

Coastal Gaslink Pipeline Project Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement

BETWEEN:

His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of British Columbia, as represented by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

(the "Province")

AND:

Haisla Nation, on behalf of itself and its Members, as represented by the Chief and Council

(collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually referred to as a "Party")

WHEREAS:

- A. The Province is consulting Haisla on the potential impacts of natural gas pipelines in accordance with provincial legal obligations.
- B. The Parties wish to develop an effective long-term working relationship that includes Haisla sharing benefits associated with the Natural Gas Pipeline Project and supporting the development of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project in accordance with this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

PART 1 - INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions. In this Agreement:

"Agreement" means this Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement;

"Effective Date" means the date on which this Agreement has been signed by both parties;

"Final Payment" means the payment provided in accordance with section 3.2(b) (Payment Schedule);

"Government Actions" means all processes, decisions, authorizations, permits, licences, approvals, Crown land dispositions, agreements and other actions whatsoever, issued, granted, entered into or otherwise taken by the Province, any minister, public official, employee or agent of the Province, any government corporation, and any person acting as a decision maker under any enactment of the Province;

"Haisla" means the "band", as that term is defined in the *Indian Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 1- 5, named the "Haisla Nation";

"In-Service Date" means the first day that the Natural Gas Pipeline Project is placed in-service for transmission of natural gas and is able to make natural gas deliveries to the LNG facility at the terminus of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project;

"Initial Payment" means the payment provided in accordance with section 3.2(a) (Payment Schedule);

"Member" means any person who is a "member of the band", as that phrase is defined in the *Indian Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 1-5, of the Haisla;

"Natural Gas Pipeline Project" means the proposed Coastal Gaslink Pipeline Project described in the Environmental Assessment Office Project Approval Certificate issued on October 24, 2014 under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, [SBC 2002] c. 43, as varied from time to time, which includes components such as a natural gas pipeline, and associated compressor stations, equipment and other physical facilities, valves and meters, power supply sources, equipment staging sites, access roads and rights of ways, construction camps and investigative activities, and for greater certainty does not include any amendment or variation of the Project to transport anything other than sweet natural gas;

"Ongoing Benefits" means financial benefits available from the Province to Haisla provided in accordance with section 3.3 (Ongoing Benefits) and 3.4 (Inflation Adjustment); and

"Project Payments" means the total payment described under section 3.1 (Project Payments) for the Natural Gas Pipeline Project, but does not include any additional payments under section 3.3 (Ongoing Benefits), or section 3.5 (Additional Opportunities).

1.2 **Interpretation.** For purposes of this Agreement:

- a) "including" means "including, but not limited to" and "includes" means "includes, but not limited to";

- b) the recitals and headings are for convenience only, do not form a part of this Agreement and in no way define, limit, alter or enlarge the scope or meaning of any provision of this Agreement;
- c) a reference to a statute includes every amendment to it, every regulation made under it, every amendment made to a regulation made under it and any law enacted in substitution for, or in replacement of, it;
- d) words in the singular include the plural, and words in the plural include the singular unless the context or any specific definition requires otherwise;
- e) any reference to a corporate entity includes any predecessor or successor to such entity; and
- f) there will be no presumption that doubtful expressions, terms or provisions in this Agreement are to be resolved in favour of any Party.

PART 2 - PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 2.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this Agreement is to provide financial benefits to Haisla and to secure Haisla's support in relation to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project.
- 2.2 **Scope.** This Agreement applies to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project.

PART 3 - FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- 3.1 **Project Payments.** The Province will provide Haisla with a Project Payment of \$3,640,000.00 for the Natural Gas Pipeline Project in accordance with section 3.2 (Payment Schedule) and subject to section 6.1 (Conditions Precedent to Funding).
- 3.2 **Payment Schedule.** The Province will provide the Project Payment in two installments as follows:
 - a) \$1,820,000 within 90 days after the Effective Date;
 - b) \$1,820,000 within 90 days after the In-Service Date of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project.
- 3.3 **Ongoing Benefits.** The Province will provide Ongoing Benefits of \$739,000.00 per year for the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline Project to Haisla commencing on the first anniversary of the In-Service Date of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project and continuing annually on each subsequent anniversary of the In-Service Date for as long as the Project is making natural gas deliveries to the terminus facility, adjusted in accordance with sections 3.4 (Inflation Adjustment).

- 3.4 **Inflation Adjustment.** The Province will adjust the amount of Ongoing Benefits payments annually, commencing on the second anniversary of the In-Service Date for the Natural Gas Pipeline Project, based on changes in annual BC Final Domestic Demand Implicit Price Index published by Statistics Canada.
- 3.5 **Additional Opportunities.** Where the Province provides new types of financial benefits to First Nations relating to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project, the Province will provide notice to Haisla and the Parties will discuss those financial benefits, including any eligibility criteria, with the intention of increasing the benefits available to Haisla.
- 3.6 **Future Amendments.** Where the benefits under 3.5 (Additional Opportunities) are provided to First Nations under an agreement, the Parties will negotiate and attempt to reach agreement on amendments applicable to this Agreement.
- 3.7 **Further Assurances.** Nothing in this Agreement precludes Haisla from:
- a) continuing to negotiate and implement revenue and benefits-sharing agreements with proponents and other governments;
 - b) accessing economic opportunities and benefits, which may be available to Haisla, other than those expressly set out in this Agreement; or
 - c) participating in government programs for which Haisla may be eligible.

PART 4 - CONSULTATION ON NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS

- 4.1 **First Nation Consultation.** The Parties acknowledge that:
- a) consultation between the Parties is occurring and will continue to occur with respect to the Province's permitting processes and other Government Actions related to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project; and
 - b) participation in those processes, including identifying potential impacts and seeking to resolve concerns, is expected to occur in a timely manner and in accordance with common law requirements or the process set out in any applicable consultation process agreement between the Parties.

PART 5 - CERTAINTY

- 5.1 **Support.** Haisla will provide any letter, certificate or confirmation of the matters set out in section 4.1 (Consultation), section 5.2 (Legal Challenges), section 5.3 (Release) and section 5.6 (Claims Resolved) on written request from the Province.

- 5.2 **Legal Challenges.** Provided the Province is not in default of its obligations under this Agreement, Haisla agrees not to bring any court actions or proceedings that directly or indirectly challenge any Government Actions in relation to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project on the basis that the Province has failed to consult or accommodate Haisla or on the basis that the Province has infringed any of Haisla's rights recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- 5.3 **Release.** On receipt of the Initial Payment under section 3.2(a) (Payment Schedule) and provided the Province is not in default of its obligations to make payments under this Agreement (default meaning a failure to make payment within the time required after satisfaction of all conditions for payment) Haisla releases and discharges the Province from the following in relation to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project:
- a) all actions, causes of action, claims or proceedings arising from any legal obligation to consult and accommodate Haisla or to avoid infringement of Haisla's rights recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; and
 - b) all debts, duties, demands, damages, interest, fines and costs, expenses, and compensation whatsoever amount, nature and kind, including economic benefits, capacity funding and revenue sharing or payments of any kind including payments arising from any legal obligation to consult and accommodate or avoid infringement of Haisla's rights recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- 5.4 **Interference.** Haisla agrees not to support or participate in any acts that frustrate, delay, stop or otherwise physically impede the right of the Province or a Natural Gas Pipeline Project proponent or any of their respective employees, contractors, agents, representatives or invitees to gain access to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project and to carry out any activities associated with the development and operations of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project.
- 5.5 **Assistance.** Haisla will assist the Province in seeking to resolve any action that may be taken by any Member of Haisla that is inconsistent with this Agreement.
- 5.6 **Claims Resolved.** Provided the Province is not in default of its obligations under this Agreement, Haisla agrees that this Agreement resolves all claims arising from any Government Actions in relation to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project with respect to:
- a) issues of economic benefits, capacity funding and revenue sharing or payments of any kind including payments related to any consultation and accommodation obligations; and

- b) compensation for infringement of Haisla's rights recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

PART 6 - CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

6.1 Conditions Precedent to Funding. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, any payment of funds by the Province to Haisla under this Agreement is subject to:

- a) there being sufficient monies available in an appropriation, as defined in the *Financial Administration Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 138 to enable the Province in any fiscal year or part thereof when such payment is required, to make such payment;
- b) Treasury Board, as defined in the *Financial Administration Act*, not having controlled or limited expenditure under any appropriation necessary in order to make such payment;
- c) the band council resolution under section 6.2(a) (Conditions Precedent to Agreement) not having been varied, amended, repealed or replaced in a manner that alters or terminates its authority to comply with the terms of this Agreement; and
- d) Haisla being in compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement.

6.2 Conditions Precedent to Agreement. The Province's execution of this Agreement is subject to:

- a) Haisla delivering to the Province a true or certified copy of the band council resolution approving this Agreement and authorizing its representative to sign this Agreement;
- b) The Province having obtained all required approvals, including Cabinet and Treasury Board approval; and
- c) Haisla's representations and warranties under this Agreement being true and correct on the Effective Date.

PART 7 - REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

7.1 Haisla Representations. Haisla represents and warrants to the Province, with the intent and understanding that they will be relied on by the Province in entering into this Agreement, that:

- a) it has the legal power, capacity and authority to enter into this Agreement on its own behalf and on behalf of its Members;

- b) it has taken all necessary actions and has obtained all necessary approvals to enter into this Agreement for and on behalf of its Members;
- c) it has obtained or had the opportunity to obtain legal advice with respect to this Agreement; and
- d) this Agreement is a valid and binding obligation upon it.

7.2 Provincial Representations. The Province represents and warrants to Haisla, with the intent and understanding that they will be relied on by Haisla in entering into this Agreement, that it has the authority to enter into this Agreement and that this Agreement is a valid and binding obligation of the Province.

PART 8 - COMMENCEMENT

8.1 Commencement. This Agreement will commence and the Parties' obligations under this Agreement will take effect on the Effective Date.

PART 9 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1 Dispute Resolution. Where a dispute arises regarding the interpretation of the Agreement, the Parties' duly appointed representatives will meet within 30 days to attempt to resolve the dispute and where the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute within 30 days, the Parties may agree to utilize other dispute resolution mechanisms, including mediation.

PART 10 - NOTICE AND DELIVERY

10.1 Notices. Any notice, document, statement or report under this Agreement must be in writing, and will be deemed validly given to and received by the other Party, if served personally, on the date of personal service or, if delivered by mail, e-mail or facsimile copier, when received as follows:

if to the Province:

Chief Negotiator
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
P.O Box Stn. Prov. Govt. Victoria, B.C. V8W 9B1
Fax: (250) 387-6073
Email: heinz.dyck@gov.bc.ca

and if to Haisla:

Haisla Nation Council
 500 Gitksan Ave.
 Haisla PO Box 1101
 Kitamaat Village BC V0T 2B0
Attention: Chief Councillor
 Email: crystal.smith@haisla.ca

- 10.2 **Change of Address.** Either Party may, from time to time, give written or e-mail notice to the other Party of any change of address or facsimile number of the Party giving such notice and after the giving of such notice, the address or facsimile number therein specified will, for purposes of this Agreement be conclusively deemed to be the address or facsimile number of the Party giving such notice.
- 10.3 **Electronic Notice.** The Parties agree that they will utilize electronic and other methods of communication for the purposes of engagement whenever practicable and appropriate.

PART 11 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 11.1 **Not a Treaty.** The Agreement does not
- a) constitute a treaty or land claims agreement within the meaning of section 25 or 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; or
 - b) affirm, recognize, abrogate or derogate from any Haisla's rights recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- 11.2 **No Admissions Provisions.** Nothing in this Agreement:
- a) is an admission by the Province of the validity of the claims by Haisla to an aboriginal or treaty right recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, or that the Natural Gas Pipeline Project and any related Government Actions have or will result in an infringement of any Aboriginal or treaty right(s) recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* of Haisla;
 - b) is an admission by the Province that it has an obligation to provide financial or economic accommodation or compensation for any infringement to Haisla in relation to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project;
 - c) is an admission by Haisla that the Province has fulfilled its obligations to consult, and where appropriate accommodate, Haisla in respect of any other project;


- d) precludes Haisla from identifying concerns about potential impacts of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project or precludes the Parties from seeking to resolve these concerns as part of the applicable provincial consultation processes while those processes are underway;
 - e) may be construed as Haisla providing support or a release of any claims, demands, actions or causes of action that Haisla may have in relation to the conversion or modification of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project for the purpose of transportation of any material other than natural gas;
 - f) precludes Haisla from bringing claims for breach of the Agreement or from defending a claim or raising any right recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* as a defence to a regulatory charge; or
 - g) precludes the Province from relying on the payments made under the Agreement if challenged in any legal actions or proceedings with respect to the adequacy of accommodation or for any alleged infringement of Haisla's rights recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* in relation to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project.
- 11.3 **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement and any amendment to it constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.
- 11.4 **Amendment.** The Parties may agree to amend this Agreement in writing.
- 11.5 **Validity of Agreement.** If any part of this Agreement is void or unenforceable at law:
- a) the invalidity of that part will not affect the validity of the remainder, which will continue in full force and effect and be construed as if this Agreement had been executed without the invalid part; and
 - b) the Parties will negotiate and attempt to reach agreement on a replacement for the part declared or held invalid with a view to achieving the intent of the Parties as expressed in this Agreement.
- 11.6 **Further Acts and Assurances.** Each of the Parties will, upon the reasonable request of the other, make, do, execute or cause to be made, done or executed all further and other lawful acts, deeds, things, devices, documents, instruments and assurances whatever for the better and absolute performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 11.7 **No Implied Waiver.** Any waiver of:
- a) a provision of this Agreement;

- b) the performance by a Party of an obligation under this Agreement; or
- c) a default by a Party of an obligation under this Agreement, will be in writing and signed by the Party giving the waiver and will not be a waiver of any other provision, obligation or subsequent default.

- 11.8 **Assignment.** The Haisla will not assign, either directly or indirectly, this Agreement or any right of the Haisla under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Province.
- 11.9 **Governing Law.** This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of British Columbia.
- 11.10 **Execution in Counterpart.** This Agreement may be entered into by each Party signing a separate copy of this Agreement (including a photocopy or facsimile copy) and delivering it to the other Party by facsimile or email transmission.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have executed this Agreement as set out below:

Signed on behalf of the Haisla Nation



Crystal Smith
Chief Councillor

Signed on behalf of the Province



Honorable Murray Rankin, Minister of
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Date: January 31, 2024

Date: March 27, 2024