



STATEMENT: YES TO LIFE, NO TO MINING STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN EARTH DEFENDERS

14 February 2020: Canada | Spain | Philippines | Australia | UK | Colombia

The members of the global Yes to Life, No to Mining solidarity network today express their solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Earth defenders in their mobilisations against the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline project.

In particular, we stand in solidarity with the courageous land and water defenders at Unist'ot'en Camp and the Gidimt'en Checkpoint, who are on the frontlines of this struggle, facing violence and criminalisation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Yes to Life, No to Mining is a global solidarity network of and for those communities who have chosen to exercise their right to say NO to unwanted mining and related projects on their lands and waters, as well as the organisations and networks who support them. The network has more than 70 member groups hailing from every inhabited continent around our living planet.

Many of our members have been following the developments of the assault on Wet'suwet'en traditional from around the world. We are appalled that the Canadian Government can so easily ignore its obligations as a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – including the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent- in its attempts to force through a fossil fuel project. The CGL has no place in a nation that claims a genuine commitment to peace and reconciliation, and which has declared a 'national climate emergency' in the context of a world on the brink of runaway climate chaos.

We are appalled. Yes. But we are not surprised. Our members around the world are experiencing similar violence, surveillance and militarisation of their lands, often at the hands of states whose ties to extractive industries are stronger than their obligations to their people.

In this stark context we are deeply inspired by Wet'suwet'en Earth Defenders. In their courageous action to uphold their deep rooted, unceded sovereignty over their lands they show us that saying 'NO' to destructive megaprojects means saying 'YES' to healthy lands, waters and air; to healthy communities and sustainable livelihoods; to genuine peace and reconciliation; to a thriving life for future generations of all species.

As one, we call on the Canadian Government to:

- Respect the Wet'suwet'en's right to Free Prior Informed Consent and to govern their unceded territory according to their own indigenous governance systems;
- Halt the assault on unceded Wet'suwet'en lands and withdraw RCMP forces;
- Cancel the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline Project.

We also call on other affected communities and Peoples around our planet to show solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en in the ways they themselves have mandated in their toolkit for solidarity support, available here: www.unistoten.camp/supportertoolkit2020

In solidarity,

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