

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

By Members of Ryerson University School of Social Work

January 27, 2020

Ryerson University's School of Social Work's RFA, CUPE faculty members, and staff members stand in solidarity to condemn the recent and ongoing events happening now in unceded Wet'suwet'en lands. *We are paying close attention.* We find Canada's show of force of highly specialized and militarized police officers being deployed in unceded Wet'suwet'en lands abhorrent. The extension and police enforcement of the BC Supreme Court ordered injunction against persons who interfere with the (colonial-named) Morice River Bridge or area accessed by the (colonial-named) Morice West Forest Service Road when considering the authority of the (colonial-named) Province of British Columbia, as well as the Canadian Nation State to order such an injunction 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. Furthermore, our collective understanding of the definition of the word unceded is that no lands have been ceded - handed over or unyielded to any Provincial or Federal Canadian government since the second wave of disease in the early 1900's that decimated over 75% of Indigenous populations in BC.

We unequivocally demand a repeal of this blatant example of the ongoing colonial project of Canada and call to question the hubris of its courts to decide the collective fate of an unceded nation. Stand down and withdraw your troops immediately! Have the moral courage to recognize mistakes when they are made. Have the moral courage to identify complicity. Have the moral courage to be accountable to the most vulnerable. Have the moral courage to really hold close to your heart that fact that last year the Indigenous community had the highest headcount of persons who died by gunshot than any other population by Canadian Police forces (Freeze, 2019).

Freeze, Colin. (2019). "More than one-third of people shot to death over a decade by RCMP officers were Indigenous," *The Globe and Mail*, November 17. Retrieved on January 17, 2020 from: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-more-than-one-third-of-people-shot-to-death-over-a-decade-by-rcmp/>

Signature / Role

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