

## RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

---

From: Leece, Robert IRR:EX  
To: Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>, Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Alanya C LWRS:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 16, 2022 12:46:18 PM PDT

Thanks Gio, I think you have generally captured the situation.

As for the consultation, though, I think EAO should be contacted as this was their area of responsibility and they may have a preferred response.

RL

---

**From:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 12:21 PM  
**To:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Alanya C IRR:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Stephen,

As discussed – Robert/Alanya are the key folks to offer feedback on the response to the reporter and may have some nuanced messaging that we rely upon – in particular if it is wrt Wet'suwet'en Bands/OW.

I think from my reading of the context from the reporter and the actual question there are some errors or misunderstandings that should be cleared up. I'm not sure what Mr. Sweeney communicated to the reporter and whether the information provided is accurate. Regardless of that – it seems to have made a link between consultation requirements/permitting process and benefit agreements that are not factual or correct. I'll try and explain below – with the caveat that Robert/Alanya may have something else to add.

Regulatory and permitting processes do not include any legal requirements for benefit agreements – be it from proponents or from the Province.

Regulatory and permitting agencies identify indigenous groups that need to be consulted for projects based on the Province's understanding and awareness of aboriginal rights holders and the associated organizations that represent those rights holders. – (EAO can provide the list of those for CGL).

Sometimes regulatory and permitting authorities delegate administrative activities and requirements to proponents for provision of information to those indigenous groups – this could include requiring proponents to share particular information about their project, and encouraging proponent-led communication activities with indigenous groups. Regulatory and permitting agencies do not direct proponents regarding benefit sharing agreements.

While proponents are not directed or legally required to complete benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, there is certainly benefits to proponents in doing so. Many proponents do engage in benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, or make local community-based investments outside of regulatory and permitting processes/requirements.

We could add in the role of MIRR or other agencies in engaging w/proponents on non-regulatory issues or in benefit sharing that the Province may itself undertake – but perhaps that isn't necessary right now in terms of the specific issue/question the reporter has asked.

Ciao  
Gio

---

**From:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <[Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 11:39 AM  
**To:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <[Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <[Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Gio,

Below is the media request I mentioned... The timing on this one is fairly quick, if you're able.

Thanks so much,

Stephen

*Media 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?*

s.16

**Stephen Binder | Senior Public Affairs Officer**  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
C: 778-677-2174

## RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

---

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>, Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>, Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Smith, Alanya C LWRS:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 16, 2022 12:52:28 PM PDT

Hi Gio and Robert,

Thanks for the response and thoughtful articulation.  
I agree EAO should be leading and will articulate that when the response is sent back.

Leanne

---

**From:** Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 12:46 PM  
**To:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>; Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Alanya C IRR:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

Thanks Gio, I think you have generally captured the situation.

As for the consultation, though, I think EAO should be contacted as this was their area of responsibility and they may have a preferred response.

RL

---

**From:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 12:21 PM  
**To:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Alanya C IRR:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Stephen,

As discussed – Robert/Alanya are the key folks to offer feedback on the response to the reporter and may have some nuanced messaging that we rely upon – in particular if it is wrt Wet'suwet'en Bands/OW.

I think from my reading of the context from the reporter and the actual question there are some errors or misunderstandings that should be cleared up. I'm not sure what Mr. Sweeney communicated to the reporter and whether the information provided is accurate. Regardless of that – it seems to have made a link between consultation requirements/permitting process and benefit agreements that are not factual or correct. I'll try and explain below – with the caveat that Robert/Alanya may have something else to add.

Regulatory and permitting processes do not include any legal requirements for benefit agreements – be it from proponents or from the Province.

Regulatory and permitting agencies identify indigenous groups that need to be consulted for projects based on the Province's understanding and awareness of aboriginal rights holders and the associated organizations that represent those rights holders. – (EAO can provide the list of those for CGL).

