



## [Protect the Planet](#)

### **Press Release**

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### **Three Women Accused of Breaching TMX Injunction Each Sentenced to 14 days in Jail**

*Catherine Hembling, One of the Brunette River 6, Prepares to Spend 80th Birthday Behind Bars*

**Vancouver, BC (Unceded Coast Salish Territories)** – Three women arrested in September for breaching the Trans Mountain (TMX) injunction pled guilty today and were sentenced to 14 days in jail by BC Supreme Court Justice Shelley Fitzpatrick. After a lively rally outside the courthouse, the three land defenders—Catherine Hembling, 79, Janette McIntosh, 58, and Ruth Walmsley, 61— delivered impassioned statements to the court, after which they were taken into custody to serve their sentences. Hembling will spend her 80th birthday, on February 23, in jail.

Hembling, McIntosh, and Walmsley are part of the **Brunette River 6**, a nondenominational, multi-faith prayer circle. They were arrested last fall for opposing tree cutting by TMX, out of concern for the degradation this project will have on urban salmon streams and rivers. All six were charged with criminal contempt of court.

Zain Haq, 21, and Bill Winder, 69—also members of the Brunette River 6—are expected to plead guilty tomorrow, February 15. Tim Takaro, 64—the sixth member of the Brunette River 6—will appear tomorrow, but is not expected to enter a plea at that time. Both Winder and Takaro were arrested for occupying the forest canopy in a series of tree-sits and are facing 21 and 28 days in jail, respectively.

“Our willingness to face jail time reflects our deeply held conviction that we need to act immediately to curtail fossil fuel expansion to prevent catastrophic climate change,” wrote Ruth Walmsley in a recent [Vancouver Sun opinion piece](#). “Recent deaths in BC alone, due to heat domes, wildfires, and extreme flooding, clearly indicate that we are in a climate emergency,” continued Walmsley. “We cannot afford to be building new infrastructure in support of a carbon economy that is fueling this crisis.”

Since the TMX injunction was imposed in March 2018, more than 240 people have been arrested for criminal contempt. Most people were ordered to serve community service hours or pay fines of up to \$3,000, but more than three dozen people have been sentenced to between 4 days and 5 months in jail for taking a peaceful stand against TMX.

In the summer of 2018, the Trudeau government purchased the Trans Mountain pipeline from Texas-based Kinder Morgan for \$4.5 billion. In February 2020, the government announced that the expansion project will cost taxpayers in excess of \$12.6 billion. Two years later, an [updated cost estimate is long overdue](#), but predictions range between \$17 and \$20 billion.

If completed, the TMX pipeline will carry around one million barrels per day of highly toxic, flammable diluted bitumen from the Alberta tar sands to Burnaby. The pipeline will run through residential neighbourhoods, next to schools, through vulnerable salmon-bearing streams, and over sensitive ecosystems.

The TMX oil storage Terminal on the side of Burnaby Mountain is being expanded from 13 to 26 tanks. According to a recent [affidavit from the Burnaby fire chief](#), the layout poses numerous potential fire scenarios that would be highly toxic and inextinguishable due to lack of safe firefighting positions. Approximately 240,000 people live within a 5.2 km radius of the dangerous Sulphur Dioxide exposure area, including Simon Fraser University. Yet the evacuation zone offers only a single road that passes directly by the storage Terminal. Staff, students and residents have been told to shelter in place in case of fire.

Once the diluted bitumen reaches the Westridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby, it will be shipped through the busy Vancouver Harbour and the Salish Sea to the Pacific Ocean. A collision or spill, anywhere along the 148 km challenging passage could have a disastrous impact on the health and safety of the millions of people living along the southern coastline, the economy of the province and the fragile ecosystems, including already-threatened salmon and endangered Southern Resident Orcas.

“The Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is not only unsafe and bad for our economy, it disrespects the Indigenous people who have not given their consent, and whose land, water, and means of survival is being threatened,” said Bill Winder, another member of the Brunette River 6 facing jail time. “This pipeline represents infrastructure for an outdated energy source, takes us further from our Paris Climate commitments, and must be opposed. Our lives depend on it.”

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Protect the Planet is a coalition opposed to tar sands expansion and the Trans Mountain Expansion pipeline. For more information: [stopTMX.ca](http://stopTMX.ca) • [facebook.com/StopTMX](https://facebook.com/StopTMX) • [@PPSTMX1](https://twitter.com/PPSTMX1)