



## SEMIAHMOO FIRST NATION

April 19, 2022

Attention: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault,

Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Guilbeault:

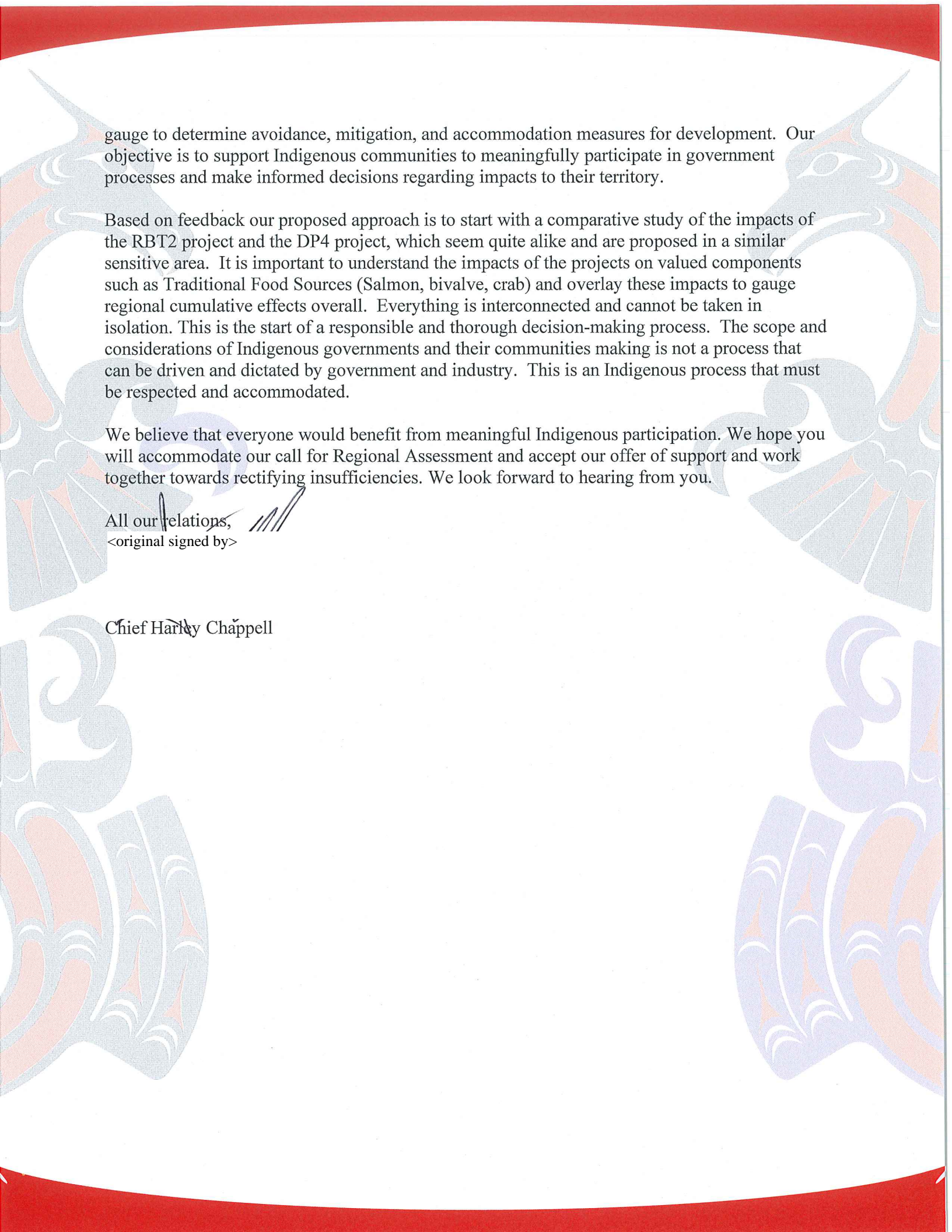
**RE: Regional Assessment Roberts Band Terminal 2 and Delta Port 4**

On behalf of Semiahmoo First Nation, a member of the Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association (SSIGA), an Indigenous-led non-profit focused on cumulative effects and monitoring in the Salish Sea (and its interconnected inner bodies of water), we are requesting for a Regional Assessment that includes both the RBT2 and DP4 proposed projects. The Regional Assessment must address cumulative effects by expanding the scope to include our environmental and socio-economic priorities, culture, heritage, health, and way of life by incorporating holistic perspectives with western science. We believe this approach is the only viable option that can begin to address the ongoing concerns and lack of clarity on the impacts of the projects on Semiahmoo First Nation.

The Salish Sea and its ecosystem are vital to the health, heritage, livelihood, and way of life of a multitude of First Nations. The mission of SSIGA is to ensure that the member Nations are supported with holistic data that reflects Indigenous perspectives and priorities as it pertains to development and resource policy in the Salish Sea. The work of SSIGA is intended to be a regional amalgamation of data that bridges the gap of information and is intended to complement the ongoing stewardship programs of individual First Nations and our database, planning, and monitoring programs are built jointly and will ongoing feedback from members. Regional Assessments and comparative studies are within the parameters of data related support we can offer to support Indigenous communities that constantly find themselves in a cycle of untenable referrals processes where the time and energy required of staff does not yield fulsome understanding of impacts because the information presented is always piecemeal.

SSIGA was formed to practically apply the principles UNDRIP as a solution to the ongoing shortfalls of environmental assessment. Only with cumulative effects can there be a fulsome





gauge to determine avoidance, mitigation, and accommodation measures for development. Our objective is to support Indigenous communities to meaningfully participate in government processes and make informed decisions regarding impacts to their territory.

Based on feedback our proposed approach is to start with a comparative study of the impacts of the RBT2 project and the DP4 project, which seem quite alike and are proposed in a similar sensitive area. It is important to understand the impacts of the projects on valued components such as Traditional Food Sources (Salmon, bivalve, crab) and overlay these impacts to gauge regional cumulative effects overall. Everything is interconnected and cannot be taken in isolation. This is the start of a responsible and thorough decision-making process. The scope and considerations of Indigenous governments and their communities making is not a process that can be driven and dictated by government and industry. This is an Indigenous process that must be respected and accommodated.

We believe that everyone would benefit from meaningful Indigenous participation. We hope you will accommodate our call for Regional Assessment and accept our offer of support and work together towards rectifying insufficiencies. We look forward to hearing from you.

All our relations,  
<original signed by>

Chief Harley Chappell