



faculty
association
EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY

Local 22, The Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE)
Room C3281, 520 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver BC V5T 0H2

January 27, 2020

Open Letter to Support Indigenous and Wet'suwet'en Law

The Emily Carr Faculty Association is committed to genuine respect for Indigenous law, which predates colonial laws that have been imposed on Indigenous people, often in systemically harmful ways.

Situated as we are on unceded Coast Salish lands, we watch what is happening at Unist'ot'en and Gidimt'en with an understanding that those of us who live in the south are connected with the land and water defenders up north. Everyone needs healthy land, clean air and drinkable water. As such we support the Wet'suwet'en people of the land, whose jurisdiction over their traditional territories has been recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in Delgamuukw.

The United Nation's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recently called for Canada to immediately halt the Coastal Gas Link pipeline, the Site C Dam, and the Trans Mountain Pipeline because these projects have not received the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of the Indigenous peoples whose lands they would pollute and destroy. Morally and environmentally in this time of accelerating climate destabilization, we cannot afford these projects.

As such, we ask that colonial governments and their police forces de-escalate and abide by Wet'suwet'en law by respecting the decisions that have been made by the hereditary chiefs whose Indigenous rights must not be violated through police brutality or colonial force.

Respectfully,

The Emily Carr Faculty Association