



October 31st, 2025

Isabelle Turcotte
Panel Manager
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
22nd Floor, 160 Elgin St.
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0H3

Dear Ms. Turcotte,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Information Request for the Ring of Fire Regional Assessment. Please find Parks Canada's responses below, organized by request number for ease of reference. These responses reflect input from Parks Canada relevant subject-matter experts familiar with the Ring of Fire region and the specific requests received.

Should further clarification be required, Parks Canada would be pleased to discuss or provide additional information to support the ongoing work of the Regional Assessment.

Sincerely,

Jesse MacDonald
Impact Assessment Scientist
Parks Canada, Natural Resource Management Branch
149 McDougal Road,
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0



REQUEST 1. PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES RELEVANT FOR THE ROF AREA

As described in our response to both the Expert Support Form and the FAAR, Parks Canada is advancing the Omushkego Biodiversity and Carbon Knowledge Program as part of the Hudson–James Bay Lowlands Biodiversity Conservation and Carbon Sequestration Initiative. Through this initiative, Parks Canada is collaborating with the Mushkegowuk Council, Weenusk First Nation, Wapusk National Park, and a range of academic, NGO, and federal partners to assess biodiversity and quantify carbon stocks and fluxes across wetland, peatland, coastal, and marine ecosystems within the Hudson Bay–James Bay Lowlands and adjacent marine waters.

The program aims to enhance understanding of the ecological and climate-regulating functions of these globally significant ecosystems, support Indigenous-led research and stewardship, and contribute to informed decision-making for biodiversity conservation and carbon management across the region. More information can be found in our Expert Support Form response.

REQUEST 2: PRIORITY TOPICS IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION AND GAPS

As the Omushkego Biodiversity and Carbon Knowledge Program is an Indigenous-led initiative with Parks Canada serving in a supportive role, we have no additional information to contribute for this request.



REQUEST 9: PROTECTED AREAS (A & B)

Federal Conservation Tools and Approaches			
	National Parks (NP) and National Park Reserves (NPR)	National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA)	Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA)
Lead Department	Parks Canada	Parks Canada	NA
Legislative Authority	<i>Canada National Parks Act (CNPA)</i>	<i>Canada National Marine Conservation Area Act</i>	Not currently defined in federal legislation; range of Indigenous-led approaches.
Method of Establishment	Legislative Process or Order in Council (OIC) and Parliamentary Review	Legislative Process or Order in Council (OIC) and Parliamentary Review	Through the use of Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems Can be established without a federal conservation tool

<p>Length of Establishment Process</p>	<p>5-12 years to implement; protection is permanent.</p>	<p>5-12 years to implement; protection is permanent and flexible.</p>	
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>To protect and present representative examples of natural and cultural landscapes that occur in each of Canada's 39 natural regions, as identified in the National Parks System Plan; to foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.</p>	<p>To protect and conserve representative marine areas for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of Canadians. NMCAs protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity, conserve cultural heritage, manage use in an ecologically sustainable manner, support Indigenous leadership, create enjoyable experiences for visitors, promote awareness and understanding among Canadians, and provide benefits for Indigenous peoples and coastal communities.</p>	<p>Lands and waters where Indigenous peoples and governments have a primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through the use of Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems</p>
<p>Protection</p>	<p>Applies to land and freshwater, including shorelines and wetlands.</p>	<p>Applies to oceans, lakes, ice, wetlands, estuaries, and other coastal lands.</p>	

<p>Method to achieve shared conservation goals with partners</p>	<p>Parks Canada assesses the feasibility and desirability of establishing candidate national parks in collaboration with implicated provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governing bodies. To advance both the establishment and future management of candidate sites, Parks Canada negotiates and enters into agreements with Indigenous governing bodies, provinces and territories, and other partners. These collaborative processes support conservation and protection goals by ensuring shared decision-making, bringing a diversity of knowledge, and fostering long-term stewardship through formalized partnerships. Parks Canada consults with many stakeholders, including environmental groups and local communities as part of the feasibility assessment process.</p>	<p>Parks Canada assesses the feasibility and desirability of establishing candidate National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) in collaboration with implicated provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governing bodies. To advance both the establishment and future management of candidate NMCAs, Parks Canada negotiates and enters into agreements with other federal departments, provinces and territories, local communities and Indigenous governing bodies. These collaborative processes support conservation and protection goals by ensuring shared decision-making, bringing a diversity of knowledge, and fostering long-term stewardship through formalized partnerships. Parks Canada consults with many stakeholders and industry groups which include environmental groups as part of the feasibility assessment process. Further information can be found in the Policy on the Establishment and Management of NMCA Areas, found at: https://parks.canada.ca/amnc-nmca/gestion-management/politique-policy-2022</p>	
<p>Note: The final row of this table addresses part (b) of Request 9, while the remaining rows address part (a).</p>			