**CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING NOTE**

**FROM:** Ernest Moses, Cree Beneficiary, Waskaganish First Nation  
Board Member, Unations

* **TO:** The Honourable **Rebecca Alty**, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations; The Honourable **Mandy Gull-Masty**, Minister of Indigenous Services; The Honourable **Rebecca Chartrand**, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency; The Honourable **Julie Dabrusin**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
* **CC:** [Fox, Christiane; Deputy Clerk of the Privy Council and Associate Secretary to the Cabinet;](https://www.geds-sage.gc.ca/en/GEDS?pgid=015&dn=Q049Rk9YXDJDIENIUklTVElBTkUsT1U9RENMRVJLQS1TR1JFRkZFLE9VPVBDTy1CQ1AsTz1HQyxDPUNB)
* **Mollie Johnson -** Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, Plans and Consultations**;**

**DATE:** May 29, 2025

**RE:** Transforming Indigenous Infrastructure: A $1 Trillion Economic Opportunity

**The Perfect Storm Threatening Indigenous Communities**

Minister Alty,

Your announcement yesterday regarding Indigenous infrastructure funding couldn't have come at a more critical time. As a Cree contractor who has spent 40 years building in James Bay, I've watched infrastructure costs soar while quality plummets. The ArriveCan scandal, where non-Indigenous companies like Coradix fabricated partnerships to steal millions meant for our communities, continues to undermine trust in procurement systems.

**The crisis facing your Ministry has intensified:**

* **$350B** infrastructure gap must close by 2030, or balloon to $527B by 2040
* **$1 trillion** total economic impact when including lost productivity, health costs, and climate damage
* **157,453 homes** desperately needed while costs rise 118% above national average
* **80% of existing infrastructure** fails to meet climate resilience standards

But here's what compelled me to write today: every Indigenous leader knows ArriveCan isn't an isolated incident. Without transparent, Indigenous-governed procurement systems, these scandals will multiply, undermining reconciliation and your government's credibility.

**Why We're Reaching Out Now**

I couldn't resist contacting you immediately after your announcement because we've been quietly building the solution to these exact problems. While we're still assembling the full Unations board, we've spent months developing Indigenious—our marketplace platform—and the features we've built directly address the transparency crisis you highlighted yesterday.

What we've created will only get better, but what exists today already demonstrates how Indigenous-led technology can transform procurement overnight.

**The Unations Solution: Trust Through Transparency**

I'm writing as a founding board member of Unations, an Indigenous-majority governed think tank designing systems-level solutions to this crisis. We're not asking for charity—we're offering partnership on infrastructure transformation that will:

**1. Save $35-52B through price transparency and competition**

* Our Indigenious platform already demonstrates 10-15% cost savings through transparent supplier competition
* Real-time pricing dashboards prevent cost inflation in remote communities
* Open data on actual costs versus estimates drives accountability

**2. Prevent procurement fraud through Indigenous-governed verification**

* Community-validated business certification (no more phantom partnerships)
* Blockchain-backed transparency for every federal dollar spent
* Real Indigenous businesses get fair access to the $1.6B procurement target

**3. Deliver climate wins for the Carney administration**

* Embedded carbon tracking in all infrastructure projects
* Traditional knowledge integrated with modern climate science
* 40% of jobs in climate-resilient construction

**4. Create 35,000+ direct jobs annually with economic multiplier of $308B**

* Direct employment in construction and services
* Additional 50,000+ indirect jobs through economic multiplier
* Indigenous business development acceleration
* Regional economic revitalization

**What We've Already Built**

Over the past several months, while formally establishing Unations, our team has developed Indigenious with features that directly solve the problems you identified:

* **Verified Business Directory:** Already operational with Indigenous-owned verification protocols
* **Price Transparency Engine:** Live benchmarking across communities
* **Climate Cost Integration:** Carbon calculators embedded in every quote
* **Community Validation System:** Preventing another ArriveCan through Indigenous governance

These aren't concepts—they're working features that will transform how infrastructure dollars flow to Indigenous communities.

**Why This Matters to You Now**

Minister, your announcement yesterday positions you perfectly to:

**Own the Complete Solution:** You've committed the funding; now be the Minister who ensures it's spent transparently. Launch the verification system that makes fraud impossible while accelerating legitimate Indigenous businesses.

**Deliver Immediate Climate Leadership:** With 40-45% emissions reduction targets by 2030, every infrastructure dollar must count. Our framework embeds climate costs and traditional practices in every project starting today.

**Demonstrate Fiscal Responsibility:** Saving $35-52B while improving outcomes is exactly the kind of innovation Prime Minister Carney expects. This positions you as a transformative leader who backs words with systems.

**Build Trust Through Technology:** After centuries of broken promises, radical transparency through Indigenous governance rebuilds trust transaction by transaction.

**The Partnership Proposal**

**We're seeking a 6-month pilot partnership to scale what we've built:**

**Federal Investment Required: $2.5 million**

* $1M - Technology infrastructure expansion (scaling our existing platform)
* $750K - Community engagement and Indigenous governance setup
* $500K - Climate integration tools enhancement
* $250K - Performance measurement and reporting systems

**Pilot Communities: 10-12 First Nations ready to start**

* Mix of remote fly-in and road-access communities
* Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, BC representation
* Range from 500 to 5,000 members
* Communities already expressing interest in our platform

**Why 10-12 communities:** Statistically valid sample representing Canada's geographic, demographic, and infrastructure diversity. With our platform operational, we can deploy immediately.

**Your Role: Champion and public face of transformation**

* Announce the partnership as fulfillment of yesterday's commitment
* Use real-time pilot data to drive national policy change
* Position as Canada's answer to global Indigenous infrastructure challenges

**Return on Investment:**

* **Next 90 days:** Demonstrate first verified transactions
* **Year 1:** Save $100M+ through competitive procurement
* **By 2026:** National rollout saves $1B+ annually

**Immediate Next Steps**

1. **Meeting Request:** 30-minute demonstration of Indigenious platform by June 15th
2. **Live Demo:** Show your team actual cost savings already achieved
3. **Pilot Launch:** Announce at National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21)
4. **Quick Wins:** First transparent transactions within 30 days

Minister Hajdu, yesterday you committed to change. Today we're offering the tools to deliver it. Every month of delay costs Indigenous communities $50M in inflated prices and substandard work. But more importantly, every transparent transaction builds trust and proves that reconciliation delivers real results.

I'm not writing as just another consultant. I'm a Cree grandfather who wants his grandchildren to live in safe, warm homes. While building our Unations board, we couldn't wait—we built Indigenious to start solving these problems now.

**The timing is perfect:** Your funding announcement + our working platform = immediate transformation.

Prime Minister Carney has set ambitious climate and reconciliation goals. This partnership delivers both while positioning you as the Minister who didn't just announce funding—you revolutionized how it's spent.

I look forward to demonstrating what we've built.

With respect and determination,

**Ernest Moses**  
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One Canadian Economy Response