



## For Immediate Release

Oct. 14, 2015

**NORTH VANCOUVER** — Squamish Nation Council voted today to approve an Environmental Assessment Agreement for the proposed Woodfibre LNG facility project.

Based on this decision the Squamish Nation has now issued an Environmental Certificate to the company. Subject to *WFLNG* meeting the conditions set out in the Certificate and the Agreement, this gives the company approval to proceed to the next step.

The decision comes as a result of the Nation's independent assessment of the proposal, ongoing since July 2014.

On June 27 2015 the Nation set out its “25 Conditions” for the proposal and on July 24 *WFLNG* publicly announced it agrees to meet all 13 conditions that apply to its part of the proposal.

The Agreement is legally binding including legal remedies to ensure *WFLNG* complies with its commitments under the Agreement. The Nation has significant decision-making powers under the Agreement, specifically for the choice of cooling technology and approval of management plans.

“For our Nation the environment comes first,” says Council Spokesperson and Chief Ian Campbell, “but there is more — much more — to be done. During our community meetings, members made clear their priorities—environmental protection and public safety among others — and we intend to set these into law.”

Chief Campbell cautions there are critical issues still unresolved. “There is still no agreement on the *FortisBC* pipeline. The pipeline is subject to a separate SN Environmental Assessment Agreement,” Chief Campbell says.

This has been a busy year for the Nation, which also conducted a comprehensive program of public education to keep its members informed.

“The whole rationale for our independent assessment was to make sure our Aboriginal rights and title interests are protected,” Chief Campbell says.

“Since our community outreach started in November 2014, four focus groups were held. We then initiated a comprehensive program of public education and held a series of community meetings. Members learned about the proposed projects and shared their opinions, questions and concerns about how the proposal might impact them, their families, and their use and occupancy of the land in the proposed project areas.





“The assessment represents an exercise in Squamish Nation self-determination by moving beyond mere consultation and getting to First Nation consent. Our decision today reflects the interests, the will, and the beliefs of our members. It is our future—our decision to make,” Chief Campbell says.

Negotiations continue with *FortisBC* and the provincial government, Chief Campbell says.

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