

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

FEB 22 2016

Ms. Linda Heron
Chair
Ontario Rivers Alliance
379 Ronka Road
Worthington, Ontario P0M 3H0

Dear Ms. Heron:

Thank you for your letter of January 18, 2016, regarding a Pan-Canadian Climate Action Plan. As Minister of Natural Resources, I am pleased to respond to these issues as they relate to Canada's energy sector.

The Government of Canada recognizes that renewable sources of energy, such as hydro, wind, biomass, tidal and solar, can make an important contribution to Canada's energy mix, provided that they are developed in a sustainable way with consideration of local concerns. Additional development of clean and renewable energy technologies has the potential to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and help us meet our ambitious climate change objectives.

Investment in these technologies also creates new business opportunities as the global economy transitions towards a lower carbon future. Canada is already a global leader in the generation of renewable electricity, with solar photovoltaic and wind energy being our fastest growing sources of electricity. In fact, 79% of our electricity generation comes from non-greenhouse gas emitting sources, ranking us second in the G7 after France.

As you may know, the provinces have exclusive jurisdiction over the management of energy resources within their borders. Consequently, specific decisions regarding the generation, distribution and use of electricity and the impacts of these activities on the environment are made within each province and are tailored to their unique circumstances.

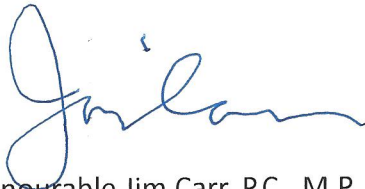
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For major projects that fall under federal jurisdiction, I and my colleague the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, recently announced the Government's plans to launch a public review of the federal environmental assessment process, and to modernize the National Energy Board. In the meantime, the Government announced an interim review process that includes principles and plans, including the assessment of upstream greenhouse gas emissions associated with major projects that are already under review.

Minister McKenna and I have also met with a number of environmental and Indigenous groups to explore and understand the diversity of views on these important topics, and are working collaboratively across government to develop the right long-term approach. This process will include seeking public input, using scientific evidence to inform decision making, increasing engagement of Indigenous peoples in reviewing and monitoring major resource development projects, and ensuring greater transparency.

Again, thank you for writing.

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, sweeping underline.

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