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Published By: NEWS COMMUNICATIONS since 1977

Wednesday February 3rd 2016

### NATIONS UNITE AGAINST LNG

Lelu Island and Flora Bank, critical habitat for wild salmon at the mouth of the Skeena River in northwestern B.C., have been declared permanently protected from industrial development by an unprecedented coalition of First Nations leaders, local residents and federal and provincial politicians.

The signing of The Lelu Island Declaration presents a major obstacle to plans by Malaysian-owned oil and gas giant, Petronas, to develop a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant near Prince Rupert. The declaration also deals a huge blow to the provincial government's stated aim to get major LNG plants under construction before next year's provincial election.

"The Lelu Declaration sends a powerful message to Premier Clark and Prime Minister Trudeau," said Hereditary Chief Yahaan of the Gitw'igyoos Tribe of the Lax Kw'alaams. "The support to stop this LNG project is overwhelming. Nations are united from the headwaters of the Skeena River to the ocean. Together, we will fight this to the end."

The declaration was the culmination of a two-day Salmon Nation Summit, where more than 300 hereditary and elected First Nations leaders, scientists, politicians, commercial and sport fishermen, and other northern residents came together to defend wild salmon from the proposed Pacific NorthWest LNG project.

Signatories to the declaration included hereditary leaders from the Nine Allied Tribes of the Lax Kw'alaams First Nation, and hereditary leaders of the Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en, Lake Babine, and Haisla First Nations. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs also signed the declaration.

The Petronas project was also emphatically rejected by NDP MP Nathan Cullen and three northern NDP MLAs: Jennifer Rice, Doug Donaldson and Robin Austin. All four of the region's elected representatives signed the declaration.

"This project isn't going to happen. This project can't happen," Cullen said. The three MLAs released a letter

that said, in part, "the proposed PNW LNG facility poses an unacceptable risk to the Flora Bank habitat that is an irreplaceable link in the Skeena River salmon ecosystem."

Gerald Amos, chairperson of Friends of Wild Salmon said, "We honour the support of our elected representatives. Unlike the Clark government, they are prepared to stand up for an economy that recognizes our Aboriginal title, plays a part in the fight against climate change, and favours long-term prosperity for all the people of the Skeena, over short-term gain for foreign investors."

The Lelu Island Declaration states: "The undersigned First Nation leaders and citizens of the Nine Allied Tribes of Lax Kw'alaams hereby declare that Lelu Island, and Flora and Agnew Banks, are hereby protected for all time, as a refuge for wild salmon and marine resources, and are to be held in trust for all future generations."

The declaration extends an invitation to all First Nations, the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and all communities and citizens that depend on the health of Lelu Island, Flora and Agnew Banks and the Skeena River estuary, to join in defending this sacred and unique place and to protect it for all time.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip said, "Contrary to the false assertions of the B.C. Liberal government and Petronas' public relations machine, there is formidable opposition to the LNG project proposed for Lelu Island. What binds people together throughout northwest B.C. is the undeniable fact that wild salmon are at the centre of our livelihoods and existence. It is essential that the Trudeau government immediately intervene in the fundamentally flawed Canadian Environmental Assessment process to ensure that the Indigenous rights of the nations of the Skeena watershed are upheld."

### ALBERTA CARBON CAP THREATENS CANADIAN CRUDE OUTPUT

Canada's efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions are calling into question oil majors' ability to tap the world's third-largest oil reserves.

The new left-leaning government of the Canadian province of Alberta,

which came to power in May after 44 years of conservative rule, has announced it would cap carbon emissions from its oil-sands industry, a move that threatens to strand billions of barrels of crude from supplies so vast that only Saudi Arabia and Venezuela control more.

Nine of the world's top oil companies, including Exxon Mobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips and Royal Dutch Shell, have invested tens of billions of dollars into megaprojects in the province's boreal forests. Combined, those operations account for 23 per cent of these companies' proven crude reserves, according to data from investment bank Peters & Co — up from only 5 per cent in 2006.

Marathon Oil, China's CNOOC, Total of France and Norway's Statoil round out the group of global players exploiting Canada's oil sands.

Most of these producers have taken a wait-and-see approach toward the cap, details of which remain to be worked out. Privately, executives at some oil multinationals with oil-sands assets express dismay about the sudden policy shift, and the heads of some smaller companies have voiced their concerns publicly.

"The cap is a long-term issue for province and the country," said Glen Schmidt, chief executive of Laricina

Energy, an oil-sands lease owner. "How will it be allocated to companies who in good faith have purchased rights to produce and invested in technology as we have?" he said.

Canada's federal government defers to its provinces to come up with policy prescriptions to curb overall emissions. Alberta's new climate plan, announced in November, would cap its oil-sands industry's greenhouse gas emissions at 100 million tonnes a year. The industry currently emits 70 million tonnes of greenhouse gas a year — about a quarter of the province's overall emissions.

Based on growth projections at the time, Canada's environment ministry said in December 2014 — the latest projection available — that the oil-sands industry was likely to cross that 100 million tonne level as soon as 2020.

Shell, which welcomed the policy along with three local Canadian oil-sands producers, said it didn't expect the cap would have a negative impact on its existing operations or force it to take impairments related to its undeveloped reserves.

The company said it was confident the advent of new technologies and other policy initiatives would mitigate the impact of a carbon cap.

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