



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SQUAMISH NATION HOLDS COMMUNITY MEETING ON WOODFIBRE LNG PROPOSAL; CONDUCTING ITS OWN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT

SQUAMISH, BC - Experts held a technical briefing here tonight to update Squamish Nation members on the proposed Woodfibre LNG plant and associated FortisBC natural gas pipeline expansion within Squamish Nation traditional territory.

This meeting is part of the Nation's independent assessment of the proposed projects set up to ensure Squamish Nation Aboriginal rights and title interests are protected. At regular intervals, aquatic and other technical experts will provide members with progress reports, explaining the scientific findings and answering questions.

Findings of the Squamish Nation assessment will later be compared with the results of the provincial and federal government's Environmental Assessment process, also underway. The intention is to attempt to reconcile those interests with Squamish Nation's. "True reconciliation has always been our goal," says Squamish Nation Chief Ian Campbell.

This community outreach started in November 2014. Four focus groups have since been held. Members learned about the proposed projects and shared their opinions, questions and concerns about how the proposed projects might impact them, their families, and their use and occupancy of the land in the proposed project areas.

"This is an emotional subject - and then some," says Chief Campbell. "When it comes to pipelines, there is much confusion, much disinformation. But it is important to emphasize that the FortisBC pipeline proposed to supply Woodfibre will carry only natural gas. This pipeline will generally follow the right of way of the existing FortisBC natural gas pipeline to Squamish."

Tonight, during the meeting, technical experts shared some preliminary scientific findings on a series of issues identified in the assessment: potential impacts of seawater cooling, the pipeline route under the estuary, frequency of tanker traffic and the risk of accidents.



"For the Squamish Nation, the Woodfibre proposal assessment represents a real-world exercise in self government," says Chief Campbell. "Our decision will reflect the interests, the will, and the beliefs of the members of the Squamish Nation. We won't allow outsiders, whether they support the pipeline or oppose it, to decide for us."

"It is our future - our decision to make," Chief Campbell says.

Another meeting will be held in North Vancouver later this month. Meanwhile, all the scientific data - and members' responses - is being collected and collated so that Squamish Nation Council can make an informed decision when it votes on this critical matter.

With almost 4,000 members, the Squamish Nation has become a \$65-million-dollar economic powerhouse. Owning some of the most valuable real estate in the country, the Nation is exploring business opportunities on its lands at Jericho, North and West Vancouver, Squamish Valley, Whistler and Gibsons.

Please contact the Squamish Process Team at (604) 998-0285 or at squamishprocess@squamish.net if you have any questions.

