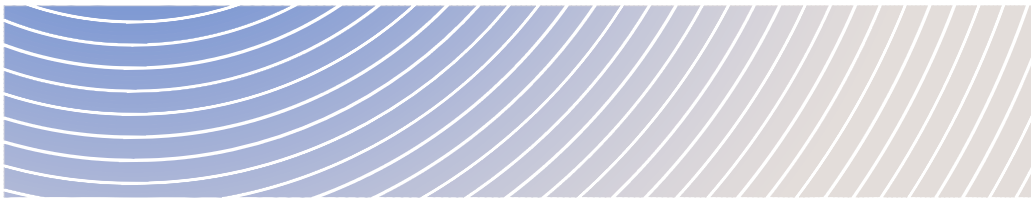


Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan



IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE UPPER BEAVER GOLD PROJECT

January 31, 2022

DRAFT VERSION



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On December 16, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) decided that an impact assessment is required for the Upper Beaver Gold Project (“the Project”), pursuant to Subsection 16(1) of Canada’s *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act).

The Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP) outlines opportunities and methods for meaningful engagement and consultation with potentially affected Indigenous communities throughout the impact assessment process for the Project. The IEPP is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Agency from making changes to the approaches described in the IEPP in order to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment process.

Throughout this IEPP, the terms “Indigenous community” or “Indigenous communities” refer to Indigenous peoples connected by Nation, Band, geographical location, community roles and other shared values and identities. Within the context of the impact assessment process, the Agency encourages the active participation of a community’s diversity such as the Chief and Council, community leaders, as well as other members of the community, such as women, Elders, youth and knowledge holders.

Throughout this IEPP, “engagement” refers to the spectrum of engagement defined in the Policy Context for Indigenous Participation in Impact Assessment ([Policy Context: Indigenous Participation in Impact Assessment - Canada.ca](#)) and “consultation” refers to the Government of Canada’s duty to consult, and, where appropriate, accommodate, on the potential adverse impacts of the Project on the exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

To complement this IEPP, interested Indigenous communities may develop community-specific consultation plans, in collaboration with the Agency, to describe the community’s specific objectives for consultation, or any unique features of the impact assessment and consultation process pertaining to that community.

The Agency developed a separate [Public Participation Plan](#) to describe how the Agency plans to engage with the public during the impact assessment process.

Finally, the Agency recognizes that, at the time of writing this document, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on Indigenous communities and across Canada. The Agency is committed to being as flexible as possible in engaging with Indigenous peoples to accommodate the limitations of the ongoing pandemic.

2. Description of the proposed Project

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (the proponent) is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground and open-pit gold and copper mine located 20 kilometres northeast of Kirkland Lake, in Ontario. As proposed, the Upper Beaver Gold Project includes an on-site metal mill and structures for diverting water. The maximum ore production capacity



of the mine is 15,000 tonnes per day, and the maximum ore input capacity of the processing plant is approximately 10,000 tonnes per day, with a mine life of about 16 years. The Project would require the diversion of over 90 million cubic metres of water per year from Beaverhouse Lake downstream to the Misema River.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Upper Beaver Gold Project or to view the information and comments received to date, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Public Registry) at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/82960>

3. Objectives of Indigenous engagement and partnership

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's objectives:

- Conduct meaningful Crown consultation on the potential positive and adverse effects (direct, indirect, cumulative, residual and incidental) of the Project and adverse impacts of the Project on the exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* (Aboriginal or Treaty rights);
- Meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities regarding Indigenous knowledge they may wish to apply when considering potential effects and impacts of the Project and impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights by referring to the Indigenous Knowledge Framework and guidance documents;
- Meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities throughout the impact assessment process with opportunities to provide comments on key documents and the engagement process;
- Ensure engagement is consistent with the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) as a comprehensive international human rights instrument and Canada's roadmap for reconciliation. The Declaration also emphasizes the need to work together in partnership and respect, as articulated through the principle of free, prior and informed consent. This principle reflects working together in good faith on decisions that impact Indigenous peoples, with the intention to achieve consensus;
- Encourage Indigenous communities to share Indigenous knowledge and expertise early in the impact assessment process to facilitate its integration into key documents such as the proponent's Impact Statement;
- Include Indigenous knowledge, if provided, in the assessment of potential effects and impacts of the Project and impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights, and explain how Indigenous knowledge was considered or used in the assessment;
- Provide meaningful opportunities for collaboration with Indigenous communities' assessment of the impacts of the Project on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights. This may include, where



appropriate, collaboration with Indigenous communities on community developed methodology or processes to assess the impact of the Project on Aboriginal or Treaty rights; and

