



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

President

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Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Président

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
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June 3, 2026

Mike Kofahl
Staff Lawyer
East Coast Environmental Law
mike@ecelaw.ca

Dear Mr. Kofahl,

Thank you for your letter of March 26, 2026, outlining East Coast Environmental Law's (ECEL's) early comments on the proposed Regional Assessment (RA) of exploratory oil and gas drilling in the offshore area of Nova Scotia. I appreciate the depth of analysis and the experience that ECEL brings to regional and project-level impact assessment processes, as well as your continued engagement on matters of sustainability, cumulative effects, and meaningful public participation.

There is growing interest in realizing the significant potential of Nova Scotia's offshore energy resources, including renewable and conventional energy sources, in the context of Government of Canada goals respecting energy resource development, while ensuring that potential future activities are assessed and regulated responsibly. The RA currently being planned will inform future planning discussions and support efficient and effective project assessment and regulatory decision-making.

With respect to ECEL's concerns regarding the proposed timeline for the RA, the Agency remains focused on ensuring that the work conducted through this RA is aligned with the objectives for RAs under the *Impact Assessment Act*, including undertaking a cumulative effects assessment and engaging the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia early in the planning process. Funding will be made available to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and to non-profit public participants during both the planning and conduct phases of the RA to support meaningful participation throughout the process.

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The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) values the role that ECEL has played in RAs to date. ECEL's input and expertise have been constructive and have contributed meaningfully to strengthening RA processes and outcomes. In recognition of this and acknowledging the concerns you have raised at this early stage, I would welcome the opportunity for us to meet with you to discuss the RA. To this end I have asked Brent Parker, Director General, responsible for regional assessments to reach out to you.

Thank you again for your engagement and for sharing your views. We look forward to continued dialogue as this work progresses.

Sincerely,

Terence Hubbard