



# GIDIMT'EN CHECKPOINT

RESPECTING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
JANUARY 4 2020**

**Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs Evict Coastal GasLink from Territory**

Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs representing all five clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation have issued an eviction notice to the Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline company. The eviction of CGL is effective immediately, and applies to "Camp 9A" on Dark House territory, as well as the neighbouring Gidimt'en, Tsayu, and Laksamshu clan territories. Hereditary chiefs have gathered on Gidimt'en and Gilseyhu territories to monitor the eviction.

Coastal Gaslink has violated the Wet'suwet'en law of trespass, and has bulldozed through our territories, destroyed our archaeological sites, and occupied our land with industrial man-camps. Private security firms and RCMP have continually interfered with the constitutionally protected rights of Wet'suwet'en people to access our lands for hunting, trapping, and ceremony.

Canada's courts have acknowledged in *Delgamuukw-Gisdaywa v. The Queen* that the Wet'suwet'en people, represented by our hereditary chiefs, have never ceded nor surrendered title to the 22,000km<sup>2</sup> of Wet'suwet'en territory. The granting of the interlocutory injunction by BC's Supreme Court has proven to us that Canadian courts will ignore their own rulings and deny our jurisdiction when convenient, and will not protect our territories or our rights as Indigenous peoples.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Jennifer Wickham  
yintahaccess.com  
yintahaccess@gmail.com  
778-210-0067

## **MEDIA BACKGROUNDER:**

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nuc 'nu'at'en (Wet'suwet'en law) is not a "belief" or a "point of view". It is a way of sustainably managing our territories and relations with one another and the world around us, and it has worked for millennia to keep our territories intact. Our law is central to our identity. The ongoing criminalization of our laws by Canada's courts and industrial police is an attempt at genocide, an attempt to extinguish Wet'suwet'en identity itself.

We reaffirm that Anuc 'nu'at'en remains the highest law on Wet'suwet'en land and must be respected. We have always held the responsibility and authority to protect our unceded territories. Protection of our yintah (traditional territories) is at the heart of Anuc 'nu'at'en, and we will practice our laws for the future generations.

The Wet'suwet'en have always controlled access to our territories. At Unist'ot'en Village, a Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol has been practiced over the past ten years whenever access to the territory is requested by someone outside of Dark House membership. Dark House has not been able to implement this protocol since the enforcement of the interim injunction in January 2019. This protocol aligns Wet'suwet'en law with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which guarantees Indigenous peoples the right to obtain free, prior, and informed consent for development on our territories.

We expect Coastal GasLink to peacefully comply with our eviction notice, and ask that British Columbia uphold its commitment to implement UNDRIP and instruct RCMP to respect our rights and refrain from interference in Wet'suwet'en law.

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