

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT IN THE RING OF FIRE AREA FACTSHEET

BACKGROUND

- A Regional Assessment is happening in the Ring of Fire area in northern Ontario (also called Kawana 'bi 'kag by many First Nations).
- It is a partnership between Matawa First Nations, Mushkegowuk First Nations, Weenusk First Nation (15 First Nations total) and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.
- Together, they form the **Regional Assessment Working Group (RAWG)**, which is responsible for leading the assessment.

WHAT IS A REGIONAL ASSESSMENT?

- A regional assessment is a large study that looks at the positive and negative effects of many development projects in one area, including past and future activities.
- It looks at how different activities combine into cumulative effects that impact the environment and communities.
- The goal is to help decision-makers support sustainable development that protects the environment, supports healthy communities, and strengthens the economy.
- A regional assessment is a planning tool that helps make future impact assessments more efficient and effective.
- Regional assessments do **not** replace project-specific assessments **or decide** whether a specific project can move forward.

ARE REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS THE SAME THING?

- Impact assessments evaluate the effects of a **single project** to decide if it should move forward, considering both positive and negative impacts.
- Regional assessments don't focus on one project but look at the **bigger picture** in a wider region.

- They focus on larger issues and **cumulative effects** to inform decision-making related to development and environmental management at a regional level.
- They help understand broader impacts at a regional level.
- They include recommendations, but do not result in decisions to approve or reject specific projects.

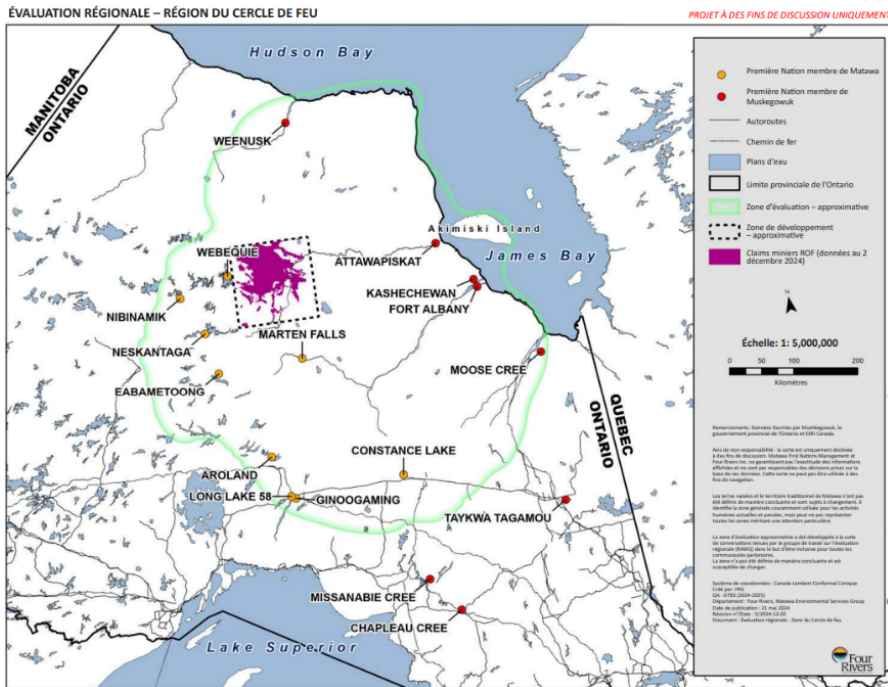
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT IN THE RING OF FIRE AREA?

- The purpose is to provide information and data about the region, including potential effects from current and future developments.
- It also aims to identify and consider the interactive and cumulative effects and their long-term impacts, whether it be social or environmental, on key environmental, health, cultural, social and economic conditions, as well as impacts on Indigenous Peoples and their Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including intra and intergenerational values.

WHERE AND WHEN IS THE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT BEING CONDUCTED?

- The regional assessment focuses on the area around the Ring of Fire (Kawana 'bi 'kag) mineral deposits in the James Bay Lowlands which are located in Ontario's far North, northeast of Thunder Bay.
- It includes communities and traditional territories of First Nations that are most likely to experience the extent of positive and negative effects as a result of activities in their ancestral homeland.
- Upon finalizing the Terms of Reference, the regional assessment's conduct phase started on January 20, 2025, and will run for **30 months** until mid-2027.

MAP OF REGIONAL ASSESSMENT AREA



HOW CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF THE PARTNER FIRST NATIONS GET INVOLVED?

- The Regional Assessment is **community-led**. This includes members of First Nation Partner communities, whether they live on their traditional land or elsewhere.
- Communications in First Nation communities will be accessible in local Indigenous languages.
- Each First Nation Partner will hold community engagement sessions during the regional assessment.
 - Elders, Knowledge Holders, youth, women, and community members will play an important role in sharing information during the process.

HOW CAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE?

The public can submit comments, participate in information sessions, and participate in public calls. For more information, explore the Regional Assessment's [Participation Plan](#).

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT IN THE RING OF FIRE INTERNET SITE:



WHO ARE THE PARTNERS IN THE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aroland First Nation | Marten Falls First Nation |
| Attawapiskat First Nation | Missanabie First Nation |
| Constance Lake First Nation | Moose Cree First Nation |
| Eabametoong First Nation | Neskantaga First Nation |
| Fort Albany First Nation | Nibinamik First Nation |
| Ginoogaming First Nation | Webequie First Nation |
| Kashechewan First Nation | Weenusk First Nation |
| Long Lake #58 First Nation | Government of Canada |

Councils providing administrative support:

- Matabwa Tribal Council (Four Rivers Environmental Services); and Mushkegowuk Council.