



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

NOV 09 2022

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your letter dated May 13, 2022, regarding the International Joint Commission's (IJC) offer to engage on issues related to the Elk River and the impacts of coal mining in the region. For more than a century, the IJC has been a vital organization helping Canada and the United States navigate important boundary and transboundary water-related issues. We continue to appreciate your work and contributions to our joint waters and environment.

The Government of Canada is dedicated to ensuring that Canada's freshwaters including boundary and transboundary waters, are treated as precious resources that deserve protection and careful stewardship. I am aware of the concerns stemming from mining in British Columbia's Elk Valley. The Government of Canada views addressing these issues as important for the region both domestically and as part of our transboundary cooperation with the United States. As you know, Global Affairs Canada and the U.S. Department of State meet regularly to discuss how our two Governments can best assist the ongoing cooperation in the region.

I have asked my colleague, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to provide thorough consideration and response to the concerns raised in your letter. I want to assure you that her department is working with Environment and Climate Change Canada and Natural Resources Canada to explore all options to best address these issues. We plan to continue to work closely with the Province of British Columbia, the Ktunaxa Nation and other related stakeholders to ensure continued collaboration on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Pierre Béland  
Canadian Chair  
International Joint Commission  
234 Laurier Avenue W., 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6K6

Ms. Jane Corwin  
U.S. Chair  
International Joint Commission  
1717 H St. NW, Suite 835  
Washington, DC 20006  
United States of America