

RE: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2022 12:51:11 PM PDT
Not since last week.

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Has Matt reached out to you on this David? Just wondering how long it's been out there overdue.

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Thanks, just curious as to the response.

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2022 11:45 AM
To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Hi David. I will look into it.

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Art, Please let me know if/when MIRR responds to this request.

dk

From: Leanne Ritchie <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 11, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Reporter

Matt Simmons, Reporter
The Narwhal
matt@thenarwhal.ca
250-643-2967

Deadline Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:00 PM

Request

Follow up from an earlier media request:

- Given that the assessment report's outline of the considerations for consultation with First Nations does not include Witsset/Moricetown, why did the province then sign a benefits agreement with that council?
- Also noting the above, did the province consult with the Hagwilget band council?
- If so, did the province ever offer Hagwilget a benefits agreement?

Recommendation

Background

RE: Your inquiry on Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 19, 2022 1:20:57 PM PDT
Thanks.

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 19, 2022 1:12 PM
To: 'Matt J. Simmons' <matt@thenarwhal.ca>
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Your inquiry on Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Hi Matt,

This is from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:

Public information about LNG benefits agreements – and all signed agreements can be found on the website - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/natural-gas-pipeline-benefits-agreements>

B.C. engaged extensively with Indigenous communities on the Coastal GasLink project, including both hereditary chiefs and elected leadership.

LNG agreements with Indigenous communities provide lasting, tangible economic benefits that support community prosperity.

Art Aronson MA, (He/Him)

Public Affairs Officer
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Province of British Columbia
250-893-2028

Grateful to be living, learning and working on the territory of the Lekwungen peoples.

RE: Your inquiry on Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>, Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 6, 2022 1:46:25 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png
No worries and thanks for the update.

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 6, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX <Colin.Hynes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Your inquiry on Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Hi there,

I'll take another crack at drafting a response to the reporter that points to the answers to his questions in the publicly available materials from environment and IRR LNG agreements.

s.13; s.16

Sorry David. We will remove you from this.

Leanne

From: Matt J. Simmons <matt@thenarwhal.ca>
Sent: July 5, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Your inquiry on Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Art et al,

As far as I can tell I never received a response to this follow-up request — can you please let me know the status on these three questions?

Thanks,
Matt

—
Matt Simmons | he/him
Journalist, Northwest B.C.
[The Narwhal](http://TheNarwhal.ca)

Aronson, Art GCPE:EX

From: David Karn <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 23, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Karn, David GCPE:EX
Cc: Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX; Aronson, Art GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Kerr, Alexander GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX
Subject: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Reporter

Matt Simmons, Reporter
The Narwhal
matt@thenarwhal.ca
250-643-2967

Deadline Wednesday, April 6, 2022 12:00 PM

Request

- Given that the assessment report's outline of the considerations for consultation with First Nations does not include Witset/Moricietown, why did the province then sign a benefits agreement with that council?
- Also noting the above, did the province consult with the Hagwilget band council?
- If so, did the province ever offer Hagwilget a benefits agreement?

I'll likely have some more questions, so just noting the deadline for this and any others is April 6.

Recommendation

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from March 10, 2022.

REQUEST:

I'm looking into a couple of things here and would appreciate any help you can provide in confirming some information. Regarding consultation requirements as directed by the EAO during Coastal GasLink's assessment and approval, how did the province determine which bands/FN governments the company had to consult and the level of consultation required? Noting the following lines in a 2020 Vancouver Sun article:

"CGL vice-president of External Relations Neil Sweeney said the company was only required to consult with the five Wet'suwet'en bands that signed and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en in order to get permits. And while the Office of the Wet'suwet'en refused to allow the pipeline, the provincial government's Environmental Assessment Office was content that enough consultation had occurred and permits were issued."

Hagwilget band council — a Wet'suwet'en band — did not sign any agreements. Why did the province issue permits despite that band declining? There are other bands near the pipeline (or within similar proximity to the pipeline as some that the company and the province secured agreements with) that, to my knowledge, were not consulted or at least do not have agreements — why is this?

As well as answers to the above, I'm trying to nail down provincial rules and regulations around consultation given the thorny issue of jurisdiction. If elected bands only have jurisdiction over federal reserve lands and as far as I'm

aware only one of the 20 elected band councils that have agreements with CGL and the province oversees land that the pipeline crosses (Haisla.)

Last (for now anyway) when considering the project in the early 2010s, did ENV consult with legal regarding the Delgamuukw-Gisdaway court ruling, the Haida case on consultation and, later, prior to approving its EA certificate, the Tsilhqot'in decision, which was issued in June of the same year the project was approved (2014)? If so, can you please provide me with some of the detail of and context around those discussions?

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

The Coastal Gaslink Project (CGL) was issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) in 2014, which contains a number of conditions the proponent must meet in order to be in compliance with the certificate. The EAC was issued following a thorough environmental assessment process, which involved an extensive consultation process with stakeholders and numerous Indigenous groups, including the Wet'suwet'en and Dark House.

In section 3.5 (p. 35-39) of the assessment report for the CGL project, there is a detailed outline of the considerations for consultation with First Nations for the environmental assessment. The report is posted here: <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/5e459849c981fe0021018fb0/download/CGL%20-%20Assessment%20Report%20for%20EAC%20Decision%20-%2020141008.pdf>

For the natural gas industry, it should be noted that permitting responsibilities primarily reside with the BC Oil and Gas Commission. Permits are not issued by the EAO.

The Province recognizes that Nations throughout BC are unique and distinct from one another. We understand that Nations have a variety of different governance structures, which incorporate elected leadership (including band council leadership), hereditary leadership or some combination of both. For example, in some Nations, hereditary chiefs have a role in the governance structure with the elected leadership. In other Nations, elected chiefs and council speak for their Nation in government-to-government discussions.

The Province respects all Nations' internal governance structures. Our view is that reconciliation at its heart is about supporting Indigenous self-determination and how First Nations choose to govern their own Nations.

Aronson, Art GCPE:EX

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Sent: March 21, 2022 9:05 AM
To: Karn, David GCPE:EX
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Aronson, Art GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Good morning,

Below is the messaging signed off to MO/IM on our side.

One note from the MO - bullet #3 from EAO - while factual - doesn't seem to add much value to the response.

Thanks

Leanne

Recommended Response

The Coastal Gaslink Project (CGL) was issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) in 2014, which contains a number of conditions the proponent must meet in order to be in compliance with the certificate. The EAC was issued following a thorough environmental assessment process, which involved an extensive consultation process with stakeholders and numerous Indigenous groups, including the Wet'suwet'en and Dark House.

In section 3.5 (p. 35-39) of the assessment report for the CGL project, there is a detailed outline of the considerations for consultation with First Nations for the environmental assessment. The report is posted here:

<https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/5e459849c981fe0021018fb0/download/CGL%20-%20Assessment%20Report%20for%20EAC%20Decision%20-%2020141008.pdf>

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The Province respects all Nations' internal governance structures. Our view is that reconciliation at its heart is about supporting Indigenous self-determination and how First Nations choose to govern their own Nations.

Aronson, Art GCPE:EX

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX
Sent: May 5, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Leanne, the reporter is back seeking a response.

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX
Sent: April 22, 2022 4:28 PM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Leanne, I'm going to close this in the HUB.

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 30, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Beaupre, Darren EMLI:EX <Darren.Beaupre@gov.bc.ca>; Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Hi there,

MO said they'd get back to us however they've been a bit heads down this week in regards to the Action Plan announcement. Hoping to follow up with them later this week.

Leanne

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 30, 2022 10:30 AM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Beaupre, Darren EMLI:EX <Darren.Beaupre@gov.bc.ca>; Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Circling back on this. Any inputs from MIRR or EMLI (LNG)?

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 23, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Beaupre, Darren EMLI:EX <Darren.Beaupre@gov.bc.ca>; Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Will do. Going to chat with MO shortly and will call later.

From: Beaupre, Darren EMLI:EX <Darren.Beaupre@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2022 11:15 AM

To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Yes – of course. 😊 Call me today if you can.

Darren Beaupre

Director of Engagement

LNG Canada Implementation Secretariat

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Office: 250.356.5892 | **Mobile:** 250.213.3334 | **Email:** darren.beaupre@gov.bc.ca

Respectfully acknowledging that I work and reside in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples and the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2022 10:51 AM

To: Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>; Beaupre, Darren EMLI:EX <Darren.Beaupre@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Sean GCPE:EX <Sean.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Darren, can we chat about this... I'd like an opinion from EMLI. There's lot of history here and I am not sure who is best positioned to provide answer given information being requested comes from decisions that were made under prior administration.

Leanne

From: Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2022 10:40 AM

To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Kerr, Alexander GCPE:EX <Alexander.Kerr@gov.bc.ca>; Beaupre, Darren EMLI:EX <Darren.Beaupre@gov.bc.ca>; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Looping in Darren

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2022 10:35 AM

To: Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Kerr,

Alexander GCPE:EX <Alexander.Kerr@gov.bc.ca>; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Dear all, as these are more questions about pipeline benefit agreements, we think this would be better directed to MIRR or the LNG Secretariat/EMLI. Please advise if you're able to answer these questions?

Will remove MAG from chain going forward.

dk

From: David Karn <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 23, 2022 10:27 AM

To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Karemaker, Kent GCPE:EX <Kent.Karemaker@gov.bc.ca>; Plummer, Glen GCPE:EX <Glen.Plummer@gov.bc.ca>; Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Kerr, Alexander GCPE:EX <Alexander.Kerr@gov.bc.ca>; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: ENV Follow-up Media Request: Coastal GasLink EA: decisions on consultation requirements

Reporter

Matt Simmons, Reporter
The Narwhal
matt@thenarwhal.ca
250-643-2967

Deadline Wednesday, April 6, 2022 12:00 PM

Request

- Given that the assessment report's outline of the considerations for consultation with First Nations does not include Witset/Morice town, why did the province then sign a benefits agreement with that council?
- Also noting the above, did the province consult with the Hagwilget band council?
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I'll likely have some more questions, so just noting the deadline for this and any others is April 6.

Recommendation

Background

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REQUEST:

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As well as answers to the above, I'm trying to nail down provincial rules and regulations around consultation given the thorny issue of jurisdiction. If elected bands only have jurisdiction over federal reserve lands and as far as I'm aware only one of the 20 elected band councils that have agreements with CGL and the province oversees land that the pipeline crosses (Haisla.)

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RESPONSE:

Provided Background

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Aronson, Art GCPE:EX

From: McCarthy, Tom IRR:EX
Sent: May 17, 2022 11:25 PM
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

s.13

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2022 12:59 PM
To: McCarthy, Tom IRR:EX <Tom.McCarthy@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Hi Tom,

This has been reviewed by Alanya.

The reporters' deadline was last week on this. He last inquired about it late last week.

Reporter

Matt Simmons, Reporter
The Narwhal
matt@thenarwhal.ca
250-643-2967

Deadline Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:00 PM

Request

Follow up from an earlier media request:

- Given that the assessment report's outline of the considerations for consultation with First Nations does not include Witset/Moricetown, why did the province then sign a benefits agreement with that council?
- Also noting the above, did the province consult with the Hagwilget band council?
- If so, did the province ever offer Hagwilget a benefits agreement?

Recommendation- *provided on background*

Public information about LNG benefits agreements – and all signed agreements can be found on the website - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/natural-gas-pipeline-benefits-agreements>

B.C. engaged extensively with Indigenous communities on the Coastal GasLink project, including both hereditary chiefs and elected leadership.

LNG agreements with Indigenous communities provide lasting, tangible economic benefits that support community prosperity.

s.13

Background

Art Aronson MA, (He/Him)

Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Province of British Columbia

250-893-2028

Grateful to be living, learning and working on the territory of the Lekwungen peoples.

Aronson, Art GCPE:EX

From: Matt J. Simmons <matt@thenarwhal.ca>
Sent: July 11, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media request for interview or comment

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Ok, thanks for trying. Please keep me posted on my other request. As always, I appreciate your work on these.

Matt

On Jul 11, 2022, at 3:23 PM, Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Matt,

Yes, I did reach out to the Minister's office.

Leanne

From: Matt J. Simmons <matt@thenarwhal.ca>
Sent: July 11, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Media request for interview or comment

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Leanne,

Thanks for getting back to me. I have been in touch with the BCPS, but they declined to comment given the matter is before the courts.

While I understand court/legal matters are best addressed by the Attorney General or the prosecution service, I do think the comment is relevant to MIRR for its overarching theme and criticism of the province with respect to the likes of DRIPA. Did you reach out to the minister's office with my request? I would be happy to speak with the minister in broad terms about this subject, and avoid getting into the details around criminal contempt charges and the like.

Thanks,

Matt

--

Matt Simmons | he/him

<image001.png>

The Narwhal is committed to upholding the principles of truth and reconciliation through our journalism and I wish to acknowledge this land on which I live and work. I am based on unceded Gidimt'en Clan territory, home of the Wet'suwet'en nation, in Smithers, B.C.

