

Opening Remarks – Bill C-49

Scott Tessier, CEO

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board

Thank you for inviting me to be here to represent our staff and our Board. We are all very excited by the proposed expansion of our mandate.

I begin by acknowledging that we are gathered on the traditional unceded, unsurrendered territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin People. My home, Newfoundland and Labrador, is located in the traditional territories of diverse Indigenous groups, and I acknowledge with respect the histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit.

Bill C-49 proposes that governments can rely on the C-NLOPB and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board to meaningfully engage with Indigenous groups as part of our regulatory administration and oversight. We will work closely with the federal and provincial governments and Indigenous communities to fully define and deliver on our responsibilities in this regard.

I was able to be in Ottawa when Bill C-49 was first introduced last year, and I appeared virtually as a witness before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources earlier this year. I am very pleased to be with you in person today to share our continued preparations for and thoughts about the regulation of offshore renewable energy projects and other elements of the proposed legislation.

Last week, I attended and spoke at the annual EnergyNL Conference in St. John's. There was considerable optimism and determination about the energy transition among the many participants and distinguished presenters, with a recognition that there are important challenges to be addressed and work to be done. The conference featured attendees and delegations from a number of other countries who are interested in what Canada has to offer the world.

My colleagues and I have been working closely with governments and our counterparts at the CNSOPB, as well as the International Regulators Forum, the International Offshore Environmental Petroleum Regulators Forum, the North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum, and the Global Offshore Wind Regulators Forum.

Regulators in Australia, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and many other countries are undergoing the same expansion of their mandates as proposed for ours under Bill C-49, from "petroleum" to "energy". Our strong relationships with them enable us to share lessons learned and best practices in offshore renewable energy, as we have done for many years in the regulation of oil and gas.

We are also engaging with Canadian entities including fisheries stakeholders, the Committee conducting the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador, Marine Renewables Canada, Canada's Ocean Supercluster, and the aforementioned EnergyNL.

We fully appreciate the importance of meaningful engagement with fishing interests as an offshore renewables industry emerges in Newfoundland and Labrador. Our fishery is critical to our economy and we will continue to do our part to work with them, listen to them, and meet their needs and expectations throughout our regulatory planning and oversight.

Offshore renewable energy proponents will also need to demonstrate the extent and success with which they have engaged with Indigenous groups and fishing interests prior to receiving a licence, approval or authorization.

We have provided regulatory advice to the federal government and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on land tenure and other considerations. We have been consulted throughout the development of the *Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* amendments and we continue to be appropriately engaged as details of the regulatory framework are developed.

We are building renewable energy into our internal work and training plans and we are prepared to rebrand to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator once the legislation is passed by the federal government and mirrored by the provincial government.

For 40 years, the C-NLOPB has provided world-class regulatory oversight of the oil and gas industry in the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area with a mandate that includes safety, environmental protection, resource management and industrial benefits.

Our experience, technical excellence, and our collaborative and transparent approach are transferable to the offshore renewable energy sector.

We support Bill C-49, which we view as instrumental to an orderly energy transition through joint management and the future of Newfoundland and Labrador and the rest of Canada.

In closing, I am proud to inform you that my daughter Molly, who is 12 years old, made the trip to Ottawa with me [and she is with us today]. Molly embodies the best and brightest of our next generation, in whose interest we regulate.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.