



February 5, 2026

Chief Greg Gabriel  
Penticton (snpink'tn) Indian Band  
841 Westhills Drive  
Penticton, BC V2A 0E8  
[lwilson@pib.ca](mailto:lwilson@pib.ca)

Dear Chief Greg Gabriel:

I want to acknowledge your correspondence to Minister Gull-Masty regarding your concerns with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination originating from the Penticton Airport. I am responding on the Minister's behalf, as this is a matter relating to internal Indigenous Services Canada processes. I want to assure you that I recognize the importance of protecting human health and the environment, and my team appreciates the opportunity to be part of this important dialogue. We look forward to continued collaboration.

The responsibility to address this issue, both on and off reserve lands, rests with Transport Canada as they are the operators of the airport and custodians of the contaminated site. ISC officials have participated in discussions with Transport Canada, at your Nation's request.

I understand that regional ISC staff are in regular contact with the First Nations Health Authority regarding the drinking water quality on Penticton Indian Band's reserve lands. The First Nations Health Authority can provide technical support to interpret any risks posed by the contamination that has migrated onto the reserve lands.

To support the work to better understand the contamination and how to address it, ISC has provided Penticton Indian Band with \$15,000, in the 2023-24 fiscal year, for a third-party review of Transport Canada's reports. We look forward to discussing the results of that review with you at your convenience and continuing to support transparency and accountability throughout this process.

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While our department does not manage this site directly, we remain committed to working with our federal partners. I encourage you to contact Allyson Rowe, Regional Director General, ISC British Columbia Region, if there is any further assistance that we can provide.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Conn

Assistant Deputy Minister | Sous-ministre adjoint  
Lands and Economic Development | Terres et développement économique  
Indigenous Services Canada | Services aux Autochtones Canada

C.c.:

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport  
The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Mandell Pinder, Penticton Indian Band Legal Counsel  
Toke Adams, Transport Canada  
City of Penticton  
Regional District of the Okanagan-Similkameen  
Chiefs Executive Committee / Okanagan Nation Alliance