Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students North Borden Building 563 Spadina Crescent, Suite 236 Toronto, Ontario M5S 2J7



## Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en

Early in the morning of February 6, the RCMP began a massive operation to remove Indigenous people from unceded Wet'suwet'en territory in order to build the Coastal GasLink pipeline without the consent of the Wet'suwet'en people. This territory does not belong to the Canadian state nor its corporations, and yet, over the last week, there has been an escalation of violence against Wet'suwet'en land defenders, their allies, and members of the press.

In real time, we are witnessing the violent cycle of settler colonialism against Indigenous peoples. This is in stark contrast to the Canadian Government's public commitment to an ongoing process of restoring relationship with Indigenous peoples, promising Truth and Reconciliation, as well as fulfilling its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Article 10 of UNDRIP expressly condemns forced removal stating that "Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories". With this in mind, what has been happening over this last week is not what reconciliation should ever look like.

The Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students stands in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en land defenders and we condemn the actions of the Canadian government for their violent interference on this territory. As newcomers and settlers on this land, it is our responsibility to support these movements that work to protect traditional land that we now share with Indigenous peoples.

We are calling for the withdrawal of the RCMP from Wet'suwet'en territory, and support the right of the Wet'suwet'en people to continue in their actions to protect the lands, waters, and futures of their people. We also call on other student unions and institutions across Turtle Island to join in condemning this state violence against Indigenous people.

We are urging everyone to join these calls to action from the <u>Wet'suwet'en Supporter Toolkit</u> in any way that you are able:

- Over 100 actions have been organized across the country, find one on this FB Event
- Host a film screening of the new documentary, Invasion.
- Write an opinion piece for your local paper, zine, or other publication. Keep the name of the Unist'ot'en in the press, and bypass the media blackout.
- Sign up for the Unist'ot'en Camp Newsletter.
- Share posts on social media, talk to your community, keep eyes on the Unist'ot'en and Wet'suwet'en!
- Tell Canada and British Columbia to uphold Indigenous rights. Call the relevant <u>Provincial</u> and Federal Ministers.
- Look up your MP! Write, call, and contact them on social media.

In Solidarity,

Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students