



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cold Lake First Nations Calls for Transparency and Accountability Following Carbon Pricing Agreement Announcement

COLD LAKE FIRST NATIONS, AB — Yesterday's announcement from Canada and Alberta on a new carbon pricing agreement comes attached to a commitment from Canada that a pipeline will go ahead, and an assumption that First Nations' investment in the pipeline will remove our concerns.

We recognize that certainty can support investment and planning. Our opposition isn't about money. Investment opportunities and revenue sharing are tools we advocate for, but certainty must also be built on trust, transparency, and a clear understanding of impacts, especially for the communities who live closest to these developments.

CLFN has its own oil company: we are not against energy projects. We have a responsibility to be stewards of the land in a good way. We carry a long history of adapting to decisions made around us. The impacts of the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range permanently altered our way of life and economy. Those experiences shape how we approach new developments today—with caution, with responsibility, and with a deep commitment to protecting what remains.

We have been trying to engage with the carbon sequestration proponents for three years now, but they are still unable to provide the information we need to make informed decisions. Geological, economic, and safety questions remain on the CO₂ storage hub, the pipeline, and the cumulative, long-term impacts. None of these projects should go ahead until these questions are answered.

Last week we had an earthquake in a region that is not prone to them near Shell's Quest project. This is the small-scale project that is being held up as proof sequestration technology works, but even at that small scale there are unforeseen impacts. We don't know that Quest caused the earthquake: the problem is, no one knows.

We continue to believe that this project warrants a thorough federal impact assessment. Not as a barrier to development, but as a tool to build confidence, strengthen transparency, and ensure all risks are fully understood and responsibly managed.

We have been asking Canada, Alberta, and the multi-nationals that are supporting carbon sequestration to bring all parties together to discuss a path forward through two Premiers and two Prime Ministers. Our position has not changed: we come offering solutions to avoid conflict later, but the solutions won't help anyone if they don't get to the discussion table.

All Albertans deserve this information before more taxpayer money flows to foreign shareholders. Development without the information to clearly weigh the costs and benefits cannot meet the Major Projects designation bar of being in the best interest of Canada.

Our Treaty partners and the provincial governments need to listen to and act on First Nations' solutions, not just acknowledge them. A decision-making approach grounded in long-term thinking and shared responsibility will build true partnerships instead of processes that feel predetermined.

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