

PIPELINES

Opposition to Northern Gateway Remains High in British Columbia

Fewer people now say that they could change their mind on the project if certain conditions are met.

[VANCOUVER – Oct. 11, 2012] – Most people in British Columbia are against the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, and fewer opponents are saying that they would change their mind on the project if the bottom-line requirements set by the BC Government are met, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted in partnership with CTV has found.

In the online survey of a representative provincial sample of 800 British Columbian adults, two thirds of respondents (68%) claim to have followed news stories related to proposals to build and expand pipelines in the province “very closely” or “moderately closely.”

In the survey, respondents were shown a map with the proposed location of the Enbridge Northern Gateway, a new pipeline from Alberta to British Columbia’s north coast that would export oil on tankers to China. Only nine per cent of British Columbians completely support the proposal (+2 [since August](#)), while 27 per cent support it (=), but could change their minds based on economic or environmental considerations.

Across the province, one third of respondents (34%, -1) say they completely oppose the Enbridge Northern Gateway, while one-in-four (23%, -1) oppose the proposal, but could change their minds based on economic or environmental considerations.

Respondents who voiced complete or partial opposition to the Northern Gateway were also asked if they would be more likely to endorse the project if any of the five bottom-line requirements outlined by the BC

KEY FINDINGS

- **68% are following news stories related to pipeline proposals “very closely” or “moderately closely”**
- **57% oppose the Northern Gateway (34% completely; 23% with reservations)**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From October 9 to October 10, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 800 randomly selected British Columbia adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of British Columbia. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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Government are met. A third of opponents to the Northern Gateway say they would be more likely to back the project if world-leading marine oil-spill prevention and response systems are established (32%).

Fewer opponents say they would change their mind if on-land spill response is enhanced to world-leading standards (30%), if clear fiscal and economic benefits to British Columbia are outlined (29%) and if an environmental review process is completed (27%). In these four categories, there is a marked reduction in the proportion of possible switchers since the summer.

British Columbians were also asked about the moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling in the north and central coast of British Columbia, which has been in place since the 1970s and is interpreted by some people as a ban on oil tankers in the north and central coast. A third of respondents (33%, -2) believe that oil tankers should “definitely” or “probably” be allowed in BC’s north and central coast, while a majority (53%, +2) would “definitely” or “probably” ban these vessels from the area.

Despite the attention that the Northern Gateway has generated in recent months, only three-in-ten British Columbians (31%) are content with the way Premier and BC Liberals leader Christy Clark has handled the issue, down six points in two months. One third of respondents (34%) are satisfied with the stance taken by Official Opposition and BC New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Adrian Dix. Green Party leader Jane Sterk (18%) and BC Conservative leader John Cummins (10%) post lower numbers.

About Angus Reid Public Opinion

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

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Over the past month, how closely have you followed news stories related to proposals to build and expand pipelines in British Columbia?

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Very closely	18%	17%	22%	13%	25%
Moderately closely	50%	46%	51%	55%	54%
Not too closely	20%	23%	17%	20%	15%
Not closely at all	10%	11%	10%	10%	6%
Not sure	2%	3%	0%	2%	0%

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Pipelines

As you may know, there is a proposal—known as the Enbridge Northern Gateway—to build a new pipeline from Alberta to British Columbia’s north coast, to export oil on tankers to China.



From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this proposal?

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Completely support	9%	7%	8%	14%	8%
Support, but could change mind based on economic or environmental considerations	27%	28%	27%	25%	22%
Oppose, but could change mind based on economic or environmental considerations	23%	25%	20%	25%	17%
Completely oppose	34%	31%	42%	28%	47%
Not sure	7%	9%	3%	8%	6%

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To respondents who “Oppose unless certain conditions are met” or “Completely oppose” the Enbridge Northern Gateway:

As you may know, the Government of British Columbia has introduced five bottom-line requirements that must be met for British Columbia to consider support of any heavy oil pipeline project. Would meeting each of these requirements change your views on the proposed Northern Gateway project?

	Would be more likely to <i>support</i> the project if this requirement is met	Would still be <i>opposed</i> to the project, even if this requirement is met	Not sure
Establishing world-leading marine oil-spill prevention and response systems	32%	60%	8%
Enhancing on-land spill response to world-leading standards	30%	62%	8%
Outlining clear fiscal and economic benefits to British Columbia	29%	60%	10%
Completing an environmental review process	27%	63%	10%
Addressing the legal requirements regarding aboriginal and treaty rights	22%	66%	13%

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As you may know, there has been a moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling in the north and central coast of British Columbia since the 1970s. Some people interpret this moratorium as a ban on oil tankers in the north and central coast, while others do not.

Thinking about this, which of these options comes closest to your own point of view?

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Oil tankers should definitely be allowed in BC's north and central coast	7%	7%	7%	9%	3%
Oil tankers should probably be allowed in BC's north and central coast	26%	28%	25%	24%	17%
Oil tankers should probably be banned in BC's north and central coast	21%	21%	24%	21%	16%
Oil tankers should definitely be banned in BC's north and central coast	32%	30%	35%	28%	48%
Not sure	14%	14%	10%	18%	16%

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BC Political Scene

When it comes to the issue of pipelines in British Columbia, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the stance taken by the four major party leaders?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Not familiar with leader's position	Not sure
Official Opposition and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Adrian Dix	34%	27%	19%	19%
Premier and BC Liberals leader Christy Clark	31%	44%	10%	15%
Green Party leader Jane Sterk	18%	17%	36%	29%
BC Conservative Party leader John Cummins	10%	24%	38%	28%

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