

Wellhead to Tidewater – Transcript

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Speakers:

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Mary: Hello. Just giving everyone a heads up that we're just waiting for Anjali and then going to get started. So we're just waiting for folks to hop on.

Mary: Hey Anjali!

Anjali: Hi! Hey Caitlyn! Can you guys hear me OK?

Mary: Yeah, we can hear and see you great.

Anjali: It's ridiculously bright. There's no way to like, dim it.

Mary: It looks good.

Anjali: It is what it is. Okay, I'm gonna try to put a yellow light on. It is what it is. How's it going?

Mary: Great. It's going pretty well. I've got a cold, but things are good otherwise - just gonna wait another few minutes for folks to hop on. So so far we've got 70 folks on the call.

Anjali: Oh, already! Cool.

Mary: So people are hopping on and probably we can give folks another couple minutes because people tend to join in the first few.

Anjali: OK.

MARY: Folks are coming on from Colorado, too, um, Inglewood, Colorado. And I'll just take a minute actually to explain the chat function to folks. So when you're writing in the chat function to the – um, just above the chat box it has a thing that says “to” and you can click “to all panelists” or “all panelists and attendees” and if folks actually drop down and pick the “all panelists and attendees” you'll be able to see each other's thoughts and where you're all coming from.

So, yeah, someone's on from Vancouver. Someone's on from central Alberta. So it's nice to see where folks are joining from. Cool. So, yeah, I guess we can start talking about Pull Together and then move into introducing you, Anjali and Caitlyn? Yeah, so for everyone who is joining for the first time, we're doing a series of webinars and basically, so, I work with Sierra Club and RAVEN Trust B.C. and we fundraise for lawsuits against the Trans Mountain pipeline. And so we really love doing this organizing work. The lawsuits are led by the Squamish Nation, Coldwater Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. And so I organize like a whole bunch of different events and also organize businesses and lots of different folks

to get involved in the fight against Trans Mountain. It's really nice to see Dakota's on here from Portland and Ruth Walmsley's on here, just got home from the Wet'suwet'en solidarity blockade at Vancouver Port. But yeah it's really lovely to have these webinars 'cause basically folks are coming from all over the place and learning about different topics that's connected to the Trans Mountain pipeline as well as these lawsuits. And so we really encourage folks to organize in their own communities, and I support folks if they are interested in organizing fundraisers, and, yeah, we're just really excited to have Anjali joining us this week. Caitlyn Vernon from Sierra Club B.C. will be doing the - hosting the question and answer period, so if at any point during this webinar you have questions for Anjali and want to jot them down, put them in the chat box rather than the Q and A box 'cause Caitlyn'll scroll through and find some questions for the end. And so typically how it works is the first five or so minutes are for introductions and for folks hopping on and then we move into a Q and A format with - with just me asking questions and then Caitlyn'll hop on and read through folks' questions from the chat.

So I'm wondering who's on here from the furthest, we've got someone from Kelowna, someone from Comox, um-

ANJALI: My sister's on from Toronto.

MARY: Nice. That's awesome. That's great. And Colorado... but yeah, welcome everyone. Yeah. Someone from Delaware, which is awesome too.

CAITLYN: Virginia, Hamilton, oh wow, this is great.

MARY: Yeah. Niagara Ontario. Virginia, too. Yeah. Ottawa. So it's really nice to have these webinars because I find that like through living in Vancouver I was able to meet so many incredible speakers and organizers for so many years and then now living more rurally I haven't been able to hear from a lot of different speakers that have been working against Trans Mountain, and so it's just a way to also make it more accessible to folks from other areas. So yeah that is me. And again my name is Mary Lovell, feel free to reach out to me through the Pull Together website. It's www.pull-together.ca/organize will go to me, and, yeah, with that I will introduce Anjali Appadurai.

[07:51]

MARY: I really appreciate you coming here to talk about climate justice and to talk about your perspective on the global climate movement, and, yeah, I just really appreciate you making the time. I think that's one of the connections that's very often vaguely made to Trans Mountain but it's an - actually an in-depth part of the conversation, so, I would love for you to just introduce yourself if you'd like.

ANJALI: Yeah, thanks so much. Mary, um, Mary and I go way back. I have so much respect for you Mary. One of the best organizers on this coast, uh, I've really seen your work blossom over the past few years, so very excited to be here. Can everyone hear me OK? I'm getting a bit of an echo. OK. My name's Anjali. I am - my family is originally from southern India, and we moved to Coast Salish territories when I was a - when I was very young. So I've grown up on these lands, but, as a migrant, didn't quite understand the politics of where we live and where we exist and where I had actually grown up. And so I didn't enter the environmental movement as an environmentalist. I actually never thought of myself as an environmentalist until I was quite a few years into the work then I realized like, oh, maybe I am and I keep getting called this thing, environmentalist. And that's because I was fortunate enough to enter this

work through some amazing mentorship from the Global South where climate justice movements are really thriving and growing and showing immense leadership for the world. When actually the term climate justice was born in, in movements of the Global South and it was born out of the need to connect climate impacts and what's happening to our world right now through the climate to a very unjust economic system and to many climate justice movements around the world. Those things are - are totally connected and irreversibly connected. So. So yeah, uh, sorry, long winded intro.

[10:15]

ANJALI: Basically I got my start following the UN climate negotiations for many years and working with a coalition of Global South movements called the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice and the Global Campaign is a network of several hundred now grassroots groups, organizations, all across the Global South which is mostly where most of the groups are concentrated, in Asia, Africa, Latin America and each sort of working to create stronger civil society presence at the UN talks and to influence the talks towards climate justice. And then I came back to B.C., a few years ago and I ran a campaign at West Coast Environmental Law called Climate Law in Our Hands. That's how Mary and I kind of met and that campaign which is still going, you should definitely check it out. It is a campaign to build accountability for fossil fuel companies to pay a fair share of climate impacts that B.C. communities are facing right now, ideally leading up to a class action lawsuit against those companies. And then after that I landed at Sierra Club where I'm working with a fabulous team on a lot of exciting stuff. But yeah it's kind of been a pretty – a trajectory of like, very similar work so I'm very lucky in that sense.

MARY: Great, thanks for that context as to who you are and what you've been organizing on. I was wondering if you'd be willing to make, like, the direct connection between Trans Mountain and climate justice and what, um, basically how you see this pipeline fitting into the larger climate justice framework and basically efforts to stop this pipeline as being connected to that global movement.

ANJALI: Yeah, the fight against TMX has really inspired the world. I was - I was out of the country for many years, like, my previous work was quite international. And wherever I was, you know, when Burnaby Mountain was happening, for example, that story was being told by activists all over the world and inspiring movements all over the world. So I really – like, this fight has been incredibly connected to a broader movement for climate justice which is really cool, um, and the movements in Canada are in general - have been, have been really inspiring but TMX is, to me, and, it's - it's a familiar story and it is tied in to a broader logic of relentless extractivism, of relentless growth and profit and exploitation of the land and the disregard for the people who've stewarded it and call those lands home for thousands of years and TMX and other projects like it belong to a class called mega-projects and mega-projects have been the hallmark of our current economic system since capitalism began. And capitalism, it's actually pretty new - like in the context of the world, capitalism is a pretty new economic system. And neoliberal capitalism is even newer, like, within my lifetime, within all of our lifetimes. And right now we're seeing how mega-projects have been rubber stamped and pushed through against all logic.

[14:15]

ANJALI: I mean, if you take TMX, you take the impact that it's going to have on the environment, you take the Indigenous resistance, you take the environmental – oh I already said - environmental impacts, you take the, the job creation which is actually much less than it was purported to be. And you have a project that adds up and it doesn't really make sense at all, like, why is this project going ahead? The costs versus the benefits are so high. But the mega projects, they get, they get pushed ahead with the

full force and passion of the government because they represent a physical manifestation of the promise of the neoliberal system which is that if you extract relentlessly and if you grow endlessly – well, that's – there's no, there's no – then, that's it, that's the economic system. It's accumulate capital, grow and progress and there's no cap on that in the current - in the current economy, and so movement like the TMX movement is - like our movements are the only actual checks and balances on a runaway economy like that because the government hasn't shown that it's willing to do that.

Did that kind of - tell me if anything was confusing or did I kind of answer the question? How is this connected to a broader-

MARY: That answered the question, yeah, totally.

ANJALI: Yeah.

MARY: I do think one question that someone put in the chat that I definitely don't think should wait until the end of the Q and A was just wanting you to elaborate on, like, the Global South and basically defining the Global South and, I think also would probably benefit from defining a little bit more on how certain areas of the world are more impacted by climate change.

[16:06]

ANJALI: Yeah. I should just clarify, I keep using this term Global South and I apologize, I should give a little bit of context. In the - in the context of the world – so when I was following the U.N. climate negotiations, the sort of U.N. language around this was Global North and Global South. And sometimes those descriptors are useful, a lot of times they're not because things are more complicated than that, but I do find it useful as a general way to talk about the disparities in the world. So when we talk about the Global South, we're talking generally about countries that have been colonized and that are considered developing countries. And when we talk about the Global North, I'm talking about developed countries, or countries that have gone through a process of industrialization. Those are generally the countries that took on capitalism first and went through the Industrial Revolution and experienced the growth that came from the Industrial Revolution. So when we talk about the Global South, when you frame it in that way it - it really connects what's happening right now to colonialism because the reason there are such massive divides in our world in terms of economic capacity and, um, in development, human development and wealth is because of centuries of imperialism that have left a lot of countries structurally weak and structurally not as developed as countries like Canada, the US, Europe, um, Australia. So, yeah, that's the kind of context for Global South and in the context - when you place that in the context of climate change, we know that climate impacts are increasing year by year and those impacts hit the Global South most – first and most, and that's because climate vulnerability in the Global South is a lot higher because of some of what I mentioned before, structural weaknesses, weaker infrastructure, um, not as much, just, economic wealth to pour into infrastructure and to pour into climate adaptation. Things that we take for granted here like the, the West Coast where I am right now, you know, there's massive seawalls, dikes, all kinds of infrastructure and technology that make us more resilient to climate change.

[18:31]

And the reason we see more vulnerability in the Global South is because some of that infrastructure isn't there. Also, there's more poverty, there's not as much economic wealth, there's often a higher

population and the - a huge factor which is often left out of the debate, but I think is one of the most critical pieces is, many, many developing countries are critically in debt because of - because of the imposed program of neoliberal capitalism, a lot of developing countries – this is a lot, but hopefully we'll unpack this through the webinar - a lot of developing countries are, are indebted to financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF. And this debt plays a huge role, uh, when a tornado hits, a hurricane hits, an earthquake happens, a flood happens, um, it plays a huge role in that country's ability to actually adapt to that, to come back from that. Yeah.

MARY: That was really helpful context and I think allowed folks to understand more in terms of the work and perspective that you're coming from. I'm wondering – so, um, I'm wondering if you can talk a little bit about like what, um, what kind of work that you've seen globally in response to all of these issues, um, if you feel like that there's been really amazing examples of work against, like, neoliberalism or capitalism that you find really inspiring or also if you have any specific moments that you often reflect on that continue to inspire your work in this field.

ANJALI: Um, yeah, I would say, um - some of the movements that really inspire me are - like I mentioned before the campaign that I, um – call a very close ally still and used to work with, the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice. That's a long name, so they shortened it to DCJ. So you can, you can learn - they finally, you know, they have a website and stuff now, so it's www.demandclimatejustice.org. And I find that a lot of the leadership on climate is coming from not only movements in the Global South but also governments in the Global South. And when we think about what it would take for us to - for all the countries of the world to come together and to do enough to stop climate change or to stabilize climate change at this point, um, the countries that are actually doing more of their fair share tend to be countries like China, um, India, Kenya, uh, Indonesia - smaller countries that are often actually villainized in our media here that are actually doing the most to invest in renewables, to transition their economies and to reduce their emissions.

[21:37]

ANJALI: So, yeah. So the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice, the student movements all around the world have been really inspiring. I think those have transformed the movement in the past couple of years. Um, just, any movement that has successfully opposed a mega-project like the Adani coal mine in Australia, if - those of you who don't know about it, you should really look it up, it's a really really fierce battle right now. It's one of the largest coal projects in the world that's being proposed and the people's movements that are Indigenous-led against this coal mine have been truly, like nothing short of inspiring. And you can see that same, that same kind of passion and inspirational work in the anti-pipeline movements here, as well. Did you want me to mention, like, specific movements or are we thinking just like more general?

MARY: Yeah, I was just thinking there's sometimes certain moments that just, like, catch your heart and make you - sort of steer you in a certain way in your organizing, um, and I was just wondering if there's one that comes to mind but I know it's also often hard to come up - to come up with stuff on the spot-

ANJALI: It's so hard to come up stuff on the spot! I've been countlessly inspired, um, because my work has been more international in scope. Of course, I mean most recently, like, this last week being on the, in the blockades the – the Wet'suwet'en Strong blockades have been really, really moving moments for me, because I think in my job, I think a lot about what solidarity means and how to actually practice solidarity, um, because, as I mentioned, there's so many commonalities between our movements all

around the world. But then when I was standing in the blockade, um, last night even, I was just thinking, like, I - I've been - I've spent so long, you know, at my computer trying to articulate what solidarity means, how, how we can better practice solidarity. And I actually felt it viscerally last night in the blockade. I was like - this is what solidarity actually feels like. There was about 100, 200 people, there was a big pile of food, muffins, fruits. People - and people had brought blankets and gloves for everyone and there was music, there was chanting, there was just general - everybody keeping their spirits up. So yeah, that's, that's like a very recent movement moment that has stood out for me. But seeing my friends around the world fight in their respective movements has, has, has always been inspiring for me, and, for me, it's the most inspiring when they can see how their struggles so closely echo our own here. Um, maybe - OK, I'll - a recent victory, actually, in Norway, in Northern Norway. There's - Norway has one of the largest oil industries in the world, um, and there's a series of islands in the very very north of Norway right in the Arctic and these islands have traditionally been taken care of and occupied by the Indigenous peoples of Norway and they are under threat from climate impacts 'cause they're islands and islands are more vulnerable, period, to climate impacts. But also, there is offshore oil drilling happening outside, off the coast of those islands. They're called the Lofoten islands and friends of mine have been waging a really, really, really strong battle there for, I think, over a decade now. And every time a new government is elected - so they keep winning, and then every time a new government is elected they undo the win.

[25:36]

ANJALI: But last time they won I was - I was actually there and it was just the most amazing moment to see a group of young people - it's actually youth organisations so everyone was under 30. To see them actually get an entire government, a really powerful government to back down. That was really an incredible moment. So yeah, our movements do win, and we're winning, right now. Yeah.

MARY: Yeah, that's very true and it's always inspiring because I think people get really entrenched in these land battles for, like, sometimes many many years doing direct action after direct action or doing campaigning and political focuses-

ANJALI: Mmhmm.

MARY: -or shifting funding from, away from banks that are fueling the climate crisis or all these different ways of addressing it and then you wind up just wondering if you're even effective and I find that it's really important to keep an eye on the global movement to understand that, like, even, even if you lose a campaign that doesn't mean that everyone's losing all of them and that we're all learning and growing from one another.

ANJALI: Exactly. Exactly.

MARY: Yeah, I'm wondering if you can - yeah. Sorry, I just realized my question might not make as much sense in the order I had. I'm gonna switch 'em.

[27:01]

MARY: Do you -how often do you see folks organizing explicitly against neoliberalism and capitalism in climate spaces?

ANJALI: So this is something that I do think there is quite a strong difference between movements in the south like the Global Campaign that I mentioned or - and our movements up here, I find. So for example there's a, there's a long running campaign in the Philippines. No. Part of it is headed in the Philippines but it's all over the Global South. And it's called the Jubilee South, um, Jubilee South Movement on Debt and Development. Another complicated acronym. [The Jubilee South Movement on Debt and Development](#) and it's actually a movement that's primarily to cancel Third World debt because as I explained before, a lot of that debt was accrued in the process of countries becoming independent from their colonizers and also from the hard imposition of neoliberal policies on their economies. So, there's this whole long running movement to cancel Third World debt but that actually - that movement has become actually a really powerful climate justice movement because I think it's just a natural logic in a lot of places in the Global South that imperialism, colonialism, neoliberalism and climate change are inextricably linked. So, for example, in India - in parts of India or actually I can say southern India. So my family comes from a state called Tamil Nadu and it's the southernmost tip of India. Amazing farmland and a strong tradition of farming there. And when the British colonized India, um, which they did for a couple of hundred years, they decided that India was going to be their textile colony. They had a bunch of different colonies and they were like, OK, India is great at textiles, so we're going to turn this into our raw clothing material colony. So, they transformed India's agricultural sector and a lot of the agricultural lands into plantations that would just be for producing cotton that would then just all get shipped to Britain and get their value-added, get turned into clothes and then had to get bought back by the colonies. But that's a different story. Anyway, so the agricultural lands were converted into monoculture and this was further exacerbated in something called the Green Revolution in the 70s where developed countries and financial institutions further went into developing country agricultural sectors. So the end result of that was that a lot of the agricultural lands were returning to mono crops or plantations and then climate starts to change and the impact of that was that the monsoon is different. And so the monsoon cycle starts getting messed up, it's not regular anymore, sometimes it's flooding, sometimes it's drought, and those lands were made more vulnerable to climate - to climate impacts and so crops were wiped out and crops aren't stable anymore.

[30:30]

ANJALI: And then that led to farmers going massively further into debt from the companies that they had grown to be dependent on. Companies like Monsanto or companies that they were leasing land from or whatever. And it led to an epidemic of farmer suicides in southern India. Over 60 thousand farmers have committed suicide because they simply can't, um, they simply can't grow what they used to grow. It's, it's a whole cocktail of climate impacts. Factors stemming back from colonialism and factors coming in from neoliberal policies. So, climate movements in a lot of Global South places - I could give a bunch more examples that - those movements are inherently tied to the economic systems that were put in place by colonialism. And they're places where capitalism has just broken down and doesn't work for the people anymore. So, it's inherent if you're fighting climate change, you're also talking about kicking these companies out or bringing back traditional agricultural practices. It's not just climate change, it's so many things in one.

MARY: Thank you for making such a complex topic, like, easy to - easier to understand through a story. I think that makes a really big difference for people, um, when you're talking about these larger ideas and I don't know, I think sometimes people don't talk about the fact that it's really real impacts on communities and to think about that level of crisis that losing that many of your community members

would cause is just terrible. But, I really appreciate you lifting up that story and those voices. Um, I'm wondering if you would be able to explain a little bit more about what you, um, would define as a sacrifice zone? I think that this is something that we also talk about in the context of Canada's impact on Indigenous communities but also just in general in the climate fights in Canada and I think it's - often people just include sacrifice zones in a sentence without actually defining what it means or why it's important to talk about in a Canadian context.

ANJALI: Mhmm. Yeah, sacrifice zones are, um - to put it really simply, they're basically the by-product of our current global economic system. Essentially, neoliberalism can't survive without some winners and some losers. It's simply set up that way. And so when we talk about a sacrifice zone, we talk about a place that is often the geographic location that is kind of, um - it is, is a place that's from an economic point of view not worth investing in. It's a place where the by-products, the waste products or the extraction sites of the economic system take place. Um, and to those who are profiting from that system, those are zones that don't really matter. It's like the name says, they had to be sacrificed in order for this wealth creation and for this growth. So, if sacrifice zones can be seen on a global scale and they can be seen really potently within each country and within Canada as well, so, on a global scale you can say, OK, the climate change that was largely caused by a few industrialised countries has created sacrifice zones out of the most vulnerable populations which are small island states, the least developed countries, the most climate vulnerable countries. Then you zoom into Canada and you look at the tar sands. It's a massive sacrifice. So, so many people, especially Indigenous peoples, have had so many health impacts and such a huge amount of environmental impacts from a zone that has created so much profit generation for the rest of the economy. And in order for that profit to happen, those - sacrifices had to be made and sacrifice zones most often impact the most marginalized people and that's how it works the world over and that's how it works in this neoliberal economic system. It's Indigenous peoples in Canada who are the most and the first impacted by these - by the, the offshoots and the by-products of the system and those happen in sacrifice zones. Ground zero of TMX will be a sacrifice zone. All the places that will be impacted by this pipeline are sacrifices in the name of growth. So I think it's so important to break it down and, and reinforce the idea that it is a zero sum economic system. Where there are wins, there are losses. Where there is growth, there is sacrifice, and that's why, um, when the mainstream media and the government and the companies make arguments about the economy growing, there is no such thing as the economy as a whole.

[35:57]

ANJALI: It's who gets to benefit from that. There's no, all of us get to benefit. There are winners and there are losers and that's so important to keep in mind. And that really - obviously that applies so strongly in the Canadian context. But you could blow it up and apply it to the rest of the world as well. In order for Canada to reach the level of wealth that it has achieved today as a whole - and of course, there's so many inequalities within Canada. But for Canada as a whole country to achieve that level of wealth there had to be sacrifices in other parts of the world. And the same is the case for the richest industrialized countries in the world. And, that same concept also applies for our level of effort to tackle climate change. So, the less that Canada does, the more that other countries suffer for it and other populations suffer for it. And the most vulnerable people in Canada suffer for it. So our government refusing to take climate action or not meeting emissions reductions goals or building a pipeline in the middle of the climate crisis is directly impacting the most vulnerable people. And I think we need to just reinforce that to our family and friends and each other and the media whenever possible.

MARY: I'm wondering, so, you've gone to the climate talks a number of times and I'm wondering, so - and this would likely change year to year but I'm wondering what your demands were of Canada during the last climate talks or if you were to demand something of Canada on a federal level, what you think the most important things to be pushing for would be?

ANJALI: Yeah, I think it's important to note that Canada, being one of the wealthiest countries in the world and being one of the least vulnerable to climate impacts, has a much greater responsibility in comparison with most of the rest of the world. And so, that means on one level - so some of our biggest demands at this last U.N. conference, um - some of the biggest demands were to reject the Teck mine because, why would you build a project like that in this climate context? And for Indigenous rights and for all the other, all the other consequences of that project. And that's an amazing - that's an amazing win we just had with the, with the mine withdrawing. So that was huge. And another thing that I think is a really important point is this concept of fair shares. Um, and not sure how familiar you guys are with the concept of fair shares, but, I'll just break it down super simple. So basically, the world needs to be carbon zero by 2050 at the very latest. And for some people that means a lot more effort and for some people that means a little less effort because their emissions are not as high. For Canada, our emissions are really high, so, we need to ramp it down to be carbon zero, earlier than 2050. And so if we look at the total amount of emissions reductions that everybody in the world, every country in the world has to do combined, we would call that a burden because that's a burden, to reduce emissions, to cut emissions, to - you know, it does cost something to transition the economy. So, how do we share that collective burden? And because there's, uh, massive historical differences in who contributed the most to climate change historically and currently and, um, current differences in terms of economic wealth and human development, the burden is different for everyone. And so we say that everybody has a fair share of the burden, taking into account that historical and the current responsibility for climate change. So, Canada's fair share - so, when we look at it in that context, everybody's fair share is different. And for a lot of the developed countries or for all the developed countries, their fair share is actually more than 100 percent because they - because they owe a historical contribution as well. So, bear with me, it gets easier to understand. But essentially, Canada's fair share in total is 140 percent emissions reductions by 2030.

[40:35]

ANJALI: And the baseline for that is our 2005 emissions level. So basically, if we were to do our fair share we would have to reduce our emissions by 140 percent below 2005 levels, in the next decade, by 2030 and 140 percent obviously is impossible. And so, for developed countries the fair share is two distinct pieces. One piece is domestic emissions reductions, and the other piece is international obligations and those international obligations take the form of finance. Mostly, it's finance, sending financial, um, contributions to developing countries to help with climate adaptation and to help with transitioning their economies. Um, so, the way that split happens for Canada is 60 percent of that 140 is domestic emissions reductions and the rest is 80 percent, is international. So, the financial contribution that would be Canada's fair share is four billion dollars annually from now till 2030. So it's a bit complicated but, but the basic concept is, we need to lift our, our fair share of the burden and our fair share happens to be a lot because we've benefited from climate change in so many ways. So yeah. And I'm happy to send around a really cool, um, [infographic](#) that breaks down fair shares and talks about what we need to do in Canada. So that's been the main demand and I think that demand will really ramp up this year for Canada to just do its fair share. Obviously, our current climate plan falls way short of that. The plan falls

short of that and we are falling short of the plan. So really there is a long way to go. And if anybody doesn't do their fair share that means more for everyone else. So, as you guys probably know the US pulled out of the Paris Agreement and refused to be part of the, the sort of U.N. process going forward. So that means - and that's a huge burden. So that means more for everybody else and that's a really really hard thing that we're gonna have to deal with this year.

MARY: Thank you so much for breaking all that down. And yeah, if you want to, um, either talk about how someone would look up that infographic so folks can look it up themselves or we'll - we can also send it around to this list of folks after.

ANJALI: Yeah, so, you can actually find a website - I'll just say it super quick – two resources that will be helpful on fair shares. There's climatefairshares.org which - actually, I think it's still in testing but basically you can click on any country and see what their fair share would be. And, I think you can see how far they are actually along the way to their fair share and then the other is that [infographic](#). It's - the link is kind of hard so we can send it around, but basically you can find it on the Climate Action Network site. So, it's climateactionnetwork.ca I believe. And there should be a really easy to find, um, button to that [infographic](#) on the site.

MARY: Awesome thank you. I'm wondering, so, um, last question for me and then we'll move into Q and A. But I was wondering, so, a lot of folks have already been bringing up Teck in the chat and you briefly mentioned it earlier but I was wondering if you could just explain what decision happened this week and sort of what it means? Just because a lot of people might not be familiar with Teck.

ANJALI: Yeah, the Teck frontier mine, um, was, was - we can say “was” now - was one of the largest, if not the largest - I'm not super familiar with Teck, just as a disclaimer - but it was one of the largest mines ever proposed in Canadian history and I'm sure Mary can give you more of the actual details of what the project entailed, but, but it was – it was basically, like, a ridiculous, a ridiculous project to propose in our current climate context.

[45:08]

ANJALI: And it was a huge and volatile movement that really, uh, really opposed it. They took it all the way to the UN and there's a beautiful Indigenous-led contingent that, that was really calling to reject Teck and teaching the rest of the world and people from all over the world about that particular struggle. And so it became something that was impossible for the government to ignore, and so the recent decision, um - to just be super, super bare bones, but the recent decision was that Teck actually withdrew their own application and the project was a 20 billion dollar project and they withdrew the application for it, citing uncertainty, economic uncertainty and opposition to the project. So it was a massive, massive win for people and the planet.

MARY: I heard of one comparison that it would be the same as 200 coal mines.

ANJALI: Wow.

MARY: It's like the largest open pit mine and largest tar sands project ever proposed, so that's an amazing win and so incredible to see that win, um, before beginning construction and all the, all the different ways that people win fights. It's like a really amazing win to have the company withdraw themselves. Yeah. Yeah, cool! Well, I think it's time to move into Q and A, but I just wanted to, like, let folks know that so that they can pop their questions into the chat, so maybe we'll give people just a

couple minutes to type because, yeah, it would be really great to hear what folks in this room had questions for, for Anjali. 'Cause yeah.

ANJALI: Just one more thing on Teck, um - so then right after that, um, Teck invested in the solar facility which is, like, the next piece of big news and then someone made a joke on Facebook. An Indigenous [inaudible] made a joke on Facebook. It was like, that feeling when you realize Teck shareholders have more integrity than the Canadian government. Just like a, "what?", like a mind scramble moment, like they withdraw their own project and invest in solar.

MARY: Yeah, it's pretty crazy, hey?

ANJALI: Yeah. The moment I-

MARY: I saw, TC Energy apparently - I heard this at a meeting this week, I haven't verified if it's true, but I heard that TC Energy, um, with - like, sold off wind farms in order to invest in Coastal Gas Link.

ANJALI: Wow.

MARY: Yeah.

ANJALI: That's the opposite -

MARY: I want to check on it and see if there's any articles about it or anything, but, that was a good indicator of how sometimes corporations are totally not even paying attention and continuing with destruction.

ANJALI: Yeah.

CAITLYN: So we, we do have, um, quite a few questions already and I think, um, yeah, clearly the Teck withdrawal is pretty massive and I think when it comes to Trans Mountain signals that investors are paying attention around climate and continuing to construct fossil fuel infrastructure - whether it's the Coastal Gas Link pipeline and LNG Canada or the Trans Mountain pipeline - in a climate crisis, these projects would likely end up as stranded assets that are not economical and that investors are, are paying attention to that. So we're definitely in unprecedented times here which is, um, pretty exciting. Yeah. So, there are a bunch of questions. I wonder if - the first one - So Anjali, thank you so much for sharing all of your thoughts so far. There was one around this question of fair share and, um, just kind of people often hearing the argument that, well, OK, Canada, you know, doesn't contribute as much to the global problem, therefore we don't have to do as much, you know, especially compared to China and India. You said specifically that China and India are doing more than their fair share, so somebody was asking where they could find that information. So if you could just-

ANJALI: Yeah, I'm happy, I'm super happy to send around more resources on fair shares and how everyone is kind of doing on their fair shares right now.

[49:39]

ANJALI: I don't think China and India have surpassed their fair share. They're just the most on track. They're well further along track than Canada. I think it's Kenya that has actually surpassed their fair share. And I don't, I don't remember who else has. A very small handful of countries have surpassed their fair shares, um, all of them developing countries. So I will find the actual information on fair shares.

