

**House of Commons**

Room 649D Centre Block  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Tel: (613) 992-2919  
Fax: (613) 995-0747

**Chambre des communes**

Piece 649D, Édifice du Centre  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Tel: (613) 992-2919  
Fax: (613) 995-0747

**Charlie Angus**

Member of Parliament for Timmins - James Bay  
Député de Timmins - Baie James

**Timmins**

202-60 Wilson Avenue  
Timmins, ON P4N 2S7  
Tel: (705) 268-6464  
Fax: (705) 268-6460

**Kirkland Lake**

201-30 Second Street  
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3H7  
Tel: (705) 567-2747  
Fax: (705) 567-5232

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Jody Wilson-Raybould  
Attorney General of Canada  
Centre Block Room 451S  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

August 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

**RE: Legal Duty to Consult Over Site C Permits**

Minister Wilson-Raybould,

I am writing you regarding your government approving permits for the Site C dam in British Columbia without having undertaken a credible process of consultation with affected Indigenous communities. The decision to issue these permits was announced on the long weekend of July 29<sup>th</sup>, without appropriately consulting Indigenous communities on their serious concerns of the environmental impacts of this project on their territory. As Attorney General you have the responsibility for ensuring that decisions by your government meet both the tests of the law and the highest standard for Canada's relationship with Indigenous people as set out in the Prime Minister's mandate letters:

*No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.*

And in 2012 you stated clearly on the legal duty to consult prior to any project like Site C moving ahead:

*"The Country's reputation is at stake with approval of these projects like Site-C, like the Enbridge Pipeline. Our reputation as a caring and considerate and environmentally friendly nation internationally is going to be questioned and running roughshod over aboriginal Title and Rights including treaty rights is not the way to improve that reputation.*

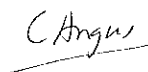
Yet, mere months before your government approved these permits for Site-C, your colleague; Minister McKenna stated at a Parliamentary Committee that proper consultation had not been undertaken on the Site C project.

*“So... this is a great example of a project where there wasn't the level of consultation and engagement that should have been had.”*

The Environment Minister has stated this project has not met the level of consultation that should be had, and you have stated that projects like Site-C cannot be allowed to run roughshod over Aboriginal Title and Rights. Have you changed your mind as the Minister of Justice that this project does not run roughshod over Aboriginal Title and Rights and if so why? If not, then how did your department approve these permits being issued?

Approving these permits for the Site-C Dam carries clear legal and moral obligations. Canadians deserve to know what steps if any, were taken by your government to provide the Prime Minister with the legal and moral confidence that these concerns have been addressed to push ahead with this project. If this due diligence was not undertaken, what steps will you take as Minister of Justice to respond to the concerns of the British Columbia and Alberta Indigenous communities who state that their legal treaty rights have been compromised?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Angus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Charlie Angus  
MP Timmins-James Bay