



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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November 15, 2024

Cynthia Ritchie
Assistant Deputy Minister
Infrastructure Capital Projects Division
1630 – 215 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P3

Dear Cynthia Ritchie,

Thank you for your letter of October 4, 2024, concerning the proposed Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the Project).

The Government of Canada is committed to conducting high-quality and efficient impact assessments that meaningfully consider a project's potential impacts on Indigenous communities, consistent with Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As you are aware, on June 5, 2024, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change determined that the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects on Indigenous peoples' physical and cultural heritage, current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, and sites of historical, archaeological, paleontological and/or architectural significance.

Given the historical impacts of flooding on Indigenous communities in the region, and the potential impacts of the Project, I appreciate your commitment to reset relationships with Indigenous communities potentially affected by the Project.

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The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada works to ensure assessments respect federal jurisdiction, protect the environment and Indigenous rights, and collaborate with other governments to meet the goal of "one project, one assessment". To this end, I acknowledge the work Manitoba is undertaking with Indigenous communities and recognize that this process will take time.

While the federal environmental assessment process is not complete until a final decision on the Project is made, I understand that Minister Guilbeault has agreed to wait to refer the Project to Governor-in-Council for decision until the Government of Manitoba provides further notice. We would appreciate any updates as this work progresses to inform the Governor-in-Council's decision on whether the significant adverse environmental effects likely to be caused by the Project are justified pursuant to subsection 52(4) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

Sincerely,

Transmitted electronically

Sean Carriere
Regional Director
Prairie and Northern Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada