

Kitimat LNG First Nation Benefits and Opportunities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW5uQ1gauww>

Chief Frederick: We have existed, and probably one of the, have come through our village, through our territory, you know, for the past 60 years.

Terry Collins: In the past, it was a come in, you know, people might get a little bit of work here, when there was no thought on advancement.

Rod Maier: Kitimat LNG and Pacific Trail Pipeline will be different from previous developments. And our vision is very clear. Our First Nation, limited partnership and Haisla economic benefit agreements are unique in western Canadian resource development.

Speaker 4: We can inform the project, in terms of its spirit, particularly on the environmental side. We think we can really talk to people about how you do a project, how you make it sustainable. And at the same time, there's a lot that we need to learn. We need to be able to participate in, in the economic side.

Chief Ross: The Kitimat LNG project is something that we wanted to be involved with from day one, because we actually saw a way out of our dependence on government funding. For us to get away from our poverty issues, our suicide issues. I guess the biggest point here, I guess for all First Nations, is that we want to resolve our issues in our terms. You can't have a strong nation unless you have strong members. And that's what I'm seeing right now.

Justin Helin: They wanted a flagger, so I took the first position I can get.

Melissa Gerow: This is my very first laboring job. And the thing that I like about this, is that I'm working outdoors, and I'm doing something different every day.

Richie Seymour: My job is to do the rounds and make sure, do the safety orientation in the morning, tail boards, and make sure everyone's following our OH&S regulations.

Chad Gerow: I'm out here to make sure that everybody follows the commitment laid out in the agreement.

Fred McKenzie: I do a lot of different site visits. So I get to see what's going on the whole scope of the project.

Terry Collins: It came at a very opportune time for everybody in the region. A lot of the local contractors weren't doing as much logging as they had in the past, because of the way that the markets were. Now, we have everybody who wants to work, is working.

Fred McKenzie: This area means a lot to us. We went on and tried to identify possible grizzly bear denning sights. And then again, we set up a construction timing window around that to protect them when they are at some of their most critical states. There are certain times of the years, where the goats are going through very critical stages of their lifecycle. To where that construction just isn't an option.

Terry Collins: We have obligations that we set, and now we have to meet.

Melissa Gerow: The environmentalists out here are doing a great job, and people reporting tailed frogs, or anything happening around any sort of waterway.

Judy Gerow: At first, I thought the right of way clearing was going to be huge and massive. But when I flew over yesterday and saw that it wasn't as big as I thought it was going to be, I was really pleased. And I was pleased at how clean everything was.

Terry Collins: When it comes to the environment and safety, they definitely are walking the talk.

Chad Gerow: Safety's the, you know, number one on the board over everything else. If you're doing something that you're unsure of, of you've never done before, it kind of, you know, that's what all our guidelines are set in place for.

Richie Seymour: Chevron safety standards are above and beyond what we're normal to. But, you know, we adjusted.

Melissa Gerow: You kind of form like a brotherhood, or a family sort of with each other. And everybody kind of looks out for one another. So, as long as you come and you're doing your part, and working safely, then everybody gets to go home.

Elvis Bevan: We're doing this program to learn the heavy duty operating machines. And we're just getting the gist of the machinery, and how it works, and doing maintenance on the machines at the end of the day.

Charity Louie: It was close by to get into. Other programs I had to travel down to Vancouver to get into it, or to Kelowna. They brought us out shopping, got us all gear from head to toe.

Speaker 14: Safety, everybody's machines are up on oil-

Charity Louie: From Monday to Wednesday morning, I'm in class doing all theory work. From Wednesday afternoon, until Friday, I'm on machines learning the actual machine. I'll be certified to drive this machine. And I'll have to many hours on this machine that's what people look for, is the ticket.

Elvis Bevan: Easy to find jobs when you got certificates like these.

Melissa Gerow: If you just come and work, they'll train you. You'll have a job, and then, you know, you can work your way up to whatever you want to do.

Chief Frederick: The true Indian's most important, you know, in terms of, you know, moving ahead and being ready, you know, for when the job does happen.

Justin Helin: From my point of view, everything looks really good.

Chad Gerow: Everything's been followed as what they said they were going to do.

Melissa Gerow: I enjoy coming to work every day, and learning new things.

Richie Seymour: To have a good paying job in the backyard, that's probably the best thing you can actually ask for. You're not away from your families for months at a time.

Fred McKenzie: Over 50% of the people out here, we have working have never had a job before. And we gave them an opportunity to make excellent money, and they can't wait to come back next year.

Terry Collins: It's not just the fact that it's open opportunities for work, you see the self esteem and the self confidence.

I like to see the kids in the future having something to look forward to.

Web Bennett: We have to quit thinking small. We have to think of the bigger picture that's happening, and how it's going to not only benefit the First Nation's people, but, you know, British Columbia's, Canadians as a whole.

Charity Louie: Once I get my ticket, and I get on my business plan and everything to own my own company and my own machines, will mean a lot to me. A lot. And this is the first time that somebody has given me this opportunity. And it was a good opportunity, and I'm going to open my wings and fly. That's what I'm going to do.