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# PM remains 'committed' to pipeline, Notley says

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CALGARY Premier Rachel Notley says she's confident that Ottawa is fully behind the expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion as it faces fiercer opposition in British Columbia.

After speaking Wednesday at the Global Petroleum Show, Notley told reporters she had recently spoken to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau — whose Liberal government approved the controversial project last year — about the pipeline.

"He indicated that he is still very much committed to seeing the matter through, and I believe that is the case," said Notley.

"I feel very confident we have the undivided and unequivocal support of the federal government on this matter."

Alberta sees the expansion of the pipeline that runs to the port of Vancouver as crucial to opening new Asian markets to the province's oilsands crude and getting a better price for provincial resources.

But the project faces stiff envi-

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ronmental and First Nations opposition in B.C. With the B.C. NDP and Green party attempting to form government in the province after an election that left no party with a majority, the two parties have vowed to use whatever tools they have to block the pipeline.

In her speech at the petroleum show, Notley defended the oilsands and held up Alberta as a model for how jurisdictions should deal with energy and environment issues.

She touted the Alberta NDP government's ambitious climate-change initiative as a means to tackle greenhouse emissions while maintaining the health of the oil-patch — particularly Alberta's vast oilsands resources that are often the target of environmentalists.

"I have very little time for any conversation that seeks to shut down or significantly limit our oilsands," she said. "The oilsands are massive job and wealth creators, here in Alberta and quite frankly across and throughout Canada, and we need to protect the good jobs they create."

The Alberta NDP's climate plan includes a broad-based carbon tax introduced this year and a cap on oilsands emissions.

Notley said an effective climate plan has to pay attention to working people, job creation and economic growth.

"Families that are out of work and stressed about how the mortgage is going to get paid do not have a heck of a lot of time for climate action," said the premier.

With the United States' recent withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, the world can take a lesson from Alberta's actions, said Notley.

"Simply, it's this: climate action, a strong and competitive energy industry, and the well-being of working people go hand in hand in hand," she said.

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