



MAY 31 2016

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

Ms. Linda Heron
Chair
Ontario Rivers Alliance
lindah@ontarioriversalliance.ca

Dear Ms. Heron:

Thank you for your letter of January 18, 2016, concerning the environmental impacts of hydroelectricity and the pan-Canadian approach to climate change. I appreciate your providing me with a copy of the Ontario Rivers Alliance's report *Hydro Impacts 101: The Trade-offs*.

Careful consideration of the environmental impacts associated with hydropower projects, including those outlined in your correspondence, are an important part of protecting Canada's freshwater resources. The Government of Canada has made it a priority to review this country's environmental assessment processes with the goal of implementing a federal process that is robust, based on science, protects the rich natural environment, respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and supports the natural resources sector. The recommendations of the Ontario Rivers Alliance will be taken into consideration; I invite you and other members of your organization to continue to contribute your views during the upcoming review of these processes.

While that review is under way, environmental assessments will examine both direct and upstream greenhouse gas emissions. Emission estimates for hydroelectric reservoirs are reported in the Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry Sector of Canada's national greenhouse gas inventory (www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg), in accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories.

The Government of Canada is committed to addressing climate change in collaboration with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, as well as Indigenous Peoples. Together, we will develop a plan to move Canada to a stronger, more resilient, low-carbon economy.

First ministers have established working groups to identify specific actions to grow this country's economy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. These working groups will develop reports identifying

options for action in four areas: clean technology, innovation and jobs; carbon-pricing mechanisms; specific mitigation opportunities; and adaptation and climate resilience. These reports will help inform the development of a national approach to climate change and clean growth, which first ministers are to finalize this fall.

The Government of Canada wants to ensure that all Canadians have the opportunity to provide ideas and contribute to the development of this national approach to climate change and clean growth. I encourage you to visit www.canada.ca/climateaction to submit your ideas.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

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

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change