



Membertou
WELCOMING THE WORLD!

**Sen. Pierre Dalphond, Leader
Progressive Senators Group**

**Sen. Mark Gold, Government Representative
Government Representative's Office**

**Sen. Don Plett, Leader
Conservative Party Caucus**

**Sen. Raymonde Saint-Germaine, Facilitator
Independent Senators Group**

**Sen. Scott Tannas, Leader
Canadian Senators Group**

September 18, 2024

RE: Call for the Passage of Bill C-49 This Spring.

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you as the Chief of Membertou, a Mi'kmaq community deeply engaged with the burgeoning offshore wind industry in Nova Scotia. We at Membertou have tirelessly worked to ensure our projects not only meet our ambitious sustainability goals but also embody and uphold the core Mi'kmaq values that guide our community.

In light of recent developments, we would like to re-iterate our support letter provided on June 12 for the swift passing C-49. We call for no amendments. We urge the Province and Federal Government to meet with our Mi'kmaq communities to discuss the concerns with the legislation and explore pathways to resolve outstanding matters.

Throughout the consultation processes concerning the offshore industry and the implications of Bill C-49, Membertou has been proactive. We have not only met but exceeded the milestones set before us, ensuring a balance between development and the preservation of our culture and environment. It is with this spirit of dedication and commitment that I urge you to proceed with the passage of Bill C-49 this spring.

Our community is well-versed in the consultation requirements and processes. We have ensured all steps were followed diligently, providing ample opportunity for feedback and input.

The potential benefits of Bill C-49 for the Mi'kmaq people, the broader Nova Scotian community, and Canada are significant. The development of the offshore wind sector promises to transform our economic landscape, bringing unprecedented opportunities for local employment and sustainable growth. For the first time, Indigenous communities are not just participants but stakeholders with ownership in projects of this scale.

These initiatives are more than just business ventures; they are a testament to what can be achieved through true nation-to-nation collaboration. They promise to empower our communities for generations - ensuring that our waters, which have sustained us for millennia, continue to do so through innovative and respectful use.

Thus, while I respect and understand the concerns of my fellow leaders who seek more time for consultation, I firmly believe that the collective work and agreement already achieved should pave the way forward. Delaying the passage of Bill C-49 risks stalling a critical opportunity for transformation and prosperity that our community - and many others - are ready to embrace.

Let us move forward together, with a clear vision for the future and a shared commitment to the betterment of all our communities. I trust in your leadership and judgment to expedite the enactment of this pivotal legislation.

Thank you for considering this urgent plea. Together, we can usher in a new era of opportunity and sustainability for Nova Scotia and for all of Canada.

Wela'liq. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry J. Paul".

Chief Terry Paul, O.C
Chief & CEO, Membertou