

Overview of First Nations Opposition to Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline



Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, Namox (John Ridsdale) and Chief Madeek (Jeff Brown), during a Mixing of the Waters Ceremony in June 2009. The Water Ceremony was performed to unify and strengthen the First Nations opposed to Enbridge's Northern Gateway project.



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*Territory boundaries in this document are approximate and intended for illustrative purposes only.

This summary was compiled by Dogwood Initiative from publicly available statements. We do not represent or speak for any of the people, First Nations, or entities included herein. We produced this document for informational and background purposes only. We urge the reader to contact the individuals, Nations, or entities referred to if more information is required on their position and/or concerns. Dogwood Initiative will not use this document to raise funds.

CARRIER SEKANI TRIBAL COUNCIL



“We’ve told the government and Enbridge that Dakelh people do not want their dirty oil going through our territories. The world knows that Canada is a climate criminal for allowing tar sands development to occur and yet they continue to allow it.”

-Carrier Sekani Vice Tribal Chief, Terry Teegee

Date	Publication	Title
13 Nov 2008	Prince George Citizen	Enbridge may offer pipeline to First Nations (Hoekstra, Gordon)
05 Feb 2009	Georgia Straight	Pipeline would bring tankers into B.C. inlets (Findlay, Andrew)
14 Apr 2009	Dogwood Initiative WWW	April 2009 Briefing to Enbridge Investors
03 June 2009	Opinion 250 News Inc.	Carrier Sekani Say Pipeline Too Risky
01 Sept 2009	Prince George Citizen	Pipeline impacts outweigh benefits (Teegee, Terry)
13 Nov 2008	Prince George Citizen	Enbridge may offer pipeline to First Nations (Hoekstra, Gordon)
04 Dec 2009	Carrier Sekani Tribal Council: Press Release	Joint Review Panel too weak to address First Nations and Public Interests
15 Dec 2009	Carrier Sekani Tribal Council: Press Release	Carrier Sekani Tribal Council at Copenhagen: Canada’s Dirty Oil Shame
16 Dec 2009	Caledonia Courier	EA to be conducted for Northern Gateway



“Even with sophisticated safety precautions, shipping accidents still occur. Mechanical failure or human error, the outcomes are the same for our culture and our territory. The oil spills over our elders, our children, our spirit bears and killer whales”

-Gitga’at Hereditary Chief, Ernie Hill Jr.

“These incidents confirm to us the risks are more than just about oil spills. Our people and territory would be severely impacted just by those oil-tankers passing through. There is nothing but risk in this whole process for the Gitga’at people. There are no benefits. I have not heard one.”

-Gitga’at Band Councillor, Cameron Hill

Date	Publication	Title
05 Feb 2009	Georgia Straight	Pipeline would bring tankers into B.C. inlets (Findlay, Andrew)
22 Mar 2009	Press Release: Hartley Bay Band Council	Disaster Déjà vu in Canada’s Great Bear Rainforest
30 Mar 2009	Press Release: Hartley Bay Band Council	Gitga’at Support Call for Tanker Moratorium
April 2009	Dogwood Initiative WWW	April 2009 Briefing to Enbridge Investors
08 Apr 2009	Press Release: Hartley Bay Band Council	Spring brings whales home to Gitga’at Territory. New Worries Surface
13 April 2009	Press Release: Hartley Bay Band Council	Promise to Protect the Great Bear Rainforest a Cruel Joke. Where is the Outrage?
17 Apr 2009	Globe and Mail	Tanker debate starts where pipeline ends (Hume, Mark)
06 June 2009	All Nations Energy Summit Steering Committee and the Office of the Wet’suwet’en.	All Nations Energy Summit. Summary Report

20 Aug 2009	Press Release: Hartley Bay Band Council	Slow Down, Whales and People X-ing
25 Aug 2009	The Northern View	Hartley Bay council concerned about tanker traffic (Thomas, Shaun)
18 Sept 2009	Press Release: Hartley Bay Band Council	Gitga'at give Enbridge execs chilly reception
20 Sept 2009	Press Release: Hartley Bay Band Council	Enbridge Promise to Protect Down for the Count
03 Oct 2009	Times Colonist	Freighter crash 'foreshadowing': Incident shows dangers of oil tankers in northern waters, First Nations say (Lavoie, Judith)



“I fished my whole life, and our resources are almost going extinct. A project like this impedes our demand greatly. The impact on our nation would be irreparable,”

-Gitxaala Nation Elder, Matt Hill

Date	Publication	Title
06 June 2009	All Nations Energy Summit Steering Committee and the Office of the Wet’suwet’en.	All Nations Energy Summit. Summary Report
23 Nov 2009	Globe and Mail	Office of the Wet’suwet’en “A Stake in a pipeline”
08 Dec 2009	Slave River Journal	First Nations unified in opposition to oil sands pipeline through BC (Bell, Shawn)



“The tycoons expect to further spread the tar sands poison, putting their lavish desires before our lifestyles and our culture. We depend on these lands and waters and we will not put the safety and well being of our territories in their hands.”

-President of the Haida Nation, Guujaaw

“The Haida Nation will certainly not accept tanker traffic where we would bear the burden of risk and oil spills in our waters. Our livelihoods would be jeopardized. Many of our neighbour nations are equally concerned about impacts on their lands and water. We are willing to stand united to protect our waters.”

-Representative of the Council of the Haida Nation, Robert Davis

Date	Publication	Title
06 June 2009	All Nations Energy Summit Steering Committee and the Office of the Wet’suwet’en	All Nations Energy Summit. Summary Report
02 Sept 2009	Queen Charlotte Islands Observer	Haida Nation says no way to oil tanker traffic (Rinfret, Alex)
21 Nov 2008	CBC Edmonton Feature	Selling Alberta’s oil sands to Asia is facing stiff opposition
03 Dec 2008	Calgary Herald	Haida denounce Enbridge pipeline (Baker, George T.)
03 Dec 2008	Victoria Times Colonist	Council of the Haida Nation objects to oil pipeline plans; Group won’t accept risk of tanker spills (Baker, George T.)
03 Dec 2008	Vancouver Sun	Haida Nation says it will reject Kitimat tanker traffic
03 Dec 2008	Edmonton Journal	Haida resist Enbridge pipeline



“We have fought for untold generations to protect our lands, waters and resources. We have a sacred bond with the land that demands that we be unrelenting in this protection. Let us be clear: we will not allow any project, including Enbridge’s Northern Gateway project, to proceed if it will illegally infringe our constitutionally protected rights. We will take every necessary step, including resort to the Courts, to continue the protection of our people and our rights.”

-Kitimaat Village Chief, Dolores Pollard

“Oil spills are a certainty – it’s just a matter of time. Even with current technology there is too much room for human error, and our ability to clean up spills is nowhere near adequate. The Exxon Valdez taught us it’s a risk we should not be taking at all.”

-Haisla First Nation Councilor, Gerald Amos

Date	Publication	Title
06 May 2008	Press Release	BC First Nations at Enbridge AGM: ‘No Tar Sands Pipeline’
06 June 2009	All Nations Energy Summit Steering Committee and the Office of the Wet’suwet’en	All Nations Energy Summit. Summary Report
01 Sept 2009	Globe and Mail	B.C. natives object to pipeline project (Hume, Mark)
09 Sept 2009	Kitimat Northern Sentinel	Haisla prepared to go to court
02 Oct 2009	Canadian Press	Grounded tanker has B.C. First Nations worried



NADLEH WHUT'EN

“We have provided independent non-biased information to our members and neighbours, and we have heard loud and clear that we cannot risk the health of our land and future generations for short-term financial gain.”

-Nadleh Whut'én Chief, Larry Nooski

“Consultation as it stands now only means more court cases and conflict. We ask Enbridge to adopt a policy requiring First Nations consent, to respect the fact that these lands have never been surrendered to the Crown.”

-Nadleh Whut'én First Nation Representative, Tara Marsden

Date	Publication	Title
06 May 2008	Press Release	BC First Nations at Enbridge AGM: 'No Tar Sands Pipeline'
28 Nov 2008	Press Release: Office of the Wet'suwet'en	Approval Process for Enbridge Gateway Flawed: BC First Nations
April 2009	Dogwood Initiative WWW	April 2009 Briefing to Enbridge Investors
03 Apr 2009	Press Release: Nadlel Whut'én First Nation	Our Land is Not for Sale': Nadlel Whut'én Take Stand on Enbridge Pipeline
08 May 2009	Prince George Citizen	Pipeline too risky: First Nations; Enbridge meeting marked by Aboriginal action (Hoekstra, Gordon)
06 June 2009	All Nations Energy Summit Steering Committee and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en	All Nations Energy Summit. Summary Report
04 Dec 2009	Press Release: Nadlel Whut'én First Nation	Enbridge Review Panel Already an Infringement of Aboriginal Rights



“We conducted our own independent environmental studies, we interviewed our Elders and Keyoh holders, and we produced a report called the Aboriginal Interests and Use Study. The conclusion of this report was ‘thank you very much Enbridge, but you are not welcome in our territories.’”

-Nak'azdli First Nation Representative, Anne Marie Sam

Date	Publication	Title
April 2009	Dogwood Initiative WWW	April 2009 Briefing to Enbridge Investors
06 June 2009	All Nations Energy Summit Steering Committee and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en	All Nations Energy Summit Summary Report



“Our title and rights to our traditional territories have never been relinquished. We will do whatever it takes to defend our lands and waters against this threat from Enbridge.”

“Enbridge’s plan will bring oil spills to our coast and to our inland salmon rivers. The fish, the animals, and our way of life will all be destroyed – likely forever. We are here today to tell Enbridge we will never allow this to occur.”

-Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chief, Alphonse Gagnon

Date	Publication	Title
28 Nov 2008	Office of the Wet’suwet’en	Approval Process for Enbridge Gateway Flawed: BC First Nations
05 May 2009	Terrace Standard	Wet’suwet’en First Nation rally against Enbridge pipeline
06 May 2009	Press Release	BC First Nations at Enbridge AGM: ‘No Tar Sands Pipeline’
06 May 2009	Canadian Press	Natives, environmentalists assail proposed Enbridge oil pipeline to Kitimat
06 June 2009	All Nations Energy Summit Steering Committee and the Office of the Wet’suwet’en	All Nations Energy Summit. Summary Report
08 June 2009	Prince George Citizen	First Nations rally against Enbridge pipeline (Hoekstra, Gordon)
12 June 2009	Fort McMurray Today	B.C. residents want oilsands pipeline stopped (Christian, Carol)
23 Nov 2009	Globe and Mail	Office of the Wet’suwet’en: A Stake in a pipeline

TIMELINE OF FIRST NATIONS OPPOSITION TO THE ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY PROJECT (Aug. 2008-Dec. 2009)

AUGUST 2008:

- Enbridge announces \$100 million in funding from Asian refiners and Alberta producers for Gateway regulatory process. The project DOES NOT yet have commercial support in the form of supply contracts.

NOVEMBER 2008:

- Six BC First Nations meet to share concerns over Gateway pipeline and tanker traffic.
- Nadleh Whut'en, Haida, Nak'azdli and Wet'suwet'en First Nations release a statement on the environmental impacts of the pipeline and call for an environmental review process that protects Aboriginal rights and title.
- President of the Haida Nation tells the CBC that the Haida will not accept tanker traffic and will fight Enbridge.
- The First Nations Summit passes a resolution calling on the federal government to cease the Joint Review Panel until an agreement is reached with the affected First Nations.

DECEMBER 2008:

- Nadleh Whut'en proposes a community-driven environmental review process with Enbridge that ensures the free, prior and informed consent of Nadleh Whut'en people in order for the pipeline to proceed. Enbridge refuses to discuss any process outside of the federal environmental review process.

JANUARY 2009:

- Nadleh Whut'en writes the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to request a meeting to discuss a parallel First Nations Review Process for the Enbridge pipeline. The Agency responds that there will be "no separate process" and refuses to discuss this option with Nadleh Whut'en.

MARCH 2009:

- On anniversary of Exxon Valdez spill and local ferry sinking, Gitga'at issue statement saying they will protect their territory from Enbridge's project and state their support for the proposed moratorium on oil tankers on BC's coast.
- Ethical Funds asks Enbridge to do better at disclosing the potential for First Nations opposition to delay or scuttle Gateway project.

APRIL 2009:

- Gitga'at and Na'kazdli highlight the foundation for potential legal challenges to Gateway in a presentation to Enbridge investors.
- Nadleh Whut'en invites its neighboring Carrier Sekani First Nation members to learn more about the Northern Gateway pipeline, the tie to the Alberta oil sands, tanker traffic, and the consultation and environmental assessment process.
- Gitga'at state opposition to Gateway.

MAY 2009

- Wet'suwet'en, Nadleh Whut'en, Haisla travel to Enbridge annual meeting to state concerns, opposition.
- Wet'suwet'en, Gitga'at, Haida, Tsimshian rally against Enbridge in Terrace, BC.

JUNE 2009

- A First Nations Energy Summit is held in Morricetown, BC that "galvanizes opposition to Enbridge tar sands pipeline". Present are the Mikisew Cree (AB), Kelly Lake Cree (BC), West Moberly (BC), Nadleh Whut'en

(BC), Wet'suwet'en (BC), Kitkatla (BC), Gitga'at (BC), Haida (BC), Nisga'a (BC), Lake Babine (BC), Alexander (AB) and others. The Gitksan (BC) sent a letter of support.

- The Mikisew Cree First Nation and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation of Fort Chipewyan and Wet'suwet'en, Nadleh Whut'en, Haisla, Gitga'at, Gitxaala and Haida of BC sign a declaration to stop the flow of oil from the oil sands to the Pacific coast.

AUGUST 2009

- Gitga'at issue statement of opposition to pipeline based on risks to local whale populations and traditional use of their territory.

SEPTEMBER 2009

- Haisla send message to Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and Enbridge stating they are prepared to go to court to fight for their constitutionally protected rights to consultation and accommodation.
- Gitga'at present message of outright opposition to the pipeline in a meeting with Enbridge executives.

NOVEMBER 2009

- Hereditary chiefs, elected chiefs and other representatives from six First Nations gather and share concerns about the Gateway pipeline and coastal tanker traffic. They agree that current consultation attempts by the federal government and Enbridge do not meet a standard of genuine engagement with First Nations.

DECEMBER 2009

- Enbridge and the federal government sign agreement to conduct an Environmental Assessment through a Joint Review Panel. Many First Nations (including the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Nadleh Whut'en, Haida, Wet'suwet'en and Gitga'at) express opposition to this process because it lacks First Nations involvement.
- The First Nations Summit calls for an independent First Nations environmental review of the proposed Northern Gateway project.
- Carrier Sekani Tribal Council publicly announces opposition to the federal government's involvement with the tar sands and the Enbridge pipeline at United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.