



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Christine Thuring  
604-725-4964  
[cthuring@protonmail.ch](mailto:cthuring@protonmail.ch)

## **Physician, Public Health Expert, SFU Professor, and Tree-Sitter Faces 28 Days in Jail at June 13 Sentencing Hearing**

### ***Rally and Press Conference Planned for Tim Takaro, Arrested in Defiance of Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion***

**xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) & səłilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Territories/ Vancouver, BC** – A sentencing hearing for physician, public health expert, and Simon Fraser University health sciences professor emeritus Tim Takaro, 65, will take place on Monday, June 13 at 10am in the BC Supreme Court.

Takaro was arrested in November 2021 while engaged in a tree-sit along the Brunette River in Burnaby, protesting construction of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) and the clear-cutting of trees in the area. Takaro's sentencing hearing will be preceded by a 9:15am press conference and lively rally in his support, held at the corner of Hornby & Nelson Streets at the courthouse entrance.

**What:** Sentencing hearing, press conference, and rally for Tim Takaro.

**When:** Monday, June 13—press conf at 9:15am, sentencing hearing at 10am.

**Where:** BC Supreme Court, 800 Smithe St (Hornby & Nelson Street entrance).

The rally will have a multitude of colourful banners, several human T-Rex characters, and a squad of doctors in white coats. The press conference will include the following speakers:

- **Tim Takaro**, physician, public health expert, and SFU professor facing 28 days in jail for criminal contempt and scheduled to be sentenced on June 13.
- **Will George**, Tsleil-Waututh land defender currently appealing his criminal contempt conviction and 28-day jail sentence.
- **Ruth Walmsley**, member of the Brunette River 6, convicted of criminal contempt and sentenced to 14 days in jail.
- **Lucy Everett**, Métis activist with Youth Stop TMX and Climate Justice Action McGill.
- **Linda Thyer**, General Practitioner at SFU Student Health, and member of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and Doctors for Planetary Health.

Takaro—along with more than 250 people before him—was charged with criminal contempt for violating the TMX injunction, imposed in March 2018. Takaro is expected to plead guilty and

faces 28 days in jail as part of the Crown's strategy to deter him and others from further violating the injunction. Arrests of pipeline opponents have slowed since 2018, but started to pick up again in the last year.

Takaro is part of the Brunette River 6, six land defenders who were all arrested in the Brunette River area of Burnaby for defying the TMX injunction. All five of Takaro's co-defendants pleaded guilty to criminal contempt in February and were sentenced to between 14 and 21 days in jail. Ruth Walmsley of the Brunette River 6, who was sentenced to 14 days in jail, will speak alongside Takaro at the press conference.

The Crown has also been targeting [Indigenous land defenders](#), the latest of which was Tsleil-Waututh member Will George. Although he was never arrested, George was charged with criminal contempt in January 2021 and convicted at trial in October. George was sentenced to 28 days in jail last month, but was released on bail shortly after being taken into custody due to his pending appeal. George will also be speaking at the press conference.

"This pipeline expansion project is a perfect example of an outdated infrastructure project that flies in the face of the promised energy transition, in a climate emergency, and in a stunningly beautiful, yet fragile, place we call home," said Tim Takaro. "Despite leading two major reports on the health impacts of the TMX pipeline and its associated hazards, my evidence of potential harms from this project has been ignored by federal regulators."

Canadians are dying from climate change caused by increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Last summer and fall, BC was ravaged by wildfires that levelled communities, a heat dome that [killed over 600 people](#), and flooding that threatened livelihoods. Yet, the federal government continues to promote Trans Mountain even with its projected 56 percent increase in tar sands emissions, standing in stark contrast to commitments made by Canada at the Paris Climate Accords.

When government policies do not offer needed protection from climate disasters, civil disobedience becomes the option of last resort to stop new fossil energy projects. Despite efforts to criminalize TMX opponents, in April UN Secretary-General António Guterres called countries that are increasing their production of fossil fuels, like Canada, "[the truly dangerous radicals](#)." In [another statement](#), Guterres said "Some government and business leaders are saying one thing – but doing another. Simply put, they are lying."

"The real climate criminals are the federal and provincial governments for not taking decisive action to reduce fossil energy infrastructure and ignoring the urgency of the climate crisis," continued Takaro. "The government needs to take the climate crisis seriously to keep people from dying, instead of shamelessly going after the people who are fighting to keep our planet healthy and safe for generations to come."

In addition to his MD and Master's Degrees in Public Health and Toxicology, Takaro has specialty training in occupational and environmental medicine. Takaro has authored numerous national and international reports on the human health impacts of global heating. He was a

reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and, most recently, he was a lead author on the Health Canada report, *Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing our Knowledge for Action*, released in February. Until his retirement in 2020, Takaro also had a clinical practice at Vancouver General Hospital.



RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group used a bucket lift to reach Trans Mountain land-defender Dr. Tim Takaro in Burnaby / photo credit Cornelia Naylor, Burnaby Now

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Protect the Planet is a coalition opposed to tar sands expansion  
and the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion.

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