DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT

**RE: Support to Establish the First Nations Infrastructure Institute**

We are writing to express our support to establish the First Nation Infrastructure Institute (FNII) through an amendment to the*First Nations Fiscal Management Act* (FMA).

The reality is that First Nations infrastructure takes longer to develop, costs more to build and has shorter operational lifecycles than comparable infrastructure developed by other governments.

FNII will offer essential skills and processes we need to efficiently and effectively plan, design, procure, own, operate, maintain, and manage infrastructure assets on our lands. The services proposed through the FNII model will also enable First Nations communities and organizations to join with Canada as active participants in re-building the economy after the global COVID-19 pandemic.

To do this, FNII must be established by legislation.

By amending the FMA and creating FNII, interested First Nations will have an option to implement a better infrastructure development system. We have already witnessed the power of these optional legislative tools in our communities in areas of taxation, financial management and access to capital. In FNII we effectively stand up the fourth leg of the chair in Nation re-building efforts, much needed to establish and sustain livable communities.

We ask that you support the development of an amendment to the FMA that establishes FNII as soon as possible. Establishing FNII in the FMA will support better infrastructure outcomes for our people strengthen our efforts to self-govern and effectively plan for the future of our communities.

Signed,

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