



## Motion to Release A Statement in Solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en

**Whereas**, on October 2nd, 2019, the Canadian and BC governments approved TransCanada's Coastal Gaslink pipeline through Wet'suwet'en territories without having first obtained free, prior and informed consent from Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs.

**Whereas**, failure to achieve consent, despite having approved and gone through with the project, explicitly violates the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Whereas**, on December 31st, 2019, BC Supreme Court Judge, Marguerite Church, issued an injunction against members of the Wet'suwet'en Nation who have blocked access to the pipeline protest within their traditional territory. This ruling gives mandates to the RCMP to enforce the injunction.

**Whereas**, the BC RCMP and CIRG are continuing to make illegal arrests and have increased harassment, surveillance and monitoring, contrary to the BC RCMP announcement on February 20th, 2020 of them withdrawing from Wet'suwet'en territories.

**Whereas**, in 1997 the Supreme Court, the highest court in Canada, recognized the Wet'suwet'en as the rightful decision makers of their lands and as having jurisdiction over their 22,000 square kilometres of territory in northern British Columbia.

**Whereas**, 'Anuc niwhi'it'en, as Wet'suwet'en law, legitimizes and calls for continued action by Land-Protectors in maintaining kinship networks, oral traditions, and cultural ceremony as tied to the land which CGL threatens.

**Whereas**, the AUS recognizes the presence of 'Anuc niwhi'it'en, as Wet'suwet'en law, on this territory.

**Whereas**, we, the cosigned, want to challenge larger oppressive power structures and institutions and stand in solidarity with Indigenous land protectors.

**Be it resolved,** the AUS Statement of Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en [See: Appendix A] will be posted in a separate listserv when deemed most convenient for the AUS Executive, as well as on all AUS social media platforms, in both French and English.

Signed,  
Haidee Pangilinan, VP Services

Seconded by,  
Maheen Akter, VP Internal

## APPENDIX A: Statement from the AUS in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en

The AUS Legislative Council condemns the governments of Canada and British Columbia, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Coastal Gaslink/TC Energy for violating Wet'suwet'en, Canadian and international law by approving the TransCanada's Coastal Gas Link fracked gas pipeline through Wet'suwet'en territories. *Free, prior and informed consent was not obtained from the Wet'suwet'en Nation and hereditary chiefs to do work on their territories.*

We recognize that the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs have jurisdiction over their 22,000 square kilometres of territory in northern British Columbia, and were recognized as the rightful decision makers on their lands in a 1977 Supreme Court of Canada ruling. Under 'Anuc niwhi'it'en (Wet'suwet'en law) all five clans have unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals. To continue with this project is in direct violation of Indigenous sovereignty and law, in addition to Canadian and international law, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, specifically to articles 3, 4 and 5.

We would like to express our profound disappointment over the continued harassment and surveillance by the RCMP towards protestors at the Unist'ot'en camp, contrary to the RCMP announcement that they will be withdrawing from these territories.

The AUS recognizes that projects and actions advanced by TC Energy and raids by the RCMP presents an epistemic threat to Indigenous systems of law and governance. This threat to Wet'suwet'en territory presents a threat to the very kinship networks, governance structures, and legal systems which are derived and taught through land-based learning practices. We recognize that actions of Indigenous land protectors cannot be minimized as simple activism, but instead viewed as actions taken and informed by legal protocol as shared through land as pedagogy. Instead of being viewed as blockades, radical activism, or protests, these actions need to be understood as actions of Indigenous peoples standing up for and asserting Indigenous rights.

The AUS stands in solidarity with Unist'ot'en Camp and other Indigenous Land-Protectors defending their traditional territories. We would also like to amplify other calls to solidarity below, as well as other ways in which you can aid in the fight for Indigenous sovereignty and justice.

The Unist'ot'en Camp has provided a helpful tool kit, [here](#), that outlines specific asks on how you can take action and be a good ally.

Follow for more updates on the latest actions, events and demonstrations.

[Indigenous Students Alliance](#)

[Unist'ot'en Official Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

Donate!

[Unist'ot'en Camp](#) | For Unist'ot'en camp food, medical supplies and other materials.

[Unist'ot'en Camp Legal Fund](#) | For upcoming legal costs to see the Judicial Review to completion and other legal challenges

Signed,

The AUS Legislative Council