



Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick
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To: Major Projects Office

(WCOPComment-CommentaireOCO@mpo-bgp.gc.ca)

From: Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick

Date: 18 September 2026

Subject: Submission re: *Canada Gazette Part I* Notice —West Coast Oil Pipeline

Who We Are

The Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB) is fighting for a renewable energy future. New Brunswick can meet its future energy needs with renewable energy and energy storage technologies, without fossil fuels or nuclear energy on our electricity grid.

CRED-NB submits the following pursuant to the notice in *Canada Gazette*, Part I that Governor in Council may amend Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act to list the West Coast Oil Pipeline as a project of national interest.

Submission

CRED-NB submits that the West Coast Oil Pipeline will not strengthen Canada's autonomy, resilience, or security. The pipeline will continue to tie the Canadian economy to fossil fuels, ensuring that we remain vulnerable to market booms and busts, and price shocks as the rest of the world builds domestic energy security by committing to the energy transition.

CRED-NB argues that the West Coast Oil Pipeline will not provide net benefits, economic or otherwise, to Canada. As global demand for oil is forecasted to peak shortly before the pipeline will come online, and to decline rapidly thereafter, this project is predicated on the hope that a market for oil will invent itself in the near future. It is unlikely that such a market will appear, given the rapid acceleration of the global energy transition and given the plethora of other, cheaper, sources of oil around the world. While some demand for oil will continue, Canada's expensive crude oil will struggle to find buyers.

CRED-NB emphasizes that the West Coast Oil Pipeline has a low likelihood of successful execution. Given the recent history of pipeline resistance from civil society, Indigenous communities, and citizens alike, this project will be hard pressed to secure the social licence it needs to advance. Additionally, the project would have to overcome considerable logistical



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challenges, including the potential for materials delays and cost-overruns. The pipeline also poses substantial risks to the public sector, with the government currently poised to own 90% of the pipeline with very little likelihood of making that money back.

CRED-NB points to significant Indigenous opposition to highlight that the West Coast Oil Pipeline is unlikely to advance the interests of Indigenous Peoples. From the Union of BC Indian Chiefs to the Coastal First Nations, Indigenous communities in British Columbia are staunchly opposed to a new oil pipeline. The proposed pipeline would jeopardize First Nations title, rights, jurisdiction, and environmental protections, while additional tanker traffic would expose First Nations to unacceptable risks from oil spills, environmental degradation, and accelerating climate change. Environmental destruction and increased climate disasters does not advance the interests of Indigenous Peoples.

CRED-NB strongly emphasizes that the West Coast Oil Pipeline will hinder clean growth and will prevent Canada from meeting its objectives with respect to climate change. Enhanced oil production is fundamentally antithetical to clean growth. Increased oil production will cause Canadian greenhouse gas emissions to skyrocket, bringing us further and further away from our international commitments to reduce our emissions. It is impossible to build this pipeline and to meet our climate change commitments.

In short, CRED-NB asks that Cabinet refuse to list the West Coast Oil Pipeline as a project of national interest. In these precarious times, we need decisive action that will bring about a sustainable new economy based on renewable energy, aimed at increasing affordability for Canadians. A pipeline is not in the national interest.