Coastal GasLink and the Blockades
Final Questionnaire (February 24, 2020)

We want to get people’s views on some issues in Canada today. As always, there are no right or wrong answers; we just want your honest opinions.

[display as separate intro screen]

You may have heard about the Coastal GasLink project which would bring natural gas via pipeline to a coastal terminal in northern BC for export to Asia as liquified natural gas.

Part of the pipeline crosses through the Wet’suwet’en First Nation’s territory. A total of 20 First Nations elected band councils have signed agreements in support of the Coastal GasLink project, including five of six in the Wet’suwet’en Nation. However almost all the Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs are opposed and are trying to block the project. Those hereditary chiefs, joined by their supporters, set up a checkpoint blocking access to the project site. The RCMP removed this following a court-ordered injunction in February.

Since then there have been protests across Canada in support of the hereditary chiefs, including blockades of roads and bridges, rail lines and ports, and some government offices. These blockades have lasted anywhere from a few hours to weeks. So far, police have moved to close one blockade, but others remain and new ones have popped up.

We want to get people’s views on this issue.

[new screen]

Let’s start with the blockades themselves. By “blockades” we are specifically referring to the blocking of infrastructure such as roads, bridges and rail lines in protest against this project, sometimes in defiance of a court order. We are NOT referring to other legal protests of the project, only the blockade activity.

A1. Base=Total
Which of the following best describes your own view? (Even if neither is exactly how you feel, which is closer to your view?). These blockades are:

A LEGITIMATE way to highlight a cause, even if it means disruptions for people and the economy
OR
Way out of line – it’s WRONG to have this kind of disruption of people and the economy
A2.  
**Base=Total**  
There are two overall points of view about how best to handle these blockades. Which do you think is best?

Be patient and rely on discussion and negotiation, not police action  
OR  
Use whatever legal force is necessary to end the blockades now

A3.  
**Base=Total**  
These blockades raise some different specific considerations and arguments, both for and against. Please indicate how much weight you personally feel should be given to each of the following issues that have been raised in discussions about these blockades.

[rows] [randomize]  
The risk of escalation and violence if police move in to forcibly remove blockades

The possibility that allowing these blockades to linger by not taking action will encourage other similar blockades on future issues

The economic cost of these blockades, including workers being laid off

The inconvenience of people trying to travel or commute through these blocked areas

[columns]  
No weight at all – that’s just not important  
A little weight  
A lot of weight  
The single most important consideration

A4.  
**Base=Total**  
Thinking of the people participating in these blockades, would you say they are *mostly:*  

Troublemakers, just trying to stir things up and cause problems  
OR  
Committed people taking a stand on something they feel strongly about

A5.  
**Base=Total**  
Are these blockades in protest of the Coastal GasLink project:
Making you more opposed to the project
Making you more supportive of the project
Having no impact on your view of the project one way or the other

[new screen]

Now let’s focus on the Coastal GasLink project itself. It would bring natural gas via pipeline to BC’s north coast for export overseas as liquified natural gas. Again, it’s to carry natural gas, not crude oil as in the case of other pipeline projects in the news. The project has been approved by the BC and federal government.

(T) B1.
Base=Total
Setting aside the protests and blockades for a moment – Based on what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose the Coastal GasLink project itself?

Strongly support
Moderately support
Moderately oppose
Strongly oppose
Not sure/Can’t say

B2.
Base=Total
The Coastal GasLink project raises some different specific considerations and arguments, both for and against. Please indicate how much weight you personally feel should be given to each of the following issues that have been raised in discussions about this project.

[rows] [randomize]
This natural gas will be cleaner energy for Asia which means less coal and oil burning

Natural gas is still fossil fuel so extracting it and burning it means more greenhouse gas emissions

The natural gas for this project is extracted by “fracking” (hydraulic fracturing through rock)

It will be natural gas and not crude oil going through this pipeline

The economic benefits this project would bring to BC and the rest of Canada

[columns]
No weight at all – that’s just not important
A little weight
A lot of weight
The single most important consideration

C1.
Base=Total
Turning now to another aspect of this issue.

As noted, a total of 20 First Nations elected band councils have signed agreements in support of the Coastal GasLink project, including five of six in the Wet'suwet'en Nation. However, the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs are opposed and trying to block the project.

If it was your call to make, who would you consider most authorized to speak for the Wet’suwet’en people on this issue?

The band leaders elected by First Nation members
OR
The hereditary chiefs from the traditional clan system
Both
Don’t know/Can’t say

D1.
Base=Total
Do you think the following are doing a good or bad job handling this whole issue regarding the Coastal GasLink project and the protest blockades against it?

[rows] [randomize]
Justin Trudeau
Andrew Scheer and the Conservative Party of Canada
Your Premier
Perry Bellegarde and the Assembly of First Nations
Other Indigenous leaders
The companies building the project

[Columns]
Very good job
Good job
Bad job
Very bad job
Don’t know/Can’t say
E1.
Base=Total
Overall, are the blockades helping or hurting:

[rows] [randomize]
Reconciliation and the overall relationship between Indigenous and other Canadians
Canada’s reputation as a place for business investment
The Canadian economy

[columns]
Helping a lot
Helping
Hurting
Hurting a lot
No real impact either way

E2.
Base= “strongly/moderately support” in B1
Suppose the whole Coastal GasLink project is eventually cancelled and never happens. What would be your reaction to that outcome? Would you be:

Fine with that
Upset
Very upset if it gets cancelled

E3.
Base= “strongly/moderately oppose” in B1
Suppose the whole Coastal GasLink project does go ahead and gets built and becomes operational. What would be your reaction to that outcome? Would you be:

Fine with that
Upset
Very upset if it goes ahead

E4.
Base=Total
In thinking about this whole topic we’ve been talking about, what for you is the MOST important issue involved? (More than one of these may be important, but please pick your number one.)

[randomize]
The economy and jobs
Law and order
Indigenous rights
The environment

**E5a.**
**Base=Total**
Finally, have you or anyone you know been personally affected by these protest blockades we’ve been talking about?

Yes, personally affected
Yes, know someone/people affected
No

**E5b.**
**Base=“Yes, personally” at E5a**
And would you say the impact on you has been major or minor?

Major
Minor

**E5c.**
**Base=“yes, know other(s)” and NOT “Yes, personally” at E5a**
And, would you say it has been a major or a minor impact on the affected people you know.

Major
Minor

**E6.**
**Base=Total**
And, just before we let you go......

Which party's candidate did you vote for in the 2019 federal election?

I did not vote
Conservative Party of Canada
Liberal Party of Canada
New Democratic Party of Canada [NDP]
Bloc Quebecois [QC only]
Green Party of Canada
Other Party
Rather not say