

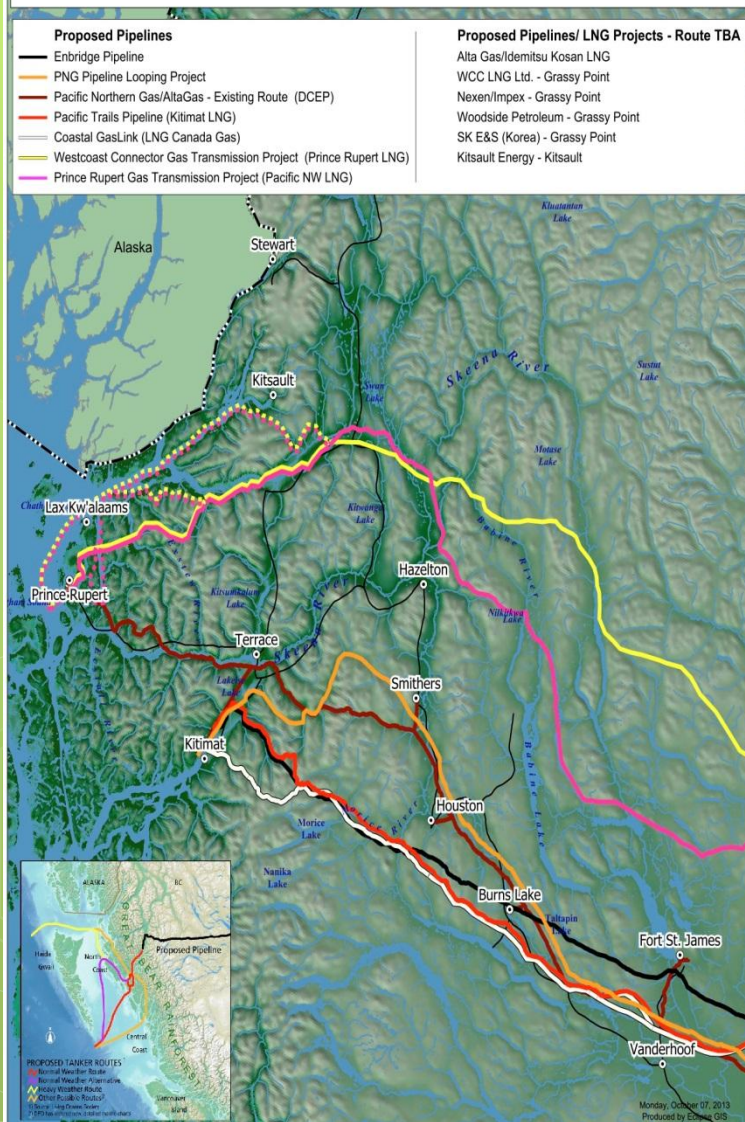


# Socio- Economic Impacts Overview

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)  
or 'fracked gas'  
A Cumulative Overview

---

## Northwest BC Proposed Pipelines



# Current Proposed Projects through Wet'suwet'en Territory

- PTP (Pacific Trails)-Approved
- Coastal Gas Link (TransCanada)-Approved
- PNG-Approved
- Enbridge Northern Gateway-Approved

# What we know:

- According to our own research study in 2007, an LNG pipeline from Summit Lake to Kitimat (PTP) was considered too much of an environmental risk to accept.
- The province and National Energy Board are not concerned about protecting our territories, but have openly stated that LNG will push forward and become the economic backbone of this province.
- Our communities are living in poverty and are being offered *what seems like* a considerable amount of money.

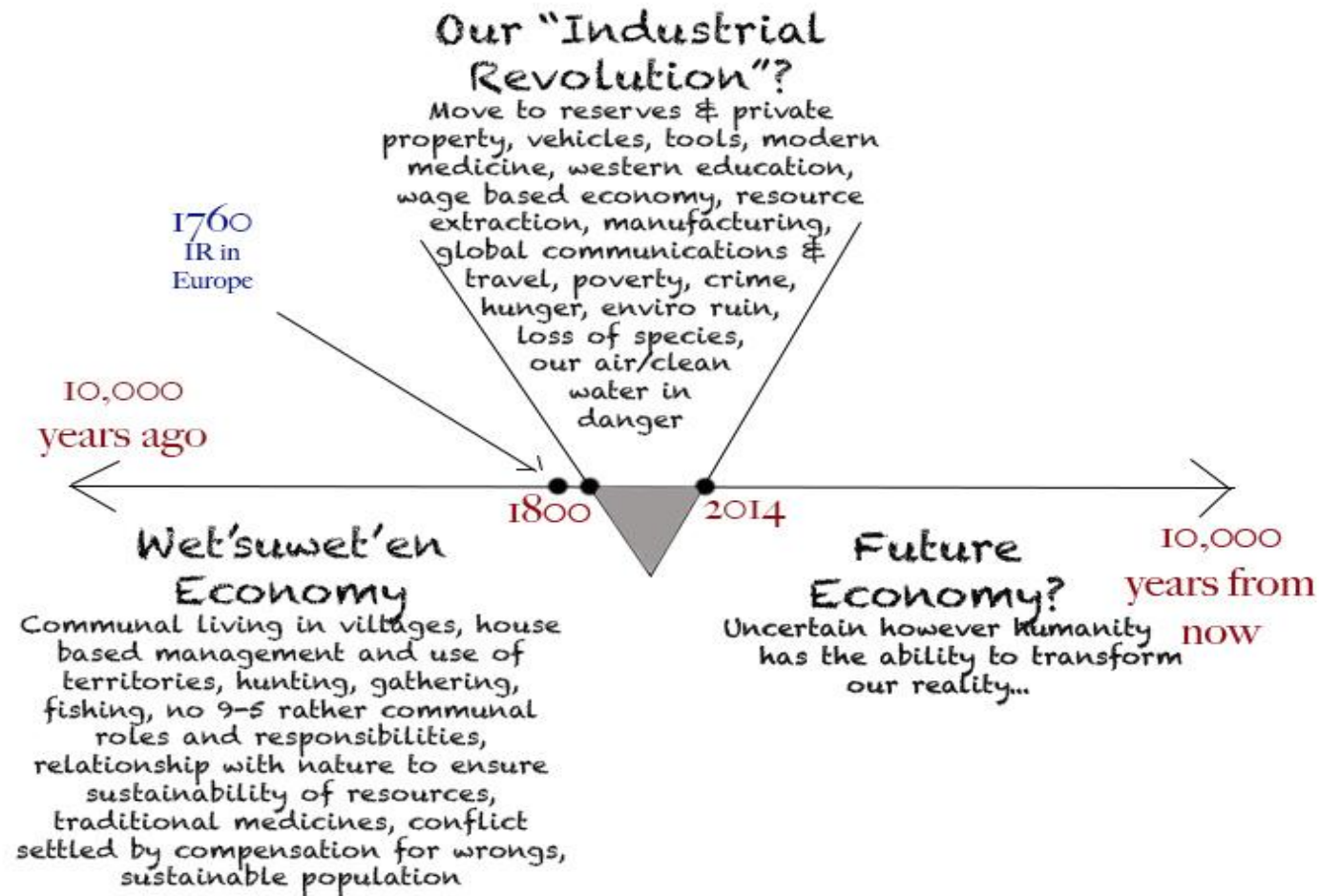
# What we don't know...

- What will be the impact to our yintah with 1, 2, 3, 4....10 extra pipelines?
- What are the impacts of climate change?
- What are the impacts of increased population in our yintah?
- What are the impacts of increased industrial activity/camps/workers in our yintah?

# What we don't know...

- How does the increase in oil and gas activity impact our:
  - Ability to govern ourselves
  - Abide by our own laws and values
  - Maintain our cultural connections to our yintah, language, and history
  - Ability to move forward in land claims?
- And of course....what are the impacts of an industrial disaster?

# Seven Generations





# Economics: Risks and Benefits



# **JOBS Overview: no consensus**

- **Christy Clark is promising 100, 000 total jobs in LNG: 58,700 during peak construction (direct and indirect jobs) and 23, 800 permanent jobs (direct and indirect).**
- 16,000 jobs throughout BC at the height of construction for LNG facilities and pipelines.
- 2,400 proposed permanent jobs throughout all of BC for pipeline maintenance and LNG facility operation for 5 facilities and pipelines .
- Christy Clark is promising 100, 000 total jobs in LNG: 58,700 during peak construction (direct and indirect jobs) and 23, 800 permanent jobs (direct and indirect).
- *Coastal Gas Link*: 2,000 to 2,500 jobs during construction and 15-20 permanent field positions along entire route.
- *PTP*: 1,500 during peak construction—no statement on permanent positions.



# Do our people have the skills specific to the jobs available?

- Research has shown that the specialized work is often done by specialized workers brought in from as far away as overseas.
- Many of the positions available will be short term and seasonal.
- After the construction phase our communities could be reliant upon this employment and find ourselves in a situation similar to the logging industry (which was a much longer run).
- The province has signed an MOU with China to allow foreign workers to fill the labour shortage from the 16 proposed LNG projects.

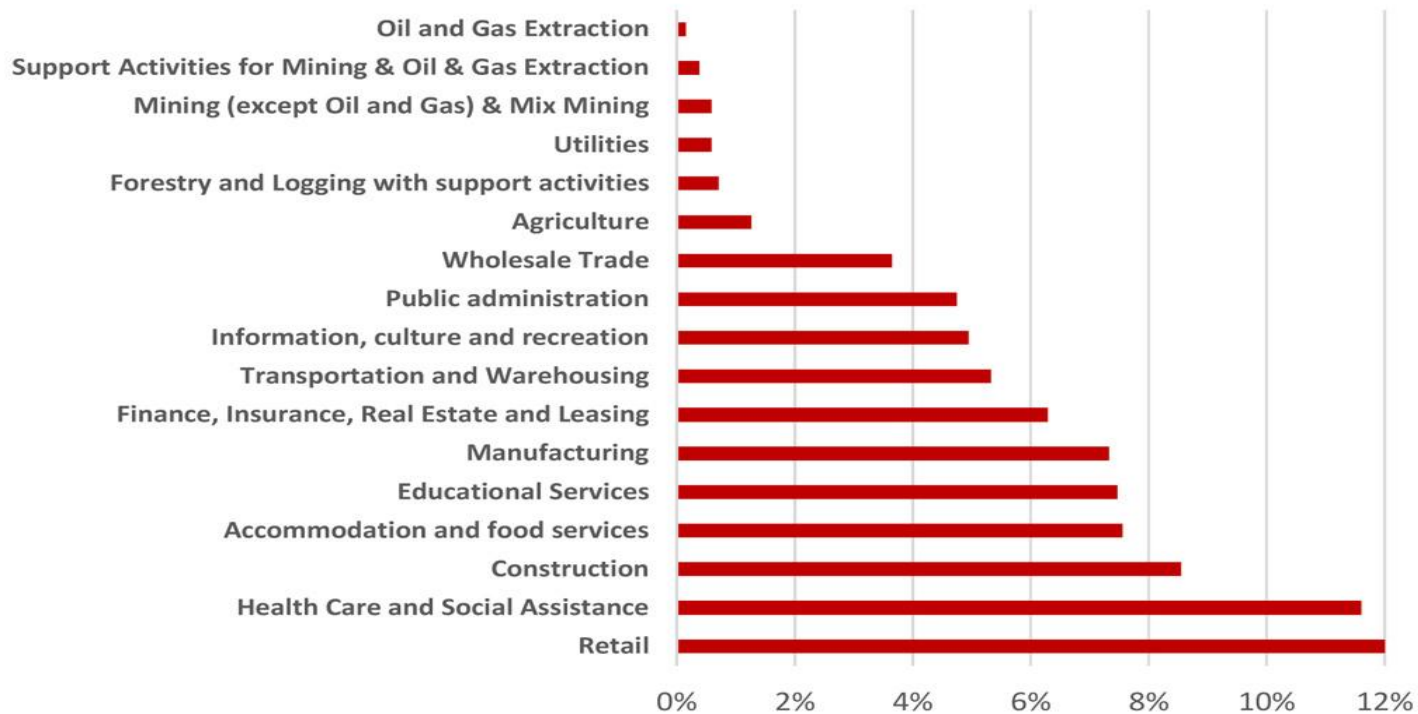
# Other Affected Employment

- Fisheries
  - Recreation
  - Agriculture
  - Tourism
  - Logging
  - Retail (our youth)
  - Hunting and Trapping
  - Traditional Economy (potlatch system)
- 
- LNG could also risk negatively affecting other sectors, such as tourism.
  - (EG) When Mount Milligan was in the height of its construction, there were no vacancies in hotels/motels for a full year in Fort St. James. This could seriously hurt tourism in Smithers, as well as impact the ability to travel to nearby communities like Terrace for shopping.

Eight percent of youth in BC are employed in the services sector (retail, restaurants and hotels, transportation).

# Actual Employment in BC

**Jobs in BC by Sector, per BC Stats**



# Employment Experience from other First Nations:

- Local First Nations had access to employment during the construction phase only. Specialized workers were brought in for specialized jobs.
- For those that did get jobs, most of the skills only benefited them for seasonal and sporadic employment.
- The Dene who got jobs from Normal Wells, experienced racism, discrimination, and tokenism during their employment.

Are these the jobs we want for our families?

***“Based on past experiences, First Nations benefit very little from jobs and economic spin offs. Namely, seeing Indigenous workers land jobs located at the bottom of the skill ladder, short term employment, non-transferable skills and a mismatch of skills and skill requirements.” (CSTC 2006)***



Title: Indian Fish Traps, Hagiwilet.

# Cumulated Risk

Other Industry Projects within the territory:

- Huckleberry Mine
- Existing PNG Gas line (with conventional gas—not fracked gas)
- Alcan Dam project
- Logging-massive clear-cutting
- Pulp Mills
- Mining exploration
- Industry infrastructure affecting fish and wildlife habitat
- Railways: transporting dangerous goods/killing moose
- Commercial hunting (guide outfitters)

What else is impacting our territories?



# Actual Community Income

EG: FNLP

Is this shared equally between bands of different sizes?

What accountability measures are in place?

How much will be spent defending LNG in court when hereditary leaders launch court cases?

-Members of the FNLP are required to pay for court actions against the pipelines.

Many people currently receiving pipelines money have increased their drug and alcohol use similar to residential school money.

# Boom and Bust Economies

“Thomas Berger’s Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, perhaps the most studied assessment of pipeline impacts in Canada on Aboriginal and northern people, noted that local economies collapse with the completion of the pipeline construction phase” (CSTC 2006:77).

# What is 'boom and bust'?

The Boom is characterized by:

- A sudden rise in employment
- An infusion of cash
- Investment in infrastructure
- In-migration

The Bust is characterized by:

- Unemployment
- Loss of income
- Decline in population
- Strain on local infrastructure (Pembina Institute 2008)

*\*This is not a new experience for First Nations in BC or Canada. The risks and benefits of this type of economy have been well researched and documented.*

# In-migration and economy

- An increase in labour drives up the cost for local businesses to hire skilled workers.
- Local inflation drives up the costs of goods and services which decrease residents 'real income" (CSTC 2006:77).
- Inflation also increases demands on public housing which negatively affect Wet'suwet'en who are already struggling with housing.
- Rise in workers also puts extra strain on community infrastructure like RCMP, Ambulance, health care, social services, recreation, water, sewer and sanitation.

# Hidden Economic Risk

- Many communities who are economically unstable, become more unstable as a result of a boom and bust economy.
- Some communities become dependent on the oil and gas industry. This makes the effects of the 'bust' exponential.
- Where booming industry becomes central, the after affects often leave communities without a clean up plan or economic contingency plan (for example, mining in northern BC).

# Social Risks and Benefits





# Community Cohesion (Unity)

- LNG and governments are playing community members against each other and against their neighboring nations.
- This creates conflict between community members and creates a loss of sense of control, and has led to an increase in alcohol and drug use in First Nations communities.
- The decisions we make affect everyone down the line, and their future 7 generations. This is particularly harmful to the nations in north eastern BC where fracking is currently taking place.

