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To Dalhousie Student Union Members and Surrounding Community,

The Dalhousie Student Union Council stands in solidarity with land defenders in Wet'suwet'en territory as they continue to resist state violence. On February 5th, 2020 Council passed a unanimous motion to join an international call for solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Nation.

Since 2007, the Wet'suwet'en Nation has expressed its opposition to any pipeline development projects on their unceded territory. Early 2019, the RCMP put forward a militarized raid at the Gidimt'en checkpoint. In December 2019, the B.C. Supreme Court granted Coastal Gaslink (CGL) an injunction order - the enforcement of which began on February 6, 2020, a month after Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs issued an eviction notice to CGL employees. That morning, the RCMP established a full exclusion zone and began to evict land defenders in preparation for the continuation of the CGL pipeline project. No pipelines can be built through Wet'suwet'en territory without the free, informed, prior consent of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs.

We condemn the violent acts of CGL, the BC Supreme Court, BC provincial government, the federal government, and the RCMP, who are acting directly in violation of Wet'suwet'en and 'Canadian' Law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (adopted in Canada and written into BC law). These groups are also acting against a direct call from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the recommendations put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Final Report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people.

We call on the settler government to recognize Wet'suwet'en jurisdiction over their territory, and adhere to the demands of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs - which are as follows...¹

- That the province cease construction of the CGL Pipeline project and suspend permits.
- That the UNDRIP and [their] right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) are respected by the state and RCMP.
- That the RCMP and associated security and police services be withdrawn from Wet'suwet'en lands, in agreement with the most recent letter provided by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) request.
- That the provincial and federal government, RCMP, and private industry employed by CGL respect [their] laws and [their] governance system, and refrain from using any force to access [their] land or remove [their] people.

¹ <http://unistoten.camp/wetsuweten-hereditary-chiefs-no-access-without-consent/>

