

**Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Pipeline Project
Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement**

BETWEEN:

Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia, as represented by the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

(the "Province")

AND:

Yekooche First 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. New natural gas pipelines are proposed in British Columbia.
- B. The Province is consulting Yekooche First Nation on the potential impacts of proposed natural gas pipelines in accordance with provincial legal obligations.
- C. The Parties wish to develop an effective long-term working relationship that includes Yekooche First Nation 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:

"Additional Payment" means the payment provided in accordance with section 3.3 (Additional Payment);

“Agreement” means this Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Pipeline Project Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement;

“Effective Date” means the last date on which this Agreement is fully executed by the Parties;

“Eligible First Nation” means a First Nation that the Province at its sole discretion determines is eligible to receive Ongoing Benefits under section 3.4 (Ongoing Benefits) and for the purposes of this Agreement includes Yekooche First Nation;

“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;

“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. I-5, of the Yekooche First Nation;

“Natural Gas Pipeline Project” means the proposed Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project described in the Environmental Assessment Office Project Approval Certificate issued on November 25, 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;

“Ongoing Benefits” means financial benefits available from the Province to Eligible First Nations provided in accordance with sections 3.4 (Ongoing Benefits) to 3.8 (Inflation Adjustment);

“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 (Additional Payment), section 3.4 (Ongoing Benefits) or section 3.9 (Additional Opportunities); and

“Yekooche First Nation” means the “band”, as that term is defined in the *Indian Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5, named “Yekooche First Nation”.

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 Yekooche First Nation and to secure Yekooche First Nation’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 Yekooche First Nation with a Project Payment of \$390,000.00 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) an Initial Payment of one half of the total Project Payment will be provided within 90 days after all of the following events have occurred:
 - i. the Province receives written confirmation from the proponent that orders have been placed for substantially all of the pipe required for the Natural Gas Pipeline Project;

- ii. a contract has been entered into with at least one large diameter pipeline general contractor for completion of the work associated with installation of the pipe for one spread having a linear length of more than 25 kilometres of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project; and
- iii. the completion of production welding along a portion of at least 10 kilometres of a spread of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project;

(collectively "Material Commencement of Construction")

- b) a Final Payment of one half of the total Project Payment will be provided within 90 days after the In-Service date of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project; and
- c) the Province will provide Yekooche First Nation with notice of the achievement of the Material Commencement of Construction and the In-Service Date as soon as practicable after the occurrence of such events.

3.3 **Additional Payment.** The Province will provide Yekooche First Nation with an Additional Payment of \$78,000.00 within 90 days after the Effective Date.

3.4 **Ongoing Benefits.** The Province will provide Ongoing Benefits of \$10,000,000.00 per year for the Natural Gas Pipeline Project to Yekooche First Nation and other Eligible First Nations in accordance with sections 3.5 (Entitlement to Ongoing Benefits) to 3.8 (Inflation Adjustment).

3.5 **Entitlement to Ongoing Benefits.** Subject to sections 3.6 (Allocation of Ongoing Benefits) and 3.7 (Ongoing Benefits Agreement), Yekooche First Nation will be entitled to receive a share of Ongoing Benefits commencing on the first anniversary of the In-Service Date for the Natural Gas Pipeline Project and continuing annually on each subsequent anniversary of the In-Service Date for as long as that project is making natural gas deliveries to the terminus facility.

3.6 **Allocation of Ongoing Benefits.** The Province will not make a determination on the allocation of Ongoing Benefits until after June 30, 2015 to allow Eligible First Nations to negotiate and attempt to reach agreement on the allocation of Ongoing Benefits. On request, the Province will discuss directly with Yekooche First Nation (and the other Eligible First Nations should they also submit a request) the potential methodologies for the allocation of Ongoing Benefits.

3.7 **Ongoing Benefits Agreement.** If all of the Eligible First Nations are able to reach agreement on the allocation of Ongoing Benefits by June 30, 2015, then the Province will allocate the Ongoing Benefits in accordance with such agreement. Where the Eligible First Nations are unable to reach agreement on the allocation of Ongoing Benefits by June 30, 2015, the Province will:

- a) allocate a portion of the Ongoing Benefits to each Eligible First Nation in accordance with a consistent and objective methodology determined by the Province;

- b) provide notice to Yekooche First Nation of the amount and timing of its allocation of Ongoing Benefits as soon as practicable after June 30, 2015; and
- c) negotiate and attempt to reach agreement with Yekooche First Nation on any amendments applicable to this Agreement.

3.8 **Inflation Adjustment.** Where the Province makes inflation adjustments to the Ongoing Benefits payments, these inflation adjustments will be applicable to Yekooche First Nation's share of the Ongoing Benefits.

3.9 **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 Yekooche First Nation and the Parties will discuss those financial benefits, including any eligibility criteria, with the intention of increasing the benefits available to Yekooche First Nation.

3.10 **Future Amendments.** Where the benefits under section 3.9 (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.

3.11 **Further Assurances.** Nothing in this Agreement precludes Yekooche First Nation 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 Yekooche First Nation, other than those expressly set out in this Agreement; or
- c) participating in government programs for which Yekooche First Nation may be eligible.

