



Solidarity Statement in support of the Wet'suwet'en Nation and the Unist'ot'en Camp

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) offers our solidarity and support to the people of the Wet'suwet'en Nation in British Columbia.

Our union is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. OSSTF/FEESO believes the protection of human rights and promotion of mutual respect and trust must guide the actions of governments at all levels.

We disagree with government actions that would limit the ability of citizens to exercise their right to free and peaceful assembly. We call on the federal and provincial governments to respect and uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and recognize and respect Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination. Furthermore, the federal and provincial governments should respect the Supreme Court of Canada's 1997 ruling, *Delgamuukw vs. British Columbia*, which found Aboriginal title could not be extinguished and established that Wet'suwet'en never relinquished title to their territories.

Therefore, the 60,000 members of OSSTF/FEESO stand in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en peoples. OSSTF/FEESO calls on all parties to respect the position taken by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, respect Indigenous sovereignty, and acknowledge and that they have never ceded their jurisdiction to the lands they have governed and have been stewards of for generations. Forcibly removing peaceful land defenders from their traditional unceded lands is a violation of the UN Declaration.

Yours in solidarity

OSSTF/FEESO