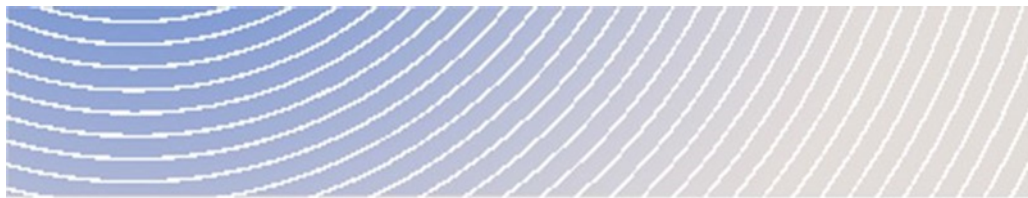


# Public Participation Plan



NORTHERN ROAD LINK PROJECT

AUGUST 18, 2023



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## 1. Introduction

On May 23, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) determined that an impact assessment is required for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project), pursuant to Section 16 of Canada's *Impact Assessment Act*.

The Public Participation Plan (the Plan) was developed by the Agency to set out opportunities for participation during the impact assessment process. It is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Agency from making changes to the approaches described in the Plan in order to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment.

For additional information about the implementation of meaningful public participation, please refer to the [Framework: Public Participation Under the \*Impact Assessment Act\*](#) and [Guidance: Public Participation in Impact Assessments](#). A distinct and separate [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) is also available, outlining Indigenous engagement opportunities and approaches.

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## 2. Description of the Proposed Project

Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the proponent) are proposing the construction and operation, including maintenance, of an all-season multi-use road located in northern Ontario. As proposed, the Project would be about 117 to 164 kilometres long and cross the Attawapiskat River. It would connect the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road and the proposed Webequie Supply Road. The Project 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.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Project or to view the information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website (the Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>.

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## 3. Objectives of the Public Participation Plan

The Plan outlines the various ways participants can provide input and participate in the process. The Agency objectives for public participation are as follows:

- Public participation is meaningful. This means that the public is provided with:
  - opportunities to take part in the impact assessment;
  - the information they need to participate; and
  - the capacity to participate in an informed manner.
- The public is engaged early and often, particularly at each key stage of the impact assessment process.

- The public brings forward key issues to the Agency and the proponent early in the process to inform the proponent's Impact Statement.
- The public is involved in the development or revision of key documents, such as the Plan, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the proponent's Impact Statement, the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions, and potential amendments to the Decision Statement should amendments be required.
- Activities are coordinated with other jurisdictions involved in the assessment, where possible.
- Participation opportunities are designed taking into account the diverse needs and interests of various participants. Opportunities include, but are not limited to public comment periods, and in-person or virtual information sessions or engagement events at key phases of the process.
- The Agency informs the proponent about the concerns raised by the participants.
- Public views heard throughout the process are tracked and inform decision-making.

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## 4. Identification of Stakeholders

The Agency has compiled a list of communities, associations and other stakeholders that may have an interest in this project's impact assessment. The list was informed by participants in the planning phase for the Project; participants identified in documents provided by the proponent; and participants identified by the Agency that are in proximity to the Project with potential interest or technical knowledge relevant to the impact assessment.

The Agency will maintain a distribution list for those identified above, throughout the impact assessment. The Public Participation Plan distribution list can be found in Appendix 1. Participants on the distribution list will receive updates and notices about the Project's impact assessment as the process unfolds.

If you or your organization would like to be added to this list, please use the "Submit a Comment" function on the Registry's project page (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>) or send an email to [northernroad-routedunord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:northernroad-routedunord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) and request to be added to the Public Participation Plan distribution list.

Please consult the [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) for a list of the Indigenous communities that are identified for consultation as part of the impact assessment of the Project.