PART 4 – CONSULTATION ON NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS

4.1 **Consultation.** The Parties acknowledge that:

- a) consultation between the Parties is occurring and will continue to occur with respect to the Province's assessment, review, any potential permitting processes and other Government Actions related to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project; and
- b) participation in those processes is expected to occur in a timely manner.

PART 5 - CERTAINTY

- 5.1 **Support.** Yekooche First Nation 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, Yekooche First Nation 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 Yekooche First Nation or on the basis that the Province has infringed any Yekooche First Nation'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) Yekooche First Nation 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 Yekooche First Nation or to avoid infringement of Yekooche First Nation'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 Yekooche First Nation's rights recognized and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- 5.4 **Interference.** Yekooche First Nation agrees not to support or participate in any acts that frustrate, delay, stop or otherwise physically impede the right of the Province or the 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.** Yekooche First Nation will assist the Province in seeking to resolve any action that may be taken by any Member of Yekooche First Nation that is inconsistent with this Agreement.
- 5.6 **Claims Resolved.** Provided the Province is not in default of its obligations under this Agreement, Yekooche First Nation 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 Yekooche First Nation's rights recognized

and affirmed by section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

- 5.7 **Continuing Obligations.** The acknowledgements, obligations, covenants and releases set out in Part 5 of this Agreement are intended to remain fully binding and enforceable despite any matter whatsoever including the determination by a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction.

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

PART 7 - REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

- 7.1 **Yekooche First Nation Representations.** Yekooche First Nation 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 Yekooche First Nation, with the intent and understanding that they will be relied on by Yekooche First Nation 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 60 days to attempt to resolve the dispute and where the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute within 60 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

Land and Resources Branch
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
P.O Box 9100 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9B1

Fax: (250) 387-6073

and if to Yekooche First Nation :
Yekooche First Nation
1890 3rd Avenue,
Prince George, BC
Attention: Chief Councillor / Finance Department

Fax: (250) 562-0530

- 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 Yekooche First Nation'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 Yekooche First Nation 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 Yekooche First Nation;
 - b) is an admission by the Province that it has an obligation to provide financial or economic accommodation or compensation for any infringement to Yekooche First Nation in relation to the Natural Gas Pipeline Project;

- c) is an admission by Yekooche First Nation that the Province has fulfilled its obligations to consult, and where appropriate accommodate, Yekooche First Nation in respect of any other project;
- d) precludes Yekooche First Nation from identifying concerns about impacts of the Natural Gas Pipeline Project or precludes the Parties from seeking to resolve those concerns as part of the applicable provincial consultation processes while those processes are underway;
- e) may be construed as Yekooche First Nation providing support or a release of any claims, demands, actions or causes of action that Yekooche First Nation 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; or
- f) precludes Yekooche First Nation 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.

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.** Yekooche First Nation will not assign, either directly or indirectly, this Agreement or any right of Yekooche First Nation 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 transmission.

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

Signed on behalf of the Yekooche First Nation by





Witness

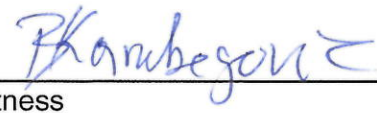
Witness

December 10, 2014

**Signed on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen
In Right of the Province of British Columbia
by the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and
Reconciliation**



Minister John Rustad



Witness

December 10, 2014



Chronological no. – N° consécutif 2,014-12-10-2
File reference no. - N° de référence du dossier

BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION RÉSOLUTION DE CONSEIL DE BANDE

NOTE: The words "from our Band Funds" "capital" or "revenue", whichever is the case, must appear in all resolutions requesting expenditures from Band Funds.
NOTA: Les mots "des fonds de notre bande" "capital" ou "revenu" selon le cas doivent paraître dans toutes les résolutions portant sur des dépenses à même les fonds des bandes.

			Cash free balance – Solde disponible	
The council of Le conseil de	Yekooche First Nation		Capital account Compte capital	
Date of duly convened meeting Date de l'assemblée dument convoquée	December 10, 2014	Province: British Columbia	Revenue account Compte revenu	

DO HEREBY RESOLVE:
DÉCIDE, PAR LES PRÉSENTES:

WHEREAS: The Province of British Columbia (the "Province") wishes to share benefits in relation to the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Pipeline Project (the "Project") with Yekooche First Nation ("Yekooche");

AND WHEREAS: The Province and Yekooche have negotiated the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement (the "Benefits Agreement");

AND WHEREAS: Yekooche wishes to receive the benefits set out in the Benefits Agreement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Chief and Council of the Yekooche First Nation hereby authorize Chief Allen Joseph to sign the Benefits Agreement on behalf of the Yekooche.

Quorum 3

Allen Joseph
(Chief – Chef)

Michael Joseph
(Councillor – Conseiller)

Maya Joseph
(Councillor – Conseiller)

Joseph
(Councillor – Conseiller)

(Councillor – Conseiller)

(Councillor – Conseiller)

(Councillor – Conseiller)

(Councillor – Conseiller)

(Councillor – Conseiller)

(Councillor – Conseiller)