



Lake St. Martin First Nation

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Anna Kessler
Team Lead , Prairie and Northern Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

May 18, 2020

RE: Lake St Martin First Nation ESI Review - Lake Manitoba -Lake St Martin Channel

Dear Anna

Our community writes this letter to you in response to the process of reviewing the technical information that the Province of Manitoba has developed in assessing the impacts of their proposed project , the Lake Manitoba - Lake St Martin Channel on the Indigenous and Treaty Rights of our community members now and into the future.

As you are aware, our community and our traditional territory has been forever impacted by the Province of Manitoba with the previous flood mitigation projects in our region, with catastrophic effects. The learning about that process alone guides many of our thoughts about this review.

From a technical environmental impacts assessment perspective the Province of Manitoba has not done their required work to establish certain baselines around this project. The hydraulics model has to be redone as their project development and review has major oversights, as our team will show in the coming discussions as part of this review.

More importantly for our community members and our collective future, the basic tenets of an Indigenous Rights Impact Assessment are not seriously considered at all in the Provinces planning of the proposed channel. The long term cumulative impacts on the habitat is only given a cursory look at todays usage with no metric or baseline for the treaty rights of the past, present, and our future generations. There requires a much deeper review into how our community will sustain itself from traditional harvesting and cultural perspective with a long term outlook. Lake St Martin First Nation is asking for the same level of planning and due diligence that is standard practice in projects of this scale that dramatically impact the treaty rights and lands of First Nations in Canada.

<personal information removed>

<Original signed by>

Chief Adrian Sinclair

CC: Steve Topping ETC