



October 25, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Young,

I attended the consultation session held in Charlottetown, PE and I wish to take this opportunity to state my support for petroleum development in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I have 20-plus years working in the oil industry and spent seven years (2000-2007) as the provincial minister of economic development on Prince Edward Island.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for Canada, and especially Atlantic Canada to become self sufficient in providing for its own energy needs. Our region would no longer be dependent on vagaries of international oil supplies and fluctuating prices. Now is time for our business community, including our agricultural, fishing and manufacturing industries, to work in harmony and turn our region into an economic power-house. Yes, there are challenges that need to be addressed. However, I know that we have the knowledge and the experience to address environmental concerns and apply the necessary safeguards to ensure the integrity of this waterway.

The timing is ideal for this region. The Canadian government has indicated its support for an east-west pipeline, and there is also the economic boom anticipated from the Halifax shipbuilding contracts. The prospect of oil development in the Gulf will contribute to the creation of long term employment that will allow our youth to stay home and enjoy lucrative careers. We only have to consider the example of Newfoundland, where 35% of its revenues is generated by oil development. Opportunities like this do not come along often, and we need to be ready and willing for Prince Edward Island to enjoy the economic benefits this development will bring.



Micheal F. Currie