



Dear Premier John Horgan and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

We are writing to you to condemn your recent and ongoing violation of Wet'suwet'en Law, and reaffirm our solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en people.

The BC Supreme Court has ruled against Wet'suwet'en land defenders in "Northern BC", permitting the forced removal of people and structures to aid in the construction of the Coastal GasLink (CGL) natural gas pipeline. Wet'suwet'en people are actively and continuously denied the protections of the UNDRIP (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People), which was adopted by the Province of British Columbia - this is a direct attack on Wet'suwet'en land, Wet'suwet'en people and all Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island.

These actions speak not only to environmental and social justice. They are also, however, about setting unlawful precedent against Indigenous Sovereignty. The Wet'suwet'en live on unceded territory - their rights and title to their land have never been relinquished; the actions of your government fail to respect that, only furthering colonial violence.

As we are certain you are already aware, the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) organized an attack on the Unist'ot'en Camp on Wet'suwet'en Territory during a militarized raid with authorized lethal overwatch and forcibly removed unarmed land defenders from their unceded land - a clear form of ongoing genocide. Since then, solidarity actions have been organized nationally and internationally centering Indigenous land rights, and the importance of environmental and social justice. Land defenders are occupying railways, bridges, ports & offices and calling on the RCMP to retract their forces while reaffirming that no relocation shall take place without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Wet'suwet'en people.

As a union, it is our duty to continue to educate others on the injustices happening on the land that we occupy. Similarly, as a Premier and a Prime Minister, it is your duty to protect the land and honour the rights of Indigenous peoples. We need to understand and recognize that anti-indigenous racism is not just part of history but still takes place in the form of modern-day colonization. For those of us who are settlers on this land, it is vital to recognize our settler privilege and weaponize it to defend and support the rightful owners of Turtle Island.

The York Federation of Students stands in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en people who are protecting their lands, waters and climate. We call on you, Premier Horgan, the federal and provincial governments, RCMP, and Coastal GasLink/Transcanada to end all Wet'suwet'en and international law violations.

We implore you to act now.

Sincerely,

The York Federation of Students