



APR 26 2018

Ms. Lois Little
Co-Chair, NWT Chapter
The Council of Canadians
cocnwt@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Little:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 9, 2018, in which you provide views on the proposed *Impact Assessment Act*.

After more than 14 months of extensive engagement with provincial and territorial leaders, Indigenous leaders, businesses, environmental groups and the public, the Government of Canada has introduced Bill C-69 which proposes the new *Impact Assessment Act*, the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*, and the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.

The proposed *Impact Assessment Act* lays out an approach to impact assessment that recognizes that the environment and the economy must work together to build a sustainable future. Our new approach will consider how proposed projects could affect not just our environment, but also economic, social and health impacts, as well as impacts on Indigenous peoples, over the long-term.

Under the proposed approach, impact assessments will be more predictable and timely, with greater clarity from the start through better planning and engagement, and increased opportunity for Indigenous engagement and partnership throughout the process. With the principle of 'one project, one review' we will cooperate and coordinate with other jurisdictions to provide regulatory certainty to companies and avoid duplication in assessments of proposed projects.

The Government is committed to honouring and renewing the relationship with Indigenous peoples based on recognition of rights, mutual respect, cooperation and partnership, we will work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure their involvement in studying project impacts from the start.

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By recognizing Indigenous rights and knowledge in project reviews, and working in partnership from early stages, we will advance Canada's commitment to reconciliation, and get to better project decisions.

With respect to your request for clarification on the impacts to the environmental regulatory regime north of 60, this falls under the mandate of the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. I have sent a copy of our correspondence to the Honourable Carolyn Bennett for her consideration.

The proposed *Impact Assessment Act* provides provisions that link to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* to allow for joint assessments in certain circumstances, including when it is in the national interest to refer a proposal to a joint review panel or in certain trans-regional contexts.

The proposed *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* and the proposed *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* fall within the purview of my colleagues the Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport and the Honourable Jim Carr, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources, respectively. I am therefore sending a copy of our correspondence to Ministers Garneau and Carr for their consideration.

Bill C-69 is currently being considered by Parliament. I encourage you to visit www.parl.gc.ca for more information and to stay up to date on this process.

Thank you for providing me with your views, for more information on this review, please visit Canada.ca/environmentalreviews.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Jim Carr, P.C., M.P.