

**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