

From: Hon. Greg Rickford and Hon. Bill Walker <energy@ontario.ca>
Sent: March 6, 2020 12:22 PM
To: ZZG-Chair <zzg-chair@peelregion.ca>
Subject: Letter from the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and the Associate Minister of Energy

**Ministry of Energy,
Northern Development
and Mines**

**Ministère de l'Énergie,
du Développement du Nord
et des Mines**

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

Office of the Associate
Minister of Energy

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March 6, 2020

Mr. Nando Iannicca
Chair
Regional Municipality of Peel
chair@peelregion.ca

Dear Mr. Iannicca:

We are pleased to be writing you today to share news of the next step in our government's plan to expand natural gas access to thousands of households, businesses and Indigenous communities throughout rural and northern Ontario.

For the average residential consumer, switching to natural gas from electric heat, propane or oil could result in savings between \$800 and \$2,500 per year on their heating costs. The switch to natural gas can also lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Natural Gas Expansion Support Program was created to help extend access to natural gas to unserved communities across the province, providing access to clean and affordable fuel. Several projects were selected under the first phase of the program, with construction well underway in Southern Bruce, starting on Scugog Island, and completed in Chatham-Kent and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

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Building on these successful projects, we are launching the next phase of our plan to support additional natural gas expansion projects, and will make up to \$130 million available over the three-year period from 2021 to 2023.

In December 2019 our government asked the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to collect information about natural gas expansion opportunities across Ontario and develop a report on submitted projects. On March 5, 2020, the OEB began accepting proposals from natural gas utilities for potential expansion projects.

If you are interested in being considered for a project in your community, we encourage you to reach out to your local regulated natural gas provider. You can learn more about the proposal process for natural gas providers at www.oeb.ca/industry/policy-initiatives-and-consultations/potential-projects-expand-access-natural-gas.

The OEB will deliver its report by August 2020, after which our government will make a final decision on future expansion projects eligible to receive support. For more information about the Natural Gas Expansion Support Program, please visit www.ontario.ca/page/natural-gas-expansion-support-program.

Thank you for working with your local natural gas provider to help make life more affordable for families and businesses, and your community more attractive for economic development opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Greg Rickford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" and last name "Rickford" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern
Development and Mines

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Walker" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Bill Walker
Associate Minister of Energy