

Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project

Summary of Proponent’s Responses and Agency Responses to comments received during the Planning Phase

This document provides a synopsis of the comments received and considered by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) in making its decision on whether an impact assessment is required under section 16 of the *Impact Assessment Act* for the Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project (the Project), proposed by Public Services and Procurement Canada in collaboration with the National Capital Commission (jointly referred to as the Proponent). This table identifies the federal departments, provincial ministries, Indigenous Communities, municipalities, public organizations, or public individuals whose original comments informed the high-level summary of comments received (as captured in the [Summary of Issues](#)), along with a summary of the proponent’s response that was considered by the Agency, and the Agency’s response. Original comments are available on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page for the Project \(Reference Number #83444\)](#). All section and page numbers referenced in this document, unless specified, refer to the Proponent’s January 2023 [Detailed Project Description](#). Categories are listed in alphabetical order.

Original Commenter	Summary of Issue	Summary of Proponent’s Response	Agency Response
Accidents and Malfunctions			
Environment and Climate Change Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for further details on potential accidents and malfunctions, including activities with potential to release chemicals or pathogens to the environment, information on proposed accident and malfunction avoidance or preparedness plans, and corresponding mitigation measures.	The Proponent will develop an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) for the Project that will outline the proposed environmental protection measures and commitments to be carried out by the contractor during construction, to avoid or reduce potential effects. The EPP will include an Accidents and Malfunctions Response Plan and a Spill Response Plan. The Accidents and Malfunctions Response Plan will identify potential accident and malfunction scenarios, including those with the potential to release chemicals or pathogens into the environment, and detail their interactions with valued components identified by stakeholders. The Proponent also stated that in the event of a spill, relevant Ontario and Quebec provincial authorities will be contacted to ensure all corrective actions are taken to control, contain, recover and clean up the release in a timely manner to minimize the potential for adverse environmental and human health effects in accordance with provincial legislation. Please refer to Section 22.1 Accidents and Malfunctions Response Plan (Page 408) and Section 22.2 Spill Response Plan (Page 411) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent’s commitment to developing an EPP for the Project, including an Accidents and Malfunctions Response Plan and Spill Response Plan outlining environmental protection measures and commitments to be carried out by the contractor during construction of the Project.
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for further information on potential effects (including effects on human health, vegetation, surface water, fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, wildlife, and species at risk) of accidents and malfunctions (spills of hazardous substances or uncontrolled release of pollutants to the environment), including consideration of existing contamination in the Ottawa River watershed.		
Acoustic Environment (Noise)			
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Timiskaming First Nation	Concerns about potential effects to fish, birds, and other wildlife from potential increase in noise levels during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge.	The Proponent will abide by municipal noise bylaws, restrict construction to daytime hours only, and will require machinery and vehicles used for the Project to implement muffler systems or other noise buffer systems. The Proponent has also committed to completing an acoustic impact assessment, which will establish a baseline for the acoustic environment and identify sensitive receptors, and to develop a follow up and monitoring plan for identified acoustic impacts. Additionally, the Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to contribute Indigenous Knowledge to identify species of concern, determine potential sources and magnitude of impacts of acoustic noise, establish monitoring protocols and possible mitigation strategies as appropriate. Please refer to Section 15.1.2 Acoustic Environment (Page 218) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent’s response to address concerns related to potential impacts to fish, birds, and other wildlife from noise created during construction activities.

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Alternatives Assessment (including Alternatives to the Project and Alternative Means)			
Department of Canadian Heritage	Need for further details and analysis on alternatives, including a comparison of the environmental (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions), health, social, cultural, and economic effects of various alternatives.	<p>The Proponent considered either rehabilitating the existing Alexandra Bridge, or replacing it entirely with a new bridge. The Proponent considered environmental, human health, social, cultural and economic impacts for each alternative. The Proponent further states in their analysis that rehabilitating the bridge would necessitate significant repairs over 10 years, and would require the bridge to be closed for significant periods over that time.</p> <p>The Proponent notes that due to the nature of the existing bridge's construction, the full extent of required repairs is not fully known and may impact the heritage value of the existing bridge. Furthermore, the unknown nature of the required repairs creates high risk and uncertainty in terms of repair times and costs. The Proponent also states that the repairs may not be able to fully rehabilitate the existing bridge to the required safety level. Therefore, the Proponent has indicated that replacing the existing Alexandra Bridge is the preferred alternative due to its lower costs and maintenance requirements.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 10 Potential Alternatives (Page 144) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response to address concerns regarding the alternatives to replacing the bridge.
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Requests from Indigenous communities for increased consultation efforts from the Proponent in the consideration of alternatives assessment for the Project	<p>The Proponent has committed to providing opportunities for Indigenous communities to contribute to the evaluation of alternative alignments, including the identification of potential impacts to physical and cultural heritage to contribute to evaluation of the alternative alignments. Furthermore, the Proponent will continue to engage with Indigenous communities to discuss how Indigenous perspectives, values and cultural elements can be incorporated into the new bridge design.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 3.3 Legislative Requirements, Standards and Guidelines (Page 69) and Section 10.2 Alternative Means to Project Execution (Page 171) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	
Public	Requests to consider that the new bridge be dedicated exclusively for the use of public transit and active transportation.	<p>The Proponent developed its 2021 Planning and Design Principles document to provide bridge designers and engineers with urban considerations and directives to integrate into new bridges. These principles include the requirement for both separated pedestrian and cycle lanes on the bridge and that the vehicle traffic lanes to also be designed in a manner that will allow them to be adapted for public transit such as tram or light rail systems in the future.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 10 Potential Alternatives (Page 144) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent's response addresses how the new bridge will incorporate public transit and active transportation.
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions			
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Need for details related to the volume, transportation, disposal or destruction of wood chips and contaminated soils during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge, and a calculation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with it.	<p>The Proponent has committed to completing a greenhouse gas analysis in 2025 to assess emissions associated with the Project. The greenhouse gas analysis will account for emissions created for the removal of debris and other materials like woodchips and contaminated soils from the project site.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 20 Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Page 386) and Section 22.3.2 Management of Different Materials (Page 415) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent's greenhouse gas analysis will assess emissions related to all aspects of the Project, including the transportation and disposal of woodchips and contaminated soils.
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Request from Indigenous communities for the Proponent to include Indigenous Knowledge in the assessment of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.	<p>The Proponent will work with interested Indigenous communities to develop an approach for collecting Indigenous Knowledge that will be integrated into the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 5.7 Engagement Plans to Completion of the Project (Page 130) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response to work with Indigenous communities to develop an approach for collecting and integrating Indigenous Knowledge into the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

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Cumulative Effects			
Timiskaming First Nation Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for further information on other past, present, and future physical activities in the Ottawa River watershed, and further information related to potential cumulative effects on Indigenous peoples and their Aboriginal and/or treaty rights, and how these effects would be addressed.	The Proponent will define valued components and the spatial boundaries for the assessment of effects on valued components in collaboration with Indigenous communities. The Proponent has also committed to engaging Indigenous communities on the cumulative effects assessment on valued components to determine if residual effects of the Project after mitigation measures may cause significant changes to valued components. Please refer to Section 15.3 Future Studies (Page 262) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response to work with Indigenous communities to design the spatial boundaries for the assessment of effects on valued components.
Effects of the Environment on the Project			
Environment and Climate Change Canada MELCC du Gouvernement du Québec (MEFCCWP)	Need for further information on the resilience of the Project to climate change including potential effects of weather extremes (e.g., flooding) on the Project.	The Proponent will conduct a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in 2023/2024 to assess the Project's vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events. This assessment will identify climate hazards of different severities and consider how they may impact the Project. The results of this assessment will be used to influence the design of the new bridge and will identify the risks posed by climate change and extreme weather events. Please refer to Section 15.3 Future Studies (Page 262) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's plan to complete a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to address the effects of climate change and extreme weather on the Project.
Fish and Fish Habitat			
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Timiskaming First Nation Kebaowek First Nation Environment and Climate Change Canada Ottawa Riverkeeper Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Need for further information on potential effects to and proposed approach to management of fish and fish habitat, including species at risk, species native to the Ottawa River and the Rideau Canal, and species of importance to Indigenous communities, from deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge, as well as an overview of how the requirements of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> would be met.	The Proponent will complete fish and fish habitat surveys to provide baseline information that is needed to evaluate potential impacts to fish and fish habitat in the project area. The Proponent will use the results of these surveys to potential adjust the design of the new bridge, and to develop a fish and fish habitat management approach. The Proponent will engage with federal departments such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada, along with appropriate provincial ministries in Ontario and Quebec, to ensure compliance with relevant legislation such as the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> , that require the development of mitigation, enhancement measures and compensation measures. The Proponent will also integrate Indigenous knowledge to inform mitigation, enhancement, and compensation measures. Please refer to Section 15.2 Biological Setting (Page 236) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response on how it will manage potential impacts to fish and fish habitat, including species at risk from the Project.
Geology and Soils			
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Need for further baseline information, including maps and diagrams, of groundwater, soil, sediment, and wood chips layers across the riverbed, including mapping and delineation of any contamination plumes near the Project.	The Proponent has completed a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment and geotechnical study of the project area, which has provided information on soil, groundwater, and sediment conditions near the project site. Further delineation of contaminants may be required as part of future studies (e.g., as part of an assessment of the project by Fisheries and Oceans Canada under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>). Please refer to Section 15.1 Physical Setting (Page 213) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response to the availability of baseline information for groundwater, soil, sediment, and wood chips layers across the project area.

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Heritage and Historical Context			
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism <i>*Previously, Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries</i>	Potential effects on cultural heritage, including effects on built heritage resources and/or cultural landscapes around the project location.	The Proponent will conduct a Heritage Impact Analysis to help inform the conservation decision-making process by assessing the heritage value of the Alexandra Bridge. A Heritage Recording will also be conducted to document the heritage values and character defining elements of the existing structure. The Heritage Recording will also produce a record that will include visual and metric information of the existing bridge for posterity. Furthermore, the Proponent has begun engaging the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada to establish a peer review panel, which will provide independent advice to enable an appropriate response to the requirements for the preservation of heritage elements in the new bridge.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to ensuring the visual integrity of the cultural landscape will be preserved with a seamless integration of the new bridge into the existing urban and natural environment.
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Timiskaming First Nation Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa	Need for further information on how the new bridge will commemorate the legacy, design, historical context, and heritage of the existing bridge.	Please refer to Section 16.4 Design and Heritage of Structure (Page 301) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Timiskaming First Nation	Need for further information on potential effects of the Project on archaeological resources, including underwater archaeological resources.	The Proponent will conduct a detailed archaeological study that will identify all known archaeological resources and areas of pre-contact and historical archaeological potential. The Proponent will manage archaeological sites in collaboration with Indigenous communities and in accordance with the <i>Protocol for the Co-management of Archaeological Resources</i> , and Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy. The Proponent will also obtain provincial regulatory permits from Ontario and Quebec for archaeological research of the riverbed along the shoreline and for artifacts that are threatened by construction activities in the Ottawa River. The Proponent will also work with Parks Canada and both provinces to collaborate on recovery initiatives. Please refer to Section 16.5 Archeological Potential (Page 307) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent's response to how potential effects to archaeological resources will be addressed.
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	Need for technical heritage studies, such as archaeological assessments, cultural heritage evaluation, heritage impact assessment, and heritage value assessment, to be completed by qualified persons.	The Proponent has indicated that the Heritage Impact Analysis and the Heritage Recording will be completed by qualified professionals. Please refer to Section 16.5 Archaeological Potential (Page 307) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to conducting heritage studies through a qualified person.
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	Need for information on potential impacts of the Project on Rideau Canal (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Ottawa River (Canadian Heritage River), or properties designated under Parts IV and V of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> .	The Proponent states that information on the potential effects of the Project on sites of national significance near the Project and proposed mitigation measures would be available in later stages of the Project's design phase. Potential impacts to sites such as Parliament Buildings, national cultural symbols such as the Rideau Canal locks, Nepean Point, Major's Hill Park, Lady Grey Drive, and Jacques-Cartier Park will be evaluated by the Proponent in later stages of the Project's design phase. Additionally, the Proponent will conduct a Heritage Impact Analysis, which will ensure that the cultural landscape of the region is protected, which includes key cultural locations and buildings. Please refer to Section 16.4 Design and Heritage of Structure (Page 301) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that potential impacts to sites of national significance would be addressed.

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Human Health and Well-Being (non-Indigenous)			
Timiskaming First Nation Public	Need for further information on the chemicals that would be used for dust management during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge.	<p>The Proponent notes that construction specifications for the Project will require contractors to submit a Dust Management Strategy and an Air Pollution Control Plan. The Dust Management Strategy will show how dust generated from construction activities will be mitigated, and calcium chloride may be used alongside water for dust control measures. Any use of calcium chloride must be done in accordance with any limitations laid out in plans for working near water as part of a potential federal <i>Fisheries Act</i> approval for the project.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 16.3 Human Health Context (Page 293) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the potential direct and incidental effects to human health and well-being associated with dust management activities would be limited or sufficiently addressed through the Proponent's proposed mitigation measures and remain compliant with federal regulatory requirements.
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Public	Clarity on which parks and greenspaces near the Project would be affected during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge	<p>The Proponent notes that continued access to greenspaces during construction activities will be assessed as part of the planning process for construction activities, and that any plans for continued access to greenspaces will be shared with stakeholders as part of the Proponent's engagement plans.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 14.3 Nearby Communities and Residences (Page 205) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent's commitment to on-going stakeholder engagement would allow for concerns around access to parks and greenspaces near the Project to be identified and addressed by the Proponent, should they arise as a result of the Project.
Inadequate Documentation			
Agency	Request to include potential environmental effects and concerns heard from all the Indigenous communities in the body of the report.	<p>The Proponent has included a list of key biophysical and health, social, and economic issues and concerns raised by Indigenous communities throughout their consultation efforts for the Project. Additionally, the Proponent has included, in Section 19.3 of the Detailed Project Description, direct responses to comments received from Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The Proponent stated they will continue to engage with Indigenous communities to gather information and evaluate impacts regarding the current use of lands and resources for traditional uses.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 5.5 Procedural Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Organizations (Page 120) and Section 19.3 Engagement Summary (Page 339) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's inclusion of a list of key issues raised by Indigenous communities along with responses.

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Indigenous Engagement			
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for details regarding how Indigenous communities will be involved in the identification and mitigation of potential social, economic, and health impacts from the Project.	The Proponent has committed to working with interested communities to gather and integrate Indigenous knowledge into their studies, as part of their Indigenous engagement process. The Proponent will work with each Indigenous community individually to establish funding agreements and supports to ensure their participation in the Project. The Proponent has already established agreements with several Indigenous communities and has offered funding and collaboration agreements to all identified communities in the Detailed Project Description.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to involve Indigenous communities in the identification and mitigation of potential social, economic, and health impacts from the Project.
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Kebaowek First Nation	Need for further information on how Indigenous communities will be involved by the Proponent and how Indigenous knowledge (including Traditional Ecological Knowledge) will be gathered and utilized in the Project, including in the development of study areas, design of the Project, surveys and baseline studies for fish, migratory birds, and species at risk, management and monitoring plans.	To ensure meaningful involvement in the Project, the Proponent will offer Indigenous communities the opportunity to provide input into the design of studies related to social, economic, and health conditions, and will ensure that Indigenous communities have opportunities to participate in Proponent-led studies, or to lead their own. The Proponent will also engage communities to seek their input on mitigation and accommodation measures to directly address concerns. The results and effectiveness of these mitigation measures will also be shared with interested communities.	In addition to the Proponent's commitment to engaging Indigenous communities individually to incorporate Indigenous and Traditional Ecological knowledge into the Project.
Kebaowek First Nation Huron Wendat Nation Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Indigenous Services Canada	Request from Indigenous communities for increased consultation, including establishing agreements where applicable, in relation to the Project.	Please refer to Section 5.7 Engagement Plans to Completion of the Project (Page 130) and Section 5 Summary of Engagement with Indigenous Communities (Page 113) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	
Indigenous Peoples' Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes			
Timiskaming First Nation	Potential effects on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, such as hunting, fishing, and gathering due to potential adverse effects of the Project on fish populations, vegetation (e.g., berries, plants, mushrooms, highbush cranberry, medicinal plants, etc.) and wildlife.	The Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to gather Indigenous knowledge and identify concerns that will contribute to the assessment of impacts on current use of lands and resources for traditional uses, including survey of traditional plants. The Proponent will gather this input and work with Indigenous communities to develop and implement sound mitigation measures. The Proponent anticipates additional studies to complete the design and construction plans for the new bridge. These studies will involve feedback and Indigenous knowledge from Indigenous communities which will be used to identify concerns and determine additional studies would be required to better understand Project related effects. Please refer to Section 3.2 Summary of Commitment (Page 50) and Section 5 Summary of Engagement with Indigenous Communities (Page 113) the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to continue to engage with Indigenous communities to gather information that would inform the assessment of potential effects to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes as well as the selection of mitigation measures.
Indigenous Peoples' Health and Well-being			
Environment and Climate Change Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Health Canada	Potential effects of the Project on the health of Indigenous peoples from changes in drinking water quality, air quality and consumption of traditional foods. Need for further information on proposed mitigation measures and monitoring plans for the effects.	The Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to gather Indigenous knowledge and identify concerns that will contribute to the assessment of impacts on current use of lands and resources for traditional uses. The Proponent will gather this input and work with Indigenous communities to develop and implement sound mitigation measures. The Proponent also states that that drinking water quality will not be affected by the Project. Drinking water systems in are mandated under the <i>Ontario's Safe Water Drinking Act, 2002</i> for Ottawa, and the <i>Drinking Water Quality Regulation</i> for Gatineau. The Proponent will conduct a Human Health Risk Assessment in the design stages of the Project, following Health Canada Guidance documents, if required. Please refer to Section 16.3 Human Health Context (Page 293) the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will address potential direct and incidental effects to consumption of traditional foods, and associated effects on Indigenous peoples' health would be limited, and that the Proponent's proposed on-going engagement activities would provide an opportunity for impacts to be identified, and addressed, should they arise.

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Timiskaming First Nation	Potential or perceived impacts of the Project on mental health and well-being of Indigenous communities.	<p>The Proponent will consult with Indigenous communities throughout the lifecycle of the Project, will encourage Indigenous communities to bring up issues of concern as they are identified, and will work together to develop mitigation measures.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 5.7 Engagement Plans to Completion of the Project (Page 130) and Section 19.2 Initial Assessment of Impacts on Indigenous Communities – Social, Health and Economic Conditions (Page 336) the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will address potential or perceived impacts on mental health and well-being of Indigenous communities.
Indigenous Peoples' Social and Economic Conditions			
Indigenous Services Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Huron Wendat Nation Employment and Social Development Canada	Request for the Proponent to provide economic benefits and opportunities for Indigenous communities throughout the lifecycle of the Project, including during operation of the new bridge.	<p>The Proponent will co-develop Indigenous Participation Plans with Indigenous communities and the private sector to identify and create economic opportunities for Indigenous communities engaged on the Project. The Proponent will provide funding for Indigenous communities and organizations to create community economic development strategies.</p> <p>The Proponent will further engage with private sector contractors to plan, build and operate the bridge through formal procurement processes and legal contracts. Each bidder will be required to submit an Indigenous Participation Plan with its bid, with a clear statement of the minimum number of Indigenous benefits that the bidder proposes to provide, expressed in dollars and as a percentage of the total contract value to have Indigenous involvement requirements.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will provide economic benefits and opportunities to Indigenous communities throughout the lifecycle of the bridge.
Huron Wendat Nation Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for further details on how the Proponent will discuss economic benefits with potentially impacted Indigenous communities with respect to the Project.	<p>Additionally, the Proponent has ongoing outreach with the economic development officers in Indigenous communities to learn how economic opportunities can be realized for each community.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 5.6 Economic Benefits – Indigenous Participation Plans (Page 128) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Employment and Social Development Canada	Need for further information on how the Proponent will ensure Indigenous peoples will have access to training and apprenticeship opportunities in relation to the Project.	<p>The Proponent is conducting outreach with economic development officers in Indigenous communities to learn how economic opportunities can be realized for each community. The Proponent will continue to work with Indigenous communities to build relationships, to ensure economic opportunities are realized. The Proponent will require that each private sector contractor submit an indigenous participation plan which includes apprenticeship programs and on-the-job training.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 5.6 Economic Benefits – Indigenous Participation Plans (Page 128) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will ensure Indigenous peoples will have access to apprenticeship and training opportunities throughout the Project.
Indigenous Peoples' Spiritual, Physical, and Cultural Heritage			
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Potential impacts to cultural and archaeological heritage and resources near the project area (e.g., Chaudière Falls and Victoria Island, which are culturally significant sites for Indigenous communities).	<p>The Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to understand cultural values and practices which could lead to the co-development of mitigation measures that would minimize potential impacts to cultural and archaeological heritage.</p> <p>The Proponent indicates that the project area has a low potential for pre-contact archeological resources. The Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to identify access points to important sites for traditional practices, and will consider them during the planning and construction of the bridge.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 19.2 Initial Assessment of Impacts on Indigenous Communities – Social, Health and Economic Conditions (Page 336) and Section 19.2.1 Sites of Historical Archaeological Significance (Page 336) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will address the potential impacts on cultural values of Indigenous communities through present and future engagements.
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Potential impacts on cultural values of Indigenous communities, including effects to cultural and spiritual practices conducted near the project area, during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge.		

