



HAIDA NATION

June 27, 2015

An open letter to those who are reliant on salmon,

The Haida nation stands firm with the good people that oppose the transport of oil from Alberta across the north and through the waterways that provide livelihoods and sustenance to our families.

This generation has the responsibility to avoid the risk of contamination of this life source by disallowing the movement of oil, raw or refined. Those who would profit are prepared to risk all that is precious to us, while we who live here, are expected to bear the consequences.

We are now seeing Enbridge and other pipeline interests attempting to buy off individuals in our nations and communities along the proposed pipeline route, in an attempt to engineer the perception of gaining a social license. Many of our people have received offers and a few have taken the money or “jobs” to work among our people to further the corporate agenda.

This strategy is meant to be divisive to our nations, clans, communities and families. These tactics are not only a common corporate practice but are also a sorry part of the colonial legacy.

Over the past weeks talk of Chiefs ‘on the take’ has distressed our nation, the thought of it a great discredit to our ancient institution, which is based on respect. However, regardless of the number on the take or even aboriginal ownership of a project, which would also transport oil, it will not lessen the risks or be reason for our involvement in such ideas.

The Haida nation will continue to work with the Islands’ community to protect Haida Gwaii and with other municipalities and First Nations who wish to protect their territory and the source of their culture.

kil tlaats ‘gaa *Peter Lantin*, President of the Haida Nation

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