



**TEMAGAMI
FIRST NATION**

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Onshore Pipeline Regulation Review Discussion Paper

Feedback and Comments from Temagami First Nation

The following comments were amalgamated from community engagement sessions, with specific focuses on identifying the separate concerns of elders and youth. Although separate sessions were held, many of the concerns overlapped between the two groups.

There was a strong overarching position that changes to regulation were largely meaningless, if not backed up and enforced by all branches of government. The most prominent example brought to the floor was the land use conflict and ensuing violence against indigenous peoples on the traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en. There is no possibility of an advisory committee fixing this issue when all other branches of government do not respect their input or recommendations.

Elders quickly recalled the details of past projects, and the issues associated with them. The Energy East Project was a central point of discussion in the Elders engagement session. They pointed out the issues that they had noted with the proposed change of use from a natural gas pipeline to an oil pipeline. These issues included the differing temperature requirements for oil and natural gas – oil (particularly when derived from bitumen) requiring heat to flow, and natural gas requiring cooling in order to remain in a liquid state. The issues of differing construction for these products were noted, and past natural gas pipeline explosions were mentioned.

Youth spoke of protecting their future, and creating space for their future land uses. The concept of a First Nation being responsible for monitoring the actions of a pipeline proponent throughout construction, operations, or maintenance of an onshore pipeline was seen as subtracting from the sovereignty and goals of the First Nation. Every dollar spent of protecting the land from a proponent's development is viewed as a dollar not spent on advancing the goals of the First Nation. The actions of defending land can gouge the capacity of a First Nation and inhibit progress on other projects.

The points made regarding consultation and reclamation had similar considerations. Having money set aside in trust prior to both consultation and construction will ensure a smooth process for both activities if a company goes runs out of funds. Temagami First Nation has experienced the declining quality of consultation as the proponent planning the onshore pipeline experienced declining funds. One suggestion put forwards by a community member included a tax on active pipelines which would guarantee funds for the reclamation of abandoned pipelines. An additional issue of consultation noted by the elders was that companies only recognize reserves, and not the traditional territories that indigenous peoples remain the stewards of.

LANDS AND RESOURCES

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