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Unearthing ancient fish weirs in the heart of Haisla Traditional Territory

As the frigid waters of Minette Bay lap against the sandy shoreline, a piece of wood dug deep within the waterbed slowly starts to reveal itself. The bay, nestled between Kitimat and the Indigenous community of Kitamaat Village, is located in the western region of northern British Columbia. The body of water is part of the Traditional Territory of the Haisla Nation, who have inhabited the area for thousands of years.



Minette Bay, the site of the ancient fish weir discovery

Tangible proof of Haisla's rich ancestral history was found last year during work for a Marine Habitat offset program that is part of a larger LNG Canada project in the area. During the program's development, pieces of wood began to appear that were distinct from the common driftwood in the area. The difference was apparent by the way the wood protruded vertically out of the water and the proximity to other identical wood pieces.

Elaine Ross, a proud Haisla Nation member and a **Construction Monitor and Community Liaison (CMCL)** Advisor on the Coastal GasLink Project, recounts the visceral reaction she

experienced when she first learned of the archaeological find.

"Just chills and I just wanted to cry. You know our ancestors have been here for thousands of years and in such a harsh climate in this part of Canada. And here they are and they're doing what they need to do to be able to provide for themselves, for their family, for their community."



Ancient Fish Weirs poke out of the waters of Minette Bay

Celebrating traditional ways of fish harvesting

It became clear that the wood pieces along Minette Bay were part of a larger structure traditionally used by Indigenous people in the area. Further excavation uncovered that the structures were fish weirs, traditionally used by Indigenous groups in the area to capture Oolichan and Sockeye salmon.

Fish weirs are typically constructed of rock, wood, and reed in a 'V' or circular shape. It is pointed upstream or located in intertidal zones to capture fish as they swim the waterways. This method of fish harvesting has been used by Haisla for at least 1,800 years!



We have been here for thousands of years and this just proves everything that we've been saying all along." — Elaine Ross, Haisla Nation member

Our very own CMCLs get up close to the archaeological find

At the Start of 2021, Elaine Ross and Harry Bodewitz were invited to the archaeological site by the Haisla Nation.

"To stand on the lands where the discovery was found and listen about the discoveries and the importance it has for members of the Haisla Nation. It speaks to the past, those that came before us and harvested the resources of the water and land... it was powerful," shares Harry, a CMCL Coordinator.

"It empowers and it gives strength to our language program. We [Haisla] are one of the many nations where our Elders are passing on quickly and we still haven't got a full grasp on the language. It gives incredible power to people like mine, to share this knowledge of our people and the history of who we were," Elaine exclaimed.

Meet our Prime Contractors: Ledcor-Haisla Limited Partnership (LHLP)



Building Section 8 through the Coastal Mountains will leave a legacy of excellence in construction.

Ledcor-Haisla Limited Partnership (LHLP) joined the Coastal GasLink project in May 2021 to lead construction work on the west portion of Section 8, while Macro Spiecapag Joint Venture (MSJV) continues to focus on the east portion of Section 8.

In a powerful blessing ceremony from Haisla Hereditary Chiefs Jassee Sammy Robinson and Jake Duncan, the significance of the partnership was underscored by the common goals of Ledcor and the Haisla Nation. Both LHLP and Coastal Gaslink are committed to creating and maintaining strong relationships and providing skills training, employment and contracting opportunities for Indigenous and local community members.



Watch the **blessing ceremony** to welcome Ledcor-Haisla Limited Partnership to the Coastal GasLink team

We recently caught up with Dan Tobin, Vice President, Ledcor-Haisla Limited Partnership to learn more about their role with the Coastal GasLink Project.

Tell us about your company and the experience you have working on major projects like Coastal GasLink?

Ledcor is one of Canada's largest construction contractors. We have been building pipelines in Western Canada for over 40 years. With the partnerships

Ledcor has established with Haisla Nation and our Italian Partner, SICIM, we offer a high level of experience gained both locally and from all over the world, bringing together technical experience and local knowledge to complete a project with this level of complexity and unique construction challenges.

The partnership between Ledcor and Haisla Nation established the Ledcor-Haisla Limited Partnership (LHLP) 10 years ago to execute projects in the Kitimat region. Through this partnership, we have worked together on many successful initiatives while providing training and development opportunities to the community.

What excites you about being involved in the Coastal GasLink Project?

This is a once in a lifetime project in terms of pipeline construction in Canada. The scale and technical challenges of this work will build a career foundation for all those who are fortunate enough to participate in it. We are proud to support TC Energy on such an exciting project.

How important is safety and the environment to your company?

Safety is a core value for Ledcor and our partners – it's at the forefront of everything that we do. In Ledcor's Health, Safety and Environmental Protection (HS&E) program, every person is responsible and accountable for safety and the environment – from senior management to the individual worker. There is no job or piece of work so important that it cannot be done safely and with the utmost care for the environment.

You will be managing construction through the Coastal Mountains. What are some interesting insights about this work?

The topography and geography of Section 8 is what sets this project apart



Dan Tobin, Vice President, Ledcor-Haisla Limited Partnership

from all others. Some of the technical challenges include extremely rugged access to construct and grade the project route through the mountain range. There are many steep slope sections here that will require unique installation procedures.

What's your process in ensuring local and Indigenous businesses are connected to opportunities on the project?

Ledcor-Haisla Limited Partnership is proud of the work we have done in the region for the last 10 years to provide opportunities to other Indigenous communities and local businesses. As part of our procurement process, we are reaching out to other Indigenous-owned businesses and all qualified local businesses to evaluate interest in working on the project.

Learn more about our prime contractors, and contracting and employment opportunities.

Summer construction updates

As we gear up for one of our most important construction seasons, we are committed to keeping you updated on the various activities occurring across the 670 km project route.

Sign up today for our monthly construction updates.

Joy, sorrow, and hope on the longest day of the year

As part of National Indigenous People's Day, Sarah Dickie, a member of the Fort Nelson First Nation and Coastal GasLink's Indigenous Engagement Lead shared this powerful story. Coastal GasLink is honoured to elevate her story and the voices of our Indigenous team members.

Indigenous People's Day falls on the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. In Fort Nelson, the sun is up by 4:00 am, down near 11:00 pm and it only barely gets dark.

I've always found it to be a happy, hopeful day full of promise. It's usually a day when the town, urban Indigenous organizations, and Nation come together to organize an opening event, hand-games exhibitions or tournaments, and everyone is shaking hands and visiting each other.

One year, Fort Nelson First Nation had guest drummers from Northern Alberta join our hand-games tournament – they were the best drum dances ever. I carried my niece through a few songs; she's now a fully-fledged teenager who's taller than me!

At this time of the year, berries aren't quite ripe yet, but people pull out carefully hoarded frozen berries along



A drum dance as the sun sets in the horizon. Photographed by my cousin, Ryan Dickie.

with bags of dried moose meat, rendered moose fat, and everyone feasts. All ages stay up late to enjoy the festivities because 10:00pm isn't late or past anyone's bedtime – the sun is still shining!

The winter solstice is the opposite, the sun may crest the horizon by 11:00am and be fully out of sight by 4:00pm. With the rivers frozen, traditional river boat travel is impossible, so in addition to being dark and cold, it can be lonely too.

The stories of family attending the St. Henry's, Lower Post, and Kamloops residential schools were always horrible, but the recent discoveries of unmarked gravesites at these places was a truly dark time for a lot of people – mentally, spiritually, emotionally and even physically.

I don't know how people move beyond it, but if that trauma could be likened to the crushing weight of ice floes breaking and jamming against downstream bridges: bridges with strong foundations stand, river banks move, and silt fertilizes new ground for spring growth. Maybe some poorly built foundations shift or break. Maybe some things will break or change in Canada, too. Maybe there will be growth in new areas.

But it is Indigenous People's Day. The sun is shining, the river is clear and we can see a long ways away. Let's dream of a better, more inclusive and respectful future. If only we could shake hands and share food, watch some hand-games, and join a drum dance circle, too.



Here's my favourite picture with my auntie Kathi on the right and my late grandmother Adeline in the middle

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Our team at 7 Mile Lodge spent National Indigenous Peoples Day learning and listening. Hereditary Chief Helen Michelle from the Skin Tyee First Nation delivered a moving speech. Together with her daughter, Destiney, a **Community Workforce Accommodation Advisor**, they also shared traditional knowledge on plants and berries.



Let's be fire safe

At Coastal GasLink, safety is our number one priority. With wildfire season upon us, it's more important than ever to be fire smart, both at work and when we're enjoying the outdoors.

We all know how easily a forest fire can start from a single cigarette butt, rogue flame from a campfire, or hot metal work tools in a dry area.

Over the past few summers, B.C. has faced devastating wildfires, furthering the need to ensure a high standard of education, training, and preparation for the women and men of northern B.C.'s fire departments.

Part of our commitment to building an extraordinary legacy is to work together with local communities along the project route to prevent events like wildfires. Coastal GasLink is proud to fund critical training programs and facilities that are helping local communities get the training and equipment they need to fight local wildfires.

On the project, we make sure our crews have up-to-date safety training and follow procedures on site to mitigate risks of accidents like fires. We also work closely with emergency responders and government agencies to keep them informed of our construction activities.

Ultimately, all of us have a role to play to prevent fires from happening. Here are a few key things we can all do to be fire safe:

- Follow all local **fire bans and restrictions**
- Keep your fires small and never leave your campfire unattended
- Have plenty of water on hand to put out a fire – ashes should be cold to the touch

For more information, please visit B.C.'s **Wildfire Service**.

To report a wildfire, immediately text *5555 on your mobile device, or call 9-1-1.

In your community



Our team members, along with our prime contractor Pacific Atlantic Pipeline Construction (PAPC) and Civeo launched a bottle donation program donating the proceeds to local charitable organizations in the Village of Burns Lake and surrounding area. Our first donation of over \$1,100 went to the Lakes Animal Friendship Society to support their work improving the lives of animals across the region.



This past spring, Coastal GasLink donated \$10,000 towards a new set of Road Rescue Extrication Cutters (also known as the "jaws-of-life") for the Fort St. James Volunteer Fire Department. Thank you for working hard to protect our communities.



Coastal GasLink is proud to support the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and PG Driving For Life Academy Ltd. on an initiative to provide **driving lessons** to Lheidli T'enneh members. The driving lessons will provide lasting skills that will increasing accessibility to job opportunities, post-secondary education, and overall independence.

Coastal GasLink



We'd like to hear from you

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please reach out.

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