

October 4, 2024

Sean Carriere
Director, Prairie and Northern Region Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
sean.carriere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3

Dear Sean Carriere:

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the project). This item was referred to the Governor in Council on June 5, 2024. After reviewing the Environmental Assessment Report and mitigation measures, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change's subsection 52(1) decision under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, determined that the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects on:

- Indigenous Peoples' physical and cultural heritage, including from effects to aspects of intangible cultural heritage, such as sense of place, spiritual connection to the land, and intergenerational knowledge transfer;
- Indigenous Peoples' current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, including from loss or alteration of access, effects to the availability and quality of resources, and effects to quality of experience; and
- Indigenous Peoples' sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance, including from the loss of sites of importance and lack of mitigations for effects to sites outside the project's footprint.

On September 27, 2024, Honourable Lisa Naylor requested that Honourable Steven Guilbeault not proceed with the review of the decision by the Governor in Council at this time. The Manitoba government is currently working to reset our relationships with First Nations and potentially affected communities involved in the project. As part of the continued consultation process we plan to continue working closely with these communities to address concerns raised and move forward collaboratively. We acknowledge that this process will take time, and we will provide updates to the Agency as this important work progresses.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure welcomes feedback from all groups on how the consultation process could be improved going forward. We will continue to provide the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada with updates as the work progresses.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to pause the review of the decision by the Governor in Council.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Cynthia Ritchie
Assistant Deputy Minister

c: Ryan Klos, Deputy Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure