



**Society Promoting Environmental Conservation**  
*Practical solutions for sustainable cities*

SPEC stands in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en

For fifty years, the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation has operated within, and benefitted from, the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically the skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), selílwitlh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. SPEC recognizes that these lands and waters have never been ceded, surrendered or in any way transferred to another government. As individuals and as an organization we are committed to finding ways to better support Indigenous peoples in their fight for self-determination and in the protection of the lands and waters that so many of us call home.

SPEC offers our support and an expression of solidarity to Wet'suwet'en people in their struggle to assert their legal right and authority to govern the activities on their territory according to their Indigenous laws. In particular, SPEC would like to express our support to Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and land defenders who are [tirelessly working](#) to protect their lands and waters from the impacts of the Coastal GasLink Pipeline project. SPEC recognizes that there is no single perspective or unanimous agreement by Wet'suwet'en people on this project but we feel compelled to speak out and condemn the acts of colonial violence that have been perpetrated on the Wet'suwet'en hereditary leadership and land defenders who [have been putting their bodies on the line to](#) oppose the environmental and social injustices that has been inflicted on them by the Canadian Government.

SPEC is heartened by news of the recent memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, BC and the federal government; the agreement is the direct result of the hard work of many Wet'suwet'en people who have remained resolute in their fight to ensure that their Indigenous law and governance systems are upheld. We hope that the MOU is the beginning of an improved relationship between the provincial and federal government, and Wet'suwet'en people. SPEC is watching and calling on both the BC and Canadian governments to fulfill their promise of restoring relationships with Indigenous peoples by implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([UNDRIP](#)). The Truth and Reconciliation Commission confirms that UNDRIP is the framework for reconciliation ([Calls to Action # 43 and #44](#)), which includes affirming the principle of "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" not only of elected chief and councils but of hereditary chiefs.

**SPEC**

2305 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6K 1Y4 – 604-736-7732 | [admin@spec.bc.ca](mailto:admin@spec.bc.ca) | [www.spec.bc.ca](http://www.spec.bc.ca)



**Society Promoting Environmental Conservation**  
*Practical solutions for sustainable cities*

SPEC acknowledges and respects that Indigenous peoples continue to steward and protect the lands and waters of their traditional territories, as they have done so for millennia. Further, we recognize that environmental issues are inextricably linked to Indigenous rights; to uphold Indigenous rights is to uphold the protection of the environment. We recognize the sacrifices that Indigenous peoples, like Wet'suwet'en, have made to oppose environmentally damaging projects and the ongoing infringements upon their right to self-determination. We would like to express our gratitude for the work that Wet'suwet'en, and other Indigenous peoples have done, and continue to do, to protect the land, water and climate that we all depend on.

**SPEC**

2305 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6K 1Y4 – 604-736-7732 | [admin@spec.bc.ca](mailto:admin@spec.bc.ca) | [www.spec.bc.ca](http://www.spec.bc.ca)