

**Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area**

**October 7, 2025**

**Federal Authority Advice Record**

Response due to [regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) by **October 17, 2025**

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

***Mitigating risks to food safety is the CFIA's highest priority, and the health and safety of Canadians is the driving force behind the design and development of CFIA programs. The CFIA, in collaboration and partnership with industry, consumers, and federal, provincial and municipal organizations, continues to work towards protecting Canadians from preventable health risks related to food and zoonotic diseases.***

**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.

***At this time, CFIA does not have any regulatory activities in the Ring of Fire area***

**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.

***While I am not an expert, my understanding is informed by traditional Indigenous teachings, which guide my perspective on these matters. When planning activities such as building, digging, or relocating in this area, please consider the following:***

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**Key Considerations**

**1. Risk of Invasive Species**

***Construction vehicles, equipment, and personnel arriving from other regions of the province or country may inadvertently introduce invasive species such as Emerald Ash Borer, Spotted Lanternfly, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. These species can have significant ecological impacts.***

## **2. Food Safety and Security Concerns**

***Development activities may disrupt traditional hunting and gathering areas that are vital to Indigenous communities. This region already faces challenges related to food security, and further loss of these areas could increase the risk to community well-being.***

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### **Recommended Mitigation Measures**

- ***Invasive Species Prevention***
  - ***Implement a cleaning protocol for all vehicles, tools, and equipment before entering the site.***
  - ***Require certification or inspection for machinery coming from outside the region.***
  - ***Use local materials and plants for landscaping to reduce the risk of introducing non-native species.***
- ***Protecting Food Security***
  - ***Conduct an Indigenous-led environmental assessment prior to construction to identify traditional harvesting and hunting areas.***
  - ***Establish buffer zones around culturally significant areas to prevent disturbance.***
  - ***Develop a consultation plan with Indigenous communities to ensure ongoing communication and adaptive management.***
- ***Monitoring and Compliance***
  - ***Schedule regular site inspections for invasive species.***
  - ***Include Indigenous knowledge holders in monitoring programs.***
  - ***Create a reporting mechanism for any observed ecological or cultural impacts.***

## **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.

**NA**

5. Outline any additional responsibilities, information or knowledge and any partners or collaborations that have not been specified, above.

**NA**