



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 (Ontario) M5J 1R7

December 9, 2024

**Sent by email**

**Correspondence to Provincial Review Team**

Joseph Harvey, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Nathan Hammill, Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Catherine Sutherland, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Lianne Kentish, Ministry of Mines  
Christopher Waslyk, Ministry of Natural Resources  
Robin Stewart, Ministry of Natural Resources  
Cameron Cole, Ministry of Transportation  
Josh Wilson, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, and Ministry of Sport  
Suzanne Lajoie, Porcupine Health Unit  
Kimberly Miller-Bautista, Hydro One Networks Incorporated  
Joe Viscek, Ontario Northland Transportation Commission

Dear colleagues:

**Subject: Review of the Impact Statement for the Crawford Nickel Project**

On November 22, 2024, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) received the Impact Statement for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project) proposed by Canada Nickel Company (the Proponent). IAAC has determined that the Impact Statement is adequate to proceed with a public comment period and technical review.

The Impact Statement, including a summary in both official languages, has been posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site for the Project (CIAR #83857).<sup>1</sup> On December 9, 2024, IAAC announced the start of a public comment period on the Summary of the Impact Statement.

The Cooperation Plan<sup>2</sup> for the Project outlines how IAAC and participating

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<sup>1</sup> <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/159943?culture=en-CA>

<sup>2</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147338>

ministries and organizations<sup>3</sup> will strive to increase efficiency and certainty for all participants including the Proponent, the public, and Indigenous communities, by sharing information and expertise and coordinating activities, where possible. The Cooperation Plan was developed with your input and issued in 2023.

To that end, IAAC invites your ministry to conduct a technical review of the information and studies contained in the Proponent's Impact Statement and provide comments to IAAC to inform the federal impact assessment as well as advice to the Proponent to inform provincial permitting and regulatory efficiencies, **by January 24, 2025**.

Attached to this correspondence is a Provincial Advice Record (Enclosure 1), including:

- **Table 1** – To provide views for IAAC's consideration in the analysis of the Project's effects and preparation of the Impact Assessment Report;
- **Table 2** – To identify missing or unclear information in the Proponent's Impact Statement that is necessary to meet the requirements of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines **and** also necessary to formulate your views for IAAC; and
- **Table 3** – To provide advice to the Proponent to support provincial permitting and regulatory efficiencies.

The objective of the technical review is to ensure IAAC has information that is sufficient and technically appropriate, including from the Impact Statement and the views of government reviewers and participants, to conduct the impact assessment.

Specifically, IAAC's goal is to ensure it has adequate supporting evidence to understand the Project's potential adverse federal effects<sup>4,5,6</sup>, understand how effects and any uncertainty can be managed through mitigation, follow-up programs, and other means to address effects, and

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<sup>3</sup> All subsequent references to ministry mean ministry or organization.

<sup>4</sup> "Federal effects" for this purpose means adverse effects within federal jurisdiction and adverse effects that are direct or incidental to the exercise of a federal power, duty or function (as defined in section 2 of the amended IAA).

<sup>5</sup> IAAC also invites views on effects related to public interest factors (defined in section 63 of the amended IAA) that may inform decision-making, such as positive effects on economic conditions that contribute to sustainability.

<sup>6</sup> IAAC also invites views on potential effects to species at risk, and how they are typically managed in the region, to inform IAAC's obligations under section 79 of the *Species at Risk Act*.

to be confident in conclusions about key issues that are material and relevant to decision-making under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA).

Views to inform the impact assessment should therefore include any provincial legislative frameworks, permits and approvals, policies, programs or complementary measures<sup>7</sup> that provide a means to address effects, including by providing regulatory oversight to changes to the environment that may lead to adverse federal effects. Reviewers are encouraged to describe the environmental outcomes that are typically achieved by these frameworks, how they are achieved, and whether mitigation and monitoring may be required and enforced. Reviewers are also encouraged to identify any permit or approval that your ministry may not be able to issue to allow the Project to proceed as currently planned, and next steps for resolution of any issues.

Please note, deficiencies in the Impact Statement identified to the Proponent will be limited to information that is necessary to formulate or substantially strengthen a conclusion required for decision-making under the IAA, in relation to the extent to which federal effects may be significant, the identification of appropriate mitigation and follow-up measures, and whether those effects may be justified in the public interest, taking into account all lines of evidence available to develop reasonable conclusions.

IAAC will consider your input, along with information, knowledge and comments gathered through Indigenous consultation, public engagement, and its own review, and determine if the Impact Statement is complete and of sufficient rigour and quality for IAAC to conduct the assessment, or if it is deficient and additional information is required.

Once IAAC has determined that the Proponent has provided all the required information or studies to conduct the assessment, IAAC will post a notice on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site. IAAC will then complete its analysis and invite your comments on a draft Impact Assessment Report.

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<sup>7</sup> Complementary measures are additional authorities of government officials that may be used to mitigate effects that are beyond the care and control of the Proponent. They are taken into account in decision-making.

Please provide any comments to IAAC via the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site for the Project (CIAR #83857)<sup>8</sup> by **January 24, 2025**.

### **Indigenous Consultation and Public Participation**

IAAC continues to consult with Indigenous communities and engage with the public as outlined in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan<sup>9</sup> and Public Participation Plan<sup>10</sup>.

IAAC will be hosting the following virtual public information sessions<sup>11</sup> via Zoom for participants to learn more about the Project, the federal review process, the Summary of the Impact Statement, and how to submit comments:

- Thursday, December 19, 2024, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM ET (bilingual)
- Wednesday, January 8, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM ET (bilingual)

IAAC invites you to attend the public information sessions for your interest and information, and to share the invitation with any potentially interested persons or communities.

IAAC may also request your participation in future meetings or your review of submissions from Indigenous communities or the public where it may help IAAC to share information about how other legislative frameworks that address effects.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 226-750-8853 or [Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Grant Jensen  
Project Manager, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Provincial Advice Record – Crawford Nickel Project Impact Statement

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<sup>8</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857>

<sup>9</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147339>

<sup>10</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147341>

<sup>11</sup> For more information on how to attend a session, please visit the *project homepage* at <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857?culture=en-CA> and click "Information Sessions" at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857/session>

cc: Karla Barboza, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Kathleen O'Neill, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and  
Parks  
Paul-Andre Lajeunesse, Ontario Northland Transportation  
Commission  
Jill Cornick, Ontario Northland Transportation Commission  
Sandra Lapagne, Porcupine Health Unit