



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region
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Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario
600-55 rue York
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

December 19, 2019

Sent by email

Chief Leo Metatawabin
Fort Albany First Nation
P.O. Box 1
Fort Albany ON P0L 1H0
chief@fafnmail.com

Dear Chief Leo Metatawabin:

Subject: Notice of Comment Period on the Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and Request for Input by January 28, 2020

Thank you for your continued participation in the planning phase of the federal impact assessment for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (the Project).

The objective of this letter is to:

- inform you that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is conducting a public comment period from December 19, 2019, to January 28, 2020;
- invite input from your community on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Project (Enclosure 1);
- invite input from your community on the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan to guide consultation planning for the federal impact assessment (Enclosure 2);
- invite your community to identify any aspects of the environmental, health, social, and economic conditions that are of value to your community, and any existing studies or plans that could inform the assessment of the Project (Enclosures 3.1 and 3.2);
- provide responses to comments your community has provided to the Agency to-date (Enclosure 4)

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Development of Impact Assessment Planning Documents

On December 2, 2019, Fort Albany First Nation received notice from the Agency that a federal impact assessment is required for the Project. During the week of November 25, 2019, the Agency met with several Indigenous groups to develop the draft versions of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan. Drafts of the following documents are posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (the Registry):

- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Enclosure 1)
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (Enclosure 2)
- Public Participation Plan
- Permitting Plan
- Cooperation Plan

Your community is now invited to provide comments to enable the Agency to finalize the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan to help define the scope, content and conduct of the federal impact assessment.

Comment Opportunity and Collaborative Development of Documents

Drafts of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan are enclosed with this letter for your review and consideration (Enclosures 1 and 2). The Agency is conducting a 40-day public comment period from December 19, 2019, to January 28, 2020, to seek input from potentially impacted Indigenous groups.

In order to facilitate the collection of comments within your community, the Agency has prepared two forms, which are attached to this letter.

1. The worksheet (Enclosure 3.1) is designed to help community members identify any aspects of the environmental, health, social and economic conditions that are important to your community (valued components); who uses these valued components; and how these components may be changed due to the Project.

Comments would be used to inform the finalization of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, which provide direction to Marten Falls First Nation, on the factors to be considered, the methodology to be followed and information requirements, in order to guide preparation of the Impact Statement.

The Agency also welcomes receiving information on any existing study or plan prepared by an Indigenous group that is relevant to the region within which the Project is proposed. Obtaining this information early in the planning phase will help inform the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines.

2. The comment form (Enclosure 3.2) is designed to help you provide input on how your community would like to be consulted during the impact assessment process. The comment form will be used to inform the finalization of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan as well as a community-specific consultation work plan, should it be requested.

Please note that you may submit comments in the format of your choice. The Agency requests that comments be submitted using the “submit a comment” feature available on the Registry (Reference No. 80184 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80184>). Attachments can also be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the registry directly at IAAC.CEAR-RCEE.AEIC@canada.ca.

Important Note

Please note that any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file, and may be posted online via the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #80184) subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality.

The Agency's Submission Policy (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>) determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection?culture=en-CA>). If you do not want your comment posted on the Registry, please contact us at IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca or call the Agency at 416-476-5476 prior to submitting your comments.

Pursuant to the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, the Agency is required to post finalized versions of each of these plans by February 24, 2020. **Your input is therefore requested by January 28, 2020.**

During this comment period, the Agency will also seek input from the public on the Public Participation Plan, will seek input from federal authorities on the Permitting Plan, and will work with the Province of Ontario on the Cooperation Plan. The draft of each of the documents can be found on the Registry at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80184>.

Invitation to participate in a Teleconference with the Agency

To answer any questions you may have about the above-noted impact assessment documents and to discuss consultation planning specific to Fort Albany First Nation, I propose a teleconference during the week of **January 6, 2020**. I will be following up with your community in the coming weeks to confirm whether you are interested in a teleconference and to schedule a date and time.

Participant Funding Program Grants

Fort Albany First Nation is now eligible to receive a second grant of \$5,000.00 to support your continued participation in the planning phase of the federal impact assessment, including your review and comment on the draft documents noted above.

The Agency's Funding Program Officer will be in touch with you shortly to confirm your interest in receiving this grant, and to outline the eligible costs and activities. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nathalie Boivin, Senior Funding Officer, at 613-864-2902 or IAAC.FP-PAF.AEIC@canada.ca.

Following the planning phase, the Agency will offer additional funding, through a contribution agreement, to support the participation of Fort Albany First Nation throughout the subsequent phases of the federal impact assessment process.

Please feel free to contact me at 416-476 5476 or at IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca if you have any questions. I welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with your community.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Caitlin Cafaro,
Crown Consultation Coordinator
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Enclosures: 1: Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
2: Draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
3.1: Comment form – Consultation Approach
3.2: Worksheet on Valued Components
4: Summary Table of Comments

c.c.: Mr. Chris Metatawabin, Economic Development Officer, Fort Albany
First Nation
Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
Qasim Saddique, Marten Falls Community Access Road Project Director
Nathalie Boivin, Senior Funding Officer, Impact Assessment Agency
of Canada
Agni Papageorgiou, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation
and Parks
Sasha McLeod, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks