

# 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 Xwi7xwa & 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

Manuel, G. & Posluns, M.. (2019). *The Fourth World: An Indian Reality*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.

Morin, M., Wet'suwet'en First Nation, & School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley, B.C.). (2016). *Niwhts'ide'nī hibi'it'ën: The Ways of Our Ancestors: Witsuwit'en History & Culture Throughout the Millennia* (Second ed.). Smithers, BC: School District #54 (Bulkley Valley). Available at Xwi7xwa Library

Lowan-Trudeau, G. (2017). *Protest as Pedagogy: Exploring Teaching and Learning in Indigenous Environmental Movements*. *The Journal of Environmental Education*, 48(2), 96-108. Available through UBC Library

Ray, L. (2018). *Pipelines, Prostitution and Indigenous Women: A Critical Analysis of Contemporary Discourse*. *Canadian Woman Studies*, 33(1-2), 107-116. Available through UBC Library

*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)



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## 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.

Anderson, M. C. & Robertson, C. (2014). *Seeing Red: A History of Natives in Canadian Newspapers*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: University of Manitoba Press.

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

Callison, C. & Young, M. L. (2020). *Reckoning: Journalism's Limits and Possibilities*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Walker, J., & Walter, P. (2018). *Learning About Social Movements Through News Media: Deconstructing New York Times and Fox News Representations of Standing Rock*. *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, 37(4), 401-418.

*The Nation Has Stood Up': Indigenous Clans in Canada Battle Pipeline Project* by Amber Bracken (New York Times)

*The Politics of Recognition Within Canadian Media Ethics* by Duncan McCue

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## 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.

Mills, A. C. (1994). *Eagle Down is Our Law: The Witsuwit'en Law, Feasts, and Land Claims*. Vancouver: UBC Press. Available at Xwi7xwa Library

Fenge, T., Aldridge, J. (2015). *Keeping Promises: The Royal Proclamation of 1763, Aboriginal Rights, and Treaties in Canada*. London; Kingston; Chicago; Montreal;: McGill-Queen's University Press. Available at Xwi7xwa Library

Penikett, A. (2006). *Reconciliation: First Nations Treaty Making in British Columbia*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre. Available at Xwi7xwa Library

*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)

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