



NOV 15 2013

RECEIVED NOV 19 2013

Ms. Elizabeth May, M.P.  
Saanich – Gulf Islands  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. May:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 2013, advising of your interest in being included in the Canadian delegation for the upcoming 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland. I appreciate your kind words on my appointment as Minister of the Environment.

Canada's main objective at this conference is to contribute to advancing negotiations toward a post-2020 climate change agreement, which would include commitments from all major emitters. COP19 will play an important role in laying the groundwork and setting parties on the right path to conclude a meaningful agreement in 2015.

The composition of the Canadian delegation is decided primarily around this objective, recognizing that the negotiations are mainly a government-to-government exercise which requires very specific expertise. Financial and logistical considerations, as well as past experience as a Canadian delegation member to other environmental fora, also influenced this decision. This year, the Government has again decided to limit the Canadian delegation to government representatives only.

The UNFCCC encourages participation by non-parties, including parliamentarians, through other channels, which I invite you to explore. For example, non-governmental organizations such as the Climate Parliament ([www.climateparl.net](http://www.climateparl.net)) and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment ([www.globeinternational.org](http://www.globeinternational.org)) have observer status at the UNFCCC and can accredit parliamentarians interested in participating independently in COP19.

We are pleased with the level of interest expressed by Canadian stakeholders in the negotiations. The Government of Canada will continue to provide briefings before, during and after COP19. On the ground, where appropriate and when

.../2

possible, members of the Canadian delegation will meet with Canadian stakeholders to share information and perspectives on the progress of the negotiations. I hope that your schedule will allow you to attend these meetings and participate in these exchanges.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of the Environment