

Minister of Transport,
Infrastructure and Communities



Ministre des Transports,
de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

The Honourable Blair Lekstrom
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9060
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

OCT - 6 2009

The Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9055
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

Dear Ministers:

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement on September 16, 2009 regarding British Columbia's Northwest Transmission Line, I am pleased to formally advise you that the federal government has identified this project as a priority for funding consideration under the Green Infrastructure Fund.

Under the Green Infrastructure Fund, the Government of Canada will consider an investment of up to fifty percent (50%) of total eligible costs of the project, to a maximum federal contribution of \$130,000,000.

While the Government of Canada is pleased to consider this project a priority for funding, I must impress upon you that this letter does not signify funding approval. Prior to funding approval, a federal review of the project must be successfully completed and a contribution agreement must be signed. I understand our officials are well advanced in completing this review. More specifically, any federal funding of this project will be conditional upon:

- The project meeting the Green Infrastructure Fund requirements, including the provision of information necessary for federal officials to undertake a project review;
- Fulfilling, where applicable, the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and for aboriginal consultations under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*;
- The signing of a contribution agreement that will detail the project elements, schedule, costs, and funding parameters.

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We must also inform you that any project costs incurred before federal approval in principle are ineligible. Further, it is recommended that no tender is issued and that construction does not begin in respect of the project before federal approval in principle is secured (I understand that this is not an issue, in that British Columbia has further work to do prior to proceeding to tender). Federal approval in principle will be signaled in a letter from me following the successful completion of a federal project review.

Thank you for your collaboration to date and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Baird", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Baird, P.C., M.P.