

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

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Thank you for your email message of September 10, in which you express concerns regarding mineral exploration activities being undertaken by Imperial Metals in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in British Columbia.

Approval of mineral exploration in British Columbia falls under the responsibility of the provincial government. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to bring your concerns to the attention of the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines, and Minister Responsible for Housing, P.O. Box 9053, Station Provincial Government, Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E2.

Should Imperial Metals propose to construct and operate a mining project in Clayoquot Sound, a federal environmental assessment may be required to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. Under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act), an environmental assessment is required before a federal authority can either proceed with a project as the proponent or enable a proposed project to proceed by: 1) providing financial assistance; 2) transferring federal land or any interest in federal land; or 3) issuing an authorization identified in the Act's *Law List Regulations*.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is the federal body responsible for providing Canadians with high quality environmental assessments when the Act is triggered. To date, the Agency has not received documentation regarding a potential mining project in the Clayoquot Sound area.

For further information on the federal environmental assessment process as well as projects that are currently under review, I encourage you to visit the Agency's website at: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Sincerely,

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

Canada

