

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area**March 10, 2025****Federal Authority Advice Record****Response due to regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca by March 28, 2023****Women and Gender Equality Canada**

In providing your responses to the items below, please include any relevant information on associated Indigenous, public or other consultation or engagement activities and identify any partners or collaborations.

1. MANDATE AND AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE

Clearly outline the mandate of your department or agency and detail your area(s) of responsibility or expertise that may be related to the regional assessment

- The mandate for the Department of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) is to advance equality with respect to sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression through the inclusion of people of all genders, including women, in Canada's economic, social, and political life. In addition to gender equality, WAGE is the Government of Canada's lead on Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus). GBA Plus is an analytical tool used to support the development of responsive and inclusive policies, programs, and other initiatives. GBA Plus is a process for understanding who is impacted by the issue or opportunity being addressed by the initiative; identifying how the initiative could be tailored to meet diverse needs of the people most impacted; and anticipating and mitigating any barriers to accessing or benefitting from the initiative. GBA Plus is an intersectional analysis that goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography (including rurality), language, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Using GBA Plus involves taking a gender- and diversity-sensitive approach to our work. Considering all intersecting identity factors as part of GBA Plus, not only sex and gender, is a Government of Canada commitment.
- As the federal authority for GBA Plus, the *Impact Assessment Act* requires WAGE to provide technical advice on proposals as they relate to WAGE's mandate, such as on issues related to gender-based violence (GBV), GBA Plus, and overarching gender equality considerations. Application of GBA Plus within the Impact Assessment process includes the responsibility to consider the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors 22(1)(SS).

2. REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

List and summarize the nature of the regulatory authorities of your department or agency in relation to physical works or activities in the Ring of Fire area.

- As a Federal Authority under the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Department for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) has a legislated responsibility to provide its expert information and knowledge related to issues under its mandate to support the impact assessment process.

- To date, WAGE has provided input on various phases of impact assessment of two projects in the Ring of Fire area: (i) Webequie Supply Road; and (ii) Martin Falls Community Access Road.

3. EXPERT INFORMATION OR KNOWLEDGE

List and summarize the specialists or expert information or knowledge that your department or agency has that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include all research, reports and data sets in this response inventory.

GBA Plus Expert Information

- GBA Plus is an analytical tool used to support the development of responsive and inclusive policies, programs, and other initiatives. GBA Plus is a process for understanding who is impacted by the issue or opportunity being addressed by the initiative; identifying how the initiative could be tailored to meet diverse needs of the people most impacted; and anticipating and mitigating any barriers to accessing or benefitting from the initiative. GBA Plus is an intersectional analysis that goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography (including rurality), language, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Several resources including a guide on how to apply GBA Plus to your work, tips on making GBA Plus sustainable, and other resources can be found on the WAGE's [GBA Plus webpage](#).

Gender-based Violence (GBV)

- GBV continues to be a significant barrier to individual and community safety and wellbeing in Canada. WAGE is taking action to end it in all its forms. WAGE has a GBV strategy that is organized across three pillars: preventing GBV; supporting survivors and their families; promoting responsive legal and justice systems. The strategy will fill gaps in support for diverse populations, including: women and girls; Indigenous women and girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and gender non-binary individuals; women living in Northern, rural and remote communities; women and girls with disabilities; immigrant women and refugee women; children and youth; and senior women. The GBV portion on WAGE's website includes: the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence; provincial and territorial resources on GBV knowledge centres; information on funding; engagement processes; and crisis helplines for those affected by gender-based violence.

4. POLICIES, PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES

List and summarize the past, current and planned policies, programs or initiatives of your department or agency that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include an outline of related funding initiatives in this response and provide information on geographic locations, next steps and timing for the program/initiative.

- WAGE continues to strengthen its role in providing leadership on GBA Plus to work towards a federal government that systematically considers equality, diversity, and inclusion in all facets of its planned policies, programs, and initiatives. As a result, GBA

Plus is embedded throughout all of WAGE's activities. For example, GBA Plus is considered in the design, implementation, and delivery of all programs within the department. WAGE has a legislated mandate to promote a greater understanding of the intersection of sex and gender with other factors, including, but not limited to race, ethnicity, Indigenous identity, age, sexual orientation, education, income, geographical location, and disability. In addition to leading by example, WAGE continues to deliver on its mandate by working with central agencies and with other federal organizations to ensure that policies, programs, legislation, funding, and all government initiatives are informed by GBA Plus and are designed and delivered in a manner that is fair and responsive to the needs of all Canadians.

- To facilitate access to data and evidence in support of advancing GBA Plus analysis, the department has worked with Statistics Canada to implement the Disaggregated Data Action Plan, to fill existing knowledge gaps (see also: [Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Statistics Hub](#)). To support the application of GBA Plus to the monitoring and implementation of its own initiatives, the department collects and analyzes disaggregated data related to its funding programs and other initiatives.
 - WAGE continues to work to build a better understanding of the needs of communities and women's and equality-seeking organizations and work with them to advance gender equality. WAGE will implement processes to better collaborate and communicate with women's movements, organizations, experts, and advocates on issues related to gender equality.
 - The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Program acts under the second pillar of *It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence* which is "support for survivors and their families". The Strategy builds on current federal initiatives, coordinates existing programs and lays the foundation for greater action on GBV. The Program is population-specific, and its objective is to support organizations working in the GBV sector in developing and implementing promising practices to address gaps in supports for Indigenous and underserved groups of survivors in Canada.
5. Outline any additional responsibilities, information or knowledge and any partners or collaborations that have not been specified, above.
- N/A