



**BREAKING NEWS:**  
**18 CAR CN TRAIN DERAILMENT OCCURS WITHIN GITXSAN  
TERRITORY 4 KM EAST OF GITWANGAK**



*Photo credit: Chaz Ware, Gitksan Environmental Services*

Community Bulletin/ For Immediate Release

(Jan 7, 2020) Gitksan, BC ----The Gitksan Huwilp Government was notified that at approximately 6:45 a.m. this morning a Canadian National Railway derailment occurred adjacent to the Skeena River on Gitksan Territory 4 KM east of Gitwangak.

It appears 18 train cars were derailed and it also appears that 14 of the cars have spilled their contents, which consisted of wood pellets; however, media outlets are reporting a larger number of derailed cars. No one from the public was reported as injured.

The Simogyet (Hereditary Chief) "Simidik" Calvin Heizims has viewed the derailment and is concerned about the impacts to the Skeena River, including sedimentation from the disturbed soils and damage to the riparian vegetation. "Though the impacts may seem minor in nature, there is potential for far more environmental damage to occur during the clean-up efforts, sometimes far exceeding the derailment impact itself," says Chief Calvin Heizims.

No official details from investigators have been released yet as to why and how the incident occurred. Investigators from Edmonton and Vancouver are due to arrive at the scene tomorrow. It was reported by media that due to the heavy snowfall, crews did face challenges with keeping snow off the tracks.

The Gitksan Government is tracking this event closely and will be monitoring the situation to ensure CN does all of the necessary work to protect the environment and reclaim the site back to pre-disturbance conditions or better.

“We were notified about the derailment and we mobilized our team to observe the incident and were able to monitor the derailment and consult with on-site crews that were already in place. When derailments occur, it’s important for our Gitksan Nation to keep up to date, monitor the cleanup and provide any valuable feedback than can help with any further impacts and create a process in the unlikely event a more serious derailment occurs in the future,” says Chief “Simidik” Calvin Heizims.

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