



# Northern Gateway Pipelines Project

Aboriginal Relations Newsletter: A quarterly information update for indigenous peoples. Issue 3: July 2009

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, ONE PROTOCOL AGREEMENT AT A TIME

In this issue of your newsletter, we're focusing on the role of Protocol Agreements in building positive, cooperative relationships. At Northern Gateway, we see our proposed pipeline route as the key to opening many new doors to communication and understanding, creating opportunities to join and work with people in northern communities.

Our commitment is to provide all relevant information to those communities who have an interest in our activities, to actively listen to and understand their concerns and considerations, and to take appropriate action wherever possible.

Protocol Agreements create a framework for that all-important communication, while building understanding and trust between Northern Gateway and its community partners.

Northern Gateway has now signed Protocol Agreements with 29 First Nations and Metis communities: here are some recent signings.

### Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs

Gitxsan, which translates as "people of the river of mist," have traditionally lived in west-central BC in an area where now the cities of Hazelton and New Hazelton are situated. Numbering at least 13,000 in total population, around 70 per cent of Gitxsan people still live on their traditional lands, an area of as much as 33,000 square kilometers.



(l to r) Northern Gateway Aboriginal Relations Director Leonie Rivers; Gitxsan representatives Elmer Derrick and Gordon Sebastian; Elder Sadie Mowatt; Hereditary Chief Jim Angus.



On April 7, 2009 Gordon Sebastian, Executive Director of the Gitxsan Treaty office and Chief Negotiator Elmer Derrick of the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs signed a protocol agreement with Northern Gateway Pipelines. The Agreement specifically recognizes the importance and value of the Gitxsan traditional knowledge of these lands, their history and endowments.

### Kapawe'no First Nation

Kapawe'no First Nation, located in Grouard, Alberta, is a member of the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council. The Nation continues to be a very traditional community with Chief Frank Halcrow being the last remaining hereditary Chief in Alberta. The reserve lands of Kapawe'no First Nation are located on the Northeast and Southeast shores of the Lesser Slave Lake.



Gitxsan Longhouse

Protocol Agreements continued on page 2.



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, ONE PROTOCOL AGREEMENT AT A TIME **CONT**

Kapawe'no First Nation was the first Aboriginal Community in Alberta to sign the protocol agreement in 2008. Chief Halcrow along with his wife Effie Anderson and Councillor Sydney Halcrow participated in a signing ceremony with President John Carruthers on July 10, 2008 in Calgary.



(l to r) Kapawe'no First Nation representatives Roy Whitney, Councillor Sydney Halcrow, Jan Whitney, Chief Frank Halcrow, Effie Anderson.



Northern Gateway President John Carruthers receives a gift from Chief Halcrow.

### Neetahi Buhn

The Neetahi Buhn now make their home on reserve lands near Southbank, BC on the south side of Francois Lake (near Burns Lake) in central British Columbia. Approximately half of the Band's 135 members live on Reserve near Francois Lake. Neetahi Buhn remain independent of regional Tribal Councils.

Representing the Neetahi Buhn Indian Band, Chief Raymond Morris signed a Protocol Agreement with Northern Gateway on October 9, 2008.



(l to r) Neetahi Buhn Councillor Frank Morris, Northern Gateway Vice-President Roger Harris, Chief Raymond Morris.

### McLeod Lake Indian Band

The Tse'khene Nation ('people of the rock'), a once nomadic people whose territory ranged across northern BC, is now centered near McLeod Lake, approximately 150 miles north of Prince George. The band numbers more than 460 people, and has a number of business interests in logging, construction and pipeline servicing.

On behalf of the McLeod Lake Band, Chief Derek Orr signed a Protocol Agreement with Northern Gateway on June 22, 2009.



Jon Emery, Chief Orr, Marlane Christensen, Roger Harris.



(l to r) McLeod Lake Indian Band Councillor Destiny Bear, Councillor Fred Inyallie Jr., Roger Harris, Chief Derek Orr, Councillor Elizabeth Solonas, Northern Gateway Aboriginal Relations Director Marlane Christensen.



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, ONE PROTOCOL AGREEMENT AT A TIME **CONT**

### Métis Regional Council Zone IV of the Métis Nation of Alberta

The Métis Regional Council Zone IV is one of the six regions of the Métis Nation of Alberta. Zone IV is located in central western Alberta and is comprised of a President and Vice-President along with each President from the Locals within the Region. The Métis Nation of Alberta has evolved since its inception in 1928 and now has over 35,000 members in the province. The Métis Nation of Alberta exists to advocate on behalf of and meet the needs of Métis people in Alberta.

