

# Luutkudziwwus – Xsim Wits’iin

August 27, 2014

Province of British Columbia

Minister Mary Polak: [ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Minister Rich Coleman: [MNGD.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MNGD.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Minister John Rustad: [ABR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ABR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Ministers,

Luutkudziwwus and Xsim Wits’iin take distinct pleasure in declaring on behalf of their house members, that their Madii Lii territory is permanently closed to all natural gas pipeline development and related activities. The closure is in effect at the Madii Lii territory, Suskwa forest Service Road, 15 km. Luutkudziwwus and Xsim Wits’iin maintains Aboriginal title and rights over Madii Lii territory on behalf of their past and current House members.

This notification addressed to the BC government pertains specifically to TransCanada’s plans for the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) pipeline project. The proposed PRGT project is planned to cross Madii Lii territory for about 32 km – generally from Suskwa Pass to the Shegunia River. Approximately one-half – 16 km – lies on top of the Babine Trail, the ancestral grease trail connecting Gitanmaax with Fort Babine, among various significant cultural features.

If constructed, the PRGT would result in direct and indirect impacts to Luutkudziwwus rights and title. These include potential adverse effects to fish and their habitats, wildlife and their habitats, terrestrial and aquatic resources, including cumulative effects, as well as to social, cultural, and economic values. As well, the pipe will be supplying the proposed LNG plant in Skeena estuary, where substantial impacts are predicted to negatively impact juvenile salmon.

Hereditary chief Luutkudziwwus (Charlie Wright), notes, “Our Madii Lii territory is not for sale or use by the province of BC or TransCanada.”

Xsim Wits’iin (Les Moore) states, “the province has been stealing from our house territory for 150 years, and this needs to end. The proposed PRGT pipeline project is in deep conflict with core Luutkudziwwus interests and values.”

Richard Wright, member of and spokesperson for the house of Luutkudziwwus, has undertaken an initiative to build solutions regarding their territory, its resources, and interests. Wright stated: “Managing our territories will enable us to focus on sustainable economic development and cultural revitalization programs, all the while stopping destructive development from proceeding unabated.”

Respectfully,

Richard Wright

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