

The blob is almost gone but has left marine ecosystems somewhat stressed it was a hot topic for climatologists, linked to climate change, shifting distribution of marine species, led algae blooms, shutting down crabbing and clamming for months and maybe has been linked to huge die off of common murres in Alaska. Over 8000 were found dead on a beach at Whittier in Prince William Sound. Reports said they were severely emaciated and last spring the females were too weak to breed. They have found no parasites or any disease. Die offs have been linked to warming waters degree but not like this. They feed on herring capelin and juvenile pollock that thrive in a narrow band of cool water. An adult murre will eat 300 fish a day but if the temp goes up the fish are gone. According to BC Conservation data centre common murres are threatened in BC. Murre colony breeds on Triangle Island - vulnerable to drowning in gill nets & oil spills. In 1989 when Exxon Valdez spilled more than 11 M gal of crude oil into the cold water & damaged 2100 km of remote shoreline in N America. Some 250,000 seabirds were killed by the oil 74% were murres. Only 13 of the 32 monitored wildlife species and habitat are believed to be recovered and one of those not recovered is the Pacific herring, the foundation of a thriving fishery & food for murres as well as 40 other wildlife species. US Fish & Wildlife are doing an investigation into the Murre die offs. Alaska is home to 2.8M murres scattered over 250 nesting sites. There has there been such a die off. Die offs are a natural part of life cycle but not to this extent. Bird Mortality rate mirrors with the slightest temp rise. Warming oceans are resulting in re-jiggering of ecosystems and an unlocking of the dependence between predator & prey.

Northern Gateway.

The First Nations & Métis say that one of Canada's highest priorities should be reconciliation between aboriginal & non-aboriginal Canadians and they welcome the Federal govt's commitment to that, which will be a new way of doing business, it sets a precedent for collaborative partnerships between First Nations and Métis communities and resource industry.

They are concerned with the negative impact a potential Tanker ban would have on their communities. Oil is already being transported by rail thru their lands so their communities are taking all the risks with no ownership or benefits. So they are happy the govt wants to consult with aboriginal people on policy initiatives as a true reflection of the importance of the relationship between them. The government's future consultation on a possible tanker ban must meet the standard of consultation as required on new projects like Northern Gateway. Trudeau has said the constitutionally-guaranteed rights of First Nations are a sacred obligation that the govt carries forward. So they expect to be consulted on a proposed tanker ban as it is their duty under Sec 35 of the Constitution Act 1982. This duty to consult is a first step to reconciliation. So before any tanker ban can ever be thought of their inherent rights must be addressed. This means the govt must consult with them in the same way as they must before any project can take place on our lands & traditional territories. The BC supreme court recently made this decision and they welcome that it's also consultation that they have given their Equity Partnership which represent 28 First Nations & Métis communities in BC & Alberta who are owners of a separator of Northern Gateway. They have a

direct role in the environmental protection of lands and waters along the pipeline corridor & ~~marine~~ marine operations and want to work collaboratively much all govt. Northern Gateway will provide long term educational, business & economic opportunities while at the same time protecting the environment & their traditional life. They will be active participants & receive full benefits.

Climate change:

A child born today will be coping with a number of stresses. most significant will be climate change, weather extremes that effect our minds, our bodies & our plants' functioning. It will lead to lower earnings, precarious employment, mental health burdens effecting collective decision making health & well-being. There is little we can do to prevent it but there is much we can do to prevent reduce them. The 21st century has moved well beyond historical precedent as the ^{concentration of CO₂ in} atmosphere now hovers at 400 parts per million, a level climatologists say has not been seen on Earth for 3 m or more years. The implication of this is that as children now will experience a normal climate. It will experience as we transition to the new and more chaotic climate regime, glimpses of what climate used to feel like when seasons were normal. The 21st century is an era of risk...with underlying opportunities. There will be extreme weather and other natural disasters where we'll have to respond. These shocks and their chaos & turmoil will affect our mental health. Mental & emotional stability combined with technology are the essential support tools for adapting to change. Aggressively cutting emissions could delay the timing a few years but not enough to stop it.

1. There are a few areas that communities can think about
2. Tackling & understand local vulnerabilities as they
relate to physical and mental health; employment,
health care and transit.

2. Managing community mental well being, helping
the vulnerable to cope with increasing sense of
unease around precarious work, parental
challenges & environmental change etc.

3. Building community-based sharing networks on-
line & off-line could help. Address increased demand
for basic goods & services; networks will also be needed
to co-ordinate paid, unpaid or bartered work.

4. Growing food will become a necessity to supplement
store bought products as prices rise & new space
needs to be used for this and those that know how will
need to teach others how to do so. Local sharing
networks will be important to keep a degree of
equitable community food distribution & security.
Culture is a great shock absorber when times get
tough. Community-based art/music etc can
help people interpret a changing world, build
inner strength & find a common purpose.

5. Young people are most at risk. They're next to
be taught more community-focused values;
interdependence, friendship, self reliance & help
them adapt. Because it's not our world but
theirs and that's what we need to think about.

Pipeline

Federal govt is ordering extra consultations with
first nations & other communities separate from the
NEB. It's a way of rebuilding confidence in the pipeline
approval process. The hearings underway will go on
but the Federal govt is giving itself 7 months instead
of the 3 it was legislated to make up final decision

Best upstream greenhouse gas emissions
linked to the projects will now be assessed but no
downstream emissions when fossil fuels are burned
in destination countries. This is an extra layer of
review & plug major gaps in flawed NEB
review process left by Conservative Govt. The

Crown's duty to consult First Nations is now the
for the change. This will be happening to all.

Federally reviewed projects also all LNG plants
that have been proposed. That still doesn't take
in downstream carbon emissions which make
up bulk of climate impacts on new pipelines