



Conversations for  
Responsible  
Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE – BUSINESS LEADERS REACT TO CLARK PIPELINE ANNOUNCEMENT

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**VANCOUVER, B.C** – Yesterday’s announcement of a deal between the premiers of BC and Alberta to push forward new oil pipelines was met with disappointment by local business leaders and professionals.

Meeru Dhalwala, co-owner of Vij’s restaurant, reacted with dismay: *“What shocks me is that Christy Clark has given up even on her basic economic promise of cash to our province that was set forth in the province’s five conditions. I only hope that breaking one of BC’s main conditions is not a precursor to breaking the even more important environmental conditions.”*

Local digital entrepreneur Bradley Shende called on Clark to stand her ground: *“I was impressed with the conditions set for approval of new pipelines through BC – they were tough, fair and protect the integrity of this Province. I encourage Premier Clark to stick to her guns on behalf of British Columbians and measure whether the economics, risks and rewards add up before pushing anything through.”*

Members of CRED, a local business group, are calling on Premier Clark to carry out an independent cost-benefit analysis before pushing for the Northern Gateway or Trans Mountain pipeline. They want to see economic risks weighed against the benefits, and are asking for careful consideration of market vulnerabilities, local impacts on gas prices and the Canadian dollar, risk to the ‘beautiful BC’ brand, spill cleanup costs and the job losses that would stem from a significant spill.

CRED’s director Liz McDowell commented: *“This isn’t just about Alberta giving BC a handout. If the government is serious about protecting the long-term prosperity of Canadians, there needs to be a real consideration of whether new oil pipelines could hurt more jobs than they create. Otherwise it’s not in the best interests of our province. Right now, it seems like the majority of benefits from these pipeline projects will be felt in Alberta and the biggest risks will be shouldered by British Columbians.”*

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### Notes:

- The majority of employment in BC comes from the service sector. 80% of British Columbians work in trade, public administration, financial services, real estate, technology, health and other services

- Studies have shown that an oil spill along the Washington coast could adversely effect 165,000 jobs. A UBC risk analysis of the Northern Gateway proposal found that a spill along BC’s north coast could cost up to 43% of all jobs in marine tourism, fishing and other coastal industries

### About CRED:

Conversations for Responsible Economic Development is a collection of professionals and business leaders from the tourism, real estate, tech, health, creative and other service-based sectors who are committed to participating in informed dialogue about long-term prosperity on Canada’s west coast. Its mission is to protect the regional economy from threats to long-term development, promote industries that build on BC’s creativity, innovation and natural beauty, and foster conversations about the types of energy and resource development and transportation that are compatible with this vision. CRED advisors include restaurateur Meeru Dhalwala, tech entrepreneur Bradley Shende, screenwriter Tarah Stafford, North Shore realtor Dallas LaPorta and UBC economist Dr. Rashid Sumaila.