



Maw-lukutijik **Saqmaq**  
Assembly of Nova Scotia  
**Mi'kmaw Chiefs**

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June 20, 2024

Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources  
Canadian Senators Group  
Parliament of Canada  
Via Email: [enev@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:enev@sen.parl.gc.ca)

**Re: Bill C-49**

Committee Clerk St. Martin,

We thank the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources for your recognition of the concerns raised by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs (Assembly) regarding Bill C-49 in our June 4th letter. We appreciate the efforts of Senator Prosper to ensure our Nation has adequate time to review this legislation. We further value the time he has taken to answer our questions about this legislation and process.

The Assembly supports the Bill in principle, especially considering potential significant economic reconciliation opportunities for our communities through offshore wind development. We continue to expect that Canada uphold its constitutional Duty to Consult under the 2010 *Terms of Reference for a Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Process (ToR)*. Legislation such as this is integral to both the protection of our Rights and resources and to the advancement of our economic participation as First Nation communities. The Mi'kmaq continue to be stewards of our lands and natural resources and recognize our shared priority in the protection of m'sit no'kmaq (all our relations).

The Assembly supports and encourages all Mi'kmaw communities in the generation of own-source revenues through renewable energy projects. Some of our communities are advancing these economic opportunities through offshore wind developments, which meet this goal while also supporting Mi'kmaw priorities for sustainability and working toward clean energy solutions. Mi'kmaw involvement will help ensure that any development will hold true to principles of stewardship and sustainable development.

We acknowledge that this Bill will work to support UNDA Action Plan Measure 33, which seeks to advance economic participation of Indigenous communities in natural resources development. In 2021, Canada committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDIRP) through the *United Nations Declaration Act (2021) (UNDA)*. Free, prior, and informed consent is a foundational principle of UNDRIP, and is integral to our continued relationships. The opportunity to have our voices heard regarding the advancement of renewable energy projects through this legislation is a reflection of this principle.

We appreciate the opportunities to voice our needs and support in principle for Bill C-49 to the Senate Committee.

In Recognition of Mi'kmaw Rights and Title,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief Sidney Peters", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Chief Sidney Peters  
Glooscap First Nation  
Chair, Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs

cc.

Senator Paul J. Prosper  
Claudine Santos, Director of Parliamentary Affairs  
Twila Gaudet, Director of Consultation, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn