



ALBERTA
INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Office of the Minister

40829

February 15, 2018

Mr. Larry Buzan
President
Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen
1600, 520 - 5 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3R7

Dear Mr. Buzan:

Thank you for your continued participation in the renewal of the *Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2013* and the *Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2015* and in approaches to enhance capacity. As we move forward together, I would like to provide you with a brief overview of progress to date, as well as what you can expect over the next few months. I think communication is critical and forms an integral part in developing positive and productive relationships. I am always open to receive input from you and look forward to strengthening our relationship.

From the summer 2016 to April 2017, officials from my ministry met with technicians from individual First Nations, as well as stakeholders, to hear their outstanding concerns related to Alberta's consultation process. In April 2017, I met with First Nation Chiefs, as well as industry and municipal representatives to review the outcomes of the initial technical engagements on the policy renewal, including common policy themes and concerns related to consultation.

In October 2017, my staff held seven technical meetings with First Nations, Metis Settlements, and stakeholders from industry and municipalities on ways to address the common policy themes and concerns.

In November 2017, I met with the Chiefs of Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8 as well as with industry and municipal stakeholders. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss initial ideas to address the identified common policy themes, options to enhance the consultation capacity of First Nations and a potential legislative framework. While there was some discussion about potential trilateral meetings, interest from industry, municipalities, and First Nations has been minimal.

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Moving forward, our respective professional staff are meeting in February 2018 to further discuss and hear feedback on the initial policy ideas and tools for addressing the identified common policy issues that I tested with you and First Nation Chiefs in November 2017. Once our technicians have completed this latest engagement, I would like to meet with industry and municipal stakeholder leaders in April 2018 to further our discussions on the policy renewal. I am optimistic that I will be in a position to provide you with a draft Policy to review by June 2018.

The circulation of the draft Policies will provide you with a further opportunity to inform and help shape the final content. Once I have received your input, I hope to be in a position to present the renewed Policies to government for consideration in fall 2018. I am optimistic that if we work closely together, we can develop renewed Policies that meet our obligations as a government, your needs for a clear and certain consultation framework, and provide First Nations and Metis Settlements greater involvement in the consultation process.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing participation in the First Nations Consultation Policy renewal, the Metis Settlements Consultation Policy renewal, and the Enhanced Consultation Capacity Initiative. I look forward to our continued collaboration on these critically important initiatives in 2018.

Sincerely,



Richard Feehan
Minister of Indigenous Relations