

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

FEB 22 2016

Mr. Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
360 Albert Street, Suite 420
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, 2015, and for highlighting the renewed national policy mandate of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. I would like to congratulate the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for its in-depth analysis and ongoing work with local chambers of commerce and boards of trade.

I share your perspective on many of the issues you have raised and would like to highlight a few here today. Our Government has committed to ensuring that our resource sector remains a source of jobs, prosperity, and opportunity within the context of a world that increasingly values sustainable practices and low carbon processes. This requires continued investment and support for innovation in our natural resource sectors as well as making significant investments in key strategic infrastructure that will increase trade and growth. As part of my mandate, I am committed to working closely with the provinces and territories on the Canadian Energy Strategy, supporting innovation and combatting climate change.

Natural Resources Canada is a national leader in clean innovation, and I share your view that we need to grow Canada's share of the global clean technology market. In this regard I would like to highlight the leadership roles we have taken under Mission Innovation, to which Canada became signatory at COP21 in Paris. Developing global leadership means developing a deep understanding of our own market and national innovation system, strategically partnering with other countries to deliver on mutual objectives, and empowering our private sector to succeed in the global markets of tomorrow.

Natural Resource Canada innovation programs have targeted improved energy productivity for decades, and these programs can be attributed with some of Canada's energy productivity success of the past 20 years.

I agree with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce that Canadian companies will need innovation in order to maintain their competitive edge and remain environmentally sound. Our Government's plan emphasizes sustainable economic growth together with preserving and protecting the environment. Natural Resources Canada has committed over \$40 million to its Green Mining Initiative since 2009. Through partnerships with industry, this initiative is improving environmental performance in the mining sector by supporting the development and uptake of green technologies.

The Government of Canada is also re-engaging with Indigenous Peoples on the *Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act*, as part of our approach to building a new relationship. A continued dialogue with Indigenous peoples and industry will help prepare for when industry begins to report payments made to Aboriginal governments in June, 2017. I believe strongly in the need to regain public trust, and I am committed to ensuring that decisions are based on science, facts, and evidence as well as provide ways to enhance the engagement of Indigenous groups in reviewing and monitoring major resource development projects.

Again, I would like to thank you for your letter and your interest in these matters. My officials will further consider the recommendations you have provided and I look forward to personally discussing these matters further with you.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Jim Carr, P.C., M.P.