### SUBJECT
Letters standing in solidarity with Wet’suwet’en

### MEETING DATE
March 11, 2020

### MOTION
FOR INFORMATION SUBMISSIONS

### PREPARED BY
Cristina Ilnitchi, VP External

### DOCUMENTS
1. AMS statement in support of Wet’suwet’en
2. Joint BC student union letter to Premier Horgan
3. Joint BC student union letter to Prime Minister Trudeau

### DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE
AMS expressed support for the Wet’suwet’en Nation in their struggle against Coastal Gaslink Pipeline. We sent out multiple letters of support for the Nation and Indigenous youth land defenders and the rejection of the complicity of government in this situation.

### BENEFITS
Reputational, Financial, Sustainable, Social

It’s important that we support Indigenous students and activists on this campus that are calling for our support on this matter. Prioritizing our commitment to decolonization and actually acting on the apology we gave to Indigenous students last year means we need to show up.

### RISKS
N/A

Financial, Operational, Reputational

### COSTS
N/A

Financial, Resources, Lifecycle
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<tr>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
<th>Implementation Timeline</th>
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<th>CONSULTATION</th>
<th>Internal &amp; External Groups</th>
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<td>Indigenous Committee and the Social Justice Centre provided feedback on the AMS statement</td>
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ATTACHMENT #1 – Attachment Name
THE AMS STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WET’SUWET’EN NATION

The Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver stands in solidarity with the people of Wet’suwet’en Nation and the Unist’ot’en and Gidimt’en camps in their struggle against the development of the Coastal GasLink Pipeline. Further, we support Wet’suwet’en jurisdiction, governance, and law – particularly the decisions of the Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs. We recognize that our student society stands on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam people, and that we have a duty as settlers on this land to decolonize and strive for true reconciliation.

The Wet’suwet’en peoples have inherent rights and title that is recognized through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) – recognized by the Provincial Government November 2019 – as well as the 1997 Delgamuukw decision. The forceful removal of Indigenous peoples from their lands contradicts those movements toward true reconciliation and fulfilment of UNDRIP.

The AMS of UBC Vancouver recognizes that the actions taken on Wet’suwet’en territories continues the violence of colonialism on Indigenous lands and peoples. We urge the Provincial and Federal governments to prioritize free, prior, and informed consent and remind them that complicity in this situation is not acceptable.

As many Indigenous land defenders have done, we call upon the BC Provincial Government to uphold their commitments to UNDRIP, remove all RCMP presence from Wet’suwet’en lands, and respect the traditional laws and governance of the Wet’suwet’en Nation. We call upon other student communities and organizations to also stand with the Wet’suwet’en in their call for solidarity.
March 4, 2020

Premier John Horgan  
Office of the Premier  
PO Box 9041  
Stn Prov, Gov’t  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9R1

Dear Premier Horgan,

Student organisations from across the province stand in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en and their hereditary chiefs. We call on the provincial government to immediately halt the militarized invasion of Wet’suwet’en and the desecration of the Kweese trail.

The hereditary chiefs of all five clans of the Wet’suwet’en Nation have not given their consent for the Coastal GasLink LNG Project on their territory. Based on the precedent set by the Supreme Court on the Delgamuukw case, the Wet’suwet’en Nation has not ceded its land to the crown and thus holds the Title and Rights of its territories. The Wet’suwet’en peoples also have inherent rights and title through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) – also recognized by the BC Government in November 2019.

The Unist’ot’en clan of the Wet’suwet’en Nation are conducting a peaceful protest on their own land. Removing them is a direct violation of UNDRIP Articles 8 and 10, which your government has committed to implement.

The Government of Canada and the Province of BC is perpetuating a colonial legacy by not following through with actions that tangibly support its call for reconciliation and decolonization. We urge you to accept nothing less than free, prior, and informed consent before entering the sovereign lands of the Wet’suwet’en.

We support the permanent removal of the RCMP from these lands, and encourage the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of BC to commit to good faith negotiations with Wet’suwet’en. Further, we call on you to end any attempt at forced removal of Wet’suwet’en Nation from their traditional territories and refrain from any use of force against anyone seeking to prevent the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

Sincerely,
This letter is from 164,000 students from 8 institutions across BC.
March 4, 2020

Most Hon Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

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