

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **YOUTH ORGANIZE SOLIDARITY AGAINST THE PRINCE RUPERT GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE**

*As pipeline construction start is scheduled for this weekend, communities are taking action to ensure PRGT and Ksi Lisims will not be built*

**GITXSAN LAX'YIP (Hazelton, B.C.) August 21, 2024** - On Monday evening, local Indigenous and settler youth, including those representing Nations from across Northern B.C., gathered on Gitxsan Territory to pledge their solidarity against the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline and the Ksi Lisims terminal.

The Pipeline Impact Meeting, organized by the same youth who will be impacted by these mega-projects, was attended by over 300 people in-person and many more via livestream from across northern BC. Attendees bore witness to Gitxsan, Gitanyow, Tsimshian, Wet'suwet'en, Nisga'a, and other community members call out leaders on allowing this pipeline to rear its head again, promise to stand against it, invite others to witness the burning of Impact Benefit Agreements and announce legal action against the province.

"A billion dollar check is not wealth, that will be gone," **Naxginkw/Tara Marsden, Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs' Wilp Sustainability Director**, commented. "But, investing in our young people and giving them a chance at a healthy future—that is wealth."

Local experts shared their extensive data showing the PRGT line would accelerate the demise of fish in the Kispiox River. The River is currently deemed too sensitive for a catch and release fishery (closed on August 15 due to extreme drought conditions causing higher water temperatures and lower water levels) and will only suffer from trenches being dug through it.

"The youth and future generations were left out of [the pipeline] conversations, and I'm scared for my future," **Drew Harris, Youth Organizer, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition**, said. "Our rivers are drying up. Our fish counts are going down. Climate change is here... I just want you to remember we don't own the land, the land owns us... if we continue to contaminate our waters, pollute our air and deplete our food sources, where does that leave us?"

"Investors and provincial and federal leaders need to take note: communities have made it clear this pipeline is not welcome and will not happen. We need the Province's decision-making to catch up with their previous commitments." **Grace Vickers, Youth Organizer, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition**.

The event, organized and led by local youth, was sponsored by the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition, Gitxsan Lax' Yip Management Office, Gitksan Watershed Authorities, Skeena Wild Conservation Trust, Dogwood Initiative, Wilp Wsimjiitsiin/Luutkudziwus and Skeena Fisheries Commission.

**Quotes from the event:**

Patience Muldoe, Gitksan - Summer science student with Skeena Fisheries Commission:

“There is no window of opportunity to dig through all these streams without causing irreparable harm to the fish.”

Shauna Prevost, Sik-e-Dakh Community Member, Gitksan Watershed Authority Summer Intern & SWCC Junior Raft Guide:

“I’m learning what healthy habitats require and how sensitive our waters are to climate change, but also to humans disrespecting the waters. And how much you can actually do to protect fish habitat and clean water sources. Like how much power and knowledge you have to care for the land—not just feel powerless to these extractive industries. When I am on the land or on the river, I feel connected and get a break from the real world. It’s like a free therapy session.”

**Upcoming moments for media to get involved include:**

- Indigenous and settler attendees at the meeting reached into their pockets for an impromptu fundraiser to support 200+ Nisga’a community members wanting an injunction against construction start. Over \$3,500 raised.
- Gitanyow announced potential legal action against the Province of B.C..
- Future community meetings will be held in Gitksan Territory in coming weeks.

**For more information or a media contact, please contact:**

Grace Vickers: (250) 842-8343, [Grace@SkeenaWatershed.com](mailto:Grace@SkeenaWatershed.com)  
Youth Organizer, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition

Chasity Daniels/Xbiisuunt: (778)202-9079, [simgigetmgitanyow@gmail.com](mailto:simgigetmgitanyow@gmail.com)  
Communications Coordinator, Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs

Jesse Stoeppler: (250) 643-2907 [jesse@skeenawatershed.com](mailto:jesse@skeenawatershed.com)  
Co-executive Director, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition

**Attachments**

[Livestream link](#)

[Information on PRGT](#)

Photos Below: Credit to Shania-Rayne Michell

Photo 1 - The youth (settler & indigenous)

Photo 2 - Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs

Photos 3-8 - Youth took turns speaking out against PRGT and asking leaders to listen

Photo 9 - The crowd













