



Ontario Region  
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December 2, 2019

Sent by e-mail

Chief Cornelius Wabasse  
Webequie First Nation  
P.O. Box 268  
Webequie ON P0T 3A0  
corneliusw@webequie.ca

Dear Chief Cornelius Wabasse:

**Subject: Impact Assessment Decision for the Marten Falls Community  
Access Road Project and Next Steps – Response Requested by  
December 16, 2019**

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 an impact assessment is required for the Project;
- provide advance notice that a comment period on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan will be announced in the coming weeks; and,
- invite your views, by December 16, 2019, regarding the potential referral of the Project to review panel.

#### **Impact Assessment Determination**

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) has reviewed the Detailed Project Description submitted by Marten Falls First Nation, which includes responses to the Summary of Issues. Based on the Agency's review of the Detailed Project Description and in consideration of comments received to date from Indigenous groups, federal authorities, provincial ministries and the public, the Agency has determined that a federal impact assessment for the Project is required.

The Detailed Project Description and the Agency's impact assessment determination are available at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80184>. By the start of the comment period on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement Participation Plan, the Agency

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will provide you with a table of comments received from Indigenous groups explaining how these comments were considered by the Agency and/or responded to by Marten Falls First Nation, the proponent.

### **Development of Impact Assessment Planning Documents**

The next step of the impact assessment process is the development of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and plans (listed below). We had the opportunity to discuss your community's input to the development of these documents during our meeting on November 28, 2019.

- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Permitting Plan
- Cooperation Plan

The Agency regrets that the meeting on November 28, 2019, had to be adjourned due to a community emergency. The Agency would be pleased to schedule another meeting during the week of January 13, 2020, if requested.

### **Public Comment Opportunity and Collaborative Development of Plans**

In the coming weeks, the Agency will notify you of a comment period on the above noted documents and seek input from your community on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

This will be your community's formal opportunity to provide comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan. Your comments during any meetings with the Agency as well as your written comments during the comment period will help define the scope, content and conduct of the federal impact assessment. Webequie First Nation is invited to identify valued components that would assess social, health, environmental and economic conditions of interest to your community. This would inform the development of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Similarly, Webequie First Nation is invited to comment on features of a consultation process that would best suit the specific needs of your community. This would inform the development of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan or community specific consultation plans that would be developed during the Impact Statement phase.

Pursuant to the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulation*, the Agency is required to post finalized versions of each of the documents listed above by Day 180 in the process, or February 24, 2020.

### **Participant Funding Program Grants**

Webequie 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 1-866-582-1884 or [IAAC.FP-PAF.AEIC@canada.ca](mailto:IAAC.FP-PAF.AEIC@canada.ca).

### **Input on Whether the Project is Referred to a Review Panel**

At this time, the Agency would like to seek your views on whether the assessment of the Project should continue to be led by the Agency, or whether the Minister of Environment and Climate Change should refer the Project to a review panel.

The Agency requests that you share any views you may have by **December 16, 2019**. You may submit your input using the "Submit a comment" feature on the Registry or by email at [IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca](mailto:IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca).

In accordance with subsection 36(1) of IAA, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change has 45 days from the posting of the Notice of Commencement to determine whether the Minister is of the opinion that it is in public interest to refer the impact assessment of the Project to a review panel.

The Notice of Commencement for the Project would be issued by February 24, 2020, at the conclusion of the planning phase.

**Important Note**

In accordance with the *Impact Assessment Act*, comments and other documents received by the Agency as part of this public comment opportunity will form part of the Project File and may be posted on the Registry internet site.

For submissions not submitted directly to the Registry (for example, comments and documents provided via email), the Agency will remove personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and signatures prior to posting to the Registry. Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency before submitting the information.

**Crown Consultation Coordinator**

As you will already be aware, I will be the Crown Consultation Coordinator on behalf of the Agency for the Project. Please feel free to contact me directly at 416-476-5476 or at *IAAC.MartenFalls.AEIC@canada.ca* if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

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Caitlin Cafaro  
Project Analyst  
*Crown Consultation Coordinator*

c.c. : Mr. Gordon Wabasse, Resource Department Director,  
Webequie First Nation  
Mr. James Suganaqueb, Economic Development Officer,  
Webequie First Nation  
Mr. Samson Jacob, CBLUP Coordinator, Webequie First Nation