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ANTI-PIPELINE GITXSAN ANGRY OVER PROVINCE'S DEAL WITH UNELECTED BAND CHIEFS

'You've brought shame to Gitksan'

Members of the Gitksan First Nation opposed to pipeline development are outraged that nine unelected hereditary chiefs are working on a deal with the province connected to a natural gas pipeline on B.C.'s North Coast. The documents were leaked and posted online, prompting an emergency meeting to discuss next steps. "We had a full room speaking totally against what they've done," said Norman Stephens, a Gitksan member opposed to the development. "Words like 'shameful, you've brought shame to the Gitksan,' those were used extensively." The agreement is connected to the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Line. The line would supply the Pacific NorthWest LNG project, which was approved by the federal government earlier this year. Opponents fear the development will damage the salmon-bearing Skeena River. "If they do that development, we will lose our fish," said Stephens. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that our fish stocks will be depleted. We will lose all of that." Stephens is particularly upset by conditions that say the Gitksan will not be allowed to prevent construction work. Section 5.4 reads, "Gitksan agrees not to support or participate in any acts that frustrate, delay, stop or otherwise physically impede the right of the Province or a Natural Gas Pipeline proponent ... to carry out any activities associated with the development and operations of that Natural Gas Pipeline Project." Section 5.5 says the hereditary chiefs will help the province resolve any disputes that come up with members of the Gitksan First Nation.

Gordon Sebastian is one of the hereditary chiefs to sign the document. He contends the agreement is not carte blanche to move ahead with the project. "We consented to the trespass on certain conditions and if they screw up on those conditions, they lose their right to continue to trespass," he said. "We're controlling that project with our laws ... they've

agreed to meet a lot of those conditions and agree that the Gitksan agree to consent to be engaged," Sebastien said. In a statement, the province's Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation said a deal has not been finalized.

"The B.C. government does not have a natural gas pipeline agreement in effect with the Gitksan for this project," said the statement. "Government policy is to make these agreements public as soon as First Nations put them into effect." The content posted is internal to the nation and this appears to be an internal dispute. "This is not the first time the Gitksan have been divided on a development project. In 2011, Enbridge announced it had signed a deal with hereditary chiefs in support of the Northern Gateway pipeline project. This prompted a blockade of the Gitksan Treaty Office by members and other hereditary chiefs opposed to the project. Some of the confusion stems from the complex leadership system of the Gitksan, which involves dozens of hereditary chiefs and multiple house leaders, as well as elected officials. Sebastien said he welcomes the debate over developments in Gitksan territory. "We take what they [opponents] say, and some of them really help us in our negotiations," he said. "We can't think of everything." Stephens, however, said the chiefs shouldn't agree to anything without consulting the rest of the Gitksan members. "This whole agreement has been designed behind closed doors," he complained. "But now, suddenly, they come forward to meet with the Gitksan only to tell them that yes, we signed this agreement with the nine so-called directly impacted chiefs." He warned steps would be taken to prevent the deal from going ahead.

"We have recourse," he said. "You can't bind us to this."

ENBRIDGE CUTS 5% OF WORKFORCE, INCLUDING 370 JOBS IN CANADA

Calgary-based company lays off 530 positions worldwide
 Calgary-based Enbridge Inc. is laying off about five per cent of its workforce, the company announced

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Wednesday. Canada's largest pipeline operator said Wednesday it has eliminated about 370 positions in Canada and about 160 in the U.S., making up roughly five per cent of its more than 11,000 staff. "Throughout this process, Enbridge is committed to treating people fairly and with respect. We are providing support to those leaving the company, as well as those who remain," company spokeswoman Suzanne Wilton said in an email to CBC News. The company began an organizational review in the first quarter of this year. "It is focused on what we need to do to achieve our strategy of growth and diversification, enhance our competitiveness, and allow us to capitalize on opportunities now and into the future," she said. The company made a similar five per cent cut to staff in November 2015, saying the job cuts were needed to remain competitive and withstand difficult times in the industry. Last month, the company announced plans to buy Houston-based Spectra Energy Corp. for stock worth \$37 billion.

The combination of the two pipeline companies would create a North American energy infrastructure giant, to be called Enbridge Inc. and headquartered in Calgary.

The combined company's natural gas pipelines business would be based in Houston and the liquids pipelines business would be based in Edmonton. The layoffs at Enbridge come as the company continues to vie for approval for its controversial pipeline project, Northern Gateway. The \$7.9-billion pipeline would carry oilsands crude from northern Alberta to the B.C. coast. The Harper government gave the go-ahead to the project after a National Energy Board joint review panel gave its approval subject to 209 conditions.

But in June 2016, the Federal Court found that Ottawa failed to properly consult First Nations affected by the proposal. Northern Gateway president John Carruthers said the company will not appeal the ruling but remains committed to building "this critical Canadian infrastructure project," while protecting the environment and traditional way of life of Aboriginal groups along the proposed route.



**HEILTSUK NATION
GIVEN \$250,000
TOWARD FUEL SPILL
CLEAN-UP COSTS**

Removal of fuel from the sunken tug resumed Wednesday

A First Nation impacted by a fuel spill on the B.C. coast has received \$250,000 from the company owning the tugboat that ran aground in its territory last week. The money was transferred to the Heiltsuk Nation on Wednesday afternoon from the U.S. company Kirby Offshore Marine. The assistant commissioner for the Western Region of the Canadian Coast Guard, Roger Girouard, originally said on Tuesday that \$100,000 was in a bank account for the Heiltsuk Nation to help with the cleanup. But Marilyn Slett, the chief councillor of the Heiltsuk Nation, said Wednesday morning it had yet to receive any money from the company and negotiations for compensation were still underway.

At the time, Slett said the tribal council had been covering its own expenses. However, the First Nation confirmed late Wednesday funds had been transferred. The 30-metre tug went down last Thursday morning when it ran aground while pushing a barge through the waters off Bella Bella. Slett said a break in the weather has allowed the clean-up crew to resume removing fuel from the submerged tug on Wednesday. But the job is expected to take another 60 hours to complete before the tug can be moved. There's concern wind and waves from an approaching storm could shift the vessel as it sits in nine metres of water. Environment Canada indicates the strongest winds aren't

due to hit until Wednesday afternoon or evening. More than 88,000 of the estimated 200,000 litres of diesel had been pumped from the tanks of the Nathan E. Stewart by late Tuesday afternoon. Slett said fuel from the tug has already fouled vital clam beds in the channel, and Slett said people are out monitoring the impact.

**IRVING'S HALIFAX
MARINE TERMINAL
OPENS WITH PLUG FOR
ENERGY EAST**

'Alberta needs it, the East Coast needs it and the crude has to be sold and transported'

Irving Oil opened its Halifax Harbour Terminal on Thursday with a major plug for the proposed Energy East pipeline. Shuttered in 2002, the New Brunswick business giant decided in 2015 to restart its marine fuelling terminal in Woodside. The \$80-million reactivation project finished in 18 months "on time and almost on budget," Arthur Irving said during the opening. At the same time, he lauded the company's Saint John, N.B., refinery, which is currently undergoing its annual maintenance shutdown operation.

"Twenty-two days ago, we hired 2,700 people for what we call operation Red Fox. We do this about every year," he said of the maintenance work. That refinery could play an important role in the proposed Energy East pipeline, a topic Irving said he spoke about with Nova Scotia Energy Minister Michel Samson earlier in the day. If approved, the 4,600-kilometre pipeline, by Calgary-based energy corporation TransCanada, would carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day

from Alberta to New Brunswick.

"That pipeline will be built because Alberta has to have it. I was in Calgary on the weekend. Calgary misses the pipeline — now," Irving said. "Halifax is booming; Alberta is not." He outlined how he envisions the project will work. He said the pipeline would run to Saint John and Irving Oil would partner with TransCanada "50-50" to build a dock to export the crude. "That will happen but it's taking a little longer than it should," he said. "But it will happen because it is the right thing to do for Canada. They can't get along without it, Alberta needs it, the East Coast needs it and the crude has to be sold and transported." Irving's Saint John refinery is ideal as the marine exporting facility, said Irving who, with his brother J.K., share ownership of the Irving group of companies.

"We got the deep water, 120 feet at low tide and we've got a 32-foot tide so we can handle any ships of any size in the world." Samson later reiterated the support of Nova Scotia's Liberal government for the Energy East project. "We have the desire. We've made it very clear to Mr. Irving," he said. "On Friday, I'll be making a presentation to the Senate committee that will be here in Halifax to indicate that our premier and our government have made it clear that we support the pipeline, we see it as part of our energy security in Nova Scotia." Samson also said he was satisfied the newly reopened Halifax marine terminal will help boost the region's energy security. "Not too long ago, we did have a shortage here in Nova Scotia due to the fact there was only one supplier that was bringing petroleum products

to the province. Having this second supplier here now ... makes it clear to us it will give us better security here."

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