

May 6, 2024

**ELECTRONIC MAIL**

To: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada – Indigenous Policy Division

**Subject: Request for Advice from the Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia – Protection of Indigenous Knowledge**

Dear Carolyn Dunn,

The Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia is submitting this request to the Impact Assessment Agency to ask for expert advice related to the protection of Indigenous Knowledge.

In accordance with section 5 of the Committee's Agreement, and with section 23 of the *Impact Assessment Act (IAA)*, the Committee can request specialist or expert information or knowledge, from any department or agency, which must then be made available to the Committee. This may include providing information, knowledge or advice related to any matter relevant to the Regional Assessment.

Within the Regional Assessment Agreement, there are multiple references to ensuring that Indigenous peoples are engaged meaningfully throughout the Regional Assessment process and that consideration of Indigenous knowledge will be used to achieve the overall goal of the Regional Assessment. With this in mind, the Committee requests your advice on how to ensure the protection of Indigenous knowledge for this Regional Assessment, in order to meet the terms of the Agreement.

As per the Committee's Operational Procedure, the information submitted to the Committee in response to this Request for Advice will be made public on the Regional Assessment Registry Site. It is also important to note that the Committee's Confidentiality Procedure outlines the procedures in place regarding confidentiality of information provided by participants as part the of the Regional Assessment process.

Given the timeline for the Regional Assessment, the Committee would like to meet in May 2024 and will be in touch to confirm a date.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

The Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia