



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region
600-55 York Street
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario
600-55 rue York
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

January 31, 2022

Sent by email

Pierre Luc-Bastien
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
112, Kakinwawigak Mikana, C.P. 1
Winneway River, QC J0Z 2J0
<Email address removed>

Dear Pierre-Luc Bastien:

Subject: Inquiry on interest in federal consultation for the Upper Beaver Gold Project and Notice of Comment Period on the Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan

As follow-up to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (the Agency) December 21, 2021, letter to Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg on the Upper Beaver Gold Project (the Project), the objective of this letter is to:

- inquire on your community's interest in federal consultation on the Project;
- inform you that the Agency is conducting a public comment period from January 31, 2022, to March 12, 2022;
- invite input from your community on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (**Enclosure 1**) for the Project;
- invite input from your community on the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (**Enclosure 2**) to guide consultation planning for the federal impact assessment; and
- inform your community that Participant Funding Program Grants are now available.

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation's interest in federal consultation on the Project

On December 6, 2021, a letter from the Agency was sent to Pierre-Luc Bastien to inquire on Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg's interest in federal consultation on the Upper Beaver Gold Project. The Agency has not heard back about this inquiry.

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The Agency kindly requests that you confirm your community's interest in the proposed Project. If you are interested, please also provide the Agency with contact information for staff or other representatives who are authorized to coordinate activities and information sharing about the Project on behalf of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg.

Development of Impact Assessment Planning Documents

On December 21, 2021, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg received notice from the Agency that a federal impact assessment is required for the Project. The Agency has developed the draft versions of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, influenced by comments received during the first comment period on the Project, held from September 13, 2021, to October 4, 2021. Drafts of the following documents are posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (the Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960>:

- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Permitting Plan
- Cooperation Plan

Your community is now invited to provide comments to enable the Agency to finalize the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan to help define the scope, content and conduct of the federal impact assessment.

Comment Opportunity

Drafts of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan are enclosed with this letter for your review and consideration.

The Agency is conducting a 40-day public comment period from January 31, 2022, to March 12, 2022, to seek input from potentially impacted Indigenous groups.

Your input is requested by March 12, 2022.

The Agency requests that comments be submitted using the “submit a comment” feature available on the Registry (Reference No. 82960 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960>). Attachments can also be uploaded using this feature. If you have any questions or difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency for assistance using the contact details provided below.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file, and may be posted online via the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #82960), subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency’s Submission Policy (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>) describes what submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private.

For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice (<https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection?culture=en-CA>).

Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence is protected from disclosure under section 119 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), except if written consent is provided. Also, the Indigenous knowledge shared in confidence could be shared with certain parties if the information is publically available, or if disclosure is necessary for procedural fairness and natural justice. Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that should be protected from release to the public, please contact Spencer Roth at 647-355-7318, or at upperbeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca **before** submitting the information. This will ensure that your submission is handled appropriately. Note, that the Agency will consult with you prior to disclosing Indigenous knowledge shared in confidence under an exception.

Pursuant to the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, the Agency is required to post finalized versions of each of these plans by April 20, 2022.

During this comment period, the Agency will also seek input from the public on the draft Public Participation Plan; federal authorities on the draft Permitting Plan; and the Province of Ontario on the draft Cooperation Plan.

Invitation to participate in a Meeting with the Agency

Once the Agency understands your communities' interest in federal consultation on the Project, the Agency will be inviting your community to a virtual meeting during the comment period. The Agency looks forward to answering any questions you may have about the above-noted impact assessment documents and to discuss consultation planning specific to Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The Agency recognizes that it is challenging to undertake meaningful public engagement and Indigenous consultation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the continuity of its operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency put in place virtual and online mechanisms that have enabled staff to work closely with Indigenous groups and communities, the public, proponents and stakeholders, ensuring that their engagement needs were met as best as possible during this time.

The Agency is continuing to provide virtual options to manage training needs and current public engagement and consultations. Adjustments to assessment timeframes are also being considered on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the authorities under the IAA. Given the public health advice of federal and provincial authorities, the Agency is still temporarily suspending face-to-face meetings with proponents, stakeholders and community members.

The Agency continues to provide flexibility around its engagement, consultation and training activities, and will reassess in-person meetings once it is safe to do so. Any updates or consultation plans will continue to be posted on the Agency's website and on the Registry.

Participant Funding Program Grants

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg is now eligible to receive a grant of \$5,000.00 to support your participation in the planning phase of the federal impact assessment, including your review and comment on the draft documents noted above.

I will be in touch with you shortly to confirm your interest in participating in federal consultation on the Project and receiving grant funding.

Please feel free to contact me at 647-355-7318 or at upperbeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca if you have any questions. I welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with your community.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Spencer Roth,
Crown Consultation Coordinator

Enclosures: 1) Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
2) Draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan

c.c.: Chief Dylan Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
Erik Higgins, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg