



GIDIMT'EN CHECKPOINT

RESPECTING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

Urgent Update: Coastal Gaslink Poised to Drill Wet'suwet'en Headwaters

Coastal Gaslink equipment is now in position to drill beneath the Wedzin Kwa river, which provides drinking water for Wet'suwet'en villages and has served as a key salmon spawning area for millenia.

Wet'suwet'en territory is unceded, unsurrendered, and sovereign, and Wet'suwet'en people have never provided Free, Prior, and Informed Consent to the Coastal Gaslink pipeline's destructive construction operations.

To date, Wet'suwet'en resistance to drilling beneath Wedzin Kwa has delayed the destruction of Wet'suwet'en waters for approximately two years. In the fall of 2021, Wet'suwet'en and allies sustained a two-month long blockade of this drill site called Coyote camp, until a series of militarized RCMP attacks on Wet'suwet'en community members and supporters resulted in dozens of arrests.

In advance of CGL's drilling operations, Wet'suwet'en community members have faced increased surveillance and harassment from RCMP's C-IRG unit (a police unit created to facilitate pipeline construction) and a series of private security contractors.

Wet'suwet'en village sites remain under 24 hour surveillance, while police have made several arbitrary violent arrests, including with pepper spray.

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RCMP and CGL's private security contractor Forsythe were served a lawsuit by Wet'suwet'en community members who have been subject to this continuous surveillance and harassment.

Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and community members recently hosted a week of ceremony to protect and honour Wedzin Kwa, included rafting tours of a historic Wet'suwet'en village site within the headwaters area.

We will never stop defending our yintah the way our ancestors have done for thousands of years. The pipeline will never be put into service.

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