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### **In Support of the Wet'suwet'en**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We, the undersigned, are so very sad and sorely disappointed. We were hopeful that finally the Government of Canada was serious about reconciliation with the First Peoples of this land that the white man named Canada. We thought that finally Canada would treat the First Peoples as equals with equal rights and equal voice to what happens to the land on which they have lived for millennia. We thought that finally the imperialist attitude instituted and enforced by the Indian Act would come to an end so that the hereditary cultural and spiritual lives of our brothers and sisters indigenous to this land would be respected, honoured and valued above financial and material profit. We hoped that finally people would matter more than money, more than power and control over 'the other', anyone not in agreement with those with the means to control.

We were hopeful that the Government of B.C. by legislating the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), was serious about addressing the situation with our First Peoples. We hoped that now all nations would be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve and would be truly consulted so as to build consensus.

As the world comes to realize that fossil fuels are destroying our planet, we hoped our elected officials would take the necessary measures to stop the mining and transportation of fossil fuels. Mining and shipping is only one part of the destruction, which enables the further attack on our planet by selling these fuels so that climate change is perpetuated. Then, we dig some more and ship some more and on and on it goes. Our young people watch and are more and more disappointed and disenchanted by the little value their elders put on the future. The more mining and burning of fossil fuels the more we are taking away the lives of our young and those yet unborn.

We hoped but that hope is eroding as both federal and provincial governments continue to ignore the calls of our youth, of our elders, and of our First Peoples. Our hopes have been further dashed as we see the legal system and government officialdom disregard the legitimate and valid concerns of not only the Wet'suwet'en but all people of conscience and love for Creation. But our hopes and disappointment do not begin to compare with the continued betrayal experienced by the Indigenous peoples of Canada and other parts of the world.

The actions perpetrated on the Wet'suwet'en territory are an embarrassment and a violation. They stand to protect their home from further invasion and occupation. They stand to protect Mother Earth from further destruction; the Wet'suwet'en stand in non-violent action to protect our global well-being.

And what do those in charge do? They violate the human rights of the people of that territory; they demean and disregard them as human beings. The government protects the corporations' drive for financial gain by fooling many into believing it is more important to have 'a job' no matter how temporary, rather than clean water, clean air and clean land that can sustain the many for generations yet

to come. Just as at the beginning the white man, the business man, the invader used their military or financial prowess to take control either through force or the low-hanging fruit of immediate relief from suffering.

Sadly, the means to relieve the poverty, the lack of safe drinking water, the lack of education and health standards of the rest of Canadian society, is in the hands of those in our legislative bodies, but they feed the corporations rather than those in need. So the balance of power in the hands of the few over the many continues; imperialism continues with laws created to have power and control.

Therefore, we demand all levels of government honour the Wet'suwet'en and those who support them by stopping the destruction through the mining, development and selling of fossil fuels and fully engage in sustainable renewable development in harmony with the Wet'suwet'en and all who stand to protect Mother Earth.

We also demand that all levels of government cease and desist from the invasion and occupation of Wet'suwet'en territory.

We demand that all levels of government truly work to implement the full intent of UNDRIP, the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,

Laura Savinkoff  
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