

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

September 2, 2020

Ms. Réjeanne Aimey, P.Eng.
Chair and President
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers
satkinson@ospe.on.ca

Mr. Sandro Perruzza
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Society of Professional Engineers
satkinson@ospe.on.ca

Dear Ms. Aimey and Mr. Perruzza:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 11, 2020, on which I was copied, regarding Canada's post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, including short-term recommendations.

The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to help Canadians facing hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Through ongoing engagement with provincial and industry stakeholders, the federal government has implemented measures beyond the range of economy-wide measures such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, and the Business Credit Availability Program.

This is an unprecedented time in Canada as we work together to manage the spread of COVID-19 and limit its economic impact. The importance of Canada's engineering community to our national economy, our natural resources sector and our everyday lives has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Minister of Natural Resources, I would like to respond to your recommendations regarding collaboration with other levels of government on use of distributed energy resources and emissions-free technology, and investing in clean up of Ontario's orphaned and abandoned mine sites. For example, encouraging the use of distributed energy resources and emissions-free technology is a priority of our government. We continue to support the development and deployment of sustainable energy technologies. Federal laboratories continue to work with standard development organizations to update safety and quality standards for clean energy technologies.

Canada

With regard to orphaned and abandoned mine sites, we are committed to the implementation of the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP). More recently, in light of new challenges resulting from COVID-19, Mines Ministers from across the country have reaffirmed the CMMP as the primary vehicle for collaborating to boost competitiveness and drive recovery. Building public trust and promoting a responsible, competitive industry require Canada to address orphaned and abandoned mines issues.

In 2019, Canada's Mines Ministers agreed on the need for increased national attention to reclamation, and orphaned/abandoned mines, resulting in the inclusion of a pan-Canadian initiative in Action Plan 2020 this past March, to examine options for a renewed mandate and five-year work plan for the National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative. An important first step in achieving this initiative was the delivery of a consultative webinar on June 18, 2020. The results of this webinar, along with pre- and post-webinar surveys will inform Mines Ministers' deliberations at the 2020 Energy and Mines Minister's Conference this fall.

We recognize the interest of stakeholders in the recent federal announcement of \$1.72 billion in transfers to stimulate work remediating orphan and inactive oil and gas wells, and a desire for similar investments for mining. The Government of Canada will continue to examine initiatives and measures for the next CMMP Action Plan to support strong firms and a sustainable industry.

Again, I want to thank you for conveying the concerns of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers about Canada's economic recovery and the impact on the engineering profession in Canada. I greatly appreciate you sharing your thoughts and recommendations on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seamus O'Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Distribution

Distribution

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
DPM-VPM@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
ISI.minister-ministre.ISI@canada.ca

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
infexecutivecorrespondence-correspondanceexecutive.infexec@canada.ca

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

The Honourable Mona Fortier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance
fin.dcu-ucm.fin@canada.ca