That fair shares website I mentioned earlier, climatefairshares.org, might give an idea, but I'll also send around a link and – yeah, just to address a little bit more - because it is a really common narrative, like, “Oh, what about China? What about India? Their emissions are so high. China's emissions have now overtaken the US.” And I just want to debunk that a little bit because - for a few reasons, one, because I know that that narrative was actually a super carefully engineered narrative, um, by developed country governments, um, because - and I was around when that argument first started really getting a lot of traction in, in 2011. That's when the spotlight was really harsh on the US because that's when they were really misbehaving in the U.N. climate talks. And so, there was this thing of like, well look at China, look at India! But I think it's - two things are really important to know. One is if you look at per capita emissions, which is if you break the total emissions of a country down to the number of people in that country, China and India both have over a billion people. And so, the individual carbon share or carbon footprint or ecological footprint of each person in those countries is far, far lower than a person here. So a person in China has a footprint 17 times smaller than a person in Canada. So, that's quite a big difference. And that directly translates into, um, quality of life for those people. So in that sense the emissions argument doesn't make much sense. And the other question is the historical responsibility piece where Canada and the US have gone through industrial - rapid industrialization that has led them to this level of wealth and to this, uh, to this level of being developed. And it's that industrial revolution that kickstarted climate change that put enough emissions to the atmosphere that we began to have climate change. So, um, yes. So, what was the actual question? It was just around like, the China and India-

[52:30]

CAITLYN: Yeah, no, I think, I think you've answered it.

ANJALI: Yeah.

CAITLYN: There's something else also important around how when we're counting emissions here in B.C. - for those of us who are here or in Canada, like, we're only counting the emissions that are emitted right here locally. So, Canada is not taking responsibility for the emissions – like, somebody's asking to comment on how supposedly LNG would offset coal in China, um, and there's just, like, so many problems to unpack with that, um -

ANJALI: Yeah. Oh, I also forgot to add the last piece, which is that China is now the largest – the country with the largest investment in solar and the largest solar field in the world is actually in Tamil Nadu where I come from in India. So, there's a lot of massive investments being made in renewables in countries where we think, “just really high emissions.”

CAITLYN: So, I just – well, just on the LNG and coal thing when you factor in the fracking and emissions from fracking, the burning gas from fracked gas can be as bad as coal. So, just to respond to that question-

ANJALI: Exactly.

CAITLYN: Because I'm wondering - actually there's, there's a whole bunch more questions. So –

ANJALI: [laughs] OK.

CAITLYN: One round - if you could speak to this idea of a third industrial revolution or a Green New Deal for Canada and how, um, Indigenous peoples would fit into that and maybe you could kind of weave in – there were also some questions around how mega-projects are not just energy projects, they're also, like, large scale farming and things like that.

ANJALI: Absolutely.

CAITLYN: So if you could speak to that a bit –

ANJALI: Yeah. So, first from Green New Deal, a third industrial revolution, um, yeah, I think we're at a really fascinating, interesting time right now where something really rapid and, and radical has to happen. And so, a lot of people are talking about this idea of a Green New Deal and that's, um, that is obviously alluding to the New Deal that was a very - it was a sweeping set of policy, uh, policy changes and, um - that happened in the post Great Depression era and, and post World War Two as well. And, the closest kind of vision for what that would look like in the US was tabled by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez which is like where this whole buzzword of Green New Deal came from. But, I think it's clear to a lot of people that we do need something of that scale - a massive, um, sweeping set of changes in every corner of the economy, um, massive investments in renewables. And a just transition. Training workers to fill this new sector of renewable energy, and so, I don't quite know what else there is to say except that is needed and obviously this is all taking place in the context of so-called reconciliation or I guess more appropriately the era of reconciliation is dead. And so what does it mean to - what does it mean to create a new economy in that context? In the context of understanding our colonial history and understanding that this economic system was imposed not only on Indigenous peoples here but people the world over, especially in the Global South, especially Indigenous people in the Global South. So, I think we need - so there's so many pieces to this. One is a just transition and that is how do you – this, you know, we should never as environmentalists pit ourselves against jobs because it's workers and jobs that, that keep us all - give us well-being and keep us all going and everybody deserves dignified and good work. And that shouldn't - that's not something that should be compromised in the new economy.

[56:44]

ANJALI: And I don't think that's what anybody wants. But it's more about – we – this, the whole underlying logic of the system is so flawed and the people who have the solutions, the people who have the antithesis to this logic of extractivism is Indigenous peoples. So, in order to create this transformational Green New Deal, new economy, it has to be done with the leadership of Indigenous nations, with Indigenous science, Indigenous knowledge and an Indigenous cosmology and world view. And I don't think anyone right now has a plan for how to do that. How to make a Green New Deal a red New Deal, because the last thing we want is to just simply recreate our existing economy, but just with renewable energy instead of coal. Great, that might have, uh, less of an environmental footprint, but what does that do for the people who are on the losing end of the current economic system? So, to me it's fundamentally a question of justice. How do we move to a more just economy? Um, yeah, and to me that begins with Indigenous leadership. So what the Wet'suwet'en are doing right now in terms of asserting Indigenous law and asserting their legal systems and their legal orders, to me is, like, the heart of climate justice because that's how we actually break into the logic of the system and begin to be able to let a different and more ancient logic back in.

CAITLYN: So, on the-

ANJALI: So, we know what that looks like. [laughs]

CAITLYN: So, like, on the question of justice - we only have a few minutes left-

ANJALI: [laughs] Sorry, I'm so long-winded!

CAITLYN: No, no, no, this is amazing! I'm going to try to fit in two more questions.

ANJALI: Okay.

CAITLYN: The first will be, so, a whole bunch of people in the chat are asking about, when we start to talk about per capita consumption, they're then asking about the question of population growth.

[58:54]

ANJALI: Mmmmm. This is so important.

CAITLYN: Yeah. So, I'm wondering if you could take couple of minutes on that and then I have one final one for you.

ANJALI: Cool. Um, yeah, population growth, you know, it's easy for me to dismiss as a climate justice activist because for me it's so not about that. And it's such a slippery slope when you start talking about population growth you're - without really saying it - you're talking about countries like India and China and that can - very, there's a very fine line, um, into - yeah, there's a very fine line into racism from that point. And, and I do think the discussion of population growth has sort of been an invisible pointing finger, in it, that's like, "Well, why have these countries had so many children? Why does the population continue to grow in these countries?" And, as we know, there's very complex answers to that question. It's, it's nobody's fault. It is um, definitely not for the people of those countries to pay the cost of that. A lot of those factors come from - as I said, imperialism and the many, many, many resulting issues and the weakening of infrastructure and the weakening of, of all kinds of social safety nets for people. And so, it's - I think the bottom line of this is, we're really tied to parts of the world that it's easy to point a finger at. We're so tied to each other. We exist in such an intricate web. Our actions affect people on the other side of the world and, um, I think it's just really important to bring it back to the core issues. What is the enemy here? Who is the enemy here? What are we actually trying to overcome in order to move to a better world? Is it people having babies or is it a broken system that isn't working for so many - the majority of people on this planet? There's a lot more to say on that but that's really-

CAITLYN: Yeah, yeah, it's, it's a big topic.

ANJALI: Yeah.

CAITLYN: Um, thank you for that. And I think just to, to close us off, somebody has asked the question, Anjali, of, uh, what are you most passionate about right now and what motivates you?

[01:01:23]

ANJALI: Um, this is definitely - this work is what I feel that I was put on this planet to do and I'm sure that the form that that will take will shift and change over time, um, but right now, it feels like a beautiful moment to be alive in Coast Salish territories. There is such a spirit in the air and we are winning and we will continue to win. So, what I'm most passionate about is, is connecting people together to make them feel like we're part of a movement - to make us feel like we're on the same side

of the issue. That's when I get, like, the warm feeling in my stomach is, like, when we realize we're not fighting against each other, we're actually fighting together and, a really big piece of that for me is through - I think this, this, this climate change, this injustice, this, this broken system that we're in has to also be fought from the heart to be - to go there and to be cheesy about it. That's really what I feel and I feel we need a massive cultural shift and we need to connect to each other on a human level. So for me, that takes the form of - I love music and making music and sharing it with people and that's a big part of the Pull Together campaign as well. And, so that's, yeah - I guess that's, that's what I'm passionate about is, is being a part of this movement with my brain and with my heart and with music and with all the words that I have spilled in this webinar. [laughs] Thank you guys.

MARY: Thank you so much for that. I really appreciate those words. I think, um – yeah, also just recognizing that you make amazing music and -

ANJALI: [laughs] Thank you so much.

MARY: -a whole other contribution that you bring to this work.

ANJALI: Thank you so much.

MARY: But yeah, I'm just gonna say a couple wrap up things, just thanking everyone for being here. I know that, um, a weekly evening, uh, sort of webinar class is happening and it's been really amazing to see so many incredible people joining from so far and understanding that people are working in their own communities on these issues that impact them and taking the time to listen is really, uh - it's great to have everyone here and it's so inspiring. And I also just wanted to do another Pull Together plug! Organize an event if you'd like to. The website is www.pull-together.ca/organize and all of these webinars are a way for folks to learn more both about the Pull Together campaign but basically about the impacts of Trans Mountain locally and nationally and globally. So, it's really nice to have Anjali here bring us back to that larger global framework after we've been talking about so many more local issues here.

ANJALI: Thanks to these two amazing women, to Caitlyn and Mary. The best organizers and the most committed and most passionate and, yeah, I'm really glad to be on the team with you and I wish I could meet everyone here. I hope there's a way for us to be in touch after this. Maybe we can organize an event! We'll all meet.

CAITLYN: Anjali, the appreciations, the thank yous are coming in now on the chat here.

ANJALI: [laughs] Thanks, guys, I really appreciate it.

MARY: Yeah, that's awesome. Thanks so much everybody!

ANJALI: Thanks everyone! Be in touch!

MARY: I've got - we've got like an email list of the folks that are here-

ANJALI: Oh yeah. Perfect. Yeah, absolutely.

MARY: -so we can be in touch with folks.

ANJALI: Bye everyone!

MARY: Bye everybody! Thanks again, Anjali.

ANJALI: Thanks.

MARY: Bye.

CAITLYN: Bye.