Resources from the April 9 Wet'suwet'en Teach In

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada and internationally have stood in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en Nation protecting their unceded lands and activating against the questionable approval of a Coastal GasLink pipeline across their territory. This issue has provided further insight and learning opportunities regarding colonial history and laws, the Indian Act, Constitution of Canada (Section 35), the Delgamuukw-Gisdaywa court case, band council chiefs and hereditary chiefs, the rule of law, unceded lands, the Doctrine of Discovery, mainstream journalism and media and broken promises from the Canadian government.

On April 9, the First Nation House of Learning, the UBC Learning Circle, and the UBC Equity & Inclusion Office hosted a virtual Teach In on the legal foundations of Wet’suwet’en Title and Rights and the treatment of the Wet’suwet’en land defenders and supporters in the media as a result of recent state actions taken against them. Some of these resources were discussed by the speakers at the event and others were chosen by Xwí7xwa & CTLT staff. More resources are available at the bottom of the virtual Teach In webpage & on the Indigenous Land Based Activism Research Guide.

Classroom Resources

The resources below focus primarily on issues that could be worked into classrooms. They connect specifically back to the Wet’suwet’en Nation and Indigenous environmental activism.

Dr. Angela Nardozi’s list of resources to teach about the Wet’suwet’en and the blockades for teachers


The Wet’suwet’en, Aboriginal Title, and the Rule of Law—an Explainer by Kate Gunn and Bruce McIvor (The Georgia Straight)

B.C. Failed to Consider Links Between ‘Man Camps,’ Violence Against Indigenous Women, Wet’suwet’en Argue by Carol Linnet (The Narwhal)
Writing & Representation Resources

The news media coverage of the current situation has left much of the story untold, depending on what news media company is doing the reporting. Below are resources that illustrate past examples of Indigenous Peoples and movements in land based activism.


Candis Callison, Rick Harp, Brock Pitawanakwat, Kim Tallbear, & Kenneth T. Williams’s Media Indigena


The Politics of Recognition Within Canadian Media Ethics by Duncan McCue

Historical & Legal Contexts Resources

These resources below are to help understand the background behind these issues: where they come from and why the current events unfold the way they do.


Hiding Behind the Myth of One ‘Rule of Law’ by Paige Raibmon (The Tyee)

Legal Divide Lies Behind Wet'suwet'en Pipeline Protest, Expert Says by CBC Radio (CBC)

Might is Not Right: A Historical Perspective on Coercion as a Colonial Strategy by Sean Carleton (Canadian Dimension)

What We Mean When We Say Indigenous Land is 'Unceded' by Emma McIntosh (National Observer)

The Settler Playbook: Understanding Responses to #ShutDownCanada in Historical Context by Sarah Rotz, Daniel Rück, and Sean Carleton (Active History)

More Resources are Available on Xwi7xwa Library’s Indigenous Land Based Activism Research Guide