



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region  
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Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario  
600-55 rue York  
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May 23, 2023

Sent by email

Correspondence to Provincial Review Team:

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Jason White, Ministry of Transportation  
Karla Barboza, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Nathan Hammill, Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Zachary Ramwa, Indigenous Affairs Office

Dear Colleagues:

**Subject: Notification that an impact assessment is required for the  
Northern Road Link Project and next steps**

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) has reviewed the Detailed Project Description and response to the Summary of Issues for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project) submitted by Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent) on May 1, 2023. On May 11, 2023, the Agency determined that the submission conforms to the requirements of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*.

Based on the Agency's review of the Detailed Project Description and in consideration of comments received to date from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, the public and yourselves, the Agency decided that a federal impact assessment is required for the Project. The Notice of Impact Assessment Decision with Reasons has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site<sup>1</sup>, along with the Detailed Project Description and the response to the Summary of Issues.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147691>

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### Next Steps

The Agency anticipates a **30-day public comment period** will be held **between June 21 2023 and July 21 2023**, on the following documents:

- draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines)
- draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- draft Public Participation Plan
- draft Permitting Plan
- draft Cooperation Plan

Before the comment period, your ministry may receive targeted requests from the Agency for the purpose of developing the draft Guidelines and draft Cooperation Plan. The Agency's understanding of potential provincial regulatory instruments and approvals will be included in the draft Cooperation Plan.

During the comment period, you will be asked to verify:

- the required information and studies presented in the draft Guidelines that are available for public comment; and
- regulatory instruments under the authority of your ministry in the draft Cooperation Plan that are anticipated to be required to allow the Project to proceed.

When providing feedback, the Agency requests that you consider the approach to tailoring the Guidelines outlined in the *Operational Policy Statement: Development of Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines*<sup>2</sup>.

More specifically, the Guidelines should focus on key issues, effects and factors anticipated to be material and relevant to a public interest decision. Provincial advice should be commensurate to the situational context of the Project and informed by risk-based prudence and evidence in the Proponent's Detailed Project Description<sup>3</sup> and response to the Summary of Issues<sup>4</sup>, with strong reliance on well-understood mitigation measures, existing guidance, and regulatory instruments that will manage effects.

The Agency invites your ministry to share provincial regulatory, policy or other instruments and measures that could manage potential adverse effects of the Project. Such measures, referred to as complementary measures, would inform the Agency's analysis of potential effects and mitigation. In accordance with the Cooperation Plan, the Agency will work with your

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/operational-policy-statement.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147653?culture=en-CA>

<sup>4</sup> <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147697?culture=en-CA>

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assessment process to identify relevant policies and programs and develop a list of potential complementary measures for the Project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 416-669-2775 or *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@jaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Sincerely,

**Weisbrot, Ely**

<personal information removed>

Ely Weisbrot  
Project Manager

c.c.: Ben Bartlett, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
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Janet Leader, Ontario Ministry of Transportation  
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