

Attorney General Niki Sharma

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Dear Honourable Niki Sharma,

I'm writing as a concerned supporter of the global human rights organization Amnesty International. Wet'suwet'en land defenders and Hereditary Chiefs have never consented to the Coastal GasLink pipeline project on their ancestral and unceded territory. Allowing construction to proceed without their free, prior, and informed consent disregards their right to self-determination and to decide what economic development takes place on their traditional territory, as set out in various international human rights instruments including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was enshrined within BC Law when the provincial government passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act into law in November 2019.

The pipeline has already caused environmental destruction and cut the Wet'suwet'en people off from their ancestral territory. They have been unable to perform many of their traditional activities, such as hunting and fishing, because the forest has been damaged by construction sites.

The Canadian police (RCMP) have arrested dozens of land defenders during the enforcement of an injunction obtained by the pipeline company. Indigenous People who have engaged in peaceful actions to defend the land should not be criminalized solely for exercising their rights.

With trials for several of the land defenders approaching soon on 30 October, now is the time for you to take action. I urge you to immediately drop the charges against the criminalized land defenders who oppose the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

Sincerely,