

# Coastal GasLink Connector

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October 2015

## Why we take time to learn about berries, bears and birds

The Coastal GasLink project team has connected regularly with communities along the pipeline route to help us understand concerns, and ensure we have local involvement in our field work, so we have the best available information about the land. We are always mindful, thoughtful and conscious about the land we are working on, and treat it with great care and respect.

*To date, 25 per cent of the over 320,000 hours of field work is attributed to local Aboriginal participants.*

Our field work has wrapped up for the year, and it was completed with many hands, including those with diverse backgrounds to inform our research. Aboriginal participants from communities in northern B.C. worked alongside our environmental scientists to collect immense amounts of data about the land, soils, vegetation, waterways, wildlife and history of this region.

This year, when completing field work, we had as many as 80 Aboriginal participants alongside us. Last year we employed a similar number. Their insights help us understand, preserve and acknowledge culturally and historically significant areas along the route that they respect and value— and so do we. It's essential these areas are identified, respected and protected, so the Project can be designed, constructed and operated in a safe and environmentally responsible way that takes into account their views.

To date, 25 per cent of the over 320,000 hours of field work is attributed to local Aboriginal participants. We also share the information with Aboriginal leaders and their community members. This input helps our team evaluate an appropriate Project footprint that incorporates the best research and information to avoid or reduce potential adverse environmental effects.

## By the numbers

Our 2015 field programs in Wet'suwet'en Territory included over 11,000 hours of participation by local Wet'suwet'en people who shared cultural and traditional ecological knowledge.



Insights from Aboriginal participants in our field programs help us understand, preserve and acknowledge culturally and historically significant areas along the Coastal GasLink route.

## Discoveries we make in the field

When our teams go out to the field to conduct this important work, it could include:

- identifying features like rare plants that need special protection;
- locating and respecting berry patches and plants that are important food and medicinal sources for Aboriginal people;
- examining important wildlife habitat features, understanding species at risk, and locating nesting bird habitat;
- our fisheries biologists collecting information about fish species and their habitat types at watercourses along the pipeline route, so we can determine the best crossing locations, construction techniques and timing; and
- our geoscientists, engineers and technicians collecting rock samples for testing; conducting field assessments on slopes and water crossings; measuring flows in rivers and streams, and more.

**Coastal GasLink**  
Pipeline Project

## What we're looking for in the field

### Wildlife, fisheries and aquatic studies

We collect data about fish, mammals, birds and frogs in order to understand their habitats, movements and other patterns to support construction planning and mitigation strategies. We recognize water and water systems as a fundamental component of the ecosystems where we operate. The protection of our water resources is critical to both the environment and our business.

### Vegetation and wetland surveys

This program collects information about the location and seasonal condition of rare plant populations. Wetland surveys gather further information on varieties of plants, surface water characteristics, soil moisture and nutrient content, soil texture and wetland classification.

### Archaeological field program

Our archaeological field program helps identify archaeological resources along the route and recommend viable alternatives for avoiding or mitigating any impacts to those resources.

Archaeological crews normally include advisors on traditional knowledge from Aboriginal communities. We have taken this same careful approach on other projects to protect artifacts and other significant resources, and this is the same care and attention we will provide along the proposed route.

### Engineering field programs

The on-the-ground engineering survey program helps us refine the construction footprint along the pipeline route. We have a great respect for the land and its unique characteristics, and our goal is to have as little disturbance as we can to the land, ensure the safety of our workers, and allow for the safe operation of construction equipment while designing a safe natural gas pipeline.

Before starting construction, we will continue work in the field to ensure Project footprint boundaries are clearly marked and all the necessary site-specific environmental and engineering information is collected and available to our workers.

## B.C. supports Coastal GasLink

### Letters of support roll in

Since the project was announced, the Coastal GasLink team has worked hard to be a trusted neighbour, building strong relationships with communities near the proposed pipeline route. The team is building on TransCanada's 65 years of experience working with communities, stakeholders and landowners near our assets. We understand the importance of sharing information and earning the support and trust of local communities.

Many community councils and business groups recently provided letters of support for the project. And, some have written to their local paper to talk about their support. This is a reflection of their trust in us, and how they view this project and the emergence of the LNG industry as a benefit to their communities.

As of the end of September, we're pleased to have received expressions of support from:

- Fort St. John & District Chamber of Commerce
- City of Dawson Creek
- Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce
- District of Chetwynd
- Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce
- District of Vanderhoof
- Village of Fraser Lake
- Village of Burns Lake
- District of Houston
- Smithers District Chamber of Commerce
- District of Kitimat
- Kitimat Chamber of Commerce
- Kitimat Economic Development Association
- City of Terrace
- B.C. Chamber of Commerce
- Prince George Chamber of Commerce

### Show your support

If you'd like your community to show their support, please connect with your local council members, or Chamber of Commerce, and have them email their letter of support to: [coastalgaslink@transcanada.com](mailto:coastalgaslink@transcanada.com). Or, if you'd like to sign up to show your personal support, email: [coastalgaslink@transcanada.com](mailto:coastalgaslink@transcanada.com) (your information will not be shared).

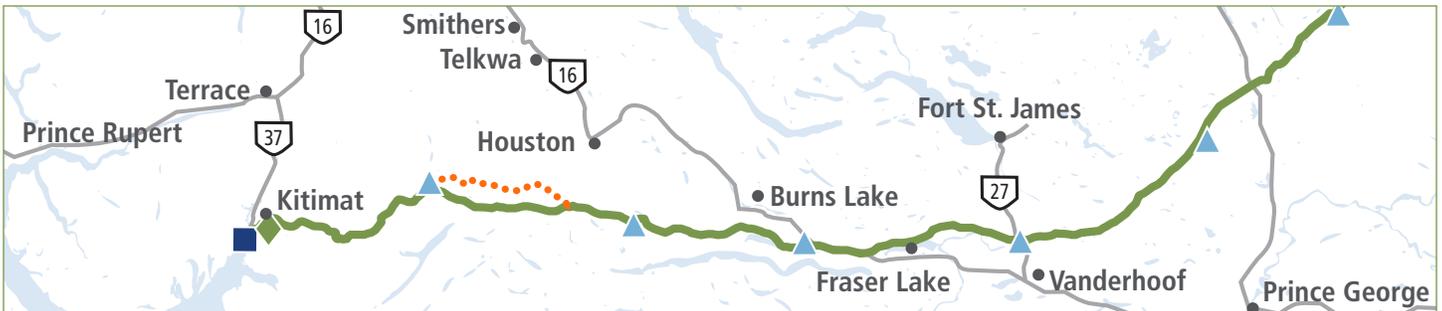
Be sure to visit our webpage to keep track of the additional letters that come in!



Jaimie Harding (Coastal GasLink Community Relations), City of Dawson Creek Mayor Dale Bumstead, and Catie Underhill (Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Community Relations) at Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference in Vancouver.

## We listen. We assess. We act on feedback.

### Why we're proposing an alternate route



The Coastal GasLink team is committed to actively meeting with and listening to input we receive from communities, stakeholders and Aboriginal groups along our proposed route. Recently, we had the opportunity to take that input, and apply it to our Project by considering an alternate pipeline route near the Morice River area in Wet'suwet'en Territory.

Since announcing the project in June 2012, our team has connected with Aboriginal communities along the proposed pipeline route over 9,200 times. Through this engagement, we received feedback regarding the potential impact of pipeline construction and operations on water flows into the Morice River. Although we're confident that our EAO and OGC approved route could be built, we are considering an alternate route in this specific location. The alternate route is about 55km in length and located about five kilometres north of our approved pipeline route, in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. It passes through an area that has been disturbed by more logging activity than the initial route (see map).

We are working to be ready to apply to amend our Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) that we received from the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), and our B.C. Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) permit. We anticipate filing an application to amend the EAC with the EAO in November 2015, and applying to the OGC for approval of the MRNA route at the same time.

We'll decide on the final route once we have all of our regulatory approvals, and once we have done more detailed design work of how the pipeline would be built. As we always do, we'll consider any impacts the pipeline might have on the environment and the culture of the Aboriginal groups along the alternate route. The final decision will take into account these factors as well as the commercial and economic considerations.

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### Did you know?

TransCanada was named an industry leader in sustainability, and has again earned positions on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) World and North America indices in 2015.

Being a leader in sustainability is about economic, environmental and social dimensions, some of which include corporate governance, environmental policy/management system, corporate citizenship and philanthropy and social impacts on communities.

The DJSI World Index represents the top 10 per cent of the largest 2,500 companies in the S&P Global Broad Market Index (BMI), while the DJSI North America Index represents the top 20 per cent of the largest 600 North American companies in the S&P Global BMI based on long-term environmental, economic and social criteria.



TRICORP students benefit from skills training in Prince Rupert.

## Donation of \$250,000 supports Aboriginal skills training and education with TRICORP in northern B.C.

TransCanada's Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project and Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project announced a \$250,000 partnership with the Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICORP) to offer skills development and training for Aboriginal people in northwestern B.C.

"We're committed to helping build stronger communities and a better quality of life for those living in northern B.C. Partnerships like this help communities take advantage of economic opportunities related to TransCanada's B.C. pipeline projects," says Rick Gateman, Coastal GasLink president. "Feedback from Aboriginal and local communities, as well as socio-economic assessments from both projects, has shown this is an important area for us to focus our efforts."

The program includes three, 10-week courses that will be offered through late 2015-2016 in northwest B.C. communities. Currently,

programs are planned for Prince Rupert and two further courses are planned in other communities within TRICORP's service area. It's expected that 42 students will get to participate.

### What's TRICORP?

TRICORP is the Service Canada delivery agent in the northwest B.C. region for the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). Their programs and services are targeted to entrepreneurs to start or expand their business, as well as increase capacity to deliver quality employment programming that offers skills development and training initiatives to Aboriginal citizens living in northwestern B.C.

*The program includes three 10-week courses, and 42 students will get to participate.*

## We're on Twitter!

Coastal GasLink is excited to launch a Twitter account! Check out the new **Coastal GasLink Twitter page:** [@CoastalGasLink](https://twitter.com/CoastalGasLink) and learn about the latest news on the Project. Join us and stay in the loop.

## Your input matters

If you have questions or comments about TransCanada's Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project, please contact our project team by email ([coastalgaslink@transcanada.com](mailto:coastalgaslink@transcanada.com)) or by phone at 1.855.633.2011 (toll-free).

Our website has maps, videos, past newsletters and more at [www.coastalgaslink.com](http://www.coastalgaslink.com)