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Ann Wilson, CHRP, ICCRC R421415  
 (Formerly Citizenship Judge)  
 ann@wilsonimmigration.com

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### TRUDEAU'S PIPELINE REMARK PUTS FOCUS ON PACIFIC NORTHWEST LNG PROJECT

\$7B TransCanada pipeline would move natural gas to B.C. coast for export to Asia

"The Great Bear rainforest is no place for a crude oil pipeline and I haven't changed my opinion on that." That was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's specific response to a question this week about the proposed Enbridge-backed Northern Gateway pipeline through B.C.'s north. In opposition, his comments about pipelines moving through this part of the province were less precise. Trudeau did not include the words "crude oil" in earlier declarations, as he did twice on Tuesday. That phrase would suggest Trudeau isn't necessarily opposed to all pipelines through the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, just those carrying diluted bitumen from the oilsands. Trudeau's cabinet is facing an Oct. 2 deadline to make a decision on another proposed pipeline in the sensitive region, the Pacific Northwest project natural gas pipeline. That proposed \$7-billion pipeline, which will be built, owned and run by TransCanada,

will move natural gas from Fort Saint John near the Alberta border — partially through the same Great Bear rainforest as Northern Gateway — to Port Edward on the coast, to be liquefied for export to Asia. B.C. Premier Christy Clark has a lot riding on approval of the project, which she has called "the largest private-sector investment ever in Canadian history," promising 4,500 construction jobs and 330 operational jobs. Federal support for her preferred pipeline could give her an incentive to support Kinder Morgan's expansion of the Trans Mountain crude pipeline, and allay concerns she has raised about financial benefits for B.C. The deadline also comes amid mounting pressure from the opposition Conservatives to help the struggling energy sector. MP Jason Kenney, who is departing Ottawa to take a run at Alberta politics, neatly summed up the grievances Conservatives have with the Liberal approach to pipeline politics in the House this week. "Tens of thousands of Canadian energy workers have lost their jobs. Our economy is losing billions of dollars in wealth because we can't get our oil to markets. And the Liberals have responded by rolling over on Keystone XL's veto, shutting down the Northern Gateway pipeline with

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their tanker ban, adding a politicized delay to the approved Trans Mountain pipeline and letting Liberals like Denis Coderre attack Energy East without a response," he said in question period. "Enough is enough. When will this government stand up for energy workers, for Canadian jobs, and the Canadian economy?" Minister of Natural Resources Jim Carr shot back with "enough is enough of 10 years of failed policies that didn't

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have one kilometre of pipeline taken to tidewater. "Signing off on this 900-kilometer gas pipeline would partially neutralize some of the Conservative complaints. And an endorsement of the project could also be less of a political hot potato for Trudeau, in part because some Indigenous groups steadfastly opposed to Northern Gateway are lining up behind Pacific Northwest. The Gitxaala Nation, for one, which has taken the federal government to court over inadequate consultations on Northern Gateway, has penned an impact-benefit agreement with TransCanada on this project. Indeed, four of the five Tsimshian First Nations have given their consent to TransCanada for the pipeline.

The project could also be a marginally easier sell to Canadians concerned about environmental stewardship. Natural gas is a fossil fuel and emits greenhouse gas emissions when burned. But it burns cleaner than other fossil fuels, and is the energy source of choice for rapidly developing Asian economies looking to transition away from greenhouse gas (GHG) intensive energy sources like coal. Liquefied natural gas — which is essentially regular natural gas cooled to minus 162 C and converted to a liquid for easier shipping — is safer to move than crude oil, which, if spilled, can wreak havoc. LNG, by comparison, converts back into its gaseous state when exposed to air and vaporizes quickly when spilled on water, although it can emit potentially combustible plumes of gas. However, the proposed LNG terminal on Lelu Island in the Skeena River, would be a huge source of emissions: 5.28 million tonnes of greenhouse gas pollution a year, according to a review by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, a marked increase of greenhouse gas emissions both at the provincial (8.5 per cent increase) and national (0.75 per cent increase) level. The agency has said the project "would be one of the largest greenhouse gas emitters in Canada." In a letter addressed to federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, 90 scientists and policy experts said the proposed plant would make it "virtually impossible" for B.C. to meet its GHG reduction targets, a claim B.C.'s environment minister says is unfounded and "doesn't meet reality." Some First Nations living in the area have also raised concerns that the terminal will damage local eel grass and salmon habitats, food crucial to their livelihood.

A treaty penned by 50 Indigenous groups in Canada and the northern U.S. this week, with a pledge to

fight all proposals to build more pipelines, will also be a potential hurdle for all energy infrastructure proponents. But Carr said in an interview with CBC Radio's The House Friday that there will never be unanimity among any group, and the government of Canada will have to balance competing interests. "If you were to consult other Indigenous communities, especially those who have spotted opportunity, and the possibility of prosperity for their communities and their children as part of natural resource development ... there will be a difference of opinion. It goes back to the very balance of the government's policy that the environment and the economy go hand-in-hand," he said.

### JIM CARR REJECTS IDEA FIRST NATIONS ARE UNITED AGAINST PIPELINES

First Nation communities in Canada and U.S. signed treaty this week to stop oilsands pipelines. Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr is dispelling the idea that all Indigenous groups in Canada are united against pipelines after a group of First Nations in Canada and the United States signed a treaty opposing new projects to carry diluted bitumen from the Alberta oilsands. "If you put the mayors of major cities in British Columbia and Alberta in a room you'd probably not get consensus and you'd certainly not get unity. If you put the premiers in a room talking about these energy projects there would be a difference of opinion. So too, no doubt, there will be a difference of opinion in Indigenous communities," Jim Carr said in an interview with Chris Hall on The House.

On Thursday, 50 North America First Nations signed the Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion to oppose building more pipelines from the oilsands. The targets include Carr's offices is reviewing, including projects proposed by Kinder Morgan Inc., TransCanada Corp. and Enbridge Inc. Carr says there are other Indigenous communities "who have spotted opportunity" in natural resource development.

"We respect that Indigenous people want to make sure that the sacred relationship with the land, the air and the water is respected. By the way, that should not be a goal only of Indigenous communities. That should be the goal of all Canadians," he said.

Four of the five Tsimshian First Nations, with whom the government has a constitutional obligation to consult on resource projects, have given their consent to TransCanada's Pacific Northwest liquid natural gas project. Carr says it's the job of the

Canadian government to make sure all Canadians have a chance to weigh in on major pipeline projects. "It goes back to the very balance of the government's policy that the environment and the economy go hand in hand," he said. That's a challenge also facing Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, whose province stands to gain economically if Trans Mountain, Northern Gateway and the Energy East pipeline projects are approved. Notley says just because some groups strongly oppose pipelines doesn't mean she'll stop trying to sell their merits.

"Those players in our political system who suggest that, 'Oh well you introduced your climate change leadership plan at this point and everybody hasn't completely changed their mind on this matter the next day,' are,

I think, playing politics and not understanding the way these kinds of conversations roll out in a country as complicated and democratic as ours," she told The House.

### VANCOUVER'S SWITCH TO RENEWABLE GAS FUELS PROVINCE-WIDE DEBATE

Critics say the transition will be costly; environmentalists and economists disagree

The city says by 2050 all buildings in Vancouver will run on renewable energy. And not everyone is happy about it. The City of Vancouver's commitment to transition away from fossil-fuel-based natural gas towards renewable energy entirely by 2050 was widely misinterpreted after accusations were made that

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natural gas would be "banned" and that everyone's gas-powered appliances would need to be replaced. The issue has since been debunked by city manager Sandhu Johnston — but critics still say the shift will be costly. "Vision Vancouver — through all their years of building bike lanes — have gotten very good at back-peddling," said Jordan Bateman with the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, who stands by his position that consumers will pay a stiff price. "If you look at their own documents, they have zero per cent natural gas in the City of Vancouver in 2050.

Whether they want to call it a ban or not, they're still legislating it out of existence," he said. The increase in consumer costs could be as high as an additional \$1,500 per year for a family of four, according to a letter from Fortis B.C. to Vancouver city council — a natural gas provider for 108,000 customers in Vancouver.

But environmentalists are not convinced. "That's a static analysis," said Mark Jaccard, director of the Energy and Materials Research Group at SFU, who appeared on BC Almanac. "It says this is how much you've consumed this year, therefore all of that consumption needs to be

replaced with a ridiculously high price for electricity and biomethane." According to Jaccard, the figures don't take into account how energy efficiency would change overtime, especially when there's a higher industrial emphasis on renewable energy consumption. He admits there would likely be some added cost, but says it's better than the alternative. "The cheaper path is to keep wrecking the planet; it's to keep extracting natural gas from the earth's crust and burning it," he said, adding that he thinks the city is doing the right thing by working towards innovation, rather than waiting for it. "It will be a little bit more expensive, but actually you'd be building more efficient houses as you did that." Bryan Yu, a senior economist at Central 1 Credit Union, is also skeptical there would be a dramatic increase in consumer costs in light of the shift. "A lot of the analyses are based on prices of current time," he said. "If there is demand or more activity in [renewable energy], that should bring those prices down ... It's not as though its going to be a shift right away from natural gas to renewable — its a longer-term shift," said Yu. According to Yu, natural gas prices are also abnormally low right now. In fact, the low prices have contributed to a bleak three-year economic forecast for the northeastern region of the province, where the bulk of B.C.'s natural gas is extracted, according to a Central 1 Credit Union report authored by Yu.

Unemployment has been on the rise and housing activity has stagnated in the region, and the trend is expected to continue through to at least 2018. Yu says Vancouver's transition

away from natural gas won't help the situation. "I think it would be a dampening on domestic demand," he said, "But ... a lot of our demand and long-term growth has come from the export sector, primarily." Lori Ackerman, mayor of Fort St. John — the largest city in B.C.'s natural gas-producing region — says she commends what Vancouver is trying to do, but it shouldn't ignore the value in natural gas. "I think they need to consider the impacts to other agencies that they have within their communities — and that would be the hospitals, the school districts, the post-secondary education, as well as their business associations," she said on BC Almanac.

Ackerman says these institutions should have a say in what energy sources they consume and thinks the switch to renewable energy should be a long-term goal. She also says it will take natural gas to get us there. "The metals that we mine, the fuels that we use, are not going to go away anytime soon, because they will be needed to create these renewable energies."



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