

Tool Kit for National Student Walk out for Wet'suwet'en March 4th

Please read the Unist'ot'en supporter tool kit available on their website:
Unistoten.camp/supportertoolkit2020/

We have attempted to put together some information that will help folks organize a walk outs at school! Please read through this package and let us know if you have any questions!

Toolkit Contents:

1. Mobilizing students
2. Organizing the Walkout
3. Coordinating Media Coverage

Mobilizing students

The hardest part of organizing a walk out is getting the word out.

- Try and work with a pre-existing group on campus to plan the event! Chat with Indigenous student groups/unions, Divest/350 groups, your Student Union, progressive clubs etc.
- Social Media: Make a public Facebook event, Instagram post, etc. Most of the information from the National Walk out Event ([link here](#)) can be copy pasted into local event pages.
 - Consider asking if existing student groups are interested in co-hosting to reach a broader audience.
 - Ask groups on campus to share it on their pages and with email list serves
 - Blast! Promote! Share!
- Send the link of your local Facebook event to organizers of the national event to be included in the description, *link"
- Physical Outreach: posters, pamphlets, chalking etc.
 - If you have time/capacity it is helpful to have a physical advertisement that will reach people who aren't on social media.
 - If someone can print a simple poster or leaflet to be distributed this is helpful!
- Graphics
 - Canva is a great app for developing simple graphics quickly

- Photos of past actions with simple text overlay are relatively easy and eye-catching
- Email profs!
 - Mobilize students to email profs and let them know there is a walk out (template for emailing profs)
 - Consider asking profs to cancel their classes
 - Ask profs to notify their students and other faculty in their department
 - [Template to email profs](#)

Organizing the Walkout

We can't tell every organizer what will work best on their campus, and do not want to advocate for anyone to attempt to organize something that they do not have the capacity or experience to do. It is not necessary for the walk out to be followed by a large event/action.

All actions should be peaceful. Any aggression or violence will reflect on and be felt by the Indigenous folks leading this movement across "Canada". For any sort of event following a walk out it is important to make sure there are proper safety precautions in place.

Note that it is important to keep in mind de-escalation at any event you host. Escalated situations are disproportionately unsafe for Indigenous people, people of colour, disabled, queer and femme folks. Escalating situations with civilians or police makes people unsafe. It is worth considering having someone with privilege who feels safe engaging with aggravated/escalated individuals assigned as a de-escalator.

It is great to have students meet up once they walk out of classes to carry the momentum. This could be to rally, march around campus, or participate in direct action. This doesn't have to be complex, and can vary depending on your capacity/experience.

Some questions to ask to figure out what will work best for your campus (rally, march etc.)

- Are there pre-existing actions in town students can support?
- Is there a call to action you can use this as a platform for?
- Are you able to safely organize a march on campus?
- Are there speakers that would be interested in speaking at a rally?
- Choose a meeting spot and a time where students will meet once they walk out. Be sure to include this in all social media/physical outreach.

- Having the walkout around mid day tends to have the best turnout.

Marches

- For any sort of march it is important to have marshalls in High Visibility vests who are able to stop traffic and be visible on the edges of the march
- If you plan on walking on a roadway be sure to have police/security liaisons, and notify your local transit system an hour or two before you take to the street.
- Encourage participants to walk close together and keep a slow pace.

Rallies

- It is important to have security liaisons for rallies, and to communicate with campus security/police to ensure the safety of participants.
- Consider who can speak at the rally. It is important to center Indigenous folks whenever possible. Are there people you can reach out to and offer this platform to? Be mindful of how much you are asking of Indigenous folks, and consider how you/others can support them in any work they are already doing.
- Consider where you will have the rally, and the sound for the rally.
 - Do you have a megaphone or sounds system you can use?
- It is helpful to have some chants in mind to get people going!

Coordinating Media Coverage

- Notify media ahead of time to ensure your event has coverage
 - Create a simple media advisory and send it out 24 hours in advance
- Have one or two spokespeople available to take interviews throughout the day
 - Consider that Indigenous students should be prioritized for any coverage, the media is already flooded with settler perspectives on Wet'suwet'en solidarity. That being said, please respect the capacity of individuals in your community and be aware that folks may already be at capacity.
- Immediately following your event, send out a press release with photos of your event.

Still have questions? Feel free to email divestuvic@gmail.com, sustainability@uvic.ca or other organizers.

