

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

POTENTIAL REGIONAL ASSESSMENT : ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, QUEBEC

January 2021



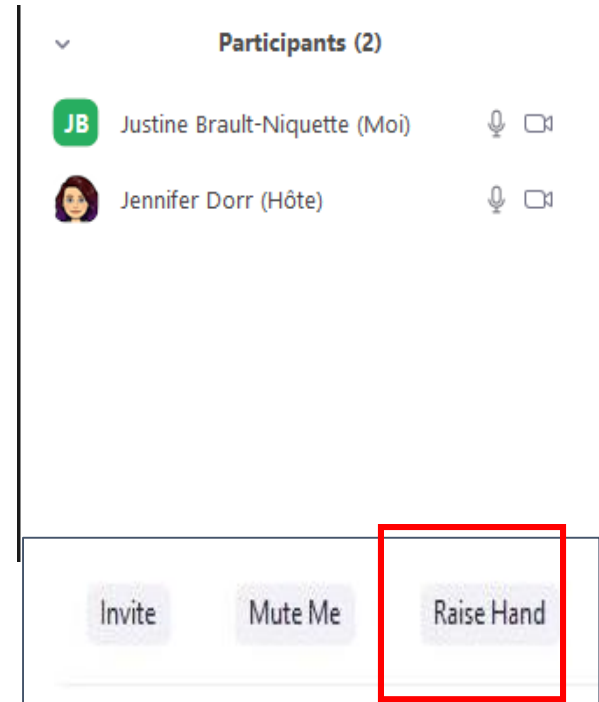
Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada

TO ASK A QUESTION

- Click the “raise hand” function, or type the question into the chat
- If you are on the phone, press *9 to ask a question
- Please mute your microphone unless speaking



OVERVIEW

- Regional Assessments under the *Impact Assessment Act*
- Summary of Request for Regional Assessment of the St. Lawrence River, Quebec, and Minister's Response
- Engagement process for the potential St. Lawrence River Regional Assessment
- Useful Links
- Questions



Regional Assessments Under the *Impact Assessment Act*



REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS UNDER IAA

- *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) allows the Minister to establish a committee or authorize the Agency to conduct a Regional Assessment (RA) of the effects of existing or future physical activities in a region (Sections 92-93)
- Sections 94 and 96-103 of the IAA set out various procedural requirements for the conduct of RAs under the Act
- RA is a key aspect of the implementation framework for the IAA, with the objective of improving IA effectiveness and efficiency
- IAA requires that the results of RAs be considered at several points in subsequent project-specific impact assessments



REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS UNDER IAA

- RAs have been defined by IAAC as:
 - Studies conducted in areas of existing projects or anticipated development to inform planning and management of cumulative effects and project impact assessments
 - RAs allow the Government of Canada to go beyond project-focused impact assessments to understand the regional context and provide more comprehensive analyses to help inform future impact assessment decisions
- RA objectives can vary, and range from providing information, analysis and mitigation to future projects and IAs, to a regional framework for assessing and addressing cumulative effects
- IAAC RA program includes planning and conduct of several RAs, review of potential RAs, and development of associated policy



WHO CONDUCTS AN RA?

- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change is responsible for establishing a committee or authorizing the Agency to conduct a regional assessment
- If the region is partly or entirely outside of federal lands, the Minister can enter into an agreement with another jurisdiction for the joint conduct of the regional assessment
- The Minister must establish or approve the terms of reference for the regional assessment and appoint or approve the appointment of a committee, if applicable



POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory, compilation and presentation of existing scientific, technical and cultural information for the Study Area (including Report(s) and potential GIS application)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification and analysis of key information gaps, requirements and opportunities
Effects and Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Description of the potential environmental, health, social or economic effects (positive or negative) resulting from future development activities in the region
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Description and analysis of key ecological and socioeconomic components, values and issues that should be considered in associated regulatory and planning processes for future developments in the region
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of mitigation measures for future developments in the region (standard and situation-specific)

