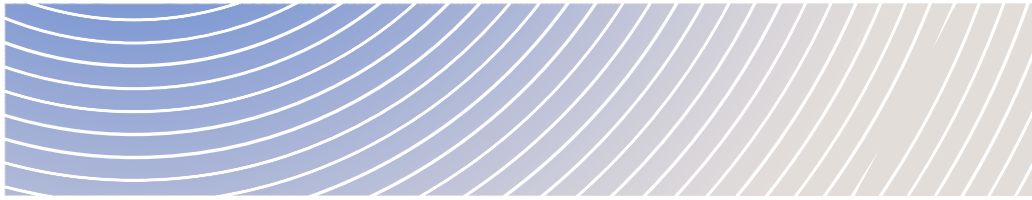


Wasamac Gold Mine Project



INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

March 2021



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On November 26, 2020, the Canadian Impact Assessment Agency (the Agency) determined that an impact assessment was required for the Wasamac Gold Mine Project (the Project), pursuant to section 16 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

Several Indigenous peoples have established or potential Aboriginal or Treaty rights in the Project's study area. The Government of Canada has the obligation to consult and, if applicable, accommodate Indigenous peoples and communities when contemplating actions that may adversely affect established or potential Aboriginal and treaty rights.

This Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (the Plan) outlines opportunities and methods to ensure that meaningful consultations are conducted by the Agency with potentially affected Indigenous peoples. Meaningful consultations are to be conducted throughout the project's impact assessment process, in the spirit of reconciliation towards a renewed nation-to-nation relationship and in accordance with the [Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples](#). This Plan is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Agency from making modifications to the approaches outlined in this Plan, in consultation with Indigenous peoples, to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment process.

In this document, the term "Indigenous peoples" is used to refer to Indigenous communities that may wish to participate in the impact assessment. This term includes Indigenous peoples or other sub-groups linked by band, geographic location, community roles or other shared governance mechanisms, values or identity. In the context of the impact assessment process, the Agency encourages the active participation of Chief and Council, community leaders or other Indigenous collectives, as well as other members of the community, such as women, elders and youth.

For more information on involving Indigenous peoples throughout the impact assessment process, please consult the Agency's "[Guidance: Indigenous Participation in Impact Assessment](#)".

To complete this broader Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, individualized consultation plans may be developed to describe a community's specific objectives for consultation, or any unique features of the impact assessment and consultation process pertaining to that community for this Project.

In addition to this Plan, the Agency plans to engage interested Indigenous peoples in the impact assessment process through the engagement tools and methods described in the [Public Participation Plan](#),

Finally, the Agency recognizes that at the time of writing this document, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on Indigenous communities and across Canada. The Agency is committed to being as flexible as possible in engaging with Indigenous peoples to accommodate the limitations of the ongoing pandemic.



2. Project Description

Yamana Gold is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground gold mine located in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, approximately 15 kilometres from downtown Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec. As proposed, the Wasamac Gold Mine Project would have a mine life of 11 years and an ore production capacity of 6053 tonnes per day. The Project would include the operation of an underground mine, the construction of an ore processing plant and related infrastructure, and the development of underground infrastructure for ore and waste rock transportation as well as waste rock, tailings and overburden accumulation areas.

According to the information presented by the proponent in their detailed project description, the potential impacts of the Project on Indigenous peoples could include: loss of traditional activities places and practices; temporary disruption of traditional activities; increased heavy vehicle and worker traffic on local and regional roads and increased risk of road incidents; potential disruption of sites and places of cultural, heritage and archaeological interest; business opportunities for regional businesses; creation or maintenance of jobs in the region; etc. For more details on the potential impacts, please refer to the proponent's [detailed project description summary](#).



3. Objectives of Indigenous Engagement and Partnership

3.1 Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Objectives

The Government of Canada is committed to a renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, collaboration and partnership. The Government of Canada is also committed to fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) in the Canadian context, as reaffirmed in the preamble to the *Impact Assessment Act*. This plan enables the Agency to support the government's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the implementation of the UN Declaration.

