

NORTHERN GATEWAY

A PROJECT FOR CANADA



The foundation of Canada's economy rests on our natural resources. For generations, resource industries have driven a strong economy that employs our families. And they have made a major contribution to the social services that assure our high standard of living from coast to coast to coast.

Over that time, we have learned a great deal about what it means to be responsible stewards of our environment. And we've come a long way towards making Aboriginal communities true partners in economic development.

The conversation about the Northern Gateway Pipeline underscores these important changes, showing how projects of national significance can become the catalyst for new and better standards for these important industries. As signatories to this letter, we strongly believe that Northern Gateway is a project that's right for our time.

It is critical that Canada open up new markets so that taxpayers get full value for our energy resources and that our natural resources find a way to those markets as quickly as possible. But the lessons of our past tell us this opportunity must be done right: We must take extraordinary measures to protect our environment; we must build strong communities so people have the right skills for the opportunities ahead; and we must chart a new path on Aboriginal partnerships.

After the most comprehensive and rigorous environmental review of its kind in Canadian history, the independent Joint Review Panel concluded that Northern Gateway is in Canada's national interest, and — subject to 209 tough conditions — that it can be built without significant risk to our environment.

Northern Gateway has been supporting programs since 2006 that are already making a difference in the lives of young Canadians in Northern B.C. And if approved, Northern Gateway will continue to help build the foundation for vibrant and sustainable communities.

Northern Gateway has also signed partnership agreements with many First Nations and Métis communities — contracts that will make those communities part owners in the project with a direct stake in its success. Work in this area must continue as there is still much to do, but we look forward to seeing continued progress.

Canada stands on the edge of an unprecedented opportunity — one that promises to strengthen our entire nation. To seize it, we must build on the lessons of our past, and support the kind of environmentally and socially responsible projects that will ensure our future.

Northern Gateway is such a project and that is why we support it.

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Former Federal Cabinet Minister
- / *Ryan Beedie*
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- / *Bob Blakely*
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- / *Hon. David Emerson*
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