



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

March 23, 2023

Sent by email

Chief Arden McBride
Timiskaming First Nation
24 Algonquin Ave.
Notre Dame Du Nord QC J0Z 3B0
<Email address removed>

Dear Chief Arden McBride:

Subject: Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project – Notice that an impact assessment is not required

Thank you for your participation in the planning phase of the federal impact assessment for the Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project (the Project), as proposed by Public Services and Procurement Canada in collaboration with the National Capital Commission (jointly referred to as the Proponent).

Impact Assessment Decision

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) has reviewed the Detailed Project Description submitted by the Proponent on January 27, 2023, which includes its response to the Summary of Issues that the Agency provided to the Proponent on May 30, 2022. Based on the Agency's review of the Detailed Project Description, and in consideration of comments received to date from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, and the public, the Agency has decided that a federal impact assessment for the Project is not required.

The Summary of Issues, Detailed Project Description—including the Proponent's response to the Summary of Issues is detailed in Part B: Planning Phase Results of the Detailed Project Description—and the Agency's Notice of Impact Assessment Decision with Reasons are available on the Project's Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83444>.

In addition, I have enclosed a table that includes comments received during the Initial Project Description comment period, a summary of the Proponent's response to these comments, and the Agency's response determining how the Proponent considered these comments (**Enclosure 1**).

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Reasons for Decision that an Impact Assessment is Not Required

In making this decision, the Agency considered the factors listed in subsection 16(2)¹ of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). In light of the factors considered, the Agency is of the view that given the Project's small footprint, its urban setting and geographic location, the possibility of potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction, potential adverse direct and incidental effects, and the adverse effects on the rights of Indigenous peoples due to the Project would likely be addressed by existing federal and provincial legislative and regulatory frameworks, as well as mitigation measures, and commitments described by the proponent in the Detailed Project Description. Specifically, the possibility of adverse effects to fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, species at risk, as well as impacts on Indigenous and non-Indigenous people would likely be addressed by commitments in the Detailed Project Description, legislative mechanisms under the *National Capital Act*, the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, the *Species at Risk Act*, as well as Parks Canada directives and policies to protect heritage and archaeological sites on federal lands. As a result, the Agency has determined that an impact assessment under the IAA is not required.

Thank you for your comments regarding the potential effects of the Project submitted to the Agency. The Agency notes the Proponent's commitment to continue to engage with Timiskaming First Nation through the life of the Project, and provide opportunities to:

- review Project-specific details;
- identify valued components;
- participate in studies, conduct their own studies, gather and provide Indigenous Knowledge as appropriate;
- identify issues and concerns, recommended enhancements or mitigation measures;
- increase opportunities for economic benefits to be obtained by Indigenous communities and businesses as a result of the Project;
- participate in all stages of archaeological investigations undertaken on Proponent lands; and,
- enter into a collaboration agreement with the Proponent to further strengthen relationships and collaboration.

The Agency expects the Proponent to honour the commitments made in the Detailed Project Description.

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¹ <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/l-2.75/section-16.html>

The Agency encourages Timiskaming First Nation to directly engage with the Proponent contact, Margaret Fournier, at *Margaret.Fournier@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca* on any additional questions related to the Project.

The Agency would be happy to set up a virtual meeting with you to discuss this decision. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you are interested in the virtual meeting, please contact Natalie Boyd, Project Manager, at 647-616-2471 or send an email to *Alexandra@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Marc Leger
Team Lead

Enclosure: Summary of Proponent's Responses and Agency Responses to comments received during the Planning Phase

c.c.: Lindsay McLaren Polson, Timiskaming First Nation
Cherie Stanger, Timiskaming First Nation
Nathan McMartin, Timiskaming First Nation
Danny Bison, Prodigraph
Margaret Fournier, Public Services and Procurement Canada