



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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

Région de l'Ontario
600-55, rue York
Toronto (Ontario) M5J 1R7

March 31, 2023

Sent by email

Chief Jason Batisse
Matachewan First Nation
P.O. Box 160
Matachewan, ON P0K 1M0
<email address removed>

Dear Chief Jason Batisse:

**Subject: Notice of Commencement of the Impact Assessment for the
Crawford Nickel Project**

Thank you for your continued participation in the Planning Phase of the federal impact assessment for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project) proposed by the Canada Nickel Company (the Proponent).

On March 31, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) commenced an impact assessment pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act* for the Project. The following documents were posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website¹ (Registry #83857) and will inform the impact assessment process:

- Notice of Commencement
- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Cooperation Plan with the Province of Ontario
- Permitting Plan

The Agency appreciates the comments provided by Matachewan First Nation on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan as they informed the final versions.

The Project is now in the Impact Statement Phase. The Agency must be satisfied that the Proponent provided the required information and studies set out in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines within three years of the Notice of Commencement.

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¹ Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857>

Please note, in accordance with section 36 of the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada has until 45 days after the Notice of Commencement to refer the impact assessment to a review panel. If the assessment is referred to a review panel, a notice will be posted to the Registry website.

Next Steps

In the coming weeks, the Agency will follow-up with Matachewan First Nation with a separate letter that will include a summary table of comments received during the Planning Phase, and the Agency response, including how your comments were taken into account in finalizing the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

At that time, the Agency will share, for validation by Matachewan First Nation, a revised draft of a summary of information available to the Agency on potential impacts of the Project on your community. An initial draft of this document was first shared with Matachewan First Nation on January 5, 2023, and has been developed and revised based on your participation during the Planning Phase for the Project. The document contains a summary of:

- a) the nature and extent of Matachewan First Nation's Aboriginal and/or treaty rights;
- b) the potential impacts of the Project to the exercise of Matachewan First Nation's rights; and
- c) potential impacts of the Project on health, social, or economic conditions of Matachewan First Nation.

The Agency will also provide information about the next steps in the federal impact assessment process, including upcoming funding opportunities.

The Agency intends to share the summary table of comments and the summary of information available to the Agency on potential impacts of the Project on your community with the Proponent to inform its work while preparing the Impact Statement.

Please contact me at 902-399-8838 or at Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca if you have any questions. We look forward to working collaboratively with your community in the next phases of the impact assessment process.

Sincerely,

**Norton,
Erin**

Digitally signed by
Norton, Erin
Date: 2023.03.31
09:37:11 -03'00'

Erin Norton
Crown Consultation Coordinator
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

c.c.: Delta Flood, Matachewan First Nation
Councillor Stan Fox, Matachewan First Nation
Nicole Charbonneau, Wabun Tribal Council
Jason Batise, Wabun Tribal Council