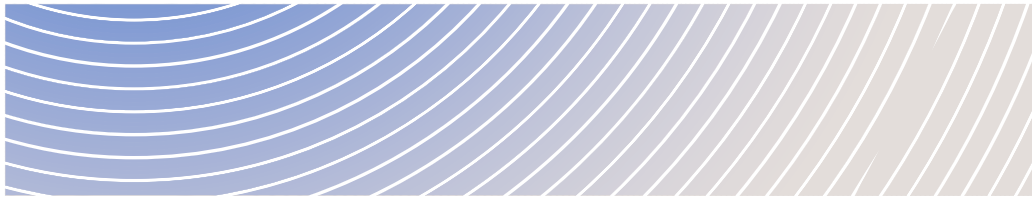




Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan



SHAAKICHUWAANAAN MINING PROJECT

August 18, 2025



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1. Introduction

The Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (the IEPP) outlines opportunities and methods for meaningful consultation and engagement are conducted by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) with Indigenous Peoples potentially affected by the Shaakichiuwaanaan project.

In order to carry out the impact assessment process, IAAC and the Cree Nation Government (CNG) signed in 2025 the [Agreement concerning the Shaakichiuwaanaan External Federal Assessment Process under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the Impact Assessment Act](#). The Agreement delegates to a joint assessment committee (the committee), composed of representatives appointed by the CNG and IAAC, the responsibility for carrying out the activities required under the Act. This IEPP is established by the committee. The IEPP is intended to be flexible and does not prevent the committee from modifying the approaches described in this plan to reflect changes that may arise during the assessment process.

The federal Crown's consultations will be conducted throughout the Project's impact assessment process, in a spirit of reconciliation, renewal of Nation-to-Nation relations and between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples, and in accordance with the [Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples](#).

This IEPP uses the term 'Indigenous groups' to refer to Indigenous Peoples who may wish to take part in an impact assessment. This term includes Indigenous Peoples connected by Nation, Band, geographical location, community roles or other governance mechanisms, shared values or identities. In the context of the impact assessment process, the committee encourages the active participation of the Chief and council, leaders of the Indigenous group, and other members of the group, such as women, Elders, 2SLGBTQIA+ and youth.

The IEPP for this Project addresses the following elements:

- Objectives of Indigenous groups in the federal impact assessment of the Project;
- Crown consultation on the potential impacts of the Project on Indigenous groups and on the exercise of Aboriginal rights, asserted or recognized, or Treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Engagement with Indigenous Peoples regarding Indigenous Knowledge they may wish to contribute or apply when considering potential impacts, or any other cultural considerations and customs that should be taken into account in the Project's decision making;
- Engagement with Indigenous groups that encourages the participation of different subgroups of the population, in particular women, Elders, 2SLGBTQIA+, and youth;
- General tools and processes for consulting and engaging with Indigenous groups at all stages of the impact assessment process, particularly during comment periods on key documents; and
- Specific tools and processes for consultation and engagement with Indigenous groups that have shown an interest in elements of the impact assessment.



To supplement this general IEPP, individual consultation plans may be developed with certain Indigenous groups to clarify their specific consultation objectives or unique characteristics that need to be taken into account in the Project's assessment process.

This Project is in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government area, on Category III lands under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). These are public lands that are under the jurisdiction of the Crown where Indigenous Peoples have hunting, fishing, and trapping rights, in accordance with section 24 of the JBNQA. As a signatory to this treaty, the Government of Canada is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities and working with its partners throughout the impact assessment process. Any special features of the impact assessment and consultation process may be set out in a consultation plan specific to each nation.

In addition to this plan, the committee intends to involve Indigenous Peoples and organizations interested in the impact assessment process using the engagement tools and methods described in the Public Participation Plan.

2. Description of the Proposed Project

Patriot Battery Metals is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and closure of a new hybrid open-pit and underground lithium mine located about 250 kilometers east of Radisson, Quebec. As proposed, the Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project would include an ore processing plant, a water treatment plant a workers' camp, and storage areas for waste rock, tailings and ore. The mine would produce 49,500 tonnes of ore per day over a mine-life of about 24 years.

For more information on the Shaakichiuwaanaan mining project or to read more information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Registry website) at [Shaakichiuwaanaan mining project](#).

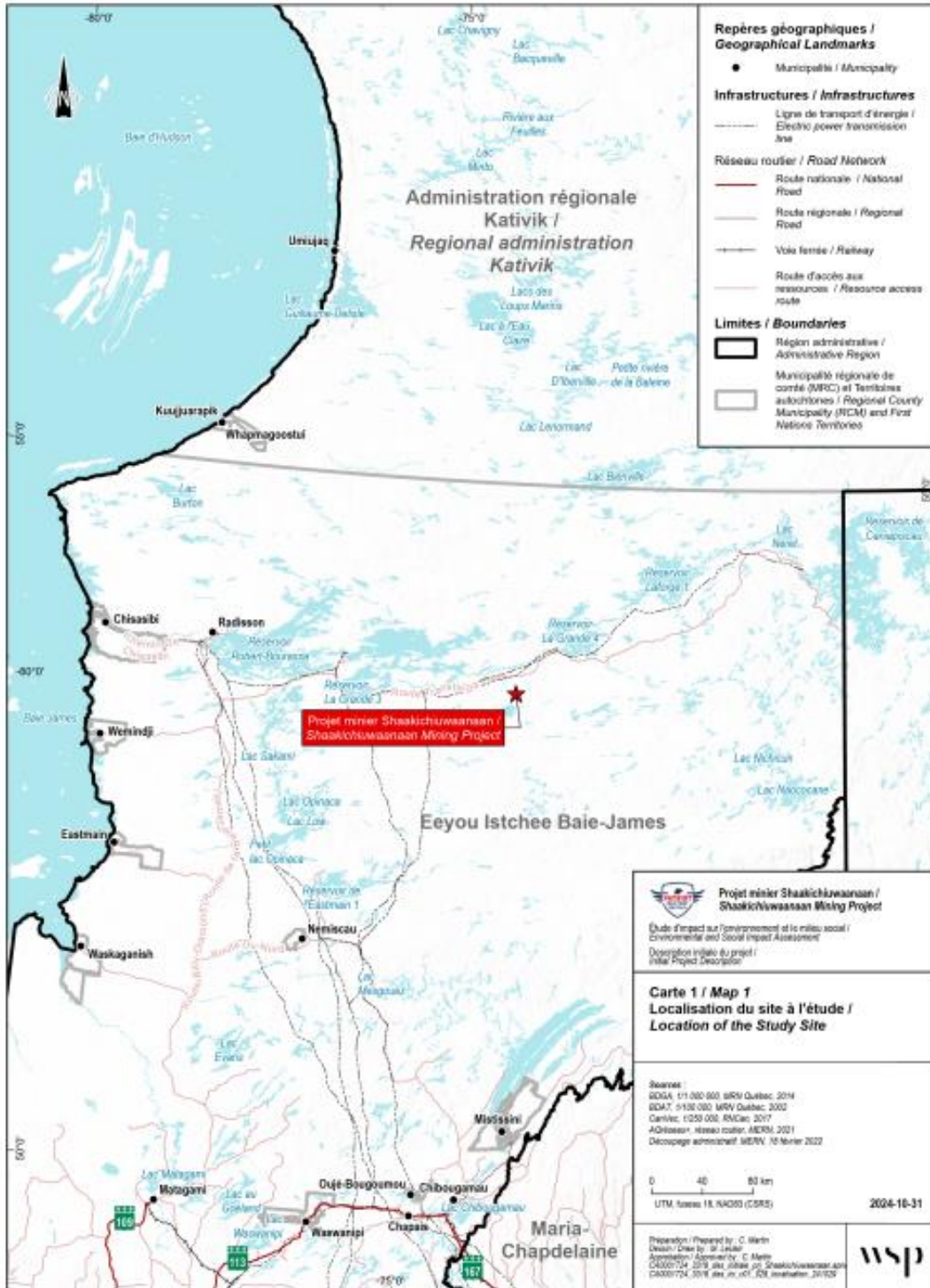


Figure 1 – Project Location



3. Indigenous Peoples

The Joint assessment committee identified the following lists of Indigenous groups that may be potentially impacted by the Project. This includes Indigenous groups that could be affected by the adverse impacts of the Project on them or on the exercise of their rights, recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and Indigenous Peoples with rights or interests where an assessment of factors under section 22 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) may be required.

Although the impact assessment process is not a rights-determination process, IAAC acknowledges that the content and extent of the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate varies according to the nature of the rights (established or potential) and the severity of the Project's potential impact on these rights. IAAC is in the preliminary stages of its assessment to determine the extent of its obligation to consult with and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous groups. IAAC intends to continue this exercise in collaboration with Indigenous groups during the impact assessment phase and will reassess the content and scope of its duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate as new information becomes available throughout the impact assessment process.

The Government of Canada is committed to renewing its relationship with Indigenous Peoples by implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act*. This involves the respect of rights, cooperation, partnership and carrying out impact assessments in a manner that emphasizes the need to seek free, prior, and informed consent and support self-determination. The committee is supporting this commitment through this IEPP. In addition to the IEPP, the committee plans to engage Indigenous organizations that have expressed an interest in the impact assessment process and are listed in the Public Participation Plan, using the engagement tools and methods outlined in that plan.

3.1 Consultation List of Indigenous Groups

IAAC as representative of the federal Crown, and the CNG (for the Cree Nations only) will consult with the Indigenous groups listed in Table 1 to understand their concerns and the potential impacts of the project on them and on the exercise of their potential or established Indigenous or treaty rights, and, where appropriate, take measures to accommodate them. These consultations will comprise an integral part of the work that will support the assessment of the Project.

The Indigenous groups included in Table 1 comprise the list targeted for consultations by the federal Crown. The Consultation list includes Indigenous groups that, according to IAAC, are likely to experience an adverse impact by the Project on their Indigenous rights. They were informed about the Shaakichiuwaanaan mining project during the Planning Phase of the project impact assessment process.



The list of identified Indigenous groups may change as knowledge about the potential impacts and effects of the Project evolves or if the Project or its components change during the impact assessment. The committee (or IAAC for non-Cree Indigenous groups) reserves the right to modify this list based on additional information gathered during the impact assessment and will notify the proponent accordingly.

Table 1: List of Indigenous Groups that will be consulted by IAAC

Indigenous Groups
Cree Nation of Chisasibi
Cree Nation of Wemindji
Cree Nation of Mistissini
Cree Nation Government
Makivvik Corporation

4. Engagement and Consultation Objectives and Methods

The Indigenous groups and the committee mutually defined the objectives of the impact assessment process and the tools listed in Table 2 with respect to their participation in the impact assessment process:

Table 2: Objectives and tools for engaging Indigenous Peoples

Common objectives identified by the Indigenous groups and the committee	Implementation procedure by the committee	Committee's tools
Crown consultation and coordination of consultation processes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation and decision-making approach must be clear, timely, transparent, and respected; The consultation must include active efforts to uphold traditional land use practices, values, and areas of interest throughout the federal assessment process; The consultation must demonstrate an effort to present technical studies and documents in clear, common language to make them accessible to community members; To be meaningful, consultation must be conducted during the identification of elements that determine the scope of the impact assessment (valued components, indicators, objectives, spatial and temporal boundaries of the study area) and all subsequent steps of the impact assessment; Meaningful consultation must include the identification, assessment, and determination of appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures for all adverse effects and improvements in positive impacts of the project, including those on health and socioeconomic conditions; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer the opportunity to apply for financial assistance under the Participant Funding Program to help Indigenous groups participate in the impact assessment process; Provide clear information on the financial assistance available, the timeline for the impact assessment process, and the expected workload for Indigenous groups to ensure meaningful participation and engagement; Provide individual or group training on the evaluation process and how to participate effectively in the process; Take into account, when communicated by an Indigenous group, cultural needs, including seasonal activities (e.g., harvesting and hunting seasons) and cultural (e.g., offerings such as tobacco) and spiritual (opening prayers) protocols; Respect, when communicated by an indigenous group, consultation policies or protocols during activities, to the extent possible; Offer to help assess the impact on the exercise of rights; Define clear processes for establishing and designing accommodation measures, as much as possible; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide summaries of key documents, fact sheets, infographics, PowerPoint tools, booklets, and audiovisual material in plain language and in an accessible format. Adapt communication and consultation processes to community schedules; Hold technical meetings with indigenous groups and the proponent or expert authorities to support the technical review of key documents by indigenous groups and the participation of these groups throughout the impact assessment process, taking into account the timelines and capacities of indigenous groups;
Collaboration and communication		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about committee consultations should be shared with community members, including those responsible for disseminating this information within their communities. This information should be shared through channels commonly used by community members, including radio and local newspapers (not limited to email); Consultation and information sharing on this issue should take into account the community's schedule of activities (traditional and non-traditional). Consultation should be conducted in person whenever possible and should involve different community groups (youth, women, elders). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with Indigenous communities in a consistent, open, and transparent manner; Allow reasonable time for visits to the community, where appropriate; Establish conditions that promote diverse participation (e.g., accessibility of meeting locations, meeting dates and times, transportation); Ensure that information is received by the groups through various means of communication (emails, telephone discussions); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide translators and/or interpreters to support meetings between Indigenous groups and the Crown; Translate key high-level documents into the Cree language, upon request and as feasible; Offer workshops to discuss the proponent's impact assessment as part of the impact assessment process, where applicable.



5. Engagement and Consultation Methods

Before determining that an impact assessment was required on May 28, 2025, the committee consulted with Indigenous Peoples on the Initial Project Description and prepared the Summary of Issues. The committee then forwarded this summary, which includes, among other things, the main issues identified by Indigenous Peoples, to the proponent for response.

Please note that the consultations scheduled for Chisasibi in June 2025 had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The consultations will be rescheduled in fall 2025. However, the community shared its concerns with IAAC in writing in March 2025.

The table below provides a description of the key steps in the impact assessment process and engagement methods, including opportunities for collaboration between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples during the impact assessment process, as currently defined under the IAA.

Table 3: Indigenous engagement approaches and activities

Planned activities by committee	Participation/activities expected from Indigenous groups
<p>Phase 1: Planning</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Foster a common awareness of the impact assessment process. ✓ Provide Indigenous groups funding to support participation during the Planning Phase. ✓ Obtain comments and feedback on documents related to the Planning Phase such as the Initial Project Description. ✓ Collaborate on the development of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. ✓ Share information on the impact assessment process and on opportunities for participation. <p style="text-align: center;">Timeline: 180 days (excluding any time limit suspension)</p>	
<p>Phase 2: Impact Statement</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase awareness and understanding of the impact assessment process among Indigenous groups. ✓ Provide Indigenous groups funding to support participation for the remainder of the impact assessment process. ✓ Encourage Indigenous groups to share Indigenous Knowledge and information with the proponent to inform the development of the proponent's Impact Statement. ✓ Obtain comments / views on the proponent's Impact Statement by emphasizing the key issues of the Project. ✓ Notify Indigenous groups of key steps in the impact assessment process, such as the receipt of the Impact Statement and the comment period on the Impact Statement. ✓ Identify potential impacts on the exercise of Indigenous rights and avoidance, mitigation, or accommodation measures in collaboration with Indigenous groups <p style="text-align: center;">Timeline: Up to 3 years (excluding any time limit extension)</p>	

Planned activities by committee	Participation/activities expected from Indigenous groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administers participant funding for the remainder of the impact assessment process. • Works with Indigenous groups to implement the IEPP. • Shares information and provides training to Indigenous groups on the impact assessment process. • Maintain a dialogue with interested Indigenous groups to finalize approach to the assessment of impacts on their exercise of their rights and interests. • Provides indigenous groups with information on the protection of confidential or sensitive information. • Posts the proponent's Impact Statement on the Registry website and sends notification emails to Indigenous groups. • Works with Indigenous groups to develop partnership approaches, where appropriate, for the review of the proponent's Impact Statement. • Informed Indigenous groups of the ways in which comments and information from Indigenous groups may be shared (with permission) with other participants in the impact assessment process. • Holds a comment period on the Impact Statement. Comments will help determine whether the Impact Statement contains all the studies and information required in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Indigenous groups will also be able to share their comments on the project's effects, the avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures required, and the follow-up program. • Where appropriate, organizes meetings between federal authorities, Indigenous groups, and, if appropriate, the proponent to discuss technical issues, inform the assessment of impacts on rights and interests and early identification of mitigation measures. • If necessary, will request additional information from the proponent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for funding to participate in the remaining phases of the impact assessment process. • If interested, work with the committee to establish a collaborative assessment of potential project impacts on Indigenous groups and the exercise of their rights and interests. • Express to the proponent any interest in funding for studies related to the Impact Statement. • Share their points of view on the Project's potential impacts on the exercise of their rights and interests with the proponent to inform the Impact Statement and with IAAC to support its review of the Impact Statement. These comments may include, where appropriate, Indigenous Knowledge. • Work with the proponent to gather relevant information about the project's adverse effects (direct and incidental) and discuss mitigation and monitoring measures to address possible adverse effects with the proponent to inform the proponent's Impact Statement. • Submit comments on the proponent's Impact Statement to the committee to determine whether the committee accepts the Impact Statement and moves onto the next phase of the assessment.
<p>Phase 3: Impact Assessment</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase awareness and understanding of the impact assessment process among Indigenous groups. ✓ Where there is interest, collaborate with Indigenous groups on the assessment of potential project impacts on their communities and the exercise of their rights and interests. ✓ Prepare the committee's analysis and preliminary conclusions regarding the potential impacts of the project on Indigenous groups, hold consultations on the matter, and provide the analysis and preliminary conclusions to Indigenous groups. ✓ Obtain comments / views on IAAC's draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions. ✓ Notify Indigenous groups of key stages in the process, such as the consultation period for the Draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions. <p style="text-align: center;">Timeline: Up to 300 days (excluding any time limit extension)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administers participant funding throughout the impact assessment process. • Works with Indigenous groups to implement the IEPP. • Works collaboratively with interested Indigenous groups on completing the assessment of impacts on the exercise of their rights and interests. • Works with Indigenous groups to validate its preliminary analysis and conclusions regarding the project's potential impact on Indigenous groups and their rights and interests. • Consults Indigenous groups on any proposed complementary measures or other accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed with the committee during the previous stage and as described, where applicable, in the group-specific consultation plan, collaborate on or validate IAAC's preliminary analysis and conclusions related to potential project impacts on Indigenous groups and on the exercise of their rights or interests. • May provide written, oral or multimedia submissions to the committee. • May invite the committee to visit relevant sites. • May invite IAAC to hold public consultation session in their community. Indigenous groups should work with IAAC to ensure the consultation session incorporates cultural considerations and is inclusive for community members.

Planned activities by committee	Participation/activities expected from Indigenous groups
<p>measures (as applicable) relating to potential adverse impacts on the exercise of their rights and interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions on the Registry website and informs Indigenous groups by e-mail. • Inform Indigenous groups of collaborative approaches established between the committee and with other participants in the impact assessment process and, where appropriate, how comments and information from Indigenous groups will be shared with them. • Holds a comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions. Comments will assist in finalizing the committee's recommendation to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. • Sends information describing, in detail, how comments received during a comment period and at meetings have been considered. • Submits the Impact Assessment Report, and potential conditions, and the Consultation Report including information about whether Indigenous groups provide their consent for the project, to the Minister or Governor in Council to inform federal decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present their points of view to IAAC on the adequacy of the consultation throughout the impact assessment process. • Submit opinions or comments on IAAC's draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions.
<p>Phase 4: Decision</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inform the proponent, Indigenous groups and the public about the Decision Statement issued by the Minister (or Governor in Council). <p>Timeline: 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"> • Submits the impact assessment report to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The report includes the views of Indigenous groups. • Posts the Decision Statement on the Registry website, including the reasons for the public interest determination and conditions, where applicable. • Maintains an ongoing dialogue with Indigenous groups, informing them of the Minister's Decision Statement and providing them with opportunities to learn about next steps post-impact assessment decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May choose to make their own independent submissions directly to the Minister, to help inform the federal decision-making process. • Are informed of the Minister's decision and next steps post-impact assessment decision.
<p>Phase 5: After the decision</p> <p>Objectives (if project approved):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Post information relating to follow-up and monitoring activities to the Registry website. ✓ If amendments to the Decision Statement are required due to changes to the Project, obtain comments on these amendments. <p>Timeline: Begins after the Decision Statement is issued to the proponent and is ongoing.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates the transfer of the federal Crown consultation file to federal authorities, for post-decision regulatory approvals. • Posts the results of monitoring and surveillance activities on the Registry website. • Undertakes compliance and enforcement activities and posts the results on the Registry website. • Consults on possible amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of groups according to the schedule and activities set out in the Decision Statement. • Participate in any follow up and monitoring programs included in the Decision Statement. • Submit comments to IAAC on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required. • If you have any questions or comments about the IAAC's program and policies regarding compliance and



Planned activities by committee	Participation/activities expected from Indigenous groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where appropriate, posts a notice of decision modifying the Decision Statement, together with the reasons for the modifications	enforcement, or if there are reasons to believe there was a contravention of the IAA, please notify the IAAC at the following address: compliance-conformite@iaac-aeic.gc.ca



6. Participant Funding

In addition to funding made available for the Planning Phase, funding is also available to support Indigenous groups to participate throughout the remainder of the impact assessment process. Indigenous groups will have the opportunity to submit applications for financial assistance during the impact assessment phase. This participant funding will be made available to support commenting on the proponent's Impact Statement, as well as draft version of IAAC's Impact Assessment report and potential conditions.

For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or how to apply for funding, please see the Participant Funding Program National Program Guidelines at the following page: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation-impact-assessments/funding-programs/participant-funding-program.html>

7. Federal Agencies' Roles and Responsibilities

The [Detailed Permitting Plan](#) issued at the end of the Planning Phase describes the permits and authorizations that may be required for the Project to proceed.

Federal authorities identified in the Detailed Permitting Plan as well as those with additional expert advice will engage as needed with the committee, proponent, Indigenous groups and other parties to clarify information requirements related to its specialist or expert information and knowledge. Throughout the impact assessment process, federal authorities may also review and analyze the proponent's Impact Statement; support and participate in the committee's Crown consultation activities; and support the committee and Indigenous groups in understanding, assessing and addressing impacts on the exercise of Indigenous rights. As part of the Shaakichiuwaanaan project, the following permits will be required or likely to be required:

- Transport Canada - Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA), approval 7(6) for a major work in navigable water 5(1)a) - REQUIRED
- Transport Canada - Canadian Navigable Waters Act, 24(1) | Order in Council exemption – PROBABLY REQUIRED
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Fisheries Act, 34.4(2) (b) et 35(2)(b) | Authorization under the Fisheries Act with Fish Habitat Compensation Plan – PROBABLY REQUIRED



8. How to Submit Comments

Comments from your community can take many forms. The committee is willing to receive information in a manner and format that is appropriate for your community.

Comments may be submitted at any time during the impact assessment process using the “submit a comment” function on the registry website (# 89271). Attachments can also be downloaded using this function.

If you encounter any difficulties with the submission process, please contact IAAC using the contact information below. Comments may also be submitted by other means, including by email to the analyst assigned to the file.

Comments and other documents received by IAAC will form part of the project file and will be posted on the Registry website, with the exception of comments or documents deemed confidential or subject to a non-disclosure clause. The [IAAC'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 [IAAC's Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want your comment to be posted on the Registry website, please contact IAAC before submitting your comment.

Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence is protected from disclosure under section 119 of the IAA, except if written consent is provided, or if the information is publicly available¹. In addition, Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence could be shared with certain parties if disclosure is necessary for procedural fairness and natural justice or for use in legal proceedings. This ensures that interested persons have a fair opportunity to participate in processes that would likely affect their interests, and that they have access to all necessary information and evidence relied on by the decision-maker.

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 the Project Team (contact below) **before** submitting the information. This will ensure that your submission is handled appropriately. Note, IAAC must consult with you prior to disclosing Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence under an exception.

¹ More information on IAAC's approach to protecting Indigenous Knowledge is find on IAAC's website at the following link: [Protecting Confidential Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act](#)



9. Contact Information

If you have questions or need information, please contact the IAAC office responsible for the coordinating the Impact Assessment process for this project:

Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
901-1550, d'Estimauville Avenue
Québec (Québec) G1J 0C1
Telephone: 418-649-6444
Email: Shaakichiuwaanaan@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

If you would like to contact the Cree Nation Government regarding the impact assessment for the Shaakichiuwaanaan mining project, please contact:

Eva-Maria Hanchar, Environment Analyst
Cree Nation Government
270 rue Prince
Montreal (Quebec) H3C 2N3
Email: Eva-Maria.Hanchar@cngov.ca
Website: www.cngov.ca