

Letter of Understanding:

LNG ESI North Coast Regional Stewardship Forum

The LNG Environmental Stewardship Initiative (LNG ESI) is a collaborative initiative among the Province of British Columbia, and First Nations with the participation from industry proponents. The provision of this Letter of Understanding (LOU) is without prejudice to First Nations' treaty negotiations, Aboriginal rights or Aboriginal title. Nothing in this Letter of Understanding replaces the Federal or Provincial government's (the Crown) or the proponent's (LNG industry participants) legal duty to consult and accommodate. The initiative is intended to build relationships among these groups, and potentially other partners, through the cooperative development of projects on:

- ecosystem assessment and monitoring;
- ecosystem restoration and enhancement;
- ecosystem research and knowledge exchange; and
- stewardship education and training.

This Letter of Understanding sets out that First Nations and the Province (the Parties) agree to develop and carry out the LNG ESI on the North Coast by pursuing the following objectives:

1. establishing a Regional Stewardship Forum (RSF) that:
 - a. Brings representatives from First Nations and the Province together with other partners including industry (gas pipelines and LNG facility) representatives and other governments, such as the Federal Government;
 - b. Provides a venue to oversee the development and implementation of environmental projects, exchange information, and monitor the implementation of the LNG ESI program on a regional level; and,
2. developing one or more demonstration projects for implementation in the short term that:
 - a. addresses issues of common concern while demonstrating the value of collaborative action; and
 - b. generate trusted information that reflects both western science and traditional knowledge that can be used to inform future resource management.

The Parties agree to adhere to a set of collaboration principles that include the following:

- engage with each other on the basis of peoples' interests in a respectful, meaningful and collaborative manner;
- develop a governance structure and an enabling Terms of Reference for the RSF;
- oversee the development and implementation of environmental projects and project teams within the North Coast region;
- contribute towards an enhanced government-to-government relationship among the Parties;
- ensure that the development of the RSF and environmental projects do not duplicate the work of other initiatives;
- support the recommendations which emerge from the environmental projects that are developed collaboratively;
- meet as required, in person, on the phone or online in order to expedite implementation of the ESI on the North Coast;
- provide lines of communication to your leadership and constituents to ensure transparency, accountability and the required support for the implementation of the ESI.

The Parties acknowledge that this LOU is intended only to facilitate implementation of the LNG ESI on the North Coast, and that it does not, and will not, constitute a legally binding agreement or create any legal rights or obligations among them.

Honourable Rich Coleman (Ministry of Natural Gas Development)	
Chief Don Roberts (Kitsumkalum First Nation)	
Chief Councillor Ellis Ross (Haisla First Nation)	
Chief Harold Leighton (Metlakatla First Nation)	
Chief Joe Bevan (Kitselas First Nation)	
Chief Arnold Clifton (Gitga'at First Nation)	