



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region
600-55 York Street
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario
600-55 rue York
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

November 30, 2021

Sent by email

Chief Robert Nakogee
P.O. Box 1
Fort Albany ON P0L 1H0
<Email address removed>

Dear Chief Nakogee:

Subject: Response to Concerns with Participant Funding for Engagement in the Marten Falls Community Access Road and Webequie Supply Road Impact Assessments

Thank you for the correspondence of October 17, 2021, sent by Sarah Beamish on behalf of Fort Albany First Nation, and which accompanied the funding applications to support Fort Albany First Nation's participation in the impact assessments of the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project and the Webequie Supply Road Project. This letter provides responses to the concerns raised in that letter.

Flexibility of Funding

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) acknowledges that the budget submitted with a funding application may be subject to changes. There is flexibility to reallocate expenses within the available categories at any time, as long as the total budget for each project assessment remains unchanged. Fort Albany First Nation may submit changes to the budget when expense claims are submitted to the Agency or may contact Monica Losier at monica.losier@jaac-aeic.gc.ca or 343-998-4940 with any questions regarding funding and budget allocations.

Question Regarding Section 4(b) of Application

The GST/HST rebate number and percentage is not required, nor is it mandatory, in order to have a complete application; the application can be submitted without that information.

Adequacy of Funding

The Agency provides limited financial support through the Participant Funding Program to help Indigenous groups participate in the impact assessment process.

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These funds are meant to support the costs that may be incurred by the recipients during an impact assessment process. For more information on participant funding, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/participant-funding-program-national-program-guidelines.html>

Funding Levels for the Webequie Supply Road Project

The funding levels currently allocated reflect the Agency's understanding of potential impacts of the Webequie Supply Road Project on Fort Albany First Nation's exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights.

In January 2022, the Agency will invite Fort Albany First Nation to participate in a collaborative session to assess potential impacts on rights. As Fort Albany First Nation shares more information about activities and resources necessary to exercise their rights, and how they might be impacted by the Webequie Supply Road Project, the Agency can adjust its understanding of the potential impacts on Fort Albany First Nation's rights and explore adjusting the funding offered to participate in the Webequie Supply Road Project impact assessment process.

When Participant Funding Can Be Used

Fort Albany First Nation stated that current funding limitations would not make participant funding usable until the proponent submits a draft Impact Statement to the Agency. This is not necessarily the case. Fort Albany First Nation may access participant funding as soon as the contribution agreement is signed by both Fort Albany First Nation and the Agency. Funding may be used prior to the submission of the Impact Statement for activities that support commenting on the documents listed in the participant funding application. For example, Fort Albany First Nation could access the funding to support community-led activities held to discuss the project and community concerns, as long as the information gathered is shared with the Agency as comments during the impact statement phase or the impact assessment phase.

Please contact Monica Losier at monica.losier@jaac-aeic.gc.ca or 343-998-4940, if you have questions or concerns related to eligible expenses, budget, or the Participant Funding Program.

Please contact me at 416-200-9174 or by email at *martenfalls@iaac-aeic.gc.ca* or *webequie@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*, if you have questions regarding the federal impact assessments for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project and the Webequie Supply Road Project.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Date: 2021.11.30 13:44:25 -05'00'

Heather Nelson
Crown Consultation Coordinator

c.c.: Monica Losier, Senior Funding Officer, Impact Assessment Agency
of Canada
Jacqueline Sutherland, Fort Albany First Nation
Sarah Beamish, Beamish Law
Steve DeRoy, The Firelight Group
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