

An Open Letter to Canada

Adding Value to Our Country by Adding Value to Our Resources



Canada, we must seize every opportunity to process, refine, and add value to our natural resources before exporting to foreign markets. The District of Kitimat, BC (Kitimat) appeals to the nation, including First Nations, government, and business leaders, to identify and pursue opportunities to add value to our nation's natural resources.

Kitimat believes that value-added resource development is critical to the vitality and prosperity of our nation. Value-added resource development boosts local, regional, and national economies, and at the same time reduces risks to our natural environments. This is generally true for all natural resource industries such as oil and gas, forestry, mining, fisheries, and agriculture.

Adding value to natural resources attracts investment, delivers additional tax revenue, captures a greater percentage of the inherent economic value of each product, and preserves and creates both direct and indirect employment.

Adding value to natural resources often reduces environmental risks associated with transporting products, minimizes waste by utilizing a greater percentage of products, and ensures processing occurs under Canada's world class environmental regulations.

It is with these sentiments that Kitimat supports the Government of Canada's recent dismissal of the Enbridge Northern Gateway project, and supports a proposed crude oil tanker moratorium for the Northwest BC coast provided that the moratorium excludes refined products. Kitimat believes the environmental risks associated with tidewater shipping of crude oil outweigh potential economic benefits. Kitimat supports value-added opportunities across the nation that benefit our economy at the same time as reducing environmental risks, including proposed oil refineries and LNG terminals in the Kitimat region.

Kitimat encourages all levels of government—federal, provincial, First Nations, regional, and local—to start a serious conversation about value-added resource opportunities for the benefit of their jurisdictions and constituents. Governments must start collaborating to adopt policies and implement regulations that will facilitate and stimulate value-added resource development.

Kitimat encourages all of Canada to work together to protect our environment and strengthen our economy. Together, we can add value to our nation by adding value to our natural resources. For more information or to lend your support to this initiative visit kitimat.ca/value-added or contact Mayor Phil Germuth at mayor@kitimat.ca.

Respectfully,

Phil Germuth
Mayor of Kitimat