# Social Risks Affect Our Most Vulnerable: Women and Children



Courtesy of BC Archives collections - Call Number: B-01749  
Web: [www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca) Email: [access@www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](mailto:access@www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca)  
(C) - Provided for Research Purposes Only - Other Use Requires Permission



Title: An Indian girl; Telkwa.

Accessed From Host on Thu Aug 15 15:58:52 2013

# Housing

Wet'suwet'en are currently challenged with housing for their members, both on reserve and off reserve. Most Wet'suwet'en live off reserve in Smithers, Houston, Burns Lake, Prince George and Vancouver. There is also currently a housing crisis in Smithers.

- Places like Terrace, Kitimat, and Prince Rupert (where construction has already begun) are seeing rental costs doubled or tripled.
- Home owners and owners of rental apartments are evicting local tenants for “renovations” and are then doubling or tripling the rents.
- A large increase in in-migrations means that workers will be able to afford the limited housing that is available once it becomes unaffordable for locals.

## Housing Continued...

- One company pays their out of town workers a \$130/day living allowance. Many workers can afford to rent a house or unit while they are working in the area.
- This inflation leaves communities and the province to figure out a solution to the housing issues.
- In response, Housing Minister Coleman (Also Gas Minister) says, *"We wouldn't build social housing to fill the gap—we would actually let the market do that."*
- As a result, these projects could displace hundreds of community members on low or fixed incomes.

# Violence and Domestic Abuse

- Currently, rates of domestic abuse are higher in the north than anywhere else in the province.
- In addition, our women are vulnerable to the 'highway of tears' and racism within our communities leading to homelessness and violence.
- There is unreliable transportation between our communities, further putting women at risk.
- LNG would see an increase in worker camps, which would house from 600-3000 workers (mostly men).
- These workers would be accessing nearby communities on their days off (one company provides only one day off every 7 days).
- Women would be at greater risk of violence from outsiders coming into the community and an increase in highway traffic.
- Northern Health notes that there will be an enormous service gap.

## Violence and Domestic Abuse Continued...

- Most of the camps do not allow drugs and alcohol, which means workers would be using drugs or alcohol while they are in our communities on their days off.
- Currently there are camps proposed for outside of Houston on Buck Flats Road and in the Suskwa Valley.
- Oil and Gas communities see an increase in the use of drugs and alcohol by members, which increase the risk of domestic abuse—particularly once money increases (increased drugs and alcohol) and after loss of employment (bust).
- Increased gang activity would put our women and youth at risk of gang violence.
- Increase in weapons use.



# Risks to Youth

- Other First Nations experienced an increase in high-school drop out rates and school enrollment.
- Other communities experienced an increase in suicide!

~ Hobbema First Nation saw an increase in suicide of young men at the peak of their economic boom. The suicide rate soared to 80 times the national average. This was in a community where the average household income was \$3000/month and each member received \$3000 upon their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

- Oil and Gas boom communities immediately see an increase in gang activity. Currently, a gang that call themselves the Independent Soldiers are moving into the area (personal communication- Gang Prevention Task Force).

# Culture and Tradition

## Pristine Yinta



Courtesy of BC Archives collections - Call Number: I-52665  
Web: [www.bccarchives.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bccarchives.gov.bc.ca) Email: [access@www.bccarchives.gov.bc.ca](mailto:access@www.bccarchives.gov.bc.ca)  
(C) - Provided for Research Purposes Only - Other Use Requires Permission



Title: "Another view of the Bulkley River near Smithers".

Recessed From Host on Thu Aug 15 17:26:08 2013

## Holding onto traditional ways



# “oil and gas exploration inherently undermine traditional values and ways of living with the land” (CSTC)

- Our responsibility to protect the lands are undermined by putting a dollar value on the life within the yinta.
- Increased exposure to outside influences = loss of culture and social cohesion.
- Trapping areas will become fenced off.
- Traditional trails become roads.
- Increased road development leads to more development.
- Lines cross traplines and migratory routes affecting Wet'suwet'en ways of providing for ourselves.



LNG money  
will work  
against  
cultural  
transmission...

Pipelines will destroy  
the knowledge held  
in the land.

Is it worth the risks?