



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
OCTOBER 1, 2010**

## **FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP SAYS OTTAWA MUST NOT APPROVE ENBRIDGE PIPELINES AND TANKERS**

**Coast Salish Territory/North Vancouver BC—The First Nations Summit Chiefs' Council met today in North Vancouver and passed a resolution stating that the federal government must not proceed any further with its review of the Enbridge Pipelines project and associated oil supertankers.**

The proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines project would mean the construction of two 1170-km-long pipelines from the tar sands in Alberta, across BC to the north Pacific coast at Kitimat, BC. Oil supertankers would carry the oil through very dangerous waters to markets in Asia and elsewhere. The project would bring a high risk of pipeline and marine oil spills, recently highlighted by Enbridge's two major pipeline oil spills in the U.S. and the tragic Gulf oil spill.

First Nations from across BC joined together and agreed on a statement that the federal government should not proceed further with its assessment of the Enbridge pipelines, unless it obtains the free, prior and informed consent of affected First Nations – the international standard governing consultation with First Nations on the approval of proposals such as the Enbridge pipelines and tankers.

The Carrier Sekani nations of Nadleh Whut'en, Nak'azdli, Takla Lake, Saik'uz and Whutsoowhut'en proposed the resolution, as the pipelines will run through hundreds of kilometres of their territory. The pipeline and tanker routes will pass through or near the territories of over 50 First Nations. No First Nation in BC supports the project.

"The pipelines and tankers, if they are approved, would have major environmental, social, cultural, legal and economic impacts for First Nations all along the route, on the coast, and upstream and downstream of the pipeline," said Chief Larry Nooski of Nadleh Whut'en First Nation. "If this project is approved, it would risk an oil spill that would destroy our food supply, our livelihoods and our cultures. Our laws tell us we can't stand by and allow these pipelines and tankers into our territories and waters. All the gathered chiefs of First Nations Summit have stated strongly that our peoples and our laws will have the final say on this."

Last year, the First Nations Summit called on the federal government to negotiate with affected First Nations to create a decision-making process for the Enbridge project that would respect their constitutionally-protected rights and title. The federal government ignored the demands of First Nations, and unilaterally designed and established its review process and Aboriginal consultation process for the pipeline. The "joint review panel" process that the government selected is not designed to respect First Nations' rights or decision-making authority over their territories.

"First Nations' have made it clear to the Crown over and over that this process is not adequate," said Grand Chief Edward John, member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. "We've even made clear to Canada that First Nations want to work with the Crown to create a process that will respect our rights. The Crown has not listened. The First Nations Summit Chiefs gathered in assembly have made it clear with today's resolution that this project must not proceed without the consent of the affected First Nations."

If the project is built, it would allow a 30% expansion of tar sands output, and add 6.5 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually. It would result in even worse effects on the land, water, air and health of communities living in the area of the tar sands.

"This Enbridge project doesn't just affect the nations who live near the pipeline and tanker routes," added Geraldine Thomas-Flurer, a member of Saik'uz First Nation. "It will contribute to climate change and that will harm people around

the world, leading to more poverty, more suffering, and more conflict. We all need to switch direction and stop building projects tied to a dead end fossil fuel industry, and move towards different energy alternatives.”

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For more information:

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Attachment: resolution of First Nations Summit, October 1, 2010

## **FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT RESOLUTION**

**SUBJECT: SOLIDARITY OF NATIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINES**

### **WHEREAS**

- A. The Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines project (the Pipeline) is proposed to carry crude oil and toxic condensate through the territories of numerous First Nations in Northern BC, in the headwaters of the Skeena, Fraser and Mackenzie river systems, resulting in significant potential environmental, cultural, legal and socio-economic impacts both for First Nations along the route, and for many more First Nations downstream and upstream of the Pipeline route in the Skeena, Fraser and Mackenzie watersheds.
- B. The oil tankers associated with the Pipeline are proposed to carry crude oil and toxic condensate through the territories and waters of the Coastal First Nations, who declared on March 23, 2010, based in their law and authority, that they would not permit tar sands oil tankers to travel through their waters.
- C. The Pipeline and Tankers pose a significant threat to First Nations sustenance, livelihoods and cultures, and to the ability of First Nations to exercise their Aboriginal title and rights, particularly through the potential for devastating oil spills into rivers, into the sea and onto the coast, which has been tragically underlined in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and Enbridge's oil spills in Michigan and Illinois.
- D. Numerous affected First Nations have declared that their territories must not be placed at risk from oil pipelines and oil tanker traffic.
- E. In 2006, the federal government referred the Pipeline to a joint review panel to conduct the environmental assessment and regulatory review process, without consulting affected First Nations on this process and without determining how Aboriginal title and rights would be addressed.
- F. The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly joined over half of the affected First Nations and called on the federal government not to establish the Joint Review Panel for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines project until an agreement was reached with affected First Nations on an independent First Nations Review Process that includes a shared decision-making process (as directed in Resolution 1108.05 of November 28, 2008, see also Resolution #1206.05 of December 1, 2006).
- G. The federal government established the Joint Review Panel in spite of these calls, and its work is proceeding without any negotiated shared decision-making process, failing to respect the Aboriginal title and rights of affected First Nations, including the right to make decisions and manage their territories, lands and waters.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly call on the federal government not to proceed further or to approve the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines project without the free, prior and informed consent of the affected First Nations.

**Dated: October 1, 2010**