

## Community Benefits

### ABOUT THE STUDY

A Communities and Services effects assessment was undertaken as part of the overall Socio-economic Assessment for the NaiKun Offshore Wind Energy Project. The assessment was co-ordinated by Hemmera, from Vancouver, B.C.

The studies were undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, which includes a thorough review of potential project-related effects. The purpose of these studies is to ensure that sufficient information, including appropriate measures to avoid and minimize impacts, is available for provincial and federal governments, as well as First Nations, the public and stakeholders, to conduct a thorough review of the project.

### HOW THE ASSESSMENT WAS CONDUCTED

A review of existing information helped to establish a baseline for socio-community resources in north coast communities. Key baseline information was gathered on:

- Population and demographics
- Education
- Employment and income
- Health
- Tourism and recreation.

Information sources included local data and publications, consultant reports, and census data and other ministry and publicly available information, as well as consultation with local groups and users of the Project area.

The potential effects of the project on local communities was then conducted using a combination of local interviews, technical analysis and professional judgment.

### KEY FINDINGS

The results of the studies indicate that the following potential effects may result from the project:

- Temporary increase in population and demand for housing and accommodation due to construction labour
- Increase in the type and number of jobs available (access to jobs will depend on qualifications and training)
- Increase in income and spending in the area
- Changes in demand for education and training to prepare the local workforce for construction jobs as well as highly skilled operations and maintenance jobs



*Haida Gwaii Energy Centre in Masset.*

- Increase in traffic on local roads and demand for air and ferry transportation during construction
- Changes to traffic and vessel movements on the water and in the air due to construction and operations
- The construction phase will create demand for resources and services within the local area as it will be the most resource-intensive phase of the Project. However, it is also considered to have the most potential for beneficial impacts in terms of employment and increased economic activity.
- No significant changes in demand for housing, accommodation and community services are predicted during operations due to the smaller size of the operations and maintenance workforce as well as NaiKun's commitment to employ local workers as much as possible.
- Approximately 200 seasonal jobs will be created during the construction of the project. Once the wind farm is complete, up to 50 career positions will be required to support project operation and maintenance. These positions will go to local workers wherever possible.

The project will have long-term benefits to local communities, with seasonal construction jobs, as well as long-term career positions and other opportunities. NaiKun has partnered with First Nations on certain aspects of the project, including revenue generation, employment and training opportunities, so that they benefit directly from increased economic opportunities in their own communities.

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## AVOIDING AND MITIGATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS

There are a number of actions that will be taken in advance of the construction, operations, and decommissioning phases of the Project in order to optimize the potential value of the Project for local communities and services, including:

- Developing and implementing training and education programs,
- Adopting hire-local policies and using local services and companies whenever possible,
- Developing a temporary housing strategy for external workers, and
- Developing a traffic and transportation management plan for onshore activities on Ridley Island, Port Edward, and Skidegate, if required.

These strategies provide an opportunity to maximize potentially positive effects while at the same time minimizing potential adverse effects on communities and services in proximity to the Project.

NaiKun will also continue to consult with local communities to identify and address potential issues or opportunities as they may arise.



### Training for A Career in Wind

NaiKun is developing a training program that provides locals with the skills and experience they need to secure sustainable, long-term career positions working on the NaiKun Offshore Wind Energy Project.

We are working with institutions like Northwest Community College and the British Columbia Institute of Technology to develop a program that fits the needs and abilities of the local work force.

NaiKun is setting up scholarships and bursaries for students graduating from high school who are interested in pursuing a career in the trades.

**Interested in a career in offshore wind energy?** Please send a resume to [jobs@naikun.ca](mailto:jobs@naikun.ca)

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The NaiKun offshore wind energy project, the first of its kind in Canada, will help position B.C. as a leader in clean, renewable energy solutions. Located in Hecate Strait, between Haida Gwaii and Prince Rupert, up to 110 wind turbines will provide clean, renewable energy to meet B.C.'s growing electricity needs. The project will displace approximately 450,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year if used instead of natural gas. HaidaLink will provide Haida Gwaii, currently the largest area in B.C. not connected to the provincial transmission grid, with clean, renewable energy. This would displace up to 26,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases currently emitted through diesel generation.

### HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

NaiKun's Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate, including all of the assessment studies is available for public review and comment. To view an electronic copy of the application and information on the environmental assessment process, go to the Environmental Assessment Office web site at [www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca). For more information, please visit NaiKun's web site at [www.naikun.ca](http://www.naikun.ca).

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