

The Province

It starts here.

Enbridge says support strong for pipeline to Kitimat, but many not familiar with project

BY CASSIDY OLIVIER, THE PROVINCE JANUARY 5, 2012



In May 2011, First nations natives from B.C. marched in protest to the headquarters of Enbridge before the company's annual general meeting in Calgary. The natives are protesting the proposed oil pipeline that will go through their land. Some new number crunching released Jan. 5 by Enbridge cites a majority of B.C.ers are "more likely" to support the controversial Northern Gateway pipeline project than oppose it — but a large number of respondents are not familiar with the endeavour that seeks to link Alberta's oilsands to a port in Kitimat.

Photograph by: Todd Korol, Reuters

Some new number crunching released by Enbridge cites a majority of B.C.ers are “more likely” to support the controversial Northern Gateway pipeline project than oppose it — but a large number of respondents are not familiar with the endeavour that seeks to link Alberta’s oilsands to a port in Kitimat.

The Ipsos Reid poll, commissioned by the Calgary-based Enbridge Inc., found that nearly 48 per cent of those polled supported the project, compared to 32 per cent who said they were against it.

However, the poll also found that the majority of respondents are not familiar with the proposal, with only four in 10 respondents (42 per cent) reporting that they know about the \$5.5-billion project.

Another three in 10 (30 per cent) said they are “not very familiar” with it, while another one in four (25 per cent) said they are “not at all familiar” with the project.

Nikki Skuce, Senior Energy Campaigner with ForestEthics, said the online poll — paid for by Enbridge — runs counter to most public opinion research on the matter.

“Today’s poll is another reminder that Enbridge knows the public will not support its proposed pipeline when the project is considered in its entirety, namely when the climate change risks and impacts of a tar sands pipeline are considered,” Skuce said in a release.

“Although the Northern Gateway project would allow Canada to gain entry into major oil markets outside of the United States, many Canadians are currently pushing for the proposal to be shelved,” said Lorne Bozinoff, president of Toronto-based Forum Research, which conducted a mid-December poll citing a majority of Canadians opposed to the pipeline, with the strongest opposition in B.C., Ontario and Quebec.

Twenty per cent of respondents in today’s poll said they are undecided about the project.

The top benefit mentioned by the respondents (51 per cent) is employment/economic benefits. The top concern (43 per cent) respondents highlighted was “general environmental concerns.”

The online poll was conducted between Dec. 12 and Dec. 15 and had a sample size of 1,000 adult British Columbians. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. For the complete poll results, go [here](#).