

# LAWS OF THE LAND

Now more than ever, Western Canada's energy sector needs to earn the trust and consent of First Nations if it ever hopes to expand its pipeline infrastructure

BY DEE HON || PHOTOGRAPHY JOEY PODLUBNY



## ARTIN LOUIE, CHIEF OF THE 450-MEMBER

Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, stands in a gravel-strewn clearing overlooking Fraser Lake in B.C.'s Northern Interior. Strands of long, greying hair flutter across his eyes, catching on the thin creases in his face. A few dozen people, squinting into the late-August sunlight, watch as the chief begins to speak, including a handful of teenagers holding traditional drums and grandmothers watching over their grandchildren. Among the gathered are nine men standing in a semi-circle facing Louie—chiefs and other leaders who represent some of the nearby First Nations, including the Tsilhqot'in, Wet'suwet'en, and Gitksan. Five of the men wield ceremonial hatchets made with moose hooves. >