

Ministre des Services
aux Autochtones



Minister of
Indigenous Services

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

May 6, 2020

Mr. Dale Swampy
President
National Coalition of Chiefs
111 Everstone Rise South West
CALGARY AB T2Y4J7

daleswampy@coalitionofchiefs.ca

Dear Mr. Swampy:

Thank you for your letter of March 30, 2020, which highlighted the need to support First Nation communities, businesses, and workers involved in Canada's oil and gas industry during this challenging economic period.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada's Economic Response Plan has been implemented to provide support for individuals, including Indigenous Peoples; businesses; and industry. Millions of hardworking Canadians have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have already applied for individual support available during this difficult time.

Through the Indigenous Community Support Fund, we are providing \$305 million to address immediate needs in First Nation, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities. We have also provided \$100 million to support a range of federal health measures, including support for preparedness in First Nation and Inuit communities.

For businesses, we have launched a variety of programs for payment deferrals, credit access, supporting financial stability. On Saturday, April 18, 2020, our government announced \$306.8 million in funding to help small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses, and to support Aboriginal Financial Institutions that offer financing to these businesses. The funding will allow for short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal Financial Institutions, which offer financing and business support services to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses.

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Canada

On Friday, April 17, 2020, our government made an additional \$1.7 billion funding announcement which includes funds for cleaning up orphan wells in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. Our goal is to create immediate jobs in these provinces while helping companies avoid bankruptcy, and supporting our environmental targets.

The Government of Canada is encouraged by the temporary production curtailment that was recently announced by oil-producing nations, in an attempt to bring stability and certainty to world prices. For the nearly 50 First Nations that currently receive royalties, rentals, or other monies from oil and gas activities on First Nation reserve lands, measures are being taken to ensure First Nations continue to receive these funds in a timely manner and that industry partners can continue to focus on operations.

Further, our government continues to explore additional options to support vital Canadian industries, including oil and gas, to protect well-paying middle-class jobs and to support cornerstones of our economy throughout these unprecedented times.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me. I've asked Mr. Jamie Brown, Regional Director General, Alberta Region, to share more information with you on these issues. Mr. Brown can be contacted by telephone at (780) 495-2835, or by email at Jamie.Brown@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP

c.c.: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP