



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  
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August 18, 2023

Sent by email

Correspondence to Provincial Review Team

Karla Barboza, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Nathan Hammill, Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Sasha McLeod, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
Dorothy Moszynski, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
Annie McLeod, Ministry of Indigenous Affairs  
Paul MacInnis, Ministry of Mines  
Nancy Berglund, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Brady Lucas, Ministry of Northern Development  
Jim Antler, Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport  
Al Beaulieu, Ministry of Transportation  
Janet Leader, Ministry of Transportation

Dear Colleagues:

**Subject: Notice of Commencement of the Impact Assessment for the Northern Road Link Project**

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is writing to inform you of the commencement of the impact statement phase for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project) under the *Impact Assessment Act*. The following documents were posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website<sup>1</sup> (Registry #84331) and will inform the impact assessment process:

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

Thank you to the ministries that provided comments on the draft Guidelines and plans.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>

The Agency is of the view that the Project does not warrant a referral to a review panel, after considering the factors in subsection 36(2) of the *Impact Assessment Act*. Please note that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change has until 45 days after the Notice of Commencement to make a final determination on whether to refer the impact assessment to a review panel.

The Project is now in the impact statement phase. The Agency must be satisfied that Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent) provided the required information and studies for the impact assessment set out in the Guidelines within three years of the Notice of Commencement.

The Agency looks forward to collaborating further with Ontario ministries to increase efficiency and certainty for all assessment participants through information sharing, joint meetings, and coordinating activities and timelines where possible, in line with the Cooperation Plan.

The Agency will keep you informed of relevant timelines and opportunities for cooperation as they occur. Within three months of the posting of the Notice of Commencement, the Proponent is expected to provide the Agency with a work plan for the impact statement phase of the Project, which the Agency will share with you.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at [NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca). or by phone at 416-669-2775.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Ely Weisbrot,  
Acting Project Manager

c.c.: Dan Minkin, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Jessica Hill, Ministry of Indigenous Affairs  
Kezia Picard, Ministry of Indigenous Affairs  
Jason Frechette, Ministry of Mines  
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