

WABAUSKANG FIRST NATION
P.O. Box 339, Ear Falls, ON P0V 1T0



LAC SEUL FIRST NATION
P.O. Box 100, Hudson, ON P0V 1X0



August 29, 2024

The Honorable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment & Climate Change
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3
VIA EMAIL: minister-minister@ec.gc.ca

Anjala Puvanathan
Director, Ontario Region
600-55 York Street
Toronto, ON M5J 1R7
VIA EMAIL: greatbear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Boozhoo,

RE: Panel Review for the Great Bear Project

It has come to our attention that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is considering a request to appoint a panel to review for the Great Bear Project.

The Great Bear Project is located in the heart of our ancestral homeland territories. We have forever governed and managed these territories through our own laws, and our community members have lived in relationship with the lands and waters of this place since time immemorial - fostering deep, reciprocal, kinship relationships with all of the beings with whom we share those lands and waters. We are the voice of these lands.

We have a sacred responsibility to care for this land, as well as a right to benefit from it.

Over the last several years we have built a mutually respectful relationship with Kinross. Kinross has agreed to support our undertaking to conduct an Anishinaabe-led Assessment of the proposed Great Bear Project. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the impacts of the Project on our constitutionally protected rights and on our responsibilities

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and laws. We have designed the Anishinaabe-led Assessment process to complement an Agency-led review of the Great Bear Project, not a panel review.

Kinross has agreed to respect the final decision of the Anishinaabe-led Assessment. Given this agreement with Kinross, we do not see a panel review as necessary for the Crown to discharge its duty to consult and accommodate and in fact could well interfere with, pose an obstacle to or be deemed by some to supersede our own Anishinaabe-led Assessment which would be very harmful to the First Nations and to our relationship with Kinross.

Miigwetch,

<Original signed by>

Chief Bill Petiquan 
Wabauskang First Nation

<Original signed by>

box SIGN 13KJQZ8W-46PYYR3P
Chief Clifford Bull
Lac Seul First Nation