



Nisga'a Lisims Government

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NISGAANATION.CA

December 23, 2016

Johanne Gelinias
Expert Panel
Environmental Assessment Review Process

VIA EMAIL: EAreview_Participation@Canada.ca

Attention: Expert Panel Members

Re: Submissions on the Expert Panel Review of Federal Environmental Assessment Processes

The Nisga'a Nation, as represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government, is pleased to submit the attached brief for your consideration during your review of federal environmental assessment processes.

The Nisga'a Nation has relied since time immemorial on fish, wildlife, and other natural resources for sustenance, culture, and economic prosperity. We have always been stewards of our lands and rivers, the ocean, and the myriad of species that constitute our ancestral inheritance and which support our Nation.

The Nisga'a Final Agreement reflects our Nation's special relationship to our lands, waters, and resources in a variety of ways, including ownership of and jurisdiction over Nisga'a Lands, law making authority in respect of environmental assessments of projects on Nisga'a Lands as well as harvesting rights and management authorities throughout the Nass Area and Nass Wildlife Area as those areas are defined in the Treaty.

A modern, robust, predictable and scientifically based environmental assessment process that is protective of the environment and which respects constitutionally protected treaty rights, including the rights of the Nisga'a Nation under the Nisga'a Treaty, is absolutely essential. Accordingly, and in that spirit, Nisga'a Lisims Government welcomes this opportunity to convey some of its many concerns with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* ("CEAA 2012") in accordance with your invitation for input.

If there are any questions or need for clarification of any of our recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Yours truly,

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Collier Azak', written in a cursive style.

Collier Azak
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Eva Clayton, President, Nisga'a Lisims Government
Cheryl Stephens, Executive Director, Nisga'a Lisims Government
Mansell Griffin, Deputy Director, Lands and Resources