

Response Rec'd from Minister Polak – Climate Change

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX [<mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 11:37 AM

To: 'manager@bcnature.ca' <manager@bcnature.ca>

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Correspondence - Revision of the Climate Action Plan

Reference: 304122

October 18, 2016

Alan Burger, President
BC Nature
c/o Betty Davison, Office Manager
Email: manager@bcnature.ca

Dear Mr. Burger:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2016, addressed to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, regarding British Columbia's (BC's) new Climate Leadership Plan. As your enquiry falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Clark.

BC has set a target, in legislation, for provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050—a level consistent to avoid the most significant effects of climate change. The 21 new actions in BC's Climate Leadership Plan are forecasted to reduce BC's emissions by up to 25 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) below previous forecasts, keeping us on the path towards our 2050 climate goal. We are also participating in the development of a Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change with our federal and provincial colleagues, in areas such as carbon pricing, mitigation and adaptation.

BC has committed to reviewing and updating our Climate Leadership Plan over the course of the following year and every five years after that to ensure the strategy remains current and effective in meeting our long-term goals. We support the adoption of BC's price on carbon as a national benchmark and increasing that price together in an affordable way, once other jurisdictions catch up.

As the cleanest-burning fossil fuel, natural gas is part of a global climate solution. In order to ensure global carbon dioxide levels do not trigger levels of irreversible climate change, the International Energy Agency forecasted that new supplies of the lowest-carbon fossil fuel, natural gas, and every source of renewable energy economically viable, will be needed to reduce global use of higher emission coal and oil. BC is looking to supply a small part of this future natural gas. We recognize that liquefied natural gas (LNG) development is energy and emissions intense. In order to export this much-needed transition fuel, while continuing to meet our climate goals, BC established a world-leading GHG benchmark for LNG plants of 0.16 tonnes of CO₂e per tonne of LNG produced. With the new actions in our Climate Leadership Plan to reduce

upstream methane and carbon dioxide emissions from the oil and gas sector, we believe we will be delivering the cleanest LNG we can to world markets.

Thank you again for your letter. Our province is committed to being at the forefront of this fight and continuing to demonstrate climate action leadership. For updates on climate action in BC, please visit <http://climate.gov.bc.ca>.

Sincerely,

Mary Polak
Minister

cc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier