

Canadian Geothermal Energy Association
 P. O. Box 1462 St. M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6, Canada
 info@cangea.ca - www.cangea.ca



To Whom It May Concern:

CanGEA would like to commend the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) and Geoscience BC for their recent reports that identify four areas in northeastern British Columbia suitable for geothermal development. These studies will undoubtedly assist in furthering British Columbia's (BC) geothermal industry and promote further interest in developing geothermal assets within BC. CanGEA looks forward to further collaborative initiatives of a similar nature in BC involving project developers who hold geothermal permits to accelerate development and provide relevant information to the public.

CanGEA recognizes the importance of identifying new areas for geothermal energy development in BC as it provides a signal to government and potential investors that there are many opportunities for geothermal development within your province. Despite these positive benefits, CanGEA would like to recommend that in future geothermal research initiatives, Geoscience BC and PICS should look to partner with geothermal lease and permit holders that have not received prior support to assist in the associated exploration costs and increase the sharing of information with BC's public.

The current geothermal permit and lease areas within BC are located near Valemount, Pebble Creek, Meager Creek and Terrace. CanGEA Members, Borealis GeoPower Inc. and Kitselas Geothermal Inc., a First Nation-owned geothermal developer, both own permit areas within these areas. Under the Geothermal Resources Act, the lease or permit holder is required to pay annual fees to hold the lease or permit as well as incur costs associated with resource identification, exploration and stakeholder relationships with local communities and First Nations.

CanGEA would like to suggest that further studies should look to involve geothermal permit or lease holders to assist in reducing the burden associated with geothermal energy resource identification and exploration. CanGEA believes that prioritization of future research with developers that have not received prior support would be an effective method to initiate BC's first geothermal project, which could provide useful data and insights for future geothermal energy developments in BC. We understand that at least one of our members has invited Geoscience BC to join a research consortium.

CanGEA would like to highlight that this recommendation falls within the purview of the PICS *Mandate and Objectives* in that it will, "[f]oster partnerships and networks that build capacity in addressing climate change." Not only would partnering with industry allow for the accelerated development of geothermal resources, which would offer clean and renewable energy, but it would also provide the public with real project development data and information.

CanGEA would also like to highlight that this recommendation falls within the purview of Geoscience BC's "Strategic Plan 2018-22." More specifically, *2d Strategic Objective: Enabling Clean Energy Goal ii* states, "[Geoscience BC will] [c]ontinue geothermal resource mapping and research focusing on economically viable projects and sites with high geothermal energy potential." Working collaboratively with project developers on geothermal resource research and exploration within existing permit areas will

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assist in the acceleration of project development as well as enable Geoscience BC to provide core insights to the BC public regarding project developments in your province.

Once again, CanGEO would like to commend Geoscience BC, PICS and partners for their efforts in furthering geothermal energy research within BC. CanGEO is prepared to provide any assistance necessary in promoting future industry partnerships to accelerate the development of geothermal energy production in BC. At this point, CanGEO would like to request a phone call to further discuss the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Harmer", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Zach Harmer, MPP
Policy Director
Canadian Geothermal Energy Association
e: policy@cangea.ca
m: (780)-910-2877

CC: Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
Geoscience BC
Warren Walsh, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

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