Environmental and Consultation
Issues Related to the Enbridge
Northern Gateway Pipeline
*Nak’azdli and Nadleh Whut’en*
First Nations

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Who Are the Nak’azdli and Nadleh Whut’en?

- Yinka Dene language speakers.
- Traditional governance through **bahlats** (potlatch), **keyoh** (territory).

- Independent and aligned through Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (8 member Nations).
- No signed treaties with Crown.
Regulatory Challenges: Joint Review Panel

- No clear policy on Aboriginal title and rights in environmental assessment processes.
- No EA processes jointly designed by First Nations and government.
- Numerous legal challenges on EA outcomes and decisions.
- First Nations not stakeholders; not recognized as decision-makers by government and industry. Undefined role means delay, conflict, litigation and uncertainty.
Environmental Impacts

- Two pipelines carrying toxic substances to cross hundreds of fish-bearing streams and rivers.
- Stuart River (Fraser) salmon critically endangered.
- Nechako White Sturgeon endangered.
- Construction increases chance of wildfire, disrupt wildlife, loss of gathering, hunting and fishing grounds.
Cumulative Impacts on Territories

- Construction of Kenny Dam on Nechako River.
- Pollution and tailings waste from mines: Endako, Pinchi, Kemess South, Huckleberry.
- Mountain pine beetle epidemic will transform land.
- PNG and other pipelines proposed.
First Nations Review Process: A Way Forward

**Principles**

1. Decision Making Authority of First Nations
2. Protection of Aboriginal Rights a Priority
3. Free, Prior and Informed Consent
4. Transparency & Accountability
5. First Nations-designed Process
6. Parallel to Federal and/or Provincial Process

Consent, Not Just Consultation

- First Nations land in BC has never been surrendered to the Crown.
- Development has been slowed and stopped because of government failure to respect Aboriginal title.
- Shared decision-making enshrined in New Relationship (BC government).
- United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights principle of free, prior, informed consent.