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YOUTH OCCUPY OFFICE OF BC ATTORNEY GENERAL

Youth stand in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en and will occupy the office until the Province of BC meets the demands of the Wet'suwet'en Nation and the Indigenous youth that occupied the office of Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources on January 21st.



Unceded sk̓wx̓wú7mesh, sel̓il̓wítulh, and x̣ʷməθkʷəy̓əm territories (Vancouver), January 28th - 25 youth are occupying the office of BC Attorney General David Eby in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Nation. Members from Our Time Vancouver, UBCc350 and the UBC Social Justice Centre delivered demands Tuesday morning, echoing [those made by the Wet'suwet'en Nation and the Indigenous youth](#) who occupied the office of the [Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum on January 21st](#). They plan to stay in the office until [the demands are met](#).

These demands include that the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia cease construction of the Coastal GasLink project on Wet'suwet'en territories and suspend permits. Under Anuk'nu'at'en (Wet'suwet'en law), all five Wet'suwet'en clans oppose the Coastal GasLink pipeline and have not provided free, prior, and informed consent to Coastal GasLink to do work on their lands.



As Kate Hodgson, action organizer with Our Time and UBCc350, explains, “We follow the leadership of the Wet’suwet’en Nation and the Indigenous youth arrested in Victoria and urge David Eby to use his position as Attorney General to uphold his government’s commitment and legal obligations to respect the free, prior and informed consent of the Wet’suwet’en Nation.”

The Wet’suwet’en Nation and those in solidarity with them are also demanding the removal of the RCMP from Wet’suwet’en territories. Last year, the RCMP violently [arrested 14 land defenders](#) – including elders and children – at the unarmed Gidimt’en checkpoint. [Investigative reporting](#) has also shown that they were willing to employ lethal force against Indigenous land defenders. Since then, the RCMP have initiated their enforcement of the injunction order and established a police barricade in Wet’suwet’en territory restricting individuals from entering or leaving the area without authorization.



Finally, the Wet'suwet'en Nation is calling on the BC Premier and relevant Ministers to meet with Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to receive and adhere to their demands.

These demands were also articulated on January 21st, when [Indigenous youth occupied the office of Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum](#) in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Nation. The youth experienced [violent intimidation tactics](#), and were met with silence from the Minister, who refused to meet with them. After over 18 hours, 12 Indigenous youth were arrested.

Action organizer with the UBC Social Justice Centre, Gabby Doebeli explains what brought them to be involved: "We refuse to accept the shameful status quo of colonial extraction and violence alongside empty words of reconciliation, and we will do everything we can to hold this colonial government accountable for the violence they are enacting. I'm outraged by the actions of the RCMP, the Federal and John Horgan's Provincial Government and Coastal GasLink, which violate Wet'suwet'en law, Canadian law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This is especially disgraceful because of John Horgan's recent [legislation of UNDRIP](#). He has the power to stop this."



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