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**NOVA SCOTIA NATIVE
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

June 4, 2021

**PRESS RELEASE FROM NSNWA RE: GOLDBORO LNG
PROJECT**

“Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association opposes the Goldboro LNG Project – Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit lives are more valuable than Liquefied Natural Gas. The gamble is not worth the reward.”

Truro, Nova Scotia, June 4, 2021 — Statement from Bernadette Marshall, Interim President, Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association.

The Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association (NSNWA) and YWCA Halifax oppose the planned Nova Scotia LNG project based on the findings of the Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which found a “correlation between resource extraction and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.”

There are ample reports and studies that have found that large numbers of transient workers and work camps bring with them an increase in racial, sexual, and physical violence against Indigenous women and within Indigenous communities; abductions of Indigenous women and children; drugs, crime, and gang activity. Sexual harassment, abuse, and racism of Indigenous women working in the industry despite workplace policies are also issues and raise red flags in Indigenous communities across the province.

The NSNWA and YWCA Halifax support “The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” recommendations including:

- Industry must “consider the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people...at all stages of project planning, assessment, implementation, management and monitoring.”
- Gender-based socio-economic impact assessments must be conducted on all projects, which include measures to mitigate risks.
- Impact-benefit “agreements include provisions that address the impacts of projects on the safety and security of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people...provisions must also be included to ensure that Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA people equitably benefit from the projects.”

Policing, social services and health services must be expanded to meet the needs of the host/surrounding community.

Regional studies and inquiries must be undertaken to understand the relationship between Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq and resource extraction initiatives in Nova Scotia, especially given recent findings by Statistics Canada that Nova Scotia has the highest rate of human trafficking in Canada.

Getting this right must lie with Pieridae Energy and state regulators. For example, projects of the scale and magnitude proposed are dwarfed by community-lead efforts to respond to harms. Projects should all include, without requiring community consultation, industry-lead vetting processes for all hires, education departments within companies, thorough vigilance and supervision, and extensive certification and training for all workers before they set foot on the project.

“While community consultation is laudable, it is unacceptable to place the onus on the NSNWA or women's organizations in the province to prevent community harm,” says Miia Suokonautio, Executive Director of YWCA Halifax.

Bernadette Marshall stated, “The Inquiry recommendations are not a checklist for industry and government to plough through but are a starting point to open the discussion between all parties to guarantee that any resource extraction projects in Nova Scotia move toward reconciliation ensuring Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people are safe in Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association, with the support of our sisters at YWCA Halifax, are opposed to this project taking place. It is understood that these projects are not safe for Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit people or for our environment. If this project moves forward, there is serious risk of harm to our people and our lands. The only way to make sure this project does not harm our community members, is for it to not proceed at all.”