

# Learning Right Relations

*In Solidarity with the Indigenous People of the Salish Sea*

January 7, 2020

To all People of Conscience,

One year ago today, the RCMP sent tactical police teams onto Wet'suwet'en lands in Northern British Columbia with authorization to use lethal force. Officers carrying semi-automatic rifles forcibly entered through the gate at the Gidimt'en checkpoint and arrested 14 people.

The officers were there because it was against *their* law for the Wet'suwet'en people to occupy their own traditional lands in the path of a proposed pipeline.

People at the Unist'ot'en healing center, farther up the Morice River, have issued an urgent call for allies to prevent another militarized police raid. You can help: [Phone the minister responsible for the RCMP right now.](#)

The lands in question were part of the 1997 Delgamuukw court decision that acknowledged the Wet'suwet'en people have never given up their rights, their systems of government or their authority over their lands.

Those rights were again acknowledged by B.C. lawmakers this past November when they unanimously passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, making it a requirement for government to seek free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous rights and title-holders before building projects on their land.

Consent has not been given on Gidimt'en and Unist'ot'en territories. Last week all five Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs issued an eviction notice to Coastal GasLink Pipelines. And, at the time, the Coastal GasLink workers left the site peaceably.

Coastal GasLink wants to resume work ASAP. They have an injunction from a judge, ordering Wet'suwet'en people out of the way. But Wet'suwet'en chiefs do not recognize the authority of the colonial legal system over their lands.

This dispute is deeply contested. And, its outcome is critically important to all of humanity as we learn more about human-caused climate disruption. Meaningful dialogue is required between the B.C. and Canadian governments and the Wet'suwet'en who have unceded title to those lands.

Earlier today the [CBC's The Canadian Press reporter Laura Kane reported:](#)

“A United Nations committee working to end racism is urging Canada to immediately stop the construction of three major resource projects in B.C. until it obtains approval from

affected First Nations. The committee on the elimination of racial discrimination monitors a convention to end racial discrimination signed by countries including Canada, and is calling for a suspension of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, Site C dam and Coastal GasLink pipeline.”

The committee of 18 experts said in a written directive last month that it is concerned by the approval and construction of the three projects without the free, prior and informed consent of impacted Indigenous groups. It also said it's disturbed by law enforcement's "forced removal, disproportionate use of force, harassment and intimidation" and "escalating threat of violence" against Indigenous people.”

We add our **Learning Right Relations** voices in Solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en People.

The LRR Action Team, Olympia, WA USA

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Learning Right Relations Statement of Purpose

*To walk the path of learning and living to address the historic marginalization and ongoing inequities experienced by our Coast Salish neighbors, and to share the responsibility to care for this place, their homelands, where we mutually abide.*

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