



Ron Hallman
President, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Place Bell Canada 160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

October 31, 2017

Dear Mr. Hallman;

Thank you for your response on behalf of Minister McKenna, to our submission regarding the expert panel report on the environmental assessment process. Professional biology is a new, emerging profession with legislation in two provinces (BC and Alberta) and with voluntary registration in Quebec. Under BC's *College of Applied Biology Act*, College members must meet high standards of education and experience, continue with professional development throughout their career, and understand and abide by the College Code of Ethics.

I would like to reiterate the College's position that, in provinces with a professional regulatory body, the federal government require that biologists working on Impact Assessments be members of the regulated profession. If your agency, and indeed the federal government, is to be successful in delivering an improved process that will "restore public trust in EA; to introduce new, fair processes; and to get resources to market", it is critical to include registered, accountable professionals at every step in the process.

As the public's expectation for responsible management of our resources continues to increase, it will become even more critical for governments and industry to be able to rely on sound science to contribute to decision making. To that end, professional biologists can make a very positive contribution.

I would like the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to explore the role of professionals - and specifically professional biologists - in the federal environmental assessment process and I will contact your office to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time. As well, I am pleased to provide you with the most recent copy of our newsletter *College Matters*. I hope this will be of interest to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Christine Houghton, Executive Director, College of Applied Biology

CC Vanessa Craig, President, College of Applied Biology
Brian Clark, Executive Vice President, College of Applied Biology