



File: 280-30/IC

April 12, 2016

Stephanie Killam  
Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board  
**Email:** [stephkillam46@gmail.com](mailto:stephkillam46@gmail.com)

Dear Stephanie Killam:

I have reflected upon recent discussions and correspondence with Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (the Board) members and think it would be valuable to share some thoughts to assist the Board in setting a course for future strategic discussions and planning.

While there is no current proposal for industrial development within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA), it is only a matter of time before a decision maker will be faced with a natural resource extraction proposal within the area. Government will look to the Board to provide advice in the form of recommended measureable objectives to the statutory decision maker. This advice is to be provided in advance of the review of proposed activities.

As you know, the vision for the M-KMA has been expressed in legislation (e.g. the preamble to the *M-KMA Act*), management strategies and guidelines. While I acknowledge there is room for interpretation of that vision and how it could unfold on the landscape, we have committed to meeting with the Board to develop a shared and common understanding of what that vision is, or should be.

Having said this, it is important that the Board not concern itself with whether or not a particular activity should be approved, but, rather, follow its established role of providing advice as to the conditions under which industrial development should abide by should it be approved by a statutory decision maker.

It is imperative for the Board to focus their efforts around delivering advice on how the wilderness quality definition should be applied to maintain the wilderness quality, and the diversity and abundance of wildlife and the ecosystem while allowing resource development in parts of the management area. Included in this advice should be a rationale around the reasonable duration for persistence of disturbances, the maximum proportion of disturbance on the landbase at a given time, and any exceptions by activity or location. The provision of

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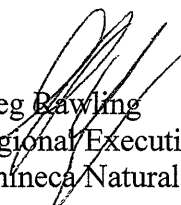
factors to consider in maintaining wilderness quality for proposed works would be of benefit to industry and government alike.

With decision support being the emphasis we would expect refinements within the 2016-2017 plan to reflect a focus on delivering pragmatic, tactical advice.

Attached is a revised discussion paper that is intended to support the Wilderness Working Group in refining its advice to Government.

The Government looks forward to receiving advice from the Advisory Board to support balance between wilderness and future development.

Yours truly,



Greg Rawling  
Regional Executive Director  
Omineca Natural Resource Region

Attachment: Discussion Paper for the Wilderness Working Group on Setting Objectives for Achieving the Vision of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area