



**RED ROCK
INDIAN BAND**
Strength. Tradition. Empowerment.

Lake Helen Reserve # 53A
P.O. Box 1030
Nipigon, Ontario P0T 2J0
Tel. (807) 887-2510
Fax (807) 887-3446
Toll Free (877) 887-2510

July 20, 2016

Review of Environmental Assessment Processes
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
CEAA.EARReview-ExamenEE.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

RE: Terms of Reference for Expert Panel Reviewing Environmental Assessment Process

Dear Minister McKenna,

My name is Alyssa Ray and I work in the Consultation, Lands and Resources department within the Red Rock Indian Band. The Red Rock Indian Band has 2(two) land bases; the first is known as Lake Helen Reserve #53 and is located along the Nipigon River, while the second is known as Lake Helen Reserve #53A and is situated on the shores of Lake Helen at the mouth of the Nipigon River. There are approximately 300 people living on Lake Helen Reserve #53A with another 1500(approx.) members off-reserve. The Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB) is an Ojibwe First Nation in Northwestern Ontario. The Council is an independent member of the Union of Ontario Indians. The traditional Ojibwe name for the Band is *Opwaaganasiniing*, which means "pipestone" in the locative voice.

After reviewing the draft Terms of Reference our comments are as follows;

- **Context**, 2nd bullet states "Ensure decisions are based on science, facts and evidence..." →Decisions should also be based on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and the First Nation perspective.
- **Scope of Review #2** states "ensure decisions are based on science, facts and evidence...." →Decisions should also be based on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and the First Nation perspective.
- **Scope of Review # 5** - →should not only ensure that environmental assessment legislation is amended to "enhance" the consultation, engagement and participatory capacity of Indigenous groups in reviewing and monitoring resource development projects, but should ensure that it is "mandatory" for Indigenous groups play a role in the reviewing and monitoring of major resource development projects.
- **The Review Process – The Panel** – The first sentence in this section states "The Minister will appoint individuals to the Panel that have knowledge or experience relevant to environmental assessment processes." →Where possible, an Indigenous person shall be present on the Panel.

- **Conduct of the Review – Indigenous Engagement and Consultation** – 5th paragraph states “The Panel shall take into account the timing of traditional activities in the local regions and communities when setting the time and location of Indigenous in-person consultation activities.” → this is a great approach and is appreciated.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to submit comments that will be taken into consideration as the terms of reference for the Expert Panel reviewing Environmental Assessment Processes. Please keep me informed of the review process and activities via the contact information I have provided. My community of Red Rock Indian Band looks forward to participating in the consultation process in the fall.

Aboriginally yours,



Alyssa Ray

Consultation, Lands and Resources

Red Rock Indian Band

<contact information removed>