On March 13, 2009, Region IV President Cecil Bellrose and Northern Gateway Vice-President Roger Harris participated in a signing event at the Region IV office in Edmonton. Lorne Gladu of the Métis Nation of Alberta IRC also was on hand to witness the signing of the Protocol Agreement. In a press release following the signing Mr. Bellrose stated,

"This partnership is an excellent way of ensuring that people are involved from the regulatory application process to the operation of the proposed initiative. This is a precedent setting relationship with industry for the Métis Regional Council – Zone IV."



*Métis Regional Council Zone IV representative Lorne Gladu, President Cecil Bellrose, Roger Harris*

## ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINES PROJECT: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ACTION

### Takla Lake Early Stuart Sockeye Recovery Program

Takla Lake was once an important spawning ground for Early Stuart Sockeye, but recent returns have been disappointing. "Right now [the lake]'s in pretty dismal shape," according to Chief Thomas Alexis of the Tla'azt'en Nation, president of the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance.

The Early Stuart Sockeye were once one of the richest stocks in the Pacific salmon run. It's estimated that at one time up to 1 ½ million Sockeye returned to spawn in Takla Lake, but this number has now fallen to 100,000 or less. UFFCA presented a proposal to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada for the fertilization of Takla Lake to provide the nutrients needed by the salmon fry. This is expected to produce larger, healthier fry, more of which will be expected to return to the Lake. Similar trials in other northern lakes have been very successful.

"The project is very important to us," said Chief Alexis.

DFO requested a study to confirm that nutrient levels in Takla Lake are as low as feared and to create a baseline for the proposed program. Northern Gateway Pipelines has provided the funds for this study.

"The funding will help us initiate the studies," said Chief Alexis. "It's the only funding we've gotten so far."

The project would also provide training in fisheries management.



*(l to r) Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance members and supporters: Jim Webb, Chief Thomas Alexis (Tla'azt'en Nation), Lisa Hardy, Brian Toth, Leonie Rivers, Roger Harris.*

*Social Responsibility in Action continued on page 4*

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**ENBRIDGE**  
**NORTHERN**  
**GATEWAY PIPELINES**

## ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINES PROJECT: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ACTION

### Burns Lake Geothermal Project

As stewards of their traditional lands, aboriginal peoples have a special relationship with the environment. The Burns Lake Band's Community Place is presently heated by fossil fuels, but the Band has initiated a proposal to use geothermal energy instead. The proposed geothermal system would significantly reduce the Band's carbon footprint while also cutting their energy costs.

The first stage in the process requires a contractor to design a suitable system and perform heat load and heat loss calculations to confirm the project's viability. This will allow the Band to present funding proposals at Federal and Provincial level to finance the project. Northern Gateway is pleased to be working with the community to complete this initial phase of the study.

### Tl'azt'en Cultural Camps

The Tl'azt'en Nation Elders Society was formed to promote language and cultural revitalization. A recent initiative plans to create cultural camps in locations that coincide with the traditional seasonal nomadic travel destinations of the Carrier People, the language group to which the Tl'azt'en belong.

Combining hands-on teaching of traditional hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering skills with language and cultural teaching, the cultural camps aim to bridge generation gaps and encourage community healing. The Elders believe this will restore and reinforce the identity of the Tl'azt'en people, renewing the moral and value systems that formed the basis of First Nations societies.

Northern Gateway has made a significant contribution to the cost of this project.



*(l to r) Leonie Rivers; Tl'azt'en Chief Thomas Alexis; Elders Doreen Austin, Pierre John and Bernadette John; Roger Harris.*

### Cheslatta Community Gathering and Celebration

Enbridge Northern Gateway provided sponsorship to assist the Cheslatta Carrier Nation with its "2nd Annual Community Gathering and Celebration" held in July 2009. The week-long Celebration re-united community members with traditional activities and included events such as: a fishing derby, traditional craft making, nature walks, boat rides, and language lessons. The Celebration was held at Cheslatta Lake on the Nation's traditional lands. The Celebration also honoured members who suffered through the residential schools program. Over 100 people participated in the week-long event.

### Responsibility in Action: Watercourses

No industry stands still: pipeline safety and integrity standards are being continually improved and Enbridge is committed to meeting or exceeding Government environmental and safety standards in constructing and operating the Northern Gateway Pipelines System.

In addition to meeting or exceeding these standards, Enbridge devotes considerable planning and resources to prevent accidents before they occur. Northern Gateway will also install valves at strategic locations along the pipelines to minimize the impact of water contamination should a spill occur. Allied with state-of-the-art control systems and a commitment to continuous improvement, the Northern Gateway Pipelines should be some of the safest of their type ever installed.

Critical to this endeavour is the input from those with local knowledge of each water course, says Jason Harris of Triton Environmental Consultants.

"Input and participation from Aboriginal groups, stakeholders, communities and landowners through technical working groups, community sessions, issue specific workshops or meetings will help us define what the future of Northern Gateway looks like."