



# HAISLA NATION COUNCIL

PO Box 1101, Kitamaat Village, BC, V0T 2B0 | (250) 639-9361  
Toll Free: 1-888-842-4752 | Fax: 250-632-2840 or 250-632-4794

**March 14, 2023**

Chief Councillor Crystal Smith remarks on event of the issuance of an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the proposed Cedar LNG Project

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## **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### **Opening**

- Thank you Premier Eby, Minister Osborne, Minister Heyman, and distinguished guests.
- It is an honour to be here today within the shared, unceded, ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, alongside the provincial government our partner, Pembina Pipeline and members of the Haisla Nation.
- I would also like to acknowledge our Haisla hereditary chiefs, some of whom are here today, as well as our membership and past leaders.
- Today is a historic day for me and my people.
- Today is not just about the approval of an LNG Facility.
- Today is about changing the course of history for my Nation and Indigenous peoples everywhere.
- A history where Indigenous people were left on the sidelines of economic development in their territories.
- A history where Indigenous peoples' values were ignored in favour of economic gain, impacting the environment and our way of life.
- Today's environmental approval of Cedar LNG paves the way for our Nation to take control of our future.
- With Cedar LNG, and in collaboration with government, industry and other Nations, we are demonstrating how:
  - We can responsibly advance LNG development in our province, WHILE protecting the environment.



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- We can take charge of our future AND be partners with industry, government and other communities.
- We can support economic reconciliation AND respect our traditions, our culture and our way of life as we build a net-zero economy.
- And, we can share our opportunity with others – other Indigenous communities and the province as a whole.

## **Our Cedar LNG Journey**

- The Haisla have been stewards of our lands and waters for generations and take our obligation to protect our land and the living things on it with the utmost importance.
- We also believe that bold measures are needed to fight climate change to protect the environment and our way of life, while helping to lift Indigenous communities out of poverty.
- That is why our Nation is pursuing Cedar LNG, the world's first Indigenous majority owned LNG project, and one with the lowest GHG footprint possible today.
- Powered by renewable energy, Cedar LNG is an example of how we can lead development in our own territory, and build our Indigenous rights in the process.
- And today's announcement demonstrates the B.C. government's commitment to recognizing the role of Indigenous communities in advancing responsible development and climate action.
- Cedar LNG is just the start of our journey towards a net-zero future, and one we are grateful to be partnered on with Pembina Pipeline.
- Pembina is our chosen partner because they recognize the strength Indigenous people bring to shaping a world based on values of sustainability and environmental protection.



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- I am grateful to have Pembina's CEO Scott Burrows and other members from our Cedar LNG team present today to celebrate this historic announcement, and I know they are as excited as I am.

## The future

- Today's announcement meaningfully demonstrates government's commitment to working alongside our Nation to advance reconciliation and achieve equality for Indigenous peoples everywhere.
- But is also represents an acknowledgement of the work we are doing to take action on climate change, while also looking for further opportunities to reduce global greenhouse emissions.
- We echo Premier Eby's announcement and his excitement to work together, as Nation and government, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure we achieve our shared climate objectives.
- This MOU will also serve as a framework for how we explore other opportunities to collaborate on future low-carbon projects in our territory.
- Cedar LNG will transform how resource development takes place in this province, and in a way that also transforms the experience for every Indigenous person – in my community, across Canada and across the globe.

## Closing

- This is a very proud day for me as Chief Councillor of the Haisla Nation, and a very personal one.
- I am here because I want to do what is right for my community, and for the generations to come; but I also recognize how much more we can achieve when industry, government, and society work together.
- While it may be lost on some you how significant this day is – it is not lost on me and my people.



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- Together we are turning the page of history towards a future where my children, and their children, and tomorrow's children, can reclaim their rightful place in this world.
- Once again, I would like to thank Premier Eby and his government for their commitment to collaboration and to working with us to meaningfully advance reconciliation and our quest for a low-carbon economy, in a manner that supports our members to lead healthy, fulfilling lives – for generations to come.
- Thank you.