



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

President

Président

160 Elgin St., 22<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

160, rue Elgin, 22<sup>e</sup> étage  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

November 24, 2025

Sarah Harrison

Deputy Minister

Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

College Park, 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street

Toronto ON M7A 2J3

[Sarah.Harrison@ontario.ca](mailto:Sarah.Harrison@ontario.ca)

Sarah Harrison:

**Subject: Federal Provincial Co-operation on the Ongoing Ring of Fire Project Assessments under the *Impact Assessment Act***

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) is committed to undertaking federal assessments in a timely and efficient manner. Specifically, following the coming into force of the amended *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), IAAC is focussing its assessments on federal effects as defined in the IAA, and reducing duplication by relying on provincial oversight mechanisms.

With this approach in mind, for the ongoing project assessments in the Ring of Fire, IAAC has already taken measures, and is committed to taking further action, to accelerate the completion of the federal assessment process, as follows.

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On June 11, 2025, IAAC sent letters of direction to proponents to focus remaining steps of ongoing assessments on core federal issues - fish, migratory birds and impacts on Indigenous Peoples. These letters are available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry.<sup>1</sup> As well, with the support of the province, IAAC will use information regarding provincial environmental frameworks to meet federal assessment requirements.

IAAC has requested input from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and other provincial ministries with provincial oversight mechanisms. Timely replies or comments to the proponent on these matters will expedite conclusion of the federal assessments.

IAAC confirms that the federal assessments can be completed before the provincial timeline for early works, which we understand to be June 2026, provided that the information requested from the province, and the final Impact Statements from proponents, are submitted without delay. IAAC is prepared to support proponents in submitting these statements without delay.

In addition, subject to details on the nature of early works, there is potential for those to be permissible in advance of federal decisions. For instance, IAAC understands that some of the activities proposed, such as procurement of materials and equipment needed to begin early works for the road to the Ring of Fire, rebuilding and upgrading the community airport, which will serve as a regional transportation hub, will be permissible.

Given IAAC's current understanding of the provincial intent, the Anaconda-Painter Lake Roads Upgrade Project would not be subject to the IAA as an existing right-of-way.

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<sup>1</sup> MFCAR: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/161922>  
NRL: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/161925>  
WSR: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/161924>

With respect to Wyloo's Eagle's Nest Project, when the IAA came into force, replacing the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, the federal comprehensive study, which was being conducted under the former Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, was terminated per the transitional provisions of the IAA. The Eagle's Nest Project is not described in the *Physical Activities Regulations* (the Project List) and is therefore not subject to federal assessment.

With respect to the ongoing Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area, IAAC confirms that it will not impact timelines for individual project assessments nor create any obligations on Ontario. Rather, it provides a mechanism to address issues outside of federal impact assessments of individual projects under the Terms of Reference agreed to with the 15 First Nations.

IAAC is committed to collaborating with MECP's project team on the critical next steps on the federal and provincial assessment processes to ensure that mutual objectives are achieved without duplication of efforts or processes in a timely, efficient, and transparent manner.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)