

**March 14, 2013**

**Media Lines**

**Special Federal Representative for  
 West Coast Energy Infrastructure**

**Issue**

On March 19, 2013, The Honourable Joe Oliver, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, will announce the appointment of Douglas Eyford as the Government of Canada's Special Federal Representative for West Coast Energy Infrastructure. Mr. Eyford will engage with Aboriginal communities in British Columbia and Alberta that could benefit from future energy infrastructure development.

**Key Messages**

- The Government of Canada is pleased to announce Douglas Eyford as the Government of Canada's Special Federal Representative for West Coast Energy Infrastructure.
- Mr. Eyford will report directly to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Natural Resources.
- Mr. Eyford will be engaging Aboriginal groups on economic opportunities related to proposed West Coast energy infrastructure, such as oil and gas pipelines, marine terminals and ports. He will also engage with Aboriginal communities to identify options for creating Aboriginal jobs, economic development and full participation in natural resources while strengthening environmental protection.
- As Special Federal Representative, Mr. Eyford will provide a preliminary report outlining key findings by June 28, 2013, and a final report by November 2013.

*If asked on why this person was chosen as the Special Federal Representative*

- Douglas Eyford brings a wealth of experience and expertise related to First Nation communities. He recently negotiated a successful resolution between Prince Rupert Port Authority and First Nation communities that enabled that port to expand while addressing First Nations issues.

- Douglas Eyford's depth of background, experience and track record of success in alternative forms of dispute resolution, arbitrations and mediations and in treaty negotiations will be invaluable to the role as Special Federal Representative.

*If asked about why this is narrowly focused on the West Coast*

- Canada is committed to supporting Aboriginal participation in resource activities across Canada.
- However, the West Coast has seen a huge expansion of oil and gas pipeline, all of which overlap traditional Aboriginal territory.
- Expansion and development of critical new energy infrastructure in Western Canada will facilitate access to new international markets and support economic growth across the country.
- To help ensure Aboriginal peoples can more fully benefit from emerging economic opportunities, Budget 2012 provided more than \$690 million to support skills development, education and infrastructure.

*If asked about the role of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)*

- Doug Eyford's work will be focused on economic development and the participation of Aboriginal Canadians in the natural resource economy. AANDC will continue to be responsible for all treaty and land claim negotiations.
- The role of AANDC is to coordinate with, support and advise federal officials on fulfilling the legal duty to consult. This role also supports a whole-of-government approach to Aboriginal consultation.
- Officials from AANDC will provide support for Mr. Eyford while he carries out his important work.

*If asked about the proposed Northern Gateway Project*

- The Special Federal Representative's appointment is completely separate from the Joint Review Panel Process.
- The Joint Review Panel for Northern Gateway is conducting a rigorous, extensive, open, science-based assessment. This is the best mechanism to assess the project, and we will continue to rely on the integrity of this process.

- Aboriginal consultations are fully integrated into the review process for the Northern Gateway Project to ensure meaningful consultation occurs. The Government is relying to the greatest extent possible on the consultation efforts undertaken by the Proponent and the National Energy Board's Joint Review Panel process to meet its duty to consult.

#### *On Responsible Resource Development*

- A whole-of-government approach to Aboriginal consultation has been developed through the Major Projects Management Office initiative to ensure a consistent, coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultations for natural resources projects.
- Through the Government's plan for *Responsible Resource Development*, consultations with Aboriginal peoples are fully integrated into the environmental assessment and regulatory permitting processes from beginning to end. Possible impacts on potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights are given due consideration in decision making.
- To this end, there is now a clear federal lead responsible for ensuring that consultations in major projects are effective, consistent and meaningful.
- The federal government provided \$13.6 million over two years through Economic Action Plan 2012 to support consultations with Aboriginal Peoples. Participant funding is now available to support Aboriginal participation in all environmental assessments under CEAA 2012.