Sometimes regulatory and permitting authorities delegate administrative activities and requirements to proponents for provision of information to those indigenous groups – this could include requiring proponents to share particular information about their project, and encouraging proponent-led communication activities with

indigenous groups. Regulatory and permitting agencies do not direct proponents regarding benefit sharing agreements.

While proponents are not directed or legally required to complete benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, there is certainly benefits to proponents in doing so. Many proponents do engage in benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, or make local community-based investments outside of regulatory and permitting processes/requirements.

We could add in the role of MIRR or other agencies in engaging w/proponents on non-regulatory issues or in benefit sharing that the Province may itself undertake – but perhaps that isn't necessary right now in terms of the specific issue/question the reporter has asked.

Ciao  
Gio

---

**From:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <[Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 11:39 AM  
**To:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <[Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <[Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Gio,

Below is the media request I mentioned... The timing on this one is fairly quick, if you're able.

Thanks so much,

Stephen

*Media 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?*

s.16

**Stephen Binder | Senior Public Affairs Officer**  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
C: 778-677-2174

## RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

---

From: Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX  
To: Smith, Alanya C LWRS:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 16, 2022 2:26:23 PM PDT

As a fyi, I failed to add in my note that in the discussion w/Stephen he indicated it was a media request for EAO response and they in turn contacted MIRR to help pitch in.

So I think Robert's point will get covered off in terms of the appropriate EAO messaging on the items I blasted out....

Ciao  
Gio

---

**From:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 12:21 PM  
**To:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Alanya C IRR:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Stephen,

As discussed – Robert/Alanya are the key folks to offer feedback on the response to the reporter and may have some nuanced messaging that we rely upon – in particular if it is wrt Wet'suwet'en Bands/OW.

I think from my reading of the context from the reporter and the actual question there are some errors or misunderstandings that should be cleared up. I'm not sure what Mr. Sweeney communicated to the reporter and whether the information provided is accurate. Regardless of that – it seems to have made a link between consultation requirements/permitting process and benefit agreements that are not factual or correct. I'll try and explain below – with the caveat that Robert/Alanya may have something else to add.

Regulatory and permitting processes do not include any legal requirements for benefit agreements – be it from proponents or from the Province.

Regulatory and permitting agencies identify indigenous groups that need to be consulted for projects based on the Province's understanding and awareness of aboriginal rights holders and the associated organizations that represent those rights holders. – (EAO can provide the list of those for CGL).

Sometimes regulatory and permitting authorities delegate administrative activities and requirements to proponents for provision of information to those indigenous groups – this could include requiring proponents to share particular information about their project, and encouraging proponent-led communication activities with indigenous groups. Regulatory and permitting agencies do not direct proponents regarding benefit sharing agreements.

While proponents are not directed or legally required to complete benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, there is certainly benefits to proponents in doing so. Many proponents do engage in benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, or make local community-based investments outside of regulatory and permitting processes/requirements.

We could add in the role of MIRR or other agencies in engaging w/proponents on non-regulatory issues or in benefit sharing that the Province may itself undertake – but perhaps that isn't necessary right now in terms of the specific issue/question the reporter has asked.

Ciao  
Gio

---

**From:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <[Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 11:39 AM  
**To:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <[Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <[Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Gio,

Below is the media request I mentioned... The timing on this one is fairly quick, if you're able.

Thanks so much,

Stephen

*Media 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?*

s.16

**Stephen Binder | Senior Public Affairs Officer**  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
C: 778-677-2174

## RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

---

From: Leece, Robert IRR:EX  
To: Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Alanya C LWRS:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: March 16, 2022 2:27:53 PM PDT  
Ok, thanks.

---

**From:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 2:26 PM  
**To:** Smith, Alanya C IRR:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

As a fyi, I failed to add in my note that in the discussion w/Stephen he indicated it was a media request for EAO response and they in turn contacted MIRR to help pitch in.

So I think Robert's point will get covered off in terms of the appropriate EAO messaging on the items I blasted out....

Ciao  
Gio

---

**From:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 12:21 PM  
**To:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Alanya C IRR:EX <Alanya.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Stephen,

As discussed – Robert/Alanya are the key folks to offer feedback on the response to the reporter and may have some nuanced messaging that we rely upon – in particular if it is wrt Wet'suwet'en Bands/OW.

I think from my reading of the context from the reporter and the actual question there are some errors or misunderstandings that should be cleared up. I'm not sure what Mr. Sweeney communicated to the reporter and whether the information provided is accurate. Regardless of that – it seems to have made a link between consultation requirements/permitting process and benefit agreements that are not factual or correct. I'll try and explain below – with the caveat that Robert/Alanya may have something else to add.

Regulatory and permitting processes do not include any legal requirements for benefit agreements – be it from proponents or from the Province.

Regulatory and permitting agencies identify indigenous groups that need to be consulted for projects based on the Province's understanding and awareness of aboriginal rights holders and the associated organizations that represent those rights holders. – (EAO can provide the list of those for CGL).

Sometimes regulatory and permitting authorities delegate administrative activities and requirements to proponents for provision of information to those indigenous groups – this could include requiring proponents to share particular information about their project, and encouraging proponent-led communication activities with indigenous groups. Regulatory and permitting agencies do not direct proponents regarding benefit sharing agreements.

While proponents are not directed or legally required to complete benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, there is certainly benefits to proponents in doing so. Many proponents do engage in benefit sharing agreements with indigenous groups, or make local community-based investments outside of regulatory and permitting processes/requirements.

We could add in the role of MIRR or other agencies in engaging w/proponents on non-regulatory issues or in benefit sharing that the Province may itself undertake – but perhaps that isn't necessary right now in terms of the specific issue/question the reporter has asked.

Ciao  
Gio

---

**From:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <[Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** March 16, 2022 11:39 AM  
**To:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <[Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <[Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Hagwilget and CGL media request

Hi Gio,

Below is the media request I mentioned... The timing on this one is fairly quick, if you're able.

Thanks so much,

Stephen

*Media 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?*

s.16

**Stephen Binder | Senior Public Affairs Officer**  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
C: 778-677-2174



## **For review: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements**

---

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>, Black, Devon IRR:EX <Devon.Black@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: May 11, 2022 2:37:41 PM PDT  
Suggested response lines for the Narwhal below. He reached out and asked again today.  
Leanne

### **Reporter**

Matt Simmons, Reporter  
The Narwhal  
[matt@thenarwhal.ca](mailto: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/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?

### **Recommendation**

- **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 prosper.**
- **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>**
- **Questions about Hawilget should be directed to them.**

### **Background**

## FOR APPROVAL: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

---

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>, Black, Devon IRR:EX <Devon.Black@gov.bc.ca>, Northey, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Northey@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>, Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: May 18, 2022 8:55:57 AM PDT  
Hi team,

Tom has approved this now. I don't think there's a huge rush on this as the reporter hasn't poked back and the request was about a week ago.

### Reporter

Matt Simmons, Reporter  
The Narwhal  
[matt@thenarwhal.ca](mailto: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/Morisetown, 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.

-----  
**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: FOR APPROVAL: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

---

From: Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX  
To: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>, Black, Devon IRR:EX <Devon.Black@gov.bc.ca>, Northey, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Northey@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>, Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: May 19, 2022 1:02:08 PM PDT  
Thanks Art. Please proceed to provide the info below on background

---

**From:** Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 18, 2022 8:56 AM  
**To:** Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>; Black, Devon IRR:EX <Devon.Black@gov.bc.ca>; Northey, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Northey@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX <Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL: IRR Media Request: Coastal Gas Link and Impact Benefit Agreements

Hi team,

Tom has approved this now. I don't think there's a huge rush on this as the reporter hasn't poked back and the request was about a week ago.

### Reporter

Matt Simmons, Reporter  
The Narwhal  
[matt@thenarwhal.ca](mailto: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/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?

### 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.

---

Art Aronson MA, (He/Him)

Public Affairs Officer

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

**RE: FOR REVIEW AND INPUT: Media Request: CGL FN questions for the Narwhal and CBC (deadline EOD or early tomorrow morning)**

---

From: Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>, Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 6, 2022 1:26:46 PM PDT

Great thank you both! I will send it up the ranks to Jennifer unless there is someone else you think it should go to in house.

-Art

---

**From:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 6, 2022 12:56 PM  
**To:** Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>; Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW AND INPUT: Media Request: CGL FN questions for the Narwhal and CBC (deadline EOD or early tomorrow morning)

I put a few blurbs in from my recollection. Main storyline in my pieces is that there was attempts to negotiate w/OW for benefit agreements – but we could never get to a place where they wanted to enter a PBA. We got interest to enter into negotiation from the Wet'suwet'en Bands and decided to pursue that as an avenue to provide benefits to Wet'suwet'en members.

I vaguely recall some attempts/discussions with Hagwilget – but wasn't sure how that landed – perhaps Sandra Lang may recall what transpired<sup>s.22</sup> my entire IDIR was deleted so I don't have any records to refer to from that time so doing this from memory...

You may want to also reference that while the Province negotiated PBAs, the proponent has also entered into 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/> I think its important to note that while the Province did these agreements, we also had an expectation that industry needs to do its part to consult, engage and consider benefit arrangements with First Nations as part of their project development plans.

Ciao  
Gio

---

**From:** Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 6, 2022 10:56 AM  
**To:** Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Puggioni, Giovanni IRR:EX <Giovanni.Puggioni@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW AND INPUT: Media Request: CGL FN questions for the Narwhal and CBC (deadline EOD or early tomorrow morning)

Hi Art,  
I am just back from holiday today and unfortunately the two folks in the branch with the most context for the PBAs have left the branch. I've copied Gio as he was more involved in the PBA work that I and may be able to correct / confirm my responses (included below), particularly for confirmation of the responses re Wet'suwet'en.

RL

---

**From:** Aronson, Art GCPE:EX <Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 6, 2022 10:27 AM  
**To:** Leece, Robert IRR:EX <Robert.Leece@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW AND INPUT: Media Request: CGL FN questions for the Narwhal and CBC (deadline EOD or early tomorrow morning)

**Importance:** High

Hi Robert,

Apologies for the short turnaround on this but our response will have to be reviewed by quite a few offices, including EAO

There are two requests. The Narwhal question we have attempted to answer if you could please fact check and add what you think should go.

The CBC request is not one we could draft.

Thank you and let me know how else I can help facilitate answers. I highlighted the exact question below.

**Reporter**

Jennifer Wilson, Producer

Associate Producer CBC Radio One

[jennifer.wilson@cbc.ca](mailto:jennifer.wilson@cbc.ca)

s.22

**Deadline** Thursday, September 8, 2022 4:00 PM

**Request**

I'm working on a story and would like to fact check some figures with you please.

Looking at part 3 of this document- here is what I understand.

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/agreements/wetsuweten\\_first\\_nation\\_pba\\_cgl\\_signed\\_bcr\\_-\\_jan\\_2015.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/agreements/wetsuweten_first_nation_pba_cgl_signed_bcr_-_jan_2015.pdf)

The WFN will receive \$2.3 million -paid in 2 parts- nearing completion of the CGL pipeline.

That figure may change depending on the exact route (as per 3.3).

Then there is an additional payment of \$464 k (as per 3.4).

Then ongoing, annual payments of approx \$10mil (as per 3.6).

My questions are :

1. This was signed in 2015- is this information up to date or have further negotiations changed the payment amounts and payment sked?

RL – the agreements negotiated in 2015 are still valid and have not been amended.

2. Re: the ongoing, annual payments in 3.6- is the \$10mil for WFN, for each eligible nation, or is that the estimated total to be shared between all eligible FNs. The following clauses seem to suggest this was still in flux at time of signing.

RL – the \$10 million is an annual amount to be shared between First Nations with Pipeline Benefits Agreements. At the time the agreements were concluded, the Province proposed that the First Nations work to agree on a mechanism for distributing the \$10 million. No such agreement was reached and as a result the province determined the distribution between Nations with PBAs

GP – To add to Robert's point - I would add that the Nations asked for an opportunity to come up with their own distribution formula for \$10m and the Province provided some capacity support for that to occur but the Nations were not able to arrive at a consensus.

This would be attributable- we are working on a story about both support and opposition to the CGL pipeline within Wet'suwet'en Nation and our script discusses the economic benefits to the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

I'd like to make sure we have the most up to date information.

## **Recommendation- provide background**

### **Request from Matt Simmons at the Narwhal**

#### **Reporter**

Matt Simmons, Reporter  
The Narwhal  
[matt@thenarwhal.ca](mailto:matt@thenarwhal.ca)  
250-643-2967

**Deadline** Friday, July 29, 2022 11:00 AM

#### **Request**

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

Hi Art,

Thanks for providing this. However, I'd like to point out the response does not answer my questions regarding the benefit agreement signed with Witset/Moricetown, nor the questions around the Hagwilget band council. I respectfully ask the ministry to please provide further clarification on those questions, copied below.

Thanks,

Matt

— 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?

GP – For a period of time the Province attempted to engage the Office of Wet'suwet'en on a Pipelines Benefit Agreement but when those overtures were declined it then moved forward to complete a PBA with Witset/Moricetown.

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

GP – Is this a question on the EA process? I did a quick scan of the EAO EPIC materials and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en was a participant in the EAO review and the OW is recognized as the administrative lead (on behalf of the hereditary chiefs) by Hagwilget as the appropriate entity for consultation purposes.

— If so, did the province ever offer Hagwilget a benefits agreement?

GP – I think Robert indicates that there is an offer to Hagwilget. With the OW declining to enter into PBAs we responded to interest in these agreements from the First Nation Bands – and while we completed one w/Witset – we were not able to finalize one with Hagwilget. I believe an offer(s) was made but we were not able to finalize an agreement.

On May 19, 2022, at 1:11 PM, Aronson, Art GCPE:EX wrote:

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.

### **Recommendation- provided on background**

1. 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?

The assessment report's considerations for Witset/Moricietown are included on page 485 of the assessment report, section 7.3.3. [CGL-Assessment-Report-for-EAC-Decision-20141008.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

GP – the OW as the administrative coordinator for the hereditary chiefs undertook the role of representing Witset/Moricietown to off-reserve rights and title matters. The OW declined to enter into a PBA with the Province; the Province then responded to interest from Witset and was able to complete a PBA.

2. Why did the province then sign a benefits agreement with that council?

Pipeline Benefit Agreements are not connected to the legal process of Consultation and Accommodation as discharged by the Environmental Assessment Office. (RL – not sure that this is completely correct as the agreements do include releases for consultation and accommodation. I would look to Gio but I think the answer is that although the OW represented Moricietown for consultation it is appropriate for the agreement to be with the Council)

GP – the OW declined to enter into a PBA with the Province and in order to ensure members of the Wet'suwet'en were able to access benefits from PBAs, the Province negotiated and completed a PBA with Witset/Moricietown. Part 4 and 5 of the PBAs pertain to consultation associated with the project and certainty provisions.

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



This can be found on Page 505 of the assessment report. [CGL-Assessment-Report-for-EAC-Decision-20141008.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

4. — If so, did the province ever offer Hagwilget a benefits agreement?

Please confirm – Yes and that offer remains? Gio – I don't recall the details would defer to RL.

## 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.*