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Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Timiskaming First Nation	Need for details on how Indigenous peoples will retain access to important sites near the project area, including sites used for traditional practices.		
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for further information on how the Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to preserve discovered archaeological resources.	<p>The Proponent has signed a protocol with Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation that provides a framework for engagement concerning archaeological investigations in the project area. The protocol ensures the two Nations are fully informed of investigations and the decision-making process in the management of archaeological resources that are discovered.</p> <p>This protocol will also notify Algonquin Nations at large in the event archaeological or cultural artifacts are discovered. The Proponent also states that this protocol does not extend to other Indigenous communities who are member nations of the Algonquins of Ontario.</p> <p>The Proponent acknowledges that other Indigenous communities may have interests. In particular, the proponent notes that the Huron-Wendat Nation has expressed an interest in participating in and/or leading cultural impact studies, and in reviewing the archaeological/heritage studies that have already been completed, as well as participating in the development of future studies. The Proponent will work with those communities to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement, and establish processes for Indigenous communities to have representatives present during archaeological resource recovery programs.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 16.5 Archeological Potential (Page 307) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to preserve discovered archaeological resources.
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for further information on how Algonquin culture will be incorporated into the design of the new bridge.	<p>The Proponent states that the new bridge must reflect the cultural and historical context, which will be understood with Indigenous participation in the Project. The Proponent will engage with Indigenous communities, particularly with the Algonquin Nation as the host Nation of the Ottawa-Gatineau Region, to discuss perspectives, values and cultural elements that could be integrated into the design of the new bridge. The Proponent will continuously work with all Indigenous communities that are interested on incorporating the culture and heritage into the new bridge design.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 5.5 Procedural Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Organizations (Page 120) and Section 10.3 Planning and Design Principles (Page 173) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to engage with Indigenous communities to discuss perspectives, values and how to incorporate cultural elements into the design of the new bridge.
Migratory Birds			
Environment and Climate Change Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Potential effects to migratory birds and their habitat, including effects to breeding, nesting, migration and overwintering, due to physical or sensory disturbances during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge. Need for further information on proposed mitigation measures for these effects.	<p>The Proponent will conduct wildlife surveys in an estimated timeline of fall of 2023 into winter of 2024, including breeding birds, migratory birds, and local bird population surveys, to provide baseline information to inform potential impacts. The Proponent will also complete a detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the project on migratory birds based on the findings of surveys and following the development of the initial design stages and construction methods.</p> <p>The Proponent has committed to modifying the survey timing windows to include the migration and overwintering seasons. The results of these surveys will influence the bridge design and methods of construction, which will be developed during the design stages of the Project. The Proponent further states that the planned wildlife surveys will be used to develop a management approach that will ensure compliance with the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>, the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>, and other federal and provincial legislation.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 15.2 Biological Setting (Page 236) and Section 15.3 Future Studies (Page 262) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to complete wildlife surveys that will allow for impacts to migratory birds to be identified and addressed by the Proponent, should they arise as a result of the Project.

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Navigation and Navigable Waters			
Transport Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Potential effects on navigation in the Ottawa River during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge. Need for further information on proposed mitigation measures for these effects.	<p>The Proponent will consider the need to maintain navigation opportunities in its construction activities. A Navigation Management Plan will be developed and implemented, including measures such as notices of interruptions and closures, creating marked channels within the river for safe passage, using signage, and conducting bathymetric surveys to ensure that any remains (e.g. footings from old piers) from the Project do not cause obstacles to navigation. Furthermore, the Proponent will continue to engage with Indigenous communities to ensure that knowledge and information is obtained for avoidance and mitigation of potential impacts.</p> <p>Potential effects on navigability of the Ottawa River will be addressed through proponent's Navigation Management Plan, as well as a potential authorization under <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i>.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 16.6 Navigation Sand Waterway Activities (Page 313) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to mitigate navigation of waterway activities throughout all phases of the Project.
Need for the Project			
Public	Request for an updated analysis on the need for the Project, considering changes in traffic, work settings, and social behaviour in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.	<p>The Proponent notes that the Government of Canada mandated the replacement of the Alexandra Bridge in Budget 2019, as part of a broader effort to improve interprovincial transportation in the National Capital Region. The existing Alexandra Bridge has signs of on-going and accelerated deterioration. The Proponent conducted a Life Cycle Cost Analysis and concluded that it will be more reliable and economical, as well as posing lower risk for public safety over the long-term to replace the bridge rather than continuing to maintain it over the next 75 years. Furthermore, the Proponent states that the removal of the Alexandra Bridge without a replacement would create significant social and economic impacts on commuters, local businesses, and the public, despite the changes in traffic levels, work settings, and social behaviours caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Alexandra bridge continues to be vital part of transportation infrastructure in the National Capital Region, is integral to mobility planning for both Ottawa and Gatineau, and requires work to address the current bridge's significant structural concerns.</p> <p>The Proponent also states that the construction of the new bridge will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two lanes for vehicle traffic (one in each direction) designed to be adapted in the future for public transit via a tram or light rail system. 2. One lane for active mobility (e.g., pedestrians, cyclists, users with mobility aids, etc.) on the upstream (west) side of the bridge. The active mobility lane will be bidirectional, with separation of pedestrians and cyclists. The active mobility lane should include seating and viewing locations that provide rest points without compromising safety or obstructing users. 3. The traffic lanes and the active mobility lane will have a solid surface that will protect the bridge from the elements, de-icing products and dirt. This will allow for a longer-lasting structure. <p>Please refer to Section 8 Project Purpose and Need (Page 140) and Section 10 Potential Alternative (Page 144) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response of the analysis on the need for the Project and its social and economic impacts in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Project Activities and Design			
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for further information on the specific locations of project activities (including scale drawings and photographs where applicable) and their proximity to known habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife.	<p>The Proponent notes that support areas for the construction phase of the Project will be required on both the Ottawa side and the Gatineau side of the river, and that exact locations for staging will be determined as part of the design stages of the Project. Further details regarding the changes to the shoreline will be developed in the design stages of the Project and will be shared with Indigenous communities, as it becomes available.</p> <p>The Proponent has committed to completing vegetation surveys, migratory bird studies, terrestrial wildlife surveys, and a fish and fish habitat assessment that will inform the design and location of these support areas. These studies will also identify mitigation and reinstatement measures required for the installation and follow up for construction work areas.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 11.1 Organization of Sites for Deconstruction and Construction (Page 183), Section 15.1 Physical Setting (Page 213) and Section 15.2 Biological Setting (Page 236) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response to share locations of project activities and potential changes to the shoreline will enable the Proponent to address potential effects of the Project on fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, species at risk, and wildlife.
City of Ottawa Public	Need for further information on the proposed public transit lane on the new bridge, including how it might enable future implementation of a tram/streetcar system that would link Gatineau and Ottawa.	<p>The Proponent states that the new bridge design will include a separate and protected laneway for mixed-use active transportation methods, and is expected to increase the use of alternate modes of transportation, such as biking or walking. The bridge will be designed to be adapted in the future for public transit via a tram or light rail system. The proponent will make further details available during the design stages of the Project.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 8.3 Functional Requirements (Page 142) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response that they will provide further information on future potential public transit links to Gatineau and Ottawa via the Project.
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Need for further information, if applicable, on plans to treat or dispose potentially contaminated soil, sediment, or wood chips.	<p>The Proponent will manage excess soil in accordance with federal and provincial (both Ontario and Quebec) environmental legislation and guidelines. Where applicable, contaminated soil, sediment and wood chips will be removed and transported to an offsite facility licensed to receive such materials. The Proponent will develop an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) for the Project that will outline the proposed environmental protection measures and commitments to be carried out by the contractor during construction to avoid or reduce potential effects. The EPP will include a Soil Management Plan to address treating and disposing contaminated soil, sediment, and wood chips associated with project activities.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 22.3 Material Management Plan (Page 412), Section 22.3.2 Management of Different Materials (Page 415) and Section 22.4 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Page 416) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponents response and commitment for treatment or disposal of potentially contaminated soil, sediment or wood chips.
MELCC du Gouvernement du Québec	Clarity on whether the areas in and around the Project would require cut and fill works in relation to the Project.	<p>The Proponent states that cut and fill works may be required, but the scope of these activities will be defined by the design work at later stages of the Project. The Proponent indicates that soil generated by these activities will be addressed in accordance with relevant federal and provincial guidelines.</p> <p>The Proponent has also provided a preliminary assessment for the Project footprint within the shoreline and riverbed containing a 2-year flood level, which provides information on cut and fill work depths. They stated that based on that analysis and design, the Project's footprint within the Ottawa riverbed will be approximately 1665 square metres in area, and will occupy no more than 20 metres of shoreline along the river.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 11.5 Preliminary Assessment of Project Footprint (Page 193) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response in relation to cut and fill works for the Project.
City of Ottawa	Provide information on any plans to include features such as shade and shelter, and rest areas for active transportation users in the design of the new bridge.	The Proponent has committed to ensuring that the bridge design will have inclusive, safe, equitable, and universally accessible public space(s). The Proponent has also stated that the new bridge will include appropriate wind and sun shelter and rest areas.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response to the proposed design choices on active transportation encouragement and planned use of eco-friendly materials for the bridge.

