



Northern Gateway Pipelines Project

Aboriginal Relations Newsletter: A monthly information update for indigenous peoples. Issue 5: December 2009

NORTHERN GATEWAY: PEOPLE BUILDING PIPELINES, SAFELY TO THE SEA

It's sometimes easy to forget that organizations are made up of real people, and that the interests, passions and concerns those people bring to a company like Northern Gateway Pipelines have a profound influence on corporate culture. The people who make up Northern Gateway have a deep concern for the natural environment, a commitment to safety, and a passion for minimizing any potential negative impact that pipeline construction and operation might bring. They're also excited about the economic and employment benefits the pipeline will bring to northern communities. Northern Gateway's presence in the community as a whole is the sum of its people, their interests, their values and their enthusiasm.

Constructing and operating pipelines, building and managing the waterfront terminal facilities, transferring product to and from tankers, and controlling maritime traffic...all of these functions and systems will be designed, organized and operated by people who are leaders in their field and whose overriding concerns are safety and environmental protection. With their training, skills and commitment—together with state-of-the-art systems and equipment—these experts will make Northern Gateway's pipelines, terminal operations and tankers as safe and secure as they know how.

Over the next six issues of your newsletter, we're going to review a number of aspects of Northern Gateway's planned

activities, focusing especially on how our people are making sure we create a safe, secure and environmentally benign pipeline system.

Newsletter 6	(Next issue) Pipeline Integrity: how pipelines are constructed, operated and secured; and the measures we take to minimize their environmental impact.
Newsletter 7	Terminal storage facility: how we construct and operate our terminal facilities and storage tanks; spill prevention and containment systems
Newsletter 8	Transfer from terminal to tanker: closed loading systems; vapour recovery; air quality; noise reduction.
Newsletter 9	Tankers and coastal traffic: double-hull tankers; tug escorts; pilots; risk reduction through redundant systems.
Newsletter 10	Spill response capability and mitigation: Designated Response Organizations; response times; containment and mitigation; compensation.
Newsletter 11	Rules, regulations and compliance: Tempol process; Marine Liability Act; Canadian Shipping Act; safety inspections.

NORTHERN GATEWAY PROJECT ENTERS PHASE II OF JOINT REVIEW PROCESS

On December 4, 2009 the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the National Energy Board issued their Joint Review Panel Agreement for the Northern Gateway Pipelines project. The launch of the agreement signals the start of Phase II of the Joint Review process, the pre-hearing stage.

At the same time, CEAA released a statement reminding interested parties to submit applications for funding for representation to the Review Panel.

Under the Aboriginal Funding Envelope, a total of \$1.5million was allocated to meet applications from First Nations and Metis communities for Phase I of the review process, but only around \$360,000 has currently been granted. The Aboriginal Funding Envelope for Phase II does not appear to be confirmed, so all Aboriginal groups potentially affected by the Northern Gateway Pipelines project should apply as soon as possible.

For more information on funding for involvement in the Joint Review process for the Northern Gateway Pipelines project, go to www.ceaa.gc.ca or contact Northern Gateway through www.northerngateway.ca.





BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH PROTOCOL AGREEMENTS

Protocol agreements are simply a way of formalizing communications between First Nations and Metis communities, and Northern Gateway Pipelines. They establish the ground rules for mutually respectful discussions on any aspect of the Northern Gateway Pipelines project that might involve or affect First Nations or Metis communities. The agreements often include a provision for financing to assist in the communication process, and to help provide for participation in the Project's Joint Review Panel process.

More than 30 First Nations and Metis communities have now signed Protocol Agreements with Northern Gateway Pipelines.

Saddle Lake Cree Nation

Saddle Lake has an important role in Cree history: for more than 200 years, Cree bands have gathered there in springtime to mark the passage of winter.

The group of Indian communities now known as the Saddle Lake (amalgamated) Bands entered into formal relations with the Canadian government by their assent to Treaty Six at Fort Pitt (Saskatchewan) on September 9, 1876. Today, the members of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation make their home by Saddle Lake on the North Saskatchewan River roughly half way between Edmonton and Cold Lake, Alberta.

On behalf of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Chief Eddy Makokis signed a Protocol Agreement with Northern Gateway Pipelines on December 16, 2008

Skin Tye Nation

Skin Tye First Nation is a community of around 148 people located in the Central Interior of British Columbia near François Lake, in the Omineca Country to the west of the City of Prince George.

On February 6, 2009 Northern Gateway Pipelines representatives met with Chief Robert Skin and councillors to finalize a Protocol Agreement with the Skin Tye Nation.



Northern Gateway Vice-President Roger Harris with Chief Robert Skin and Skin Tye councillors.

