

Requests to Federal Agencies and Departments for the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area from the Regional Assessment Working Group – Package 1

Request 1: Projects and Initiatives Relevant for the Ring of Fire Area

- a) Provide a list of the projects and initiatives in which you are involved in that relate to the Ring of Fire Assessment Area. For each item, include: Project name, description and timeframe
 - i. Lead organization
 - ii. Other collaborators
 - iii. Your role
 - iv. Geographic location (include maps if available)
- b) Explain if and how Indigenous Nations and communities in the Ring of Fire Area collaborated in these projects and initiatives.
- c) Would you be willing to give a public presentation about any of these initiatives to the working group, and if so which ones?

Nothing to add currently.

Request 2: Priority Topics Identified by the Working Group – Information and Gaps

In the Call for Information and Data, the Working Group identified **key priorities** for information gathering and gap identification at this time. Table 3 reflects these key priorities.

Referring to the priorities and issues listed in Table 3, based on your expertise, provide advice on:

- a) the best sources of existing data, including means to access it,
- b) adequate spatial and temporal boundaries to assess impacts,
- c) key indicators to describe potential impacts,
- d) known data gaps or uncertainties, and
- e) suggestions for studies or other ways to fill those gaps.

Assessement Priority: To be well together (community wellbeing)

Best sources of existing data, including means to access it	Adequate spatial and temporal boundaries to assess impacts	Key indicators to describe potential impacts	Known data gaps or uncertainties	Suggestions for studies or other ways to fill those gaps
<p>Indigenous Population Profiles from the Census of Population (multiple cycles).</p> <p>These profiles are a standard Statistics Canada product, publicly available if the First Nations community participated in the census.</p> <p>Access: No cost or restrictions.</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: Reliable, accessible data supports evidence-based decisions to improve living conditions and social cohesion.</p>	<p>Spatial: Reserve boundaries as defined in the census ensure data reflects community realities.</p> <p>Temporal: Multiple census cycles allow tracking of wellbeing trends over time.</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: Longitudinal and community-specific data helps identify persistent challenges and progress.</p>	<p>Demographic indicator: Population size and growth Age distribution (youth and elders balance) Gender composition</p> <p>Housing: Crowding (persons per room) Condition of dwellings (need for major repairs) Number of dwellings</p> <p>Education and skills: School attendance Highest level of schooling completed</p> <p>Economic security: Employment and unemployment rates Median income</p> <p>Language and cultural indicators: Knowledge and use of Indigenous languages Language spoken at home Mother tongue</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: These indicators reflect health, safety, cultural continuity, and economic resilience.</p>	<p>No data for communities that did not participate in the census.</p> <p>Limited detail for small populations due to confidentiality rules.</p> <p>Some aspects of wellbeing (mental health, social cohesion) are not captured in census data.</p>	<p>Community-led surveys to include non-participating communities.</p> <p>Administrative data linkage (health, education, housing programs).</p> <p>Qualitative research to capture cultural and social dimensions of wellbeing.</p> <p>Collaborative data-sharing agreements with Indigenous organizations.</p>

Best sources of existing data, including means to access it	Adequate spatial and temporal boundaries to assess impacts	Key indicators to describe potential impacts	Known data gaps or uncertainties	Suggestions for studies or other ways to fill those gaps
<p>Customized membership profiles for First Nations communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on members of these communities regardless of residence, with an optional on/off reserve dimension. -Available for multiple census cycles. <p>Source: Statistics Canada data tables in profile format.</p> <p>Access: Census information is public; customized extractions may involve cost recovery fees.</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: Understanding community membership—both on and off reserve—supports planning for services, cultural programs, and social cohesion.</p>	<p>Spatial: Profiles can distinguish on-reserve vs. off-reserve populations, providing insight into mobility and service needs.</p> <p>Temporal: Data available across multiple census cycles, enabling trend analysis of membership patterns.</p> <p>Why it matters: Tracking membership over time helps assess demographic stability and migration patterns that influence wellbeing.</p>	<p>Same as above</p>	<p>Customized profiles may require cost recovery, limiting accessibility.</p> <p>Does not capture non-census factors (e.g., cultural engagement, community ties).</p> <p>Confidentiality rules may restrict detailed breakdowns for small communities.</p>	<p>Community-led registries to complement census data.</p> <p>Qualitative research on reasons for living on/off reserve and impacts on wellbeing.</p> <p>Linkage with administrative data (health, education) for service planning.</p> <p>Collaborative data-sharing agreements with Indigenous organizations.</p>

Best sources of existing data, including means to access it	Adequate spatial and temporal boundaries to assess impacts	Key indicators to describe potential impacts	Known data gaps or uncertainties	Suggestions for studies or other ways to fill those gaps
<p>Business profiles, including identification of Indigenous-owned businesses in the area.</p> <p>Economic activity estimates, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the region.</p> <p>Source: Statistics Canada data tables.</p> <p>Access: Publicly available, but subject to confidentiality rules if the number of Indigenous-owned businesses is small.</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: Economic strength and opportunities are key drivers of community resilience and prosperity.</p>	<p>Spatial: Data can be provided for the defined project area or regional boundaries.</p> <p>Temporal: Current data from the latest economic surveys and census cycles; historical data may be limited for Indigenous-owned businesses.</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: Understanding local economic conditions helps assess employment opportunities and long-term sustainability.</p>	<p>Business presence and diversity: Number of businesses operating locally Number and proportion of Indigenous-owned businesses</p> <p>Economic activity: Regional GDP estimates Sectoral contributions (e.g., construction, retail, services)</p> <p>Employment and income: Jobs supported by local businesses Average wages or income levels</p> <p>Business resilience: Business survival rates Access to financing or capital</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: These indicators reflect economic security, job creation, and opportunities for Indigenous entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>Limited ability to release data if few Indigenous-owned businesses are identified (confidentiality constraints).</p> <p>Lack of detailed information on business size, profitability, and workforce composition.</p> <p>GDP estimates may not fully capture informal or community-based economic activity.</p>	<p>Targeted surveys of Indigenous-owned businesses to gather detailed operational and workforce data.</p> <p>Partnerships with Indigenous business organizations for data sharing.</p> <p>Qualitative research on barriers to entrepreneurship and economic participation.</p> <p>Explore administrative data sources (e.g., business registries, tax data) for richer insights.</p>

Best sources of existing data, including means to access it	Adequate spatial and temporal boundaries to assess impacts	Key indicators to describe potential impacts	Known data gaps or uncertainties	Suggestions for studies or other ways to fill those gaps
<p>*Police-reported crime data from: -Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey -Homicide Survey</p> <p>*Collected annually from police services (mandatory reporting).</p> <p>*Available through: -Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (Statistics Canada) -Publicly accessible reports, online data tables, and visualization tools -Detailed custom tabulations available under a cost-recovery framework.</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: Safety and security are fundamental to community wellbeing. Crime data helps identify risks and inform prevention strategies.</p>	<p>Spatial: Data collected at the police-service/detachment level, allowing localized analysis.</p> <p>Temporal: Annual data releases enable trend analysis over time.</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: Understanding crime patterns at the community level supports targeted interventions and long-term safety planning.</p>	<p>Crime rates: -Overall crime rate per 100,000 population -Violent crime rate</p> <p>Specific offenses: -Assault, sexual assault, robbery -Property crimes (break and enter, theft)</p> <p>Severe incidents: -Homicide rate -Firearm-related offenses</p> <p>Justice system engagement: -Clearance rates (cases solved) -Police-reported incidents involving youth</p> <p>Why it matters for wellbeing: These indicators reflect safety, trust in institutions, and vulnerability to violence.</p>	<p>Does not capture unreported crime or community perceptions of safety.</p> <p>Limited detail on victim characteristics and social context.</p> <p>Confidentiality constraints may limit granular reporting for small communities.</p>	

