

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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January 10, 2012

Premier Christy Clark
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1
Via facsimile: 250-387-0087

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON KIA 0A2
Via facsimile: 613-941-6900

OPEN LETTER: The Union of BC Indian Chiefs fully supports the Save the Fraser Declaration, the Coastal First Nations Tanker Ban and the Indigenous laws banning Crude Oil Pipeline and Tanker Shipments through BC

Dear Premier Clark and Prime Minister Harper

We are writing with respect to Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resolution 2011-54, "Support for the Save the Fraser Declaration, the Coastal First Nations Tanker Ban and the Indigenous laws Banning Crude Oil Pipeline and Tanker Shipments through BC." which was presented, affirmed and endorsed by consensus at the UBCIC Chiefs Council on November 23rd, 2011.

The UBCIC Chiefs Council endorses the Coastal First Nations Tanker Ban and Save the Fraser Declaration that prohibit the transportation of crude oil by pipeline and tanker on the north and south coast and through the Fraser River watershed. As Indigenous Peoples, we continue to exercise our laws and jurisdiction to protect our lands, our waters, our coasts and our rivers, as we have done for thousands of years and both the Save the Fraser Declaration and the Coast First Nations Tanker Ban are grounded in our laws. Further, we draw your attention to the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which states:

Article 32:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

We urge your governments to reject the proposed Enbridge pipeline and Kinder-Morgan pipeline and to respect the laws and authority of BC First Nations and ultimately to protect the environment, fisheries and health and safety of all BC communities.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President



Chief Robert Chamberlin
Vice-President



Chief Marilyn Baptiste
Secretary-Treasurer

encl: UBCIC Resolution 2011-54
Save the Fraser Declaration

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 22ND – NOVEMBER 23RD, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2011-54

RE: Support for the Save the Fraser Declaration, the Coastal First Nations Tanker Ban, and the Indigenous laws Banning Crude Oil Pipeline and Tanker Shipments through British Columbia

WHEREAS the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline and tankers project, and the Kinder-Morgan Trans-Mountain oil pipeline and tanker expansion will expose Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities from the Pacific Coast across to Alberta to the risk of pipeline and supertanker oil spills;

WHEREAS both of these pipeline and tanker projects pose an unacceptable risk to the health, safety and livelihoods of First Nations throughout British Columbia, and will contribute to the negative environmental and health impacts experienced by Indigenous peoples downstream of the tar sands, and of all peoples throughout the world as a result of accelerating global climate change;

WHEREAS First Nations continue to exercise our laws and jurisdiction to protect our lands, our waters, our coasts and our rivers, as we have done for thousands of years and both the Save the Fraser Declaration and the Coastal First Nations Tanker Ban are grounded in our laws;

WHEREAS the UBCIC Chiefs Council passed Resolution 2010-11 to oppose the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council endorse the Coastal First Nations Tanker Ban and Save the Fraser Declaration that prohibit the transportation of tar sands crude oil by pipeline and tanker on the north coast, the south coast, and through the Fraser River watershed;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council urge the governments of Canada and British Columbia to respect the laws and authority of First Nations, and to protect the environment, fisheries, and the health and safety of all BC communities, by opposing and rejecting the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines and the Kinder-Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline and tanker expansion.

Moved: Bev Ketlo, Nadleh Whut'en (Proxy)
Seconded: Chief John Jones, Old Massett First Nation
Disposition: Carried
Date: November 23rd, 2011

November 23, 2011

2011-54
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Save the Fraser Declaration

WE THE UNDERSIGNED INDIGENOUS NATIONS OF THE FRASER RIVER WATERSHED DECLARE:

We have inhabited and governed our territories within the Fraser watershed, according to our laws and traditions, since time immemorial. Our relationship with the watershed is ancient and profound, and our inherent Title and Rights and legal authority over these lands and waters have never been relinquished through treaty or war.

Water is life, for our peoples and for all living things that depend on it. The Fraser River and its tributaries are our lifeline.

A threat to the Fraser and its headwaters is a threat to all who depend on its health. We will not allow our fish, animals, plants, people and ways of life to be placed at risk.

We have come together to defend these lands and waters from a grave threat: the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines project. This project which would link the Tar Sands to Asia through our territories and the headwaters of this great river, and the federal process to approve

it, violate our laws, traditions, values and our inherent rights as Indigenous Peoples under international law. We are united to exercise our inherent Title, Rights, and responsibility to ourselves, our ancestors, our descendants and to the people of the world, to defend these lands and waters. Our laws require that we do this.

Therefore, in upholding our ancestral laws, Title, Rights and responsibilities, we declare:

We will not allow the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines, or similar Tar Sands projects, to cross our lands, territories and watersheds, or the ocean migration routes of Fraser River salmon.

We are adamant and resolved in this declaration, made according to our Indigenous laws and authority. We call on all who would place our lands and waters at risk – we have suffered enough, we will protect our watersheds, and we will not tolerate this great threat to us all and to all future generations.

Declared at T'exelc (Williams Lake), Secwepemc Territory, and Vancouver, Coast Salish Territories, and affirmed by the following Indigenous nations:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>
Adams Lake</p> <p>
Alexis Creek First Nation</p> <p>
Bonaparte</p> <p>
Boston Bar First Nation</p> <p>
Bridge River Indian Band</p> <p>
Burns Lake Band</p> <p>
Chawahil First Nation</p> <p>
Coldwater Band</p> <p>
Cook's Ferry Band</p> <p>
Esketemc</p> <p>
Kwantlen</p> <p>
Lake Babine Nation</p> <p>
Lhoosk'az Dehe Nation</p> <p>
Lhtako (Red Bluff)</p> | <p>
Mt. Currie Band/Lil'wat Nation</p> <p>
Musqueam Indian Band</p> <p>
N'Quatqua</p> <p>
Nadleh Whut'en</p> <p>
Nak'azdli</p> <p>
Nicomen Indian Band</p> <p>
Nooaitch Indian Band</p> <p>
Saik'uz</p> <p>
Shackan Indian Band</p> <p>
Siska Indian Band</p> <p>
Skatsin/Neskowith</p> <p>
Skeetchestne</p> <p>
Soowahlie</p> <p>
Splatsin</p> | <p>
St'at'imc</p> <p>
Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek)</p> <p>
Sumas</p> <p>
Takla Lake First Nation</p> <p>
T'exelc (Williams Lake Band)</p> <p>
T'it'q'et</p> <p>
Tl'osqox/Toosey</p> <p>
Tsq'escen First Nation (Canim Lake Band)</p> <p>
Tzeachten</p> <p>
Ulkatcho Band</p> <p>
Upper Nicola</p> <p>
Wet'suwet'en</p> <p>
Xat'sull (Soda Creek)</p> <p>
Xaxli'p</p> | <p>
Xeni Gwe'tin First Nations Government</p> <p>
Yakw'ekwioose</p> <p>SUPPORTING NATIONS:</p> <p>
Kwakwaka'wakw</p> <p>
Ktunaxa Nation</p> <p>
Cape Mudge Band</p> <p>
Campbell River</p> <p>
Da'naxda'xw Nation</p> <p>
Fort Nelson</p> <p>
Lyackson</p> <p>
Okanagan Indian Band</p> <p>
Penticton Indian Band, Okanagan Nation</p> <p>
Tom Nelson
Quatsino</p> <p>
T'seshah First Nation</p> |
|--|---|---|--|