GITXSAN OPEN ATTRACTS 29 TEAMS

The Annual Gitxsan Open golf tournament took place on Saturday, August 15 at the Smithers Golf and Country Club. Twenty-nine teams of four players took part in the "best ball" tourney, with the stipulation that each team had at least one female player, and that each team's handicap totaled more than 60.

Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place team, as well as "most honest" team, closest-to-the-pin, and longest drives for both men and women. Three holes also featured hole-in-one prizes ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000, though these prizes remained unclaimed.

In spite of a road closure in Highway 16, teams from Houston, Terrace and Prince Rupert all took part. Northern Gateway Pipelines was among the event sponsors.





WESTERN METIS NATIONS MEET IN VANCOUVER

On June 2, 2009, Northern Gateway Pipelines hosted a joint meeting of the Métis Nation of BC (MNBC) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to discuss Northern Gateway's proposed pipeline project. Representatives from the two provincial Métis organizations discussed areas of mutual interest and the potential for collaboration, as well as sharing

information about their respective organizations and their participation in the Northern Gateway Pipelines project. They also discussed the possibility of future meetings to review the project as each deemed necessary. Northern Gateway continues to work individually with each organization, as well as with Métis regions and locals, in both BC and Alberta.



(Back row l to r) Dean Trembley, Bob Trembley and Dave Pelltier (MNBC); MNA representative; Melanie Ohmenho (MNA); Roy Whitney, Shawna Hartman, Catherine Palmer and Roger Harris (Northern Gateway); Melanie Langthorne and Dan Pope (MNBC); MNBC President Bruce Dumont; MNA representative.

(Front row l to r): MNBC representative; Gary Ducommun (MNBC); Cecil Bellrose (MNA); and MNA President Audrey Poitras.

NEW CALEDONIA METIS ASSOCIATION DISCUSSES ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The New Caledonia Metis Association was formed in 1998 and represents the interests of Metis people in the region around Fort St James, BC. President Alan Howell and other Metis representative have been meeting with Northern Gateway to discuss concerns and issues of mutual interest.

"We have a good working relationship with Enbridge," says Howell. "I can't go so far as to say we support the (Northern Gateway) project 100 per cent."

Howell has a number of concerns including watercrossings, and the impact of the proposed pipeline route on berry picking areas. "We have a lot of huckleberries in our area, and some of the (proposed route of the) pipeline goes right through our main picking area," he says.

The NCMA also foresees a problem with unauthorized access to the right-of-way. "We're concerned about how they're going to stop that access," says Howell, "so people can't get on four-wheelers and go up and down the pipeline hunting."

However, the NCMA is keen to discuss employment and

business opportunities, including pipeline and pumping station maintenance, and related business opportunities. "That's the kind of relationship I would like," says Howell.



NCMA President Alan Howell (2nd left), Northern Gateway's Leonie Rivers (centre) and Lori Campbell with NCMA representatives.



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NORTHERN GATEWAY'S SWAT TEAM HARNESSSES TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Watercrossings present some of the most difficult challenges in pipeline construction. To determine the best, safest and most environmentally responsible sites for watercrossings, Northern Gateway has assembled a team of specialists who work on potential crossing sites "on the ground." As well as engineering, fisheries and pipeline construction specialists, the SWAT (Strategic Watercrossing Assessment Team) usually includes an Aboriginal member with knowledge of the watercrossing area, its features and characteristics

Information collected during SWAT work is used to assess various watercrossing locations within a one kilometre wide corridor. Based on this assessment, a crossing location is identified that is technically feasible and has the least potential for negative environmental impact.



The team collects and records technical information such as: stream bank form; valley structure and slope; stream bed composition and width; and bedrock exposure. Unique landforms, areas of cultural significance and other sensitive features are noted, and route adjustments recommended. Potential lay-down and work areas are also identified, measured and sited. The Aboriginal team member also contributes advice on access routes and other local knowledge.

Dwayne Prince of the Skin Tyee Nation worked with a SWAT team evaluating potential watercrossing sites on his Nation's traditional lands near Francois Lake. Dwayne's role was to show the team different areas that might be more suitable for stream crossings; places that were more accessible, and which would least disturb animal migration routes. He also helped the team avoid fish spawning areas.

Dwayne's familiarity with some of the territory was extremely useful. "They were spots where we used to go hunting in the summer," he says, although some of the territory was also new to him. "Every time was something different," he says.

How did Dwayne enjoy the work? "I looked forward to going out there every time I had a chance," he says.

Most important in the work Dwayne and the SWAT team performed, though, was their concern for protecting the environment and the integrity of the pipeline to ensure the absolute minimum of disruption. "Safety was number one," says Dwayne.

And would Dwayne be interested in doing more work with Northern Gateway on the pipeline construction project? "Definitely," he says, "I wouldn't be able to get the same experience any other way.

