



## ESQUIMALT UNITED CHURCH

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January 26, 2026

### **Re: Protecting BC's Coastline**

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Members of Esquimalt Council,

As you undoubtedly know, BC's coastline, protected for many years by the North Coast Tanker Ban, is currently threatened by a federal government pipeline proposal. BC communities, the BC government, and coastal First Nations have voiced strong opposition to the expansion of oil tanker traffic, which carries great risk to our coast.

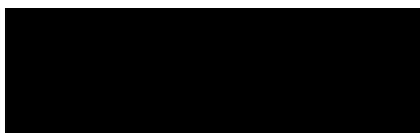
The Justice Team of Esquimalt United Church is concerned about this issue, and we are asking that you, representing the community of Esquimalt with its strong ties to the sea and the coastal environment, write two letters:

- To the federal government (Prime Minister Carney, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources) urging them to stand by the 2019 North Coast Tanker Ban and reject any proposals that would undermine it
- To the Government of BC (Premier David Eby, the BC Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, and the BC Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship), thanking them for their leadership in publicly defending the North Coast Tanker Ban and encouraging the prioritization of investment in renewable energy and clean technologies

Victoria and Saanich councils have already sent these letters, and we're very much hoping that Esquimalt will join in this effort. We include two sample letters.

Thank you for considering this important means of defending the beautiful coastline of Esquimalt, and of BC.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Gage  
For the Justice Team of Esquimalt United Church

# Sample Letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Federal Ministers

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

cc:

- Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

## Re: Defend the North Coast Tanker Ban and Protect B.C.'s Coast

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Honourable Ministers,

On behalf of the [X Municipality], we write to express our strong support for the 2019 Oil Tanker Moratorium Act, which prohibits large oil tankers from carrying crude and persistent oils along B.C.'s North Coast.

This law was won after years of determined advocacy by Indigenous nations, coastal communities and local governments, all united in the belief that the risk of oil spills is too great for this extraordinary region.

### Why this matters to our community

- The North Coast is home to salmon, orcas, herring, halibut and other marine life central to our economy, culture and identity.
- A major spill could devastate fisheries, tourism and traditional harvesting practices, with consequences lasting generations.
- Residents across B.C. continue to say no new northern oil pipelines and tanker traffic, choosing a future based on clean energy instead.

We respectfully ask the Government of Canada to:

- Maintain and fully enforce the 2019 North Coast tanker ban;
- Reject any proposals that would weaken or overturn this critical protection;
- Prioritize federal investment in renewable energy and clean technology to create sustainable jobs and protect marine ecosystems.

Prime Minister Carney has pledged not to force pipelines through provinces that do not want them. We urge the federal government to honour this commitment and stand with British Columbians in keeping the North Coast spill-free for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention and leadership.

Sincerely,  
XXXX

# Sample Letter to Premier David Eby and Provincial Ministers

The Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

cc:

- Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- Honourable Adian Dix, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
- Honourable Tamara Davidson Minister of Environment and Parks

## Re: Defend the North Coast Tanker Ban and Protect B.C.'s Coast

Dear Premier Eby and Honourable Ministers,

On behalf of [X municipality], we write to reaffirm our community's strong support for the 2019 Oil Tanker Moratorium Act, which bans large oil tankers carrying crude and persistent oils from B.C.'s ecologically sensitive North Coast. We thank you for your public stance defending the tanker ban.

As you know, this ban was achieved through years of united action by Indigenous nations, coastal communities, local governments, and residents determined to protect salmon, herring, halibut, orcas, clean beaches and a sustainable coastal economy.

### Why this matters to our community

- A single major oil spill would devastate fisheries, tourism, and cultural practices that sustain our coast.
- British Columbians have consistently rejected new northern oil pipelines and associated tanker traffic that would put our coast at risk.
- B.C. is uniquely positioned to lead in clean energy: wind, solar, storage and grid modernization, creating good, long-term jobs that do not threaten coastal ecosystems.

We commend your government for publicly reaffirming its opposition to any new northern oil pipelines and related tanker traffic and for calling on the federal government to uphold and fully enforce the North Coast tanker ban.

We are writing to express our support for your government's position and to respectfully ask the Government of British Columbia to prioritize provincial investment in renewable energy and

clean technology that protects the coast, supports economic resilience, and aligns with B.C.'s climate commitments.

We want future generations to enjoy wild salmon, healthy marine life and clean beaches, not the devastating legacy of oil spills. Thank you for your leadership, and we urge you to continue standing with British Columbians to keep the North Coast spill-free.

Sincerely,

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