



MEDIA RELEASE

SQUAMISH NATION LAUNCHES LEGAL CHALLENGE OVER TRANS MOUNTAIN EXPANSION PROJECT APPROVAL

July 9, 2019, North Vancouver, BC — Today, the Squamish Nation announced it has submitted an application for leave to apply for judicial review of the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) Project approval in the Federal Court of Appeal. The Squamish Nation is one of several First Nations proceeding with court challenges of the TMX Project.

The Squamish Nation is, once again, challenging the approval of the TMX Project based on Canada's failure to fulfill its obligations to consult and accommodate the Nation. The Trudeau government approved the Project without meaningfully engaging with the Squamish Nation or ensuring the Nation's interests were protected.

"The Trudeau government keeps pushing an oil pipeline project no matter the cost or impacts. The Trudeau government is trampling the Indigenous Rights of the Squamish People with their second approval of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. The Squamish Nation will seek to challenge the Federal government's disregard for Aboriginal rights protected in the Canadian Charter."

— *Khelsilem, Squamish Nation Councillor and Spokesperson*

The TMX Project poses significant risks to the Nation's unceded territory, the community's reliance on healthy marine and aquatic environments, and to the existence of the southern resident killer whale—a species of cultural importance to the Nation that is recognized to be in a critical state.

The Squamish Nation remains deeply committed to holding the Trudeau government to its obligations of meaningful consultation with, and accommodation of, First Nations.

Background:

Squamish Nation must first apply for leave before bringing a challenge to the approval because of a requirement under the *National Energy Board Act* for projects such as this.

It is uncertain when the Court will make its determination on the leave application; however, the Squamish Nation anticipates hearing back from the Court within a few months. The previous leave application took two months to be decided.

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To arrange interviews with the Squamish Nation Spokesperson, contact:

Lauren Hutchison
Communications Officer, Squamish Nation
604-363-4055 | lauren_hutchison@squamish.net

