

Solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en – MOTION BOD 2020-02-05:08

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Whereas, the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, whose representative role is recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada, have indicated a lack of consent for the Coastal GasLink pipeline through their unceded territory;

Whereas, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the BC Human Rights Commissioner have called on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to respect Wet'suwet'en law, rights and title by suspending permits authorizing construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline until they grant their free, prior and informed consent, following the full and adequate discharge of the duty to consult;

Whereas, these entities have warned of the risk of state violence against Wet'suwet'en People opposing the pipeline through non-violent methods, including the risk of an RCMP response and use of lethal force;

Whereas, Canada has endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which includes a commitment to “consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them”;

Whereas, Canada is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, which include commitments to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pursue efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the worst impacts of climate change;

Be it resolved that the SFSS Board of Directors call on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to suspend permits authorizing construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline and commence good-faith consultation with the Wet'suwet'en First Nations;

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Board of Directors call on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to end any attempt at forced removal of Wet'suwet'en First Nations from their traditional territories and refrain from any use of force against anyone seeking to prevent the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

Be it further resolved that the SFSS release a press statement in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en First Nations, and support the advocacy for Indigenous sovereignty on campus and support where necessary, including financially, as the need arises in collaboration with the indigenous community on campus.