

Follow-up Unit  
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

December 7, 2020

**SUBJECT: Qalipu First Nation Comments on the Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Terms of Reference**

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on the Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Terms of Reference.

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) represents approximately 24,000 registered members in Newfoundland and abroad and is made up of 67 traditional Mi'kmaq communities across Newfoundland. As a band, we provide core programs and service to our members, including Natural Resources Management.

It is essential with the level of development in exploratory drilling offshore Newfoundland and Labrador that an efficient and effective approach is taken to the Impact Assessment process. Specific environmental protection requirements for future exploratory drilling in the region should include proactive maintenance of tools for decision-making and public involvement. QFN supports the establishment of a well-maintained Follow-up Program consisting of the RA steering committee and advisory committee.

Transparency and continued engagement with Indigenous groups, regulators, industry, and other stakeholders is crucial to maintain good data sharing and to ensure better regulatory requirements for all current and future drilling. QFN will continue to participate in the implementation of the RA Follow-up Program.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Chief Brendan Mitchell