



11<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

District of Squamish  
37955 Second Avenue  
P.O. Box 310  
Squamish, BC V8B 0A3

*Sent via email to: council@squamish.ca*

## **RE: FortisBC workcamp amendment**

Dear Mayor and Council:

FortisBC has recently applied for an amendment to its Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) for the Eagle Mountain to Woodfibre Gas Pipeline Project to expand the size of its proposed workcamp and increase worker accommodation from 150–250 workers to 650 workers.

The BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) has chosen not to allow public comments for this amendment. This puts an even greater burden on members of the Technical Working Group, including the District of Squamish, to engage in this process to ensure adequate oversight and review of the proposed workcamp.

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment Application, Addenda, and Amendments for the Eagle Mountain to Woodfibre Pipeline Project, it is apparent that the effects of a temporary workcamp in the community of Squamish has never been assessed, and the general public has not been granted the opportunity for public comment as the original workcamp for 150–250 workers was originally intended to be located on the west side of the Squamish River, close to the Woodfibre site.

As you know, Woodfibre LNG is also going through an amendment for its proposed “floatel” for up to 600 workers. However, the adverse cumulative effects of two workcamps with up to 1,250 temporary workers, located in or near Squamish, have also never been assessed.

Through our research we have learned that work camps for resource extraction projects can have significant and often unanticipated impacts on nearby communities.

Studies<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12</sup> during construction of similar industrial projects with large numbers of temporary construction workers have resulted in:

- increased number of workplace accidents.
- increased substance abuse and misuse.
- increased traffic accidents and collisions.
- increased rate of violent crime, including sexual assault and sexualized violence, and increased domestic violence.



## MY SEA TO SKY

- increased violence against Indigenous women and children.
- increased rates of prostitution.
- increased demands on hospitals, counselling, police, and ambulance services, which results in reduced service capacity for residents.
- increased risk of COVID-19 outbreaks.
- waste disposal issues.

FortisBC and Woodfibre LNG have both failed to consider many of these impacts in their respective amendment applications.

We request you to advocate with Minister Heyman and Minister Ralston on behalf of the general public to ensure that there is proper oversight and evaluation of the cumulative effects of two workcamps for up to 1,250 workers located in or near Squamish.

We have attached our recent letter to the BC EAO for more background information. Please feel free to contact us for further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

**Tracey Saxby BA/BSc (Hons I)**

**Executive Director**

**My Sea to Sky**

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<sup>1</sup> National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019) [Reclaiming Power and Place](#): The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Volume 1a. 728 pp.

<sup>2</sup> National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019) [Reclaiming Power and Place](#): The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Volume 1b. 352 pp.

<sup>3</sup> Amnesty International (2016) [Out of Sight, Out of Mind](#): Gender, Indigenous Rights, and Energy Development in Northeast British Columbia, Canada. 12 pp.

<sup>4</sup> Maimann K (2018) [Link between rural work camps and violence against women is real, researchers say](#). The Star Edmonton, published 2018-12-04.

<sup>5</sup> Northern Health (2018) [Health and Safety During the Opioid Overdose Emergency](#): Northern Health's Recommendations for Industrial Camps. Office of Health and Resource Development. Version 1.5. August 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Northern Health (2017) [Communicable Disease Control Plan Best Management Guide for Industrial Camps](#). Office of Health and Resource Development. Version 2.2. July 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Secwepemcul'ecw Assembly (2019) [What are man camps?](#) Accessed 2019-04-20.

<sup>8</sup> Clarice Eckford and Jillian Wagg (2014) [The Peace Project: Gender Based Analysis of Violence against Women and Girls in Fort St. John](#). Prepared for the Fort St. John Women's Resource Society.

<sup>9</sup> Smith J (2016) [Fort St. John 'a dangerous place for our women,' indigenous activist says](#). The Star, published 2016-04-03.

<sup>10</sup> Rugh P (2013) [Inside Fracking's 'Man Camps', Where Sex, Drugs, and Gonorrhea Run Rampant](#). Motherboard, published 2013-10-18.

<sup>11</sup> Follett Hosgood A (2022) [BC Didn't Track Spread of COVID-19 from Work Camps, Documents Show](#). The Tyee, published 2022-03-23.

<sup>12</sup> Simmons M (2020) [LNG Canada workers complained about unsafe conditions prior to COVID-19 outbreak](#). The Narwhal, published 2020-12-04.