



AAMJIWNAANG
FIRST NATION
Band Council

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February 12, 2020

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
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Via Fax: 613-941-6900

Premier John Horgan
Office of the Premier
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Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

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Aamjiwnaang First Nation is part of the Anishinabek Nation, and Three Fires Confederacy. Our Nation represents more than 2400 members who are governed by our own constitution, Chi'Naaknigewin.

Aamjiwnaang Chief and Council, supported by its membership, affirm our collective solidarity with our Wet'suwet'en brothers and sisters in asserting their Indigenous Sovereignty. We also support those brave individuals who are risking their own personal safety at the of Unist'ot'en Camp. We condemn the Canadian state for its unilateral imposition of force to remove and disrupt the original owners of Wet'suwet'en title lands. It is important to note these militarized operations are being conducted on unceded Gitdumt'en territories, authorized by a provincial court's injunction. Both actions represent a violation of Wet'suwet'en law, jurisdiction and governance on Wet'suwet'en lands and require investigation from the international community.

Canada's colonial past is replete with similar actions of force when Sovereign Indigenous peoples are placed in conflict with resource extraction projects in which they are not consulted nor are they intended to share in the benefits.

The Supreme Court of Canada has stressed time and again that a fundamental purpose of the recognition of Aboriginal title within the Canadian legal system is reconciliation. True reconciliation requires the Canadian legal system to recognize and affirm Indigenous nations as rule-governed legal orders. This requires honouring and respecting Indigenous peoples' own laws, governance and jurisdiction.

The recent imposition of RCMP personnel on Wet'suwet'en territory is a stark reminder of how far our respective nations are from obtaining reconciliation and requires further reflection of Canada's concept of a Nation to Nation relationship.

We call on the governments of Canada and British Columbia to immediately restore Wet'suwet'en laws, jurisdiction and governance and to seek a peaceful resolution to the current crisis.

In solidarity,

Chief Chris Plain
AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION