

Canadian LNG is Indigenous LNG

Indigenous values are powering Canada's low-carbon LNG opportunity.

Countries and industries around the world are grappling with the energy trilemma of needing to achieve energy security, prevent energy poverty, and ensure a reliable yet decarbonized energy system. They can be assured that Indigenous-supported LNG from Canada offers clear solutions.

Here at home, Canadians can be assured that Indigenous-supported LNG means a strong commitment to the environment – addressing climate change and creating shared prosperity where Indigenous groups, communities, and all Canadians can enjoy the benefits. It's economic reconciliation at work.

Fundamentally, reconciliation is impossible without a strong economic foundation to advance change. For Indigenous communities, the outcomes of building Canadian LNG are tangible and essential: jobs and Indigenous-owned businesses, own-source revenues to fund clean drinking water, housing and economic opportunities, and more.

Major changes are occurring in Indigenous-industry relations, and for the better. For far too long, we were ignored in resource development, even on our own land. Now we are owners, proponents, partners and advocates. With this shift, we have also seen improvements in how specific projects advance.

The path to producing low-carbon LNG is through strong Indigenous participation – including equity and ownership – occurring in projects such as Cedar LNG (Haisla Nation), Ksi Lisims LNG (Nisga'a Nation), Tilbury LNG (equity option agreement), and the Coastal GasLink pipeline to LNG Canada (equity options, and community and project agreements with elected leaders of all 20 Indigenous Nations along the route). Woodfibre LNG's project, including FortisBC's 50-km pipeline serving the facility, are subject to the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw's (Squamish Nation) environmental assessment (EA) process, the first legally-binding Indigenous-led environmental assessment of a project in Canada.

We are making tremendous progress, but there is much more to do. Through forums like this week's LNG2023 conference in Vancouver, and with real collaboration and partnership, we can take charge of our future, support economic reconciliation and build a low-carbon economy that respects Indigenous traditions, culture and our way of life.

Bringing Indigenous leadership and industry together to set a new global environmental benchmark means that choosing Canadian LNG doesn't come at the expense of something else. As noted recently by Chrystia Freeland, Canada's deputy prime minister and finance minister: "It's so rare in the life of the country that doing the right thing is also economically advantageous. Right now, LNG is exactly that."

South Korea's Ambassador to Canada, Lim Woongsoon, affirmed the importance of LNG to reducing emissions when he said that exports of LNG to his country "will be on the increase for the decades to come, because we need to phase down coal-power plants . . . rather dramatically, and LNG will be the most feasible alternative."

We must take a global outlook to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The world needs Canadian LNG, and we can meet that need, responsibly.

And make no mistake, Canadian LNG is Indigenous LNG, a premium product that will provide benefits locally, provincially, nationally and internationally, well into the future.

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