



November 19, 2024

**Laurence Piché**

Project Manager – Quebec

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

[laurence.piche@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:laurence.piche@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

**Subject: Final Expert Opinion as Part of the Environmental Assessment of the Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project**

Madam,

This letter follows up on your correspondence of October 21, 2024, requesting Parks Canada's final opinion as part of the environmental assessment process for the Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project. Parks Canada is participating in the analysis of the project and its effects as the federal government expert for terrestrial and underwater archaeology on federal lands.

This final opinion concerns only archaeological resources within the following identified environmental components: 1) cultural heritage (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), and 2) structures, sites, and objects of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural importance, including the underwater environment (Indigenous and non-Indigenous).

No significant archaeological resources were detected in the construction area during the potential studies and field inventories carried out for terrestrial and underwater archaeology. The environmental impact assessment conducted by the proponent concludes that residual adverse effects are not significant. Parks Canada considers that residual and cumulative effects on archaeological resources are unlikely. However, a chance find protocol must be implemented for undetected terrestrial and underwater archaeological resources.

Please accept, Madam, my distinguished salutations.

*The original French document was signed in 2024.11.19.*

T. J. Hammer

Director

Archaeology, Collections and Conservation Directorate

Parks Canada

[tj.hammer@pc.gc.ca](mailto:tj.hammer@pc.gc.ca)

c.c. Charles Dagneau, Underwater Archaeologist

Jenneth Curtis, Terrestrial Archaeologist

Marie-Claude Martel, Impact Assessment Specialist

**ANNEX A**  
**Parks Canada Responses Regarding Terrestrial and Underwater**  
**Archaeological Resources**

**Existing Environment and Baseline Conditions**

- 1) Is the information presented by the proponent regarding the elements mentioned above described and documented in an adequate and sufficient manner? Please explain your answer and specify any gaps or aspects for which uncertainties remain. Explain to what extent they may influence the analysis of the project.

According to the IAAC (2019), the information required to provide a complete opinion on environmental effects on archaeological resources should include a description of structures, sites, or objects of historical, archaeological, and paleontological importance.

Potential studies and inventories were conducted by Archéotec inc. (2017a; 2023b) for terrestrial archaeology and by Archaeological Research Associates (ARA 2023a; 2023b; 2024a) for underwater archaeology. No significant archaeological resources were detected in the work area. Parks Canada considers that the baseline condition is adequately and sufficiently documented and described (ARA 2023a; 2023b; 2024a; Archéotec inc. 2017a; 2017b; PSPC 2024a; Tetra-Tech 2024: Chapters 13–14).

**Potential Effects**

- 2) Have the potential effects on the elements mentioned above been adequately identified and documented by the proponent? Please explain your answer and specify any gaps or aspects for which uncertainty remains. Please describe any potential effects that were poorly identified or not identified.

There are currently no known archaeological resources in the work area, but accidental discoveries could still occur. In such a case, the potential effect would be the destruction of resources. Parks Canada considers that the potential effects were adequately identified in the study (PSPC 2024a; Tetra-Tech 2024: Chapters 13–14, Chapter 20, Table 20.1).

**Mitigation Measures**

- 3) Among the mitigation measures proposed by the proponent, please identify those you consider to be key measures. Please propose corrections (if necessary) or recommend any other measures you deem essential to avoid or mitigate impacts that were not proposed by the proponent.

In the event of an accidental discovery, the proponent plans to carry out exhaustive documentation of archaeological remains that may be destroyed or affected by the work, including a crib structure located outside the work area, if it is affected (ARA 2023a, 2023b; 2024a; Archéotec inc. 2017b; PSPC 2024a).

In its response to Information Request 2 (PSPC 2024b), the proponent indicated that a terrestrial and underwater chance find protocol will be prepared prior to construction. The

protocol must clearly indicate jurisdiction, contacts, and steps to follow. It should be noted that land property falls under federal jurisdiction, while underwater property falls under provincial jurisdiction.

Parks Canada considers these key mitigation measures to be adequate. Given the absence of detected resources in the work area and the implementation of a chance find protocol for terrestrial and underwater resources, Parks Canada considers that there will be no residual or cumulative effects. Finally, if artifacts are discovered, the proponent is responsible for the conservation of the collections. Parks Canada only takes responsibility for archaeological collections from sites it administers.

### **Residual and Cumulative Effects**

Given the absence of detected resources in the work area and the implementation of a chance find protocol for undetected terrestrial and underwater resources, Parks Canada considers that there will be no residual or cumulative effects.

### **Monitoring and Follow-up Programs**

Given the absence of detected resources in the work area, Parks Canada considers that it is not necessary to establish a monitoring and follow-up program. However, this could become necessary in the event of an accidental discovery and based on the recommendations of an archaeologist.

## Sources Cited

- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (AAAC), 2019. *Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Template for Designated Projects Subject to the Impact Assessment Act*. Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Ottawa.
- Archaeological Research Associates (ARA), 2023a, Marine Archaeological Assessment, Background Research, Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project (Quebec) (715-32760TT), Intersection of Lake Temiskaming and the Ottawa River Straddling Border of Québec and Ontario.
- Archaeological Research Associates (ARA), 2023b, Marine Archaeological Assessment, Task 2, Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec. Replacement Project (Quebec) (715-32760TT), Intersection of Lake Temiskaming and the Ottawa River Straddling Border of Québec and Ontario.
- Archaeological Research Associates (ARA), 2024a, Marine Archaeological Assessment, Technical Note, Task 3, Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project (Quebec) (715-32760TT), Intersection of Lake Temiskaming and the Ottawa River Straddling Border of Québec and Ontario.
- Archaeological Research Associates (ARA), 2024b, Marine Archaeological Assessment Task 4 – Marine Archaeological Intervention Plan Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project (Quebec), Intersection of Lake Temiskaming and the Ottawa River Straddling Border of Québec and Ontario.
- Archéotec inc., 2017a, Timiskaming dam complex: Quebec dam replacement. Archaeological potential assessment.
- Archéotec inc., 2017b, Timiskaming Dams Quebec Dam Replacement. Archaeological Evaluation, Phase II. Archaeological Intervention 2017.
- PSPC, 2024a, Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project. Response to Information Request No. 1, March 2024. Réponses: AEIC-1-85 Territoire domanial; AEIC-1-86 Gestion des collections archéologiques ; AEIC-1-87 Évaluation archéologique subaquatique; AEIC-1-88 Valeur culturelle potentielle du barrage-pont actuel.
- PSPC, 2024b, Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project. Response to Information Request No. 2, September 2024. Réponses: IAAC-2-22 – Archaeological Collections Management; IAAC-2-21 –Archaeological Chance-find Protocol.
- Tetra-Tech, 2024, Timiskaming Dam-Bridge of Quebec Replacement Project (Quebec). Environmental Impact Statement.

PART D – Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment. Chapter 14 Non-Indigenous Peoples and Communities; Section 14.3.8 Assessment: Destruction of Archaeological Resources;

PART E – Other effects; Chapter 17 Cumulative effects; Section 17.5.6.1 Physical and Cultural Heritage;

PART F – Summary of the Environmental Effect Assessment; Chapter 20 Effects on the Human Environment; Table 20.1 Summary Table of Environmental Assessment;

PART G – Follow-up and Monitoring Programs; Chapter 22 Monitoring and Chapter 23 Follow-up; Table 23.2 Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Measures (p. 23-8).