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# ACTION ALBERTA



**ACTION ALBERTA**

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**HELLO ALL:**

## **DON'T BE FOOLED BY SHUTDOWNCANADA OR MISLEADING CLAIMS FROM DISHONEST ACTIVISTS!**

**(By: Tom Flanagan - Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Distinguished Fellow, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary)**

On Tuesday, while activists reportedly **tried to “arrest” Premier John Horgan** at his house in British Columbia, **Prime Minister Trudeau** spoke to the House of Commons, stressing the **need for “patience” as rail blockades continue to prevent freight and passenger across Canada.**

Indeed, the **#ShutDownCanada** movement is in **full swing in B.C. and across the country**, with rail blockades, road closures and protests causing mass disruption and frustration. All because of the **proposed Coastal GasLink pipeline** through the traditional territory of the Wet’suwet’en First Nations people in B.C.

There’s been a lot said and written over the past week. But here’s what you need to know about this dispute.

According to the **1997 Supreme Court of Canada Delgamuukw decision**, the Wet’suwet’en have **aboriginal title to an as-yet-undefined area of B.C.** Aboriginal title is a **form of ownership**, but it’s **not absolute**. The same **Supreme Court decision** that recognized aboriginal title also **elaborated the doctrine of infringement**, which allows government to make **use of title land for the public good**.

**This is one of those cases.** The Coastal GasLink pipeline cannot be built without **crossing Wet’suwet’en traditional territory**. It will carry natural gas from B.C. fields to **Kitimat**, a municipality in the North Coast region of the province, where it will be liquified and **exported** to Asian markets. It’s an enormous project that will **create profit for investors, revenue for governments (including First Nation governments) and jobs for workers, many of whom will be First Nations people**. It will also **reduce carbon emissions** in the world at large because it will **replace coal** now burned for power generation in countries such as **Japan, China and Korea**.

The protestors talk about **Wet’suwet’en sovereignty** and Wet’suwet’en law, but **don’t be misled**. Canadian courts have consistently **upheld Canadian**

**sovereignty**, which means that **Parliament and the B.C. legislature** have the **right to make laws for the Wet'suwet'en**. Traditional Wet'suwet'en laws are enforceable **only if explicitly adopted through federal or B.C. legislation**, depending on the subject matter. **That has not happened**. So **traditional Wet'suwet'en law cannot be used to block pipeline construction**.

In fact, **Coastal GasLink passes through the traditional territories of 20 First Nations**. The **elected band councils** of all these First Nations (including the Wet'suwet'en) **signed agreements** in support of the pipeline because of the substantial benefits **they will receive—cash payments** from the B.C. government and TC Energy, a natural gas company, not to mention **jobs and job-training and contract set-asides for work on the pipeline**.

These **First Nations are small, poor and remote**. They don't have many **economic opportunities**. The **average income of their members** is about **half the provincial average**. Coastal GasLink is their best—perhaps only—way out of poverty. **That's why their elected governments have endorsed the pipeline**.

**So where's the opposition coming from?** A **faction** of the Wet'suwet'en, the **hereditary chiefs** who **claim that only they—not the elected band council—can give consent** to the pipeline. **Again, don't be misled**. There is no basis in the Canadian Constitution, legislation or judicial decisions for this claim.

Many of the **protestors swarming the B.C. legislature or blocking highways and railways** across the country are **not members of the Wet'suwet'en Nation** or any other First Nation. They are the **usual crowd of environmentalists and anti-capitalists**. For many, **their goal is to destroy the market economy** that's created so much prosperity and the democratic government that protects our freedoms. **They want a government of activists, where they will call the shots. Their hashtag says it all— #ShutDownCanada**.

**Don't be fooled**. This **isn't a genuine movement** for social justice. These are **outsiders exploiting a division** within one First Nation in the hope of **creating chaos** on the ground.

**Canada is a free country**. If the protestors stay within legal limits, let them

speak. If they break the law by obstructing buildings, roads and railways, **let the police do their job of re-establishing the civil order on which we all depend.**

**Fraser Institute article - February 18, 2020: [Click here](#)**

## **OUR READERS' COMMENTS SECTION**

**1. From a Reader:** The senior environmental advisor in the PMO was formerly the VP of Tides Canada, which happens to be currently funding the Wetetsuweten hereditary chiefs. Ottawa has also provided funds to Tides Canada. It is difficult to believe that Trudeau has not been in the loop and aware from the very beginning. I suspect the strategy was to create a coast to coast campaign, so urban voters would phone their Liberal MPs, telling them not to approve the Frontier Mine. Once again Trudeau has been more successful than he could have imagined. There can be no doubt that this is also a dry run for nation wide protests and blockades to make sure no pipe goes in the ground on the TMX pipeline. When the head of the RCMP states that arrests are the very last option, when outright acts of terrorism are being committed, I can only assume this was another example of political interference in justice and police matters by Trudeau. This has also signalled to the ENGO's to prepare and organize to stop TMX from being built.

Furthermore, given the solid support from anti pipeline ND's and Greens, there is no prospect of losing a confidence vote, however, I have no doubt that the ND's and Greens support is also contingent on TMX not being built, just as their support was contingent on Trudeau not approving Teck's Frontier Mine. Trudeau's excuse to halt construction on the TMX will likely be to "negotiate" and have further dialogue with the radical first nations groups fronting for the ENGO's against TMX. Staying in power for the Liberals trumps all else, even if the ND's and Greens are driving the bus.

**2. From a Reader:** Well done. Unfortunately too many people in Canada (including Alberta) will not be persuaded and will write Teck off as more whining from Alberta. In my view, the next front in the war will be the climate alarmists, emboldened by what they will see as their success in getting Teck stopped (they see it as a win), bringing a full court (nation wide) press against the TMX construction – protests at the construction sites plus rail/highway blockades plus demonstrations at government offices and politician's houses

across the country. In addition the company's decision not to proceed takes the Liberals off the hook on a critical decision regarding energy infrastructure and the future of Canada. If the Liberals do not act quickly to instruct the police (and the army if necessary) to enforce the rule of law, then anarchy is only a step away. If a tiny minority can adversely influence the course of events to wrongfully impose their view of what is or is not in the national interest, then we are f..ked.

**3. From a Reader:** The desire to separate does not need to be filled with vitriol either. The reality is Canada is a young country and, as has occurred throughout Europe, borders change as peoples' geo-political cultures mature. If Alberta and Saskatchewan (and parts of BC) continuously vote for policies that are significantly different than those of Ontario or Quebec, it's not so much a separation, but rather a maturation. We simply have different ways of life and differing cultures that go along with that.

**4. From a Reader:** There are many points to take from the Teck decision. One for me was a third strike for Premier Kenney. I voted for Kenney in the leadership race as I thought he was most electable. My one reservation was whether he was prepared to be an Albertan first if necessary. The first strike in this regard was his suggestion a referendum on equalization for October 2021. An entirely anemic timeline in my opinion. This should have been on this fall's calendar and the Teck events and others affirm we cannot have the Premier trying to be statesman for too long before Albertan's are given the opportunity to send a message to their fellow Canadians. The second strike was the Premier's mind boggling voluntary removal of separation from the list options in addressing Alberta's perilous position within Confederation. The third strike was the Premier's suggestion this week he would invest directly in the Alberta resource sector after going into details of high level talks he has had with major international investor's who deem Alberta un investable at present. It is Liberals who invest in declining industries to gain electoral favour. I have come to the conclusion we have a Premier who in worst case scenario would prefer to govern a declining Alberta within a declining Canada than govern a bold independent Alberta embracing a future uncertain but with tremendous upside. It is now clear to me Premier Kenney is not prepared to be an Albertan first.

**5. From a Reader:** The last nail into the the energy coffin was that with the withdrawal of Teck industries, any sane investor or industry investing into the Canadian energy sector/ industry is gone forever, all this due to the

shortsighted, unproven fear mongering by these climate change activist /terrorists from the UN to our liberal government. Imagine our federal government having a ministry or minister for CLIMATE CHANGE, a whole ministry or department dedicated to climate change, a notion put into our heads by out of control CLIMATE FANATICS. Meanwhile, one of the most important resources of this country is under siege, which would have given money, jobs, the well being of the native peoples, the citizens of this country and finally the amount of research gone into producing one of the cleanest oil has become the VILLAIN. WHAT NEXT ALBERTA ???

### **ADDITIONAL READING/ VIEWING**

In closing, here is additional information on the problems we are facing and the need for us to take remedial action immediately to right our sinking ship.

- 1. THE MOVEMENT TO END CANADA [Click here](#)**
- 2. STEPHEN LEDREW : CANADA IS LOSING [Click here](#)**
- 3. CANADA: A DEAD COUNTRY WALKING! [Click here](#)**
- 4. JOHN ROBSON: STOP ASKING TRUDEAU TO DO SOMETHING. IT'S BETTER WHEN HE DOESN'T TRY! [Click here](#)**
- 5. LAURENTIAN CANADA DETERMINED TO KILL OIL SANDS DEVELOPMENT [Click here](#)**

### **ACTION ALBERTA - WHO WE ARE**

We are a group of deeply concerned, unpaid Alberta resident volunteers. Our work is intended to educate, inform and motivate all Canadians to be visible and vocal regarding the unequal, unfair and discriminatory treatment of Alberta by our Federal Government. Alberta's energy sector is the most important driver of the Canadian economy and its health directly impacts the standard of living of every Canadian. Unfortunately, that is not happening under our current Federal government!

Please **share** this email with your contacts so we can turn this unfair, inequitable, unjustifiable travesty around for the good of all Canadians. If you would like to submit information or articles, please send them to me.

**Thank you for ALL of your support and interest!**

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If you are an elected representative of any level of Government, you have a fiduciary responsibility and a moral obligation to hear constituent voices about the problems facing Canada and the Canadian energy and equalization/transfer payment crisis.

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