

Secretary to the Joint Review Panel  
Enbridge Northern Gateway Project

MAIL ROOM  
SALLE DE COURIER

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**NEB/ONE**

I am writing to you in opposition to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline and an increase in crude oil tanker traffic in our coastal waters. Significant concerns surround the safety of this project, and the adequacy of the assessment process to reach a decision in the best interest of those at risk. The safety measures that Enbridge argues will significantly minimize the risk of an oil spill are questionable. Double-hulled vessels do not protect against major, high-energy collisions or groundings that cause the majority of oil pollution. Even when experienced BC Coastal Pilots are on board accidents are already occurring along the proposed tanker route. No matter what measures are implemented, nothing can ever guarantee 100% against the risk of human error. Decision-making power for this development is in the hands of a few appointed officials from outside the communities at risk. All three of these officials are members of the National Energy Board, creating a serious conflict of interest. The fragmented nature of this process means substantial increases in future pipeline capacity and shipments would not be open for public review; we are seeing this now with the expansion of crude oil shipments through the Port of Vancouver. The pipeline is being proposed at a time when Canadian environmental policy is being further weakened; Bill C-9 removes any accountability from the assessment process and creates a serious conflict of interest for future developments. A major influencing factor in the development of the Northern Gateway Pipeline is the need to open the Alberta Tar Sands to Asian markets due to the threat of the US reducing its reliance on dirty energy. Rather than facilitating the further expansion of a shameful Canadian environmental disaster, why can Canada not follow America's lead and take a stand to become a green economy leader? It is time for us to step back and examine what the creation of this pipeline really means. While other G8 nations are taking substantial measures to protect the environment, Canada is arguably moving in the opposite direction. In the climate of a weakening environmental policy, the decision to build this pipeline would not only put our coast at risk, but Canadian values as well. What Canada needs is a legislated ban on oil tanker traffic in BC's coastal waters. I implore you to say no to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline. Sincerely,

Ron Manning

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