



GITXAALA NATION

PO Box 149 11 Ocean Drive Kitkatla, BC V0V 1C0 Phone 250.848.2214 Fax 250.848.2238

GITXAALA NATION Response to the Alberta Provincial Government's New Pipeline Proposal

Gitxaala Nation remains opposed to any crude oil project on the Northern coast of British Columbia

LAX KLAN, DOLPHIN ISLAND, B.C. – October 1st 2025 – The Gitxaala Nation and Lu Sa Hax Hoyaxgm Wil'nat'aał (LSHH), the joint committee of Smgyigyem Gitxaala (Hereditary Chiefs) and elected Council, are aligned in the Nation's response to the announcement today from Premier Smith and the Alberta Government. The protection and management of Gitxaala's lands, waters, air and communities is a foundation of our Adaawx (histories), Ayaawx (laws), and Gugwilx'ya'ansk (practices and inherited responsibilities). The risk of any crude oil flowing through Nłuut'iksm Laxyuubm Gitxaala (sacred Gitxaala Territory) is unacceptable to Gitxaala, and the Nation continues to oppose any potential pipeline project.

"From our successful challenge of the Enbridge Northern Gateways Project to our ongoing support for the Federal *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*, Gitxaala Nation has stood strong in opposition to crude oil in our territory," said Clarence Innes, Co-Chair of LSHH. "No amount of influence from any Provincial government can change the fact that Gitxaala has never ceded or surrendered our ownership over Nłuut'iksm Laxyuubm Gitxaala."

Gitxaala Nation has conducted extensive work on the risks and impacts of oil throughout our Territory. Since the original announcement of the now defunct Enbridge Northern Gateway project almost 20 years ago, the Nation has continued to exercise our unceded Rights and Title and holds all governments to the standard of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Attempts by the Alberta Provincial government or any other Crown organization, to ignore Gitxaala's unceded territory and rights to govern our own lands and waters is a failure to recognize both commitments to reconciliation and requirements under s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act* (UNDRIP Act), BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act* (DRIPA) and Gitxaala's own laws.

"No engagement or consultation can be meaningful without respecting Gitxaala's Rights, including our self-determination. Attempts to use empty promises from engagement or consultation to clear the way for any pipeline is an old and tired ploy, one that Gitxaala is more than familiar with," said Linda Innes, Elected Chief Councillor of Gitxaala Nation. "As a Nation, Gitxaala has been steadfast and clear that the risk of a pipeline or tanker on our lands, waters, community, and way of life is too great and that no amount of pressure from any government or private company can undermine Gitxaala's duty to protect our territory for our future generations."



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About Gitxaala Nation

The people of the Gitxaala Nation have lived on the North Coast of British Columbia, including the Prince Rupert Harbour Area, since time immemorial and are one of the most ancient societies in the region.

Media Contact:

Tyler Pronyk

Coast Communications and Public Affairs

tyler@coastcomms.ca

604.807.0710