

PO Box 2781, Smithers, BC, Canada, V0J 2N0  
Tel (250) 847-9693 • Email [pmossnwi@bulkley.net](mailto:pmossnwi@bulkley.net) • Website [northwestinstitute.ca](http://northwestinstitute.ca)

### **Backgrounder re: LNG Community Dialogue Sessions in Northern BC**

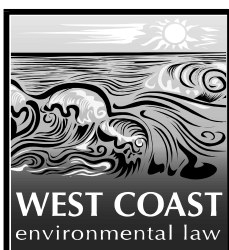
In December of 2014 to March of 2015, Northwest Institute and West Coast Environmental Law will be co-hosting a series of dialogue sessions across the North. The goal of these sessions is to engage First Nations and local residents in a conversation about core values that are potentially impacted by the 12 plus proposed pipelines and related gas development in the north east of the province. We are seeking participation from a broad range of residents, with diverse backgrounds and interests.

At the dialogue sessions, we intend to share the information we have on possible future development scenarios involving LNG and seek input from participants on how these scenarios might impact the values that are important to them. We are particularly interested in identifying questions from community members around cumulative impacts on values that have not yet been addressed, due to the absence of a Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Once the dialogue sessions are completed, the input from First Nations and local residents will be compiled and summarized in a report to be completed in April of 2015. The report will offer focused recommendations on how the province could address the gaps identified by community members as significant in the report. The report will request that the province collaborate with First Nations with impacted territories, West Coast Environmental Law, Northwest Institute, and other interested groups.

The dialogue sessions hosted across the North will gather valuable information and also raise awareness around which values are excluded under the current environmental assessment process. The current large number of in-progress and proposed development projects in the region make this an urgent moment to collectively consider what type of assessment process is required in order to ensure that community values are considered and protected.

Dialogue sessions will be organized and facilitated by Valine Crist (M.A.), who is a member of Haida Gwaii and a researcher with the Northwest Institute; and Hannah Askew (M.A., J.D.) who is staff counsel with West Coast Environmental Law.



200 – 2006 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 2B3  
[www.wcel.org](http://www.wcel.org)

tel: 604.684.7378  
fax: 604.684.1312  
toll free: 1.800.330.WCEL (in BC)  
email: [admin@wcel.org](mailto:admin@wcel.org)