



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca

p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

September 17, 2018

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Indigenous Relations
5th Floor - Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W1

Ch-F.G.
Dear Minister Rickford,

As you know, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) represents municipalities throughout the region from Kenora to Dubeuilville, Fort Frances to Greenstone and virtually all municipalities in-between. In keeping with the objectives of our Association, we are taking a strong and united stand on our support for the Nextbridge East-West Tie Project.

We are especially concerned that having been awarded the project in 2013 by the Ontario Energy Board in an open, fair and transparent process, a challenge to Nextbridge is soon to be considered by the same Board in response to a request from Ontario Hydro.

Nextbridge has spent the last 5-years and a considerable amount of capital developing this project to the point that they are only waiting on a long delayed Leave To Construct approval from the same board.

This project is poised to bring many benefits to the region in terms of economic activity, procurement, Indigenous involvement coupled with the fact that it will bring 650 MW of reliable electricity to the region that will be depending upon it for economic growth founded upon clean energy.

The Ring of Fire showed much promise but got mired in regulatory issues and remains idle. The same cannot be allowed to happen to the Nextbridge project. We cannot continue to treat the private sector in that manner and expect to claim Ontario is a great place to invest.

We urge you to take whatever measures you may have at your disposal to make this project a reality and allow Nextbridge to do what it does best, build a project that will benefit the northwest many times over. Let the fall construction begin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Canfield', written in a cursive style.

David Canfield
Past President

cc Rosemary LeClair, Ontario Energy Board