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April 9, 2019

The Honourable John Yakabuski  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Rm 6630  
99 Wellesley Street West,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

### **CPA RESPONSE TO PROPOSED REPEAL OF THE FAR NORTH ACT**

Dear Minister,

The Canadian Propane Association (CPA) wishes to provide comment on the government's proposed repeal of the Far North Act which is intended to reduce red tape and restrictions on economic development projects in Ontario's far north.

As you may know, the propane industry provides well-paying jobs for over 4,000 Ontarians. Ontario propane sales are worth almost \$1.6 billion, supporting over \$400 million in economic activity (GDP). Approximately 60,000 Ontario households rely on propane as their primary source of heating fuel, while over 40,000 commercial, industrial and agricultural facilities in the province rely on propane as a primary energy source. Just over 37% of Canada's overall propane use occurs in Ontario.

As the government continues to roll-out initiatives to further Ontario's economic prosperity that put consumers and communities first, Ontario's propane industry is at the ready as a willing and able partner, especially in the province's most northern and remote regions.

Given the importance of the propane industry to these areas of the province, the industry would expect to be at the table when discussions around improving economic development conditions in Ontario's north are taking place.

The CPA is presently developing a pilot program that will see indigenous communities in Ontario develop partnerships with the propane industry resulting in low-emission propane replacing diesel and heating oil for home energy, and gas and diesel for transportation fuel. The CPA believes that the development of such a community-oriented approach with the propane industry will provide for economic opportunities as well as skills training and meaningful consultation and respectful relationship building with Indigenous communities.

To unlock the economic development potential of the far north, the CPA believes the government must consider propane's many attributes. As an affordable and portable energy source, propane could literally fuel northern expansion projects as soon as road access would allow. Propane, a low-emission, Canadian energy source, has long played a significant role in the life and industry of northern Ontario. With sizeable opportunities in the region, particularly development of the Ring of Fire, facilitated by repeal of the Far North Act and associated red tape burdens, the propane industry can play a key part in infrastructure expansion and job creation.

The CPA believes in creating economic development projects. We look forward to being an active participant in the discussions around the economic development of Ontario's north.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathalie St-Pierre', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Nathalie St-Pierre  
President and CEO