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Indigenous-led campaign, endorsed by 100+ groups, urges global investors and banks to divest from and stop financing Coastal GasLink and LNG Canada; Financing violates racial justice commitments and reconciliation; Campaign builds on TMX campaign that saw 16 insurers drop the project

Unceded x^wməθk^{wə}ýəm, Skwxwú7mesh and səliłwətał territories (VANCOUVER, BC) — The Gidimt'en Checkpoint from the Wet'suwet'en Nation — the same Nation whose protests sparked rail [blockades](#) across Canada in 2020 — issued a [letter](#) today to over 35 Coastal GasLink (CGL) investors and banks in Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States. The letter demands investors and banks — including JP Morgan Chase, Citibank, RBC, Scotiabank, BMO, Royal Dutch Shell, and CaixaBank — cease and withdraw all support from Coastal GasLink and LNG Canada and highlights how financing the project violates Indigenous rights and breaks any investor commitments to racial justice, reconciliation, and social responsibility.

Coastal GasLink is a proposed 670-kilometer-long pipeline that would carry fracked gas from northeast BC to a future liquefied natural gas terminal on the coast, LNG Canada, the largest of its kind ever proposed in Canada.

Endorsed by over 100 organizations around the world, the #DivestCGL campaign mirrors the pressure tactics which led to 16 [insurance](#) companies dropping the Trans Mountain (TMX) pipeline project.

The Coastal GasLink pipeline violates Wet'suwet'en rights and title, and lacks consent of Wet'suwet'en Nation hereditary chiefs. The 37 investors and banks targeted by the campaign include Canada's Big 5 Banks, which last month issued [statements](#) committing to justice for Indigenous peoples. RBC sponsored [Truth and Reconciliation Week](#), which included broadcast programs on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. One of these [calls](#) is for corporations to commit to meaningful consultation and building respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects. Against the backdrop of the banks' recent public commitments to reconciliation, the banks' hypocrisy in financing Coastal GasLink is especially striking.

“Reconciliation isn't financing a project that's destroying our land, without our consent. Coastal GasLink has not engaged in respectful consultation with us. Backing this project implicates investors in perpetuating violence to our land and on my people,” **says Molly Wickham, Gidimt'en, Wet'suwet'en Nation, Hereditary name Sleydo**. “If investors are serious about their commitments to social responsibility and racial justice, they must commit to not financing projects that threaten Wet'suwet'en sovereignty, violate our land and sacrifice our future. Otherwise, when companies talk of reconciliation, it's just empty promises — and we've had more than enough of those already.”

The 100+ groups pledging solidarity from around the world include 350.org, Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network in Australia, Oil Change International, Leadnow, Rainforest Action Network, RAVEN, Fossil Free California and Giniw Collective, an

Indigenous and women-led frontline resistance group in the United States.

“At what point do corporations, which are made up of people, begin to act like fellow human beings who drink water? How much more of the world needs to burn and how many more gross human rights violations are tolerable by actors engaged in investments that steal life from future generations? Accountability and oversight are more than owed for such reckless behavior, at this point in the climate crisis,” **says Tara Houska, Couchiching First Nation, founder of Giniw Collective.** “We stand in solidarity with Wet’suwet’en land defenders protecting the sacred and standing up to corporate greed.”

“New fossil fuel projects are not only inconsistent with the Paris Agreement, they are risky investments because they will inevitably become stranded assets as the world shifts to renewable energy,” says **Rob Henderson, former Chief Economist, Markets at National Australia Bank**, one of Coastal GasLink’s investors. The Australian economics and finance consultant adds, “Financing Coastal GasLink is a huge backwards step for National Australia Bank and a real blow to the bank’s standing with the increasingly influential Corporate Social Responsibility investment community, both because it is a fossil fuel enabling development, and also that it is in direct conflict with the wishes of local Indigenous people.”

“This pipeline isn’t about the so called “safe” transportation of a necessary product its the final gasp of a dying industry desperately trying to perpetuate fossil fuel use in a society that knows its past time to to make better choices for energy use, “ **said Amy Gray, Senior Climate Finance Strategist at Stand.earth** “All pipelines leak and they wreak havoc from the extraction through the route of the pipeline all the way to the communities who live in the shadow of the refineries. It’s time to stop funding these dangerous pipelines and respect Indigenous sovereignty, frontline communities and re-invest in a just and equitable transition to renewable energy.”

The Coastal GasLink project is at the centre of a high-profile conflict over Wet’suwet’en land rights. On January 4, 2020, Wet’suwet’en Hereditary chiefs served an [eviction](#) notice to Coastal GasLink for proceeding to construct the pipeline without their consent, which was ignored by the company. Shortly after, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) conducted a five-day military raid on resistance camps, violently evicting land defenders. This set off nationwide solidarity protests and railway blockades, delaying shipping traffic for weeks and garnering [global](#) media attention.

Today, militarized police presence continues on Wet’suwet’en territory, with the ongoing [conflict](#) involving forceful arrests of land defenders protecting a culturally significant ancient site. Last week, Gidimt’en Checkpoint [issued](#) a call to action to supporters for global solidarity actions, to shine a light on Coastal GasLink’s continued violation of Wet’suwet’en rights.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:

Jennifer Wickham, Gidimt’en Checkpoint Media Coordinator, 778-210-0067
yintahaccess@gmail.com

Additional quotes

"Corporations need to step up and deliver on their commitments to social responsibility. Banks and investors need to stop financing fossil fuel projects that violate the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous people for their own financial gain," **says Mary Lovell from Rainforest Action Network**. "Global investors are due for a moment of reckoning, as they face increasing resistance to these toxic projects that harm communities. Climate justice is racial justice, and these corporations are being held accountable for their actions.

Endorsing Orgs Include:

Stand.earth

350.org

Giniw Collective

Climate Emergency Unit

Oak Bay Climate Force

North Island Climate Hub

Oil Change International

SumOfUs

The Climate Reality Project Canada

Équiterre

Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area

Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew

Fossil Free California

Divest Ed

Toronto350

350 New Orleans

350 Maine

Revolution Coalition

350 Butte County

350 New Hampshire

Zero Hour

Comox Valley Council of Canadians

Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)

Wilderness Committee

Rainforest Action Network

Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Climate Pledge Collective

RAVEN (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs)

Leadnow

Terrace Council of Canadians

350 Eastside (Seattle)

The WaterWealth Project

350 Hawaii

New York Youth Climate Leaders

Environmental Defence

Greenpeace Canada

Banking on a Better Future

Transition Kamloops Network
Fridays For Future Windsor Essex
Climate Justice Montreal
350 Spokane
Divest Canada
Quit RBC - Extinction Rebellion Québec, Canada
Friday's For Future Fenelon Falls
350 Montreal
Climate Justice Montreal
350Vermont
Extinction Rebellion QC
Le Ministère de la nouvelle normalité
Jubilee Australia Research Centre
ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change)
Green Music Australia
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
Original Power
Fundación Renovables
Protect Our Winters Canada
Ecologistas en Acción-Spain
Ecologistas en Acción Región Murciana
Comox Valley Council of Canadians
Land Rights Now
Uplift
Fridays For Future Calgary
Fridays For Future Quinte
Friends of the Earth Japan
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)
BreakFree Switzerland
BankTrack
Private Equity Stakeholder Project
350 Colorado
Earth Action, Inc.
Earth Guardians
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Bold Alliance
350PDX
Future Coalition
Yellow Point Ecological Society
Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet GASP
Union of BC Indian Chiefs, UBCIC
Coast Protectors
350.org Japan
Friends of the Earth Canada
Fossil Free London
350 Hawaii
Our Part Foundation
Seeding Sovereignty

Climate Action Rhode Island – 350
Market Forces
350 Vancouver
Extinction Rebellion New Orleans
350 Colorado Springs
350 Northern Colorado
Fridays for Future Regina
Friends of the Earth US
North West Watch
Oil Change International