



December 17, 2024

Chief Ross Montour
Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke
Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory, Québec J0L 1B0

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Chief Montour:

As you are aware, on July 15, 2021, following your letter requesting a regional assessment of the St. Lawrence River under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), my predecessor decided to proceed with a regional assessment. As a result, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) was instructed to commence the planning of this regional assessment, which included discussions with the Government of Québec on its potential participation, as well as with First Nations, namely the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK), in the design of the regional assessment.

On June 9, 2022, I sent a letter to Minister Charette expressing my intention to enter into an agreement with the Government of Québec respecting the joint establishment of a committee to conduct the regional assessment of the St. Lawrence River (SLRA). However, despite constructive dialogue with the Government of Québec it has not been possible to reach a common vision regarding the overall scope of the regional assessment.

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I would like to take this opportunity to recognize MCK's efforts thus far, and willingness to partner with IAAC in the completion and success of the SLRA. I would like to confirm my commitment to move forward with MCK and the other interested First Nations in the region. Therefore, pursuant to subparagraph 93(1)(a)(ii) of the IAA, I now authorize the IAAC to conduct the regional assessment of an area of the St. Lawrence River in partnership with MCK and other interested First Nations in the region.

I understand that planning discussions have been initiated, and that a working group co-led by MCK and the IAAC, including representatives from other interested First Nations in the region, will be established to make recommendations on the proposed terms of reference to guide the regional assessment.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and engagement in this important process, and I look forward to continued progress in advancing toward the conduct of the regional assessment. If you have any questions or additional input, please contact Mélanie Sanschagrín at melanie.sanschagrín@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or (438) 992-2930.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)