



NEWS RELEASE

Squamish Nation disappointed with BC Supreme Court decision with BC Government's approval of the Kinder Morgan pipeline

VANCOUVER (May 24, 2018) — In November 2017, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw (Squamish Nation) challenged the B.C. Government's approval of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion in the B.C. Supreme Court. Squamish Nation said the provincial government failed to respect the Indigenous Rights of the Squamish Nation on a project that threatens our home, land, and waters and could result in an environmental disaster.

A judicial review has found the BC government had limited jurisdiction over the project and the consultation, while not perfect, was adequate. The judgment points out the Federal Government has more jurisdiction and a higher obligation to the Squamish Nation. That case is before the Federal Court of Appeal. In his judgment, The Honourable Mr. Justice Grauer said, "Of course, if the Federal Court of Appeal should rule in favour of Squamish's position concerning the inadequacy of the NEB hearing, then what consultation occurred within British Columbia's jurisdiction would become largely moot in relation to the EAC at issue here. Subject to further appeal, the entire Phase II (NEB hearing) process would be reset."

"We have just received the judgment and we are disappointed with the findings. However, this decision only deals with the Provincial approval of the Kinder Morgan project. We are still waiting on the more significant Federal Court of Appeal decision on the federal approval of the project. We have joined five First Nations in challenging the federal government's violation of our Indigenous Rights. Our legal team is reviewing the reasons and the Squamish Nation Council will explore an appeal based on legal advice," says Khelsilem, elected councilor and spokesperson for Squamish Nation.



"This decision does not change our position on the Texas-based Kinder Morgan project. The Kinder Morgan pipeline would triple the capacity of diluted bitumen and is expected to increase the number of tankers from five to 35 each month. The tankers pass by three Squamish Nation communities on the Burrard Inlet and a marine spill could be catastrophic for our communities, our economy, and our home as a Squamish people. "

Squamish Nation believes that there is a lack of proper analysis of how diluted bitumen will affect the Salish Sea. The expansion would see the number of tankers increase from approximately one per week to more than one per day.

"We have a right to practice our culture, our way of life, and to continue our right to self-determination in our territories. This is a right that we have never surrendered, and it is a right we will continue to defend," Khelsilem adds.

He says, "as elected leaders we have a sacred obligation to continue to fight the pipeline on behalf of the Squamish people."

For more information:

Chris Olsen

Peak Communicators

Chris@peakco.com

604 689 5559

250 808 4910

