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**GESGAPEGIAG**

Gespe'gewa'gi, August 21, 2013

Ms. Elizabeth Young  
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, TD Place  
140 Water Street  
St-John's NL A1C 6H6

**RE: Comments on Western Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area Strategic Environment Assessment Update Report.**

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat, hereby confirms its intention to provide comments on the **Draft Western Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Update Report.**

As we expressed in Gesgapegiag on November 26, 2012 during your consultation session, the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq are deeply concerned by the potential impacts of an offshore blowout in the waters of Gespe'gewa'gi, which would undoubtedly provoke devastating repercussions on Mi'gmaq way of life.

As it is our organization's mission to uphold, reaffirm and respect the sacred treaties, aboriginal rights and aspirations of our people. We therefore consider your invitation for comments extremely seriously and we will in consequence, hire the required expertise to conduct a thorough analysis of the SEA update report and more specifically of the environmental, social and economical risks and potential impacts of oil and gas resources development in our traditional waters.

It is our position that this process should be part of a duty to consult the Mi'gmaq. The entire process, from development of a SEA proceeding to any potential drilling affects the Mi'gmaq in an immeasurable manner and needs to be conducted in accordance with the duty to consult. Moreover, we expect an open dialogue between C-NLOPB and the Mi'gmaq on this crucial matter, should you wish to contact me you can do so at 418-788-1760, extension #142 or at [tbarnaby@migmawei.ca](mailto:tbarnaby@migmawei.ca)

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Wela'liog. [REDACTED]

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cc: Mi'gmawei Chief  
David Schulze, Lawyer