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Douglas Channel Watch

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Enbridge Plebiscite Campaign

Douglas Channel Watch (DCW) has launched a campaign encouraging the people of Kitimat to get out and vote on the Enbridge Northern Gateway plebiscite at Tamitik Arena, or the Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School cafeteria, on April 12th, from 8:00am to 8:00pm.

"We fought hard for a simple, clear question", said DCW's Murray Minchin, "but didn't realize how important the plebiscite was until we started getting interview requests from the BBC, and heard of other international news organizations that were also coming to cover it."

To find out how people in Kitimat felt about Enbridge's proposal, DCW went out and started knocking on doors. "Rather than throwing millions of dollars into an ad campaign telling people what to think like Enbridge does, we started knocking on doors and asked the people of Kitimat what was most important to them" said Minchin.

What DCW found is there are five key reasons why even fence sitters and supporters of Northern Gateway would vote 'no' on the plebiscite, and that is because the Joint Review Panel's recommendations and conditions,

- 1) will allow temporary foreign workers to build the pipelines,
- 2) describe Northern Gateway as a raw diluted bitumen export pipeline,
- 3) does not mandate upgrading or any other job creating, value added projects,
- 4) will allow 1,100 foot long oil supertankers on BC's pristine north coast, and
- 5) that the JRP considered the Exxon Valdez and Kalamazoo spills as localized events with temporary effects, which would be "justified in the circumstances" if they happened in BC's waters.

"That made us realize this plebiscite wasn't for our local Mayor and Council, because you can bet if the BBC is coming, Ottawa will be watching closely as well. Kitimat is the only city in Canada which gets to vote on this proposal, and it's a golden opportunity for Kitimat to send a strong, clear message to Ottawa that they need to rethink their priorities" said Minchin.

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