

MEXICO CITY, 09 JUN 2016

Lindsay Brumwell
JPAC Chair
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
393, Rue St-Jaques Ouest, Bureau 200
Montreal QC H2Y IN9

Dear Ms. Brumwell,

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) for your **Advice to Council No: 15-05 in reference of the outputs from JPAC Planning Meeting in Montreal.**

The Council welcomes and echoes JPAC's impression on the quality of the Secretariat's programmatic work as a positive reflection on all three governments and as a testament to our collective dedication. The NAAEC establishes that the Secretariat's primary functions regarding the cooperative work of the Parties is to provide technical, administrative and operational support to the Council, to committees and groups established by Council. The leadership of the Executive Director in guaranteeing the professional support of the Secretariat's staff is pivotal to deliver on the CEC Council priorities in the most effective and efficient manner.

The Council acknowledges the importance of having the CEC programs meet the strategic priorities we set through the five-year strategic plans, and they are very much a part of our deliberations. As a part of an extensive revision of the governance of the CEC in 2010, we requested then that the Secretariat implement a performance measurement framework, which we understand is currently being implemented as a pilot. As such, Council has given mandate to the Executive Director to report on the results of the measurements to evaluate our successes in fulfilling the goals and objectives set by the Parties.

The financial contributions of the three CEC countries, along with the in-kind and expert contributions from each Party reflect our sustained commitment to this organization. We acknowledge that fiscal constraints, that have been many years in the making, have affected the resources available for the environment globally, but it has also provided an opportunity to increase our efforts to ensure effectiveness and efficiencies in how those resources are used. We applaud the JPAC on its efforts in finding creative ways to realize savings in its operations. This is in line with the added fiscal scrutiny each of the Parties has been undergoing the past several years.

The Council has, for many years attempted to raise the public profile of the CEC through varied activities and different means. . As such, we have tasked the Secretariat to increase the visibility of the CEC through the implementation of a communications and outreach strategy, including using social media during the annual Council Sessions. We expect the Secretariat to expand social media connections by creating “hyperlinks” to the CEC and its programs at relevant pages within our web sites.

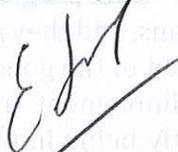
Engagement with regional and international agencies, organizations and governments with the same health and environmental goals as we have identified through the CEC is something the Parties are involved in on a daily basis and we are open to considering any concrete suggestions the JPAC may have to strengthen that connection. Like the JPAC, we believe that the CEC can be a model of regional cooperation on the environment and a template for managing regional impacts of climate change through coordinated efforts and mutually supportive environmental and health policies.

We would like to thank the JPAC for reaching out to our Traditional Ecological Knowledge Roster of Experts and for your interest in fostering an increased participation of indigenous communities in the work of the CEC. The Parties look forward to continued engagement with and learning from the TEK Roster of Experts.

The Council appreciates JPAC insights and commitment to engage with North American stakeholders to improve the activities of the CEC.

Sincerely,

THE HEAD OF THE UNIT



ENRIQUE LENDO
ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MEXICO

cc: Ms. Louise Métivier, Alternate Representative for Canada
Ms. Jane Nishida, Alternate Representative for the United States
Mr. César Chávez, CEC Executive Director
Ms. Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison Officer