



February 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

British Columbia Utilities Commission  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 900 Howe Street Vancouver, BC  
V6Z 2N3

Attention: Mr. Patrick Wruck, Commission Secretary and Manager, Regulatory Support

**RE: Project No. 1598998 - BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry**

Dear Mr. Wruck;

The Clean Energy Association of British Columbia (CEBC) has been the voice of British Columbia's (BC) clean energy sector for the past 29 years. CEBC represents a significant portion of the clean energy industry with more than 100 member organizations—an industry that collectively delivers approximately 16% of the Province's electricity supply. This includes a number of First Nations communities from across the Province, some of whom own equity stakes in renewable electricity generation business. Our members advance a mix of proven clean energy technologies such as hydro, wind, solar, and biomass. BC's clean power sector responsibly, reliably, and affordably produces renewable energy for more than 1.5 million homes across BC, and our members are vital to the advancement of regional economies and Indigenous economic development across BC.

In January 2020 CEBC and its Board of Directors approved the two-year strategic plan. A key strategic propriety identified in the plan is to "support and advocate for First Nations owned and partnered projects". Reaffirming CEBC's commitment to working closely with our First Nations members and partners to support their energy objectives for generations to come. As such, we are writing this letter to support First Nations' interests in the BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry (Inquiry).

Firstly, CEBC would like to take the opportunity to recognize the thorough engagement process undertaken through the Inquiry. The clean energy industry in BC has a proven track record of forming strong, respectful and mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations that create long-term sustainable sources of revenue, jobs and capacity development. We strongly believe that the advancement of First Nations Utilities is a worthwhile incremental opportunity for our member Nations to derive economic benefits for their communities, while at the same time helping to meet the objectives of CleanBC, and in alignment with the interests of BC's ratepayers.

Detailed arguments and comments on specific recommendations have already been voiced appropriately by a large number of First Nations intervenors and interested parties. Our First Nations members tell us that they are absolutely capable and willing to take on the challenges of establishing and operating First Nations utilities. The portfolio of clean energy projects owned and operated by, or in partnership with, First Nations communities across BC demonstrates the potential for attracting investors and partners given viable cost recovery models, and a stable policy and regulatory environment in which to conduct business.



In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support and encourage the BCUC to continue the productive dialogue with First Nations with the intent of establishing a meaningful outcome to the Inquiry.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabelle Deguise".

Isabelle Deguise

Chair, Clean Energy BC