



Lax Kw'alaams Band

Lax Kw'alaams Issues Survey Report

September 2014



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Introduction

The Lax Kw'alaams Band has been working hard over the past year to communicate with members. Through effective communications with you, we will be better positioned to make decisions that reflect our collective values and priorities. We will be making some important decisions in the future and members need to be involved in the process.

The Council's position on all proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) development continues to be that we will not approve any project that puts our marine environment and sea resources at risk. So far, the Band has signed Negotiation Framework Agreements with Pacific Northwest LNG (Petronas) and British Gas. These agreements set timelines for negotiations and meetings and provide capacity funding to the Band to participate in the negotiations process and engage with our members. No final agreements have been signed.

In an effort to understand members' communications preferences and thoughts about development projects in our territory, a baseline survey was launched in February 2014. The goals of the survey were to: gather information for developing an effective strategy to communicate fully with members both on and off-reserve; receive feedback on key issues facing the nation; and inform decision-making efficiently with guidance from members. The results from this survey can be found on the Lax Kw'alaams website at www.laxkwalaams.ca.

A second survey was launched in June 2014, which aimed to explore more deeply members' opinions on LNG including the risks, benefits and opportunities associated with the proposed projects in our territory. This report summarizes the results of the second survey, including members' comments. To protect the privacy of our members, all comments shared in this report have been kept anonymous.

Gathering this information is critical for helping us make informed decisions about development that are consistent with our values and that ensure our territory is protected for future generations. We thank everyone who participated in this survey and we hope that this report sparks a healthy dialogue as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

The Lax Kw'alaams Communications Committee (Carl Sampson, Chris Sankey, Ted White and Geraldine Alexcee)

About the Data

This report is based on the results of 484 fully completed surveys submitted by Lax Kw'alaams members. All survey respondents were asked to verify that they are above the age of 14 and are members of the Lax Kw'alaams First Nations community. The survey was sent to members on- and off-reserve by mail, via social media, and by email. Paper copies of the survey were also delivered to members' homes in Port Simpson (Lax Kw'alaams). The survey was open from June 24 to September 5, 2014.

Our sample size was defined by the number of registered members over the age of 14, which was 2925 members. With this sample size and number of completed surveys, we calculated the survey response rate to be 17%.

Given the large number of members who completed surveys, we can consider the results to be representative of the Lax Kw'alaams population as a whole. It is also proportional to the number of members living on-reserve (18%) and off-reserve (82%). Therefore, we can consider the results to be good indication of community members' views, and use the survey findings as tool to inform band decision-making.

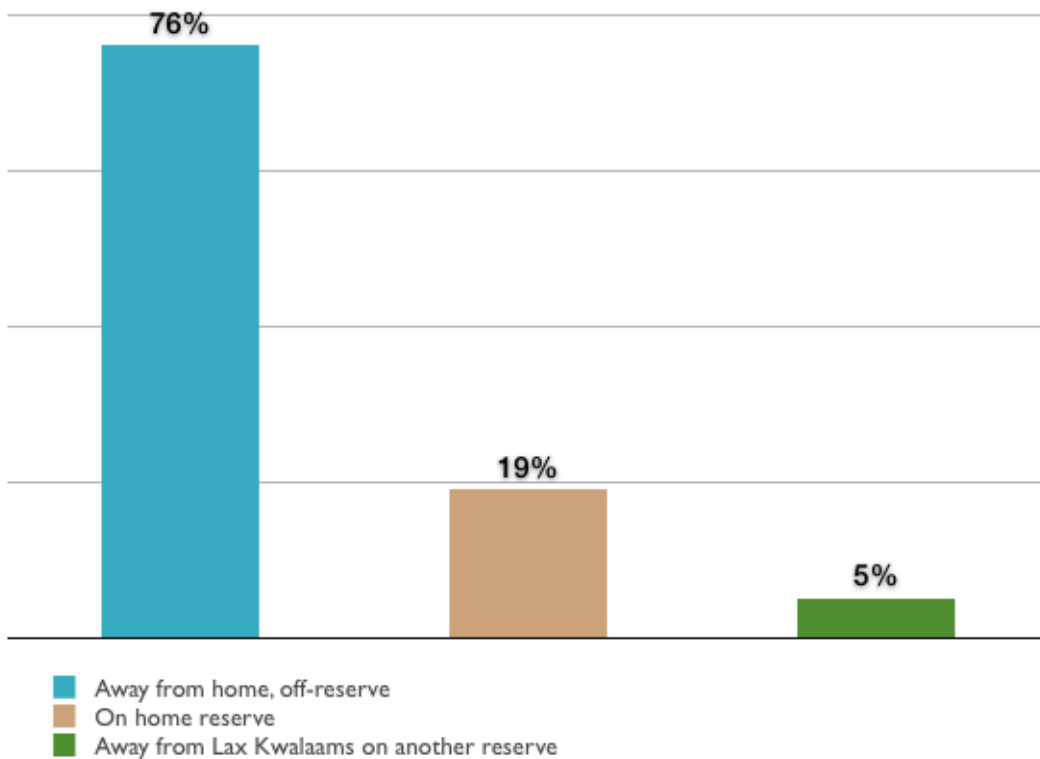
To protect the privacy of our members, all comments shared in this report have been kept anonymous. The survey also invited members to share their biggest questions about LNG and a sample of those questions is shared in report.

