



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

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

January 28, 2021

**Sent by email**

Councillor Karen Derocher  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
Suite 1100, 11th Floor  
66 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5H1  
consultations@metisnation.org

Dear Councillor Karen Derocher:

**Subject: Designation Request for the Proposed Ontario Line Project under the *Impact Assessment Act* – Please Reply by February 17, 2021**

On January 19, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request to designate the proposed Ontario Line Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

### **The Proposed Project**

The Project would be located in Toronto, Ontario, which the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) understands falls within the area identified by Métis Nation of Ontario as Region 8. The Ontario Line Project includes a new 16 kilometre transit line in Toronto that would connect the Ontario Science Centre in the northeast to Exhibition/Ontario Place in the southwest. Over half of the route would run through underground tunnels and the remainder would run along elevated and at-grade rail corridor sections. Fifteen stations are proposed, with numerous connections to the broader transit network. The Project also includes ancillary facilities used to support or facilitate the transportation of passengers by rail and ancillary works needed to establish, construct, operate, change or retire those facilities or services<sup>1</sup>.

### **Designation Process**

Under subsection 9(1) of IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*.

The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions), or public concerns related to those

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: Infrastructure Ontario and [Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project](#)

effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by April 19, 2021.

The Agency will review information about the Project; any concerns expressed by your community, from the public and other Indigenous groups; and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether the Project should be designated. If designated, to proceed with the Project Metrolinx would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found on the Agency's website at the following link:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

**Important Note:** All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – will be considered public and may be released. 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. Information marked as confidential will not be accepted without prior contact made with the Agency.

In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations>. Please use the *submit a comment* feature on the Project's Registry page to provide the Agency with information regarding this file. Letters can be uploaded using this feature. If you have difficulties using this feature, please contact the Project Manager immediately.

### **Provincial Process**

The Project is subject to provincial review pursuant to the *Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project* under the *Environmental Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990*. More information regarding the applicable regulations is available at: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-0614>

Metrolinx, the proponent, has provided a project overview and a map on their website at: <http://www.metrolinx.com/en/greaterregion/projects/ontario-line.aspx>. Additional project information, including the Ontario Line Preliminary Design

Business Case and the Final Environmental Conditions Report, also is available on their website. For further information on the ongoing provincial process, please contact Metrolinx at using the information provided on this website: <https://www.metrolinxengage.com/en/content/ontario-line-contact-us>.

### **Request for Input**

The Agency notes that both the provincial regulatory development process for *Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project* and the project assessment process by Metrolinx has included consultation with Indigenous groups.

However, to support the Agency's analysis of the designation request, we wish to provide your community with an opportunity to provide input. Please confirm whether your community provided comments on the Project and whether those are being addressed by Metrolinx. The Agency will be pleased to receive any other comments. Given the 90-day legislated timeline for the Minister to make a decision, your response is requested by **February 17, 2021**. Submissions should be made via the Registry, or for convenience by email to the Project Manager.

### **COVID-19 Constraints on Participation**

The Agency recognizes the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges they may present. The Agency remains flexible and able to adapt our conduct as necessary to prioritize the health and safety of communities. Please contact the Project Manager, if you require more time to respond to our request for information.

### **Next Steps**

The Minister's determination on whether the Project is to be designated, with reasons, will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. Should the Project be designated, the Agency will contact you to discuss further steps under IAA.

**Agency Contact**

Further questions regarding the federal designation request process can be directed to Chiara Calabrese, Project Manager, at [chiara.calabrese@canada.ca](mailto:chiara.calabrese@canada.ca) or 416-476-8915.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan  
Regional Director

c.c: Linda Norheim, Director of Lands, Resources and Consultation  
Bonnie Bartlett, Manager of Lands, Resources and Consultation