

OCT 17 1988

Mr. Alan D. Levy,
40 Hayden Street,
Toronto, Ontario.
M4Y 1V8

Dear Mr. Levy,

Thank you for your recent letter, addressed to the Honourable Tom McMillan, concerning environmental assessment of Canadian foreign aid projects. The Minister has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

In response to the results of the World Commission on Environment and Development and other Canadian initiatives, CIDA has in the last few years taken some important steps which have resulted in increased attention to environmental concerns. Amongst these, CIDA has developed and is applying environmental assessment procedures consistent with the Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) Guidelines Order.

However, this government has also recognized the need to improve further the EARP's application to both domestic and foreign aid projects. Last September, Mr. McMillan announced his strong commitment to reform the federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process. He released a discussion paper to stimulate thought on process improvements and sought the views of Canadians from all sectors of our society. The concerns you have raised in your letter were also brought to the Minister's attention during the consultation process.

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These concerns and others have been incorporated in a submission to Cabinet dealing with environmental assessment reform. You can be assured that you will be informed of the results of this initiative. To ensure this, I have asked the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Office to place your name on the mailing list to receive any future announcements.

The Minister appreciates your interest in environmental assessment reform.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Rideout", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Jennifer Rideout
Special Assistant