



APR 13 2017

MR. KEVIN O'REILLY  
MLA, FRAME LAKE

**Additional Information - Oral Question 606-18(2): Status of Transboundary Water Management Agreements**

---

This letter is to provide further information in follow up to the letter dated March 1, 2017, regarding the status of Transboundary Water Management Agreement negotiations and implementation progress between the Northwest Territories (NWT) and adjacent provinces and territories.

During a recent meeting between Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) officials and the NWT Water Strategy Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC), it was requested that additional information and clarity be provided to your question. Specifically, additional information and clarity be provided regarding Aboriginal representation on the Bilateral Management Committees (BMC) established under the Alberta (AB)-NWT and British Columbia (BC)-NWT Transboundary Water Management Agreements.

The ASC guides the implementation of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy and has members from the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Dehcho First Nations, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Kátł'odeeche First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Sahtù Secretariat Incorporated, Salt River First Nation, Tłı̨chǫ Government, and the Akaitcho Territory Government (observer).

As per the *Northwest Territories Aboriginal Steering Committee Appointees to Transboundary Water Management Agreement Bilateral Management Committees Terms of Reference*, the ASC recommends one Aboriginal member and one alternate to serve on each BMC.

The criteria for recommending appointees to each BMC include:

- Has extensive traditional and local knowledge and experience with the watershed(s) relevant to the specific BMC (e.g., Liard and Petitot River watersheds for the BC-NWT Transboundary Water Management Agreement);

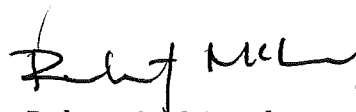
.../2

- Has technical experience;
- Lives in the NWT close to the border or within the relevant basin(s)
- Acts as a champion for traditional knowledge;
- Has experience dealing with different levels of discussions;
- Able to represent different governments or organizations and interests not one single government or organization;
- Able to attend the BMC and preparatory meetings as well as ASC meetings; and
- Shall be a salaried employee to ensure continuity and the ability to prepare and follow up on matters relevant to the BMC.

The Aboriginal member on each BMC is appointed by the Minister of ENR, upon the recommendation of the ASC. Aboriginal members on BMCs represent the ASC and are responsible for bringing forward the interests of the ASC members.

As mentioned in my previous letter, the GNWT has appointed government members and Aboriginal members to both the AB-NWT and BC-NWT BMCs. The NWT Aboriginal member to the AB-NWT BMC is Mr. Tim Heron, and the NWT Aboriginal member to the BC-NWT BMC is Ms. Dahti Tsetso.

I thank you for your question and for your interest in these important agreements.



Robert C. McLeod  
Minister  
Environment and Natural Resources

c. Mr. Gary Bohnet  
Principal Secretary

Dr. Joe Dragon  
Deputy Minister, ENR

Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator