

March 2020

The Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property would like to express respect, and offer our solidarity to the Wet'suwet'en people who, in accordance with their laws while living in their territories, are carrying out their responsibilities to protect the natural world and the cultural heritage inextricable from this world.

The rights of Indigenous Peoples to manifest, practice, maintain, control, preserve, revitalize, develop, access, protect, and transmit their cultural heritage, as they see fit, is clearly outlined in articles 11, 12, 13 and 31 (and other places) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which Canada is a signatory.

The Wet'suwet'en show strength, courage, commitment, and vision, protecting their lands and culture. We stand with them in their assertion of their autonomy as a nation, legal authority in protecting their interests, and sovereignty of their unceded territories. We stand in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en against colonialism.

We acknowledge and recognize the increasingly complex and difficult situation that is emerging for and amongst Wet'suwet'en peoples. We will continue to strive to be sensitive to and understand these complexities. In doing so, we commit to upholding and prioritizing Indigenous peoples' sovereignty, laws, and commitments in creating futures animated by, and in relationship with, a thriving culture and a healthy natural world.

In Solidarity,

Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property