

For more information, to register, or to arrange a meeting to further discuss the Secwepemc Peoples' Assembly, please contact:

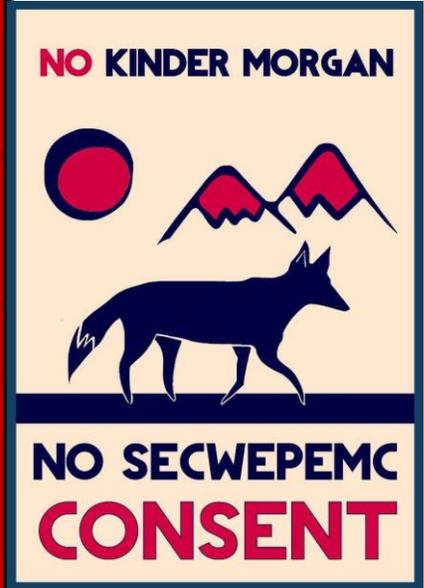
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Yecwemnétkwe



Caretakers of
the Water!!!

We, the Secwepemc, stand in solidarity with Standing Rock and all other grassroots land & water protectors.

Our water is sacred; water gives life to all beings. Our rivers and the salmon that are being threatened have given life to our people for centuries; therefore we are obligated as Secwepemc to protect our lands & waters for our future generations to come.

Unceded, Unsurrendered Secwepemc'ulecw – No Secwepemc Consent

SECWPEMCM HISTORY

The Secwepemc, also known as the Shuswap, occupy the south-central part of the Province of so called British Columbia, with approximately 10,700 members. Our Secwepemc ancestors have lived in the interior of BC for over 10,000 years. Combined we make up 17 bands. Before contact we were once 32 villages. The Secwepemc share a common origin, culture, historical tradition & language that are carried on to this day.

KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE EXPANSION

The proposed Kinder Morgan Pipeline Transmountain Expansion is threatening to transport diluted bitumen over 518 km through our Secwepemc territory. The Secwepemc have major concerns regarding water safety, as well as the health & safety of all people & Mother Earth that depend on the water. The expansion is proposing to expand alongside the river waterways, build & drill under the Fraser River & will be only 400 meters away from the headwaters where our sacred salmon spawn. Kinder Morgan also has a bad reputation for spills & not doing a proper clean up.

It is also important to note that when the first Kinder Morgan pipeline was installed, the Secwepemc never approved it because at the time we were outlawed from 1926-1951 under the Indian Act to organize around our land rights.

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The burning of fossil fuels is accelerating climate change at increasingly alarming rates. This goes against Prime Minister Trudeau's promises to lower carbon emissions & is putting us all at serious risk.

If a spill were to occur the pipeline would pollute our drinking water for all Secwepemc & non-Secwepemc downstream. The diluted bitumen being transported is a highly explosive poison that affects the brain and nervous system.

Our greatest concern is that the pipeline will travel all along the North Thompson River Valley & would pass under the winding Thompson River at several points, right up to the headwaters where our salmon spawn. If any leakage, or a major spill were to occur, it would directly impact & threaten our salmon in the both the Thompson River & the Fraser River spawning basins, & all other beings that depend on water for survival.

The Secwepemc take very seriously the issue of climate change & environmental impacts. If we are to reduce carbon emissions & the current damage to Mother Earth, we do not need & cannot afford to allow the Kinder Morgan Pipeline expansion to go through because it is just too risky.

Our waters are sacred!!! We believe there are better sources of renewable energy without having to destroy Mother Earth, such as, solar & wind energy.

UNCEDDED UNSURRENDERED LANDS

At the time of contact in the late 18th century, the Secwepemc occupied, managed & held jurisdiction over a vast territory, extending from the Columbia River valley on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains to the Fraser River on the west, & from the upper Fraser River in the north to the Arrow Lakes in the south. We are known as the people from where the water flowed. Our combined Secwepemc'ulecw traditional territory covers approximately 145,000 square kilometres.

We, the Secwepemc, have never ceded or surrendered our rights and title to Secwepemc'ulecw by way of sale of land, or signing a treaty agreement.

COLLECTIVE RIGHTS & TITLE

Under international human rights & Indigenous law, in order for the Kinder Morgan pipeline to legally go through, Canada is required to obtain the Collective Consent from the Secwepemc as the rightful title holders. Up to present, in all the extraction &

exploitation throughout Secwepemc'ulecw, our collective consent has never been obtained. Canada has never acted in our trust, nor in our best interests & has even ignored our peoples' concerns regarding our territorial issues. The consultation process is & has never been adequate in addressing our Secwepemc'ulecw rights and title issues. The time has come that Canada, BC & industry must now obtain 'free, prior & informed' consent from the people of our Secwepemc Nation.

Kinder Morgan Transmountain Pipeline and the Secwepemc band councils who have signed agreements approving this pipeline have failed to obtain 'Collective' consent of the Secwepemc, & do not have the proper authority or jurisdiction to sign any agreements on our lands on our behalf of our people. Only the Secwepemc people, collectively, are the rightful title holders and hold the proper authority and jurisdiction to make these decisions. We say No to BC, Canada & the Secwepemc bands approval to Kinder Morgan.

SECWPEMCM TRANS-MOUNTAIN OVERSIGHT PLENARY (STOP) PROJECT

In response to the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion, concerned Secwepemc members have partnered with Indigenous Network on Economies & Trade (INET) to organize a broad-based action we are calling the STOP project.

The purpose of STOP project is to have a Secwepemc Peoples' Assembly to gather on the land on June 2-4, 2017 at the North Thompson Provincial Park, Clearwater, BC to educate & raise awareness, and to discuss & decide on how we want to move forward on our Collective title and rights as a Sovereign Nation under international laws, specifically, with regards to the Kinder Morgan – Transmountain Pipeline expansion.