

For Immediate Release, April 6, 2022

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**BREAKING NEWS: PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY GLUE THEMSELVES TO RBC
BANKS TO DEMAND DIVESTMENT FROM COASTAL GASLINK**

Unceded territories of the Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and x̣wməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations (VANCOUVER, BC) – On Thursday, April 7, 2022 - the date of the RBC annual shareholders' meeting - individuals from across the country will be gluing and chaining themselves to the doors of RBC branches. Their demand? That RBC respect Indigenous sovereignty and divest from the Coastal Gaslink pipeline.

Wet'suwet'en land defenders and allies have been opposed to the Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline drilling under sacred bodies of water on unceded land, as this impacts food sources, water, and a way of life for those who live there. On October 19, 2021, the Gidimt'en Checkpoint from the Wet'suwet'en Members issued a letter to over 35 CGL investors and banks demanding that they cease and withdraw all support from CGL and LNG Canada [1].

RBC received one of these letters because they provide more funding to fossil fuels than any other bank in Canada [2]. They have invested over \$208 billion in fossil fuels since the Paris Agreement in 2016 - a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Their money also funds projects condemned by the United Nations for the violation of Indigenous rights, such as the CGL and Line 3 pipelines.

Gluing actions will be taking place this Thursday in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en and to protest RBC fossil fuel investment. in cities across so-called Canada, including Vancouver, Edmonton, Victoria, Nanaimo, Montreal, and Toronto. In Vancouver, several individuals - ranging from university students to seniors over 80 - will be attaching themselves to the doors of several RBC branches, and anticipate there being consequences to their actions.

These actions come just days after the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report provided a damning critique of global inaction in the face of the current climate crisis. As UN Secretary General António Guterres stated, "Climate activists are sometimes depicted as dangerous radicals, but the truly dangerous radicals are the countries that are increasing the production of fossil fuels. Investing in new fossil infrastructure is moral and economic madness." [3] We are at a pivotal moment in history wherein we will either make the dramatic changes that are needed - or we will face catastrophe.

With extreme heat, fires, droughts, and flooding affecting communities across the country, it's become increasingly clear that we are both facing and moving ever closer to that catastrophe. In BC, 569 people are confirmed to have died from heat during the unprecedented heat dome in late June 2021. [4] Alberta and Manitoba faced agricultural emergencies in the summer of 2021 due to extreme drought. [5] Months after these agricultural emergencies, BC declared a second state of emergency: extreme flooding. This flooding killed four people and 640,000 animals; destroyed road and rail connections to the rest of the country; and forced 17,000 people from their homes [6-8]. Given the immediacy and severity of the threat that the climate emergency now presents to any and all citizens, and the continued inaction of the Canadian government to address the crisis [9-10], it is no surprise that an increasing number of groups are turning to arrestable climate action as a tactic to demand the insurance of public safety and wellbeing.

Actions will start at 9:30am on Thursday April 7. A follow up release will be sent the morning of Thursday, April 7 with locations of RBC gluing actions.

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[1] Gidimt'en Checkpoint - Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs response to RBC letter
<https://www.yintahaccess.com/news/rbc-toolkit>

[2] RBC has invested over 208 billion dollars in fossil fuels since the Paris agreement.
<https://rbcrevealed.com/>

[3] António Guterres (UN Secretary-General) on Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change
<https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1h/k1hsn9jq7v>

[4] June heat wave killed 569 people in B.C., coroners service. July 31, 2021. Vancouver Sun.
<https://vancouversun.com/news/june-heat-wave-killed-569-people-in-b-c-coroners-service>

[5] Farmers Race to Save their Cattle from Canada's Drought. August 4, 2021. New York Times.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/04/world/canada/manitoba-drought-cattle-farms.html>

[6] Death toll reaches four in BC from catastrophic flooding.
<https://www.accuweather.com/en/severe-weather/death-toll-climbs-following-catastrophic-flooding-in-british-columbia/1049096>

[7] Livestock death toll estimated at 640,000 animals from flooding in BC.
<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/livestock-death-toll-from-b-c-flooding-628-000-poultry-12-000-hogs-420-cows-1.5691405>

[8] 17,000 people displaced from their homes in BC floods
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/21/canada-flooding-climate-change.html>

[9] UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2021. Sixth Assessment Report.
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>

[10]
<https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada/>