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**Speaking notes for the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson,
Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, for an appearance
before the Standing Committee on Natural Resources to
discuss Supplementary Estimates B and C**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the committee for this invitation. Before I start I would like to recognize that we are on traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe people.

The approved spending and additional spending requests we are dealing with today speak to the urgency I cited at our last meeting.

As I said then, the global economy is changing rapidly.

It is changing, in significant measure, because climate change demands that it change.

Around the world, smart money is increasingly flowing away from assets that are not compatible with a transition to a net-zero world, and towards opportunities that are.

It is in this context that Canada can choose to be a leader in this global economic shift – or we can let it happen to us – with all the attendant consequences of being a late mover.

Our government has chosen to help Canadian workers and businesses take advantage of market opportunities that will be worth trillions of dollars.

Nevertheless, and unfortunately, some of the consequences of climate change are already baked in.

Consider the devastating impacts of the heatwave, wildfires, and floods in my home province of British Columbia last summer and fall.

While we must also act and act urgently to reduce carbon emissions we must also adapt effectively to the changes that are already occurring.

Both of these imperatives were reflected in the \$71.4 million Supplementary Estimates B passed by Parliament in December.

This request supports our need to act now. With \$14.2 million in additional funding for wildfire and flood preparedness, and \$5.1 million for satellite infrastructure.

These two requests are part of broader government efforts to provide us with:

- More and better flood maps for higher-risk areas;
- Ongoing work on wildfire prevention and mitigation – especially in poorly-understood northern forests; and
- Improved satellite infrastructure to boost our ability to make evidence-based decisions regarding our lands and water.

There is also \$24 million to help Indigenous communities reduce their diesel dependency, and just over \$10 million for early development of critical mineral value chains.

Looking to Supplementary Estimates C, we are seeking approval for just under \$152 million in additional spending.

As with the Supplementary Estimates B, much of the focus is on ensuring that Canada doesn't miss out on the economic opportunities before us, and that Canadians are protected from the effects of climate change.

The largest item in Supplementary Estimates C is \$91 million to expand clean fuels markets and advance CCUS technologies. It's part of key Budget 2021 commitments – \$320.5 million for CCUS, and \$1.5 billion for clean fuels.

CCUS is not a silver bullet to fight climate change. However, as the IEA has said, it is an important component of any credible climate plan.

We are also proposing to invest in forestry. As I have discussed with colleagues at this table and specially my friend MP Simard, the forestry sector is the backbone of many communities and we are committed in supporting them.

We have earmarked an additional \$20 million for the ongoing Forest Industry Transformation Program, to help the sector develop low-carbon and higher-value products in the face of industry challenges.

We are also re-profiling \$7 million to help fight the Mountain Pine Beetle in Alberta.

Indigenous Peoples want to take economic development in their own hands so that their communities will prosper. There is a \$6.5 million proposal to continue supporting Indigenous communities impacted by major energy infrastructure projects.

This has already led to the training of Indigenous monitors to join federal regulators along pipeline inspections.

These are just some of the investments we have made and are now proposing.

Combined with the Supplementary Estimates B, this would increase Natural Resources Canada's authorities from \$2.62 billion to \$2.85 billion in 2021-22.

We are committed to positioning communities across Canada – including Indigenous communities – to take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by the shift in global markets, while protecting them from the effects of climate change.

I am now happy to take questions.