

RECONCILIATION IS DEAD

The Trudeau era of reconciliation has been a farce from the beginning. Canadians want to believe that colonial violence is a thing of the past so the government hides it for them. Yet, Canada is a colonial state. It exists to govern territory and manage the resources of that territory. It is nothing less and nothing more.

The time has come to stop looking for justice in the state and its law.

The Wet'suwet'en won probably the most significant legal challenge in Canadian history. The Delgamuukw verdict saw the courts acknowledge that the We'suwet'en territory is unceded, that they hold title and legal jurisdiction, and yet look at how Canada honours that. Legal victories are not the way we win our land and dignity. Canada cares as little about Canadian law as they do Indigenous law. It is time we see their laws for what they are: imaginary and hypocritical. Settler laws exist to protect the state and capital.

The same goes for the United Nations and their precious UNDRIP. We have seen that the state will adopt UNDRIP principles and interpret them to suit their needs. BC adopted it and, yet, says that it does not mean they have to gain consent from the Wet'suwet'en. Consent will never actually mean the right to say no. And the UN has no way to enforce it.

The time has passed for legal challenge in their courts that does nothing but drain our resources and slow us down. I honour those relatives and ancestors who attempted the peaceful resolution, who trusted in the good intentions of other humans. But the settlers have proven that the peaceful options they offered us are lies.



This is not only about Wet'suwet'en anymore.

This is about all of us. Any day now the RCMP could attempt to move in and evict the rail blockade at Tyendinaga. I stand in solidarity with them as much as I do with the Wet'suwet'en. This moment is not just about getting the government militarized goons to back down at Unist'ot'en and Gidim't'en, it's about getting them to loosen their grip around all of our necks. This moment is about proclaiming reconciliation is dead and taking back our power. This is a proposal to widen our scope so that we don't lose our forward momentum if what happens out west doesn't meet our wildest dreams.

When we put all of our hopes and dreams into one struggle in one spot, we set ourselves up for heartbreak and burnout. Let's fight for the Wet'suwet'en people, yes! But let's honour their courage and their actions by letting them inspire us to do the same.

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It is time to shut everything the fuck down.

It is time to act. But we do not have to limit ourselves to actions that demand the withdrawal of forces from Wet'suwet'en territory. The federal government is the one calling the shots, not just at Unist'ot'en but at every point of native oppression across all the territories. Any attack on the state of Canada is in solidarity. Any assertion of native sovereignty is in solidarity.

Choose your accomplices wisely. Liberals who read land acknowledgments often have too much invested in this system to actually see it change. Find common heart with those who want to see the state destroyed, to have

autonomous communities take its place, and to restore balance between humans and all our relations. Choose those who listen more than they talk, but not those who will do whatever you say. They are motivated by guilt. Find those who have a fire burning in them for a more wild and just world.

Creating a battlefield with multiple fronts will divide their energies. The rail blockades are working! If the night time rail sabotage and the copper wire and the blockades keep coming, it will shut down all rail traffic across this awful economy. More is better. But do it not just for the Wet'suwet'en, do it for the rivers and streams that weave themselves under the rails. Do it for the ancestors who saw the encroaching railroad as their coming demise.

To the settlers inevitably reading this.

What is written here is meant for you too. Not in the "rise up and take back your land" kind of way. But I have been reading the messaging on the reportbacks and in the media and I see you falling into all sorts of tired traps. You are not just cogs in the solidarity machine, you too can take up struggles in the cities you live. Remember the Two Row: you can fight parallel battles towards the same goals.

You too should look for ways to defend the land and water in the places you live. You too should look for ways to undermine and weaken the power of the government over these lands. Don't let yourself be disheartened if the RCMP don't leave Unist'ot'en. That is only one fight of many. That is only the beginning. Don't fall into the traps of appealing to Canadian or international law.

Re-formatted text from Tawinikay's (Aka Southern Wind Woman) article Reconciliation is Dead: A Strategic Proposal

For further writing on this (mainly for settlers), see the authors previous work - Autonomously & with Conviction: A Metis Refusal of State-Lead Reconciliation

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