



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00885**

BY: **MR. DONNELLY (PORT MOODY-COQUITLAM)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA**

Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Protection of the environment

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their concerns.

In Canada, federal environmental assessments are conducted pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012. The types of projects which may require a federal environmental assessment are listed under the Act's Regulations Designating Physical Activities. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change has the authority to designate projects not described in the Regulations, such as the replacement of the George Massey Tunnel, for a federal environmental assessment if the Minister is of the opinion that it is warranted.

The Minister will consider the requests that the replacement of the George Massey Tunnel be designated to require a federal environmental assessment. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency advises and assists the Minister on the use of this authority. In developing a recommendation for the Minister, the Agency will, as appropriate, take into account a number of matters including:

- whether there is potential for adverse environmental effects within federal jurisdiction;
- whether there are public concerns about the adverse environmental effects;
- whether there are potential impacts to Indigenous peoples;

- whether standard design features and mitigation would address the anticipated adverse effects;
- whether the project involves new technology or is a new type of activity;
- whether the potential adverse effects can be adequately managed through other existing legislative or regulatory mechanisms;
- whether an assessment of environmental effects would be carried out by another jurisdiction;
- whether the project may cause adverse environmental effects because of its location and environmental setting;
and
- whether there are proposals for multiple activities within the same region that may be a source of cumulative effects.

The Government of Canada recognizes that the environment and economy go hand-in-hand and is committed to innovate, to invest, and to grow our communities in ways that build a more sustainable economy for current and future generations of Canadians.