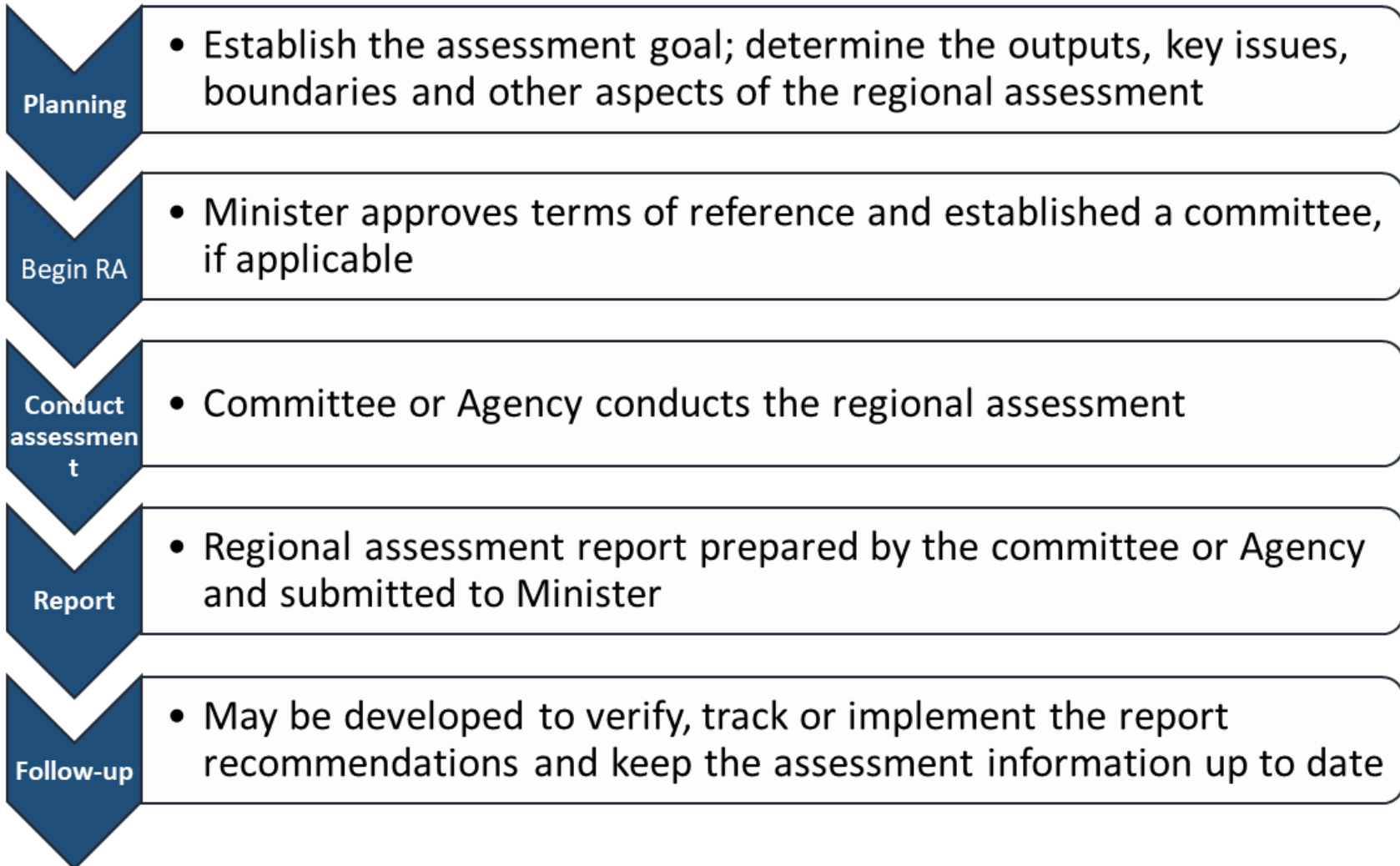


POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

Effects and Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations on non-project specific measures to address regional issues
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional framework for future projects and Impact Assessments (esp. cumulative effects)
RA Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations on how to incorporate and address the above through applicable legislative and regulatory processes



GENERAL STEPS IN AN RA



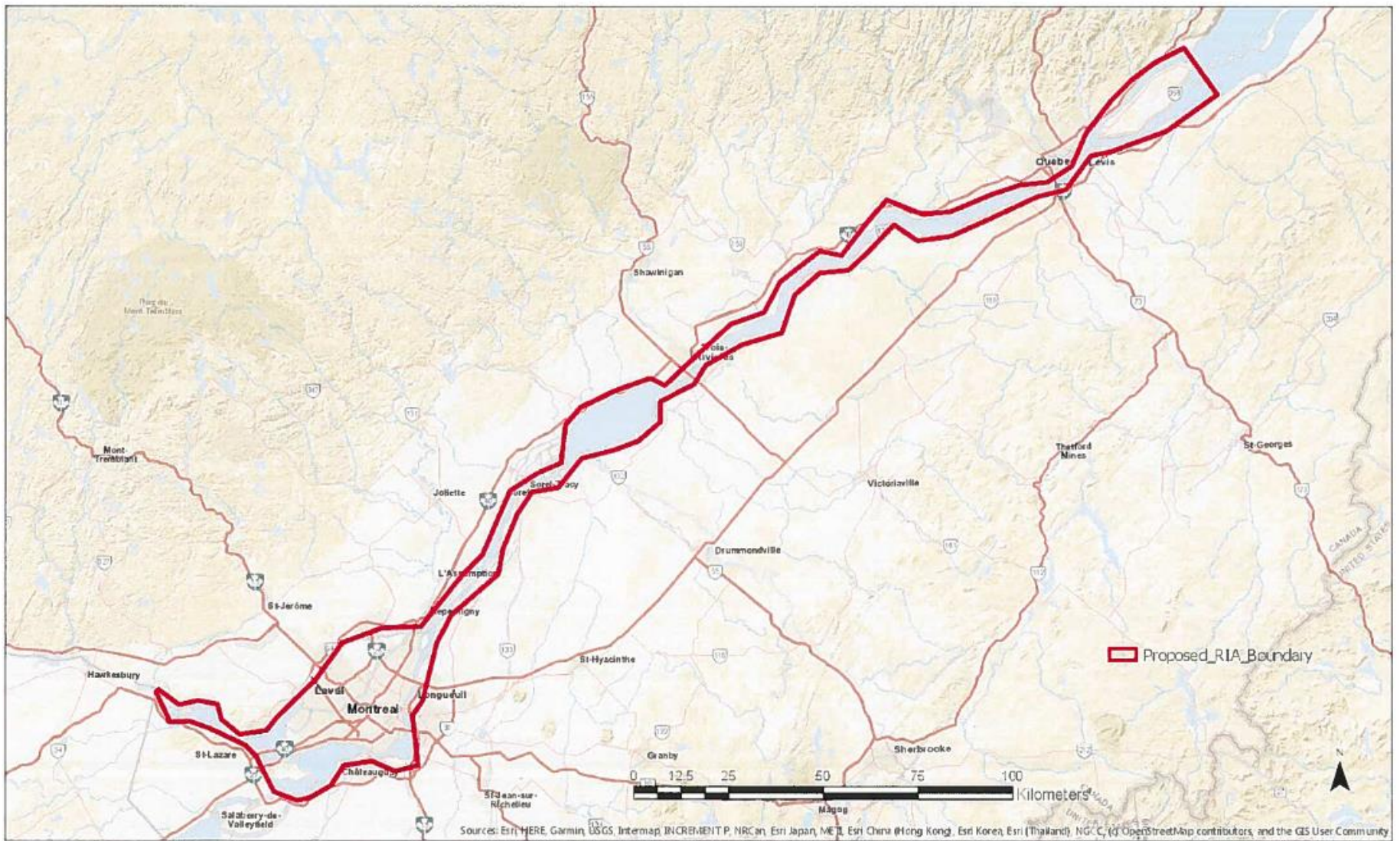
Request for Regional Assessment of the St. Lawrence River Area, QC