The Agency recognises that Indigenous peoples wish to be involved in a consent based consultation process. The Agency believes that achieving consent will be facilitated by Indigenous peoples' confidence in their ability to influence decisions made under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

The Agency strives to establish an open and constructive dialogue with Indigenous peoples in order to collaborate and identify potential solutions to issues raised during the process. This way, Indigenous peoples should know with confidence that their views are being considered in a meaningful and reasonable way. Through this dialogue, Indigenous peoples should also be able to make an informed decision about whether or not they consent to the Minister's approval of the Project, if it is in the public interest.

The Project's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan addresses:

- The consultation process through which the Agency aims to secure the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples, among others by collaboratively identifying mitigation measures, complementary measures and accommodation measures to be implemented in order to avoid, minimize, or compensate for potential adverse impacts that may result from the proposed Project;
- Crown consultation on the potential positive and adverse effects (direct and indirect) of the Project and the adverse impacts of the Project on the rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada, recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (section 35 rights);
- The engagement of Indigenous peoples regarding Indigenous knowledge and how it can inform the consideration of potential Project effects and impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights;
- Engagement with Indigenous peoples to determine cultural considerations and customs that should be taken into account in Project decision-making;
- Engagement with Indigenous peoples in order to encourage the participation of different subgroups of the population, including women, youth and elders, and to produce disaggregated data;

- Engagement with Indigenous peoples throughout the impact assessment process, including opportunities to provide comments on key documents and the broader consultation and engagement processes;
- Engagement with Indigenous peoples to account for the concerns raised regarding the potential effects; and
- Opportunities for cooperation with Indigenous peoples, particularly those who show an interest in parts of the impact assessment.

3.2 Objectives Identified by Indigenous Peoples During the Planning Phase

The following objectives were identified by Indigenous peoples as important in designing an approach to Indigenous engagement :

- Consultation that takes into consideration the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the difficulty of engaging with community members virtually and the inability of committees, including elders' committees, to meet in person;
- Consultation that respects the autonomy of each community from others and their freedom of association, if applicable, according to the preference expressed by the representatives of each community;
- Consultation that respects the diverse roles of Indigenous peoples within the Project area;
- Consultation that respects the consultation protocols already established in certain communities;
- Consultation that respects the approaches preferred by community representatives to consult their members;
- Recognition that Indigenous peoples are best placed to consult their members;
- Creation of an ethical space for exchange and collaboration, in which knowledge systems can interact with mutual respect and are equal in merit;
- Decisions related to the Project are informed by the comments of Indigenous peoples on the concept of sustainability;
- Decisions related to the Project are informed by concerns and values of Indigenous peoples;
- Decisions related to the Project are informed by the Indigenous knowledge shared through this process;
- Decisions related to the Project that take into account the cumulative negative impacts of all past, current and planned industrial activity in the area, plus the new impacts of the Project;
- Decisions informed by the knowledge that everything in nature is connected;
- Recognition of the importance of the proponent acting in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Recognition of the importance of the proponent obtaining the consent of the communities affected by its project before proceeding;



- Recognition that the impacts of the Project will need to be appropriately accommodated before the Project is approved;
- Communication of important information throughout the process, with each community individually;
- Alignment of federal and provincial processes, as much as possible, to avoid consultation fatigue;
- Access to all documentation produced by the proponent in both official languages, including technical documents;
- Access to adequate financial support to enable meaningful participation in the impact assessment process;
- For some communities, the own carrying out of the impact assessment that concerns them in order to make more use of their knowledge and understanding of their own realities; and
- For some communities, the development of an individualized consultation plan.



4. Indigenous Peoples

With respect to Crown consultation in relation to the impact assessment of the Project, the Agency presents a list of Indigenous peoples for whom the Project may adversely affect the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

While impact assessment is not a rights-determination process, the Crown will consult with the Indigenous peoples listed below to understand concerns and potential adverse impacts of the Project on their exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights and, where appropriate, accommodate them. These consultations will also form an integral part of the work that will support the assessment of the Project.

This list is subject to change as knowledge of the potential effects and impacts of the Project is gained, or if the Project or its components are modified, or as a result of any other information gathered during the impact assessment.

Table 1: Crown List of Indigenous Peoples to be Consulted

Province	Indigenous Peoples
QC	Algonquins of Barriere Lake
QC	Communauté Anicinape de Kitcisakik
QC	Nation Anishnabe du Lac Simon
QC	Première Nation Abitibiwinni
QC	Kebaowek First Nation
QC	Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
QC	Long Point First Nation
QC	Timiskaming First Nation
QC	Wolf Lake First Nation
ON	Wahgoshig First Nation
ON	Taykwa Tagamou Nation
QC	Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government



During the Planning phase, the Cree Nation Government and the Wahgoshig First Nation informed the Agency that they did not wish to fully participate in the impact assessment process for the Project at this time. However, the Agency will continue to inform them of the impact assessment process at each phase.



5. Engagement and Consultation Tools and Methods

The Agency has summarized a list of tools and methods to ensure meaningful engagement and consultation throughout the impact assessment process. As part of the Agency's engagement and consultation activities, these tools and methods will include, but are not limited to:

- Funding under the Participant Funding Program to support the engagement of Indigenous peoples in consultation activities, including the assessment of potential direct and incidental impacts and potential cumulative impacts and adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights attributable to the Project;
- Funding to support the engagement of all subgroups in the community, including youth, women and elders;
- Funding provided sufficiently in advance of the work to be done, so that communities can plan their human resources in advance and secure their salaries, and thus avoid doing this planning when the comment periods have already begun;
- Provide clear information on the funding available, the timelines associated with the impact assessment process (including visual representations), and the expected workload for Indigenous peoples to ensure full participation and engagement;
- Include deadlines for comment periods in all Agency communications, including those issued by Participant Funding Program officers, until the deadlines have passed. Issue reminders, by e-mail or telephone, a few days before the deadlines;
- Ongoing, open and transparent communication between the Crown and Indigenous communities;
- Sharing information with community members according to the modes of communication identified by representatives of each community (e.g., brochures; social media; community radio; community meetings; newsletters);
- Consideration of cultural elements, including issues related to seasons (e.g., greater participation during the warm season, unavailability during harvest and hunting times), cultural protocols (e.g., tobacco offering and gift giving), and spirituality (e.g., opening prayers);
- Adherence, to the extent possible, to Indigenous consultation protocols in consultation or engagement activities;
- Recognition of toponymy as part of Indigenous knowledge and use of Indigenous place names to promote exchanges;
- Recognition that maps representing traditional territories remain living documents;
- Signing of confidentiality agreements to prevent unauthorized disclosure of Indigenous knowledge and thereby promote the sharing of Indigenous knowledge;
- Reasonable time for consultation meetings in the communities;
- Inclusive meetings that allow for diverse participation (e.g., accessibility of meeting locations, timing of meetings, transportation, child care, focus group size to suit communities' preferences, door prizes to encourage participation);
- Virtual meetings that favor small group discussions;

- Mobilization activities tailored to the specific needs of each community (e.g. virtual meetings, face-to-face meetings, surveys);
- Availability of federal experts to participate in meetings/workshops on technical issues
- Considering the oral comments of Indigenous communities' members as seriously and with the same consideration as if they had been submitted in writing;
- Providing training on the impact assessment process¹;
- Sharing a summary of the meeting with the Indigenous communities that participated, and they ensure that the views of their members are well represented;
- Providing Indigenous peoples with all information relevant to the project held by the Crown in a timely manner;
- Encouraging the proponent to provide information on their project in visual format, such as 3D representations;
- providing workshop in such formats promoting the discussion of key documents during the impact assessment process, as appropriate; and
- Consideration of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and flexibility to accommodate associated requests where possible (i.e. respond positively to requests for additional time for comment periods; give preference to virtual meetings; consider the preferences of each community in the choice of virtual platforms to be used; hold face-to-face meetings in neutral locations where physical distance is possible).

In addition, the Agency will explore certain possibilities:

- Translation of key high-level summaries into French, English or Indigenous languages, where possible;
- Flexible timeframes, as much as possible and within legislated timeframes, to accommodate communication and mobilization processes in communities; and
- Participation of translators or interpreters in meetings between Indigenous peoples and the Crown.

The Agency will work with Indigenous peoples on these elements, including bilaterally, to develop community-specific individualized consultation plans.

¹ Level 1 and Level 2 Indigenous-specific training focuses on the impact assessment process and is available on the Agency's website at <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/014/index-eng.aspx>.



6. Approach to Engagement and Consultation

Table 3 on pages 17-25 provides a description of the key steps in the impact assessment process and explains the Agency's proposed provisions, on behalf of the Crown, to adequately engage and consult with Indigenous peoples during each step. The participation of Indigenous peoples in the Crown's consultation activities will be supported by the Participant Funding Program. This table describes the objectives of each phase and methods of engagement, including opportunities for collaboration between the Crown and Indigenous peoples during the impact assessment process.

Prior to determining the need for an impact assessment, the Agency consulted with Indigenous peoples on the Initial Project Description and prepared a Summary of Issues. This Summary of Issues, which includes, among other things, the key issues identified by Indigenous peoples, was subsequently forwarded by the Agency to the proponent for response. The Agency then solicited comments from Indigenous peoples on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (this document). The Agency has taken the received comments into consideration in finalizing these documents.

The Indigenous peoples listed in Table 1 who wish to develop a individualized consultation plan with the Agency are invited to express their interest to the Agency as soon as possible, if they haven't already, so that this plan can be prepared during the Impact Statement phase.

The plan could also be modified as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. For example, the Agency and/or Indigenous peoples may decide that remote sessions would be more secure than face-to-face sessions. If a change to the process, timelines, tools or opportunities for participation is required, the Agency will publish a notice on the Registry and send an email to the distribution list to notify participants.



7. Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques Approach to Engagement

In addition to the federal impact assessment process, the Wasamac Gold Project is subject to the provincial impact assessment and review process, in accordance with Quebec's *Environment Quality Act*. For more information on the provincial process, please consult the Wasamac Gold Project page on the [Quebec Environmental Assessment Registry](#).

The Agency will collaborate with the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC) to ensure smooth and timely information sharing.

Crown consultation will be carried out by the Agency and the MELCC separately and according to their respective responsibilities.

For more information, please consult the [cooperation plan](#) between the Agency and the MELCC.



8. Proponent's Approaches to Engagement

For information on the proponent's engagement activities with Indigenous peoples during the impact assessment process, please refer to the summary of the proponent's [Detailed Project Description](#) on the Registry. In addition, the proponent's website hosts a participatory platform that can be accessed at the following link: <https://consultationswasamac.com>.

The Agency expects that the proponent's engagement efforts will be consistent with the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Agency expects the proponent to engage Indigenous peoples to gather information, identify potential effects and appropriate mitigation or accommodation measures, and address concerns throughout the impact assessment process.

The Agency also expects the proponent to include Indigenous knowledge and cultural considerations in the preparation of the impact assessment, which has been validated by the Indigenous peoples who provided it, before formally submitting it to the Agency for review.

The [Practitioner's Guide to Federal Impact Assessments under the *Impact Assessment Act*](#)², available online, contains several guidance documents related to engaging and mobilizing Indigenous peoples. It is expected that the proponent will follow and refer to the guidance contained in this Guide in order to adequately consult Indigenous peoples and complete its impact statement.

Upon request, the Agency may consider organizing a series of meetings, in coordination with the proponent and Indigenous peoples, to discuss, among other things, technical issues as the assessment process progresses. The conclusions of such meetings should be documented and published on the Registry. The Agency's expectations of the proponent are detailed in the [Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#).

² Refer to the Practitioner's Guide: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act.html>



9. Participant Funding

Any reference to funding listed in this section refers only to the assistance offered by the Agency, and not to any other financial arrangements that may exist between Indigenous peoples and the proponent.

During the Planning phase, funding was provided by the Agency to Indigenous peoples potentially affected by the project to enable them to comment on the initial project description, as well as the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the project and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

Funding is also available to help Indigenous peoples participate throughout the impact assessment process. Indigenous peoples will have the opportunity to apply for funding during the Impact Statement phase. This funding will help Indigenous peoples comment on the proponent's Impact Statement and the Agency's draft impact assessment report, including the summary of consultations, as well as potential conditions.

The Agency recognizes that the mere fact that an Indigenous people accepts funding to participate in the impact assessment process does not mean that they consent to the project or are in agreement with the impact assessment process.

For information on what activities are eligible for funding or to apply for funding, see the National Program Guidelines and Application at <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/participant-funding-program-national-program-guidelines.html>.



10. Roles and Responsibilities of Federal Authorities

The [Permitting Plan](#) describes the permits and authorizations that may be required to complete the project.

Federal authorities identified in the Permitting Plan, as well as those with additional expertise will engage with the Agency, the proponent, Indigenous peoples and other parties to clarify information requirements related to their expertise or knowledge. Throughout the impact assessment process, federal authorities may also review and analyze the proponent's Impact Statement and the Agency's draft impact assessment report; support and participate in the Agency's Crown consultation activities; and assist the Agency and Indigenous peoples in understanding, assessing and addressing potential impacts to the Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Agency will coordinate the Crown's consultation process and act as a point of contact for Indigenous peoples who may wish to invite certain federal authorities to participate in discussions, as appropriate.

Each federal authority's expertise in impact assessment is described in their respective fact sheets, available on the public registry at the links listed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Federal Authorities Advice Records describing their expertise regarding the impact assessment process for the Project**

Federal Authority	Federal Authorities Advice Records available on the Registry
Environnement and Climate Change Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49570
Health Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49573
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49572
Natural Resources Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49574
Transport Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49571
Canadian Transportation Agency	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49566
Women and Gender Equality Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49575
Employment and Social Development Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49569
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49567
Indigenous Services Canada	https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80879/contributions/id/49568



11. How to Submit Comments and Contact Information

Comments can be submitted at any time during the Impact assessment process by using the "submit comment" function on the [Registry project page \(Reference Number 80879\)](#). Attachments can also be uploaded using this function. If you encounter any difficulties during submission, please contact the Agency at iaac.information.aeic@canada.ca for assistance. Comments can also be sent by e-mail to iaac.wasamac.aeic@canada.ca or by mail to the address listed below.

Comments and other documents received by the Agency will be part of the project file and will be posted on the public Registry, with the exception of comments or documents that are deemed confidential or subject to a non-disclosure agreement. The Agency's Submission Policy³ identifies which information submitted may be publicly disclosed and which information should remain private. For more information on how we protect confidentiality, please see the Privacy Notice⁴. If you do not wish to have your comments posted on the Registry, please contact the Agency at the contact information below before submitting your comments or document.

A summary of comments received during the impact assessment process will also be added to the Agency's impact assessment report.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Agency office responsible for administering the impact assessment process for this project:

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Wasamac Gold Mine Project
901-1550, 'Estimauville Avenue
Québec (Québec) G1J 0C1
Telephone: 418-254-2435
Email: iaac.wasamac.aeic@canada.ca

³ The Agency's Submission Policy is available at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions?&culture=en-CA>.

⁴ The Agency's Privacy Notice is available at <https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection?&culture=en-CA>.

Table 3: Indigenous Engagement Approaches and Activities

Notes: The following table complements Table 1 of the [Public Participation Plan](#) which also applies to Indigenous peoples, unless otherwise specified in this Plan.

Rather than specific dates, the "Timelines" column contains references to the maximum length of time allowed by the IAA to complete each phase of the process. As the process progresses and the specific dates become known, they will be communicated to Indigenous peoples.

Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
Stage 2: Impact Statement phase (up to three years)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, encourage and implement opportunities for collaboration (e.g., studies conducted by Indigenous peoples). Continue the development of individualized consultation plans specific to an Indigenous community, as appropriate. Communicate project information in a timely manner and to the extent possible. Engage and/or consult with potentially affected Indigenous peoples on issues of importance to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency is working with Indigenous peoples to implement the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan. The Agency works with Indigenous peoples to develop and implement individualized consultation plans specific to an Indigenous community, including the identification of partnership approaches where appropriate. The Agency maintains a dialogue with section 35 rights holders regarding the conduct of an assessment of potential impacts on section 35 rights. The Agency manages participant funding with eligible Indigenous peoples to support their participation in the impact assessment process. The Agency sends an update e-mail and/or letter on the process, including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous peoples provide additional comments on partnership opportunities and how they wish to be involved in developing and implementing individualized consultation plans specific to their community. Indigenous peoples indicate to the Agency their level of satisfaction with the consultation process to date. Indigenous peoples submit comments, including but not limited to Indigenous knowledge, where appropriate, for consideration by the proponent in the preparation of its Impact Statement. Indigenous peoples collaborate with the proponent to gather relevant information on the potential positive and negative effects (direct and indirect) of the Project and on the mitigation and follow-up measures and/or to jointly develop certain sections of the Impact Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Videoconferences E-mails Online comments Participant Funding Face-to-face meetings (if the public health context permits) Community meetings (if the public health context permits) Notices on the public Registry, social media, newspapers and radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of Indigenous community-specific consultation plans will begin, where appropriate, following the finalization of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan. Videoconferences or meetings between Indigenous peoples and the Agency will be offered within approximately 30 days of sharing draft Indigenous community-specific consultation plans, where appropriate. As soon as the Impact Statement is completed, implementation of a

Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the potential impact of the project on the exercise of section 35 rights. • Identify the proponent's commitments, and proposed mitigation and accommodation measures that could address the concerns of Indigenous peoples regarding the potential adverse impacts of the project on their rights. Where appropriate, identify additional measures. • Obtain the opinion of Indigenous peoples on whether the Impact Statement submitted by the proponent meets the requirements set out in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and whether the information provided is sufficient to proceed with the impact assessment. 	<p>plain language informational materials, and adds links to key documents on the public Registry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency sends correspondence detailing how the comments made by Indigenous peoples on the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan were taken into account. • The Agency shares information or provides training to Indigenous peoples on the impact assessment process. • The Agency requires the proponent to provide accessible, plain-language information materials to support the participation of Indigenous peoples. • The Agency requires the proponent to submit information about the project and the results of its studies and to inform Indigenous peoples about technical issues. • The Agency organizes meetings with the proponent, expert authorities and Indigenous peoples to discuss technical issues. • The Agency requires the proponent to work with Indigenous peoples to enable them to gather Indigenous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples share their views on the potential impact of the Project on their rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>. • Indigenous peoples work with the Agency to conduct a preliminary assessment of the project's potential impacts on their rights and identify potential mitigation and accommodation measures. • Indigenous peoples submit to the Agency opinions and/or comments on the proponent's Impact Statement 		<p>collaborative approach between the Agency, federal authorities and Indigenous peoples to review the proponent's Impact Statement in order to gather information on the Project's potential impact on the rights of Indigenous peoples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building activities, including community meetings and videoconferences, that can be conducted at any time during the Impact Statement phase and continuing throughout the Impact Assessment phase. • Ongoing posting on the public Registry of documents relevant to the impact assessment and comments received via the public Registry's "submit comment" function is available throughout the impact assessment process.



Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
	<p>knowledge for inclusion in the Impact Statement. The Agency requires the proponent to consider Indigenous knowledge on an equal footing with scientific knowledge in the preparation of its Impact Statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency requires the proponent to collaborate with Indigenous peoples in the assessment of potential positive and negative effects (direct and incidental), as well as mitigation and follow-up measures, for the preparation of the Impact Statement. • The Agency works with Indigenous peoples to develop partnership approaches, where appropriate, to the review of the proponent's Impact Statement. • The Agency provides Indigenous peoples with information on the protection of confidential information. • Comment period on the Impact Statement is conducted by the Agency. The comments will help the Agency determine whether there is sufficient information available to conduct the impact assessment of the project. Indigenous peoples will also be able to share their opinion on the project's effects, the mitigation 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate 30-day comment period on the Impact Statement. The comment period will begin once the Agency determines that the Impact Statement is compliant with the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. • Impact Statement discussion sessions held within approximately 30 days of the publication of the Impact Statement on the public Registry. • The Impact Statement phase will be completed within 3 years or less from the notice of commencement including the the public consultation on the Impact statement and time the proponent takes to answer questions and provide additional information.



Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
	<p>measures and follow-up program required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where appropriate, the Agency will seek additional information from the proponent.• The Agency posts key documents on the public Registry, in English and in French.• At the end of the Impact Statement phase, the Agency will provide Indigenous peoples with any necessary updates, including with respect to the implementation of the IEPP, any individualized consultation plans, the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge, and any updates required for the Crown's preliminary assessment of potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights (based on information gathered during the Impact Statement phase).			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications with the proponent throughout the Impact Statement phase.
Stage 3: Impact Assessment phase (conducted by the Agency) (up to 300 days)				

Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information about the impact assessment process and opportunities for participation • Provide timely updates on consultation procedures, as appropriate. • Update individualized consultation plans specific to an Indigenous community, as required. • Develop preliminary conclusions of the assessment of the project's potential impacts on the rights of Indigenous peoples. • Validate information on the Agency's draft impact assessment report and potential conditions associated with it, resolve outstanding issues or deficiencies raised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency works with Indigenous peoples to implement the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, as well as individualized consultation plans, where appropriate. • The Agency provides participant funding to eligible Indigenous peoples to support their participation in this phase. • The Agency sends an update e-mail and/or letter on the process and plain language materials for distribution and adds links to key documents in the public Registry. • The Agency continues to work with Indigenous peoples on the preliminary assessment of potential impacts on rights to draft the consultation and accommodation chapters of the Agency's impact assessment report. • The Agency posts key documents on the public Registry: draft impact assessment report and draft list of potential conditions, in English and French. The Agency organizes presentations on the draft impact assessment report and the potential conditions associated with it. The 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples indicate to the Agency their level of satisfaction with the consultation process to date. • Indigenous peoples shall submit to the Agency their views on the effects of the Project, including the potential impacts of the Project on Indigenous peoples and their section 35 rights; on the manner in which Indigenous knowledge has been integrated into the Impact Statement; and on the mitigation and/or accommodation measures proposed by the proponent. • Indigenous peoples provide the Agency with comments on the Agency's draft impact assessment report. • Indigenous peoples submit comments to the Agency on the draft list of potential conditions. • Indigenous peoples participate in meetings with the Agency to identify potentially outstanding issues and any proposals to address these outstanding issues. • Indigenous peoples present their views to the Agency on the adequacy of consultation throughout the impact assessment process. The assessment of the adequacy of consultation will be included in the report. • The Agency invites Indigenous peoples to provide a brief summary of their views on the project, the consultation process and proposed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videoconferences • E-mails • Online comments • Participant Funding • Face-to-face meetings (if the public health context permits) • Community meetings (virtual, and in-person if the public health context permits) • Notices in the public Registry, social media, newspapers and radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Impact Assessment phase will last a maximum of 300 days. • Exchange sessions on the draft report and list of potential conditions to be held within approximately 30 days of publication of the documents on the public Registry. • Approximate 30-day comment period on the Agency's draft impact assessment report, as well as on the draft list of potential conditions, starting following their publication on the public Registry.



Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
	<p>presentations will include question and answer sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Agency uses the comments submitted on the public Registry, in addition to the ongoing dialogue with section 35 rights holders, to continue to assess the potential impact on section 35 rights.• The Agency consults with Indigenous peoples on any proposed complementary or alternative accommodation measures with respect to potential adverse impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights.• The Agency sends out correspondence detailing how comments received during a consultation period and at meetings have been considered.• Using the draft impact assessment report as its primary tool, the Agency, along with the Crown consultation team, will provide any updates related to the implementation of the IEPP, any individualized consultation plans, and the Crown's detailed assessment of potential adverse impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights (based on information gathered	<p>accommodation measures to address impacts and concerns, which would be included in the file submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Agency will incorporate the views of Indigenous peoples in the impact assessment report. However, Indigenous peoples may also choose to prepare their own independent submissions that will be submitted directly to the Minister to help inform their decision.		

Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
	during the Impact Assessment phase).			
Stage 4: Decision-Making phase (up to 30 days)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the impact assessment report, which includes the views of Indigenous peoples, to the Minister. • Submit independent submissions prepared by Indigenous peoples directly to the Minister, where appropriate. • Answer outstanding questions, if any. • Provide the Decision Statement to potentially affected Indigenous peoples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency submits the impact assessment report to the Minister. The report includes the views of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples may also choose to make their own independent submissions directly to the Minister, to help inform federal decision-making. • The Agency sends an update e-mail and/or letter on the process and plain language materials for distribution and adds links to key documents in the public Registry. • Where appropriate, the Agency continues to consult with Indigenous peoples on the impact assessment report, any recommended potential additional conditions, proposals for potential complementary measures or other accommodation measures with respect to potential adverse impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing dialogue with the Agency on the assessment of potential adverse impact on rights, where appropriate. • Ongoing dialogue with the Agency on possible accommodation options, as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mails • Videoconferences, if required • Participant Funding, if applicable • Face-to-face meetings, as appropriate (if the public health context permits) • Notices on the public Registry, social media, newspapers and radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public notice announcing the Decision Statement will be published within 30 days from the time the Agency publish the Impact Assessment report and proposed conditions to the Minister. • Within approximately 30 days of the posting of the Decision Statement, opportunity for a videoconference between the Agency and Indigenous peoples to discuss the decision and related documents. • Consultations continue during the Decision-Making phase to discuss additional accommodation, if required.



Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency responds to outstanding issues prior to the Minister's Decision Statement. • The Agency posts the Minister's Decision Statement on the public Registry. The Decision Statement will include the reasons for the public interest determination and any enforceable conditions to be met by the proponent. • The Agency sends correspondence detailing how comments received during a consultation period and at meetings have been considered. • The Agency holds a briefing with Indigenous peoples on the Minister's Decision Statement and explains how comments were taken into account. • The Agency offers interested Indigenous peoples an opportunity to learn about the steps that will follow the impact assessment decision. 			
Step 5: Post decision phase (If the Project is approved)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer the Crown consultation file to federal authorities. • Establish, where appropriate, an oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency facilitates the transfer of the Crown consultation record to federal authorities for post-decision regulatory approvals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples could participate on the oversight committee, as appropriate. • Indigenous peoples comment on changes to the Decision Statement if the proponent submits a project change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online comments on changes to the Decision Statement, if the proponent submits a project change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and follow-up activities will take place throughout the life cycle of the project.



Stage Objectives	Planned Activities	Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples	Methods of Engagement and Consultation	Timelines
<p>committee to support the monitoring and surveillance program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make the results of the monitoring program available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Agency will conduct compliance and enforcement activities.• The Agency will engage and/or consult on amendments to the Decision Statement, if the proponent submits a project change.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If an oversight committee is established, meetings will be held according to timelines identified through discussions with committee members.• The results of the monitoring program are posted according to the schedule identified in the Decision Statement.• The online comment period will take place within 30 days of the posting of potential changes to the Decision Statement, if the proponent submits a project change.