

- Inuit consultation: To meet the Crown's obligations, INAC needs to conduct meaningful consultation with Inuit organizations at key stages of the licensing process including the call for nominations, call for bids, and exploration phases (Recommendations 2, 5 & 8)
- Threshold requirements: Before accepting bids on offshore oil and gas blocks, INAC should require that operators meet Arctic-based threshold requirements for environmental performance and financial resources (Recommendation 3)
- Inuit environmental assessment capacity: So that Inuit environmental assessment bodies are ready to review oil and gas exploration activities, INAC should provide additional funds to fill identified capacity gaps (Recommendation 8)
- Licence tenure review: In order to react to emerging and unforeseeable circumstances in the Arctic, the government should establish a mechanism to review and cancel (subject to payment of compensation) indefinite and long license tenures under justifiable circumstances (Recommendation 9).
- Inuit benefit plans and royalty-sharing: In order to balance the current ratio of risk to reward of future Arctic offshore oil and gas for Inuit communities, the government should devise a new benefits scheme through negotiation (Recommendation 10).

Taken together, the eleven recommendations in our report provide a blueprint for how Canada can make its offshore oil and gas program ready for the Arctic. Oceans North Canada stands ready to help in whatever way we can to assist in reforming the system along these lines.

Until these reforms are implemented, however, we believe Canada is not ready for deepwater drilling in the Arctic. Accordingly, ***we request that you suspend all new leasing and licensing for offshore oil and gas in the Arctic Ocean.*** This pause will give Canada the time and room to enact the reforms necessary to create an Arctic ready offshore oil and gas program. In so doing, Canada will be true to its own northern heritage, its promises to its northern peoples, and its leadership position in the circumpolar Arctic.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Trevor Taylor
 Policy Director, Oceans North Canada
 30 Metcalfe Street, Suite 402
 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5L4
 (613) 290-4498
 trevortaylor@oceansnorth.ca



Scott Highleyman
 Director, International Arctic Program
 Pew Environment Group
 1200 Old Fairhaven Pkwy #207
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 (360) 715-0063 | highleyman@pewtrusts.org

cc: The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
 The Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources
 The Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of Environment