



January 7, 2010

ATT: Members of Parliament  
Government of Canada and  
Members of Legislative Assembly, B.C.

**Re: Proposed Enbridge Pipeline is Not Worth the Risk**

Dear Sirs/Madams:

We've entered into a new decade. We believe it will be a decade of change in how we do business with each other and in changing the business we are in. Our Dakelh people have lived in north central British Columbia since time immemorial and intend on protecting our lands from unsustainable practices. The CSTC advocates and frequently represents the interests of 8 First Nations in a territory of 7.8 million hectares (78,000 acres). We would like to bring to your attention the most recent attempt of Enbridge Inc. to build a 1,170 km long twin oil/condensate pipeline from the Alberta oil sands to Kitimaat in B.C.

In 2005 Enbridge brought forward their first proposal to build a pipeline. During this time the CSTC conducted an Aboriginal Interest and Use Study (AIUS) to determine the risks posed by such a project. Our AIUS concluded:

1. The Carrier Sekani have unextinguished aboriginal title and rights which will be significantly infringed along a substantial portion of the proposed pipeline right of way.
2. The direct impacts of the proposed Enbridge Gateway pipeline on the Carrier Sekani are potentially numerous and serious, and of a magnitude that will likely be unacceptable to Carrier Sekani members and communities.
3. Regulatory authorities should not proceed further with this project unless free, prior and informed consent is received from the CSTC and its member communities.
4. There will be cumulative and indirect impacts additional to these direct impacts, which will combine with existing developments, mountain pine beetle impacts, existing loss of fish stocks and future development in the Bowser and Nechako Basins, which cumulatively are also likely to be unacceptable. These cumulative and indirect impacts must be studied, considered, and properly accounted for in any regulatory decisions.
5. The benefits from the pipeline to the Carrier Sekani will be very limited as presently proposed, and will not be sufficient to outweigh the impacts of the pipeline on the Carrier Sekani, and the infringements to their aboriginal title and rights.

6. Considering the magnitude of the impacts and the limited benefits, the Chiefs of the Carrier Sekani should determine with their communities whether approval of the CSTC should be refused for this pipeline, including any further work on CSTC lands.
7. The existing studies done to date have not adequately considered CSTC interests.
8. CSTC consent to any further exploratory or regulatory work should be conditional upon:
  - a. CSTC completion of a Phase II AIUS once Gateway has fully shared its baseline data and studies;
  - b. Further assessment of the archeological and cultural resources along the proposed pipeline corridor, to be conducted by the CSTC with adequate funding;
  - c. Completion of a First Nations-led review process with the other First Nations along the corridor;
  - d. Meaningful involvement in the decision-making processes of regulatory bodies (particularly any environmental assessment review process, including the Joint Panel Review which has recently been started).

We now find ourselves with a National Energy Board and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Joint Panel Review having been developed without CSTC First Nations, which directly infringes on our Aboriginal right to decision-making in our territories. This process is flawed and cannot adequately address Aboriginal rights in an area that Aboriginal Title still exists. CSTC halted so-called treaty negotiations with BC and Canada after 10 years of fruitless meetings. The Enbridge Northern Gateway Project would alienate the quality of our land and resources we need for survival.

Our political representative, Vice Tribal Chief Terry Teegee was recently in Copenhagen for the COP15 climate change discussions with the Assembly of First Nations delegation. He witnessed first hand the embarrassing absence of Canada, and the international decrying of the Alberta oil sands development. The proposed Enbridge pipeline would directly contribute to 'Canada's Dirty Oil Shame' and continue to increase Canada's carbon emissions by transporting this 'dirty oil' through our territories and into pristine coastal zones in B.C. This is not conducive in moving into a knowledge based economy, which includes innovation and carbon neutrality. The proposed Enbridge pipeline is bad for ecosystems that our economies depend on.

Our people have seen first hand what climate change has done to our forests. The mountain pine beetle infestation has devastated over half of our forests, and is impacting our ability to return to healthy traditional diets. Our reliance on non traditional diets increases our rates of cancers and diabetes. The Enbridge Northgate Gateway Project will increase fragmentation to wildlife habitat, directly cross over 700 watercourses and further impact the fisheries of the Fraser, Nechako and Stuart salmon. The cumulative impacts of such a pipeline are not worth the risk.

Investors in the Enbridge Northern Gateway project will find no certainty in B.C. These multi-billion dollar projects cannot proceed without the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations. While Canada still has not signed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, it will be attempting to highlight its Aboriginal relations accomplishments to the world during the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The regulatory processes that review such projects are not adequate to address First Nations rights. The CSTC and other First Nations along the B.C. section of the pipeline route have proposed a separate First Nation Review

Process that will ensure First Nations perspectives and legal interests are incorporated. Legislative reform to both the B.C. and Canada Environmental Assessment Acts are needed to adequately include First Nation review and decision-making of projects.

The CSTC operates with minimal resources and capacity to protect our lands and people. However, we are not alone in expressing major concern that the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project is not a good fit for our region. If you would like to read more, please visit our website at [www.cstc.bc.ca](http://www.cstc.bc.ca). As our ancestors have repeatedly told us: Yun hughwuts'inli de, neghole' – Take care of the land and it will take care of you.

Sincerely,

  
**CARRIER SEKANI TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**DAVID LUGGI**  
Tribal Chief