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## First Nations Oppose Possible British Columbia Oil Pipeline



A totem pole in the First Nations village of Skidegate on the island of Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. *Photographer: Ben Nelms/Bloomberg*

By [Catherine Cartier](#)

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A First Nations group in British Columbia sent an [open letter](#) to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney urging him reject any proposal for a pipeline or oil tanker project in the northwest area of the province.

The Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, an alliance of First Nations, requested that Carney’s government uphold a 2019 ban on oil tankers off the northern coast of the province. The [act](#), known as Bill C-48, prohibits tankers carrying more than 12,500 metric tons of crude oil from stopping or unloading along British Columbia’s north coast.

“There is no pipeline and oil tankers project or proponents that would be acceptable to us on the North Coast,” [said](#) Marilyn Slett, president of the

initiative and chief councillor of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council.

The statement sent Monday comes after Carney said earlier this month that a new oil pipeline to Canada's west coast is "highly likely" to be proposed as a nation-building project, becoming part of Ottawa's push to fast-track major developments.

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith supports a possible pipeline from Alberta to British Columbia's coast, while British Columbia Premier David Eby is skeptical but has not explicitly said he will fight such a proposal.

The First Nations group vowed to oppose any pipeline project.

"We have fought pipeline proposals since the 1970s – on the courts and on the water – and if necessary, we will do so again, but we would rather put our time and effort into working together," the letter said.

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