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Honourable Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, MP  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

**RE: BC Métis Federation Comment Letter on the Discussion Paper for the Review of Environmental and Regulatory Processes**

Honourable Minister Catherine McKenna,

The BC Metis Federation represents some 7,500 Metis members in British Columbia. Through our consultation office, we have engaged, and continue to engage, with our members regarding the NEB Modernization and other EA process and legislative reviews that are ongoing as part of the Trudeau Government's tenure. Our members have unique and valuable perspectives regarding the environmental, social and economic impacts of proposed development projects, and look forward to increased inclusion in Federal reviews. Active inclusion of Metis people in the environmental assessment and related processes is an important facet to reconciliation.

We have reviewed the Discussion Paper, and have provided comments for your consideration below.

- The overall tone and language of the Discussion Paper is respectful, and reflects positive change in the culture of the Government with regard to participation of Aboriginal people in regulatory processes. Honouring stakeholders, Aboriginal peoples, and rights-bearers as distinct entities honours the complexity of the task of consultation, and creates space for meaningful discussion.
- The new emphasis on strategic and regional assessments, supported by national standards and frameworks is a change in the way that information will be collected. Creation of national guidelines regarding intellectual property rights and the knowledge of

- indigenous people can facilitate communication between western and indigenous science, and is an amazing opportunity to build shared understandings.
- Early engagement with Aboriginal groups will create longer timelines for collaboration and meaningful engagement.
  - Leveraging the internet to improve transparency will increase the potential for participation for those communities and persons with an adequate level of literacy and education. Some of our most knowledgeable members are least able to participate due to barriers in reading, writing, computer literacy and connectivity.
  - Improvements in participant funding will allow for more discussion and innovation, and for greater capacity at the community level.
  - A streamlined approach to PFP fund administration (application, approval, invoicing, payment) would support community participation.
  - Enforceable conditions, and transparency of enforcement activities, is important to establishing and maintaining the credibility of regulatory action.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this discussion paper, and we look forward to future opportunities for collaboration.

Warm Regards,

Kelly S. Davison, Consultation Director  
BC Métis Federation Consultation Office