

Enclosure 1: Summary of information on potential impacts of the Crawford Nickel Project on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation

This **draft** document was prepared by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) following the conclusion of the Planning Phase for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project). The purpose of this document is to set out the Agency's preliminary understanding of the **potential** impacts of the Project on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. The Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Project identify all the valued components the Proponent will be required to study during the preparation of its Impact Statement. As additional information about impacts of the Project that are specific to Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation becomes available throughout the impact assessment process, this document will be updated, and will inform the Proponent's studies and the impact assessment.

Note: The summary of information set out below applies to Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, except where it is explicitly attributed to an individual First Nation.

The Proposed Project

Canada Nickel Company (the Proponent) is proposing an open-pit nickel-cobalt mine and metal mill, located 43 kilometres north of Timmins, Ontario. Based on available information, the "project area" includes:

- *a large mine site footprint of > 5000 ha, including open pits, waste rock piles and a tailings management facility, predominantly within the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River watersheds (the "mine site");*
- *relocation of Highway 655 and existing 500 kV transmission line to the west of the mine, including approximately 20 km of new right of way;*
- *effluent discharge to locations on the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River;*
- *a new rail spur from the proposed mine south to Kidd Mine, following Highway 655; and*
- *transport of ore along an existing rail line between Kidd Mine and Kidd metallurgical site.*

Summary of Information Available to the Agency about:

- a) the nature and extent of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation's Aboriginal and treaty rights;**
- b) the potential impacts of the Project to the exercise of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation's rights;**
- c) potential impacts of the Project on health, social, or economic conditions of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation; and**
- d) potential cumulative changes to the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation through time.**

a) Summary of the information available to the Agency related to the nature and extent of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation's Aboriginal and treaty rights:

- Members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation have Aboriginal and treaty rights that are recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation are signatories to Treaty 9, which provides rights to hunting, trapping and fishing throughout the treaty area.
- Flying Post First Nation's reserve is located approximately 53 kilometers southwest of the mine site. The mine site is located approximately 33 kilometers outside of the traditional territory of Flying Post First Nation.
- Matachewan First Nation's reserve is located approximately 97 kilometers southeast of the mine site. The project area is located within the traditional territory of Matachewan First Nation.
- Mattagami First Nation's reserve is located approximately 105 kilometers south of the mine site. Project components are located within the traditional territory of Mattagami First Nation, particularly the effluent pipeline and discharge to the Mattagami River, the new rail spur connecting to the Kidd Mine, and possibly parts of the mine site and new highway alignment.
- Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation are affiliated with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Chiefs of Ontario, and the Wabun Tribal Council.

b) Summary of the information available to the Agency on the potential impacts to the exercise of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation's rights resulting from any change to the environment due to the Project:¹

Potential impacts to physical and cultural heritage

Where available, please specify additional information such as location on a map related to the items in bold.

- Potential impacts on the ability **to carry out cultural practices and ceremonies** along the Mattagami River.
- Potential impacts to the **nesting sites** of eagles and osprey in the project area, which are species of cultural importance for Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.
- *Flying Post First Nation*: Potential impacts to spirit moose that may be present in the project area, which is a species of cultural importance for Flying Post First Nation.

Potential impacts to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes

Where available, please specify additional information such as location on a map or resources used related to the items in bold.

- Potential impacts on the use of the Mattagami River for the exercise of **harvesting rights** and **traditional fishing activities**, including potential impacts on species of

¹ The Agency notes that Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation plan to conduct a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study in the project area, and that the comments and concerns provided to date by each community are preliminary in nature. In order for the Agency to understand the potential impacts to individual Indigenous communities, the Agency encourages Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to consider providing community specific information where applicable.

importance (e.g., lake sturgeon, pickerel/walleye, trout, pike, and sucker) and their **spawning sites**.

- Potential impacts to the **use of water bodies** for navigation, boating, and the exercise of harvesting rights due to dewatering, water diversion activities, blasting, water crossings, and accidents and malfunctions.
- Potential impacts on the **ability to hunt wildlife**, including **migratory birds**, due to the impacts of noise from the Project on wildlife.
- Potential impacts on the exercise of **harvesting** rights and the ability to **hunt species of importance** (e.g. beavers, marten, and other furbearers) due to loss of wildlife habitat in the project area.
- Potential impacts to the ability to **hunt moose** due to rail transport, the construction of a new rail spur to the project site, and loss of moose habitat in general (e.g., calving sites, wintering grounds).
- Potential impacts to the ability to **harvest traditional medicines and berries** near the mine site due to contamination from fugitive dust.
- Potential changes in access to lands and resources used for traditional purposes in the project area, including changes in **access to preferred hunting, harvesting, and ceremonial or cultural areas**, and changes in **access to rivers and waterbodies**.
- Potential changes in the abundance of lands and resources used for traditional purposes at the mine site, including for hunting, trapping, and harvesting.
- Potential impacts to the ability to share traditional ecological knowledge due to changes in, or loss of access to, preferred harvesting areas.
- Potential impacts to the ability to hunt wildlife due to increased access to traditional hunting grounds and increased pressures on wildlife from an influx of workers in the project area.
- Potential impacts to community members' experience of using the project area, including to exercise harvesting rights, due to changes in the visual landscape and increased noise from mining operations, the perceived impacts of the Project on safety, and the perceived risk of contamination (e.g., from wind dispersal of dry stack tailings and fugitive dust on surrounding plants and wildlife).
- *Matachewan First Nation*: Potential impacts to the exercise of trapping rights along an existing trapline located within twelve kilometres of the mine site.
- *Mattagami First Nation*: Potential impacts to the use of **hunting cabins** and to the exercise of trapping rights along traplines located in the vicinity of the mine site.
- *Mattagami First Nation*: Potential for effluent discharge into water bodies to impact traditional roles of Indigenous women and consequently disturbing their traditional ecological knowledge and the transfer of this knowledge.
- *Mattagami First Nation*: Potential impacts to future generations due to disturbances of traditional knowledge transfer to next generations.

Potential impacts to any structure, site, or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance

Where available, please specify additional information such as location on a map related to the items in bold.

- Potential impacts to **burial grounds** located within the mine site.
- Potential impacts to **sites of archaeological significance** located along the shorelines of the Mattagami River.

- c) **Summary of the information available to the Agency on any potential changes to the health, social, or economic conditions of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation due to the Project:**²
- Potential impacts on housing costs and impacts on the availability of housing for community members living off reserve.
 - Potential impacts to the social well-being and safety of community members due to increased discrimination towards Indigenous Peoples, and higher crime rates.
 - *Mattagami First Nation*: Potential impacts to the health and social well-being of community members due to increased drug trafficking and increased risk of sexual violence and exploitation.
 - *Mattagami First Nation*: Potential for socio-economic impacts due to the potential increased of prices of; health services, land taxes and rental rates to vulnerable populations (e.g. Elders and people with disabilities) who typically face inequitable access to employment opportunities.
 - *Mattagami First Nation*: Potential impacts to the health of community members from pollution and environmental degradation.
- d) **Summary of the information available to the Agency on potential cumulative changes to the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation through time:**
- Potential impacts on traditional practices from other mining projects and forestry.
 - Potential impacts to existing traplines near the project area due to the forestry industry and contamination from historical mines in the area.
 - Potential impacts to the exercise of rights from multiple inputs (e.g., effluent discharges) into the Mattagami River.
 - *Mattagami First Nation*: Potential cumulative impacts to ability to exercise rights due to the increased habitat fragmentation and burden on the ecological thresholds of the surrounding environment from historic, present and future development of mining projects.

FOR ACTION: The Agency requests that you validate the information set out above and provide any additional information about the impacts the Project may have on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. Additional details about the nature and extent of potential impacts to Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, or the exercise of rights of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, may refine our understanding of the potential impacts of the Project, and allow the Agency to adjust its consultation approach, where necessary. In addition, the Agency would like to meet with your communities to discuss the information set out above, and to better understand how your communities may be impacted by the Project, taking into account different project components in different geographic areas. The Agency encourages Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to share information with the Proponent to inform the development of the Proponent's Impact Statement.

² The Agency notes that Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation have each initiated a Socio-Economic Survey within their communities for the Project, and that the comments and concerns provided to date by each community are preliminary in nature.

FOR REFERENCE: Crawford Nickel Project Map, with local communities and First Nations
[\(Detailed Project Description, 2022\)](#)

