

17 September 2016

Hon. Catherine McKenna, PC, MP  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
[ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca) / [Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister McKenna:

**Re: Funding for public involvement in Review of Environmental Assessment Processes**

We write to request your urgent consideration of public participant funding to facilitate meaningful participation in the Review of Environmental Assessment Processes by the Expert Panel (the Review).

It is our understanding that the chair of the Expert Panel, Johanne G  linas, has requested federal funding of public participation in the Review. We fully support and urge you to grant this request.

As you know, the Expert Panel's in-person public engagement begins on 19 September. As your government has noted, the Review offers an extremely rare opportunity to "get it right."

It is clear from experience, and well-established in the assessment literature, that support for public participation is essential in counteracting the significant discrepancy in funds — and the concomitant discrepancy in power — among participants in processes such as this Review.

The Expert Panel's Terms of Reference requires it to set a schedule of "in-person engagement events in regions or communities where project EAs have been recently conducted or where interest has been expressed in the review." The number of locations that has been chosen (without public consultation on those decisions) is markedly limited, making it even more challenging for many Canadians to become involved. We strongly believe that participant funding to help enable the public to travel to events would greatly assist the process, the result, and public buy-in of both.

We acknowledge the importance of and support the fact that participation by Indigenous peoples in this and the other three reviews has been supported by a specific funding program (without endorsing its timing and design, which we believe are problematic). Support should be also offered to the general public for its involvement in the Review.

Please let us know how we can support you in this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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Anna Johnston and Jamie Kneen  
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cc.: Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, PC, MP, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
Hon. Jim Carr, PC, MP, Minister of Natural Resources  
Hon. Marc Garneau, PC, MP, Minister of Transport  
Hon. Kirsty Duncan, PC, MP, Minister of Science  
Hon. Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs  
Christine Loth-Bown, Chair, Multi-Interest Advisory Committee and Vice-President, Policy  
Development, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Hon. Ed Fast, PC, MP, Conservative Party of Canada  
Linda Duncan, MP, New Democratic Party  
Monique Pauzé, MP, Bloc Québécois  
Elizabeth May, OC, MP, Green Party