



**Press Release, For Immediate Release: Oct. 31, 2022**

## ***Three arrests made at Stoney Creek Greenway***

səlilwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh), kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) Nations (Burnaby, BC) - At 7am this morning, three water protectors camped beside Stoney Creek were given notice that they would be arrested if they did not leave the site. Five minutes later, police arrived to forcibly remove and arrest them. Supported by a wider community, these water protectors had been observing and monitoring work on the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline, concerned about its effects on the salmon run in the adjacent creek.

Khursten Bullock (35), Lorne Salter (76) and Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta (79) were all arrested for criminal contempt of court. This has been the primary charge used by Trans Mountain against land and water protectors since 2018 when it received an injunction for its work sites. However, the campers were not in the injunction zone, but rather on the Burnaby Mountain Urban Trail, a wide gravel greenway trail.

[Speaking in a video after her arrest](#), Khursten Bullock, said that she feels good about being arrested because this is one “way of showing people how dire the situation is; how important it is to fight for clean water and these fish for our future children. It is so important.”

[Speaking in the same video](#), Lorne Salter said he was not expecting to get arrested. “There were no [injunction] signs on the Greenway and I was just carrying on observing the way I have been, and I wasn’t going to leave anybody behind.” Both Salter and Bullock had camped along the Coquihalla River in August to observe that [salmon run and the catastrophic impact of Trans Mountain’s excavation work](#) there.

Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, who lives locally, was removed from the site by RCMP on a roller chair. She said, “This high pressure pipeline is so dangerous, at all points and segments! While I may be motivated by NIMBYism, my actions are for the benefit of all.” She has been arrested several times in opposing TMX in Burnaby: twice in 2021, once in 2018, and twice in 2014. On two of those occasions, she was released without charge.

Trans Mountain destroyed the old camp, taking the wooden tent platforms campers had bought and erected themselves. A new camp has been set up further along the Greenway under the Loughheed bridge. and supporters are welcome to visit and learn more; the Greenway trail is still open from East Lake drive.

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**All images courtesy Protect the Planet:**



*Lorne Salter and Khursten Bullock stand defiant after their arrest; the drill still poised above Stoney Creek.*



*Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta was wheeled off site by two police officers.*



*Water Protectors finish setting up their new camp while Trans Mountain reinforces the blue fencing and screens.*

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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) • [@PPSTMX1](https://facebook.com/StopTMX)

## **BACKGROUND**

The estimated \$20 billion pipeline project was purchased for \$4.5 billion from Texas oil giant Kinder Morgan by the federal government in 2018. This creates a conflict of interest for the federal government because the federal government is responsible for regulating pipelines through the Canada Energy Regulator (CER).

Costs on the pipeline have ballooned since the purchase requiring ever greater subsidies from the federal government. Trans Mountain has not provided a cost update since February 2020. This lack of transparency from Trans Mountain is not limited to finances. Trans Mountain's press release about the Thompson River tunnel redrill referred to "technical issues" as the cause of the need to redrill. Trans Mountain claims the Fraser River tunnel problem is due to a "mechanical failure", however the tunneling equipment performed as expected. The Fraser tunnel problem has its origin in the Company's decision to not drill test bores at the crossing and to use HDD contrary to the advice of its experts.

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 crosses 1,300 streams and rivers and would impact numerous drinking water sources along the route, as well as Burnaby Mountain and Simon Fraser University. It would also spell a 7-fold increase in tanker traffic in 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. The tank farm expansion makes it more difficult for the Burnaby Fire Department to fight fires, according to [a recent affidavit from the Fire Chief](#). 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](#) 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, Mountain Protectors, Protect the Inlet, Extinction Rebellion Vancouver, STAND.earth, Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion (BROKE), PipePup Network, Climate Convergence, Dogwood, Colony Farms Regional Park, BC Environmental Network, Babies for Climate Justice, Sustainabiliteens Vancouver, 350 Vancouver, 350 SFU, and Wilderness Committee.