



Stk'emplupsemc te Secwepemc Nation (SSN)

PO Box 188, 1030 Trans Canada Hwy.

Savona, BC V0K 2J0

Telephone: 250-373-0023 Fax: 250-373-0025

**Represented by the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and the Skeetchestn Band
We do not have a mandate, we have a responsibility We are yecminme7**

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment & Climate Change

July 31, 2018
Via Email

Re: EA Revitalization & EAO's Discussion Paper,

Weytk,

The Stk'emplupsemc te Secwepemc Nation are experts in the field of Indigenous Environmental Assessment (EA) and have much knowledge to share on how to indigenize this process. We have seen the current regulatory system segment project components into ill-equipped consultation processes which serve to fragment impacts to its energies, waters, lands, sky worlds. We understand that you are seeking to revitalize the EA act and legislated process and have shared for public comment your discussion paper which broadly summarizes your findings from the EA Advisory Committee, FN Workshops and Direct Engagement (which includes bilateral discussions).

The focus on reconciliation identifies consideration of the establishment of relationships before projects are proposed in a nation's territory including the negotiations of government to government (G2G) agreements. SSN emphasize that this is a critical component, foundational to the future of EA in SSN's territory. The SSN's G2G Agreement and its EA Collaboration Plan for the Ajax Project serve as a starting point for the negotiation in order to ensure that all EA's contemplated in SSN's territory are done so in a manner which respects and recognizes the SSN's inherent jurisdiction. The connection of an EA Collaborative Agreement to an overarching G2G is also imperative in order to ensure that the alternative dispute resolution process can be developed in a manner which respects the SSN's laws and legal processes. It is vital that Nations negotiate agreements in a manner which is consistent with their governance structures to ensure that decision making "institutions" provide respectful recognition of a Nation's jurisdiction.

We see you are also considering connection to the province's Cumulative Effects Framework and criteria related to sustainable development objectives. SSN find combatting the reactive nature of the EA Process can only be done when all the "planning" processes are developed in a comprehensive, interconnected manner which includes respectful Indigenous involvement founded on our jurisdiction. If the EA Process is to rely on tools such as the cumulative effects framework, land use planning or other contemplated tools, then "consultation" on these too must be brought to the G2G negotiations table to ensure they are adequately considered and integrated in a manner which meets the requirements of the SSN. This could be connected to the development of regional sustainability offices or centers but must include a clearly mandated connection to the G2G negotiations and table whose scope includes these key building blocks.




We understand that your discussion paper provides broad strokes of what you are considering. We also understand that additional engagement processes are being contemplated on the regulatory connections to the EA process including the reviewable projects list. We will be addressing a more detailed and explicit letter to the EAO outlining the bilateral discussions we see as critical to the next steps in this revitalization.

If you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact our Director of Operations, Otis Jasper at 250-373-0023 or otis@stkemlupsemc.ca

Kukwstsétsemc,



Kukpi7 Fred Seymour
Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation



Kukpi7 Ron Ignace
Skeetchestn
Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation

cc. Scott Bailey, EAO
Ricardo Toledo, EAO
ea.revitalization@gov.bc.ca