Completed Surveys	484
Sample Size (members 14 & up)	2925
Response Rate	17%

Profile of Survey Participants

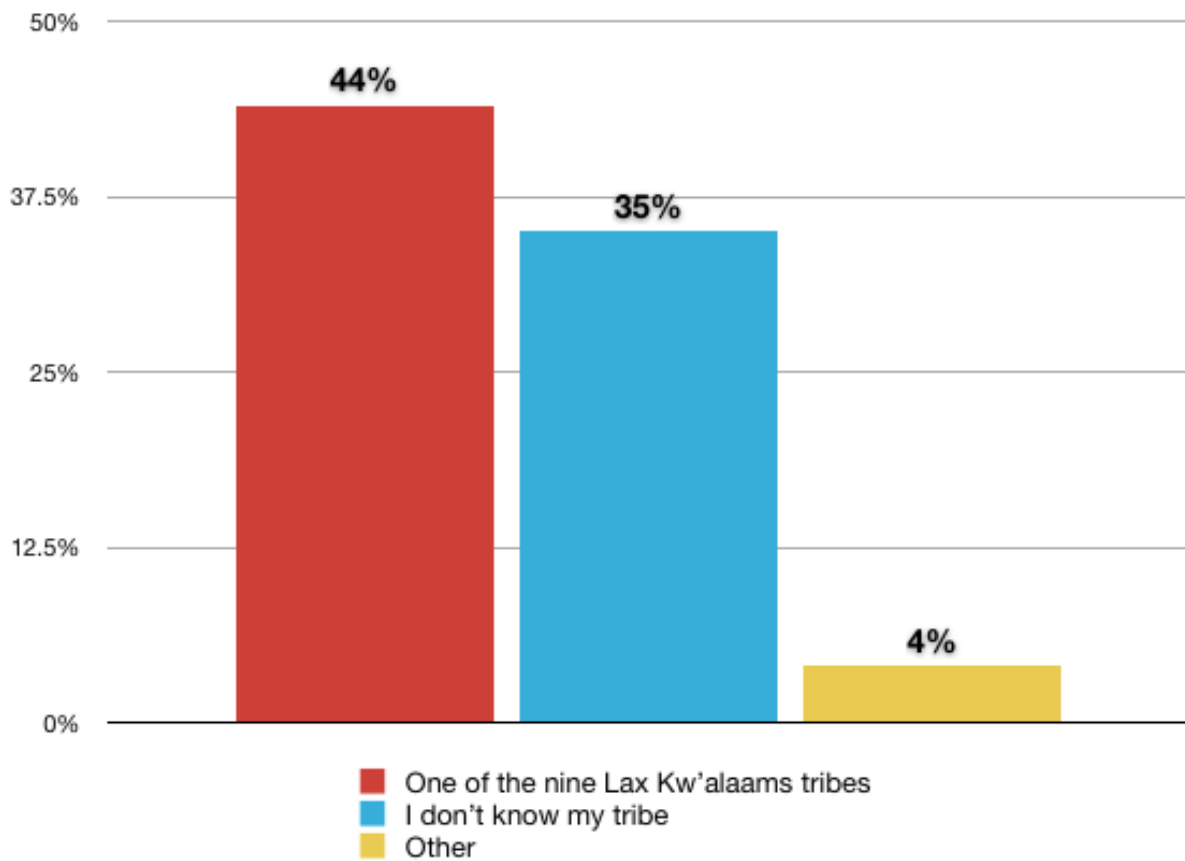
Place of Residence

We asked survey respondents to tell us their place of residence. Of the 484 completed surveys, 93 (19%) were completed by those living at home in Lax Kw'alaams, and 367 (76%) were completed by those community members living away from home, off-reserve. Another 24 were completed by members living on another reserve (5%). This breakdown is shown in the chart below.



Tribe Associations

We also asked members to identify their tribes. The following chart shows the responses we received. Just under half of members (44%) identified that they belong to one of the nine Lax Kw'alaams tribes, 35% did not know their tribe and a small number (4%) named a tribe outside of the 9 tribes. Another 16% did not answer the question (not shown).

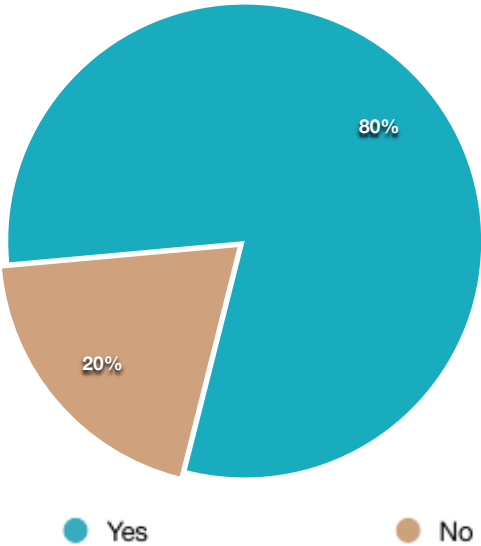


Opinions on LNG

The remaining survey questions were asked to understand members' opinions about proposed LNG projects in our territory and thoughts on impacts and benefits to help inform Band decision-making. The following charts illustrate the responses we received to these questions.

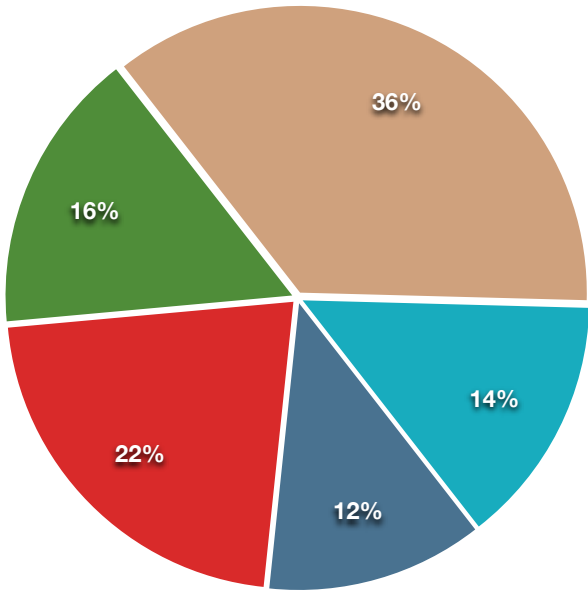
As a member, would you like more information on LNG projects in our territory?

Most members told us that they would like more information about proposed LNG projects in Lax Kw'alaams territory (80%).



How do you feel about proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects?

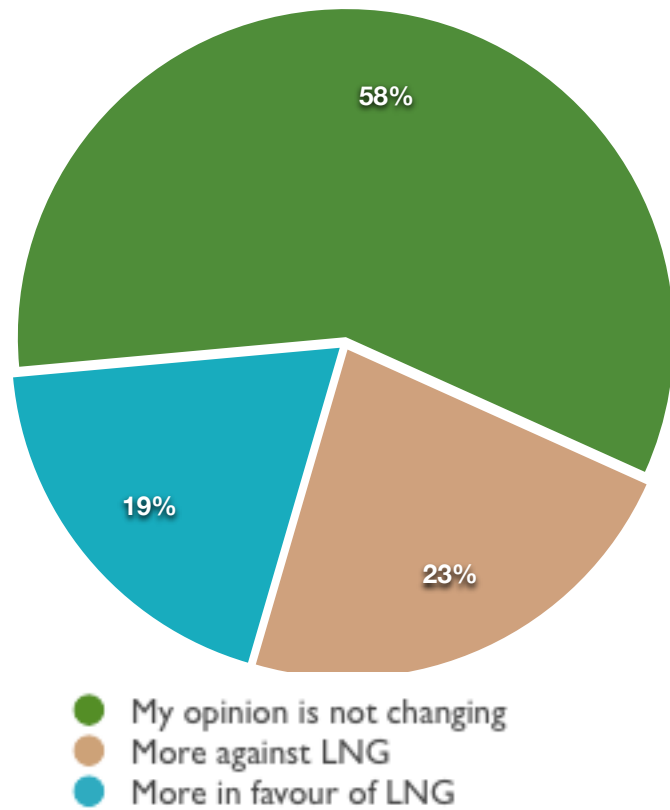
Almost half of members (48%) were opposed; one-third (30%) were in favour; and 22% were undecided.



- Highly in favour
- Somewhat in favour
- Undecided
- Highly opposed
- Somewhat opposed

In general, how is your opinion changing on LNG?

When asked how their opinions about LNG have changed over time, most (just over half, 58%) members responded that their opinion had not changed. The remaining responses were almost evenly split: 23% have become more against LNG over time, while 19% have become more in favour of LNG.

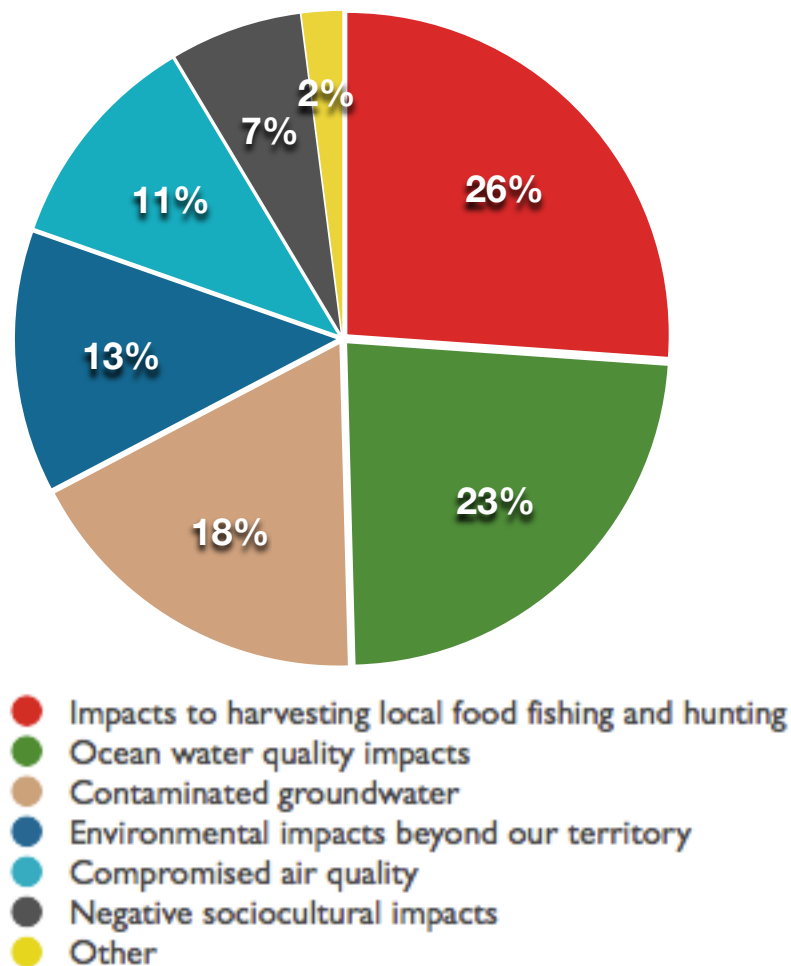


Development Projects

Risks from Major Developments

What types of risks from major development projects are most concerning within our community and territory?

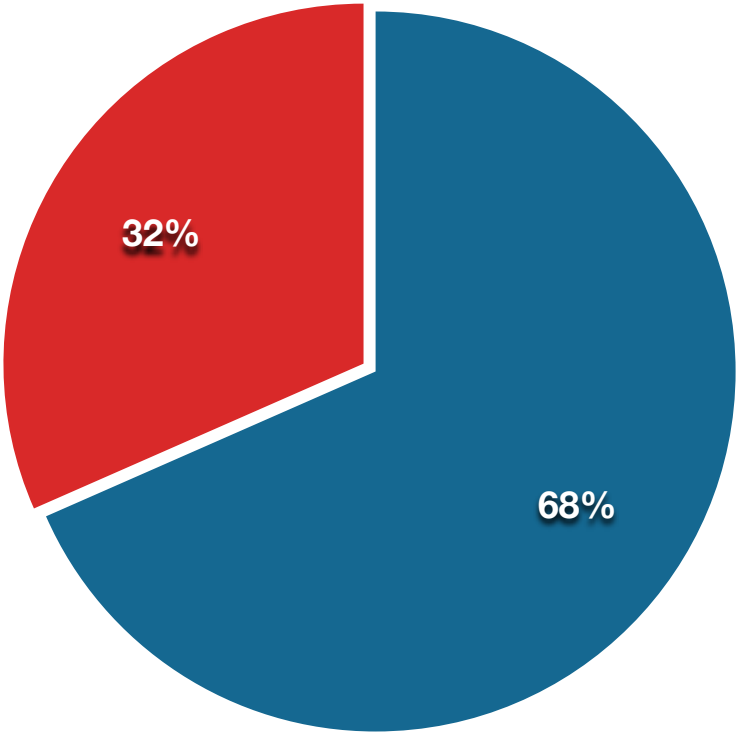
Over a quarter (26%) of members were most concerned about impacts to harvesting, local food fishing and hunting. Another quarter (23%) were concerned with impacts to ocean water quality. Eighteen percent (18%) were most concerned about contaminated groundwater followed by environmental impacts beyond our territory (13%), air quality (11%) and socio-cultural impacts (7%).



Economic Opportunities

If new economic opportunities are created for Lax Kw'alaams, which of the following are more important to you?

The large majority of members (68%) responded that creating more jobs and contract opportunities for members is most important in the context of development. The remaining 32% responded that creating more profit for the Band to support member programs is most important.

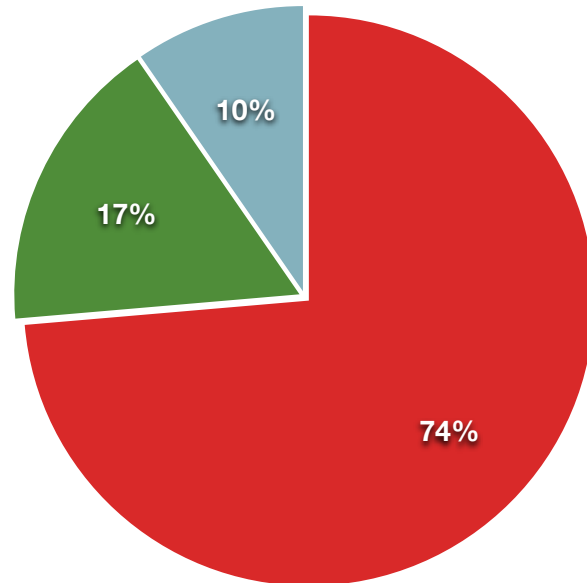


- Creating more jobs and contract opportunities for members
- Creating more profit for the Band to support member programs

