

Postal Address:

205 Beaver Road, Suite 1
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N1

**Location Address:**

3873 – 1st Avenue
Smithers, BC

Telephone: (250) 847-3630**Facsimile:** (250) 847-5381www.wetsuweten.com

April 23, 2014

Brian Westgate
Project Assessment Manager
Environmental Assessment Office

Dear Brian,

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en notes that the Coastal GasLink Application is incomplete as it does not contain sufficient information specific to Wet'suwet'en cultural needs, and it does not consider the specific impacts to Wet'suwet'en territories, which also impacts Wet'suwet'en Rights. The protection of these values are the central focus towards a number of Wet'suwet'en stewardship initiatives with the Province of British Columbia. These would include and not limited to the Morice Water Management Areas (MWMA), Morice Land, Resource, Management Plan (Morice LRMP), Park and Protected areas, and Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS).

The BC EAO process is not conducive to the reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and authorities, which is the primary objective of Canadian law; and the provincial government has irretrievably compromised the assessment process by weakening and biasing the Environmental Assessment process whereby the information currently being provided to the public is not sufficient to ensure accountability.

The potential for significant adverse impacts upon the Wet'suwet'en environment, culture, and constitutionally protected rights is real. The Wet'suwet'en has requested that the Proponent provide methodology into their assessments, including the raw data from baseline studies for Wet'suwet'en to assess impacts to our rights. The availability and use of the raw data is a way to ensure that both British Columbia and First Nations are assessing environmental impacts, impacts to constitutionally protected rights, and making informed decisions.

"We are proud, progressive Wet'suwet'en, dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our culture, traditions and territories, working as one for the betterment of all."

The Wet'suwet'en are awaiting compliance on our request to see if the proponent is accurately representing or predicting the likelihood of adverse environmental effects. Commenting on the Application without having the requested information would jeopardize potential environmental and socio-economic effects on Wet'suwet'en people, and will not address our concerns in a meaningful way.

The deadline of April 22, 2014 for comments towards the Coastal GasLink Application was not met by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en due to the requested information is not fully available until mid-May.

Sincerely,



Mike Ridsdale
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Office of the Wet'suwet'en

"We are proud, progressive Wet'suwet'en, dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our culture, traditions and territories, working as one for the betterment of all."