
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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October 16, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to inform you of a recent decision by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive to “pause” its engagement in technical discussions with the Government of Canada concerning the legislative review of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the *National Energy Board Modernization*, the *Fisheries Act*, and the *Navigation Protection Act*.

First Nations envisioned the Government of Canada’s review of these four key environmental and regulatory processes as an advancement of efforts to reconcile with First Nations. However well-intentioned, the legislative review processes have yet to materialize into concrete and meaningful action that advances reconciliation, including the political commitment to transparency and co-development with respect to legislative, policy, and regulatory reform.

The Government of Canada’s commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples sets a standard that has not yet been met. Technical discussions between officials have been largely one-sided and do not encompass the principles of collaboration and transparency that a nation-to-nation relationship must embody. As a result, the AFN Executive is calling for a renewed political commitment from Canada for full engagement with First Nations, which could include bringing these Reviews under the purview of the Law and Policy Review.

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In closing, we extend an invitation to you to discuss how we can move our mutual agenda forward concerning these four reviews in a manner that recognizes the rights, laws, jurisdiction, and governance of First Nations. Please have your office contact Dr. Tonio Sadik, Director of Environment, at tsadik@afn.ca, to make the necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,



Bill Erasmus,
ACCAE Co-Chair



Isadore Day,
ACCAE Co-Chair



Kevin Hart,
ACCAE Co-Chair

c.c: AFN Executive
The Honourable Minister McKenna, P.C., M.P. (Environment and Climate Change)
The Honourable Minister Carr, P.C., M.P. (Natural Resources)
The Honourable Minister LeBlanc, P.C., M.P. (Fisheries)
The Honourable Minister Garneau, P.C., M.P. (Transport)

