



## Stand with Wet'suwet'en: Resources for Education and Action for CUPE 3902 Members

### Background:

The Wet'suwet'en are a First Nations people, comprised of 5 clans (including the Unist'ot'en Clan), who live on the Bulkley River and around Burns Lake, Broman Lake, and Francois Lake in the northwestern Central Interior of British Columbia.

The traditional government of the Wet'suwet'en comprises 13 hereditary chiefs, organized today as the Office of the Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en, or the Office of the Wet'suwet'en in BC government terminology (the government does not recognize their hereditary rights).

The Unist'ot'en cabin and resistance camp is a reoccupation of the traditional, [unceded territory](#) of the [Wet'suwet'en First Nation](#). In 2008, the Wet'suwet'en clans unanimously decided to opt out of the BC Treaty process, and established the first Unist'ot'en territory checkpoint in 2009. The camp started in 2012, located 1200 km by road from Vancouver, BC and about 130 km from the town of Smithers, it is on the shores of the Wedzin Kwah and mouth of the Gosnell Creek. Power is generated by a solar array. Water is supplied by the Morris River.

The Camp was constructed as a means to block development of numerous pipelines and other development deemed harmful to the land. These include: pipelines from [Enbridge](#), and Pacific Trails Pipeline ([Chevron](#)), and action to protect their lands from Lions Gate Metals from seven proposed pipelines from Tar Sands Gigaproject and LNG from the Horn River Basin Fracturing Projects in the Peace River Region.

The [Coastal GasLink Pipeline](#) route travels through Wet'suwet'en First Nation territory, and Wet'suwet'en Nation's elected leaders signed a benefits agreement with the province for Coastal GasLink in 2014.

Protesters say the project infringes on Aboriginal title, citing the 1997 Delgamuukw Supreme Court of Canada ruling. During that case, the court found that the Wet'suwet'en had not given up title to 22,000 square kilometres of territory.

In 2015 the Unist'ot'en released a declaration which included this statement:

*"The Unist'ot'en settlement camp is not a protest or a demonstration. Our clan is occupying and using our traditional territory as it has for centuries. Our free, prior, and informed consent protocol is in place at the entrance of our territory as an expression of our jurisdiction and our inherent right to both give and refuse consent and entry into our territory." (source)*



**What is happening now:**

In December 2018, the B.C. Supreme Court sided with Coastal GasLink, a subsidiary of TransCanada Corp., which filed an injunction to get construction going on the \$40-billion LNG Canada build. The judge ruled that the locked gate on the Morice River Bridge had to come down within 72 hours.

On Jan. 7, the RCMP set up a roadblock near the Gidimt'en checkpoint, turning away media and members of the public before arresting 14 people, including Gitdumden spokesperson Molly Wickham. One elder was released and 13 land defenders and supporters appeared in court in Prince George on January 8.

Rallies in 55 cities across Canada and internationally took place on January 8, 2019, to express solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en defending their unceded lands from unwanted fracked gas development.

After three days of talks with the RCMP, the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs say an agreement has been reached over the enforcement of an interim injunction order to allow pipeline workers into the nation's traditional territory.

"We are adamantly opposed to this proposed project and that will never change, but we are here to ensure the safety of our people," said Chief Na'Moks who attended Thursday's meeting.

Follow <https://www.facebook.com/sectkaronto/> for updates on events and solidarity actions in the GTA.

**How CUPE 3902 members can offer support:**

- Donate to [Unist'ot'en Camp Legal Fund](#)
- Donate to [Gidimt'en Access Point](#)
- Host a solidarity event: See the [International Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en event page](#). We are conducting peaceful actions as sovereign peoples on our territories, and ask that all actions taken in solidarity are conducted peacefully and according to the traditional laws of other Indigenous Nations. Forcible trespass onto Wet'suwet'en territories and the removal of Indigenous peoples from their lands must be stopped. Provincial and federal governments must be confronted.
- Sign the pledge: Join thousands of organizations and individuals in [signing the pledge](#) in support of Unist'ot'en
- Contact representatives: [This page has been set up](#) so you can send an email directly to relevant Federal cabinet ministers and BC Provincial cabinet ministers calling on the RCMP and Coastal Gas.
- [The Unist'ot'en Support Group](#) has published a phone script and provided contact numbers at the federal and provincial levels, the RCMP and TransCanada.



- Use the following hashtags for social media: #unistoten #wetsuwetenstrong #thetimeisnow #wetsuweten #nopipelines #notrespass #unistotencamp

**Resources to learn more:**

Unist'ot'en Camp Resource - Background - <https://unistoten.camp/no-pipelines/background-of-the-campaign/>

Unist'ot'en Camp Resource - Allyship - <http://unistoten.camp/no-pipelines/resources/allyship/>

AJ+ Docs - How to Stop an Oil and Gas Pipeline: The Unist'ot'en Camp Resistance (10 mins) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiVxyLb1hJA>

2015 Resource - What You Need to Know About the Unist'ot'en Pipeline Standoff - <https://www.vancouverobserver.com/news/what-you-need-know-about-unistoten-pipeline-standoff>

Take it upon yourself to learn about Indigenous history, culture and issues. There are many online resources and in-person resources available to help.

- <https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada/home/welcome>
- <http://dodemkanonhsa.ca/>
- <http://ncct.on.ca/dodem-kanonhsa/>

**Sources:**

<https://unistoten.camp/timeline/timeline-of-the-campaign/>

<https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2019/01/08/LNG-Pipeline-Unistoten-Blockade/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-wetsuweten-bc-lng-pipeline-explainer/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unist%27ot%27en\\_Camp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unist%27ot%27en_Camp)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/smithers-meetings-wet-suwet-en-coastal-gaslink-1.4973598>