THE RA REQUEST

Requestor: Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

Rationale:

- Increased shipping activity and related industrialization in region has resulted in adverse effects and cumulative effects, thereby interfering with their ability to exercise their section 35 rights.
- Individual project IAs are not effective in addressing these issues and potential effects in the region.
- RA is required to understand the current state of the river, as well as the cumulative effects of current and future projects in a regional context, particularly in light of proposed and potential future development.



Regional Assessment Area in Request from the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Is large-scale development, including potential designated projects under the *Act*, expected in the next 5–10 years in the region?
2. Are there environmentally or otherwise sensitive areas or components located in the region that might be affected by development?
3. Does current and future development in the region have the potential to cause adverse effects, including cumulative effects, that fall within federal jurisdiction?
4. Does development in the region have the potential to cause adverse impacts on the rights of Indigenous people?



CONSIDERATIONS

5. How would the regional assessment inform future federal impact assessments?
6. Whether an existing or planned initiative would adequately address the issues raised.
7. Information from proponents, provinces, territories or Indigenous peoples that the Agency might have from other areas of its work, including from project impact assessments either underway or completed.
8. Available resources to conduct regional assessments



MINISTER'S RESPONSE

The Minister determined:

- There are potential merits (e.g., potential for cumulative effects, opportunities for collaboration) to a regional assessment
- It is beneficial to undertake further analysis and engagement with the Province of Quebec, Indigenous peoples and stakeholders before a decision is made
- Agency to initiate an engagement process over the coming months and to provide Minister the results of these discussions by spring 2021.

Engagement Process

NEXT STEPS

- **January 2021**
 - Introductory information sessions

- **February – April 2021**
 - Sessions on specific topics:
 - February 11, 9 am- 12 noon
 - February 25, 1 – 4 pm
 - March 18, 1-4 pm
 - Written input accepted until April 6, 2021

- **May 2021 – June 2021**
 - Report outcomes to Minister

PROVIDING WRITTEN INPUT

- Registry page
- Email

iaac.stlawrence-saintlaurent.aeic@canada.ca

Latest update

November 26, 2020 — The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is making [funding available](#) to assist with participation in the potential regional assessment. Applications received by December 16, 2020 will be considered.

October 29, 2020 — The Minister of Environment and Climate Change received a [request](#) for a regional assessment related to the St. Lawrence River area in July 2020. On October 27, 2020, the Minister determined that further analysis and engagement is required before making a decision on whether to conduct a regional assessment under the Impact Assessment Act. The reasons for the Minister's determination are provided in the [Minister's response](#).

Participate



Submit a comment



View comments

Useful Links

USEFUL LINKS

- Potential Regional Assessment of the St. Lawrence River Area: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80913>
- Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80468?culture=en-CA>
- Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80156?culture=en-CA>

USEFUL LINKS

- Regional and Strategic Assessments:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/regional-strategic-assessments.html>
- Operational Guide: Requesting a Regional or Strategic Assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act*:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/requesting-regional-strategic-assessment-iaa.html>
- Fact sheet: Regional Assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act* <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/regional-assessment-impact-assessment-act.html>

Questions
