



April 10, 2023

Beatriz Balbin
Chief
Special Procedures Branch
OHCHR

Dear Beatriz Balbin:

We received your letter dated 13 January 2023 regarding allegations of human rights violations in the context of the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline project in British Columbia, Canada.

Respecting human rights is a fundamental operating principle of our partner in the Coastal GasLink project, TC Energy, and by extension, how they have planned, and are building, the Project. From the outset, TC Energy has been thoughtful about engaging with Indigenous groups along the route, including affected First Nations and the Hereditary Chiefs. This commitment started more than ten years ago, when they began engaging with more than 20 Indigenous groups along the then proposed project corridor in accordance with Canadian law, and consistent with the spirit and intent of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and its guiding principles. Both Canada and British Columbia have since passed legislation to implement UNDRIP, and TC Energy complies with the laws of the jurisdictions within which they operate.

We are proud of the benefit agreements Coastal GasLink has in place with all 20 elected Indigenous communities along the project corridor, including Wet'suwet'en communities. These agreements were achieved through extensive consultation and engagement and are unique to each Nation's expectations, interests and values. With the support of the Project's investors, TC Energy created an equity option for the First Nations to acquire 10% of the project and, after multiple years of discussions, 17 First Nations officially signed on to the equity option – a first for a project of this scale.

We understand TC Energy has provided a response to your inquiry and invite you to review their letter for further information on the project and their activities.

Regards,



Paul Workman
Director, Infrastructure