Benefits from Development Projects

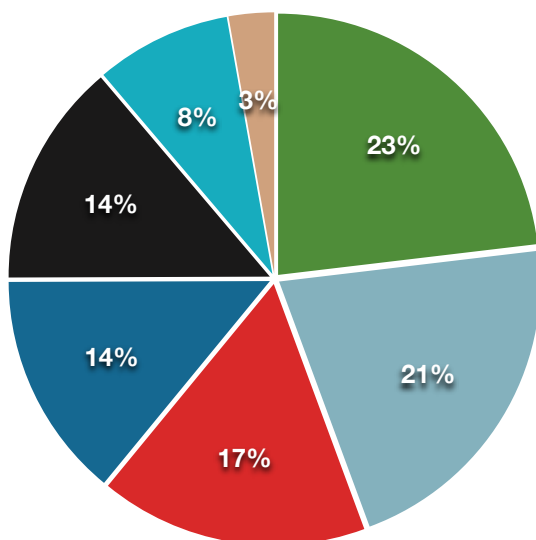
Should benefits from projects in our territory focus more on immediate needs or on longer term benefits for future generations?

Almost three-quarters of members responded that projects in the territory should focus more on balancing immediate *and* future community needs. The remaining 17% responded that benefits from projects should focus on future generations. Ten percent (10%) wanted the focus of the projects to be on benefitting immediate needs.



- Balance immediate and future community needs
- Benefit future generations
- Benefit immediate needs

What sort of benefits would you most like to see from any developments in our territory?



All together, 61% of members would like to see employment, education and trades and training opportunities coming out of any proposed developments in the territory. The remaining 28% hoped to see social and family care programs and health care. The remaining 8% wanted to see more band revenue.

- Jobs and work opportunities
- Education opportunities
- Trades training
- Social and family care programs
- Health care
- Band revenue
- Other

Questions and Comments about LNG

The following is a selection of questions and comments that members had about LNG and other issues. Most are word-for-word, although in some cases they have been lightly edited for readability and to ensure anonymity.

Questions

- How will the influx of workers impact Prince Rupert? i.e. Will crime rates go up?
- What safety protocols are in place to protect our territory?
- What's the financial agreement?
- How will our kids benefit long term?
- What are members going to get out of this?
- What is the environmental impact on our resources and how is it being addressed?
- Who is going to be hired and is there training to ensure that band members get a more than 50% chance on being hired if they qualify?
- How do we ensure our resources are protected as well as us as a Nation.
- How much pollution is there going to be with LNG?
- Will there be training opportunities for members?
- Will companies help implement programs into the school system to direct people to the right kind of programs and education needed to be employed after construction?
- Will members be given priority to contracts?
- What would happen if we have an earthquake?
- How will fracking impact our water supplies?
- Is this really worth the risk to our way of life?

Comments

- I do not understand how corporations and governments can negotiate from a position of strength (as if they own the land). The recent decision from the Supreme Court illustrates we are the ones who should be bargaining from a strong position, rather than a muted response from our negotiators.
- I would like to see more people educated in our culture in the school districts throughout Canada; more opportunity for our people to prosper on and off our reservation; and job training and education; more self sufficient within resources, drug and alcohol programs and programs for families with disabilities.
- I think it will benefit us all and will be all good as long as there is no negative environmental impact.
- If possible, more gatherings would be nice.
- I would prefer there be no LNG built near Lax Kw'alaams, we depend on the resources for our food, and once that is contaminated, we will not get it back when LNG is done.
- I would love to learn our mother tongue, not only for myself but for my grand kids and pass on. I would love info on how I would go about it. I also want to move home one day, to the reserve.
- I think it would be great to have a program where our Elders can share stories of when they were young, some type of course that may be integrated into the schools. Have the Elders be an important of children's education, be in the schools, adopt an elder in classes. Talk about what they did when they were younger, picking soap berries, salmon berries, so many things that our children could go out and do, I think it would benefit both the Elders and the children.
- I think the band should focus more on jobs, education, and training than worrying about band revenue. If members are making money, band revenue will grow. I was quite impressed with the Open House presentation, especially the layout and format (the placards were very impressive), and it was nice to see so many things I haven't seen before. Having role models is great to encourage our people is a great benefit we need to utilize as much as possible. Positive people can do great things. I think its important that we be as welcoming to non-members as possible, to understand that they are here to help us.
- Money is what is creating our divisions. We need to think more traditionally, not about money.

Open House Feedback

In June 2014, all members were invited to join the Lax Kw'alaams Band for an opportunity to learn about communications, economic development and proposed LNG projects in our territory. Open-houses were held in Lax Kw'alaams, Prince Rupert, Terrace and Vancouver. During the open houses members heard from researchers and experts who are working for the Band to understand the potential impacts of LNG on our traditional territory. Information was shared on display boards and handouts along with a question and answer period with Council.

Members Who Attended a Lax Kw'alaams Open House said:

- Hoping as we get more community involvement, more people will show up.
- Great information from environmental professionals.
- We had to leave as there were no seats.
- I thought the open house was well set up an very informative...More get togethers like this is a must to keep band members up to date
- I see them as a good thing because our band members are being informed as to what is happening and why. That we, as a people, are not just sitting back & doing nothing to try & protect ourselves.
- I thought that the communication team did a very well job with the open house in Vancouver Friday evening.
- Excellent presentation.Thank you for the hard work.
- All of this info is useful, and very informative! There are topics that I did not know of!
- With the "Cedar Wireless" (aka Rumour Mill) so prevalent on and off reserve, I appreciate most efforts to improve communications with all band members in various communities across Canada.
- Going in the right direction.
- The clarification of the Band's stance on LNG was very informative.
- Its good information to know what's happening now and in the future. It would be good to have a lot of jobs created and still harvest traditional food
- Very informative, welcoming, and thorough.
- Helps get a better understanding of what is going on.
- Very friendly people.
- I would have liked to know if we are providing cleaner solutions for energy for the community.
- At the end of the open houses, it would be beneficial to have some more reading material on what was covered and what we can expect in the future.
- They were very well orchestrated and planned out well; very informative as the presenters were very thorough when doing their presentations.Visuals were placed very well where they caught

the eyes of those attending right away. All questions asked were answered very well in detail and if could not be answered subject was directed to one that could answer the question.

- I realize you want us to understand the process of LNG and how it is processed so we understand the effects on the environment but I feel that it went too in depth into the science of the process. Just a broad overview would have sufficed for myself. I am glad there was an open house and am grateful that the band is explaining and sharing what they are doing to protect its members and the environment.
- Good information overall. However, it would be helpful if presenters explained terms such as 'sediment' or other words that they average person wouldn't be aware of so that we can make informed decisions. It would also be helpful to show drawings or animations of how the water moves, etc as it is hard to follow when it is just verbal. I would love to see the posters put online and/or emailed to us so that we can review further and share with family. Helpful information though. I appreciate it.
- Thank-you for having them. Could have shortened the science end of information not so specific- more big picture but overall well-done.
- More tables and start on time. Have more often.
- Its good to have these - people should be informed.
- Would be nice to have a site to find all this info. If there is one, be nice to post the site name somewhere at the meeting.
- Would like more information available prior to the Open House; agenda, who is presenting, etc.
- The open house should be held on a weekend, so the majority of off reserve members can attend the meeting.