



PRESS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Sept 28, 2021

## Peaceful tree sitters forcibly removed by tactical RCMP from Treehouse Stronghold

Unceded kwikwəłəm Territory (BURNABY, BC) – At 7:30 this morning, around 20 RCMP agents, including 10 tactical special agents, arrived at the anti-TMX tree sits in the Brunette River Conservation Area. Land defenders have held this area for 286 days, since Dec. 2020.

Unceded Coast Salish Territories (BURNABY, BC) — After over 6 months' occupation of the trees in the Brunette River corridor, tactical security forces have moved in to forcibly advance the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline. Since December, Land Defenders have occupied a portaledge 20 metres above Lost Creek, enduring pouring rain and below zero degree temperatures, as well as heat domes, in order to prevent both destruction of this greenspace and construction of TMX.

An extraction team of around 20 officers and associated militarized vehicles, including a tree-cutting "Articulating Telescopic Bucket Tank" was required to remove the dedicated Land Defenders from their fortified perches today - actually two tree-houses boasting open-concept kitchens and battery power capable of lasting for days in a siege situation.

"Today we made a tactical retreat in the forest in the face of overwhelming forces of the petro-state." **said Dr. Tim Takaro, speaking on behalf of the coalition and grassroots that support him.** "We will not stop defending the planet since we know the state will not stop their actions to destroy it. Most of us, including Doctors, scientists and the general public know that the Kenney-Trudeau Trans Mountain pipeline is a climate catastrophe that must be stopped immediately for the safety of future generations."

Both climbers managed to escape without arrest - seen as a win to witnesses and other Land Defenders in the immediate area at the time of extraction. At time of writing, police continue to dismantle the heavily fortified structures - work that may take several days.

Trans Mountain recommenced work on the Brunette River site on Sept 7 after a prolonged shut-down, caused by Trans Mountain's inability to do "due diligence" and prevent harming hummingbird nests and the associated [Stop Work Order issued by ECCC](#). The tree-houses have been in a state of siege since September 7, with seven arrests and multiple delays caused

by Land Defenders blocking work and leaving before being arrested. Significant delays, mostly caused by construction problems, continue to plague this hotly contested pipeline project, as outlined by West Coast Environmental Law's [Delay Report](#).

“This project is not yet de-risked. In fact it is only about one third built. We will keep coming back. Our commitment to delay or cancel construction of this project is unshakable. Our future depends on it. My future depends on it.” **says Timothee Govare, lead Tree Sitter** who was arrested late last Friday for his work protecting the planet.

The site of the tree-sits - Lost Creek - is a tributary of the reclaimed and revitalized Brunette River. Although well taken care of for millenia by Tsleil-waututh, Musqueam, kwikwəłəm & Quayqayt Indigenous nations, the Brunette was proclaimed ecologically dead in the 1970s. A miracle in urban river restoration, it now supports 5 salmonid species, including the endangered Nooksack dace, and numerous other species, like bobcat, bear, herons and otters.

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**Photographs and Video:**

[LINK: Shared folder of Images and Video](#)

**ACCESS:**

Easy access from Hume Park. (660 E Columbia St, New Westminster, BC V3L 3Y2). Ground crew present to help.

**LOCATION of Lost Creek Protection Camp:**

Lost Creek Protection camp is located in Burnaby on the western bank of Lost Creek between the Trans-Canada Highway and the Brunette River, north of the tracks (49.24450612153664, -122.89872931536507).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Web: <https://stopTMX.ca>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/StopTMX>

Twitter: @PPSTMX1

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