- Conduct meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities on measures to avoid, mitigate or minimize potential adverse impacts of the Project on Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

Objectives identified by Indigenous communities during the Planning Phase:

During the Planning Phase, some Indigenous communities identified values and objectives for Indigenous consultation for this Project. The Agency summarizes these as:

- Consultation approach needs to be clear and transparent, and adhered to;
- Consultation needs to include efforts that actively uphold traditional land-use practices, values, and areas of interest throughout the federal assessment process;
- Meaningful consultation needs to occur during the development of scoping elements of the impact assessment (valued ecosystem components, indicators, objectives, spatial and temporal study area boundaries) and all subsequent phases of the impact assessment; and
- Meaningful consultation needs to include identification, assessment and determination of appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures for any adverse effects and enhancements for positive impacts of the Project, including those on health and socio-economic conditions.

4. Indigenous communities

The Agency identified the following lists of communities that may be potentially impacted by the Project. This includes communities where the Project may adversely impact the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and also Indigenous peoples with asserted rights where an assessment of effects under section 22 of the Act may be required. This list is based on information available in the Government of Canada's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System, as well as information shared by Indigenous communities during initial meetings and throughout the Planning Phase.

Although the impact assessment process is not a rights-determination process, the Crown acknowledges that the content and extent of the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate varies according to the nature of the rights (established or potential) and the severity of the project's potential impact on these rights. The Agency's assessment of the extent of the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate is at its preliminary phase. The Agency wishes to complete this exercise in collaboration with Indigenous communities during the Impact Statement Phase.

The Government of Canada is committed to renewing its relationship with Indigenous peoples, which is based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. Through this IEPP, the Agency supports this commitment. In addition to the IEPP, the Agency plans to engage Indigenous organizations that have indicated an interest in the impact assessment process process using the engagement tools and methods outlined in the Public Participation Plan.



4.1. Crown consultation list of Indigenous communities

The Crown will consult with Indigenous communities listed¹ below to further understand the concerns and potential impacts of the Project on their exercise of potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights and, where appropriate, make accommodations. These consultations will comprise an integral part of the work that will support the assessment of the Project.

The Indigenous communities that make up the Crown Consultation list were informed of the Upper Beaver Gold Project during the Planning Phase of the project's Impact Assessment Process. In addition to the communities listed below, the Agency also reached out to other Indigenous communities who indicated that they do not currently choose to participate in the federal impact assessment process for the Upper Beaver Gold Project.

Algonquins of Barriere Lake (Rapid Lake)
Communauté anicinape de Kitcisakik
Kebaowek First Nation (Kipawa/Eagle Village)
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
Long Point First Nation
Matachewan First Nation
Métis Nation of Ontario (Region 3)
Taykwa Tagamou Nation
Temagami First Nation
Timiskaming First Nation
Wahgoshig First Nation
Wolf Lake First Nation

4.2 Crown list of additional Indigenous communities to be engaged

¹ The list of Indigenous communities identified here may change as knowledge of the effects and potential impacts of the project is gained, or if the project or its components are modified during the impact assessment. The Agency reserves the right to modify this list based on additional information gathered during the impact assessment.



The Crown will engage with the Indigenous community listed² below to understand the concerns and impacts where an assessment of effects under section 22 of the Act may be required.

Beaverhouse Indigenous Community
Abitibiwinni First Nation (Pikogan)

5. Engagement and consultation tools, and methods

Due to COVID-19, the Agency intends to plan virtual meetings until in-person meetings are deemed appropriate. Any in-person meetings would happen in accordance with local and provincial health guidelines, and would only occur at the request of, and with consent from the Indigenous community.

The following is a list of tools and methods identified by the Agency and Indigenous communities during the Planning Phase to ensure meaningful consultation in the impact assessment process:

- Providing funding under the Participant Funding Program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>) to support Indigenous communities in participating in the impact assessment process;
- Providing clear information on available funding, impact assessment process timelines, and the workload expected of Indigenous communities to ensure meaningful participation and consultation;
- Communicating with Indigenous communities in an ongoing, open, and transparent manner;
- Considering cultural needs including seasonal issues (e.g., harvesting and hunting periods) and cultural protocols (e.g. offerings, such as tobacco) and spirituality (opening prayers);
- Following community consultation policies or protocols in consultation activities, to the extent possible;
- Establishing clear processes for identifying and designing accommodation measures, as applicable;

² The list of Indigenous communities identified here may change as knowledge of the effects and potential impacts of the project is gained, or if the project or its components are modified during the impact assessment. The Agency reserves the right to modify this list based on additional information gathered during the impact assessment and will notify the proponent.



- Holding technical meetings with Indigenous communities and the proponent and/or expert authorities to support Indigenous communities' technical review of key documents and participation throughout the impact assessment process while considering timelines and capacity of Indigenous communities;
- Offering to collaborate on the assessment of impacts on the exercise of rights;
- Providing reasonable time for in-community visits, as appropriate;
- Establishing requirements for diverse participation (e.g. accessibility of meeting locations, timing of meetings, transportation); Providing individualized and/or group training on the impact assessment process and how to effectively participate in the process, including offering the Agency's Level 1 and Level 2 training;
- Providing translators and/or interpreters to support meetings between Indigenous communities and the Crown; and
- Providing summaries of key documents, fact sheets, infographics, PowerPoint tools, booklets, and audio-visual materials in plain language and in an accessible format.

In addition, the Agency will explore opportunities for:

- Translating key high-level summary documents whenever reasonably possible;
- Accommodating communication and consultation processes according to the communities' schedule, where possible; and
- Workshop formats to discuss key documents through the impact assessment process, where appropriate.

The Agency will work bilaterally with individual Indigenous communities, on items not listed above, in the development of an Indigenous community-specific consultation work plan as appropriate.

6. Engagement and consultation approach

The table below provides a description of the main phases in the impact assessment process and an explanation as to how the Agency, on behalf of the federal Crown, proposes to engage and consult with Indigenous communities during each phase. This table describes objectives of each phase and engagement methods proposed throughout the impact assessment process.

Prior to the determination that an impact assessment was required, the Agency consulted with Indigenous communities on the Initial Project Description and prepared the Summary of Issues. Subsequently, the Agency provided the Summary of Issues to the proponent for preparation of the Detailed Project Description, including a response to the Summary of Issues. The Agency included the key issues identified by Indigenous communities in the Summary of Issues, and directed the proponent to refer back to the Indigenous community submissions to ensure they use the appropriate context and intent of the comments in their response.

Specific Indigenous communities to whom the Crown owes a duty to consult and who wish to work with the Agency to identify consultation activities beyond those included within this IEPP are welcome



to express their interest in an Indigenous community-specific consultation work plan during the Impact Statement Phase. The Agency will work with Indigenous communities to develop community-specific consultation work plans, as needed. Table 1 provides a high-level list of the proposed approaches and activities.

Table 1 – Table of Indigenous engagement approaches and activities

Expected Agency activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<p>Phase 1: Planning</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support understanding of the proposed Project ➤ Provide Indigenous communities funding to support participation during the Planning Phase ➤ Increase Indigenous communities awareness of the impact assessment process and meaningful participation ➤ Obtain comments and feedback on documents related to the Planning Phase such as the Initial Project Description and to inform the development of Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP) and Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Guidelines) ➤ Share information on the impact assessment process and on opportunities for participation <p>Timeline: 180 days (excluding any timeline suspension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From September 9, 2021 to November 9, 2021, Agency hosted virtual meetings with Indigenous communities to support their understanding of Impact Assessment and sought key issues and concerns • From September 13, 2021 to October 4, 2021, Agency provided grant funding during the first comment period of the Planning Phase to support participation • Agency responded to any inquiries, sent letters / emails informing Indigenous communities of upcoming Project, and posted key documents on the Registry • Agency provides online training on Impact Assessment process • From December 20, 2021 to March 12, 2022, Agency made grant funding available for the second comment period of the Planning Phase • Agency hosts virtual meetings with Indigenous communities to support their understanding of Impact Assessment and seek their engagement in development of the draft Guidelines and IEPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From September 13, 2021 to October 4, 2021, Indigenous communities participated in the first comment period on the Initial Project Description. • Indigenous communities commented on the Initial Project Description • Indigenous communities applied for available grant funding to support participation during the Planning Phase • Indigenous communities participated in meetings to discuss and inform key planning documents • Indigenous communities comment on the draft Guidelines and the IEPP • From January 31, 2022 to March 12, 2022, the Agency invites comments on the draft IEPP and draft Guidelines including the identification of any existing regional studies or plans that could inform the assessment of the Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails and/or calls • Online comments • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry

Expected Agency activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency shares how feedback has been reflected or not in the Guidelines and IEPP with rationale 		
<p>Phase 2: Impact Statement</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase Indigenous communities' awareness of the impact assessment process ➤ Provide Indigenous communities funding to support participation for the remainder of the impact assessment process ➤ Encourage Indigenous communities to share Indigenous Knowledge and information with the proponent to inform the development of the proponent's Impact Statement ➤ Obtain comments / views on the proponent's Impact Statement ➤ Notify communities of key steps in the process such as the receipt of the Impact Statement and the comment period on the Impact Statement ➤ Identify potential impacts on exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights and avoidance, mitigation or accommodation measures in collaboration with Indigenous communities <p>Timeline: Up to 3 years (excluding any timeline extension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency makes participant funding available for the remainder of the impact assessment process Agency administers participant funding throughout the impact assessment process Agency works with Indigenous communities to implement the IEPP, to develop and implement Indigenous community-specific consultation plans and has dialogue with interested Indigenous communities to finalize approach to the assessment of impacts on their exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights. Agency provides Indigenous communities with guidance on how to protect confidential information Agency posts the proponent's Impact Statement on the Registry and sends notification emails to Indigenous communities Agency seeks the views of Indigenous communities on the project's potential impacts on the exercise of their rights and discuss whether the proponent has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities apply funding to participate in the remaining phases of the impact assessment process Indigenous communities present comments on the partnership possibilities and the ways they wish to participate in the assessment process to inform the drafting, and implementation of, community-specific consultation plans Indigenous communities work with the Agency, if interested, in the approach to conduct a collaborative assessment of potential project impacts on Indigenous communities and on the exercise of their Aboriginal or Treaty rights Indigenous communities submit comments related to Indigenous knowledge, if applicable, that the proponent considers when drafting the Impact Statement Indigenous communities share their points of view on the project's potential impacts on the exercise of their Aboriginal or Treaty rights with the proponent to inform the Impact Statement and with the Agency to support the Agency's review of the Impact Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails and/or calls Online comments Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry



Expected Agency activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<p>adequately identified mitigation and/or accommodation measures, as appropriate, in its Impact Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency holds a comment period on the Impact Statement. The comments will assist in determining whether the Impact Statement contains all the information and studies requested in the Guidelines• Agency issues requests to the proponent for information or studies required to satisfy the Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous communities collaborate with the proponent to collect relevant information about the project's potential positive and adverse effects (direct and incidental), as well as discuss mitigation and monitoring measures to address possible adverse effects with the proponent to inform the proponent's Impact Statement• Indigenous communities express to the proponent any interest in funding for studies conducted by potentially affected Indigenous communities• Indigenous communities submit opinions or comments on the proponent's Impact Statement	

Expected Agency activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
Phase 3: Impact Assessment		
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase Indigenous communities' awareness of the impact assessment process ➤ Develop, consult on and submit Agency's preliminary analysis and conclusions related to potential project impacts on Indigenous communities ➤ Obtain comments / views on the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions ➤ If interested, collaborate with the Agency on the assessment of potential project impacts on Indigenous communities and on the exercise of their Aboriginal or Treaty rights ➤ Notify communities of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions <p>Timeline: Up to 300 days (excluding any timeline extension)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency administers participant funding throughout the impact assessment process. • Agency works collaboratively with interested Indigenous communities on completing the assessment of impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights. • Agency works with Indigenous communities to validate the Agency's preliminary analysis and conclusions related to potential project impacts on Indigenous communities and on the exercise of their Aboriginal or Treaty rights. • Agency posts draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions on the Registry and sends notification emails to Indigenous communities • Agency holds a comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions. The comments will assist in finalizing the Agency's recommendation to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities collaborate on or validate the Agency's preliminary analysis and conclusions related to potential project impacts on Indigenous communities and on the exercise of their Aboriginal or Treaty rights. • Indigenous communities present their points of view to the Agency on the adequacy of the consultation throughout the impact assessment process • Indigenous communities submit opinions or comments on the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails and/or calls • Online comments • Meetings, information sessions and/or workshops • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry



Expected Agency activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method			
Phase 4: Decision					
<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Inform the proponent, Indigenous communities and the public about the Decision Statement issued by the Minister➤ Increase awareness of the Decision Statement, including reasons for the public interest determination, and the conditions, where applicable <p>Timeline: Up to 30 days if the determination is made by the Minister, or up to 90 days if the Minister refers the determination to Governor in Council (excluding any timeline extension)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="190 594 2400 977"><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="190 594 924 977"><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency posts on the Registry the Decision Statement, including the reasons for the public interest determination and conditions, where applicable• Agency has ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities, briefs them on the Minister's Decision Statement and provides them with opportunities to learn about next steps post-impact assessment decision</td><td data-bbox="924 594 1755 977"><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous communities learn about Minister's decision and about next steps post-impact assessment decision</td><td data-bbox="1755 594 2400 977"><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry• Notifications sent by email</td></tr></tbody></table>			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency posts on the Registry the Decision Statement, including the reasons for the public interest determination and conditions, where applicable• Agency has ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities, briefs them on the Minister's Decision Statement and provides them with opportunities to learn about next steps post-impact assessment decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous communities learn about Minister's decision and about next steps post-impact assessment decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry• Notifications sent by email
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency posts on the Registry the Decision Statement, including the reasons for the public interest determination and conditions, where applicable• Agency has ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities, briefs them on the Minister's Decision Statement and provides them with opportunities to learn about next steps post-impact assessment decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous communities learn about Minister's decision and about next steps post-impact assessment decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry• Notifications sent by email			



Expected Agency activities	Expected Indigenous communities' participation/activities	Engagement and consultation method
<p>Phase 5: Post-Decision</p> <p>Objectives: if the project is approved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Post follow-up, monitoring activities and results from follow-up program on the Registry ➤ Obtain comments on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required <p>Timeline: Begins after the Decision Statement is issued to the proponent and is ongoing</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency conducts compliance and enforcement activities consistent with the Compliance Promotion and Enforcement Policy for designated projects subject to the IAA and post results as per section 152 of the IAA on the Registry • Agency consults on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit comments to the Agency on potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should an amendment be required • For questions or comments about the Agency's compliance and enforcement program and policies, or if public has reason to believe that there has been a contravention of the IAA, please report it to the Agency at: iaac.compliance-conformite.aeic@canada.ca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails • Online comments • Posting of relevant documents and Notices on the Registry

7. Participant funding

During the Planning Phase, Indigenous communities received grant funding to support their comments on the Initial Project Description. Grant funding is available to support the review and comment on the draft Guidelines, and the draft IEPP. Funding is also available to support Indigenous communities to participate throughout the impact assessment process. The opportunity to submit applications for funding will be made available to the Indigenous communities during the Impact Statement phase. These participant-funding opportunities will support the Indigenous communities to comment on the proponent's Impact Statement and the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions.

For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding, see the National Program Guidelines and application at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/participant-funding-program-national-program-guidelines.html>.

8. Federal Agencies' roles and responsibilities

The Permitting Plan issued at the end of the Planning Phase describes the permits and authorizations that may be required for the Project to proceed.

Federal authorities³ identified in the draft Permitting Plan as well as those with additional expert advice will engage as needed with the Agency, proponent, Indigenous communities and other parties to clarify information requirements related to its specialist or expert information and knowledge. Throughout the impact assessment process, federal authorities may also review and analyze the proponent's Impact Statement; support and participate in the Agency's Crown consultation activities; and support the Agency and Indigenous communities in understanding, assessing and addressing impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

The Agency is the Crown Consultation Coordinator for the purpose of streamlining the impact assessment process. The Agency has collaborated and will continue to collaborate with all federal authorities and use their expertise throughout all impact assessment phases.

³ Employment and Social Development Canada; Environment and Climate Change Canada; Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Health Canada; Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch; Indigenous Services Canada – Lands and Economic Development; Natural Resources Canada; Public Health Agency of Canada; Transport Canada; and Women and Gender Equality Canada

9. How to submit comments

Comments can be submitted at any time during the impact assessment process by using the "submit a comment" feature on the Registry's project page ([Reference Number 82960](#)). Attachments can also be uploaded using this function.

If you have any difficulties with the submission process, please contact the Agency, using the contact information below. Comments may also be submitted by email to UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or by regular mail.

Comments and other documents received by the Agency will form part of the project file and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website. The [Agency's Submission Policy](#) determines what information can be shared publicly and what information should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the [Agency's Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want your comment to be posted on the Public Registry, please contact the Agency before submitting your comment.

Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence is protected from disclosure under section 119 of the *Impact Assessment Act*, except if written consent is provided. Also, the Indigenous knowledge shared in confidence could be shared with certain parties if the information is publically available, or if disclosure is necessary for procedural fairness and natural justice. Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Upper Beaver team (contact below) before submitting the information. This will ensure that your submission is handled appropriately. Note, that the Agency will consult with you prior to disclosing Indigenous knowledge shared in confidence under an exception.

If you have questions or need information, please contact:

Upper Beaver Gold Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Ontario Regional Office
Email: UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca