



**Updated Press Release, September 24, 2021**

## **Tree-Sitter Saves TMX Tree-Cutter**

Unceded k̓wíkʷəłəm Territory (BURNABY, BC) – It has been an eventful morning at the Lost Creek Tree sit. Two land defenders were arrested in the early hours. Then around noon, a tree faller was seriously injured while clearing forest for the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline. They received emergency first aid from one of the tree sitters, who is a physician. The TMX faller can not be moved until the spine stabilizer arrives; work has been stopped.

Work was stopped for several hours this morning, as two individuals initiated hardblock tactics to stop tree cutting in the Brunette River Conservation Area. [See video](#). They were arrested and removed from the site. Tree sitters did what they could to deter tree cutters from approaching the strongholds of the resistance to TMX. [See video](#).

Then, in a strange twist of circumstances, a large branch fell on the head of a tree faller near the Lost Creek tree sit, knocking them out. They were wearing a helmet, fortunately, but were immobilized. When the call went out, "Is there a Doctor in the forest, someone needs help", a very qualified first responder magically appeared. Dr. Tim Takaro, the first tree sitter in the year-long occupation of this 1km stretch of forest, is a public health physician, and acted swiftly to stabilize the injured tree faller.

The PPST ground support team, who help maintain and protect the tree sitters, called for an ambulance and also hiked out to the highway to flag down the fire truck and ambulance.

In a scene reminiscent from World War I, in a declared armistice beside two opposing sides, peace is declared. Dr. Tim Takaro heads down to the injured TMX faller.

**For more information:**

Web: <https://stopTMX.ca>

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

Twitter: @PPSTMX1

Instagram, TikTok, YouTube: "Stop TMX"

**BACKGROUND**

The \$20 billion pipeline project was purchased from Texas oil giant Kinder Morgan by the federal government in 2018. Costs on the pipeline have ballooned since the purchase. The project is opposed by the Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Coldwater Indian Band, who were denied leave to appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada. It also conflicts with Canada's commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degree Celsius. The project would impact numerous drinking water sources along the route, Burrard Inlet and Tsleil-Waututh, Qayqayt and other First Nations, Burnaby Mountain and Simon Fraser University. It would also spell a 7-fold increase in tanker traffic in the Burrard inlet and an increased threat to the endangered Southern Resident Orcas. The Province of British Columbia, the State of Washington, and 20 municipalities oppose the pipeline project, including the Cities of New Westminster and Burnaby.

The existing Trans Mountain pipeline is already a major environmental and public health hazard with a [long history of disastrous spills](#). In June 2020, 50,000 gallons of crude oil [spilled](#) from a pump station located above an aquifer that supplies the Sumas First Nation with drinking water. The thirteen 67-year old tanks at the terminus of the pipeline are too close together to put out in the event of a fire, according to the Burnaby Fire Department. 240,000 people live within the 4.2 km radius of the site that is considered an evacuation zone including 32,000 members of the SFU community.

A [growing number](#) of insurers have pulled out of the pipeline project; those still involved [are facing pressure to divest](#). In November 2020, the Canada Energy Regulator [released a report](#) stating that there is no need for any pipeline expansion if Canada takes measures to curb GHGs. In Sept 2020, [economists warned](#) notes that the TMX project was no longer financially viable. Indigenous groups, as well as the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and

Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls have pointed out the connection between resource extraction man-camps and [violence against Indigenous women](#).

The coalition of environmental groups opposing the TMX pipeline includes, but is not limited to, Protect the Planet Stop TMX (PPST), Mountain Protectors, Protect the Inlet, Extinction Rebellion Vancouver, STAND.earth, Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion (BROKE), Climate Convergence, Dogwood, Colony Farms Regional Park, and Wilderness Committee.