

**REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**  
**Response to Comment Received on the Registry**  
**July 28, 2023**

Dear Desiree,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Keepers of the Circle, submitted to the Impact Assessment Registry on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Indigenous engagement, including the engagement of Indigenous women, is of utmost importance to this regional assessment. Our Terms of Reference and *the Impact Assessment Act* alike, both reflect the inclusion of Indigenous women's knowledge. Our Terms of Reference also requires we consider the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors and make recommendations on the manner in which future impact assessments of offshore wind projects within our study area should consider and address these factors.

We acknowledge the value of visiting communities in person. However, it does pose logistical challenges. The Committee has begun conducting introductory meetings with Indigenous communities and is coordinating with each community on how best to facilitate future meetings. Currently, we are planning to undertake many of our sessions virtually. In addition to meeting time and resource constraints, this approach will allow us to host multiple sessions, accommodating various community members' schedules. At the same time, we will make every effort to incorporate some in-person meetings when possible.

The Committee is working on understanding the potential positive and adverse effects of offshore wind development. We are focusing on the following components: air quality and greenhouse gases; marine fish and fish habitat (including species at risk); avifauna (including birds, bats, and associated species at risk); marine mammals and sea turtles (including species at risk); established and proposed protected and special areas; Indigenous communities, activities, interests and rights; fisheries and other ocean uses; visual aesthetics and acoustic environments; physical and cultural heritage; health; communities and economy.

The Committee will be engaging Indigenous peoples to hear views throughout the coming months.

We welcome and look forward to Keepers of the Circles' continued participation in our process.

Sincerely,

Shayne McDonald, Chair  
on behalf of the Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in  
Newfoundland and Labrador