

Solidarity Statement in Support of Wet'suwet'en Jurisdiction and Governance

By Ryerson University Documentary Media Graduate Students and Faculty

February 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are writing to express our solidarity with the Hereditary Chiefs representing the clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation who are taking action to defend their rightful territories. We oppose the ongoing escalation of extraction capitalism, environmental devastation and the RCMP's invasive, violent actions on behalf of the government. We strongly condemn any action interfering with their right to defend their unceded lands, as well as your province's court ruling in the extension of Coastal Gaslink's interim injunction. We recognize such interference as both a violation of their human rights and in blatant disregard of *Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa v. Queen*.

The clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation are stewards of this land and continue to exercise greater knowledge and judgement concerning the preservation of its water, resources and importance for future generations. We support the Wet'suwet'en people's commitment to prioritizing the sustainable well being of their people and their land over the short term gain of exploitative industry.

As documentary media artists, we acknowledge the complicit role our craft and the media has played in inflicting colonial violence. We recognize recent events as a legitimate and justified assertion of Wet'suwet'en people's autonomy and sovereignty and demand the government do so as well.

Sincerely,

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