

11 December 2025

To:

Governor Nobumitsu Hayashi
Office of Examiner for Environmental Guidelines
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)
Environmental Review Office
1-4-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8144, Japan

Cc:

Ms. Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister
Ms. Satsuki Katayama, Minister of Finance
Mr. Ryosei Akazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Subject: Request for Suspension of JBIC Financing for LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) Canada Pending Independent Cumulative Health Impact Assessment

Dear Governor Hayashi Nobumitsu,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding JBIC's financing of LNG Canada and its associated Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline in British Columbia, Canada. The CGL pipeline has been developed without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of multiple Indigenous communities whose territories the projects impact, including Wet'suwet'en hereditary leaders. It is harming human health in regions where methane gas is extracted, transported and shipped, while worsening the climate crisis and tensions in northern communities.

We urge the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to suspend all further financing and disbursements for LNG projects in B.C. until an independent, cumulative Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the LNG and hydraulic fracturing industry conducted by qualified, arm's length, public health professionals has been completed, publicly disclosed, and reviewed, in accordance with international best practice.

We, the undersigned, include health professionals and concerned community leaders across Canada, including from fracking regions in northern British Columbia and Kitimat, the host community for the LNG Canada export terminal. We are speaking with one voice to address dangerous public policy, respect for Indigenous rights, and the protection of the air, water, and lands that sustain all life.

Japan, as a signatory to the [OECD Council Recommendation on Common Approaches for Officially Supported Export Credits and Environmental and Social Due Diligence](#), has an obligation to ensure that its export credit agencies and public finance institutions undertake

robust, science-based environmental and social assessments prior to financing high-impact projects. Without a cumulative, health-specific analysis, JBIC has not satisfied its requirements under paragraph 13 of Annex II provisions on human health. Further, under the [JBIC Environmental and Social Guidelines](#) (2022), the Bank must confirm that borrowers have appropriately assessed the environmental and social impacts, including impacts on human health, and that these assessments include cumulative impacts and potential transboundary or downstream effects. In the case of LNG Canada, this standard has not been met. Existing assessments fail to account for the total health burden from fracked gas extraction in northeast BC, long-distance pipeline transport through Coastal GasLink (CGL), terminal operations, marine shipping emissions, and associated power infrastructure.

In Kitimat, the local environmental and health context demonstrates the urgency of an independent cumulative HIA. The Kitimat airshed is [geographically constrained](#), with meteorological inversions that trap pollutants. Despite current Air Quality Index readings appearing within guideline values, there are [population-level health risks](#) from cumulative air pollutants over the project's lifetime. The significant [greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions](#) produced by LNG Canada and its gas supply chain of [fracked wells in NE BC](#) accelerate atmospheric warming and intensify secondary health hazards. These include higher heat-related morbidity and mortality; longer wildfire smoke exposure seasons driving respiratory and cardiovascular disease; increased flooding and storm-surge events with associated evacuations and infrastructure and mental-health harms. Rising ocean temperatures and altered hydrology threaten food systems, while changes to both land and water undermine cultural health. A credible HIA must quantify cumulative, full-chain GHG emissions (including Scope 3), model regional climate impacts and pollution exposure pathways, including impacts on biodiversity, food and water resources, evaluate the social impacts of man-camps, and assess adaptive and mitigation capacity for affected communities before any further JBIC financing proceeds.

Furthermore, Japan has endorsed the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(UNGPR\)](#), the [Glasgow Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition](#), and the [G7 Leaders' Communiqué](#), which commits all members to end new direct public support for fossil fuel projects abroad by the end of 2022, except in "limited and clearly defined circumstances consistent with a 1.5 °C pathway." JBIC's support for LNG Canada, a methane-intensive export terminal, is incompatible with those obligations. Moreover, JBIC's financing contravenes Japan's stated Net Zero by 2050 commitment and undermines its credibility under the [Paris Agreement](#). Methane's 20-year global warming potential is more than 80 times that of carbon dioxide, with expanding LNG production locking in decades of carbon-intensive infrastructure.

Beyond its obligations to consider direct health and climate impacts, JBIC has a duty under [Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights](#) (2020-2025) to uphold human rights across all financial activities, and exercise enhanced due diligence in contexts involving Indigenous peoples. Wet'suwet'en hereditary leadership, alongside multiple Indigenous groups whose unceded territories are crossed by the Coastal GasLink pipeline, have not provided Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as required under [UNDRIP Articles 19 and 32](#). Further, the 2019-2022 [RCMP enforcement actions](#) on their territories have been widely recognized as violating those rights. JBIC financing in this context exposes the Bank, and the Government of

Japan, to reputational and legal risk under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UNGP, and Japan's own National Action Plan.

Therefore, we respectfully call on JBIC to adopt a precautionary and rights-based approach consistent with its obligations under the JBIC Guidelines, OECD Common Approaches, UNGPs, UNDRIP, and Paris Agreement by:

(1) Immediately suspending new or incremental financing for LNG Canada and related infrastructure and other LNG projects in B.C. until an independent, cumulative HIA has been completed;

(2) Ensuring the HIA is led by independent public-health institutions with full public disclosure and peer review; and

(3) Conditioning any future disbursements on documented compliance with the HIA's mitigation measures and on verification of Free, Prior and Informed Consent from affected Indigenous rights-holders.

Signed,



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