



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Coast Salish Nations stand together in opposing to RBT2

11:00am-12:00 pm on Saturday, May 25, 2019

Beach Grove Golf Course , 5946 12th Ave., Delta, BC V4L 1C7

Several Coast Salish Nations, in a hearing with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) on May 25, formally opposed the proposed expansion to Roberts Bank Terminal 2. The Canadian government is obligated to secure the “free, prior, and informed consent” of Indigenous peoples before approving projects that would significantly impact Indigenous peoples and their homelands. In this case and at this time, such consent has been denied.

“We have to stop the bleeding of the Salish Sea,” said Raynell Morris of Lummi Nation. “That means no new projects, no RBT2, no Trans Mountain Pipeline, nothing, until we have assessed the physical, cultural, and spiritual health of the Salish Sea, and until we have established a baseline for Salish Sea health as measured in salmon.”

“The Salish Sea and the vital marine life that it supports are the lifeblood of our people,” Teri Gobin, Chairwoman Tulalip Tribes, said. “Impacts from the Robert Banks Terminal expansion represent a threat to the natural and cultural resources that have sustained us since time immemorial.”

“For over 150 years we have been impacted by a pollution-based economy,” shared Swinomish Chairman Brian Cladoosby. “Our intention is to restore and protect this shared place for today and generations to come.”

"Everything interrelates, said Chairman Leonard Forsman of the Suquamish Tribe and also President of ATNI. “The promotion of increased container shipping with increased fossil fuel use and combustion will contribute more to climate change, which is bringing warming waters and raising sea levels.”

“In our language, we don’t say *killer whale*, we say *qwe ‘lhol mechen*, which means *our relations under the waves*. We have a *Xa Xalh Xechnging* (sacred obligation) to protect them and their home in the same way we protect ourselves and our home. We are all family,” said Lawrence Solomon, Secretary of Lummi Nation.

The waters, salmon, orcas, and Coast Salish cultures and spirit have been part of the Salish Sea region since time immemorial and do not recognize the relatively recent Canadian/US border. Coast Salish Nations on both sides of the border are standing as one in our unconditional opposition to the proposed expansion of the Roberts Bank Terminal.

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Live Stream of press conference at the [SacredSea.org](https://www.facebook.com/OurSacredSea/) Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OurSacredSea/>, and at www.SacredSea.org

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The CEAA hearings are open to the public and to press. CEAA will be livestreaming the entire process at <https://freeman.streamme.ca/ceaa2019>.