

# MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

## KENHTEKE KANIENKEHA

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE / TECHNICAL SERVICES / ENVIRONMENT

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February 28, 2023

Ontario Energy Board  
PO Box 2319, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Nancy Marconi, Registrar

**Re: EB-2022-0248**  
**Natural Gas pipelines in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory**  
**And Township of Tyendinaga Servicing Project**

Dear Ms. Marconi,

I am writing on behalf of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation to request intervenor status and costs eligibility in the proceedings regarding the above noted project. As the primary community identified for this proposed servicing project, we would appreciate the opportunity to actively participate in the hearing to present our community's perspective.

### **Nature and Scope of Participation:**

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ) will actively participate in the proceedings as follows:

- Review all submissions from Enbridge and third-party intervenors
- Provide oral or written submittals as required
- Participate at all hearings as required to provide MBQ perspective of the proposed servicing project.

### **Indigenous Consultation:**

Enbridge has adopted an inclusive consultation process and has had regular meetings with MBQ staff and Council. Input was sought from the preliminary design and field work stage to the environmental, archaeological studies and community open houses and information sessions.

### **Community Perspective:**

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte are supporting an opportunity to increase access to natural gas as an affordable alternative energy source that provides appliances with greater efficiency, and will provide an affordable heating option for our community members.

The potential benefits from the servicing project include the following:



- Community members may now upgrade to energy efficient appliances and reduced energy consumption
- The project generates an immediate infusion of capital into the local economy
- Anticipated reduced annual energy costs for our larger band buildings by converting to natural gas
- Soci-economic benefits
  - homeowners benefitting from reduced heating costs
  - local HVAC contractors installing and servicing new appliances
  - Infrastructure to support existing businesses and future economic development
- Equality - improved access to natural gas for FN communities provides the same energy options found in other jurisdictions across the province.
- The project addresses local concerns regarding the pipelines encumbering traditional lands to service the Town of Deseronto and the Town of Picton and restricting access to the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.

### **Community Background and Servicing Rationale:**

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ) is a First Nation residing on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in eastern Ontario along the northern shores of the Bay of Quinte, south of Highway # 401, centrally located between Belleville and Kingston, Ontario. The Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory encompasses 7,275 hectares of land with approximately 20 km of shoreline along the banks of Telegraph Narrows and Hungry Bay. The road system totals approximately 80kms comprised of, gravel, light bitumous surface treated and paved roads. There are approximately 1200 homes both private and MBQ owned rental properties providing permanent, interim and seasonal residency.

As of December 2021, the MBQ is considered the third largest First Nation Community in Ontario Region by total membership. Similarly, MBQ had the tenth largest membership of all First Nations in Canada.

Currently the community is traversed by a 6” steel high pressure natural gas line originally installed in 1972 that provides services to the Town of Deseronto to the east and the Town of Picton to the south. Our traditional lands have been encumbered more than 50 years by the natural gas pipelines to service adjacent municipalities however there has been no prioritization provided to servicing the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and as a result limited access to natural gas as an energy option.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte have an award-winning housing program and typically construct 10-15 units per year through the housing mortgage program in addition to our rental housing development program. In the absence of access to natural gas, the community available heating sources are electric, oil or propane. Having access to natural gas servicing provides an affordable energy alternative even with the applicable system expansion surcharge.

In 2017 the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte retained S. Burnett & Associates to undertake a community energy plan. They surveyed the community and determined homes utilized:

- oil burning furnaces
- Propane fired furnaces
- electric baseboards

*Dr*

- small % of natural gas appliances due to limited access

The community's overall goal is to have access to diversified energy options and hopefully reduce energy costs for the community. The energy plan recommended retrofitting homes that utilize electric baseboard heating and oil to alternatives that included converting to natural gas.

Our community members have had limited access to natural gas as an energy option for their homes over the years and were forced into other expensive alternatives such as oil, propane and electric compared to the rest of the province who have had access to natural gas for many decades. It is our understanding that under Ontario's Natural Gas Expansion Program the goal is to improve access to natural gas servicing in remote rural areas in the Province and Indigenous communities. The existing gas mains have the capacity to support increased servicing for the community and are available to facilitate the extension.

**Conclusion:**

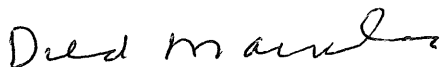
The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte is a growing dynamic First Nation with an award-winning housing program and growing economic development opportunities. We are supporting the proposed Enbridge servicing project to ensure our members have access to a diversified energy model that includes access to natural gas. The servicing project will not only address residential needs but will provide a foundation of infrastructure that will attract and promote business development in our community.

I understand we may have missed the February 27 deadline however I am requesting you consider our request for intervenor status given that our community is the immediate stakeholder for the project. For ease of reference, I have included a copy of our letter of support to Enbridge dated September 15, 2022.

**Please forward all related submittals, documents, presentations etc to the following:**

Chief R. Donald Maracle  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte  
#24 Meadow Drive  
Deseronto, Ontario K0K 1X0  
Email: [rdonm@mbq-tmt.org](mailto:rdonm@mbq-tmt.org)  
cell: 613-391-9249

Yours truly,



Chief R. Donald Maracle  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

cc Tyendinaga Mohawk Council  
David Souliere, CAO  
Lisa Maracle, Director of Community Services  
Todd Kring, Director of Community Infrastructure