



September 15, 2023

To the Board of Directors of the Museum of Modern Art,

We are hereditary chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, appointed by our house groups and clans to steward our Yintah – 8,500 square miles of sovereign territory in the north of what you know as Canada. Our authority flows from the land itself, which has never been surrendered through treaty or war.

As lovers of modern art, you are familiar with the creations of Indigenous peoples. Some of the most iconic and valuable works of art in the museum's collection, including Pablo Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)*; Henri Matisse's *Dance (I)*; Paul Gauguin's *The Moon and The Earth*; and Diego Rivera's *Festival de las Flores: Fiesta de Santa Anita*, were influenced by Indigenous African, European, Mā'ohi, and American art, mythology, and celebrations.

Yet even though the prestige of the Museum of Modern Art is grounded in imagery that draw from our cultures, the management of the museum celebrates Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis, who are profiting from the destruction of our culture, environment, and communities.

Henry Kravis is Co-Founder and Co-Executive Chairman of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR). In 2020, KKR and Alberta Investment Management Company acquired a 65% share of the Coastal GasLink pipeline project. Coastal GasLink aims to export fracked gas for a consortium of foreign oil companies. Its route crosses more than 100 miles of our unceded territory on its way to the Pacific Coast.

Our traditional government operates according to laws and protocols that predate the founding of either the U.S. or Canada. After deliberation in the *bahtlats*, all five clans of the Wet'suwet'en unanimously denied consent to Coastal GasLink to build along its current route, which cuts a swathe through sensitive salmon rivers, old-growth forest, and irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites.

We offered Coastal GasLink an alternate route along an already disturbed corridor, but the company rejected it. Instead, they launched a military-style campaign against us, with private security contractors coordinating with police to remove Wet'suwet'en people from our lands at gunpoint. These tactics were developed on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan by David Petraeus, retired U.S. Army general, former director of the CIA, and head of KKR's Global Institute. Since KKR acquired Coastal GasLink, the occupation of our territory has intensified.

Prior to KKR's acquisition, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination requested that work on Coastal GasLink cease because it violated our right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The Committee also requested Canada stop the forced evictions of our people living on our land. Those appeals were not heeded.

We are here in New York today to ask that you end the era of hypocrisy – of utilizing our arts and culture for your pleasure while turning a blind eye to and enhancing the status of people and corporations who are profiting from destroying our culture, our land, and our lives.

In solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en and Indigenous peoples around the world, please remove Marie-Josée Kravis from your Board of Directors and rename the Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Studio and all affiliated programs.

Respectfully,

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Chief Na'moks, Tsayu clan

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Chief Woos, Gidimt'en clan