



# TSAWOUT FIRST NATION

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Via email: [deltaport@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:deltaport@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

GCT Deltaport Expansion - Berth Four Project  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin Street  
22nd Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

To whom it may concern:

**Re: Update on the Assessment of the GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project (the “Project”)**

On Friday, June 23, 2023, Tsawout First Nation received an email update from the Impact Assessment Agency (the “Agency”) respecting GCT Canada Limited Partnership’s (“GCT Canada”) request to extend the time limit for the Impact Statement Development and Review Phase by 24 months, ending May 31, 2027.

Tsawout has reviewed GCT’s request to the Agency and agrees with GCT Canada that the current timelines for submission of the complete Impact Statement, particularly with respect to the proper assessment of Nation-specific impacts. Tsawout stresses the importance of understanding and assessing the impact of projects, including this Project, on Tsawout’s Aboriginal and Douglas Treaty rights. Tsawout will be conducting a comprehensive cumulative effects assessment on the impacts of marine shipping on our Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Tsawout also agrees with GCT Canada respecting capacity constraints on Nations to participate in the environmental assessment process. The collection, review, and submission of project-specific Indigenous Knowledge is a time- and resource-intensive process that must not be rushed or scrimped. In our extensive experience with mega-projects of this type, we have found that the timelines are short, capacity-funding is inadequate and the information request process non-responsive to First Nation’s concerns. We recommend that during the extension period that the Impact Assessment Agency and Environmental Assessment Office work with the First Nation’s most impacted by the Project to address these deficiencies.

Tsawout has no concerns respecting GCT Canada’s request for an extension.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Agency and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office as review of this Project continues.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Chen  
Fisheries Manager / Principal Negotiator

CC: