

Mackenzie Open House: What We Heard Report and Next Steps

July 24, 2025

Introduction

On July 15, 2025, Westcoast Energy Limited Partnership (Westcoast), an Enbridge affiliate, hosted an open house in Mackenzie, British Columbia. The event brought together community members and Westcoast subject matter experts. This open house was part of Westcoast's engagement process to build relationships and gather insights from the community about the [Sunrise Expansion Program \(Project\)](#). A previous open house about the Project was also held in Mackenzie on June 7, 2023.

Feedback was gathered through verbal discussions and written feedback forms. Attendees were invited to complete forms to share their perspectives on the Project and its proposed temporary workforce accommodation in Mackenzie. A total of 69 attendees signed in, with two-thirds completing feedback forms (46 total forms submitted).

There was significant support for both the Project in general and its proposed temporary workforce accommodation among those who attended the open house and submitted feedback forms.

The average level of support for the Project on a 5-point scale was 4.78. (Q: "Based on what you learned at today's Open House, please indicate your level of support for the Sunrise Expansion Program, using a scale from 1-5, with (5) indicating fully supportive and (1) indicating not supportive.")

The average level of support for the proposed temporary workforce accommodation on a 5-point scale was 4.52. (Q: "Based on what you learned at today's Open House, please indicate your level of support for the temporary workforce accommodation proposed to support the construction project, using a scale from 1-5, with (5) indicating fully supportive and (1) indicating not supportive.")

What We Heard

Local Employment and Economic Development

Employment opportunities and local economic development emerged as key themes throughout the open house.

- There was consensus that the economic development opportunities (for existing businesses as well as potential new businesses) and potential jobs associated with the Project will be positive for the community.
- Attendees registered strong preference for Westcoast to clearly and visibly prioritize local hiring and procurement to ensure meaningful community benefit.
- Suggestions included creating a database of local vendors and suppliers to help connect the Project with available local goods and services and actively supporting local businesses through service and supply contracts.
- Several attendees raised concerns about the potential strain that the Project (and the influx of workers from outside the community) could place on local services and infrastructure.

Temporary Workforce Impacts

The proposed temporary workforce accommodation drew a range of responses from attendees. Some residents indicated support for a self-contained workforce accommodation to minimize pressure on housing and tourism infrastructure. Other residents wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to provide rental and other accommodation to the construction workers, while others expressed concern that workers renting in town could displace visiting family members, tourists, or workers from other projects.

Attendees also raised concerns about the impacts of temporary workers on community resources, including health services and policing. There was curiosity around the workforce accommodation rules, including whether it would be an alcohol-free zone and how behaviour would be monitored.

Another concern was ensuring the local food supply chain could withstand the increased demand from an influx of workers, while meeting the needs of the community.

Participants shared several suggestions to help manage the impacts of a temporary workforce population surge and to support integration of these workers into the community.

- Establish a dedicated hotline for residents to report workforce-related concerns or observations.
- Maintain regular, open communications between the Project and the community, and clearly communicate the community's expectations to workers.
- Partner with local health providers to support addiction and mental health resources.
- Coordinate with the local grocery Co-op as well as other food service businesses to ensure food supply stability.
- Support community integration through activities or programs.

Health and Safety

Participants expressed concerns about the capacity of Mackenzie's health care system to support a temporary population increase during the Project. They also emphasized the need for specific safety measures to protect both residents and workers. Key concerns and questions included:

- Limited hospital capacity, clinic hours and periodic emergency room closures due to nursing shortages
- Overreliance on paramedics, with ambulances often dispatched from Prince George
- Shortage of mental health and addiction services
- How emergency services would prioritize calls and ensure adequate capacity
- The need for clear workforce policies that are consistently enforced
- Westcoast's plan to coordinate with local RCMP

Community and Social Well-Being

Participants encouraged Westcoast to contribute to the town's long-term social and economic well-being by contributing in areas of identified need, as well as partnering with local organizations to support community programs and services.

There was strong interest in partnerships to deliver community benefits. Suggestions included collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, WorkBC, and local businesses to facilitate workforce integration and procurement, and working closely with the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the District of Mackenzie to ensure integration and a positive relationship.

The need for clear and transparent communication from the Project was emphasized, including ensuring project information is accessible and delivered through a variety of channels to ensure inclusion and build awareness among all community members.

Environmental

While environmental concerns were not the primary focus of discussions, several participants emphasized the importance of Westcoast maintaining high environmental standards throughout the Project. Community members expressed a desire to see strong protections for local wildlife and nature areas, as well as a commitment to a thorough site cleanup once the Project is complete.

Response and Next Steps

Westcoast appreciates the time and consideration given by the District of Mackenzie attendees at the open house. The discussions and feedback will support Westcoast's operations and activities as the Project progresses. Specifically, Westcoast is addressing the elements outlined in the 'What We Heard' section in the following ways:

- Westcoast has assigned a community engagement lead, Seanna McDonald, as the community liaison to the District of Mackenzie to ensure frequent communication and timely feedback is received. Other communication channels deployed to keep the community informed include a regular newsletter, the [Sunrise Expansion Program website](#), a [virtual open house](#), a toll-free contact number (1-833-267-2220), and a regularly monitored [Project contact email \(BCprojects@enbridge.com\)](mailto:BCprojects@enbridge.com).
- Westcoast is developing a socio-economic effects management plan for the Project aimed at minimizing negative effects to the community and increasing positive benefits for the community, including:
 - A Community and Gender Safety Plan that specifically responds to important issues such as gender-based violence and human trafficking.
 - Mitigating impacts on local services and infrastructure. To do so, Westcoast proposes to:
 - have independent medical providers on site for construction and within the temporary workforce accommodation to reduce impacts on the medical facilities and services in Mackenzie;
 - improve or restore road infrastructure as required; and
 - have the temporary workforce accommodation provider hire a caterer who will manage any local food supply constraints if necessary.
- Westcoast has initiated engagement with Northern Health to discuss and collaborate on community health priorities and concerns.
- Westcoast will strictly enforce our Code of Conduct and After Hours Respect for the Community policies to maintain respectful and appropriate behaviour within the workforce accommodations and the community. Westcoast will also require workers to complete mandatory trainings on human trafficking awareness and

prevention, workplace health and safety, cultural safety, and Indigenous cultural awareness. Westcoast has a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and drug use, harassment and violence, and any behaviour that negatively impacts the community.

- Westcoast will ensure the temporary workforce accommodation provider, community members, and other employees and contractors receive contact information for the Enbridge Ethics Hotline and are encouraged to report any misconduct concerns.
- Westcoast is proud to support many local organizations and initiatives, including the Mackenzie Fire Rescue Department, Mackenzie Community Arts Council, Mackenzie Spring Expo, Mackenzie Counselling Services Society, and the Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Society.
- Westcoast, through Fueling Futures, intends to integrate local contractors and employees through partnerships and sponsorships that strengthen the safety, vibrancy and sustainability of the community through volunteerism.
- Westcoast has created a database of local vendors and suppliers to help connect the Project with available local goods and services.

In Closing

Westcoast is excited to continue working with the community to develop this Project that we can collectively be proud of.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Seanna'.

Seanna McDonald, Advisor, Community and Indigenous Engagement