

February 23, 2018

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, MP
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Dear Honourable Minister McKenna,

Re: Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (Registry Ref. No. 80123)

We are writing to you in respect of the environmental assessment of the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (Springbank Project) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. On behalf of our 1000 plus Members and all residents and businesses in Calgary, we implore you to expedite the completion of the Environmental Assessment ("EA") on or before April 1, 2018, such that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's ("CEAA") review of the Springbank Project can proceed as quickly as possible.

The Calgary River Communities Action Group (CRCAG) was formed by citizen advocates in the aftermath of Calgary's devastating 2013 flood. As thoroughly explained in our May 26, 2016 letter to the CEAA, there is no question in our mind as to the urgency of the completion of the Springbank Project. Financial risk calculations have placed the "average annual damages" avoided through effective mitigation at approximately \$170MM/year (30% less if City of Calgary mitigation projects are factored in). Much more importantly, the public safety and environmental risks to not having the Springbank Project completed as soon as possible are unacceptable.

We understand that the revisions made to the EA to address the concerns raised in the CEAA's letter to Alberta's Transportation Ministry dated November 16, 2017, are essentially complete such that it is ready to be returned to the CEAA to continue the review process. However, it has come to our attention that the CEAA has now directed the Transportation Ministry to work closely with it in the engagement of the Tsuu t'ina Nation over the next two months. Given that the Tsuu t'ina Nation was included on the "Technical Working Group" established last summer (as explained in the CEAA's letter of August 8, 2017 to Chief Crowchild that confirmed its decision to proceed with an internal, rather than panel, review), this news comes as a disappointing surprise.

There is small, well-funded and vocal opposition to the Springbank Project. This opposition has obfuscated the necessity of the Springbank Project, and related upstream mitigation work, to protect all communities along the Elbow River and downstream of Calgary from the next inevitable and devastating flood. These opponents have proposed alternative mitigation solutions that have already been considered and rejected, as well as logically inconsistent projects, in an attempt to divert the focus to the task at hand, and to test the resolve of all three levels of Government and the citizens of Calgary, who support and wish to see the completion of the Springbank Project. Unlike myriad other critical infrastructure projects that have floundered in this country, the Springbank Project will save lives and property, and cannot be allowed to stall due to small but vocal opposition or the frustration of the regulatory process.

We urge you to ensure that all necessary steps are taken by the CEAA, without delay, to commence the formal environmental review process, before April 1, 2018. Failure to do so will see a significant response from our Members and all citizens in Calgary, given the critical need to complete the Springbank Project as soon as possible.

On behalf of our Members and all Calgarians, yours very truly,



CALGARY RIVER COMMUNITIES ACTION GROUP

Tony Morris, Co-President
Brenda Leeds-Binder, Co-President
Rob Nieuwesteeg
David Carlson
Emma May
Greg Johnson
Steve Forrest
Simon Geoghegan
Anna Mravcak

cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta

His Worship Naheed Nenshi, Mayor of Calgary

The Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation, MLA for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

The Honourable Minister Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks and the Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office, MLA for Lethbridge-West

The Honourable Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, MLA Calgary-Buffalo

The Honourable Ron Liepert, MP Calgary-Signal Hill

The Honourable Kent Hehr, MP Calgary Centre