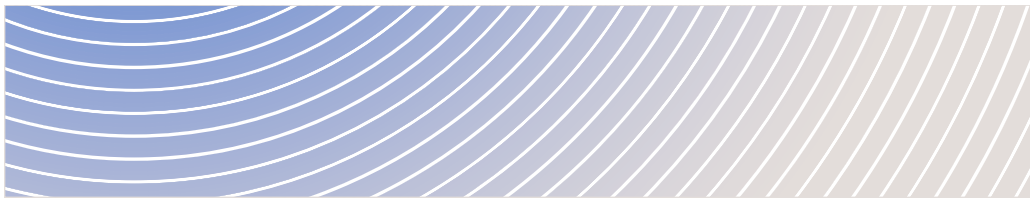


Cooperation Plan



JOYCE LAKE DIRECT SHIPPING IRON ORE PROJECT

July 2026



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On January 3, 2013, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) determined that a federal environmental assessment is warranted for the Joyce Lake Direct Shipping Iron Ore Project (the project), under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. On May 21, 2021, the project was registered with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's environmental assessment process and on November 3, 2021, it determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for the project, pursuant to the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act*.

Following a request from the proponent, on December 17, 2025, IAAC decided to continue the assessment of the project as an impact assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA). For any project subject to a federal impact assessment, the IAA requires IAAC to develop a cooperation plan that outlines how IAAC will work with other jurisdictions. The Cooperation Plan (the Plan) outlines the approach IAAC intends to take with the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador that meets the requirements of the remaining steps in the federal and provincial assessment processes.

The Plan is intended to be flexible and does not preclude IAAC or Newfoundland and Labrador from making changes to the cooperative approach described in the Plan to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment process.

2. Project Description

Joyce Direct Iron Inc. (the proponent) is proposing the construction, operation and decommissioning of an open-pit iron ore mine located in Newfoundland and Labrador, approximately 20 kilometres northeast of Schefferville, Quebec. As proposed, the mine would produce up to an estimated 2.5 million tons of ore per year over a life span of seven years. The project would consist of an open pit mine, dewatering of Joyce Lake, crushing and screening of ore (dry processing), waste rock disposal, support infrastructure, access and haulage roads, a causeway, and a rail loop to connect with an existing railway.

3. Approach to Cooperation

To date, IAAC and Newfoundland and Labrador have cooperated during the respective assessment processes, including technical meetings with both jurisdictions and the proponent. IAAC intends to continue to cooperate with Newfoundland and Labrador during the next phases of the assessment process, where possible, while respecting the requirements set out in respective legislation. Each jurisdiction retains its decision-making power and will make its decision under its legislation.



4. Information Sharing

IAAC has prepared the Tailored Impact Assessment Guidelines for the assessment which includes references to the EIS guidelines issued by Newfoundland and Labrador, where the information already requested by the province would be sufficient to fulfill federal requirements. The proponent will provide one impact statement to both governments, thus reducing duplication.

IAAC and Newfoundland and Labrador will work with their respective expert authorities and share information with one another, where feasible, during the technical review of the proponent's Impact Statement. This will allow for a more efficient assessment process and increased certainty for all participants. IAAC and Newfoundland and Labrador will respect requirements related to privacy and protection, including protection of Indigenous Knowledge and public comments, when sharing or publicly posting information.

5. Public Participation and Participant Funding

IAAC will aim to coordinate its public participation activities with those of Newfoundland and Labrador, to the extent possible.

Funding to support public participation is available from the federal government. For more information, consult IAAC's [National Program Guidelines](#) on the Participant Funding Program (including the program process as well as the activities and expenses eligible for funding). Further information on public participation and engagement activities can be found in the Public Participation Plan.

6. Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

IAAC will lead Crown Consultation on behalf of the Government of Canada for this assessment, while Newfoundland and Labrador will be responsible for Crown Consultation for the provincial assessment.

IAAC will aim to coordinate its activities with Newfoundland and Labrador, as applicable and to the extent possible and desired by Indigenous communities. For further information on these Indigenous consultation and engagement activities, please see the project's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

7. Decision Statement

At the conclusion of the federal and provincial assessment processes, the decisions made by the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will be separate. Where



appropriate, IAAC will share information with Newfoundland and Labrador regarding potential conditions that may be imposed on the proponent in relation to the project to promote consistency and efficiency in the implementation of regulatory obligations.

See Appendix 1 for a table with the preliminary list of provincial regulatory mechanisms, potentially applicable to the project.

8. Interpretation

The Plan is not a legal document and does not change any existing federal, provincial, or Indigenous legislative or regulatory jurisdiction, right, power, privilege, prerogative or immunity by virtue, nor does it create any new legal powers, duties or legally binding obligations.

9. Contact Information

The IAAC office designated for administering the impact assessment of the project is:

Newfoundland and Labrador Office
 901-10 Barbers Hill
 St. John's, NL A1C 6M1
 Telephone: (902) 426-0564
 Email: joycelakeironoremine-minedeferjoycelake@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Newfoundland and Labrador's office designated for administering the environmental assessment of the project is:

Environment, Conservation and Climate Change
 Environmental Assessment Division
 P.O. Box 8700
 St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
 Email: EAProjectComments@gov.nl.ca



Appendix 1 – Provincial Regulatory Mechanisms

The following is a preliminary, non-exhaustive list of provincial regulatory mechanisms that may apply if the project would be permitted to proceed. More information may be available from provincial departments once the proponent submits an acceptable environmental impact statement to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Department Name	Legislation	Permits/Approvals/Licences
Energy and Mines	<i>Mineral Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/m12.htm	Mining Lease Surface Lease
	<i>Mining Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/m15-1.htm	Mining Lease Development Plan Approval Rehabilitation and Closure Plan Approval
	<i>Quarry Materials Act, 1998</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/q01-1.htm	Quarry permit, subordinate quarry permit or Quarry Lease, as applicable
Environment, Conservation and Climate Change	<i>Environmental Protection Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm	Certificate of Approval for the construction and/or operation of the project Pesticide Operators Licence Certificate of Approval for Generators
	<i>Management of Greenhouse Gas Act (Management of Greenhouse Gas Regulations)</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/m01-001.htm	Lieutenant Governor in Council approval is required for best available control technology.
	<i>Water Resources Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm	Permit to Alter a Waterbody Permit for works within 15 metres of a Waterbody Permit to Construct a Non-Domestic Well for dewatering wells Water Use Licence
Forest, Agriculture and Lands	<i>Endangered Species Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/e10-1.htm	Endangered Species Act Permit Economic Activity Permit
	<i>Wild Life Act (Wild Life Regulations)</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/w08.htm	Permit to engage in scientific study of wild animals where that study has the potential to impact individuals or disturb their behaviour.



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	<i>Forestry Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/f23.htm	Cutting Permit Operating Permit prior to the start of any work during forest fire season Permit to Burn
	<i>Lands Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/l3691.htm	Crown Land Lease
Government Services	<i>Environmental Protection Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm	Fuel Tank Storage Registration Septic System Approval
	<i>Health and Community Services Act (Sanitation Regulations)</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/p37-1.htm	Location of private drinking water supply
Transportation and Infrastructure	<i>Works Services and Transportation Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/w12.htm	Highway Access Permit Permit to complete work in a Highway Right of Way
	<i>Rail Service Act</i> assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/tablestatutes/blank.htm	Permit for the construction and operation of a Railway
Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation	<i>Historic Resources Act</i> https://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/h04.htm	Historic Resource Impact Assessment