

# EnCana Shallow Gas Infill Development Project Joint Review Panel

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December 19, 2008

To All Interested Parties:

On December 17, 2008, the Joint Review Panel (the Panel) learned that EnCana Corporation recently donated one million dollars to the University of Calgary to support the creation of a Research Chair in Canadian Plains Mitigation and Reclamation within the Faculty of Environmental Design. Given the nature of the research proposed and the fact that one of the Panel members, Dr. William Ross, is a Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Design, the Panel decided to write to interested parties to clarify its position regarding this announcement.

Regarding Dr. Ross, he was appointed to the Joint Review Panel by the Federal Minister of the Environment and the Chair of the Alberta Energy Utilities Board in November 2006. While Dr. Ross was aware generally of discussions between the University of Calgary and EnCana regarding the creation of a research chair, he had no involvement in those discussions and was unaware of any of the details of those discussions. Dr. Ross had no knowledge of the specific nature of the research proposed, the amount of a proposed EnCana donation, or the timing of such a donation. Dr. Ross has been on leave from the Faculty of Environmental Design since July 1, 2008 and, pursuant to an agreement he signed with the University 3 years ago, will be retiring from his position as professor on December 31, 2008

The Panel understands that its decision on the EnCana project must be based upon the public record established through the joint panel review process and the public hearing which concluded on October 31. The Panel emphasizes that the creation of this new position is not a matter that it can have regard for, or in any way consider, when rendering its final report on EnCana's proposed infill development project within the Suffield National Wildlife Area.

Having regard to the foregoing, the Panel wishes to confirm to all interested parties that each panel member continues to be unbiased and free from any conflict of interest relative to the project.

Yours truly,

*“Original signed by”*

R. G. Connelly, Chair  
Joint Review Panel