

Joint Review Panel Hearings

Smithers, B.C., April 23-25, 2012

The National Energy Board's Joint Review Panel (JRP) community hearings began in Smithers Monday April 23, 2012. In an attempt to provide you with a sense of what is being said at these hearings, we have selected excerpts from some of those presentations and will continue to do so through to the end of the hearings in July. If you wish to read the complete text of a statement, it is available on the JRP website: gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-nsi/prtcptngprcss/hrng-eng.html

“A huge concern for us is the pipeline rupturing and contaminating our drinking water as well as our pond and creek. I remember an earthquake off Haida Gwaii that registered 6.8 on the Richter scale. I was in Smithers and it rattled the pictures on my wall and swayed the lamps. Smithers is some 300 miles from the epicentre of that particular quake; so that would have an effect, I think, on a pipeline.” – **Mr. David Anderson**

“If a spawning channel is coated in bitumen it is lost. If the stream bank is coated in bitumen what of the birds and the wildlife that cross through it; what of the people who rely on the rivers and the natural environment for food in the form of wildlife, moose and deer, in the form of fish? What of the river guides? What of the trappers?” – **Gladys Atrill**

“‘Chip it, strip it, rip it, ship it, burn it, churn it, dam it, slam it, crash it, dash it, waste it.’ The planet's taken enough of this. Being tools of business and soul-sucking work leaves empty space here. That space is filled with useless toys, stuff, distractions, alcohol, drugs at what cost?” – **Magdalena Bayer**



“It is not unusual for the river to overflow onto a portion of our property in the spring. I used to worry if it would reach our house, as it has before, now I will be worrying about what that water will do to my land, my drinking water, if it is contaminated from a spill.” – **Phil Briennesse**

“If being an energy superpower brought happiness, the average person in Nigeria, Libya and Saudi Arabia would have been as happy as clams for the last few decades.”

– **Dave Conway**



“It isn’t just your St. John’s reno contractor who can’t keep up with Alberta wages. The manager of construction for Vale’s \$3 billion nickel processing plant on Placentia Bay said in a Globe article in December that: “They can’t compete with the wages and benefits that are offered in the Alberta Oil Sands.” This is a clear example of how encouraging the unlimited growth of the oil sands has negative effects on the economy and the rest of the country.”

– **Zita Conway**

“I worked for years as a logger, hand logger, high-lead logger, tugboat deck hand from Work Channel down to Princess Royal Island, the same waters that are proposed as tanker route. And this is what I learned out there. Rocks don’t move. Everything else does, wind, water and especially the vessels on that water. They all move, but the rocks are there. Wind changes everything. Wind changes direction suddenly. The larger the vessel, the more area for the wind to push on. In most of the channels these vessels would be operating, there is not enough room for one of these very large crude carriers to come about into the wind. If it’s coming from broadside, they take it broadside, and they go sideways. Anybody that thinks differently hasn’t been there.”

– **Don Goalder**



What I’m seeing now, and especially since January, since your hearings began, and with each new announcement from the federal government, what I’m hearing now, because I still -- as the girl who swam the Skeena, I still engage with people on a regular basis and what I’m hearing now frightens me. The tenor of the conversation has changed; people are now full of despair, despair that their own government is not listening to them, despair that this process is not fair and in fact it’s just so much lip service to the fact that the -- or the potential that the decision is being taken out of your hands and that your recommendations won’t be listened to. And beyond despair there is anger, and this is what concerns me most. The people, who I met along the swim and afterwards, were so generous and so giving. These are wonderful loving people, peaceful people, moderate people. And now what I’m hearing and what I’m sensing is great anger and what I’m afraid of is that there’s the real potential for something catastrophic to happen, beyond a pipeline spill.”

– **Ali Howard**

“Do we think for a moment that we will continue to get opportunities for new jobs if the project is deemed safe and the proponents of the project are told no, you cannot proceed with your project? It is so easy to say no to everything until the economy weakens and we experience the many problems that I have spoken about. We have in place something that has evolved over many years to protect the public and the environment. We have federal and provincial environmental ministries staffed by professional people who are the conscience of those of us who live in the area. The professional people who work in the ministries of environment don’t come out and say yes or no every time there is a proposed project without going through the process that considers the risks associated with a project and the benefits to Canadians and British Columbians.” – **Dennis Mackay**

“I believe that the Canadian government now has to step back and let the democratic process work. The Canadian government needs to develop a national energy plan that really truly addresses our energy needs and facilitates the development of diverse and innovative ways of meeting our energy needs. The government needs to stop creating such divisiveness that pits the government in hand with corporations against local citizens. People can become radicalized when pushed into a corner by a government that refuses to listen and corporations who use their incredible wealth and power to subjugate us.” – **Pauline Mahoney**



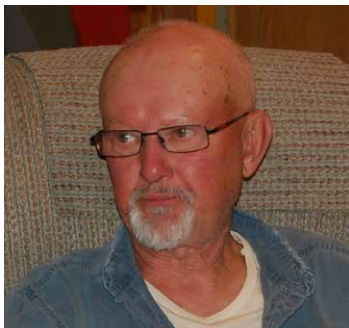
“My wife and I own and operate a business here in Smithers. We have found that basing our decisions with our business on our fundamental values of community and quality before immediate return in income, not only does our quality of life improve but more often than not we exceed our projections.” – **Nick Meyer**

“The geography of the proposed pipeline route is some of the harshest and most rugged terrain in North America. In addition, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources website, the coast of B.C. and inland sections of the northwest saw over 1,000 recorded earthquakes over the past year. These earthquakes range in magnitude of 2 to over 6.0 on the Richter scale. Seismic activity undermines slopes and increases landslide activity, all of which present clear potential to rupture the Northern Gateway pipeline.” – **Joanne Nugent**



“The pipeline would then cross Foxy and Klo and Buck Creeks, Owen Creek and Fenton Creek, all on its way to the Morice that used to be called Watsonquah. All the history in those names, all flowing into the Bulkley, the Skeena, the Pacific, right out to where those Harlequin ducks spend their winters on an intricate coastline that defies measurement.” – **Sheila Peters**

“Where is the respect vis-à-vis First Nations who have stated their adamant opposition to this pipeline and tanker project? Are we really willing to continue to compromise the future prospects of our descendants by liquidating non-renewable resources, polluting our waterways which have provided a sustainable living over the span of countless generations all for short term profit which goes mainly to shareholders in multinational corporations? I prefer to stand in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en and other First Nations who have clearly said no to this destructive pipeline and tanker proposal.” – **Lothar Schaefer**



“Or, as Chief Jackie Thomas from Saik’uz First Nation south of Vanderhoof said back in February of this year, her people have faced government racism for generations and, ‘Now the government is threatening us with oil spills that could doom us as a people.’”
– **Lynn Shervill**



“We can think of the quick cash and the dividends that corporations can get from selling our oil plus the juicy government royalties for a generation or two, but don’t we need to plan for our own future? Should we even consider mass exports of this extraordinarily valuable resource so essential to our own survival before we know if we have enough for our own present and future needs?” – **Alison Candela**

“If we could, we’d like to pose one question. If Enbridge was told that the pipeline would be closed forever if there was even one leak, what would they do differently with their planning? Right now, we as a family have no confidence that Enbridge would be able to provide an acceptable answer, and until they can, we ask you to please say no to the Enbridge pipeline proposal.”

– **Kate Brook**



“We should all be debating about the development of a national energy policy for the future of all Canadians. But no, that’s not the question that I’ve been invited here to address. That’s not even a thought in the everyday scramble to somehow better our standard of living. Here we are, sucking up, digging out and processing that precious finite resource just as fast as we can. We are greedy. That’s my personal global and historical view of this activity. To think that we’re the most successful species ever to inhabit the earth, we who possess so much collective intelligence, such complex society and such amazing systems, and all we can come up with is to build a big pipeline and ship it across the sea? It’s utter foolishness.” – **Tenley Dahlie**

“As a small business owner, landowner, and tax-paying citizen I am disgusted by the way the federal government is interfering with this process. There is clearly a significant majority of the population that opposes this project and yet the government, which represents the people, and is paid by the people, is pushing full steam ahead with a project that is not wanted. Who does the government represent, the tax-paying citizens of this country or the large corporations that buy them off? I thought we lived in a democratic society. Well, this, in my opinion, is a disgrace to democracy.” – **Dr. Michael Desharnais**

“As an educator I am mandated to cover certain learning outcomes. The British Columbia Ministry of Education provides learning outcomes that I must include in my lesson plans that relate to the environment. There’s three that I find really interesting in the context of this presentation. To quote from the British Columbia Ministry of Education Curriculum Guide: *Students must be able to demonstrate responsible behaviour in caring for their immediate environment.*

Students must be able to analyze how the Aboriginal concept of interconnectedness of the environment is reflected in responsibility for and caretaking of resources.

In the ecological view, students may come to know and understand more deeply that all human environments, societies, or cultures are all deeply dependent on natural systems, both for their development and ultimately, their survival.

These are three examples that I fleshed out of the package that the Ministry sends us teachers. And I find they are very contradictory to the Enbridge Pipeline Project paradigm.”

– **Helene Fleury**



“The Natural Resources Canada website states that in an earthquake ‘The plates can either slide past one another, they can collide or they can diverge. The west coast of Canada is one of the few areas in the world where all three of these types of plate movements take place, resulting in significant earthquake activity.’ ” – **Carlie Kearns**

“I oppose the pipeline and not only because of the risk of a tanker spill off the Canadian coast, my main issue -- my main issue is the rivers. It’s probably already been mentioned -- and I’m sure you’re aware -- and I have a document here, it states, from Enbridge’s own records, the Polaris Institute calculated over 804 spills occurred on their pipelines between 1999 and 2010.”
– **Joe Hug**

“I don’t feel like we have a fair balance going on. It’s very scary right now because this project, which is part of the global addiction to fossil fuels, is being run in a way that feels like I’m being bullied. And I feel like there’s a government out there that is out of control and acting more in a way of a drug lord than a leader of a country who has everything. We have everything.”
– **Jenny Lester**



“I’m not an expert but I do recall a sudden storm in November of 1978 when hurricane force winds blew and over 10 inches of rain fell in Terrace in two days. The resulting floods and mudslides devastated the entire northwest. Forty-four (44) washouts on Highway 16 between Terrace and Hazelton alone. Bridges gone, CN Rail tracks, including a train with two crew members from Smithers swept into the Skeena River. Over 6,000 acres of timber blown down in the Chapman Lake area alone, and the Pacific Northern Gas natural gas line ruptured in the Telkwa Pass, cutting off the primary heating source to Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert.” – **Lynnda McDougall**



“We talk about being one of the best countries for human rights, we’re building a human rights museum in Ottawa, but we’re willing to ship raw material to a country that has one of the worst human rights record in the entire world.” – **Dan Mesec**

“I’ve worked within the provincial parks system and understand the due diligence that is called for when working in sensitive areas, especially in and around streams. The disturbance created by burying a three-inch drain line is large. A three-foot diameter pipe cannot be buried in sensitive areas without creating permanent alteration and degradation to the surrounding natural systems.” – **Ted Nugent**



“Now, stepping back for a broad continental view, the Bulkley ranges and the Kitimat ranges -- that’s what’s between us and Douglas Channel -- have some nationally and globally significant ecological attributes, including unregulated -- I mean undammed -- lake-headed salmon rivers with clean water and high quality aquatic habitat. Intact freshwater aquatic habitats is one of the rarest class of ecosystems in the world. We also have a more or less intact large mammal predator/prey systems, both interior and coastal, globally significant, continentally important habitat and populations of grizzly bear or kermode bear, mountain goat, wolf and wolverine, and a big chunk of coastal temperate rainforest, also known as the Great Bear Rainforest. But the really world class system occurs along the coast, the marine environment, B.C.’s globally significant North and Central Coast, 88,000 kilometres squared and marine ecosystems, archipelago, fjord and continental shelf environment. And the incredibly complex fractal land/water interface, that too is under threat, ecosystems like kelp forests, sea grass meadows, fertile estuaries, 9,000 year old glass sponge reefs, sea mounts, species including whales, porpoises, rock fish, sea otters, sea birds, herring, eulachon, and octopus -- and I’m quoting here from a scientific report:

“The combination of complex oceanographic conditions and sea floor characteristics with channels, banks, deep troughs, eddies, upwellings, estuaries and depths from zero to 2,000 metres creates a wide range of ecological niches and in turn supports a diverse array of species.”

– **Jim Pojar**



“If we ignore that rich complex living environment and allow it to be put in jeopardy and destroyed and harmed we are fools, and worse, we are traitors. We betray not only all the creatures who form part of that rich complex living environment, we also betray future generations. We have a sacred duty to act as stewards of the environment and to pass this heritage unharmed to future generations. Even our national anthem tells of this duty, “O Canada, we stand on guard for thee”. We don’t stand on guard for rich quick profits and dangerous projects that threaten our country, our environment, our national wellbeing.”

– **Kathleen Ruff**

“We just need to look at forestry here in central and western B.C. to see what happens when we sell off our resources as fast as possible. Our forest industry has been gutted, facing a loss of 12,000 jobs and we’re now considering harvesting areas previously set aside for wildlife corridors and visual assessment. To what end? A few more bucks. This short-sightedness will only leave us resource poor with a lack of jobs and money already spent. The Northern Gateway project is a huge economic risk for our country. I believe Canadians are a well-educated population and understand the benefits of sustainable business practice.”

– **Tara Strauss**



“Furthermore, back in 1987 W.S. Hung published a paper that showed that this same latitude and longitude -- the same latitude and longitude of this proposed pipeline route, was the richest place in western North America for endemic species of liverworts, again these little small plants. In Hung’s words: “This area has long been a centre of evolution and diversification.”

– **Patrick Williston**



“There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that global warming is occurring. Whether it might be occurring for other regions we don’t know, but since 95 percent of climate scientists say it’s being caused by man’s burning of fossil fuels, I think this is rather an important consideration. So anything to do with this pipeline is to the detriment of the environment and why is that not the most important question?” – **Roger Benham**



“Another concern that I have is the social aspect of the building of the pipeline. There are many studies about the effects of the development of the gas and oil industry in Scotland and other areas of the world, showing the damage to stable societies. Clearly, the rapid rise in population, the wild but relatively brief increase in available jobs and wages, the influx of people who figure are helping the workers spend their money; all these will contribute to increased alcoholism, increased gambling, increased prostitution, increased and terrible drug addictions and drug- related crimes, increased sexually transmitted diseases, increased death rates, increased poverty, increased crime, increased violence in the home, increased and further breakdown of families and communities. How will Enbridge mitigate this predictable series of effects?” – **Jean Boyce**



“As I came into these hearings today I walked across the parking lot and what did I see – about 100 sandhill cranes which come each and every year here. And this is one of the few places that they stop in their flights between their wintering grounds and the Gulf of Mexico to their summer feeding and habitat areas which is, in fact, in the Porcupine River area. I feel privileged in living in a place that I can still see those things. My greatest fear is to see an industrial development of this size and magnitude come to an untouched area such as this.” – **Gil Cobb**



“You know, we try to put drug traffickers in jail. Drug traffickers are enablers. They help the drug addict get more and more. I see the pipeline being akin to the drug traffickers. The only difference is that we don’t put pipeline companies in jail, yet.”
– **Hans Duerichen**



“But I doubt that you’re familiar with the comments that Attorney General Rich Coleman delivered in the B.C. provincial legislature three days after the slide. This is what he said: *‘The landslide actually took place on Friday. It was about 1,000 feet across, about 350 metres. It took out a natural gas pipeline. This is an event that takes place in this particular area of British Columbia about once every two to three years. There’s a lot of unstable ground there and it does cause some difficulties. The gas line was taken out. Over the weekend, we were unable to actually get in there to repair the line because the unstable ground was still there and the weather was too severe for people to get in there. They are working on it now. They expect to try and get in there and finish this to get the gas line operating in the next three to five days.’* That’s from Hansard of the B.C. legislature, Monday December 1st, 2003.”

– **Paul Glover**



“But the thing that really bothers me about this process is the short shift -- I mean, you folks are great. You’re holding all the hearings; you’re listening and I appreciate you’re listening with good intentions and good faith. It’s the government that concerns me, because the remarks coming out of the government, both at the provincial level when we’re dealing with -- not the issue of the pipeline, but other resource-based issues, and in this case with the pipeline, where there’s very little serious concern directed towards the fact that we’re supposed to be in a genuine partnership with the people whose title has not been extinguished, whose title is alive and it’s a real thing, but there’s two other levels of government that have to sit down and make it real.” – **Bill Goodacre**

“I lived on Long Beach before it was a park and I know that some winters, especially winter, the oil from the tankers’ bilge water -- even bilge water would come ashore and leave gobs on the beach. You could not use the beaches without getting it all over your shoes. This was not even a spill; this was just bilge water.”

– **Mary-Etta Goodacre**



“This project could impact me in a financial way. I could possibly get a job working on it and my employees as well for a few months. That’s not going to happen. I’m not interested in that and neither are my employees I’ve been told. For all the reasons that have been, you know, put forth by all the people previous to me and all the people you’re about to hear, coming up here and describing in so many eloquent and passionate ways, this project is a bad idea. And I would not feel comfortable -- I don’t think I could -- I don’t think I’d have any respect in the community, and amongst my friends certainly if I did choose to work on it, unless it was working to help stop it.” – **Jay Hallman**



“If you add up those five employees or those five executive salaries, that adds up to \$18,760,436 per year in salaries and bonuses or you can employ 536 people for a year with the average salary of \$35,000 a year. So, you know, I mean where are our priorities here? If all that oil, and that’s where most of the money is going for this oil, these pipelines, is to keep those people in business. Those are only five. You know, like how many people does Enbridge employ? At what wages?” – **Anne Havard**



“If the Enbridge pipeline does go through, the impact on myself will be the same for all who live in this country. I think the impact will be that we no longer live in a democratic country.”
– **Meg Hobson**



“Solastalgia is another term in the scientific literature regarding our human connection to the natural world. Solastalgia occurs when the environment you call home changes unrecognizably for reasons beyond your control. Solastalgia is known to cause symptoms of extreme distress, depression, sense of alienation and loss of hope.” – **Taisa Jenne**



“You know the Peace River country now has 7,000 sour gas wells. There’s cows that bleed from their noses and eyes every day. They’ve been fracking wherever they can frack and there is even one oil company that somehow built an oil well on the Kiskatinaw River which is the water source for the whole City of Dawson Creek. It just gets crazier and crazier and crazier. So as we go down this path of gambling the environment with development the scale is tipping more and more to increased environmental destruction which will eventually be our destruction.”

– **Haley Jonstyn**

“The Skeena River system is the second-largest salmon-producing watershed in British Columbia. Just the salmon fishing industry, commercial and recreational, creates over \$100 million a year. These salmon don’t just affect the humans; they play a role in the whole lifecycle of much of the wildlife for hundreds of miles.”

– **Peter Krause**

“After over 65 years of commercial and mostly sports fishing, consuming and preserving the catch and passing this passion on to my children and grandchildren, the legacy of connection to resource is now in jeopardy. In fact, the proposed pipeline and tanker traffic is the biggest threat to the ecosystems of the Skeena watershed, the north coast tidal areas and our way of life in the area we have ever seen and it should not go ahead.”

– **Ev Person**



“I have walked parts of Buck Creek with a GPS and after comparing my tracks with a topographical map of the area I found that the creek has changed its course by as much as 400 metres. What is a docile creek in summertime becomes a raging torrent during the spring freshet, causing erosion and a threat to anything in its path, including an oil pipeline. And there are hundreds more creeks and rivers this pipeline would cross in some of the most challenging terrain possible, practically inaccessible in winter to deal with a spill.”

– **Egon Rapp**

“You see, the Chinese are building 3,000 vehicles a day to accommodate their people over there. Now, if that’s not putting CO2 into the atmosphere, I don’t know what it is. And why is it in Eastern Canada we are importing oil? I mean, does the left hand not know what the right hand’s doing? Why don’t we ship it to the east instead of importing oil?”

– **Gordon Stewart**



If -- that's what always gets said -- well, if it happens. I was on the last successful sailing of the Queen of the North from Port Hardy up to Prince Rupert. It had a lasting effect on me because its very next trip returning down to Port Hardy, it sunk. I am irrevocably changed by that because I was on that piece of metal that I thought was so solid and so dependable that I put my life on and travelled up through that channel. And I remember being out on the deck and looking out at all the rocks and thinking, "Well, the crews got this under control and this is a massive boat and they've all the technology in the world, relax," and my wise husband said, 'Well, let's just look where the safety things are' because that's just who he is." – **Frances Taylor**



"I don't want this pipeline, but even more than that, I don't want us using or supporting others to use methods of dirty oil to create energy. There's too much greed and wanting a quick fix when there is so many alternatives to explore and so many creative people, many right here in this valley, who could and would help find sources of energy that would not destroy the environment. This environment is a part of who I am." – **Linda Stringfellow**

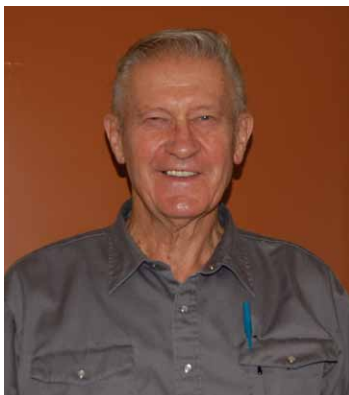


"Sadly, so many people feel these days that this pipeline threatens that sense of security, that sense of certainty, because if it is built this pipeline will be a veritable time bomb -- And that might be hyperbolic, but I think you get the idea -- lying just below the surface. The surface of the ground, most literally, but also very much below the surface of our awareness. There will always be a question in our minds, will this be the day that we turn on the radio and hear that there's been a pipeline rupture and that oil is gushing into the Morice River or the Copper River or the Kitimat River. And people in Kitimat Village and Hartley Bay will wonder, is this the day that a tanker runs off course and hits the rocks. For people in Cordova, Alaska, Battle Creek, Michigan and many other communities this is no longer a question because, for them, that devastating day has already come. People deserve the security of knowing their way of life and their aspirations for the future are safe." – **Taylor Bachrach**



“The first property then I’m concerned with is that bitumen is heavy. Most citizens are concerned about freshwater and saltwater environments. So my question, what happens when dilbit hits the water? Well, research says that bitumen has a specific gravity greater than one, which means it will sink. The fact that it sinks makes it -- makes all conventional oil spill response techniques ineffective and possibly obsolete. Enbridge is having to invent ways to get the bitumen off the bottom of Kalamazoo River. Maybe we are hoping that out of sight and out of mind might work. Unfortunately, ecosystems don’t work that way. The second property is that bitumen is corrosive. Compared to conventional crude oil we know that diluted bitumen is more acidic, more sulphuric and more abrasive than conventional oil. Combined with a need, because it is more viscous, to pump it at higher temperature and pressure, it creates the conditions for being more corrosive on pipelines and possibly even the epoxy coatings on double-hulled tankers.” – **Greg Brown**

“Well, with respect to the proposed pipeline I’ll continue the many conversations that I have with my fishing partners and friends along the shore of our great rivers and waterways, those who speak out tirelessly against the killing of our fish through imminent spills of Enbridge bitumen. I will stand in opposition with First Nations people upon whose territories Enbridge proposes to trespass. I will support the educational efforts of environmental groups whose warnings Enbridge has ignored. I will remind you, as Panel Members, of the hard work of geologists and scientists who have studied and rejected this flawed plan. I’ll continue my friendship with the Friends of the Morice Bulkley and Friends of Wild Salmon.” – **Rich De Roy**



“I have a letter here that was sent through the email here, and it was forwarded to the certain group here by Mike Hager of the Vancouver Sun and it’s from the six B.C. and Yukon Anglican Bishops demand fairness in Northern Gateway Pipeline hearings. I’m not a member of the Anglican Church, although I do go to a church but I thought this reflected my concern.”

“As bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada and British Columbia and Yukon we write to express our hope that the National Energy Board, (NEB) hearings into the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline will demonstrate integrity, fairness and freedom from political pressure. Recent public statements by various officials of the federal government, including the announcement last week of the streamlining of environmental assessment reviews have raised concerns that NEB hearings may become subject to improper time constrictions and industry influence.”

– **Alvin Domes**



“That’s what this work is going to be that’s involved with the pipeline. People are going to transfer into this area, all the way along that corridor. They’re not going to be from those communities. They’re actually going to be living in hotels or living in camps. So they’re going to be away from their home community and not contributing to their community. They’re not investing in their relationships. The majority of the employment is going to be in that scenario, and if we look at where this bitumen is coming from, if you go to Fort McMurray, the majority of those workers are going to be living a camp life. They’re getting flown in or they’re driving in, and they’re spending a week to two weeks, and then they go back home. But they’re away and they’re not investing in their family, they’re not investing in their community, and into their health. And if you start to research a little bit more, you’re starting to see a breakdown of our society because of that.” – **Don Chinnick**



“I am concerned that during the winter when the creek is frozen and is covered with deep snow for six months an oil spill will be difficult to detect. Then it will happen when the snow starts to melt in the springtime causing contamination to our drinking water underneath of this layer of ice. I know the pump can be shut down but the creek cannot be cleaned, not in the winter, the spring, the summer or the fall; it is impossible. The banks in some places of this creek is about 25 metres deep and it’s surrounded by clay, by swamp. I can’t imagine how they’re going to go with machines to try to clean or how they will blast all the ice. It’s impossible.” – **Sofia Eberman**



“I’d just like to end with a definition and a quote to -- for you to consider. The term “imperialism” as defined by the Dictionary of Human Geography is:

‘The creation and/or maintenance of an unequal economic, cultural and territorial relationship, usually between states, and often in the form of an empire based on domination and subordination.’

For me, this project, if it were to be approved despite the overwhelming opposition from the people of northwestern B.C., would be a prime example of imperialism, but at a national scale. As the American writer, Irving Babbitt, wrote in the early 20th Century, *“Democracy is now going forth on a crusade against imperialism.”* – **Simon Franklin**



“I want everyone in here to look at this map and look at that yellow line going across. Now, imagine if you were a doctor and you just had an x-ray taken of a patient and look at that -- think of that as an artery and think of that filling up with this black toxic sludge emanating from Fort McMurray, creeping across this pristine land, the lakes, the rivers, the valleys. I would love to animate that, but you can in your own heads animate that and just see that sludge crawling across. And what do you think is going to become of this land, this valley?

I mean, it's a no-brainer that it should be discontinued, not even thought of, not even considered.” – **Don Gillis**



“Yes, I'm a newcomer to Canada. Something like seven years ago or maybe eight. I've lost count now. I come from Argentina. It's -- I was born in 1975, and in 1976 my country went into a process of dictatorship; a military dictatorship that cut all our freedoms and right to speak, to be in opposition. My parents was part of the opposition and so we was lucky enough to escape. We lived five years in exile. The military government, that moment, it was responding different interests than it was in the common well of the people in Argentina. And they call the opposition, my parents part of that, enemies of the state. And three months ago or something like that it was, it became announced that the PM Office called part of my family an enemy of the state, called my wife an enemy of the state.

In that moment I couldn't believe it. What is -- I mean, this is Canada, it's not Argentina. We have rights here. We could be in opposition, we could think there is a different way to do things. We can, I guess, I hope we keep doing that.”

– **Facundo Gastiazoro**



“And then there's the point of the pipeline crossing seven hundred or so water sources. Wait. Step back and check in. Is clean water not the most precious resource on earth? Should we really be considering the possibility or probability of spoiling this with a spill? Common sense tells me that my grandchildren can get by without a lot of things that we consider necessities, but clean water is not one of them. Let us step back and check in seriously with the idea of tanker ships on the rough B.C. northern coast. Honestly, how on earth anyone who's traveled the coast can think that this is possibly worth the chance -- a chance of this magnitude -- it's a ridiculous game of Russian roulette, and as a modern grandmother I counsel my children against such risky and short-sighted business.” – **Gail Jenne**



“Now, I admit that I was reluctant to speak up, to sign up to speak because I thought the process was a sham. Then, like many others, I decided to sign up precisely because I realized that it is indeed a sham and should be shown for what it is. This has been proven now that the federal government has changed the law and given Cabinet the authority to override any recommendations that the Joint Review Panel may make. Now, I’m glad that I did decide to participate because it has made me attend and listen online to more of the Panel discussions than I would have otherwise. And it has been really inspirational and uplifting to see the groundswell of support for our environment and our communities. It has been like watching amazing community theatre; there has been singing, dancing, marches, impassioned speeches, joy, tears, there’s been everything. So it was pretty much inevitable that Harper would gut the process because he never has been supportive of the arts.” – **Dave Livesey**



“I haven’t heard a word of that from Enbridge, which means I’m actually very strongly opposed to this pipeline because it doesn’t respect us. It doesn’t respect the people who are affected by this. It encourages a system that goes very much into a third-person entity. The third person is approaching everything and everybody as a he, a she, or an it. And we have all become an it, just like money is an it, just like oil is an it, just like a salmon becomes an it and a river becomes an it and a spill becomes an it. And we can literally wipe it under the carpet. On the other hand, you can talk about the human existence from a first-person perspective, the “I”. And those are the stories you’ve heard from hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people. There’s more than 4,000 signed up. I feel privileged I’m able to speak here. You’ve got hundreds more to go.” – **Servaas Mes**



“I’d like to read a definition. ‘Acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in parts, a national, ethnic, racial, religious group by inflicting on the groups conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in parts.’ This is how genocide is defined; an act condemned by our civilized world. After all the voices that have spoken, after all the stories and testimonials of connection, to approve this project on the side of the Panel or on the side of our government is nothing short of to commit (genocide).” – **Titia Donker**



"I know places where, as I speak, the earth is creeping down a mountain side, where Hydro is having trouble maintaining its hydro transmission line tower in an upright position, where natural gas lines have been eroded away by river floods and left floating down the river, where roads and bridges have washed away because the best hydrologists and earth scientists couldn't predict the landslides, river flooding or the unstable soils. I've seen where the best designated and most expensive structures were not enough to resist these natural events. I've seen where the most benign landscapes erupt into chaos when structures are built on them by professional engineers, engineers who profess to have designed and installed the right structure for the landscape. Yet here we are led to believe that Enbridge scientists and engineers can overcome all of these obstacles and provide a safe pipeline from rupture." – **Bob Mitchell**



"Now, the last time there was a major shift in climate, fortunately, there were thousands of years for species to migrate and to adapt to those climate changes. However, the rapidity of the shift in CO2 that we are undertaking in our experiment by burning fossil fuels and coal has shifted it so rapidly we no longer have that mechanism at work and we don't know what the outcome would be. I suspect it won't be positive. These now are becoming issues of life and death for each individual on the planet, and the people of the planet will begin to treat it as such, notwithstanding what their leaders say, notwithstanding what the politicians say, notwithstanding what those with power and influence say." – **Michael Murphey**



"This is a vibrant community trying to find ways to adapt to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. One hundred (100) mile diets, credit unions, First Nations culture, farmers markets, we need encouragement from government and institutions to make these efforts become a reality and allow a healthy lifestyle for all, Smitherines, B.C'ers, Canadians, and inhabitants of communities wherever they are found." – **Sarah Puentes**



“First, we see the national public interest defined as some kind of magic balance between three categories of interest: economic, environmental, and social. This is the three-legged stool of sustainability. It implies that if we pay equal attention to all three of these areas, then all will be well. It is an improvement over economic development without any consideration of the environment. However, it is fundamentally flawed. We don’t give these models much thought because most of us involved in this process have access to what we need, but right now people’s lands are being flooded as a result of climate change. We know that in the South Pacific literally islands are disappearing. People, animals and fish have increased cancer rates from toxic tar sands developments. These people know firsthand that the correct model is that the social, cultural, and economic systems sit inside the container of the ecosystem, utterly dependent upon it. Or did humans suddenly stop needing to eat, drink, and breathe? Using a flawed model in this case is like insisting that the earth is flat when it is round.” – **Dr. Cristina Soto**



“We struggle as a family to get our farm business going, but direct subsidies to the fossil fuel industry world-wide amount to half a trillion dollars annually. That’s more than 1.4 billion dollars per day. The oil and gas industry is one of the more capital intensive in the world, employing less than 1 percent of Canadian workers. If we want a job strategy there is a great alternative available and a shift to a green economy. Invest in, say, growing food, and you don’t have to close 37 environmental review offices or change the Fisheries Act to make my project go forward.” – **Lori Knorr**



“The sport and supply stores, the guides, the outfitters, they won’t be making a living if there are no fish. Tourists and avid fishermen from around the world won’t be coming to fish here, so there goes a huge chunk of our local economy. Over 480 million annually just for anglers in B.C., in fact. And since I don’t live on the coast, I won’t even begin to imagine how they would be affected by a tanker disaster.” – **Dorolene Pflugbeil**



“I’d also like to refer to what we call the social licence, and I’ll lead off with that. Projects deemed to have high-risk that will potentially result in degradation of the environment demand full consultation and participation by residents of the northwest. The simple reason why Kemano 2 completion, salmon farms along the north coast and coal bed methane extraction in salmon watersheds here in the Telkwa and Bulkley Valley, and in the sacred headwaters, which is the headwaters of the Stikine, the Nass and the Skeena, have not materialized is due to the lack of social licence; basically, not having the consent and support by the majority of the residents here in the Skeena region, inclusive of our First Nations brothers and sisters. To date, Enbridge has failed to acquire the social licence it requires to see its proposal through to fruition. History will repeat itself.” – **Len Vanderstar**

“Also, given that global warming is a fact, as a larger part of this project, the exploitation of oil sands and fossil fuels, it’s just the wrong direction for this country to take when we’re in a position -- we have the brains and the talent to become leaders in clean and green energy technology rather than going after these dinosaur projects.” – **Christopher Duncan**



“So first, the risks. I believe our Canadian environment at the source, at the coastline, and along the route, is at great risk with this project. I grew up near Lake Erie in the 1970s and I know the ecological effects of chemical and industrial spills on a public water body. This Great Lake was known as ecologically dead and it was immortalized in the original version of Dr. Seuss’ famous book The Lorax. I believe this encapsulates our environmental concern in a brilliant way, imagining an Enbridge spill here.” – **Mark Edwards**



“As a businessman I look at this project and shake my head. Industry and government want us to accept the massive risk of this massive project, but not receive any substantial benefits. If this project is stopped, and I believe it will be, the resources will not disappear. We do not lose the wealth, we simply retain it until a time when we can come up with a plan that will see the wealth and benefits come to us in a safe and sustainable form.”

– **Peter Schopfer**



“So much of this is about trust. Enbridge wants us to trust them. And when I’m asked to trust something or someone that I don’t know, I look around for evidence that they are trustworthy. And when I look around, all I see is evidence that I cannot trust Enbridge. I see the spills in Michigan in 2010 and up in the Northwest Territories in 2011. I see Enbridge’s record of 610 spills between 1999 and 2008 and I can’t believe that they expect us to take another chance. So whom and what do I trust? I trust the mountains; I trust the rivers, the salmon that swim through them year after year, decade after decade, century after century. I trust the seasons and I trust the landscape which has shown us its faults and its foibles and will surely humble us again if this project goes ahead.” – **Kim Struthers**
