The Joint Chiefs and Councils
of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation

June 23, 2026

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
President of the King's Privy Council for Canada
Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy
55 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Re: Information Request on Getting Major Projects Built in Canada – Discussion Paper on Proposed Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy Reforms

We are writing on behalf of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation ("SON") to request further information on the Government of Canada's ("Canada") discussion paper entitled *Getting Major Projects Built in Canada – Discussion Paper on Proposed Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy Reforms* ("Discussion Paper"), released on May 8, 2026.

Canada's approach to publishing the Discussion Paper is deeply flawed. In particular, SON takes serious issue with Canada's complete lack of engagement prior to announcing vague reforms that stand to significantly change project assessments mid-process, including the ongoing impact assessment process for Bruce Power's proposed Bruce C Project ("Bruce C"). The Crown's actions are inconsistent with its constitutional obligations, obligations flowing from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UNDRIP"), and prior commitments to SON. The uncertainty and lack of clarity of the proposed reforms effectively prevent SON from meaningfully participating in the Bruce C assessment process and from ensuring our rights and interests are protected.

SON intends to provide full submissions on both these procedural flaws and the proposal itself. However, SON requires additional information from Canada before we can substantively engage with the proposed sweeping legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms.

SON requests that Canada provide the supplementary materials that informed the proposals set out in the Discussion Paper and provide further details on the full scope of the proposed reforms. SON asks that Canada disclose these materials promptly and prior to any further engagement, including well in advance of the comment deadline of July 22, 2026.

In addition to this supplementary information, SON requests that Canada provide written answers to the following questions arising from the Discussion Paper:

1. What technical backgrounders did IAAC, CNSC, the Department of Justice ("DOJ"), or other federal departments prepare to support the proposed reforms?

2. What modelling, analysis, or internal frameworks did IAAC, CNSC, DOJ, or other federal departments undertake for how the various new regimes would operate?

3. What are Canada's current proposed timelines to introduce legislation following the engagement period?

4. How will Canada ensure its constitutional obligations under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* are fulfilled through the proposed reforms?

5. How will Canada, pursuant to s. 5 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* ("UNDA"), take the necessary measures to ensure that these reforms are consistent with UNDRIP?

6. How will Canada engage Indigenous Nations in the development and implementation of the proposed reforms beyond the current Discussion Paper?

7. What mechanisms will be established to ensure Indigenous Nations are involved in ongoing governance, oversight, and decision-making related to the implementation of these reforms and the work of the MPO?

Absent this information, Canada's engagement process falls short of its obligation to meaningfully engage with SON, and other Indigenous peoples, before moving forward with these proposed reforms. Canada has recognized that UNDA, which incorporates UNDRIP into Canada's domestic positive law,[1] requires Canada to consult and cooperate with Indigenous peoples, "in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent", before adopting and implementing legislative and regulatory initiatives that may affect them.[2] This obligation, in turn, supports Canada's requirement to "take all measures to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with [UNDRIP]."[3]

Miigwetch,

<Original signed by>

Lester Anoquot
Saugeen First Nation

<Original signed by>

Paul Jones
Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation

[1] *Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families,* 2024 SCC 5 at para 15.
[2] UNDRIP, art. 19; Government of Canada, "Duty to consult and accommodate" (last modified 21 March 2025).
[3] UNDA, s. 5.