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Blockade

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Blockade

dawn, prescient, bulldozer | the flow of resources go also through our mind
 | cardboard boxes and broken crates on fire; three white-tails further
 down the ditch | first, what family's land | the road, the pipe,
 the terminal, the tanker, the destined port, the profit—all going away and leaving
 | resting crouched on the ground, feet planted, listening to the sounds of
 small creatures, the air, the rich smell of *hoolhghulh* powering the ravine, the trickle of
 water everywhere, the place is not numbers, the place is not yours | a
 tourniquet would seem so enticing too | enbridging v. : to make a leap in
 logic that dismisses all other points of view | “nation-building” the
 minister's claim staked | what else is a 1991 Civic for | named
 Tehwehron, named MacBlo Brutalist in 1993 | this passive act of war, this
 bodied word | lyric line = pipe line

crossroads, a gas station, and a tow truck overturned | the joint review panel
 should have gone and sat in the woods for three days instead | a 50-metre
 right-of-way through vital organs | Tiananmen Square 1989: “It is necessary to
 take a clear-cut stand against disturbances” | paved with state-of-the-art
 technology | an overseas market compass | a 100 meter wave in 1977
 | all a history of the roads in | what type of line is created, how is
 it traversed, and to what end | built up junctures split | standing
 in front of a large machine is not blocking progress | the time it takes to get a
 sticky price tag off something | an act of creation in standing one's ground
 | the storied land is waiting dormant | there is this wise saying that has
 almost been forgotten | the 10% equity offer hung in the air like smog
 | occupy the health of a place |

| you were there, sewing patches for strength | a knack for being in the
 wrong place and a disregard for personal safety | can't stop can't slow can't
 give can't care can't live can't recant can't not can't | by the sign saying
 ‘watching for trucks turning’, by the sign that something is awry | the
 territory's family name | sub-boreal spruce and balsam: *picea* speaking
 outside the frame | the result is not conclusive, but the intervening
 language moved back south | what is it about the interruption of the normal?
 | wild rose cattail soapberry and raspberry | the first bulldozer here

1969 under Socredits | gravel from Chetwynd | asphalt |
centre line | is the message delivered or stopped? | flows and system
analysis concluded that the excess was not accounted for | LNG is fracked
gas and the quakes are just starting

| an oily patch on the way | the BC Access Office is where you
renew your driver's license | a prepositional phase | the reason for
the media is a place to record the movement of public emotion | can't go,
further | a stop in a line of energy, when | as if the self was
yours to throw in front of | the pit house slept up to 12 | municipal,
provincial, or federal policy finds your local, assumes | or first traditional
| if *Delgamuulk*¹ is ignored | a trap set at each blueprinted line
| an ally does the work, asks no reward | an eagle feather
promise | TransCanada changes its name to TC Energy to lower Google hits
| lives cut hereditary and Indian Act | it would say that story
doesn't belong on this land | when being a polite host fails | 3rd phase of
the Healing Centre's concrete base

ROBERT BUDE teaches creative writing at UNBC in Prince George. He has published eight books (poetry, novels, interviews, and short fiction)—most recently *declining america* and *Dreamland Theatre*. The manuscripts he is working on include *Testes* (poetry addressing masculinity) and *Panax* (an ethnobotanical poetic study of *Hoolhghulh / Devil's Club*).

¹ *Delgamuulk v. British Columbia* (1997) refers to a famous ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada concerning the claiming of Aboriginal title by the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en peoples over 58,000 square kilometres in northwest BC.