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## 5. Public Participation Tools

The Agency has identified a series of tools to ensure meaningful participation throughout the impact assessment process:

- Opportunities to apply for funding under the Participant Funding Program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding->

[programs/participant-funding-program.html](#)) to support the public in participating in the impact assessment process;

- Public notice(s) in plain language on the Registry website and published in newspapers, news websites, and radio broadcasts that provide information and updates on the impact assessment process, announce public participation opportunities, objectives of comment periods and funding opportunities;
- Emails in plain language to the Public Participation Plan distribution list that provide information and updates on the impact assessment process, and announce public participation opportunities, objectives of comment periods and funding opportunities;
- Social media updates (e.g., the Agency's Twitter Feed: @IAAC\_AEIC #NorthernRoadLink) that provide information and updates on the impact assessment process, and announce public participation opportunities and funding opportunities;
- Interactive information sessions to learn more about the Project, the impact assessment process and how to submit comments (presentations, with question and answer sessions and/or workshops to be held virtually or in-person);
- Summaries of key documents, fact sheets, infographics, and audio-visual materials in plain language and in an accessible format;
- Public comment periods at key stages of the process;
- Registry website to post written comments at key public comment periods, and throughout the process; and
- Free training opportunities for people involved directly in impact assessments<sup>1</sup>.

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## 6. Activities and Public Participation Approach

The following table provides a description of the main phases in the impact assessment process, and an outline of engagement opportunities in each phase, including events led by the Agency or another jurisdiction, as well as events planned by the proponent (to the extent known).

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<sup>1</sup> For information on training, visit: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/014>



**Table 1 – Table of public participation approaches and activities**

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
<b>Phase 1: Planning</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support understanding of the Project</li> <li>➤ Provide an opportunity for the public to apply for funding to support participation during the planning phase</li> <li>➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process and meaningful participation</li> <li>➤ Obtain comments and feedback on documents related to the planning phase, such as the Initial Project Description, and to inform the development of the Plan and Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines</li> <li>➤ Notify the public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the Initial Project Description, the draft Plan and the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, as well as the decision that an impact assessment is required</li> </ul>		
<b>Timeline:</b> 180 days (excluding any time limit suspension)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From February 21 to March 23, 2023, the Agency offered grant funding during the first comment period of the planning phase to support participation</li> <li>• From February 21 to March 23, 2023, the Agency hosted virtual information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support public understanding of the impact assessment process and sought comments on the Initial Project Description</li> <li>• The Agency responded to any inquiries, sent letters / emails informing the public on the Agency’s distribution list and posted key documents on the Registry website</li> <li>• The Agency offered online training on the impact assessment process</li> <li>• From June 21 to July 21, 2023, the Agency made grant funding available for the second comment period of the planning phase</li> <li>• June 21 to July 21, 2023, the Agency hosted in-person information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support public understanding of the impact assessment process and sought</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From February 21 to March 23, 2023, participated in the first comment period on the Initial Project Description</li> <li>• Submitted comments on the Initial Project Description</li> <li>• Interested participants applied for available grant funding during the first comment period of the planning phase to support participation</li> <li>• From June 21 to July 21, 2023, participated in the second comment period of the planning phase on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Plan</li> <li>• Participated in information sessions, with a question and answer session to discuss and inform key planning documents</li> <li>• Submitted comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Online comments</li> <li>• Meetings and/or information sessions</li> <li>• Posting of relevant documents and notices on the Registry website</li> <li>• Public notice or news release, and social media</li> </ul>

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
<p>comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Plan</p>		
<p><b>Phase 2: Impact Statement</b></p>		
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process</li> <li>➤ Provide an opportunity for the public to apply for participant funding for the remainder of the impact assessment process</li> <li>➤ Encourage the public to share information with the proponent to inform the development of the proponent’s Impact Statement</li> <li>➤ Obtain comments / views on the proponent’s Impact Statement</li> <li>➤ Notify the public of key steps in the process such as receipt of the Impact Statement and the comment period on the Impact Statement</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeline:</b> up to 3 years (excluding any time limit extension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency makes participant funding available for the remainder of the impact assessment process</li> <li>• The Agency administers participant funding throughout the impact statement phase</li> <li>• The Agency may present on the impact assessment process at the proponent’s meetings while the proponent develops the Impact Statement</li> <li>• The Agency posts the Impact Statement on the Registry website and sends notification emails to the public distribution list</li> <li>• The Agency holds a comment period on the Impact Statement. The comments will assist in determining whether the Impact Statement contains all the information and studies requested in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines</li> <li>• The Agency issues requests to the proponent for information or studies required to satisfy the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines</li> <li>• The Agency asks the proponent to present on identified issues, addressing project concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for available participant funding to participate in the remaining phases of the impact assessment process</li> <li>• Participate in the proponent’s meetings on its Impact Statement</li> <li>• Submit comments, including those related to community knowledge, if applicable, that the proponent considers when developing the Impact Statement</li> <li>• Participants work with the proponent to collect relevant information about the Project’s potential positive and adverse effects (direct and incidental), as well as the mitigation and monitoring measures</li> <li>• Submit comments to the Agency on the Impact Statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Online comments</li> <li>• Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops</li> <li>• Posting of relevant documents and notices on the Registry website</li> <li>• Public notice or news release, and social media</li> </ul>

Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
and explaining mitigation and monitoring measures		
<b>Phase 3: Impact Assessment</b>		
<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process</li> <li>➤ Obtain comments / views on the Agency’s draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions</li> <li>➤ Notify public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeline:</b> Up to 300 days (excluding any time limit extension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency administers participant funding throughout the impact assessment phase</li> <li>• The Agency posts the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions on the Registry website and sends notification emails to the Public Participation Plan distribution list</li> <li>• The Agency holds a comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions. The comments will assist in finalizing the Agency’s recommendation to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change</li> <li>• The Agency hosts information sessions, with a question and answer session, to support the public’s understanding of the impact assessment process and seeks comments on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in information sessions, with a question and answer session to discuss and share comments and feedback on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions</li> <li>• Participate in the proponent’s presentation on identified issues, addressing project concerns and explaining mitigation and monitoring measures</li> <li>• Submit comments to the Agency on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions</li> <li>• Submit comments to the Agency on the Project’s potential adverse effects; on the integration of any community knowledge; and proposed mitigation or monitoring measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Online comment</li> <li>• Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops</li> <li>• Posting of relevant documents and notices on the Registry website</li> <li>• Public notice or news release, and social media</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 4: Decision</b>		
<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Inform the public about the Decision Statement issued by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change</li> <li>➤ Increase awareness of the Decision Statement, including reasons for the public interest determination</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeline:</b> Up to 30 days, if the determination is made by the Minister, or up to 90 days if the Minister refers the determination to Governor in Council (excluding any time limit extension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency posts on the Registry website the final Impact Assessment Report, the Decision Statement, including the reasons for the public interest determination, and sends notification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive notification of the public interest determination and the issuance of the Decision Statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posting of relevant documents and notices on the Registry website</li> <li>• Notifications sent by email</li> <li>• Public notice or news release, and social media</li> </ul>



Expected Agency activities	Expected public participation/activities	Engagement method
<p>emails to the Public Participation Plan distribution list</p>		
<p><b>Phase 5: Post-Decision</b></p> <p><b>Objectives: if the project is approved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Post-decision follow-up, monitoring activities and results from follow-up program on the Registry website</li> <li>➤ Obtain comments on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeline:</b> Begins after the Decision Statement is issued, and then is ongoing</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency conducts compliance and enforcement activities consistent with the <a href="#">Compliance Promotion and Enforcement Policy for designated projects subject to the IAA</a> and posts results as per section 152 of the IAA on the Registry website</li> <li>• The Agency may engage participants in the impact assessment process to seek their views on the outcomes of the proponent’s follow-up program</li> <li>• The Agency engages on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit comments to the Agency on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required</li> <li>• Participate in the proponent’s follow-up program, if applicable, as per the requirements set out in the Decision Statement</li> <li>• Monitor follow-up program outcomes of interest by reviewing relevant documents on the Registry website, and submit their views to the Agency, if applicable</li> <li>• If the public has reason to believe that there has been a contravention of the IAA, please report it to the Agency at: <a href="mailto:enforcement-applicationdelaloi@iaac-aeic.gc.ca">enforcement-applicationdelaloi@iaac-aeic.gc.ca</a>. All other inquiries about post-decision activities should be directed to <a href="mailto:postdecision@iaac-aeic.gc.ca">postdecision@iaac-aeic.gc.ca</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails</li> <li>• Online comments</li> <li>• Posting of relevant documents and notices on the Registry website</li> <li>• Public notice or news release, and social media</li> </ul>

\* All comments received throughout Agency-led engagement and consultation activities will be made publicly available on the Project’s Registry website at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>. A summary of comments received will also be included in the Impact Assessment Report.



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## 7. Participant Funding

Funding to support public participation in the impact assessment process is available. For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding please see the Funding Programs guidelines: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs.html>.

You can contact the Agency's Funding Programs for more information:

Telephone: 1-866-582-1884

Email: [fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

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## 8. How to Submit Comments

You can submit comments at any time during the impact assessment process by using the “Submit a Comment” function on the Registry website’s project page (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>). Attachments can also be uploaded using this function.

If you have any difficulties with the submission process, please contact the Agency, using the contact information below. Comments may also be submitted through other means, including by email to [northernroad-routedunord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:northernroad-routedunord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

Comments and other documents received by the Agency will be part of the project file and will be posted on the Registry website. The Agency’s [Submission Policy](#) determines what information can be shared publicly and what information should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Agency’s [Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want your comment to be posted on the Registry website, please contact the Agency before submitting your comment.

If you have questions or need information, please contact:

Northern Road Link Project  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
Ontario Regional Office  
[northernroad-routedunord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:northernroad-routedunord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)



# Appendix 1

## Public Participation Plan Distribution List

### **Municipalities**

- Municipality of Greenstone
- Township of Pickle Lake
- City of Thunder Bay
- Sioux Lookout

### **Educational institutions**

- Laurentian University
- Osgoode Hall Law School
- University of Toronto Scarborough

### **Commerce and economic development**

- Battlefield Equipment Rentals
- Leuenberger Air Service
- Nakina Air Service Ltd.
- Perron Contracting Inc
- Torsys LLP

### **Community groups and organizations**

- East-West Coalition
- The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
- Geraldton Area Natural Resources Advisory Committee (GANRAC)
- Geraldton Chamber of Commerce
- Greenstone Economic Development Corporation
- Keepers of the Circle (Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group)
- LiUNA
- Native Women's Association of Canada

### **Recreation, cottage, and tourism**

- 7 Lakes Wilderness Camp
- Gray Wood Outfitters
- Greenstone District Trappers Council
- Little Hawk Portage Project
- Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)
- Ontario Parks Association
- Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association
- Pickle Lake Outposts
- Thunder Bay Adventure Trails Snowmobile Club



**Environment and wildlife**

- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Four Rivers Environmental Services Group
- Friends of the Attawapiskat River
- Mining Injustice Solidarity Network
- Mining Watch Canada
- Northwatch
- Sierra Club of Canada
- Wildlands League
- Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
- World Wildlife Fund

**Energy, mining and forestry**

- Aurcrest Gold Inc.
- Canada Chrome Corporation
- Clark Exploration and Consulting Inc.
- Debut Diamonds Inc.
- Golden Share Resources Corporation
- Green Forest Management Inc.
- Greenmantle Forest Inc
- KWG Resources Inc.
- Macdonald Mines Exploration Ltd.
- Metalex Ventures Ltd.
- Ontario Power Generation
- Ring of Fire Metals (subsidiary of Wyloo Metals)
- Wabassi Resources Inc.

**Tribal councils and Indigenous organizations**

- Anishinabek Nation
- Jackfish Métis Association
- Matawa First Nations
- Mushkegowuk Council