



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada



Environmental  
Assessment Office

June 3, 2022

**SENT BY EMAIL ONLY**

Ms. Debra Janzen  
Hwlitsum First Nation  
<sensitive information removed>  
Delta, BC <sensitive information removed>

Dear Ms. Janzen:

**Subject: Joint BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) – end of the planning phase for the GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project**

Thank you for your participation in the Planning phase of the federal and provincial assessment for the proposed GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project (the Project).

The objective of this letter is to:

- Inform you that the Impact Statement Development and Review Phase has formally commenced; and
- Inform you of the finalisation of key documents from the Planning Phase:
  - [Joint Guidelines](#)
  - [Joint Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#)
  - [Joint Assessment Plan](#)
  - [Joint Permitting and Regulatory Coordination Plan](#); and
  - the provincial [Process Order](#)

Section 4.2 of the Joint Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan describes IAAC's and EAO's objectives in engaging with Indigenous communities, and includes information about Hwlitsum First Nation.

As the information in Section 4.2 mentioned above is a high-level approach, IAAC and EAO would like to discuss Hwlitsum's involvement in the next steps in the assessment process related to the project. We would like to set up a virtual meeting in the coming weeks with Hwlitsum, please reply to this email with some dates and times that you are available to meet.

### **End of the Planning phase and commencement of the Impact Statement Development and Review phase**

On October 28, 2021, the EAO issued a notice of the Readiness Decision and IAAC issued an Impact Assessment Decision to proceed to an assessment, which initiated the Planning phase for this project. On November 3, 2021 the Minister of the Environment Climate Change Canada [referred the project to assessment by Review Panel](#). During the Planning phase, IAAC and EAO worked closely with Indigenous Nations, the proponent and other interested parties to develop the final documents listed above. IAAC and EAO are committed to a coordinated assessment process and cooperation throughout all phases of the EA, per the overarching [Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement Between Canada and British Columbia](#).

On May 31, 2022, IAAC issued a Notice of Commencement for the Impact Statement phase and EAO issued the Process Order and Joint Permitting/Regulatory Coordination Plan. This means we have begun the Impact Statement Development and Review phase, which has a legislated time limit of three years (up to May 31, 2025). During this phase, the Proponent will collect information and conduct studies, as outlined in the Joint Guidelines.

### **Next Steps**

IAAC and the EAO would like to hear from Hwlitsum First Nation. Please confirm if you would like to set up a meeting, as noted above. We will also follow up with more information on the next steps of the Impact Statement Development and Review phase, including engaging with your Nation on the draft Review Panel Terms of Reference and Project-Specific Cooperation Agreement. The cooperation agreement will provide more details about how the Review Panel and/or federal and provincial authorities will work together to address the requirements of their respective legislations, including roles and responsibilities, timelines, sharing of information, and process. The Review Panel Terms of Reference will set the procedures and boundaries of the assessment for the Review Panel. IAAC will also provide information on future funding opportunities related to the Impact Statement Development and Review phase.

If you have questions, concerns or would like to set up a meeting with IAAC and EAO, please do not hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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