

Notley to B.C.: Hands off pipeline

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Notley calls idea to move key NEB positions to Ottawa 'dumb'

PIPELINE FROM A1

"You can overreach if you want, but sooner or later someone is going to tell you you're overreaching."

The Alberta government has been granted intervener status for the judicial review which collects various challenges from First Nations and environmental groups into one hearing.

That hearing is expected to go ahead this fall.

Construction on the pipeline is planned to start before the end of the year and Notley said she's still hopeful that timeline will be met.

The expanded pipeline would carry crude and refined oil from Alberta to the British Columbia coast, opening up key Asian mar-

kets and providing a much-needed economic win for Notley's government.

Climate plan given the credit Notley said the government's climate leadership plan, including a carbon tax, was key in winning the approval and it would provide some upside for a set of policies that have been unpopular with Albertans.

On Monday, a five-member panel tasked with modernizing the National Energy Board called for an expanded role for indigenous communities, a revamped process for determining the "public interest" of the project, and for moving some leadership positions from Calgary to Ottawa.

Notley called the latter recommendation "dumb" and compared it to moving the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency from Atlantic Canada to Winnipeg.

"We are absolutely opposed to that and it shouldn't happen," said Notley.

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One region of Canada can't hold another hostage: premier

STUART THOMSON

Premier Rachel Notley fired a political warning shot across the B.C. border Tuesday in defence of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion that would take Albertan oil to the West Coast.

Whatever party takes power in British Columbia would be foolish to meddle in the pipeline process, Notley told a news conference Tuesday at the Alberta legislature.

"I fundamentally disagree with the view that one province, or even one region, can hold hostage the economy of another province, or in this case the economy of our entire country," said Notley.

"It's not how we do things in Canada in practice and, in my view, in the law."

The future of the pipeline has been thrown into some uncertainty by the results of the British Columbia election, where the NDP and Green Party, which oppose the project, had a strong showing.

The B.C. Liberals support the pipeline, won 43 seats and will have first crack at governing with a minority government. The election results are still not official, as British Columbians wait for absentee ballots to be counted and one judicial review to be decided.

NOTLEY WARNS B.C. AGAINST OVERREACH

Notley was adamant Tuesday that, whatever happens, the pipeline will go ahead.

Anyone wanting to stop it would have no tools in the tool box to do so, she said.

"It's just not the kind of thing that a government with a one- or two-seat majority does," she said.

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