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Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Provide information on any plans to use eco-friendly materials and products for the construction of the new bridge.	<p>The Proponent's Planning and Design Principles gives priority to products with reduced environmental footprint from recycled or local sources. The Proponent will also consider reusing and repurposing materials from the existing bridge. The Proponent further states that they will collaborate with other levels of government and regional partners, to explore all opportunities and synergies to reuse construction materials that are appropriate for other uses.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 10.3 Planning and Design Principles (Page 173) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	
Public and Stakeholder Engagement			
Public Agency	Request information on proposed approach for increased and ongoing public engagement by the Proponent throughout the lifetime of the Project.	<p>The Proponent will make use of the National Capital Commission's (NCC) project website, social media platforms, as well as the project newsletter list, among others, to share general information about the Project, including project updates and progress, as well as detours and closure details. The Proponent also aims to use the NCC's public engagement platform to gather public input, which will be used to inform all the phases of the Project.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 4.6.2 Schedule of Past and Proposed Public Engagement Activities (Page 110) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to ongoing public engagement throughout the Project's lifetime.
Department of Canadian Heritage	Requests for an Independent Design Review Panel for the Project that considers the historical, geographical, and heritage value of the Alexandra Bridge.	<p>The Proponent is requesting that the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada (RAIC) establish a peer review panel to provide independent advice to enable an appropriate response to the requirements for the preservation of heritage elements in the new bridge. The Proponent also states that under the National Capital Commission's (NCC) federal land use, design and transaction approval (FLUDTA) process, future bridge designs will be presented at key stages to the NCC's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty whose experts may advise on issues such as heritage, urban design and bridge expression.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 16.4 Design and Heritage of Structure (Page 301) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provide, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to preserving the heritage, geographical and historical value of the bridge.
City of Ottawa	Request to form a Technical Advisory Committee to seek feedback from local municipal departments, including feedback on accessibility.	<p>The Proponent has established a working group composed of representatives from different levels of government and regional partners (e.g., the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, Ontario and Quebec transportation ministries and public transit authorities), providing opportunities to share upcoming construction projects to ensure that the travelling public is not adversely affected.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 4.6.1 Ongoing, Inclusive Engagement (Page 107) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent's established working group will consider feedback from local municipal departments, including feedback on accessibility.
Social and Economic Conditions			
Employment and Social Development Canada	Need for additional information on the number and types of jobs that would be created throughout all the phases of the Project.	<p>The Proponent anticipates that approximately 2,991 full time employment opportunities will be created as a direct result of the Project, and that additional 3,599 full time employment opportunities will be created indirectly by the Project.</p> <p>The Proponent states that some of the main industries that are expected to benefit from the Project are: food services and hospitality; architectural and engineering services; employment services; building material and supply merchants; manufacturing; and truck transportation.</p> <p>Additional information developed in the initial stages of the design of the new bridge is required to identify details of the workforce and specific trades required.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 16.2.1 Potential Impacts (Page 289) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will provide additional information on the number and types of jobs that would be created throughout all the phases of the Project, once the design of the new bridge is confirmed.

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<p>City of Ottawa</p> <p>Employment and Social Development Canada</p> <p>Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario</p> <p>Timiskaming First Nation</p>	<p>Potential effects on the local economy (local businesses, tourism attractions, fisheries, commuters travelling to work, commercial vehicle operators).</p>	<p>The Proponent states that the Project will have both positive and negative impacts to the local economy. The Proponent has indicated that the bridge will be closed continuously for a period of 46 months, and that impacts to transport users over the construction period will be significant. However, if the Proponent selects the curved alignment option for the new bridge, the existing Alexandra Bridge would remain in operation and available to users during portions of the construction phase of the new bridge, and would mitigate some impacts to transport users. Regardless of the alignment option, the Proponent states that the alternative of rehabilitating the existing bridge would result in longer periods of closure for the required repairs.</p> <p>The Proponent further states that measures will minimize disturbance to the general public. This includes working with other levels of government and transport authorities to develop traffic management and communication plans, to mitigate traffic impacts to commuters. In both the curved and straight alignments options, efforts will be made to minimize disturbance to the general public.</p> <p>The Proponent has also said that it will ensure that sufficient detours are available to help goods and the public cross the Ottawa river, and that it will avoid the closure of other crossings during periods where the Alexandra bridge crossing is closed.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 16.2.2 Mitigation and Protective Measures (Page 292) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	<p>Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will understand and address potential effects on the local economy.</p>
<p>Employment and Social Development Canada</p>	<p>Request for information regarding hiring and human resource strategies in relation to the Project.</p>	<p>The Proponent will employ human resource professionals to ensure that hiring and human resource strategies comply with the <i>Employment Equity Act</i>. Hiring and resource strategies will focus on both the representation and experiences of employees in equity-seeking groups, including those who identify as Indigenous, persons with disabilities, visible minorities and members of the LGBTQ2+ community.</p> <p>Please refer to Table 3-1: Summary of Issues (Pages 31 – 32) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	<p>Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's information regarding hiring and human resource strategies in relation to the Project.</p>
<p>Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa</p> <p>Public</p> <p>City of Ottawa</p>	<p>Effects to active transportation users (pedestrians, cyclists, etc.) during deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge. Request for further information on proposed mitigation measures for these effects.</p>	<p>The Proponent is assessing alternative routes that would ensure access between Ottawa and Gatineau as part of its Traffic Management Plan, and will explore mitigation measures for potential impacts to active transport users during the Project's design phase.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 16.1.1 Potential Impacts (Page 274) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	<p>Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's information regarding plans to develop a Traffic Management Plan that would propose mitigation measures for effects to active transportation users.</p>
Species at Risk, Wildlife, and their Habitat			
<p>Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</p>	<p>Request for a complete list of Species at Risk that may occur in or around the project area.</p>	<p>The Proponent have planned a series of vegetation and wildlife field surveys, including species at risk, to confirm presence within the project area in 2023/2024. These surveys will inform species-specific mitigation measures and legislative requirements such as permits and authorizations that will be required, and a management approach will be developed. The need for and extent of any follow-up program will be confirmed and developed through the design process. Detailed mitigation measures, the management approach and follow-up programs will form part of the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP).</p>	<p>Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to conduct field surveys and studies to identify potential effects on species at risk, and to propose mitigation, enhancement, and compensation measures.</p>
<p>Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>Timiskaming First Nation</p> <p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</p>	<p>Potential effects on species at risk, such as bats and their roosting habitat, turtles (such as Eastern Musk Turtle), snake species at risk, Butternut and American Ginseng, due to the deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge. Need for further information on proposed mitigation measures for these effects.</p>	<p>Please refer to Section 15.2 Biological Setting (Page 236) and Section 15.3 Future Studies (Page 262) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	

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Traffic and Transit			
City of Ottawa	Potential effects on traffic and traffic congestion during the deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge. Need for further information on proposed mitigation measures for these effects, such as a traffic management plan.	The Proponent has committed to developing a Traffic Management Plan in collaboration with the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, Ontario and Quebec transportation ministries, and public transport authorities. The Proponent will avoid multiple bridge closures, and detours will be put in place to minimize disturbance to the general public. Detours and other changes to traffic patterns will be communicated to ensure the public knows how to reach various locations near the construction site. The Proponent will continue engagement to discuss different options as part of the traffic management and communication plans.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to develop appropriate traffic management strategies.
City of Ottawa	Recommendation for the traffic management plan to consider wayfinding, reduction of vehicular traffic at peak times, impacts to individuals and communities along any formal or informal detour routes, sensitive areas, and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Please refer to Section 16.1.2 Mitigation and Protective Measures (Page 276) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	
Vulnerable Population Groups (GBA Plus)			
Women and Gender Equality Employment and Social Development Canada	Need for further information on how the Proponent would apply a Gender-based Analysis Plus lens in identifying and mitigating potential effects on health, social, and economic conditions of underrepresented groups.	The Proponent has committed to applying a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) lens to the Project, to ensure robust analyses of its data. The Proponent will gather data and community feedback, to inform the understanding of potential impacts on social, economic, and health factors. The Proponent indicates that this data will be used to adjust Project approaches and would be followed by evaluation and monitoring to determine the effectiveness of these changes and mitigation measures. Please refer to Section 16.1.1 Potential Impacts (Page 274) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to apply a GBA Plus Lens in identifying and mitigating potential effects on health, social, and economic conditions of underrepresented groups.
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) Employment and Social Development Canada	Need for further information on employment barriers for various under-represented groups (Indigenous peoples, women, newcomers to Canada and immigrants, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2, etc.), and how these groups will be included in economic opportunities created by the Project.	The Proponent states that potential employment barriers could include difficulty in accessing communications and resources, or unreliable or non-existent access to technology. The Proponent has indicated that best efforts have been made to ensure multiple forms of communications are used, with the aim of gathering feedback from a diversity of stakeholder groups and individuals. Furthermore, the Proponent will continue with an engagement strategy to demonstrate how different sub-populations can be included in economic opportunities created by the Project. Please refer to Section 16.2 Economic Context (Page 284) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to engage with under-represented groups and Indigenous communities with different sub-populations and include them in economic opportunities.
Women and Gender Equality	Need for additional details on how the Proponent will engage and consult with sub-populations of Indigenous communities.	The Proponent will work with Indigenous communities to ensure that sub-populations of Indigenous communities are engaged throughout the Project. Please refer to Section 5 Summary of Engagement with Indigenous Communities (Page 113) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	
City of Ottawa Women and Gender Equality	Need for details on the measures that would be taken by the Proponent to manage and address gender-based violence in relation to the Project.	The Proponent will employ a zero tolerance policy for harassment on the project site and the "Interim Standard on Harassment and Violence Prevention in the Workplace" will be applied to all employees of the Proponent and all persons granted access to project site. The Proponent will require mandatory training for its employees and potential sensitivity training regarding gender-based violence for the team and experts working on the Project. Please refer to Section 16.3.2 Mitigation and Protective Measures (Page 298) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent's commitment to prevent and managing gender-based violence in relation to the Project.

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Waste Management			
Public Department of Canadian Heritage Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Request for further information regarding recycling of materials from the existing bridge to be reused for the construction of the new bridge.	<p>In accordance with PSPC's Real Property Sustainability Handbook (2021) in response to the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy 2019-2022 and the Treasury Board's Greening Government Strategy (2020), the Proponent will develop a final diversion report after project completion that will include, all records of disposal (material type, quantities, end destination), as well as the final waste diversion rate achieved by the Project. Should the Project not achieve the minimum PSPC diversion requirement of 90%, the report will include reasoning (challenges with recyclability of certain material types, lack of market availability, etc.) for not meeting this target.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 21.1 Non-Hazardous Solid Waste (Page 405) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's commitment to complete a diversion report that outlines how industrial recycling and diversion opportunities are supported and reduce project waste.
Water			
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Environment and Climate Change Canada MELCC du Gouvernement du Québec Kebaowek First Nation	Need for further information on baseline groundwater and surface water quality and quantity (water current and flow).	<p>The Proponent will complete surface water quality sampling in the summer/fall 2025, along with hydrological assessments anticipated in 2024/2025, to inform baseline conditions for the Project. The hydrological assessments will be completed for the design of the piers for the new bridge, to understand the risks for the structure as well as impacts on navigation and sediment transport from potential changes in the water flow and velocity. These assessments will provide guidance in the selection and configuration of coffer dams, if needed in the construction stages, as well as approaches to reduce impacts and provide direction on mitigation needed to isolate the construction areas.</p> <p>An Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (ESC) will be developed and implemented to mitigate any adverse changes in water quality from potential sedimentation and erosion. It will include measures such as silt fencing, rock check dams, drain covers, and turbidity curtains. ESC will also include a monitoring plan to ensure that measures are working as intended, and that adaptive measures are taken as necessary. A qualified Environmental Inspector will be onsite during set-up, in-water works, site restoration and during sensitive activities or immediately following major runoff events.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied with the Proponent's response and commitment to assess and mitigate potential effects from construction activities on water quality, levels and flows in the Ottawa River.
Environment and Climate Change Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Kebaowek First Nation	Need for further information on potential effects to water quality of the Ottawa River from disturbance of potentially contaminated soil, sediment, or wood chips (on the riverbed) around the project area, and from management of potentially contaminated snow, stormwater, or groundwater. Need for further information on proposed mitigation measures for these effects, and measures to minimize potential downstream effects.	<p>Discharge from dewatering/unwatering activities will be treated as necessary and compared against the <i>Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life</i>. The discharge will be released into the environment at least 30 metres from local watercourses or wetlands, and allowed to drain through a well-vegetated area.</p>	
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Potential effects on water levels and flows in the Ottawa River due to the deconstruction of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge.	<p>The Proponent states that potential effects to water quality, levels, and flows from construction activities will be contained within a 200-metre buffer zone, and addressed through the implementation of mitigation measures such as temporary onsite sewage and water treatment facilities. Further mitigation measures would be required in accordance with authorizations under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and the <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i>, as well as applicable provincial laws including Environmental Compliance Approval(s) under Ontario's <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> or an authorization under the <i>Quebec Environmental Quality Act</i> for stormwater management.</p>	
Natural Resources Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Timiskaming First Nation	Need for further information on how water collected from dewatering activities and cofferdams would be managed (monitoring, treatment, and discharge).	<p>Please refer to Section 15.1.4 Drainage and Surface Water (Page 227), Section 15.1.4.2 Mitigation and Protective Measures (Page 231), Section 19.1.1 Biophysical Impacts (Page 332), and Section 15.2.3 Aquatic Environment (Page 252) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	

Original Commenter	Summary of Issue	Summary of Proponent's Response	Agency Response
Natural Resources Canada Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation	Need for details related to the flow models used to estimate migration of sediments downstream of the Project, including any seasonal variations in flow and deposition rates.		
Wetlands and Riparian Habitat			
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada	Potential effects on wetlands and riparian habitat that is near, or hydrologically connected to, the Project.	<p>The Proponent states that discharge from dewatering/unwatering activities will be treated (if necessary) and compared against the <i>Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life</i> prior to being released into the environment and at least 30 metres from local watercourses or wetlands, and allowed to drain through a well-vegetated area. The Proponent anticipates the Project will likely require a <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization, which would require consideration of impacts to riparian habitat during construction activities, and that impacts are reduced and mitigated. The Proponent further states that there are no wetlands in proximity to the Project, and no impacts on wetlands are anticipated as a result of the Project.</p> <p>Please refer to Section 15.2.2 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat (Page 242) of the Detailed Project Description for more information.</p>	Based on the information provided, the Agency is satisfied that the Proponent will address potential effects on wetlands and riparian habitat that is near or hydrologically connected to the Project.