Assessment Priority: Social and Economic Equity

Best sources of existing data, including means to access it	Adequate spatial and temporal boundaries to assess impacts	Key indicators to describe potential impacts	Known data gaps or uncertainties	Suggestions for studies or other ways to fill those gaps
<p>Indigenous Population Profiles from the Census of Population (multiple cycles).</p> <p>These profiles are a standard Statistics Canada product, publicly available if the First Nations community participated in the census.</p> <p>Access: No cost or restrictions.</p>	<p>Spatial: Reserve boundaries as defined in the census to ensure data reflects community realities.</p> <p>Temporal: Multiple census cycles allow tracking of wellbeing trends over time.</p>	<p>Demographic indicators: Population size and growth Age distribution (youth and elders balance) Gender composition</p> <p>Housing: Crowding (persons per room) Condition of dwellings (need for major repairs) Number of dwellings</p> <p>Education and skills: School attendance Highest level of schooling completed</p> <p>Economic security: Employment and unemployment rates Median income</p> <p>Language and cultural indicators: Knowledge and use of Indigenous languages Language spoken at home Mother tongue</p>	<p>No data for communities that did not participate in the census.</p> <p>Limited detail for small populations due to confidentiality rules.</p> <p>Some aspects of wellbeing (mental health, social cohesion) are not captured in census data.</p>	<p>Community-led surveys to include non-participating communities.</p> <p>Administrative data linkage (health, education, housing programs).</p> <p>Qualitative research to capture cultural and social dimensions of wellbeing.</p> <p>Collaborative data-sharing agreements with Indigenous organizations.</p>
<p>Customized membership profiles for First Nations communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Based on members of these communities regardless of residence, with an optional on/off reserve dimension. -Available for multiple census cycles. <p>Source: Statistics Canada data tables in profile format.</p> <p>Access: Census information is public; customized extractions may involve cost recovery fees.</p>	<p>Spatial: Profiles can distinguish on-reserve vs. off-reserve populations, providing insight into mobility and service needs.</p> <p>Temporal: Data available across multiple census cycles, enabling trend analysis of membership patterns.</p>	<p>Same as above</p>	<p>Customized profiles may require cost recovery, limiting accessibility.</p> <p>Does not capture non-census factors (e.g., cultural engagement, community ties).</p> <p>Confidentiality rules may restrict detailed breakdowns for small communities.</p>	<p>Community-led registries to complement census data.</p> <p>Qualitative research on reasons for living on/off reserve and impacts on wellbeing.</p> <p>Linkage with administrative data (health, education) for service planning.</p> <p>Collaborative data-sharing agreements with Indigenous organizations.</p>

Assessment Priority: Healthy environment relationships

Best sources of existing data, including means to access it	Adequate spatial and temporal boundaries to assess impacts	Key indicators to describe potential impacts	Known data gaps or uncertainties	Suggestions for studies or other ways to fill those gaps
<p>Water yield data (1971–2021) by drainage area and ecoprovince: -Annual and monthly (mean, minimum, maximum) water yield. Source: Statistics Canada CODR tables and geospatial files (public).</p> <p>Land cover data (2020) by ecoprovince, ecozone, drainage region, major drainage area, and sub-drainage area: Source: Statistics Canada CODR tables and geospatial files (public).</p> <p>Future data: Additional terrestrial ecosystem condition data expected in Spring 2026 (not yet public).</p>	<p>Spatial: Ecoprovince, ecozone, drainage region, major and sub-drainage areas—allowing analysis at multiple ecological scales.</p> <p>Temporal: -Water yield: 50-year historical record (1971–2021) for trend analysis. -Land cover: Snapshot for 2020</p>	<p>Hydrological indicators: -Annual water yield (mm or m³) -Seasonal variability (minimum/maximum monthly yield)</p> <p>Land cover indicators: -Percentage of forest, wetlands, agricultural land -Changes in natural vs. developed areas</p> <p>Ecosystem condition indicators (2026)</p>	<p>Ecosystem condition data not yet available (expected 2026).</p> <p>Land cover data currently limited to 2020 snapshot—no historical trend.</p> <p>Water yield data does not capture water quality or groundwater availability.</p>	<p>Remote sensing analysis using high resolution imagery to monitor land cover changes over time. Focus on conversion from natural/semi-natural to built-up areas.</p> <p>Water quality monitoring programs to complement yield data.</p> <p>Community-based environmental monitoring for local context and cultural perspectives.</p> <p>Integration with climate models to predict future water and land conditions.</p>