



CANE/AIIE
Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment
Association d'infirmières et infirmiers pour l'environnement

Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Jagmeet Singh
Leader of the Opposition
Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca

Julie Payette,
Governor General of Canada
patronage@gg.ca

Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
Carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

Marc Miller
Minister of Indigenous Services
Marc.miller@parl.gc.ca

John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
premier@gov.bc.ca

Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation
ABR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Doug Caul
Deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation
Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca

Tuesday November 17th 2020,

Honourable Justin Trudeau, Jagmeet Singh, Julie Payette, Carolyn Bennett, Marc Miller, John Horgan, Scott Fraser, Doug Caul,

We write to you today as the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment (CANE), a nursing organization advocating for a healthy environment and the wider adoption of an intersectional lens, both necessary for a healthy and just society.

CANE reaffirms its position of solidarity with Wet'suwet'en people and allies in defending their unceded land and waters from Coastal GasLink's pipeline project. We applaud and are inspired by the strength and resolve of Wet'suwet'en to protect what is theirs, and we support the two legal actions they are taking— the first being a judicial review of Coastal GasLink's environmental assessment and failure to implement recommendations of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (IMMIWG) into this assessment; and the second a charter climate challenge. This has required immense efforts and sacrifice.

We are deeply concerned with the criminalization of the land defenders at the Unis'tot'en and Gidim'ten camps in the last years. We find the many threats, racists comments, and negative reactions to the land defenders' assertion of sovereignty made across the nation from non-indigenous Canadians to be abhorrent. We are outraged by the burning of hereditary chief Gisday'wa's cabin in August 2020, a clear act of arson. It is concerning that there has been no update from the RCMP's investigation since then. We are disappointed with every video we see



CANE/AIIE
Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment
Association d'infirmières et infirmiers pour l'environnement

of encounters between the RCMP and Wet'suwet'en land defenders where there is a clear lack of knowledge and respect of Wet'suwet'en stance and culture. These videos also illustrate a lack of knowledge and regard for Canada and British Columbia's commitments and obligations towards indigenous peoples. RCMP presence should protect all parties. Moreover, this presence needs to be aligned with your governments' commitment to the United Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Nations (UNDRIP), and to Section 35 of the Canadian constitution.

Our requests are:

- That Wet'suwet'en sovereignty and self-determination within their territory be respected;
- Land defenders not be arrested nor criminalized for their affirmation of sovereignty;
- RCMP to stand down and stop surveilling and harassing land defenders (i.e. [Unistoten 2019](#));
- That the RCMP Community Industry Response Group (CIRG) semi-detachment be removed;
- That RCMP follow through and share publicly the investigation outcome on the arson to Chief Giday'wa's property;
- That you support the Wet'suwet'en's judicial review of Coastal Gaslink's environmental assessment and ensure that the recommendations of the IMMIWG are fully included in this review;
- That you gravely consider the ongoing racist actions and speeches of many Canadians as an indication for need of further education and need to follow through Canada's commitment to upholding the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, BC's commitment to legislating the UNDRIP, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal recommendations, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and IMMIWG Calls to Action.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter,

Jessica Madrid, President

Jacqueline Avanthay-Strus, President-Elect

Jennifer Morin, Past-President

June Kaminski, Treasurer, Memberships & Webmaster

Raluca Radu, Secretary

Sandy Alguire, Communications Officer



CANE/AIIE
Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment
Association d'infirmières et infirmiers pour l'environnement

Maya R. Kalogirou, Alberta Representative

Helen Boyd, British Columbia Representative

Hilda Swirsky, Ontario Representative

Marilyne Tovar, Manitoba Representative

Julia Janicki, North West Territories Representative

Fiona Hanley, Québec Representative

Wanda Martin, Saskatchewan Representative;

Board of the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment

<https://cnhe-iise.ca>

