



## Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec–Labrador

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November 12, 2021

**BY EMAIL**

Monsieur François Legault  
Premier ministre du Québec  
Ministère du Conseil exécutif  
Édifice Honoré-Mercier  
835, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 3<sup>e</sup> étage  
Québec (Québec) G1A 1B4

### **Subject: Hydro-Québec 2021 calls for tenders**

Mr. Premier,

Hydro-Quebec is initiating a call for tenders for 300 megawatts (MW) of wind power and 480 MW of power from other types of renewable energy. While it is desirable to promote renewable energy, the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) is concerned by the lack of consideration of First Nations in the process, while Aboriginal title and Aboriginal and treaty rights dictate that the provincial government share in the benefits of the exploitation of the territory and its natural resources.

For years, the AFNQL Chiefs have been stating loud and clear that First Nations are indispensable in any development, by the strength of our ancestral and treaty rights. However, the draft regulations and the governmental decree to the attention of the *Régie de l'énergie* concerning the calls for tenders of your Crown corporation are not only a clear indication of the lack of consideration towards First Nations, but also a striking proof of the non-respect of our rights.

In the interest of the First Nations Chiefs, the AFNQL intervenes in the process underway at the Régie de l'énergie concerning the evaluation grids for bids proposed to Hydro-Québec. With regard to the evaluation criteria for future projects, we denounce the flagrant lack of consideration for the inclusion of First Nations. Let us recall that these criteria are directly inspired by the draft regulations and the decree of the *Conseil des ministres*, which serve as guidelines for both Hydro-Québec and the *Régie de l'énergie*.

As you know, First Nation governments are important contributors to urban and regional economies and are a strategic asset in development and recovery. The recent participation of the Mohawk Nation in the transmission line project and the participation of the Innu Nation in the *Apuiat* wind project are recent examples that prove this. I would like to remind you that the Cree Nation had to opt for the court route for the development of James Bay and that the legal route had to be taken afterwards by several First Nations, in order to assert that they have their place in the development.

The calls for tenders from Hydro-Quebec, the draft regulations and the governmental decree are actions taken by the provincial government, which involve the natural resources of our traditional territories and their use for our collective future. Once again, I invite you to a most harmonious coexistence and a cohabitation on our lands. In order to achieve, this we must seize every opportunities to make significant and mutually beneficial advances.

The AFNQL Chiefs remind you that the development of our communities must be achieved in the same way as that of the municipalities and surrounding areas. I invite you to act and to make the courageous gesture that is required once and for all. Your government must become aware of the place of First Nations in development and of the monumental error concerning these calls for tenders. There is still time to make changes to the Order in Council and the draft regulations. These amendments would allow for the inclusion of First Nations in the current calls for tenders and would pave the way for partnerships between our respective nations in future energy developments.

In peace and friendship,



Ghislain Picard  
Chief of the AFNQL

C. c.: First Nations Grands Chiefs and Chiefs