



## **International Call for Respecting Indigenous Land Rights in North America**

February 23, 2020

As a coalition of grassroots organizations of family farmer, rancher, fisher, and food worker members advocating for food sovereignty, agroecological solutions to climate change, and the cessation of corporate resource grabs, the National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) stands in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation in opposing TC Energy's construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline through their territory.

Our food and agriculture systems across North America are on land that was once hunted, gathered, and fished by Native Americans, and worked by enslaved communities of color. This history of exploitation, violence, and marginalization is not relegated to history books but manifests itself to this day in determining whose property rights are respected, who has access to public services, and how systemic racism is or is not addressed by public institutions. Fossil fuel extraction and development has a long history of infringing upon the rights and interests of rural communities, both indigenous and non-indigenous. Corporate profits in the energy sector must never be prioritized over the rights of rural and indigenous communities in North America. NFFC stands firmly behind the core beliefs that all people have the right to grow, catch, harvest, and affordably access culturally appropriate and wholesome foods. All communities' human and cultural rights must be respected under international law, and indigenous communities have fundamental rights to self-determination and self-governance on their traditional lands.

In 1997, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the territorial rights of the Wet'suwet'en. In 2019, British Columbia [passed provincial legislation](#) to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, affirming that Indigenous Peoples have the rights to "free, prior, and informed consent" on any developments on their lands. These fundamental rights must be respected, and given that they have not, TC Energy should leave the Wet'suwet'en land and abandon their pipeline proposal.

The National Family Farm Coalition calls on the governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the United States to recognize and stand by the rights of the Wet'suwet'en people in Canada and indigenous communities across the United States facing similar oppression.

*NFFC's mission is to mobilize family farmers, ranchers, and fishermen to achieve fair prices, vibrant communities, and healthy foods free of corporate domination.*