

December 20, 2016

BC Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Attn: Honourable Minister Mary Polak

Sent by Email: env.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Polak;

Subject: Industry Associations Commitment to World-Leading Land-based BC Spill Response Regime in BC

On behalf of the BC Trucking Association, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, Canadian Fuels Association, Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, Railway Association of Canada and Responsible Distribution Canada, we would like to thank the British Columbia Ministry of Environment (BC MOE) for the opportunity to provide industry's vision for the development of a province-wide BC Preparedness & Coordination Organization (BCPCO).

The seven industry associations and their members who have participated in this work are committed to the Province of BC's vision of BC having a world-leading land-based spill preparedness and response regime.

With the addition of two new industry partners, we have built on the initial December 2015 Preparedness Organization Concept Paper to solidify our commitment to collaboratively identify and address gaps in land-based spill response in BC. We believe our collective commitment will help advance the province's land-based spill response regime.

In addition, we have drafted a Terms of Reference (TOR) for an interim Steering Committee for the BCPCO and developed a series of next steps.

Our next steps include a commitment in 2017 to:

1. Begin developing in the first quarter of 2017 an inventory of existing BC land-based response capacity and geographic locations for hydrocarbon land-based spills, subject to a Non-Disclosure Agreement due to the security-sensitive nature of the information.
2. Conduct an analysis of the existing BC inventory of land-based response capacity to identify opportunities to enhance land-based spills preparedness and response in BC.

3. Work proactively and cooperatively across industry sectors to address any identified gaps in BC land-based spill response capacity, for example through mutual aid agreements among the capacity owners, where practical and appropriate.
4. Execute the TOR, formalize the Steering Committee during the first quarter of 2017, and continue to develop the BCPCO organizational structure throughout the first half of 2017.
5. Begin ongoing public engagement in 2017 by organizing a symposium to bring together interested stakeholders.
6. Work with First Nations communities on planning and preparedness (e.g., joint exercises), and in partnership increase awareness.
7. Work with local municipalities on planning and preparedness (e.g., joint exercises), and in partnership increase awareness.
8. Continue engagement with the BC MOE on the concept paper to meet shared goals.

These actions will enhance BC’s land-based spill response capability by improving coordination and communication among stakeholders, and by sharing emergency prevention, preparedness, and response and recovery best practices across industries.

Once again thank you for allowing industry to help develop a more refined vision for the BCPCO.

Yours truly,



Louise Yako
President and CEO
British Columbia
Trucking Association



Geoff Morrison
Manager, BC
Canadian Association
of Petroleum
Producers



Jim Donihee
Chief Operating Officer
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cc: Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister
Fazil Mihlar, Deputy Minister, Climate Leadership
Mark Zacharias, Assistant Deputy Minister
Anthony Danks, Executive Director
Leon Gaber, Portfolio Lead

