

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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## NEWS RELEASE

March 23, 2010

### UBCIC Opposes Enbridge Pipeline Project

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, B.C. - March 23, 2010) The UBCIC Chiefs Council met last week in Vancouver, B.C. and one item of discussion was the proposed Enbridge Pipeline Project. UBCIC Resolution 2010-11, *Enbridge Pipeline Project*, was presented, discussed and ratified.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs stated "The UBCIC is opposed to the Enbridge Pipeline Project and stands with the many First Nations who are standing as a unified block in their opposition to this proposed Tar Sands pipeline."

This morning, the Coastal First Nations, who are an alliance of First Nations on B.C.'s North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii, announced that they will not allow pipelines and oil tankers carrying Alberta's Tar Sands Oil in British Columbia.

This week, Grand Chief Phillip is in Williams Lake supporting the Tsilhqot'in's defense of Teztan Biny at the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency public hearings into the proposed Taseko Mines Ltd.'s plans to build a gold-copper mine on the territory of the Tsilhqot'in Nation.

"Water is the issue. Indigenous Peoples are defending their territory and the health of their communities throughout British Columbia. The short-term economic gain promised by government and industry proponents of mega-projects like the Enbridge Pipeline, Taseko Mines' Prosperity Mine and Kemess North are being opposed by First Nations who are thinking of the long-term impact on their territories and on their communities," said Grand Chief Phillip.

Grand Chief Phillip concluded "It is abundantly clear, B.C. First Nations will not put their territories and waters at risk caused by the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline and crude oil tanker traffic. As Indigenous Peoples, we know first-hand when third party interests are granted access to the resources of our territories, government and the courts protect those industry interests at great cost to our Aboriginal Title and Rights and of the environmental values that many British Columbians share with First Nations."

- 30 -

Media inquires:  
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### UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS CHIEFS COUNCIL MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 VANCOUVER, B.C.

**Resolution no. 2010-11**

#### **RE: Enbridge Pipeline Project**

**WHEREAS** Enbridge proposes to build two parallel 1,170 kilometre pipelines through Alberta and British Columbia to export crude oil and other oil products;

**WHEREAS** these pipelines would involve over 1000 stream and river crossings and result in 525,000 barrels of crude oil/day, 193,000 barrels of condensate/day, and 225 tankers a year travelling through the territories of nations along the pipeline and tanker routes;

**WHEREAS** the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Project will ship oil products by tankers in our coastal waters;

**WHEREAS** First Nations have practiced uncontested, supreme and absolute jurisdiction over our territories, our resources and our lives with the right to manage our territories including our lands and waters;

**WHEREAS** First Nations laws and customs define our responsibilities to protect our lands and waters;

**WHEREAS** BC First Nations will not put their territories and waters at risk caused by the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline and crude oil tanker traffic;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UBCIC Chiefs Council oppose the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Project.

**Moved:** Chief Donna Gallinger, Nicomen Indian Band

**Seconded:** Chief Wayne Christian, Splats'in First Nation

**Disposition:** Carried

**Abstention:** Chief Fabian Alexis

**Date:** March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010