



Energy
Office of the Minister

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June 30, 2026

Honourable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Email: ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca

Dear Minister Dabrusin,

The Province of Nova Scotia supports the Regional Assessment of Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling in the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area. Premier Tim Houston requested this Regional Assessment to help create a clear, efficient and competitive regulatory path for offshore oil and gas exploration, while ensuring that development proceeds safely, responsibly and with strong environmental protection. We appreciate the federal government's positive response and are pleased this work is moving forward in alignment with Natural Resources Canada and our shared commitment to responsible offshore energy development.

Nova Scotia officials will continue to work closely with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Natural Resources Canada and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator toward the timely completion of the Regional Assessment. It is imperative that our organizations focus our collaborative efforts to ensure Nova Scotia's offshore oil and gas sector is positioned to attract responsible investment and support long-term economic opportunities for Nova Scotians.

Completing this work on the current timeline will send a positive signal to potential investors considering offshore exploration and drilling opportunities in Nova Scotia. The Regional Assessment will build on project-specific and regional assessments completed across Atlantic offshore areas, as well as on years of effective regulatory oversight of exploration drilling in the region. It will also be strengthened through meaningful consultation and engagement with Indigenous groups, fishers, other ocean users, the public and key stakeholders.

For Nova Scotia, this regional assessment underscores strong alignment between governments and reinforces Nova Scotia's commitment to creating the right conditions for offshore investment. It will strengthen our competitive advantage by providing clear, predictable, transparent and timely review processes, while maintaining a strong balance between environmental protection and regulatory excellence. I look forward to seeing the final report later this year.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Honourable Marco MacLeod
Minister of Energy