



OCT 19 2018

Dear Ms. Finley,

On behalf of the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your correspondence of March 20, 2018 regarding your concerns around the Government of Canada's support for nuclear energy. I regret the delay in responding.

Clean, non-emitting electricity systems are the cornerstone of a modern, clean growth economy. Under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, federal, provincial, and territorial governments committed to work together to move away from coal-fired power generation and toward renewable, low and non-emitting sources of energy. These actions ensure that Canada can take advantage of the significant appetite for expertise in the clean growth economy, while ensuring a sustainable future for all Canadians.

Nuclear energy, as a non-emitting source of electricity, is environmentally responsible as well as reliable and safe, as long as it is developed within a robust international framework that adequately addresses security, non-proliferation, safety and waste management concerns. The Government of Canada is committed to providing responsible stewardship to support a strong and safe nuclear sector. Canada also recognizes that Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) have the potential to become a valuable component of a diversified energy mix, contributing to lower emission of greenhouse gasses and air pollutants.

Government support for innovation in the nuclear sector provides benefits to Canadians, as it is a significant contributor to the economy, providing over 30,000 direct jobs and adding \$6 billion annually to our GDP. Ontario was able to phase out coal in part because of the addition of more nuclear generation capacity at Bruce Power and the new transmission line to Milton. Electricity generated from uranium produced in Saskatchewan avoids some 300 to 600 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions globally each year (compared to fossil-fuel generation), which is equivalent to 40 to 80% of Canada's annual emissions and contributes over \$1 billion annually to the economy.

As nuclear energy falls under the purview of Natural Resources, I encourage you to write to the Office of the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Natural Resources Canada.

I thank you for taking the time to engage on this topic and encourage you to continue your engagement in this transition.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,



Paola Mellow,
Acting Director General,
Energy and Transportation Directorate,
Environment and Climate Change Canada