

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

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Chief Matthew T. Peigan
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Line 3 IAMC Working Group
c/o Line 3 IAMC Secretariat
Major Projects Management Office-West
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Dear Chief Peigan and Indigenous members of the Line 3 IAMC Working Group:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2017. I appreciate the information relayed in your letter, and I am pleased that the working group has concluded there is substantial support for moving forward and establishing the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC) for the Line 3 Replacement Program (L3RP).

I congratulate you and the working group for the tremendous effort you have devoted to this initiative, through the co-development process. As you document in your letter, a significant amount of work has brought us to this point. The line wide workshops, working group meetings, focused discussion on the terms of reference by the drafting team, and all of the effort, which I know working group members have devoted in between meetings, have positioned us to move forward with establishing the committee.

The Government of Canada made its decision on the L3RP in alignment with the interim principles we established in January 2016 for project reviews, which were designed to restore trust in the environmental assessment process. We knew then that this decision would not be welcomed by everyone. However, we made the decision based on the results of a rigorous, evidence-based process that concluded that the L3RP could be built and operated safely; that potential environmental impacts could be mitigated by the range of conditions and other requirements placed on the project; and that it would bring important benefits to Canadian workers, families and the economy. We continue to believe this was the right decision for Canada.

At the same time we remain deeply committed to the ongoing work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and to greater Indigenous involvement in the review and monitoring of major resource development projects such as the L3RP. It is this commitment, along with the belief that greater involvement in this case will result in a better project, that led the

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Government, as part of its decision to approve the L3RP, to invite increased Indigenous participation in the oversight of the project through the co-development, establishment, and support of an IAMC.

It is clear from your letter that throughout this process the working group grappled with and ably addressed some very challenging issues, including:

- Ensuring that Indigenous participation in the committee will have the maximum impact within the current legislative framework by articulating the commitment of all parties to common goals and principles; defining a role for the committee that includes both on-the-ground monitoring objectives and the scope to provide broader policy input to federal departments and the National Energy Board (NEB); and establishing a standard for the NEB to meet in responding to the advice of the committee.
- The need to address the potential for differences in perspective among Indigenous Nations by affirming that the committee is open to all affected Indigenous Nations to decide independently whether or not to participate, and including sufficient flexibility within the terms of reference to allow it to adapt and change.
- The desire to encourage and enable the participation of Indigenous communities in the committee regardless of whether they support or oppose the L3RP by including specific “without prejudice” language.
- The desire to build a forum that will help integrate Indigenous knowledge, teachings, values, oral traditions, and world views into the monitoring of the project.

In addition to these elements in the terms of reference, I believe that the federal commitment of substantial new resources to this initiative, and our collective commitment to respectful dialogue, learning and collaboration, provides a strong foundation on which to build.

I have directed Natural Resources Canada officials to establish the committee and the secretariat that will support it. I know the NEB is deeply committed to this initiative. I trust that the collaborative, inclusive, and solutions-focused approach demonstrated by all parties to date will continue to be our approach going forward.

Finally, I congratulate you on this significant undertaking and sincerely appreciate the time, effort, creativity, and collaborative spirit you brought to this work. While I understand it was difficult, I believe that the IAMC for the project represents an important step forward in Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples and a potential model for future federal-Indigenous collaboration on major natural resource development projects. Our collective challenge now is to make this new model work. As you mention in your letter, the approach we are taking with this initiative is a suitable start, though by no means the end, in our pivot towards a new relationship.

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of the committee's terms of reference and as my personal commitment to a positive and productive relationship over the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Jim Carr, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. C. Peter Watson
Chief Executive Officer
National Energy Board