



Statement on Wet'suwet'en, the Trans Mountain Pipeline, and Canada's obligations to Indigenous peoples

As Lhaqtemish (Lummi people), it is our Xa Xalh Xechnging (sacred obligation) to protect our traditional territories, our Schelangen (way of life), and our inherent, sovereign and Treaty rights. We stand together Netse Mot (one heart, one mind) with Indigenous peoples, our brothers and sisters who are protecting their way of life.

Given recent and alarming actions taken against our First Nations relatives, Lummi Nation calls for the Government of Canada to abide by the principles outlined in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and adopted by Canada's Department of Justice as part of the Reconciliation process. To disregard Indigenous peoples' rights with such brutality is a dishonor to the Crown.

The police actions at the Unistoten camp on traditional Wet'suwet'en territory and Canada's decision to proceed with the Trans Mountain Pipeline makes a mockery of international standards of "meaningful consultation" and "free, prior, and informed consent" with Indigenous peoples.

Lummi Nation not only stands with First Nations, but also demands that our own internationally recognized rights be respected with regard to all Canadian projects that affect our traditional territories in Xw'ullemly, the Salish Sea bioregion.

The waters, salmon, qwe'lhol'mechen (orcas), and Coast Salish cultures of Xw'ullemly are not divided by an international border. Canadian projects impact lives, livelihoods and Schelangen of Salish peoples south of the border. For example, the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion would increase shipping traffic sevenfold, effectively turning the waters of the Xw'ullemly into a transportation corridor. The Salish Sea must not become a highway to Asia.

We therefore call for the Canadian government to:

1. immediately stop police action against those protecting their traditional, unceded territories at Wet'suwet'en.
2. to re-assess their understanding of “consent” where clearly none was given, and “meaningful consultation” when First Nations have presented thorough assessments based on science and ancestral knowledge.
3. live up to its obligation to Indigenous peoples of the Salish Sea north and south of the border when contemplating projects that would significantly affect us and our inherent rights to live on our land, practice our spirituality, and preserve our culture and traditional ways of life.

It's our way to honor the earth and all the life that springs from the earth. For us, our territories, our culture, our spirit are all connected. We are guided by our ancestors, and we protect our way of life for future generations.

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