



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

February 21, 2023

Sent by email

### **Correspondence to Provincial Review Team**

Brenda Liegler, Ministry of Transportation  
Gavin Downing, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Kathleen O'Neill, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
Lise Chabot, Indigenous Affairs Office  
Mary Hennessy, Ministry of Mines  
Rik Aikman, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Tony Marzotto, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport  
Vrinda Vaidyanathan, Ministry of Transportation

Dear Colleagues:

**Subject: Request for Comments on the Northern Road Link Project**

**Please complete and submit the attached form by March 23, 2023**

On February 17, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) accepted the Initial Project Description for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project) from Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent), as the document meets the requirements of Schedule 1 of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations* under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). As of February 21, 2023, the 180-day planning phase of the impact assessment process commenced. The Initial Project Description is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331?culture=en-CA>.

The Agency is conducting a 30-day comment period on the Initial Project Description from February 21, 2023, to March 23, 2023, inviting the public, Indigenous communities and other jurisdictions to provide feedback related to the Project and potential effects.

Feedback will help the Agency prepare the Summary of Issues for the Proponent and will inform the Agency's decision as to whether the Project requires an impact assessment. If an impact assessment is required, this same feedback would help the Agency prepare draft planning documents.

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### **Northern Road Link Project**

The Proponent is proposing the construction and operation, including maintenance, of an all-season multi-use public highway located in northern Ontario. As proposed, the Project would be about 117 to 164 kilometres long and cross the Attawapiskat River. The Project would connect the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road and the proposed Webequie Supply Road. The highway would become part of a future all-season road network connecting mineral development activities in the Ring of Fire area to the provincial highway system at Nakina, Ontario.

### **Request for comments by March 23, 2023**

Enclosed with this letter is the **Provincial Advice Record** (Enclosure 1). Enclosure 1 requests information on your ministry's mandate and invites your ministry's comments on the Initial Project Description. This includes your ministry's input on key potential project effects and frameworks for addressing effects, relevant regulatory processes, opportunities to tailor the (potential) assessment requirements, and opportunities to cooperate with other jurisdictions.

Please submit the completed Provincial Advice Record via the *Submit a Comment* feature available on the Project's Registry page. Letters and forms can be uploaded using this feature. Please contact the Agency using the information provided below for assistance. Input received **by March 23, 2023**, will be considered by the Agency in the development of the Summary of Issues.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment process will be made publicly available as part of the project file, and may be posted online via the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #84331), subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

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

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 Ely Weisbrot at 416-669-2775 or at *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca* before submitting the information. This will ensure that your submission is handled appropriately.

### **Next steps**

Upon receipt of the Summary of Issues from the Agency, the Proponent will prepare and submit a Detailed Project Description, with the Response to the Summary of Issues that includes an explanation of how the Proponent intends to address the issues raised. Following acceptance of the Detailed Project Description, the Agency will decide whether an impact assessment of the Project is required.<sup>3</sup>

If the Agency decides that an impact assessment is required for the Project, it would draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Guidelines) and four plans—the Permitting Plan, the Public Participation Plan, an Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, and, the Cooperation Plan—for review and comment.

The comments your ministry provides on the Initial Project Description will inform the decision as to whether an impact assessment is required, the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, and the draft Cooperation Plan.

The Agency would hold a comment period and would invite you to review the draft Guidelines and draft plans (particularly the draft Cooperation Plan). These documents would be finalized and issued to the Proponent with the notice of commencement of the impact assessment.

During the impact statement phase, the proponent would be expected to complete the required information and studies set out in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. At the end of the impact assessment process, a decision is made about if the adverse effects of the Project are in the public interest.

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<sup>3</sup> In making its decision, the Agency must take into account the factors set out in subsection 16(2) of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Ely Weisbrot, Project Manager, by email at *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@jaac-aeic.gc.ca* or by phone at 416-669-2775.

Sincerely,

<Signature removed>

On behalf of  
Susan Tiege  
Acting Director, Ontario Region

Enclosure 1: Provincial Advice Record - Summary of Issues and Potential Cooperation Plan

c.c.: Agni Papageorgiou, Ministry of Mines  
Annie McLeod, Indigenous Affairs Office  
Ashley Johnson, Indigenous Affairs Office  
Ben Bartlett, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Colin Chambers, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Cynthia Doughty, Indigenous Affairs Office  
Dan Minkin, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Dorothy Moszynski, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
Heather Nelson, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Janet Leader, Ministry of Transportation  
Jason Frechette, Ministry of Mines  
Jessica Malone-Daniher, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Jim Antler, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Karla Barboza, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Lora Yurdakul, Ministry of Transportation  
Nancy Berglund, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Nathan Hammill, Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Paul MacInnis, Ministry of Mines  
Sasha McLeod, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
Zachary Ramwa, Indigenous Affairs Office