

**PRESS RELEASE --- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Feb. 21, 2020**

## **Communities along Connecticut River join in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en People**

### ***Indigenous, allies raise awareness about destructive hydro dams, climate justice***

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**Lebanon, New Hampshire:** An international alliance of land and water protectors held a series of solidarity actions across Canada and New England to raise awareness about climate justice and the role of extreme energy development in contributing to the climate emergency and the cultural genocide of Indigenous people.

In Lebanon, NH on the border with Vermont, Upper Valley Extinction Rebellion was joined by local members of the North American Megadam Resistance Alliance (NAMRA), a New England based group opposed to any new transmission corridors that will bring Canadian hydropower to New York and Maine under the guise of it being “clean energy.” According to Meg Sheehan, coordinator for NAMRA, and standing on the bridge, Canadian hydropower should be treated like fossil fuels. “Hydro-Quebec is responsible for over 100 years of environmental and cultural destruction in Canada,” Sheehan said. “One of its megadams drains 36,000 square miles for a massive reservoir covering 1,200 square miles. We are here on the Connecticut River in the U.S. where dams are being removed to highlight the hypocrisy of “going green” by importing more Canadian hydropower, as Massachusetts and New York plan to do,” Sheehan added.

From Pimicicamak territory in Canada, Rita Monias said, “there is Indigenous blood flowing in pipelines. Megadam hydropower corridors are lined with the blood of Indigenous people. We demand our land and water back.” In the territory, Manitoba Hydro has reversed the flow of the land’s largest river for a hydropower system that covers 50,000 square miles.

Youth Carlton Richard also Pimicicamak territory said, “We as Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island and those worldwide are not going to stand in silence anymore. For over a century our ancestors have been pushed around without even knowing and still to this very day they continue to do so, but we have had enough. Along with many other groups I will stand with Wet’suwet’en in solidarity and for Indigenous sovereignty over our lands and waters. I will be showing my support from Thompson, Manitoba. With me are our NAMRA allies and other land and water protectors of Turtle Island. Stand strong, stand together, Wet’suwet’en Strong!”

From Labrador, Roberta Benefiel, the Riverkeeper of the Grand River, said, “our community has suffered the horrors of two megadams on the Mistashipu River (Grand or Churchill River) here. There are plans for a third. We resisted Muskrat Falls and we are going to stop the third. It is not climate justice to put the U.S. energy problems on the backs of our small, remote communities in the North.”

Dams throughout Canada release methylmercury which poisons wild foods relied on by the Innu and others for survival. As described by Charlotte Wolfrey, AngajukKak of Rigolet a small community in Labrador, the dams and energy policy decisions in New England are setting off a [chain of negative reactions](#) reaching over 1,200 in her community where the land and waters that have sustained Indigenous people for thousands of years are destroyed.

Wet’suwet’en has global support for their resistance against the Coastal Gas Link pipeline planned to deliver fracked gas through hundreds of kilometers of unceded Wet’suwet’en territory. The pipeline violates Wet’suwet’en, Canadian, and international law. All five clans of the Wet’suwet’en have unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals through their unceded land.

For more information:

Wet’suwet’en Solidarity [www.unistoten.camp](http://www.unistoten.camp)

[North American Megadam Resistance Alliance www.northeastmegadamresistance.org](http://www.northeastmegadamresistance.org)

[@hydroimpacted.ca](http://www.hydroimpacted.ca)

[Labrador Land Protectors https://www.facebook.com/labradorlandprotectors/](https://www.facebook.com/labradorlandprotectors/)

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