

**Ministry of Energy,  
Northern Development  
and Mines**

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**Ministère de l'Énergie,  
du Développement du Nord  
et des Mines**

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December 17, 2019

His Worship Dan O'Mara  
Mayor  
Municipality of Temagami  
[dan.omara@temagami.ca](mailto:dan.omara@temagami.ca)

Dear Mayor O'Mara:

Our government made a commitment to Ontarians to reduce energy costs and expand access to natural gas to underserved parts of the province. We are writing to inform you about the proposed launch of the second phase in our government's plan to meet this commitment.

The first phase of the Natural Gas Expansion Support Program is currently being rolled out, bringing natural gas to unserved areas of the province through nine expansion projects. To commence the second phase, I have written to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), requiring them to collect information about potential new natural gas expansion opportunities. You can view our letter to the OEB at [www.oeb.ca/sites/default/files/Letter-to-OEB-natural-gas-expansion-20191212.pdf](http://www.oeb.ca/sites/default/files/Letter-to-OEB-natural-gas-expansion-20191212.pdf). It is expected that project proponents could be able to access up to \$130 million over a three-year period to ensure a reasonably quick start to construction.

It is anticipated that the OEB will begin a process for collecting information on potential new natural gas projects in early 2020, which is expected to run for 90 days. Following this, the OEB will deliver its report on eligible projects to the Government on or before August 31, 2020. Once we receive the OEB's report, the Government will make the decision on eligible projects to receive support, which should be completed in late 2020. Financial support for selected natural gas projects would ultimately be contingent on the selected project proponents receiving all necessary OEB approvals.

For further information, we encourage municipal officials to work with their local natural gas service provider if they are interested in participating in the OEB's process. We expect the OEB will make additional details available in early 2020.

Natural gas is the most common heating fuel in Ontario and is more affordable than other fuels such as electricity, oil or propane. Expanding natural gas helps makes Ontario communities

more attractive for job creation and new businesses. Natural gas expansion can also lower greenhouse gas emissions by replacing higher emissions fuel sources. Natural gas expansion is part of our government's plan to bring quality jobs back to the province and send the clear message that Ontario is "Open for Business."

Thank you for your support as our government works to deliver on its commitment to bring natural gas to more rural and northern communities across Ontario.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Rickford". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and "R".

The Honourable Greg Rickford  
Minister of Energy, Northern  
Development and Mines

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Bill Walker  
Associate Minister of Energy