

Person Injured by TMX Security, Arrested After Locking Onto TMX-Tree-Cutting Tank

Unceded Coast Salish Territories (BURNABY, BC) — Several land defenders risked arrest at dawn today, as part of their duty to protect the environment for future generations and wildlife. One man peacefully locked his body onto a tank-like machine with 30 ft metal tracks, used to cut trees as part of the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline construction project. Shortly after 7:30am security discovered him locked to the equipment. Five or more private security guards working for Trans Mountain violently assaulted him by attempting to remove him from the equipment (video available). The extent of his injuries remains to be seen. Today marks the beginning of the most active bird nesting season according to a [City of Burnaby memo](#).

Trans Mountain Canada began cutting trees in the Brunette River corridor two weeks ago using a tank-like machine. The tree clearing started after Canada Energy Regulator overruled [Burnaby's municipal by-laws to protect urban forest and park-land](#). In spite of municipal laws, and in contravention of legislation to protect riparian ecosystems, work has been progressing, with land defenders agitating at the edge of the injunction zone.

Civil disobedience is nothing new for this project. In 2018, after the Trudeau government bought the pipeline from Kinder Morgan, hundreds of people were arrested at the gates of the TMX terminal facility on Burnaby Mountain, including Green Party leader Elizabeth May and Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart.

Errol Peters, 68, said he is “willing to be arrested on behalf of Indigenous peoples, the KEYSTONE Wild Salmon and the Orcas, especially the Southern Residents.” He continues, “Sections of CRUDE-Os/ Kenney’s pipeline might get built, but it will NEVER be completed!”.

March 15th is the closing window for tree cutting in the City of Burnaby due to bird nesting. Builders, contractors and developers are advised that they must ensure there are no active nests prior to tree cutting. This morning's action helps to protect birds and their nests by enforcing the first day of a no-cut period due to bird nesting. It also draws attention to Trans Mountain's repeated disregard for local by-laws that our municipal government has put in place to protect our vulnerable and shared urban wild spaces.

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BACKGROUND

Web: tinyurl.com/stopTMX

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

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The \$12-15 billion Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline project was purchased from Texas oil giant Kinder Morgan by the federal government in 2018. Costs have ballooned since the purchase. The project is opposed by the Squamish-, Tsleil-Waututh- and Secwepemc Nations, as well as Coldwater Indian Band, who were denied leave to appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada. TMX conflicts with Canada's commitment to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degree Celsius as per the Paris Climate Agreement. 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.

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 [spilled](#) from a pump station above an aquifer that supplies the Sumas First Nation with drinking water. At the pipeline terminus, the thirteen 67-year old tanks are so close together it will be impossible to put out a fire, according to 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, and [in Sept. 2020, economists warned](#) that the Trans Mountain project is 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 Cities of New Westminster and Burnaby officially oppose the pipeline. The coalition of environmental groups supporting the Brunette protection camps includes, but is not limited to, Mountain Protectors, Protect the Inlet, Coast Protectors, Extinction Rebellion Vancouver, Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion (BROKE), Climate Convergence, Dogwood, Burnaby Climate Hub and Wilderness Committee.

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