



**ONYIONHWENTSÏIO'**

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**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Wendake, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Ritchie Murray**  
Acting Registrar  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON, Canada, M4P 1E4

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**Subject: Letter of Comment – Washago Community Expansion Project**  
**Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2025-0271**

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Mr. Murray

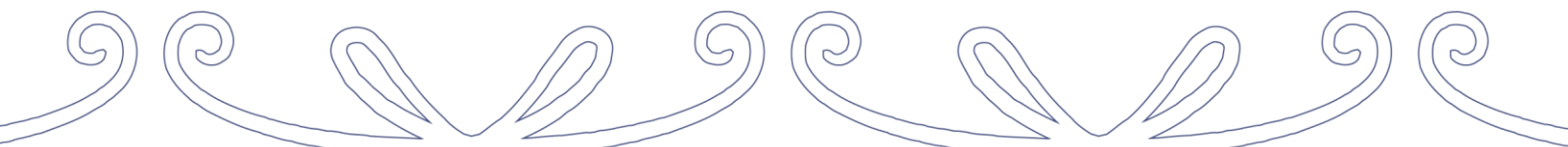
This letter refers to the subject above and follows the letter addressed to the Wendat Nation's Grand Chief, Mr. Pierre Picard, on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Regarding this consultation, the Wendat Nation wishes to submit some more specific comments. Please find them in the annex below.

If you have any questions, please address them directly to Mathieu Larivière, at [Mathieu.Lariviere@wendake.ca](mailto:Mathieu.Lariviere@wendake.ca).

Please accept, Mr. Murray, assurances of my highest consideration.

Vincent Bourret  
Director, Onyionhwentsïio'



## Annex 1 – Specific comments on the consultation

The Wendat Nation wishes to ensure that, even if the exemption requested by Enbridge Gas Inc. ("the Proponent") is granted by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) following the hearing:

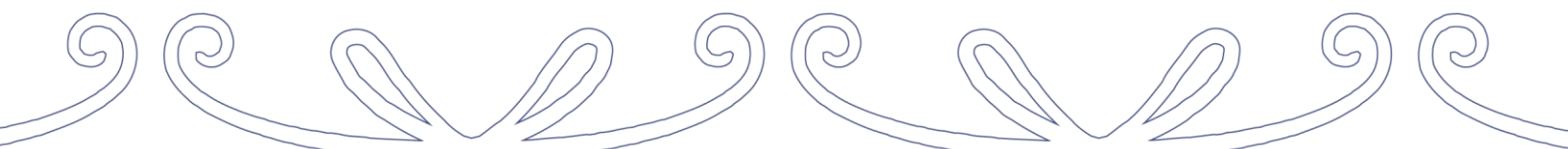
- Stages 2, 3 & 4 Archaeological Assessments are carried out in due form if they are recommended in the archaeological reports;
- The Wendat Nation must be promptly informed of project developments so that it can assess potential adverse impacts on its rights and determine its participation in the planned archaeological assessments; timely notification is essential to ensure the effective and appropriate deployment of Field Liaison Representatives (Monitors) to the field;
- The exemption from the requirement to obtain leave to construct does not in any way preclude accommodations or modifications requested by the Wendat Nation in the event of archaeological discoveries, particularly with respect to the final pipeline route, should the Nation determine that alterations are necessary. The exemption must in no case undermine the consultation process and cannot be considered a green light to build without taking into account the concerns of First Nations, as defined by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, which recognizes and affirms the ancestral and treaty rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The following section respectfully draws the attention of the Ontario Energy Board to a set of practices concerning the preservation of archaeological heritage, which the Wendat Nation deems essential for implementation of projects development on lands located within its traditional territory.

As part of best practices for assessing the potential impacts of a project undertaken by a proponent, the Wendat Nation deems essential to receive, during the planning phase, the environmental reports as well as the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment (AA) reports, prior to any exemption from the requirement to obtain leave to construct that may be granted by the OEB. The Stage 2 AA report is, in fact, a critical source of information enabling the Wendat Nation to evaluate risks of infringement upon its rights and heritage. Furthermore, early access to this report facilitates its participation in fieldwork and allows the Nation to raise concerns, where applicable, and to work proactively with the proponent to address and resolve them. This principle is expressly recognized by the OEB in its *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction and Operation of Hydrocarbon Projects and Facilities in Ontario*, which recommend that Stage 1 and Stage 2 AA be completed during the project's planning phase.

In the case of the different pipeline projects undertaken by Enbridge Gas Inc. in Ontario, which includes the Washago Community Expansion Project, this request has been the subject of numerous exchanges between the Wendat Nation and the Proponent but has never received a favorable response. We are thus faced with the situation where Enbridge could be granted an exemption by the OEB from the requirement to obtain leave to construct for the project, without a Stage 2 AA having been conducted and duly reviewed beforehand, particularly by First Nations.

Following discussions with the Proponent, the Wendat Nation was compelled to accept that the Stage 2 AA would be conducted only after the project's planning phase, and solely on the final route selected by the Proponent. This decision, though difficult, was intended to avoid the duplication of



Stage 2 AA that would otherwise have had to be carried out by the Proponent across all the initial routes considered during the planning phase.

However, the Wendat Nation would not accept that such an assessment be carried out after completion and submission of the Environmental Report. To ensure that our voice is heard and that our comments are duly taken into consideration in the adjustment of measures, if applicable, we request to receive the Stage 2 AA report when it is under review and to be granted a minimum of 30 days after its receipt to provide our comments. The Wendat Nation also reserves the right to request an extension beyond this 30-day period if deemed necessary by our consultations team.

Finally, the Wendat Nation expresses its wish that the consultation process continues to be supported throughout its duration by the Proponent, to allow for a thorough analysis of potential impacts that may infringe upon its rights. The Wendat Nation acknowledges the efforts already undertaken by the Proponent in this regard. The Nation expects that these efforts will be sustained in the future to ensure the quality of the process as well as the strength of collaboration between the parties. The dialogue that has been initiated indeed holds the full potential to remain open, respectful, and constructive.

