

## WOODFIBRE LNG AND FORTIS EAGLE MOUNTAIN GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS:

Update from Squamish Nation's Environmental Team



Columbine flower—Squamish Nation vegetation survey at Woodfibre, June 2021  
(photo credit: Liz Ross)

### WHAT'S NEW?

We have not circulated as many newsletters in 2021 as we did in 2020, but there is still lots going on behind the scenes with these projects. In this newsletter:

- Introduction to Whitney Joseph, new Community Outreach Coordinator
- Woodfibre LNG project status update
- FortisBC pipeline status update
- Squamish Nation Environmental Subcommittee recent work

### Concerns about environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts?

Squamish Nation membership are encouraged to forward comments, concerns, and questions to Community Outreach Coordinator, Whitney Joseph at [swiyat@squamish.net](mailto:swiyat@squamish.net). You can also call or text Whitney at **778-966-1117**.

◆ Woodfibre LNG (WLNG) is anticipating a Final Investment Decision (please reference page 5 for more info) soon, in autumn 2021.

◆ All Squamish Nation members and businesses seeking employment or business opportunities for the project are encouraged to contact either:

Squamish Nation Education, Employment & Training Department  
([Paul\\_wick@squamish.net](mailto:Paul_wick@squamish.net))

or

Nch'kay Development Corp  
([Jody\\_antone@squamish.net](mailto:Jody_antone@squamish.net))

## SQUAMISH NATION ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

Curious how Squamish Nation hold proponents accountable to commitments made in the Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Agreement (SNEAA)?

Through the Rights and Title Department, the Nation has established a project **Environmental Subcommittee**. The Subcommittee members participate on technical working groups, undertake community outreach and communications work between Squamish Nation departments and Council when Squamish Nation regulatory decisions are necessary, and coordinate with other governments (provincial and federal).

Currently, Environmental Subcommittee members are:

- Kathleen Edwards (Environmental Manager, R&T Department)
- Elizabeth Ross (Heritage Technical Advisor, R&T Department)
- Whitney Joseph (Community Outreach Coordinator, PGL & R&T Department)
- Bridget Dunne (Project Management and Technical Support, PGL)
- Tyler Gray (Project Management and Technical Support, PGL)

The Subcommittee works as needed with subject matter experts (archaeology, cultural protection, biologists, engineers, etc.) working on behalf of Squamish Nation.

If you have questions or would like to contribute your own expertise to anything relevant to these projects, please contact the Environmental Team by way of Whitney Joseph: 778-966-1117 or [Swiyat@squamish.net](mailto:Swiyat@squamish.net)



Photo from a 2019 site visit along the planned pipeline route

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Despite years of planning and millions of dollars in site clean-up at Swiyát, the Project hasn't yet made the all-in call to invest in construction. That "Final Investment Decision" is expected this autumn.
- We consider this one project, including the natural gas export plant at Woodfibre (Swiyát ) and the pipeline that will deliver the natural gas to the plant. However, two separate companies are involved (WoodfibreLNG for the plant and FortisBC for the pipeline), so Squamish Nation is overseeing two parallel but separate agreements.
- Outside of Treaty arrangements, the Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Agreement (SNEAA) is unique in Canada as a legally binding Indigenous environmental approval. Typically, industry does not recognize First Nation regulatory authority on unceded lands.
- The Environmental Team has been publishing newsletters since June 2019. All old newsletters are available at <http://www.squamish.net/woodfibre-lng>. Previous newsletters cover many topics, including:
  - ◆ a review of Squamish Nation's environmental conditions
  - ◆ the rationale for those conditions and how they will be implemented
  - ◆ Project updates during the very long pre-construction planning

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR: WELCOME WHITNEY!

As of August 2021, **Whitney Joseph** has taken over Liz Ross' position of Community Outreach Coordinator -Woodfibre LNG/FortisBC Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Agreements. Liz did a great job and has moved into a new position with the Rights & Title Department, where she will remain involved with project oversight for the Nation.

Whitney comes from the Joseph/Baker/Rivers family. Her mother is Sandra Nadine Joseph and Father is Charles Victor Baker. Late Grandparents are Gloria Evelyn Joseph and Emily Baker (nee Rivers) and Chief "Khot-La-Cha" Simon Baker.

Whitney was born and raised in North Vancouver on Ch'ích'elxwi7kw (Seymour). She has devoted her time working in and around her community since returning home almost 6 years ago from living in the USA for 10 years. Her previous positions within the nation and most recently as Intake Coordinator with the Training & Trades Centre, has given her the opportunity to help provide her nation (and community) members the stepping stones to be successful in their career paths. Whitney has also has experience working with industry on environmental, business, and employment issues.

Whitney's main focus is to provide membership with all pertinent information regarding the projects and addressing any and all concerns that may arise. This is an internal position for Squamish Nation, Whitney does not report to WoodfibreLNG or FortisBC.

**If you have questions about project status, concerns about how it may impact you or your family, please reach out to Whitney: [Swiyat@squamish.net](mailto:Swiyat@squamish.net) or 778 966 1117**

## GENERAL UPDATE: FORTIS GAS PIPELINE



### FortisBC (Pipeline)

- **Project Schedule:** If WoodfibreLNG gives the final go-ahead this autumn, FortisBC could start with early clearing for the pipeline in mid-2022, with more intensive work ramping up into 2023.
- **Workforce Accommodation:** FortisBC is approved to build a construction camp to help house workers, but a location has not yet been chosen. Fortis has been paring down from a long list of possible locations to a short-list of preferences, most of which are existing industrial areas in and around the Squamish area. Once a location is chosen, FortisBC will still need approval for detailed traffic management plans, social impact mitigation, and monitoring plans to ensure conflicts are avoided and/or addressed. Squamish Nation will be conducting independent monitoring of social and community issues that may arise from the camp and workers.
- **Amending Pipeline Route:** In 2020, FortisBC applied to change the section of the pipeline route in the Stawamus Valley, and to move the new compressor station from Mt. Mulligan to Swiyát. This requires approval from Squamish Nation and BC... the review and approval process is long! The Nation's Environmental Team is preparing final recommendations to Rights & Title. Decision from the Nation and from BC is expected this autumn. Please see previous newsletters for more background ([squamish.net/woodfibre-lng](http://squamish.net/woodfibre-lng)), or contact the Environmental Team!
- **Pre-Construction Activity:** It might seem quiet but the regulatory work and detailed project planning is very busy! FortisBC have been reviewing detailed route options and working with Indigenous governments and stakeholders to review key decisions. Additional terrain, vegetation, and fish surveys have been active throughout 2021.
- **Looking ahead:** Geotechnical drilling work along the pipeline route started this month (Sept). Drilling bore-holes along the route is necessary to know what sort of materials will be encountered for larger work. Similar work has been done the past few summers. Users of Indian River and Stawamus River back-country may see drill rigs, and a few sites with vegetation clearing pads of about 30m x 30m.



## GENERAL UPDATE: WOODFIBRE LNG

### Woodfibre LNG

- **Project Schedule:** Investment Decision (“Notice to Proceed”) planned for 2021. If the company decides to proceed and meets all pre-construction conditions, construction could start as early as mid-2023, and operations as early as 2026.
- **Worker camp:** Potentially ~600 people housed on a floating hotel-style camp moored at site during construction for 3-4 years. That floating camp needs approval from Squamish Nation, BC, and Canada. The application to use a camp was submitted in 2019, but is awaiting further information on camp operations, worker safety, and social concerns.
- **Pre-construction activity:** lots going on behind the scenes, mostly detailed financial planning and engineering, and the years of work required for many permits and approvals from federal, provincial, municipal, and Indigenous agencies. Lots of ongoing environmental baseline surveys will continue into 2022 (herring, vegetation, marine birds, underwater noise, water quality and hydrology).
- **Looking ahead:** Activity at site will likely be busy in 2022. The existing landfill left over from the pulp & paper days will be decommissioned—this is a huge job. Planned marine work includes replacement of the existing and passenger dock (past its service life), geotechnical drilling for detailed construction planning, and ongoing marine surveys for herring, salmon, shellfish, mammals, and water quality.



Some remaining pulp mill administrative buildings on site at Swiyát, Nov 2020

## GENERAL UPDATE: PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

- Environmental Working Group Meetings:** Technical and cultural representatives from the Nation’s Environmental Subcommittee sit on the “Environmental Working Groups” established with both Wood-fibreLNG and FortisBC. The Environmental Working Groups meet at least once a month with a formal agenda, and in between meetings have lots of back-and-forth on environmental planning and regulatory issues. Team members also meet regularly with federal and provincial regulatory agencies to exchange ideas and status reports. Some of Squamish Nation’s environmental conditions were designed to work in tandem with provincial or federal regulatory conditions.
- Community Outreach and Internal Consultation:** These newsletters are one way we try to stay in touch with membership and Departments, but not the only way. The Environmental Team is in regular contact with R&T executive level, checks in with members who have expressed interest. In August, Liz Ross moved on from the Community Outreach Coordinator role, and Whitney Joseph has been getting up to speed with the many aspects of these projects to carry forward the community outreach.
- Marine food sampling near Swiyát:** In late July, Nation members participated in a marine food sampling program by WoodfibreLNG. The intent of the program is to test food around the area for contamination left over from a century pulp and paper operations. Crab and sole were the target species in July... not many were caught! More work is underway to obtain enough samples for reliable laboratory testing.
- Environmental Management Plans:** Companies make many commitments during an Environmental Assessment, and in many cases the details for how those commitments will be met are outlined in “Environmental Management Plans”. The Team was very busy this summer working with FortisBC on what these plans should look like.
- Permit Consultation:** The list of permits needed from other agencies is long. Most of these are run through the BC Oil and Gas Commission. In addition to overseeing Squamish Nation’s own conditions of approval, the Environmental Team also represents the Nation in technical consultation on permits from other agencies.
- Cultural Sites:** The pipeline is very close to two *Síiyámin ta Skwxwú7mesh* (Cultural Sites) by Indian River and Stawamus River. Minimizing disturbance to access or experience at these sites during construction has been a lot of work from the R&T cultural and technical representatives. Another site visit is planned for early October.



*Slhawt'*- herring



*Ch'émesh*- herring roe



*Ajx* - crab



*Lhémkw'a*- Sole