

**City of Richmond**

**Council Member Motion**

**For the General Purposes Committee Meeting**

**Date:** February 18<sup>th</sup> 2020  
**From:** Councillor Wolfe  
**Subject:** Declaration of Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en People

**Recommendation:**

That Council endorse the following resolution and request that Mayor and Council send a copy to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of BC, Solicitor General of BC, Richmond MPs, Richmond MLAs, and member local governments of the UBCM.

**Resolution:**

The City of Richmond calls on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to end any attempt at forced removal of non-violent Wet'suwet'en People from their traditional territories, suspend permits authorizing construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline and commence good-faith consultation with the Wet'suwet'en People;

**Rationale:**

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. Significant RCMP resources are currently being deployed away from municipal operations. The City Council in both Victoria and Port Moody have passed similar resolutions. Many of our residents are members of large unions: BCGEU and NUPGE, and/or large organizations: Council of Canadians and Sierra Club of BC, which have also declared solidarity. 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. 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."