

February 11th 2020

Solidarity Statement in Support of Wet'suwet'en Jurisdiction and Governance
By Members of the George Brown College Community (Tkaronto, ON)

We, the undersigned, as members of the George Brown College community, who work on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, the Anishinabewaki, Haudenosaunee and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, stand in solidarity to condemn the recent and ongoing events on unceded Wet'suwet'en lands.

We affirm the Indigenous Peoples as true guardians of these territories, and support the Wet'suwet'en people, their clan governance systems, and hereditary chiefs. We condemn the actions of the Canadian government for interfering with the bodies of those defending the land and its people on this territory.

The Canadian Government has publicly committed to an ongoing process of Truth and Reconciliation (TRC), as well to fulfilling its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNRIP). Both the TRC and UNRIP affirm the fundamental principle of "free, prior, and informed consent" of elected band councils, clans and hereditary chiefs.

The extension and police enforcement of the BC Supreme Court injunction and the current presence of the RCMP is in direct violation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) principles recently passed into Provincial law on November 26, 2019.

In alignment with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we call for the immediate withdrawal of the RCMP from Wet'suwet'en territory, and support the rights of Wet'suwet'en people to continue in their actions to protect the lands, water, and futures of their people.

In solidarity,

Corinne Abba, Faculty - George Brown College

JP Hornick, Professor, School of Labour, George Brown College

Jeff Brown, Professor, George Brown College

Nikki Smith, Support, George Brown College

Sean Pearson, Support, George Brown College

Joanna Friend, Professor, George Brown College

Marissa Malkowski, Faculty, George Brown College