On Jul 11, 2022, at 3:09 PM, Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Matt,

Questions regarding this matter are best referred to the BC Prosecution Service, whose decisions are made independent of any outside influence.

Yours truly,
Leanne Ritchie
Communications Director
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Cell: 250 896-4348
Email: leanne.ritchie@gov.bc.ca

From: Matt J. Simmons <matt@thenarwhal.ca>

Sent: July 11, 2022 11:15 AM

To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Media request for interview or comment

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Art & Leanne,

In addition to my previous request regarding consultation (Witset/Hagwilget), I would like to request an interview with the minister or senior ministry staff related to the ongoing situation on Wet'suwet'en territory.

As you are likely aware, B.C. Crown counsel is pursuing criminal contempt charges against 19 individuals for their actions last November, which allegedly breached the terms of the court-ordered injunction issued by the B.C. Supreme Court to Coastal GasLink. Several of those people now facing criminal charges are Indigenous, including members of Wet'suwet'en, Gitksan and Mohawk nations. Much has been said and written about perceived disparity between B.C.'s commitment to the likes of UNDRIP via DRIPA and the conduct of government with respect to Indigenous people taking actions that they affirm aligns with Indigenous laws.

Last week, I interviewed Sleydo' Molly Wickham after the court hearing in which the crown said it would pursue criminal charges against her and three other individuals. She characterized the decision as "criminalization" and noted, "all of the laws that have existed since contact with Indigenous people that have been absolutely horrific and used for genocide. Colonial laws put our kids in residential schools, they literally forced mass sterilizations and murder of children and babies, and those are the laws that are being upheld in this country."

I would like to provide the minister with an opportunity to respond to Wickham's statements and address the the situation. As noted above, I would prefer to do this in an interview. Please let me know if this is possible and, if not, I would appreciate a response in statement form by the end of the day tomorrow. I have reached out separately to the BC Public Prosecution Service, via the Ministry of the Attorney General, for questions specific to the court proceedings.

Thanks,
Matt

--

Matt Simmons | he/him
Journalist, Northwest B.C.
[The Narwhal](#)

<image001.png>

The Narwhal is committed to upholding the principles of truth and reconciliation through our journalism and I wish to acknowledge this land on which I live and work. I am based on unceded Gidimt'en Clan territory, home of the Wet'suwet'en nation, in Smithers, B.C.

Aronson, Art GCPE:EX

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX
Sent: September 8, 2022 3:41 PM
To: 'Matt J. Simmons'
Cc: Hynes, Colin GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Your inquiry on Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Hi Matt,

Here is some background information for the questions you asked.

— Given that the assessment report's outline of the considerations for consultation with First Nations does not include Witset/Moricetown, why did the province then sign a benefits agreement with that council?

The Province engaged with both the Office of Wet'suwet'en and Witset on a Pipeline Benefit Agreement (PBA). The Province did not reach an agreement with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. A PBA was completed with Witset. While the Province negotiated PBAs, the proponent also entered into benefit agreements of their own with First Nations – there are a variety of agreements and range of economic benefits listed at: <https://www.coastalgaslink.com/sustainability/indigenous-relations/>

— Also noting the above, did the province consult with the Hagwilget band council?

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en was a participant in the EAO review, and was recognized as the administrative lead (on behalf of the hereditary chiefs) by Hagwilget and Witset as the appropriate entity for consultation purposes.

— Did the province ever offer Hagwilget a benefits agreement?

A PBA offer was made to Hagwilget.

Art Aronson MA, (He/Him)

Public Affairs Officer
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Province of British Columbia
250-893-2028

Grateful to be living, learning and working on the territory of the Lekwungen peoples.

Aronson, Art GCPE:EX

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX
Sent: May 19, 2022 1:12 PM
To: 'Matt J. Simmons'
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Karn, David GCPE:EX; Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX
Subject: Your inquiry on Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Hi Matt,

This is from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:

Public information about LNG benefits agreements – and all signed agreements can be found on the website - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/natural-gas-pipeline-benefits-agreements>

B.C. engaged extensively with Indigenous communities on the Coastal GasLink project, including both hereditary chiefs and elected leadership.

LNG agreements with Indigenous communities provide lasting, tangible economic benefits that support community prosperity.

Art Aronson MA, (He/Him)

Public Affairs Officer
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Province of British Columbia
250-893-2028

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