught time as tensions rise. CPT believes that all individuals should be welcome at church, yet we call on all faith communities in the area not to benefit from the pipeline. We encourage faith communities in the area to not rent space to Coastal Gaslink or the RCMP, or to allow for their facilities to be used in the service of developing the pipeline or displacing/restricting Indigenous peoples from their land.

## WHAT FAITH COMMUNITIES CAN DO ACROSS TURTLE ISLAND?

### DONATE:

Host a fundraiser in your faith community. As tensions mount with the RCMP, it is imperative to raise money for the 'Legal Support Fund', in addition the camp needs supplies. To learn how your community can give money. Check out their website: <https://unistoten.camp/support-us/donate/>

### HOST/JOIN A SOLIDARITY ACTION:

Across Canada actions are taking place. It is important for faith communities to get involved. Join an action near you! If no actions are in your neighbourhood, host your own. It could be a demonstration, a rally or a public prayer action.

### HOST A LETTER WRITING PARTY TO WRITE TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU:

Let Prime Minister Trudeau know that your community stands with the land defenders of the unceded Territory of Wet'suwet'en, and that no pipeline should be built without consent, in accordance to the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

### BOYCOTT:

No matter where you are in Canada, your church can get involved! The pipeline cannot be built without significant investment from financial institutions. Check where your church's finances are being done and ensure your community is not investing in the pipeline. Major investors include:

- RBC which is the sole financial advisor to TC Energy (formerly TransCanada)
- HSBC and TD are both financial advisors to KKR which co-owns Coastal GasLink

## LEARN MORE!

- [Learn more about the struggle on the unceded Wet'suwet'en territory](#)
- [Study the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

### READ:

- o [Unsettling the Word](#): over 60 Indigenous and Settler authors come together to wrestle with the Scriptures, re-reading and re-imagining the ancient text for the sake of reparative futures.
- o [Wrongs to Rights: How Churches Can Engage the UNDRIP](#): over 40 authors from diverse backgrounds – Indigenous and Settler, Christian and Traditional – wrestle with the meaning of the Declaration for the Church.
- [Get involved with CPT](#)