



JUL 05 2017

Mr. Peter Jones
Chairman
For Our Grandchildren Steering Committee
pfmjones@sympatico.ca

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 6, 2017, forwarded by the Office of the Prime Minister, concerning the North American Free Trade Agreement and Canada's commitment to environmental protection for generations to come. I regret the delay in responding.

As you know, in Canada and abroad, the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident. The Government of Canada is proud to have ratified the Paris Agreement in October 2016, and it remains steadfast in its commitment to take an active and constructive role in international fora in order to maintain the momentum of this agreement. It is also stepping up to seize this historic opportunity to build a prosperous low-carbon future. Abroad, the Government is delivering a \$2.65 billion pledge to support climate action in developing countries. At home, through the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, it is implementing a comprehensive plan with four main pillars: pricing carbon pollution; providing complementary measures to further reduce emissions across the economy; developing approaches to adapt to the impacts of climate change and build resilience; and establishing actions to accelerate innovation, support clean technology and create jobs.

Canada is deeply disappointed that the United States has decided to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. However, it stands united with the global community, which overwhelmingly supports the Agreement. Canada will continue to work with its domestic and international partners to drive progress on the fight against climate change, and it will continue to work with the United States at the state level—and with other American stakeholders—to address the issue and promote clean growth. Canada will also continue reaching out to the United States federal government to discuss this matter and to identify areas of shared interest for collaboration, including emissions reductions.

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The Government of Canada believes that robust commitments to high levels of environmental protection are an important part of any trade agreement. Therefore, it will defend the interest of Canadians, including on environmental issues. As it moves toward modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Government is looking forward to sharing with its American and Mexican partners the great work that Canada has done on environmental issues in other trade agreements.

Finally, the Government is engaging in intensive consultations with all Canadians. As you may know, it has initiated a series of formal consultations inviting citizens to submit their views in regard to the modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement. In this regard, you can visit a dedicated webpage on Global Affairs Canada's website at www.international.gc.ca/nafta and through the Canada Gazette notice (until July 18) at <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-06-03/html/notice-avis-eng.php#na8>. I encourage you to share your insights using these tools.

I value your work with For Our Grandchildren, and I commend your efforts to engage and empower Canadians in the fight against climate change.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.