

Village of Queen Charlotte

Report To Council

Date: January 16, 2012

File: Enbridge

Author: Kris Olsen

Subject: Council and Community Enbridge Update

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council receives the report Council and Community Enbridge Update dated January 16, 2012.
2. That Council re-endorses the 2010 UBCM resolutions titled B139 Bulk Crude Oil Tanker Traffic and B140 Tar Sands Oil.
3. That Council send copies to the CHN, Old Massett Village Council, Skidegate Band Council, The Village of Masset, The Village of Port Clements, Islands Regional Area Directors requesting that they endorse the past resolutions to show a united Island response against the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Project and threat of supertankers traveling through the North Coast of British Columbia and around Haida Gwaii
4. That Council write the process advisory team requesting that the February 28, 2012 Joint Review Panel Community Hearing be rescheduled to the community of Old Masset and that the February 29, 2012 Joint Review Panel Community Hearing be rescheduled to the community of Skidegate.
5. That council includes in that letter permission to present oral evidence at the rescheduled February 29, 2012 Joint Review Panel Community Hearing in Skidegate.
6. That Council supports the Islands working group suggested at recent meetings in Port Clements on January 13, and 16, 2012 to develop a strategy to present oral evidence at the upcoming JRP community hearings.

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report is to update the Community and Council regarding the Enbridge file. Members of Council have recently participated in an Islands leadership meeting on January 13, 2012 in Port Clements and Islands Protocol meeting on January 16, 2012 in Port Clements where the issue of Enbridge was in the Agenda. The discussion of meeting location was addressed and reaffirming an island position was put forward to consider the recent municipal elections.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The Village of Queen Charlotte has taken a strong position against Enbridge shipping Tar Sands Oil from Alberta across British Columbia by pipeline where it will be exported from Canada by bulk crude oil tankers. Council has previously through resolution supported this position at a local, island, and provincial level where a position against Enbridge and its proposed Northern Gateway Project was endorsed every time because the associated trade-offs and risks are unacceptable.

Council has stated in August 2010 that communities on Haida Gwaii are working to develop sustainable economies that are based on healthy marine and terrestrial ecosystems, which consider environmental services (biodiversity, carbon, food, soil, water) when determining the total utility of a project. That the uncertainty and risks associated with shipping oil by supertankers on British Columbia's unpredictable Northwest coast concerns the Village of Queen Charlotte as it threatens our current economy and opportunities for future generations.

The council also recognizes that Coastal First Nations. The BC Union of Indian Chiefs and other First Nations are opposed to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project and we support their position.

In addition, as a signatory to the BC climate Action Charter the Village of Queen Charlotte acknowledges that the development of the Tar Sands contributes unacceptable levels of Green House Gas emissions, while creating fresh water pollution, which negatively impact human, terrestrial, and marine communities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Council should recognize that there might be costs associated with the Enbridge file and consider a line item in the 2012 budget as request to contribute to an united Islands position.

Submitted for consideration and discussion by,

Kris Olsen, Councillor