



*Office of the Minister*  
*MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley*

AR29205

November 9, 2017

Mr. Ryan Miller  
President and Chair of the Board  
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce  
200 Commerce House  
529 – 6 Street South  
Lethbridge AB T1J 2E1

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you for your September 14, 2017, letter to Premier Rachel Notley, outlining your recommendation to support small-scale renewable energy. As Minister of Energy, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta. I am proud to report on the progress that we have made with respect to your recommendations, in supporting small-scale renewable energy in Alberta. I appreciate hearing from Albertans who are interested in contributing good ideas to our efforts to address climate change and foster diversity in both our energy supply and our energy economy.

One of the key components of the Government of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan is developing more renewable energy. As you mentioned, our government has set a target of 30 per cent renewable electricity generation in Alberta by 2030. In support of this goal, we launched several initiatives to promote the growth of small-scale renewable electricity generation.

We amended the Micro-generation Regulation in late 2016. The regulation enables distributed alternative and renewable generation intended for load displacement by providing access to the grid for small-scale renewable and alternative electricity generation. It also streamlines and reduces connection costs and metering costs for small micro-generators, as suggested in your proposal. Our recent amendment allows for more flexibility and a greater variety of project configurations to be eligible as micro-generators, including by increasing the size limit of a micro-generation generating unit from one megawatt to five megawatts and allowing aggregation of adjacent sites, an important option for customers with multiple buildings like farms and campuses.

.../2

Just as you suggest, our government is also investing carbon levy revenues into programs to develop smaller-scale renewable energy in Alberta. We have developed several programs to support Albertans interested in developing solar generation, using carbon levy revenues to fund the programs:

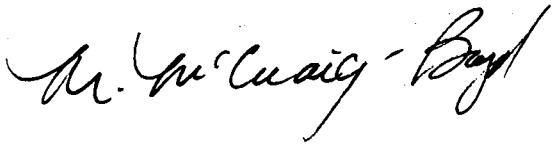
- The Residential and Commercial Solar Program offers rebates to Alberta homeowners, businesses, and non-profits that install solar photovoltaic systems. Eligible residences can reduce solar installation costs by up to 30 per cent, while eligible businesses and non-profits can reduce installation costs by up to 25 per cent. For more information, see [www.encyalberta.ca/solar/](http://www.encyalberta.ca/solar/).
- The Alberta Municipal Solar Program, administered by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, provides financial rebates to Alberta municipalities and community-related organizations who install solar photovoltaic systems on municipal facilities or on municipal land. For more information about this program, see [www.mccac.ca/](http://www.mccac.ca/).
- The On-Farm Solar Photovoltaic Program, administered by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, provides grants for primary agricultural producers. Projects must produce electricity primarily used to supply loads producing a primary agricultural commodity. For more information on this program, visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm).
- The Alberta Indigenous Solar Program, administered by Alberta Indigenous Relations, provides grants to Alberta Indigenous communities and organizations to install solar photovoltaic systems on community or organization-owned facilities.
- We also made funding available last year for the installation of solar panels at 36 school projects.

We are also currently reviewing options for promoting and enabling more renewable electricity generation by communities. We are exploring an enabling regulation and associated programming that would support various communities—such as municipalities, Indigenous communities, and co-operatives—becoming more involved in generating electricity for their own use and putting excess power onto the grid. The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is conducting a formal study to help inform government as we develop policy to enable more small-scale, community-owned generation from greener sources, such as wind or solar. The AUC will meet with utilities, consumer groups, developers, and other interested stakeholders to assess the supports and barriers around accommodating more local electricity generation by individual Albertans and communities. The review will explore opportunities to enable this growth.

I invite you to contact one of my staff members, Ben Thibault. Ben is originally from Lethbridge and leads the electricity policy development work in my office, including for renewable energy. You can reach Ben at: [ben.thibault@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ben.thibault@gov.ab.ca)

I appreciate you taking the time to share the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce's proposal with the Government of Alberta. Your city and region are blessed with a wealth of renewable energy resources and I am both proud and excited to be part of a government that will help your community to realize its potential, grow your economy and create good jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. McCuaig-Boyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and the last name "Boyd" being more distinct than the middle name "McCuaig".

Margaret McCuaig-Boyd  
Minister

cc: Honourable Rachel Notley  
Premier of Alberta

