

Extinction Rebellion comes to UBC

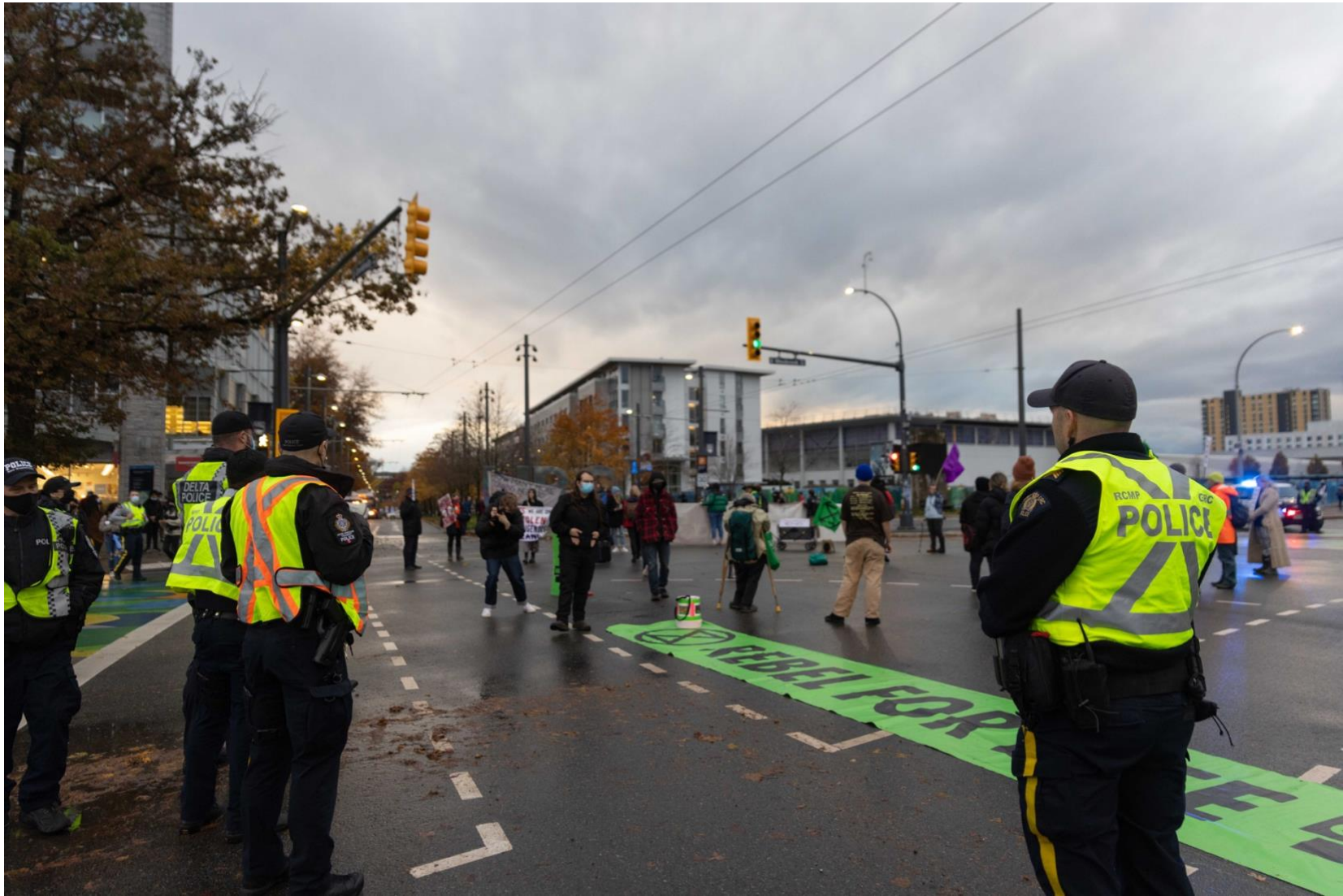
Isabella Shujiao Falsetti for The Ubyyssey

On the evening of October 26, 2021, nonviolent Extinction Rebellion protesters marched on the University of British Columbia campus, occupying the intersection before the UBC sign and bus loop, and halting traffic for almost a half hour. Extinction Rebellion (XR) is a social movement with branches worldwide that promotes civil disobedience against neoliberalism and ecological destruction. Their demands at this particular event included land back to Indigenous communities and the university's hastened divestment from fossil fuels. The RCMP quickly arrived at the scene, asking protestors to clear the intersection and gradually pushing them toward the sidewalk. Two protestors were arrested.

The climate emergency has impacts that reach far beyond intensifying temperatures and abnormal weather patterns. For vulnerable communities in the height of a pandemic, the climate crisis also means limited access to affordable food, housing, and healthcare. For Indigenous peoples especially, this emergency takes the form of land invasion and denial of sovereignty. As climate change worsens, trends of public activism and civil disobedience can be expected to increase as people demand a livable future.



Extinction Rebellion protestors march down University Boulevard, one of the main and only roads that connects UBC's campus to the Greater Vancouver area. Roughly 40 people joined the protest, demanding land back to Indigenous peoples and that the university divest from fossil fuels sooner than its 2030 deadline. / Isabella Falsetti for the Ubyyssey



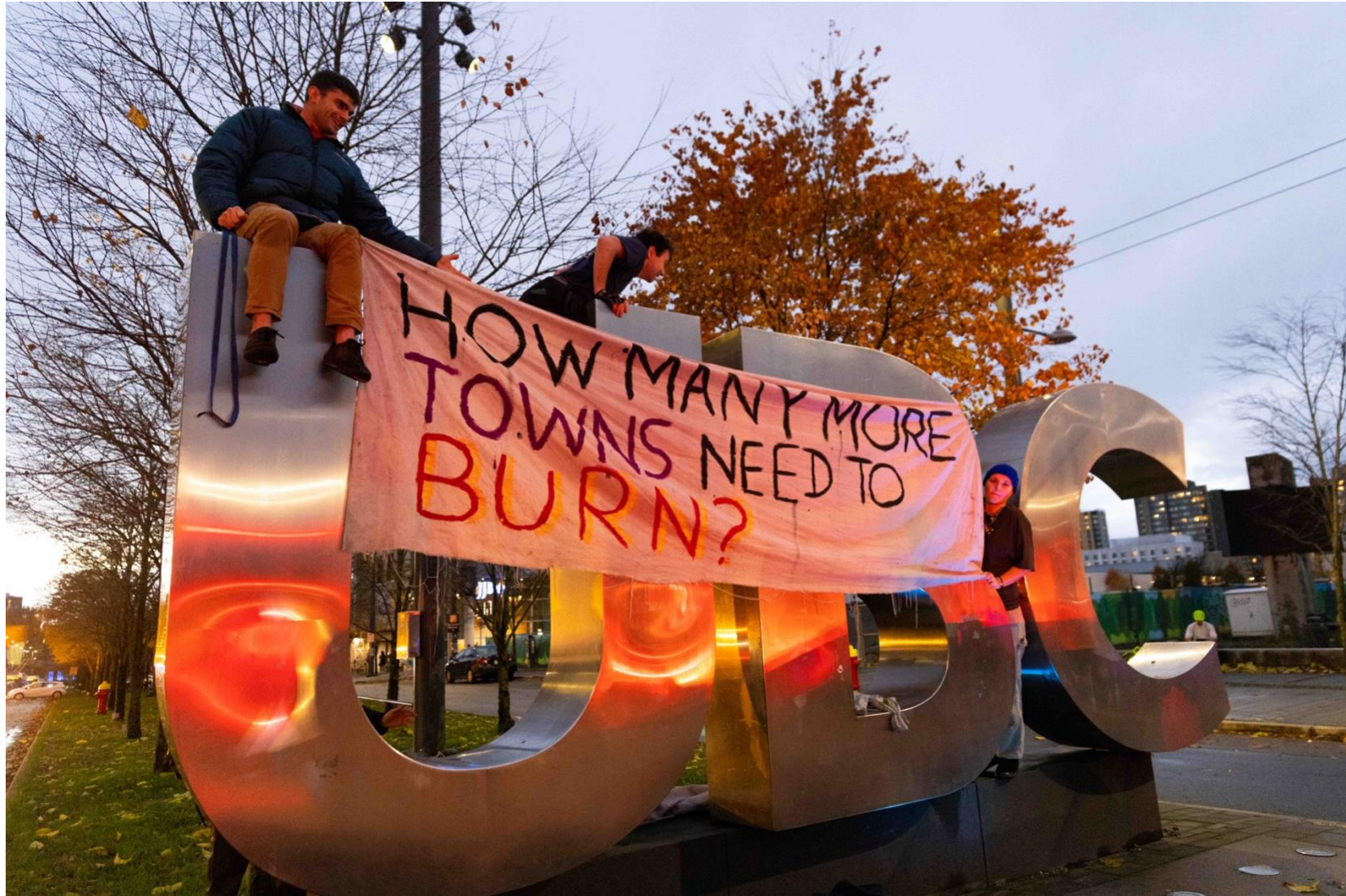
XR protestors occupy the intersection before the UBC bus loop, preventing traffic from leaving and entering campus. This demonstration was part of a 14-day effort to protest fossil fuel subsidies. / Isabella Falsetti for The Ubyyssey



A Wet'suwet'en woman sings a song while framed against another protestor holding a climate crisis flag. / Isabella Falsetti for The Ubysey



A pair of protestors share a quiet moment amidst RCMP officers' repeated requests to clear the intersection. Two protestors were eventually arrested. / Isabella Falsetti for The Ubysey



Protestors hold a banner that reads “How many more towns need to burn?” in reference to the wildfires that ravaged BC in the summer of 2021. When told to “please kindly move off the road” by an RCMP officer, one protestor atop the UBC sign responded: “Please kindly cancel fossil fuel subsidies.” / Isabella Falsetti for The Ubysey



A protestor holds up an Extinction Rebellion banner against the lights of an RCMP vehicle. The organization states that it relies on active civil disobedience rather than petitions to disrupt current political structures and raise awareness. / Isabella Falsetti for The Ubysey



Three protestors raise their fists in solidarity against the RCMP, blocking off the main intersection leading onto campus. Another protest at UBC was planned for the same time the following day. / Isabella Falsetti for The Ubyyssey