



November 14, 2024

Karen Lalonde
Project Manager, Atlantic Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada
karen.lalonde@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Lalonde:

Re: Invitation to Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report and Draft Potential Federal Conditions for the Boat Harbour Remediation Project

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment Report (the Draft Report) and Draft Conditions for the Boat Harbour Remediation Project (the Project), and wishes to thank the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) for demonstrating a commitment to taking Indigenous groups concerns and expertise seriously.

ISC agrees with the Agency's conclusions pertaining to the likelihood of direct significant adverse environmental effects on Indigenous peoples' current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, mental health and well-being, and physical and cultural heritage and sites of significance, even after taking into account the proposed key mitigation measures, monitoring, and follow-up programs.

ISC has identified areas within the Draft Report and Draft Conditions that can be expanded upon or clarified. Please refer to ISC's specific comments within the attached Comment Table.

We are aware that Pictou Landing First Nation (PLFN) is supportive of a remediation project for the Boat Harbour site, however is strongly opposed to a key project component, namely the permanent location of the containment cell. On April 23, 2024, PLFN submitted their Final Position on the Proposed Boat Harbour Remediation Project (Document Reference Number 52, Canadian Impact Assessment Registry) which states:

“The Boat Harbour Landfill is not suitable for the long-term storage of hazardous waste from Boat Harbour because it is located on lands over which PLFN has a strong claim for Aboriginal title and constitutes a continuing infringement of PLFN's Section 35 rights since it adversely impacts the use and enjoyment of [Indian Reserve] 37 and [Indian Reserve] 24G... Continued use of the Boat Harbour Landfill will prolong the historic trauma associated with Boat Harbour to the health, socioeconomic, and cultural detriment of PLFN. PLFN continues to

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oppose the long-term use of the Boat Harbour Landfill to store hazardous waste removed from Boat Harbour during the Project.” (page 7)

In its mandated role to support the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, ISC recommends that the Proponent work collaboratively with PLFN to address their concerns and obtain the community’s free, prior, and informed consent prior to remediating the Boat Harbour site.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Report and Draft Conditions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact SAC.EvaluationImpacts-ImpactsAssessment.ISC@sac-isc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

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laura
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Laura Mitchell
Director General
Lands and Environmental Management Branch
Lands and Economic Development
Indigenous Services Canada

And
<Original signed by>

Dr. Tom Wong, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer, Chief Science Officer and Director General
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