



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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28 January 2018

RE: Indigenous Studies Students' Union's January 8th Statement

At the directive of a unanimous vote on January 18th, the Victoria University Students' Administrative Council (VUSAC) condemns in the strongest terms the Canadian Government's occupation of Wet'suwet'en Territory.

We formally endorse the Indigenous Studies Students' Union statement regarding the Canadian Government's occupation of Wet'suwet'en Territory released on January 8th; the full text of that statement is included below.

In accordance with our mission statement, VUSAC will continue to listen to Indigenous communities on campus and support their work. To that end, charitable donations for Unist'ot'en Camp were collected throughout Environmental Equity Week and can still be made at VUSAC's front desk.

In solidarity,

The Victoria University Students' Administrative Council



Text: Indigenous Studies Students' Union's Statement

Sourced from facebook.com/ISSU.UofT

January 8th, 2019

RE: Canadian Government's Occupation of Wet'suwet'en Territory

We, the Indigenous Studies Students' Union, acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity since time immemorial. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. The territory is the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Anishnaabek and Allied Nations to peaceably care for and share the resources around the Great Lakes.

We also acknowledge the sacred land of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, and we recognize the right of the people and their hereditary chiefs to self-determination. When we acknowledge the land, we also acknowledge the people who continue to operate and maintain it. We acknowledge the Indigenous peoples whose culture and identity has been the subject of continued assimilation and attempted erasure by the Canadian government, irrespective of the rhetoric that politicians purport. The Canadian government's decision to mobilize the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is in direct violation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Article s#8 and #10 of UNDRIP state that there will be : "No forced assimilation." and "No forced removal." When the hereditary chiefs from all five of the Wet'suwet'en clans gather their communities in opposition to the building of a pipeline, it signifies that they do not consent. There is no consent for the construction of a pipeline that will destroy over 22,000 kilometres of traditional territory. The preservation of this territory is of direct benefit to not only the existing Indigenous communities that live there, but also the future generations to come.

To the university and its administration, your silence speaks volumes. There are a multitude of demonstrations across the country today, where Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples alike are gathering in displays of solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation. We are inspired by their resilience, and we encourage university officials and student groups to do the same.

In Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en First Nation,

The Executive Committee
Indigenous Studies Students' Union