

To: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada; The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources; The Honourable Andrew Parsons, K.C., M.H.A., Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; The Honourable Lisa Dempster, M.H.A., Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; The Honourable Andrew Furey, M.H.A., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador(*via email*)

Date: January 23, 2025

Re: Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador, Final Report

Dear Ministers,

Please find attached the Committee's Final Report for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Committee considers this Regional Assessment Report a starting point for planning for offshore wind development in Newfoundland and Labrador. Even over the course of this process, offshore wind technology has changed and will continue to do so at a rapid pace. Governments should continue to engage with Indigenous peoples, fishers and other ocean users, government agencies, environmental organizations, research groups, industry stakeholders, and the public. The Committee expects the information, analysis, and recommendations provided in this report will be refined and revised as governments continue their efforts to support the development of an offshore wind industry.

The Committee appreciated the additional time granted to complete this Regional Assessment. However, the engagement, scoping, and public education challenges [we outlined in October 2023](#) remained. In particular, the Committee continued to hear concerns regarding the timeline for this process, and for the development of the joint management framework for offshore wind in Newfoundland and Labrador. The overlapping initiatives and aspirational timelines affected meaningful engagement, especially with Indigenous peoples and fishers who strongly believe they will be the most directly affected by offshore wind development in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Offshore wind will be a new industry here, there are no projects proposed, and the provincial government has not set a development target. It was immediately apparent to the Committee that the public wants to be more informed on offshore wind generally to enable more meaningful engagement. The Committee notes Natural Resource Canada's Offshore Wind Predevelopment Program is good start in helping Indigenous and coastal communities in building capacity.

It is also clear that the public wants more transparency from government on its plans for offshore wind in this province. The Committee therefore requests the Ministers issue a public

response to this Report that speaks to any intended next steps now that the Regional Assessment is complete.

The Committee has also taken time to reflect on its experience conducting this Regional Assessment. In the spirit of continuous improvement, the Committee has developed some recommendations for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to consider for future regional assessments. The Committee will send this letter to Stewart Lindale, IAAC's Director of Regional and Strategic Assessment.

This Regional Assessment strikes a balance between precaution and support for offshore wind development. With proponents already proposing projects in Nova Scotia's offshore area, the Committee believes learning from early experiences, provincial collaboration, and a regional approach will be key to successful development of offshore wind in Atlantic Canada.

The Committee appreciates the Government of Canada, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have climate change and sustainable economic development goals, and that both see offshore wind development as an opportunity to achieve those goals. We trust the information, analyses, and recommendations presented in this Report will be useful in the development of a joint management framework for offshore wind, and for future impact assessment of offshore wind projects.

Finally, the Committee thanks the Ministers for this appointment. We are honoured to have been entrusted with this Regional Assessment, an important first step in the journey towards an offshore wind industry in Atlantic Canada.

Thank you,

Shayne McDonald (Chair), Glenn Blackwood, Leslie Grattan, Brian Power, and Paul W. Saunders
Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador