



## Coastal First Nations Declaration

**W**e, the undersigned coastal First Nations, depend upon the lands and waters around us for our culture and lives.


Our laws and customs define our responsibilities to protect our lands and waters. We embrace this solemn and sacred duty to our ancestors to pass our territories and our cultures to the following generations in good order.

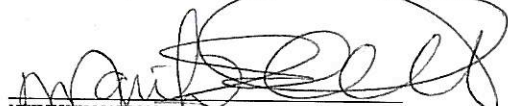
As Nations of the Central and North Pacific Coast and Haida Gwaii, it is our custom to share our wealth and live in harmony with the broader human community. However, we will not bear the risk to these lands and waters caused by the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline and crude oil tanker traffic.

We commit to reduce our own carbon footprint, and call on others we share this land with to do the same.

**Therefore, in upholding our ancestral laws, rights and responsibilities, we declare that oil tankers carrying crude oil from the Alberta Tar Sands will not be allowed to transit our lands and waters.**

To those who share our commitment to the well being of the planet we invite you to join us in defending this magnificent coast, its creatures, cultures and communities

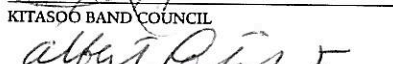
  
WAIKINUXV NATION

  
HEILTSUK NATION

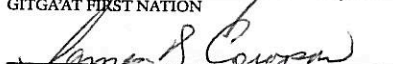
  
HAISLA NATION

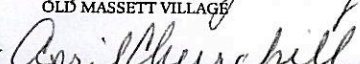
  
KITASOO BAND COUNCIL

  
METLAXATLA FIRST NATION

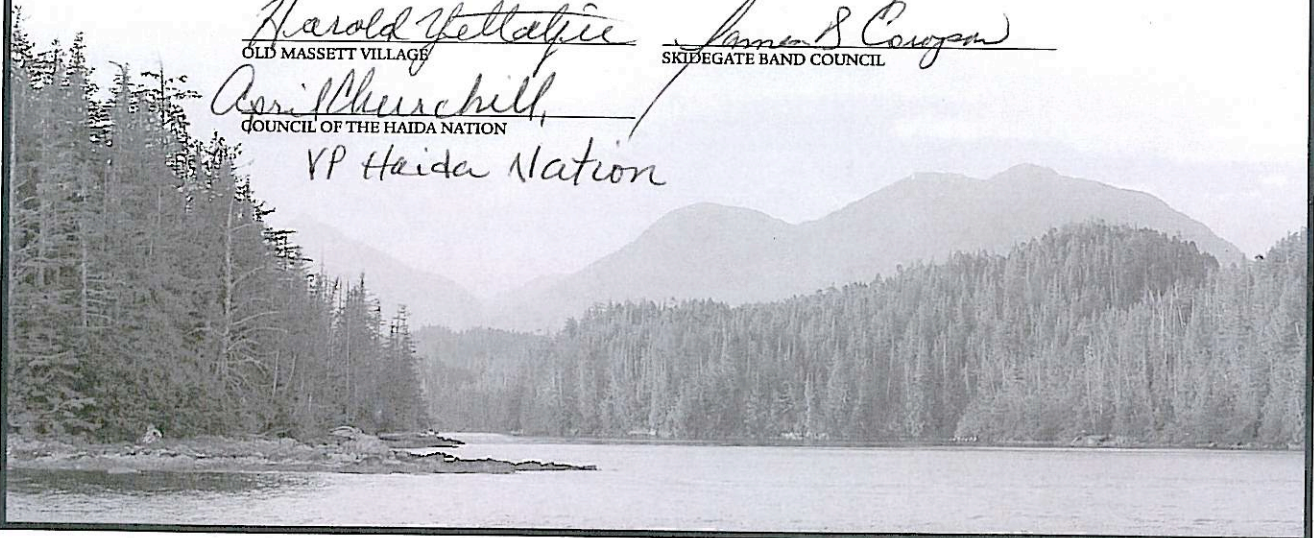
  
GITGA'AT FIRST NATION

  
HAROLD YETTALIE  
OLD MASSETT VILLAGE

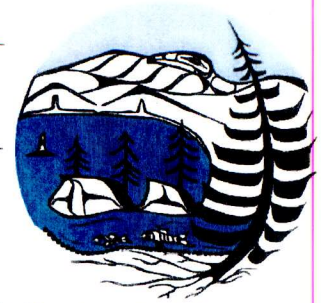
  
JAMES S. COOGAN  
SKIDEGATE BAND COUNCIL

  
APRIL CHURCHILL  
COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

VP Haida Nation



# COASTAL FIRST NATIONS GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE



## First Nations Say They Will Not Allow Pipelines and Oil Tankers Carrying Alberta's Tar Sands Oil in British Columbia

**"This is where Enbridge hits a wall"**

**VANCOUVER (March 23, 2010)** –First Nations stood as a unified block today – on the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill – to announce their opposition to a proposed Tar Sands pipeline that would bring expanded amounts of Tar Sands oil from Alberta to British Columbia, where the oil would be shipped by oil tankers to overseas markets, notably China.

"We will protect ourselves and the interests of future generations with everything we have because one major oil spill on the coast of British Columbia would wipe us out," said Gerald Amos, Director, Coastal First Nations, an alliance of nine First Nations. "This bountiful and globally significant coastline cannot bear an oil spill. This is where Enbridge hits a wall."

Coastal First Nations from Vancouver Island to the BC/Alaska border are unanimous in their opposition and are joined by the vast majority of First Nations affected along the pipeline route from Kitimaat to Alberta. These First Nations – whose territories are all directly impacted by the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline – stood in unity today to voice their opposition. The Coastal First Nations issued a declaration from their First Nations governments:

**...in upholding our ancestral laws, rights and responsibilities, we declare that oil tankers carrying crude oil from the Alberta Tar Sands will not be allowed to transit our lands and waters.**

The Athabasca Chipewyan Cree First Nation located near Alberta's Tar Sands also offered their support with Chief Allan Adam saying, "From experience I know that any industrial development and potential pollution within traditional territories of the First Nations not only jeopardizes the land, the people and wildlife today, but for generations to come... I do not support doing business with Enbridge now and in the future."

To date no First Nation in Canada – and no municipality – has publicly supported Enbridge's proposed pipeline, which would increase Tar Sands oil production by 30 per cent. Tar Sands oil produces three times more greenhouse gas emissions than conventional oil.

"Nothing threatens our way of life more than contaminated water and destruction of wildlife. Today, we invite First Nations around the world to join us in solidarity in our fight against this pipeline development and to put a stop to oil tanker traffic," said Terry Tegee, Vice President, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Also today, an unprecedented grouping of 150 First Nations groups, businesses, environmental organizations, and prominent Canadians – including Dr. David Suzuki, Margaret Atwood and Neve Campbell – ran a full-page ad in today's *Globe and Mail* with the headline 'This was Exxon's gift to Alaska. B.C. Can Expect the same from Enbridge.'

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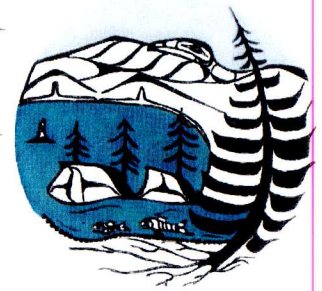
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# COASTAL FIRST NATIONS GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE



## Backgrounder:

- The Enbridge Northern Gateway project involves two 1,170-kilometre pipelines, stretching from near Edmonton to Kitimat. If built, the westbound and eastbound pipelines could carry 525,000 barrels of oil and 193,000 barrels of condensate (a petroleum product used to thin tar sands bitumen) per day, respectively.
- Enbridge pipeline will require 150 oil tankers per year to move tar sands oil through BC's coastal waters.
- The Enbridge pipelines will cross over 1,000 streams and rivers, more than 800 of them in BC's Skeena and upper Fraser watersheds. The pipelines will cross mountain ranges and earthquake and avalanche-prone landscapes before hitting the fragile ecosystems of the west coast.
- Construction jobs Enbridge promises are not expected until 2012 at the earliest. The estimated 45 long-term jobs are fewer than the jobs created by the average Safeway.
- Enbridge recorded 67 spills from pipelines in 2006 and 65 spills in 2007. Even with best practices, spills can and do happen.
- BC Ferry, Queen of the North, spilled 240,000 litres of oil. If it had been a supertanker it would have spilled 318 million litres of oil.
- An estimated 22 orcas, 250,000 sea birds, 2,800 sea otters, 1.9 billion herring were killed by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- Coastal First Nations are working with the BC government on its Green Energy Strategy. Their declaration includes reference to reducing the carbon footprint of First Nations communities.
- Clean and renewable energy sources exist around the world, including Asia. Building the Enbridge pipeline further entrenches an unsustainable fossil-fuel economy.
- The Coastal First Nations are an alliance of First Nations on British Columbia's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii. Communities include the Wuikinuxv Nation, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xaixais, Gitga'at, Haisla, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate and the Council of the Haida Nation. The Coastal First Nations are working towards creating a conservation-based economy, as well as restoring and implementing new land, water and resource management approaches that are ecologically and economically sustainable.