



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Kwantlen Student Association Rejects KPU Pipeline Agreement

SURREY, BC – The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA), in keeping with its sustainability mandate, its respect for First Nations rights, and the wishes of its members stands opposed to the agreement between Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Kinder Morgan. The KSA is disappointed in Kwantlen Polytechnic University for its lack of consultation with students and the Kwantlen First Nation.

The agreement, which will see Kwantlen Polytechnic receive approximately \$15,000 per year to go towards scholarships for students who live in the areas that the pipeline goes through, amounts to attempting to purchase support from the region. Not only does this amount pale in comparison to the massive risks associated with the pipeline, the pipeline itself represents an expansion in the burning of fossil fuels that our society cannot accept if we are ever to begin mitigating the harms of climate change.

“Kinder Morgan’s proposed Trans Mountain pipeline expansion poses unacceptable risks to our environment, communities, and economy,” stated Alex McGowan, Vice President External of the Kwantlen Student Association. **“KPU’s acceptance of this money amounts to a tacit endorsement of the pipeline project. Projects like this serve to accelerate climate change and cannot be allowed to move forward.”**

The Trans Mountain pipeline travels through Kwantlen’s own backyard, passing through unceded First Nations territories. Kwantlen Polytechnic has said in the past that sustainability and their relationship with the Kwantlen First Nations band are priorities for them. This agreement ignores the need to fight climate change, and contributes to an expansion in the unsustainable burning of fossil fuels. Additionally, the agreement tramples on the opinions of the First Nations group for whom Kwantlen is named after, and on whose unceded territory Kwantlen and the proposed pipeline sit.

The University should engage with students prior to signing agreements with pipeline companies. **“KPU should have consulted with students and the community before entering into this agreement,”** stated Allison Gonzalez, KSA President. **“KPU’s Strategic Plan, Vision 2018, clearly identifies sustainability as a major goal for the university, and this flies in the face of that. KPU students want nothing to do with this project, and we are shocked at this agreement.”**

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The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 18,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.