

## **The Mackenzie Gas Project**

In support of efforts to speed Canada's economic recovery and affirm our sovereignty in the North, the Mackenzie Gas Project urgently needs to proceed. Since the 1970s, the future of Canada's North has been uncertain as development of a north-south natural gas pipeline linking Arctic reserves to southern markets has been stalled by lengthy regulatory and environmental review processes.

Currently proponents of the Mackenzie Gas Project propose to build a 1,220-km basin-opening pipeline capable of transporting 1.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. The anticipated capital cost of this mega project is estimated at \$16.2 billion with all but \$2.4 billion of that expected to go to businesses and workers located in jurisdictions other than the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The project is one-third aboriginal-owned and would provide long-term revenue streams to four directly impacted First Nations and several others not directly located on the proposed pipeline route. The project is expected to create thousands of short-term jobs over three winters during the peak construction period. It will require about 45 to 55 long-term employees once operational. In addition, there are expected to be roughly 35 to 45 contractor jobs associated with the overall project during the operations phase.

It's expected the increase in oil and gas exploration and the development of three anchor fields associated with the project would result in hundreds, if not thousands of long-term career opportunities in the North.

The Mackenzie gas project will provide direct and indirect economic and social benefits to the people of the Northwest Territories, in addition to enhancing local services, transportation and other industries in Canada's north. Construction of this critical piece of infrastructure and the resulting influx of workers from the south would also help reinforce Canada's claims of Arctic sovereignty.

### **Recommendations**

That the federal government:

1. Ensure that the Mackenzie Gas Project is not placed at a competitive disadvantage to other large scale North American energy projects. This may include federal government direct investment, tax breaks and loan guarantees.
2. Commit economic stimulus dollars to fund adjacent infrastructure projects to lower cost of pipeline construction and operations.
3. Ensure sufficient workforce development and training opportunities occur to maximize First Nations and Inuit involvement in the project.