



Office of the President & Chief Executive Officer

Phil Verster

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September 25, 2023

Cynthia Bell
Executive Director
ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency
1191 Weston Road
Toronto, ON M9N 1W7

Delivered via e-mail: Cynthia.Bell@enagb-iy.ca

Dear Cynthia Bell,

I am writing to you as a follow up to my letter dated June 9, 2023, regarding the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE).

In that letter, I highlighted Metrolinx's interest in providing opportunities for meaningful collaboration with ENAGB and members of the Coalition on topics such as incorporating Indigenous knowledge into restoration planning as well as other environmental enhancement measures in the area, including the removal of invasive species and habitat restoration initiatives. We remain committed to supporting Indigenous youth programming, internship opportunities and local community improvements, such as enhancing trail access and building recreational facilities in the park.

The Design and Restoration Working Group for ECWE is developing restoration plans in collaboration with rights holding First Nations communities. Metrolinx has already started restoration activities including undertaking significant tree planting on October 20, 2021, and June 24, 2023, with 1,094 trees and 306 shrubs planted. We would welcome ENAGB's participation in the Working Group and in the restoration activities, which will continue throughout construction on the project, and after construction is complete. Further, Metrolinx has engaged the broader community about the project through 18 open houses, 68 pop-ups, 90 canvasses, over 120 meetings with First Nations and community groups, and four surveys. We have also completed an Environmental Assessment and the necessary addendum.

As you are aware, we have made several attempts to contact Suzanne Smoke. Ultimately, Mr. Vinay Sharda Vice President, Indigenous Relations met with you, Suzanne Smoke, other members of ENAGB as well as members of other community groups on July 27, 2023, at the project site. It was a cordial conversation with thoughtful discussion regarding a number of topics that are of interest to ENAGB.

The ECWE is a critically needed transit project that will benefit both the community and our environment. Once built, it will bring fast and reliable public transit to a community that has been historically underserved, while connecting people to more jobs and economic opportunity. From an environmental perspective, this project will reduce the number of cars on our roads and is projected to remove 5 800 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year - a key step towards addressing the urgency of climate change.

Building resilient infrastructure to mitigate climate change is also important. The decision to proceed with the elevated guideway is a result of the section of the route being identified as a flood plain zone, which has experienced historic levels of flooding in the past. As the likelihood of extreme weather events increases, elevating the line here on a guideway is the best way to provide safe, reliable service for the community.

To be able to advance this critically important project, Metrolinx will need the lands to be vacated. While we remain open to discussing site restoration, community improvements and Indigenous youth programming, please be aware that if the lands are not vacated shortly, we will need to pursue other options, including legal proceedings, to ready the lands for construction.

We remain open to continued discussions on matters of interest to ENAGB and would welcome the opportunity to continue positive dialogue.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Verster', with a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Phil Verster
President & CEO

cc. Suzanne Smoke, President Southern Ontario Chapter American Indian Movement