



CANADA NICKEL
COMPANY



Stantec

Crawford Nickel Project Impact Statement

Chapter 27 Assessment of Potential Effects on Flying Post
First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's and
Mattagami First Nation's Interests



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
CDSSAB	Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
CEGEP	Collège d'enseignement general et professionnel
CEPP	Construction Environmental Protection Plan
CHSR	Cultural Heritage Screening Report
CHVI	Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CO _{2e}	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
CoPCs	Contaminants of Potential Concern
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECEs	Early Childhood Educators
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
FTE	Full-time Equivalents
FPFN	Flying Post First Nation
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GoC	Government of Canada
GoC RCSC	Government of Canada Reporting Centre on Specific Claims
GovOnt	Government of Ontario
ha	Hectares
HMSP	Health and Medical Services Plan
IAA	<i>Impact Assessment Act</i>

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Acronyms and Abbreviations - Chapter 27 Assessment of Potential Effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's and Mattagami First Nation's Interests

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IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
IR	Indigenous Reserve
km	Kilometre
kt	Kilotonnes
LSA	Local Study Area
M	Metre
MCM	Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
MECP	Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MGFN	Mattagami First Nation
MGOC	Morris Group of Companies
mi ²	Square miles
MMB	Modelled Mine Boundary
MMIWG	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MOEE	Ministry of the Environment and Energy
MTFN	Matachewan First Nation
NAN	Nishnawbe Aski Nation
NAPS	Nishnawbe Aski Police Services
NIHB	Non-Insured Health Benefits
NNADAP	National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program
n.d.	No date
OAHS	Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
OFSC	Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club

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OSSD	Ontario Secondary School Diploma
PA	Project Area
PIN	Property Identification Number
PM	Particulate Matter
RHO	Regional Historical Overview
RSA	Regional Study Area
SCC	Supreme Court of Canada
SPM	Suspended Particulate Matter
Stage 1 AA	Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
Stage 2 AA	Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Stage 3 AA	Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment
The Project	Crawford Nickel Project
TIS Guidelines	Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
TMF	Tailings Management Facility
TRCC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
VC	Valued Component
WFN	Wahgoshig First Nation
WTC	Wabun Tribal Council
2SLGBTQQIA+	Two-spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and all other sexual orientations and genders

27 Assessment of Potential Effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's and Mattagami First Nation's Interests

Canada Nickel Company (Canada Nickel) is proposing to construct the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project). The Project is within the boundaries of Treaty 9 (also known as the James Bay Treaty) and the Traditional Territories of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation, as provided by the Indigenous Nations (GoC 1964).

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) intends to consult with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to understand the concerns and potential effects of the Project on their exercise of potential or established Indigenous or Treaty Rights and, where appropriate, make accommodations.^{1,2} These consultations will be integral to the assessment of the Project.

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation requested that Canada Nickel prepare a single consolidated Chapter to assess the potential effects of the Project on their exercise of potential or established Indigenous or Treaty Rights. Canada Nickel has accordingly prepared this Chapter of the assessment to present information on Canada Nickel's understanding of how the Project may affect the interests of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation (collectively referred to as "the Indigenous Nations" in this Chapter of the Impact Statement).

The assessment of potential Project effects (both adverse and positive) on the interests of the Indigenous Nations includes consideration of impacts to Indigenous or Treaty Rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* as well as other interests identified by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. Canada Nickel understands that the Indigenous or Treaty Rights exercised or practiced in the area of the Project include, but are not limited to, hunting, trapping, fishing, and undertaking cultural pursuits; these activities are closely connected to and informed by Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, as well as the environmental, health, social, and economic conditions required for Indigenous land and resource use.³ Therefore, this Chapter of the Impact Statement considers Indigenous interests that are broader than the activities typically addressed by case law (e.g., hunting, fishing, trapping) to include any matters of importance identified by the Indigenous Nations. Of note, as an impact assessment is not a rights determination process, it is not intended to define or delimit established or asserted rights of the Indigenous Nations.

¹"Indigenous" has the meaning assigned by the definition of Aboriginal peoples of Canada in subsection 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*: (2) In this Act, "Aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.

²As identified in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the Project (IAAC 2023a), available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147339>.

³ Referred to as "current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes" in the TIS Guidelines for the Project.

27.1 Scope of Assessment

This Chapter considers potential effects on Indigenous interests, including Indigenous health conditions, Indigenous socio-economic conditions, Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, Indigenous land and resource use, as well as Indigenous and Treaty Rights in accordance with the federal and provincial requirements for the Project, and as informed by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.⁴

This Chapter of the Impact Statement also describes:

- The measures to be implemented by Canada Nickel to avoid, reduce, or eliminate potential adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous interests
- Measures that may enhance or support Indigenous interests in the area of the Project
- The nature and extent of residual effects that are related to the Project after mitigation measures are implemented, including their contribution to potential cumulative effects

Canada Nickel's understanding of asserted or established Indigenous or Treaty Rights exercised within the area of the Project is guided by the text of the relevant Treaty, interpretations of the Treaty text articulated by the findings of the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), publicly available literature, and the perspectives of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.

Canada Nickel will continue to respond to questions and concerns from Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation through ongoing engagement and provide information following submission of the Impact Statement, including Project-specific studies, which will be reviewed in the context of the Impact Statement and for incorporation into Project planning, where relevant.

27.1.1 Regulatory Context and Policy Setting

The Crown has a legal duty to consult with Indigenous Peoples and, where appropriate, accommodate, when it contemplates conduct that might adversely affect a potential or established Indigenous or Treaty Rights. The Crown has delegated the procedural aspects of this duty, with respect to the Project, to Canada Nickel through the guidance and requirements outlined in the TIS Guidelines for the Project and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the Project.

This assessment also considers the following relevant regional, national, and international declarations, polices, guidance documents, and best practices as they pertain to Indigenous rights and interests in Canada:

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) including the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) (UN General Assembly 2008)

⁴As identified in Section 12 of the TIS Guidelines.

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRCC) Final Report and 94 Calls to Action (TRCC 2015a, TRCC 2015b)
- IAAC (2021) Guidance: Gender-based Analysis Plus in Impact Assessment
- IAAC (2022b) Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions
- IAAC (2022a) IAAC Guidance: Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- IAAC (2023a) Guidance: Indigenous Knowledge under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA)
- IAAC (2023b) Guidance: Protecting Confidential Indigenous Knowledge under the IAA

Canada endorsed the UNDRIP in 2016 and the *UNDRIP Act* became law on June 21, 2021. Under the *Act*, Canada will work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, to support consistency of existing and future federal laws with the UNDRIP (GoC 2023). The principles and articles of the UNDRIP establish a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to Indigenous Peoples (UN General Assembly 2008). It remains one of the most comprehensive international standards on the rights of Indigenous Peoples that can inform how the *Constitution Act, 1982* and Canadian law are interpreted and developed (GoC 2023). The rights affirmed by the UNDRIP include the inherent rights to self-determination and self-government, as well as equality rights, rights relating to culture, traditional medicines, spirituality, and identity, and rights relating to ancestral lands, Territories, and natural resources.

27.1.2 Influence of Engagement on the Assessment

Canada Nickel is engaging with Indigenous Nations potentially affected by the Project in accordance with its Social Purpose Statement and its engagement efforts have been developed to be consistent with the Government of Canada's commitment to implement the UNDRIP as a comprehensive international human rights instrument and Canada's roadmap for reconciliation.⁵

Feedback, including Indigenous Knowledge, shared to date by the Indigenous Nations is found throughout this Chapter and is compiled in Attachment 27.1 to Attachment 27.3. Attachment 27.1 to Attachment 27.3 also provide Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by each of the Indigenous Nations.

27.1.3 Indigenous Knowledge

The Indigenous Knowledge that Canada Nickel has identified through engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation is considered in this Chapter. Indigenous Knowledge is understood to include direct observations about the biophysical world, as well as ecological indicators, oral histories, community practices, language, teachings, laws, relationships, rituals, cultural

⁵ For further information see Chapter 2 Proponent Information and Chapter 7 Description of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and visit <https://canadanickel.com/sustainability/>

identity, spirituality, cultural values, and other ways of knowing that have been identified by the Indigenous Nations (IAAC 2022a).

Canada Nickel recognizes that western knowledge and worldviews, which have been the foundation for current Canadian and provincial legislation, policy, regulation, and institutions, may constrain how Indigenous Knowledge is incorporated in Project planning. Canada Nickel also recognizes that Indigenous Nations are best positioned to identify their priorities and interests, and to share their views in their own words, and that such information requires the same consideration as any other information source. Accordingly, Canada Nickel is responsible to bring forward and evaluate all views shared to inform Project design and planning, and to acknowledge and strive to reconcile disparities or matters of disagreement between Canada Nickel and the Indigenous Nations. Through engagement activities, the Indigenous Nations have been requested to provide feedback with respect to potential impacts of the Project on their rights and interests and have been provided the opportunity to validate this section of the assessment.⁶ The outcomes of this engagement available at the time of writing are incorporated into the assessment below.

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation have also been offered the opportunity and funding by Canada Nickel to conduct Nation-led studies for the Project upon identification of interest. At the time of writing, Canada Nickel has received the following studies that have been reviewed and incorporated into this assessment:⁷

- Flying Post First Nation Socio-Economic Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Sulphide Project (FPFN 2023a).
- Flying Post First Nation Knowledge and Use Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Project (FPFN 2023b).
- Matachewan First Nation Socio-Economic Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Sulphide Project (MTFN 2023a).
- Matachewan First Nation Knowledge and Use Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Project (MTFN 2023b).
- Mattagami First Nation Knowledge and Use Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Project (MGFN 2023a).
- Mattagami First Nation Socio-Economic Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Sulphide Project (MGFN 2023b).

⁶ See Chapter 7 Description of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

⁷ The reports (FPFN 2023a, b; MTFN 2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b) have been provided to Canada Nickel by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation for consideration by the Crown and Canada Nickel in the Project regulatory process. Canada Nickel acknowledges that the information contained in the report remains the property of these Indigenous Nations and may not be used for any other purpose without the express consent of these Indigenous Nations. For further information regarding the terms of use of the report (FPFN 2023a, b; MTFN 2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b) contact Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation and Canada Nickel.

Where made available through engagement, information gathering, and voluntary information sharing, Indigenous Knowledge has been reviewed and incorporated in the Impact Statement, as applicable. Canada Nickel will continue to engage Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation and will consider information provided by the Indigenous Nations following submission of the Impact Statement, including Project-specific studies, which will be reviewed in the context of the assessment and for incorporation into Project planning, as appropriate.

27.1.4 Methods for Establishing Existing Conditions

Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 recognizes and affirms existing Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights of the Indigenous, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada (SCC 1990, 1996). Section 35 rights are understood to be those practices, traditions, and customs integral to the distinctive culture of the Indigenous Nation claiming the right (SCC 2003; SCC 1996).

Canada Nickel understands that Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation hold claim to asserted or established Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the area of the Project. By adopting a recognition-based approach informed by the regulatory and policy setting described in Section 27.1.1, this assessment includes consideration for all effects to interests or matters of importance identified by the Indigenous Nations.

A literature review was conducted to provide an overview of existing publicly available information for the Indigenous Nations. The literature review focused on information related to rights of the Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous land and resource use, and the interests identified by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, including the way those rights are exercised or practiced as described by the Indigenous Nations. The literature review considered information from the following sources:

- Publicly available studies previously completed by the Indigenous Nations for other developments
- Regulatory filings for other types of resource developments in the region
- Government reports and databases
- Historical and ethnographic literature
- Peer-reviewed literature and scientific publications
- Relevant internet sources (e.g., Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation websites)

Information was drawn from sources relevant to the location of the Project and to Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation.

As part of ongoing engagement with Canada Nickel, the results of the literature review, including source information, were shared with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. Each Nation was invited to review and provide Canada Nickel with feedback and additional

sources of information so that Canada Nickel could incorporate the information into the Impact Statement.⁸

Information obtained through Canada Nickel's Project specific engagement and literature review, where available, was used in this assessment to identify potential Project interactions and assess potential effects. This information has also been considered in the assessment of related environmental and socioeconomic valued components (VCs). The results of Canada Nickel's Project specific engagement, Project specific studies, and literature review reflect the best available information regarding the interests of the Indigenous Nations.

Existing conditions specific to each Indigenous Nation are described in 27.2.

27.1.5 Potential Effects, Pathways and Measurable Parameters

A preliminary list of three representative Indigenous interests was identified for this assessment through engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, inclusive of a review of issues and concerns about the Project raised by the Indigenous Nations (Attachment 27.1 to Attachment 27.3), and in consideration of the federal guidance and requirements outlined in the TIS Guidelines for the Project. Additional guidance from current federal and provincial acts, IAAC policies and best practices also informed the identification of Indigenous interests for this assessment (Section 27.1.1). The preliminary list of potential effects on the interests of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation is:

- Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights (including Indigenous lands and resource use)
- Change to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage
- Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions

Following provision of a draft of this section of the Impact Statement for review, Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation requested Canada Nickel consider ten Nation-specific VCs in the assessment. These include:

- Seven Generation Forward Thinking
- Seven Grandfather Teachings
- Medicinal plants
- First Nation species at risk
- Indicator species
- Wetlands
- Watersheds
- Cumulative effects assessment

⁸ See Chapter 7 Description of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

- Buffer zones or no-go zones
- Animal and habitat health (e.g., population numbers, status of habitat)

Table 27.1 describes how the VCs identified by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation have been incorporated and considered in the Impact Statement.

Table 27.1 Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation’s Valued Components and their Influence on the Assessment

Valued Component (VC)	Influence on the Assessment
<p>Seven Generation Forward Thinking</p> <hr/> <p>Seven Grandfather Teachings</p>	<p>These VCs have been combined and added as a pathway and measurable parameter for Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights, Change to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage and Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions in Table 27.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway: Disruptions to Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings • Measurable parameter: Qualitative consideration of Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings (e.g., necessary conditions, opportunities for knowledge transfer) <p>Existing conditions for these VCs were included in Sections 27.2.1.6.1, 27.2.2.6.1, and 27.2.3.6.1 (Customs and Protocols of each Nation).</p> <p>Both VCs were considered in the assessment of residual effects in Section 27.4 and the assessment of cumulative effects in Section 27.5.</p>
<p>Medicinal plants</p>	<p>This VC is represented through the identified pathways and measurable parameters for Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights in Table 27.3, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration to the current and future quality, quantity, or distribution of non-consumptive species (e.g., spirit moose, spirit berry), medicinal plants, country foods and other harvested resources (e.g., species at risk, indicator species, species of cultural importance). <p>Existing conditions for this VC are provided in the Nation-specific Sections 27.2.1.6.4, 27.2.2.6.4, and 27.2.3.6.4 (Gathering), and considered in the assessment of residual effects in Section 27.4 and the assessment of cumulative effects in Section 27.5, as applicable.</p> <p>This VC was also considered in the context of the assessments completed for Chapter 12 Atmospheric Environment, Chapter 16 Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments and Chapter 21 Health.</p>
<p>First Nation species at risk</p> <hr/> <p>Indicator species</p>	<p>These VCs are represented through the identified pathways and measurable parameters for Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights in Table 27.2, and added to the list of examples as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration to the current and future quality, quantity, or distribution of non-consumptive species (e.g., spirit moose, spirit berry), medicinal plants, country foods and other harvested resources (e.g., species at risk, indicator species, species of cultural importance). <p>Existing conditions for these VCs are provided in the following Nation-specific sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting and Trapping Sections 27.2.1.6.2, 27.2.2.6.2, and 27.2.3.6.2. • Fishing and Water Sections 27.2.1.6.3, 27.2.2.6.3, and 27.2.3.6.3. • Gathering Sections 27.2.1.6.4, 27.2.2.6.4, and 27.2.3.6.4. <p>These VCs were considered in the assessment of residual effects in Section 27.4 and the assessment of cumulative effects in Section 27.5, as applicable.</p> <p>Both VCs also informed the list of “Species of Importance to Indigenous Peoples” compiled for the Technical Working Group meetings held by IAAC in June 2024 and were considered in the context of the assessments completed for Chapter 16 Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland</p>

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Valued Component (VC)	Influence on the Assessment
	Environments, Chapter 17 Fish and Fish Habitat, Chapter 18 Birds and Bird Habitat and Chapter 19 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat.
Wetlands Watersheds	<p>These VCs have been added as a pathway and measurable parameter for Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights in Table 27.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway: Alteration to wetlands and/or watersheds • Measurable parameter: Quantitative and qualitative consideration of lost or altered access or function of wetlands and watersheds <p>Existing conditions for these VCs are provided in the Nation-specific Fishing and Water Sections 27.2.1.6.3, 27.2.2.6.3, and 27.2.3.6.3, and considered in the assessment of residual effects in Section 27.4 and the assessment of cumulative effects in Section 27.5, as applicable. This VC was also carried forward and considered in the context of the assessments completed for Chapter 16 Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments.</p>
Cumulative effects assessment	Chapter 29 provides the assessment of cumulative effects relative to each of the VCs considered in the Impact Statement. The results of the cumulative effects assessment completed in Chapter 29 informed the assessment of cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation’s interests conducted in Chapter 27 (Section 27.5). A summary of the cumulative effects assessment is provided in Section 27.5.6.
Buffer zones or no-go zones	<p>This VC informed the development of mitigation and enhancement measures proposed to reduce adverse residual effects and enhance positive effects on Indigenous rights and interests, as applicable, and are discussed relative to specific potential effects for each of the identified Indigenous rights and interests in Section 27.5.</p> <p>Attachment 27.1 to Attachment 27.3 provides Canada Nickel’s responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation regarding buffer zones or no-go zones.</p>
Animal and habitat health (population numbers, status of habitat)	<p>This VC is captured through the identified pathways and measurable parameters for Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights in Table 27.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration to the current and future quality, quantity, or distribution of non-consumptive species (e.g., spirit moose, spirit berry), medicinal plants, country foods and other harvested resources (e.g., species at risk, indicator species, species of cultural importance). • Alteration of habitat supporting harvested resources <p>Existing conditions for this VC is provided in the following Nation-specific sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting and Trapping Sections 27.2.1.6.2, 27.2.2.6.2, and 27.2.3.6.2. • Fishing and Water Sections 27.2.1.6.3, 27.2.2.6.3, and 27.2.3.6.3. • Gathering Sections 27.2.1.6.4, 27.2.2.6.4, and 27.2.3.6.4. <p>This VCs was considered in the assessment of residual effects in Section 27.4 and the assessment of cumulative effects in Section 27.5, as applicable.</p> <p>This VC was also considered in the context of the assessments completed for Chapter 17 Fish and Fish Habitat, Chapter 18 Birds and Bird Habitat and Chapter 19 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat.</p>

Potential effects on the Indigenous interests may occur through multiple pathways including, but not limited to:

- Biophysical (e.g., effects on terrestrial or aquatic resources)
- Access to lands and waters

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- Cultural/experiential (e.g., presence of industrial activity disrupts peaceful enjoyment)
- Socio-economic (e.g., presence and demands of Project workforce)

This assessment applies a conservative approach that recognizes that an absence of information regarding Indigenous interests does not necessarily represent an absence of the exercise or practice of an Indigenous right. As such, this assessment assumes that Indigenous interests have the potential to occur on accessible lands and waters within Project assessment areas that overlap with the Traditional Territories and Treaty lands of the Indigenous Nations (as defined in Section 27.2).

Where possible, the assessment of potential effects on the Indigenous interests considered measurable parameters that are quantifiable (e.g., area of direct habitat loss). However, not all effects pathways can be quantified (e.g., cultural/experiential). Therefore, some effects are assessed qualitatively through use of feedback shared by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, the results of other assessments for relevant VC, and professional judgment.

The Indigenous and Treaty Rights exercised or practiced in the area of the Project are understood to include, but are not limited to, hunting, trapping, fishing, and undertaking cultural pursuits. As such, Canada Nickel understands that the exercise or practice of Indigenous and Treaty Rights are intricately linked and influenced by environmental conditions, as well as Indigenous culture, history, protocols, health, and wellbeing. To facilitate assessment, Table 27.2 provides representative potential effects, effect pathways, and the measurable parameters used to characterize and assess effects on Indigenous interests. The findings of the assessment may be disaggregated, as required, based on the nature of the Project components or activities, the nature of the interest within the area of the Project, and the perspectives of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation shared with Canada Nickel. Departures from the potential effects identified in Table 27.2, if any, are described in the Nation-specific assessments that follow, as informed by Canada Nickel's engagement with the Indigenous Nations.

Table 27.2 Potential Effects, Effects Pathways, and Measurable Parameters for Indigenous Interests

Potential Effect	Effect Pathway	Measurable Parameter(s) and Units of Measurement
<p>Change to Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation’s Indigenous and Treaty Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration to the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes • Alteration to the current and future quality, quantity, or distribution of non-consumptive species (e.g., spirit moose, spirit berry, species at risk), medicinal plants, country foods and other harvested resources (e.g., indicator species, species of cultural importance) • Alteration of habitat supporting harvested resources • Alteration to wetlands and/or watersheds • Alteration to harvesting methods, timing, or seasonality • Alteration of access routes or ability to travel to or through preferred use areas/sites of interest (e.g., highways, travel ways, navigable waterways and waterbodies) • Increased access by non-Indigenous harvesters or land users • Disruptions to the exercise of Indigenous or Treaty rights associated with Project workforce • Disruptions to Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings • Increased sensory disturbance (e.g., change in noise levels, air quality, traffic) and/or alterations of necessary conditions (i.e., factors that influence the quality of experience or conditions for use or access such as visual quality, peaceful enjoyment, level of sensory disturbance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative and qualitative consideration of available habitat for non-consumptive and harvested resources • Quantitative and qualitative consideration of availability of non-consumptive and harvested resources • Quantitative and qualitative consideration of total area of accessible land and ability to access preferred travel routes, including watercourses. • Quantitative and qualitative consideration of lost or altered access or function of wetlands and watersheds • Qualitative consideration of preferred methods, timing, and seasonality of use • Qualitative consideration of factors contributing to lost or altered access, opportunities, and quality of experience (e.g., increased highway traffic and type. changes in visual aesthetic, perceptions of land and health quality) • Qualitative consideration of cultural connections to a particular species or place • Quantitative considerations of distance from communities of residence • Quantitative and qualitative considerations of population and workforce • Qualitative consideration of the distribution of disproportionate effects on diverse populations of the Nations’ membership • Qualitative consideration of Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings (e.g., necessary conditions, opportunities for knowledge transfer) • Other changes or concerns raised by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation

Potential Effect	Effect Pathway	Measurable Parameter(s) and Units of Measurement
<p>Change in Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation’s Physical and Cultural Heritage⁹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss or alteration of physical and cultural heritage features, locations, or areas • Loss or alteration of use, access, value, quality of experience or required conditions (e.g., visual aesthetics; noise levels) of physical and cultural heritage features, locations, or areas • Loss or alteration of ability to maintain and transmit Indigenous Knowledge and culture (e.g., language, histories, stories, practices) to future generations. • Alteration to harvesting, habitation, and cultural or sacred locations or areas • Disruptions to Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative consideration of factors contributing to loss or altered use, access, and opportunities to transmit knowledge at physical and cultural heritage features, locations, or areas • Qualitative consideration of factors contributing to loss or altered value, quality of experience, or required conditions of physical and cultural heritage features, locations, or areas (e.g., perceptions of land health, visual aesthetic, resource quality) • Quantitative consideration of affected heritage and cultural sites and known preferred locations or areas of use • Qualitative consideration of the distribution of disproportionate effects on diverse populations of the Nations’ membership • Qualitative consideration of Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings (e.g., necessary conditions, opportunities for knowledge transfer) • Other changes or concerns raised by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation

⁹ Canada Nickel understands that changes to physical and cultural heritage and structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance consider all elements of cultural and historical importance to Indigenous communities, in addition to provincial heritage legislative requirements. Canada Nickel also understands that there are tangible and intangible elements of physical and cultural heritage such as Indigenous language, storied places, place names, sacred, ceremonial or culturally important places, and cultural landscapes. For these reasons, Canada Nickel has considered physical and cultural heritage as a multidimensional concept that is not limited to particular sites or objects and can include components of the environment identified by Indigenous Peoples as having heritage value.

Crawford Nickel Project Impact Statement

Chapter 27 Assessment of Potential Effects on Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s and Mattagami First Nation’s Interests

November 22, 2024

Potential Effect	Effect Pathway	Measurable Parameter(s) and Units of Measurement
<p>Change to Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (includes harvesting sites, heritage and other cultural sites, and associated traditional activities) • Alteration of access to land, waterways, waterbodies, and preferred travel ways • Alteration to cultural transference opportunities • Direct or indirect alteration to Indigenous determinants of health (e.g., environmental, social, cultural, psychological, physical, spiritual, economic) • Alteration to decision making abilities regarding land and water, and ability to uphold cultural traditions, laws, and governance systems that inform how rights are exercised. • Disruptions associated with Project workforce. • Alteration to the quality, quantity, or distribution of harvested resources • Alteration to subsistence-based livelihoods • Alteration to demands on community services • Alteration to Indigenous economic activities such as guiding, tourism, and recreation • Disruptions to Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative and qualitative consideration of total area of accessible land and ability to access preferred travel routes, including watercourses • Quantitative considerations of distance from communities of residence • Qualitative consideration of factors contributing to lost or altered access, opportunities, and quality of experience (e.g., increased highway traffic and type. changes in visual aesthetic, change in noise levels, perceptions of land and health quality) • Qualitative consideration of known stewardship areas, land use or management plans, preferred lands and resources • Qualitative consideration of known Indigenous land-based economic activities • Qualitative consideration of capacity of accommodations, health care and social services, emergency services, and other services and amenities • Quantitative and qualitative considerations of population and workforce • Qualitative consideration of opportunities for and perspectives on Project benefits, including employment, training, contracting • Quantitative and qualitative consideration of capacity of existing Indigenous workforce and businesses to provide supplies and services required for the Project • Qualitative consideration of the distribution of disproportionate effects on diverse populations of the Nations’ membership • Qualitative consideration of Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings (e.g., necessary conditions, opportunities for knowledge transfer) • Other changes or concerns raised by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation

27.1.6 Boundaries

27.1.6.1 Spatial Boundaries

The assessment areas are defined by spatial boundaries that consider the geographic extent over which Project activities may affect Indigenous interests and are illustrated in Figure 27.1 to Figure 27.4.

The spatial boundaries considered for this assessment are based on the Project components and activities, which include:

- **Project Area (PA):** encompasses the Project footprint and is the anticipated area of physical disturbance associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project. The PA includes the Open Pit, the Stockpiles and Impoundment Facility, the Ore Processing Components, the Tailings Management Facility (TMF), the Water Management Facilities and Drainage Works, and other mine related infrastructure, as well as ancillary facilities and infrastructure outside the care and control of Canda Nickel (i.e., the new rail spur line, the Highway 655 realignment and the 500 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line). The extent of the PA for the Project is shown on Figure 27.1 to Figure 27.4.
- **Modelled Mine Boundary (MMB):** the modelled mine boundary is an area around the PA that Canada Nickel will own, lease, or have agreements in place with the owners and/or Indigenous Nations that would enable Canada Nickel to restrict access to areas within the MMB, if required. Within the MMB, any seasonal or permanent housing will be avoided. The MMB is an approximated buffer around the PA like those at other mines and industrial areas in the region that will be established for enhanced safety and security around the PA.
- **Local Study Area (LSA):** the Indigenous Interests LSA consists of a 10 km buffer around the PA (Figure 27.1 to Figure 27.4) that encompasses the geographic extent over which direct (e.g., habitat loss) and indirect (e.g., sensory disturbance) effects may reasonably be expected to occur. Interactions identified within the LSAs of supporting VCs that overlap with the Indigenous Interests LSA are considered in turn throughout this assessment (e.g., geology and geologic hazards; soil; atmospheric environment; acoustic environment; groundwater; surface water; vegetation, riparian and wetland environment; fish and fish habitat; birds and bird habitat; wildlife and wildlife habitat; climate change; health; social conditions; economics). This LSA definition does not preclude consideration of interactions beyond the Indigenous Interests LSA, as identified through Indigenous engagement.
- **Regional Study Area (RSA):** the Indigenous Interests RSA consists of a 50 km buffer around the PA (Figure 27.1 to Figure 27.4). The RSAs of those supporting VCs identified above for the Indigenous Interests LSA provide the regional context for the predicted effects of the Project within the Indigenous Interests RSA. It is also the area within which potential cumulative effects - the residual effects from the Project in combination with those of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future physical activities- may extend. This RSA definition does not preclude consideration of interactions beyond the Indigenous Interests RSAs, as identified through Indigenous engagement.

VC-specific LSAs and RSAs are described and illustrated in each VC Chapter.¹⁰

The following Nation-specific assessment areas are considered for the assessment of effects on Indigenous interests as applicable and as described below:

- **Treaty 9 Territory:** Covers approximately two-thirds of Ontario's total landmass (~58,676,063 hectares [ha])¹¹, spans from the Great Lakes watershed encompassing the Hudson Bay and James Bay drainage basins. This spatial area is considered for the assessment of effects on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation (Section 27.4, Figure 27.1 to Figure 27.4).
- **Flying Post First Nation's Traditional Territory:** Encompasses the areas near Nipigon and lands North-west of Timmins, along the Groundhog River in Northern Ontario, within Treaty 9. This spatial area is considered for the assessment of effects on Flying Post First Nation (Sections 27.4 and 27.5).
- **Matachewan First Nation's Traditional Territory:** Encompasses the areas of Kirkland Lake, Timmins and Timiskaming in Northern Ontario, within Treaty 9. This spatial area is considered for the assessment of effects on Matachewan First Nation (Sections 27.4 and 27.5).
- **Mattagami First Nation's Traditional Territory:** Encompasses the Mattagami River and Mattagami Lake areas and stretches as far as the Moose River head waters on the James Bay coast in Northern Ontario, within Treaty 9. This spatial area is considered for the assessment of effects on Mattagami First Nation (Sections 27.4 and 27.5).

Flying Post First Nation's reserve, Flying Post 73, is situated northwest of Timmins, Ontario, along the Ground Hog River, and has an area of 5,957 ha (FPFN 2023b; Figure 27.1). Flying Post 73 is the Nation's nearest land base, and it is located approximately 46 km southwest of the PA.

Matachewan First Nation's community primarily resides at Matachewan 72, a reserve located in the Timiskaming District of Ontario that occupies an area of 4,158 ha (CIRNAC 2024b; Figure 27.2). The community is situated approximately 30 km southeast of the town of Matachewan and about 60 km west of Kirkland Lake off Highway 66 (MTFN n.d.). Matachewan 72 is approximately 85 km southeast of the PA.

Mattagami First Nation's reserve, Mattagami 71 (5,261 ha), is 113 km southwest of Kirkland Lake (CIRNAC 2024c; Figure 27.3). The Mattagami reserve is about 20 km northeast of Gogama and is accessible by road 5 km from Highway 144 (WTC 2023b). The closest service centre, with year-round access is Timmins, 97 km away (CIRNAC 2024c). Mattagami 71 is approximately 85 km south of the PA.

As noted, the spatial boundaries selected for the Impact Statement do not preclude the consideration of potential Project interactions with broader territorial practice or exercise of rights. All information shared with Canada Nickel is evaluated in the context of the Project and incorporated into the Impact Statement,

¹⁰ See Chapters 10 to 24.

¹¹ Information about the total land area encompassed by Treaty 9 is provided as an approximation for the purpose of this assessment. The total land area is based on the James Bay Treaty - Treaty No. 9 document (GoC 1964) and information available on the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System. The total land area encompassed by Treaty 9 includes treaty lands identified in 1905 as well as the adhesions made in 1929 and 1930.

as appropriate. As additional information is brought forward by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, Canada Nickel will evaluate potential interactions in the context of the Project and the Impact Statement.

Departures from the spatial boundaries, if any, are described in the Nation-specific assessments that follow, as informed by Canada Nickel's engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.

27.1.6.2 Temporal Boundaries

Temporal boundaries for this assessment address potential effects related to Indigenous interests during the Project's construction, operation, and decommissioning/closure phases over relevant timescales. These temporal boundaries are used in the assessment of residual effects and are also considered applicable for the assessment of cumulative effects related to Indigenous interests.

The Construction Phase will include the preparation of the site up to the point at which the first process plant has been commissioned and is ready to commence operations. This phase will include site preparation, physical construction, pre-production, and commissioning activities. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Main Zone and East Zone, and rock extracted at this time may be crushed into aggregate using a mobile aggregate crusher for use during the construction of roads and other infrastructure, as necessary. It is noted that additional construction will occur through the operations phases of the Project, and that this phase is defined by the start of ore processing.

The Operations Phase is focused on the active processing of ore and generation of concentrate for delivery to market, specifically operation of the process plant(s). Due to the sequential nature of the mine operations, the operations phase of the Project has been divided into 3 sub-phases based on the Open Pit extraction schedule and sequential operation of the two process plants.

Operations phase 1 can be defined as the time during which the first Process Plant is operational, where throughput ore processing capacity will be 60kt/d (or 21.9 Mt/a). During operations phase 1, mining activities will include development of the Open Pit and extraction of ore. Blasts will be planned and implemented to optimize the number of explosives used and will be performed during daytime only. It is anticipated that there be a maximum of five blasts days per week. Ore and waste rock will be loaded and hauled from the Open Pit and stockpiled at the Impoundment Facility or one of the Ore Stockpiles. During operations phase 1, key mine components will be expanded to accommodate for the processing increase in operations phase 2. Construction activities will include an expansion to the workshop, office, and other ancillary buildings. To increase the capacity of the Process Plant, a second phase of the Process Plant (along with crushing equipment) will be constructed. The Process Plant expansion will be located immediately north of the existing Process Plant, while the Primary Crusher will be located at the southwest corner of the West Stockpile.

Operations phase 2 can be defined as the time upon which the Process Plant throughput will be 120 kt/d (or 43.8 Mt/a). During operations phase 2, mining activities will continue in a similar manner then in operations phase 1. It is estimated that 536 kt of material will be extracted daily (based on average annual extraction rates), of which 240 kt will be ore. During operations phase 2 (in Year 17), it is

anticipated that mining of the Main Zone of the Open Pit will be completed, at which point the tailings deposition in the TMF will cease and the Main Zone pit will become the new tailings facility for the remainder of operations, starting in Year 18. Ore will continue to be extracted from the East Zone. At the end of operations phase 2, it is estimated that over 60% of the tailings will have been stored in the pit, compared to less than 40% in the TMF, thus reducing the overall mine footprint. The construction of the North Driftwood Diversion Channel may also occur and/or continue during this phase.

Operations phase 3 can be defined as the time upon which pit mining operations cease. The Process Plant will continue to operate and will continue processing the two Ore Stockpiles. Ore processing activities and transport will be in line with those of operations phase 2.

Progressive rehabilitation of in active areas (e.g., Impoundment Facility, TMF, haul roads) will commence. As the mine advances from development to operations and throughout the operational phase of the Project, opportunities for progressive rehabilitation are possible. Further details on activities associated with progressive rehabilitation are outlined in the Conceptual Closure Plan (Appendix F of the Impact Statement).

The Decommissioning and Closure Phase will occur following the completion of ore processing. All Project operations will cease prior to the Phase, and active closure will commence. Active closure includes the removal of buildings, structures, and other infrastructure, as well as reclamation and site stabilization activities. Once complete, the Project will then enter a passive closure phase as the pit lake fills. During this time, closure monitoring and adaptive mitigation will occur. Following pit lake filling, the Project site will be permanently closed.

Activities completed during the Decommissioning and Closure Phase of the Project are focused on reclaiming the environments, establishing physical, chemical, and biological stability at the site, and to meet desired end land functions and uses. The requirements of a closure plan and of closing out a mining project are set out in the *Ontario Mining Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.14 and the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario, as set out in Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 35/24. As a requirement of O. Reg. 35/24, the Mine Development Closure Plan will discuss rehabilitation activities that are to be implemented during a temporary suspension of mining, during a state of inactivity, and to achieve final close out. A Conceptual Closure Plan (Appendix F) has been prepared to support the Impact Statement and provides preliminary details on the progressive rehabilitation and closure plans for the Project to demonstrate Canada Nickel's commitment to responsible development and planning the Project with closure in mind in Phase 3 of the Impact Assessment process.

Progressive reclamation throughout the course of the mine life will occur, however most of the closure activities will commence at the cessation of mining activities and will be completed five years after ore processing ceases. Closure activities can be divided into passive and active phases. Closure activities planned during the active phase are expected to take place within the first five years of the decommissioning and closure phase, after ore processing activities cease; however, some activities may commence at the end of operations phase 2, when ore extraction ceases. Following the removal of major site infrastructure and rehabilitation of mine features, the site will transition into passive closure monitoring and maintenance to confirm reclamation efforts are established and functioning as intended. During the passive phase, emphasis will be placed on water quality monitoring, the ongoing filling of the Open Pit with water to create a pit lake, performance monitoring of the completed closure work, and maintenance, as required. Through preliminary modelling, it is predicted that filling the Open Pit with water may require more than 100 years. Although not part of the base case, if beginning in Year 42 the TMF drainage area was diverted to drain into the pit to accelerate pit filling, the pit is predicted to be filled in 65 years. Ongoing closure monitoring and maintenance activities will therefore be carried out throughout the active and passive closure phases until the closure objectives have been satisfied and the Project has been moved to a closed out and abandoned status.

The temporal boundaries for the assessment of effects on Indigenous rights and interests include the following:

- Construction (Year -3 to Year -1)
- Operations
 - Operations phase 1 (Year 1 to Year 5): 60 kilotonnes per day (kt/d) milling capacity with ore extraction
 - Operations phase 2 (Year 5 to Year 30): 120 kt/d milling capacity with ore extraction
 - Operations phase 3 (Year 30 to Year 41): 120 kt/d milling capacity with no ore extraction
- Decommissioning and closure
 - Active closure (Year 41 to Year 46)
 - Passive closure (Year 46+)

Additional descriptions of the activities and physical work anticipated to occur during each phase are provided in Section 27.3.¹²

¹² Project phases and activities are also described in Chapter 3.

27.1.7 Residual Effects Characterization

Residual effects on Indigenous interests have been conservatively overestimated with consideration for the interconnectedness of the effect pathways that may affect those interests. The analysis in Section 27.4 is informed by the results from relevant VCs and feedback received from the Indigenous Nations; however, potential effects on those VCs may not fully align (i.e., be clearly associated with) with effects on Indigenous interests. As a result, the characterization of residual effects on Indigenous interests (i.e., the severity of the impacts) may often be ranked higher than the residual effects characterized for related VCs, specifically, duration, magnitude, and timing.

Criteria used to characterize residual effects on Indigenous interests are provided in Table 27.3. Departures from the characterization attributes or approach, if any, are described in the Nation-specific assessment that follows, as informed by Canada Nickel's engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.

Table 27.3 Characterization of Residual Effects on Indigenous Interests

Characterization	Quantitative Measure or Definition of Qualitative Categories
Direction	<p>Positive – an effect that moves measurable parameters in a direction beneficial to the Indigenous interest relative to existing conditions</p> <p>Adverse – an effect that moves measurable parameters in a direction detrimental to the Indigenous interest relative to existing conditions</p> <p>Neutral – no net change in measurable parameters for the Indigenous interest relative to existing conditions</p>
Magnitude	<p>Negligible – no measurable change</p> <p>Low – effect may increase the effort necessary but will not reduce the ability to exercise or practice the Indigenous interest</p> <p>Moderate – effect may reduce but not eliminate the ability to exercise or practice the Indigenous interest</p> <p>High – effect will greatly reduce or eliminate the ability to exercise or practice the Indigenous interest</p>
Geographic Extent	<p>PA – residual effects are restricted to the PA</p> <p>LSA – residual effects extend into the LSA(s)</p> <p>RSA – residual effects extend into the RSA(s)</p>
Timing	<p>Not Applicable – seasonal aspects are unlikely to affect residual effects on the Indigenous interest</p> <p>Applicable – seasonal aspects may affect residual effect on the Indigenous interest</p>
Duration	<p>Short-term – residual effect restricted to the construction phase (1 to 3 years), or the decommissioning and active closure phase (1-5 years)</p> <p>Medium-term – residual effect extends into the operation phase (41 years)</p> <p>Long-term – residual effect extends beyond the operation phase (> 41 years) and beyond the decommissioning and passive closure phase (> 46 years)</p>
Frequency	<p>Single event – effect occurs once</p> <p>Multiple irregular event – occurs at no set schedule</p> <p>Multiple regular event – occurs at regular intervals</p> <p>Continuous – occurs continuously</p>

Characterization	Quantitative Measure or Definition of Qualitative Categories
Reversibility	Reversible – the effect is likely to be reversed after activity completion and reclamation Irreversible – the effect is unlikely to be reversed

27.1.7.1 Context and Resilience

The characterization of every residual Project effect inherently considers the effects of past and present projects and activities, and potential trends in the condition of the Indigenous interest, as applicable. Literature reviewed, and feedback received from the Indigenous Nations describe historical, ongoing, and future development as modifications to the existing conditions of Indigenous interests.

Resilience is notionally understood as the ability of a receptor to recover from or adapt to a change, real or perceived, in its environment. The degree of resilience may be measured or characterized for species or ecosystems relied upon by Indigenous Peoples for the exercise of their rights, traditional activities, and practices. Such characterization may be relevant and incorporated into this assessment, where noted, given the interdependence of community health, wellbeing and culture and the health and availability of the land and water. However, the ability of Indigenous Peoples to recover from or adapt to environmental effects of the Project remains contingent on personal, cultural, esthetic, or spiritual values that are subjective and cannot be meaningfully reduced to assessment criteria. When applied to human receptors, resilience in this sense, or as a concept overall, is viewed as Nation-specific, as it is informed by an Indigenous persons’ lived experience, individually and/or collectively in their social and community groups. It would not be appropriate given the subjective and complex nature of these considerations for anyone but the affected party to characterize resilience. As such, the “context” or “resilience” criterion is not carried forward for the assessment of Project effects on the collectively held rights and interests of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagamí First Nation.

The more commonly understood and accepted criteria defined for this assessment are (1) consideration for disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations, (2) the views of the Indigenous Nation regarding existing environmental, social, or economic barriers, and (3) the preferred conditions required by the Indigenous Nation to maintain or enhance their rights and interests. These criteria are viewed as sufficient to assist the federal and provincial regulators in determining the overall seriousness of the Project effects on the Indigenous interests.

27.1.8 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation and enhancement measures described throughout this Impact Statement are proposed to reduce adverse residual effects and enhance positive effects on Indigenous rights and interests, as applicable, and are discussed relative to specific potential effects for each of the identified Indigenous rights and interests in Section 27.4 The following criteria were applied for the selection of mitigation and enhancement measures specific to the Indigenous interest assessment for Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagamí First Nation:

- Effectiveness to limit Project interactions that affect Indigenous rights and interests during all Project phases

- Technical and economic feasibility to manage each specific pathway of effect
- Consideration of relative level of uncertainty or risk associated with the accommodation, mitigation (including differentiated measures, if applicable), and complementary option
- Consideration of timing of Indigenous activities on the land
- Inclusion on similar mining projects in the region
- Consideration of potential regional implications of applying Project-specific mitigation and enhancement measures (e.g., interactions with initiatives of other projects), considering any reasonably foreseeable development in the area
- Inclusion of the Indigenous Nations' recommendations and identification of preferred mitigation
- Perspectives of the Indigenous Nations on the effectiveness of the mitigation measures
- Project's benefits for the Indigenous Nations
- Professional judgment of the effects assessment team

The mitigation or enhancement measures, review processes, or monitoring initiatives specific to Indigenous rights and interests are described in Section 27.4 and Attachment 27.1 to Attachment 27.3.

27.1.9 Analytical Assessment Techniques

The assessment of adverse residual effects resulting from the Project on Indigenous interests is based on a comparison of the existing conditions for these interests without the Project and how these interests would be exercised or practiced with the Project in place. Where specific information on an Indigenous interest was not provided to Canada Nickel at the time of writing, conclusions have been based on publicly available information (see Section 27.1.4 for more detail on sources) and the understanding that Indigenous interests may be exercised or practiced on accessible lands and waters throughout the Treaty 9 Territory, and Traditional Territories of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation (GoC 1964). For greater certainty, this assessment applies a conservative approach that recognizes that an absence of information regarding Indigenous interests does not necessarily represent an absence of an interests and that, for example, resources or species identified as being present near the Project could be hunted, trapped, fished, or gathered by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, even if the Indigenous Nations did not identify specific sites, areas, or resources in relation to the Project. This assessment also recognizes that the nature of Indigenous interests may change over time and in location. As such, this assessment conservatively assumes that Indigenous interests have the potential to occur anywhere on accessible lands and waters within Project assessment areas that overlap with the Traditional Territories of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. This assessment reflects the best available information regarding Indigenous interests in relation to the Project. Canada Nickel has worked with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to review and validate the results of this assessment.¹³ Feedback received has been incorporated into the assessment.

¹³ These efforts are also described in Chapter 7 Description of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

The analysis in this section incorporates the findings of the VC assessments found in the Impact Statement that are relevant to Indigenous interests; however, potential effects for supporting VCs may not fully align with effects on Indigenous interests, nor do the mitigation measures for potential effects on supporting VCs necessarily mitigate the effects on Indigenous interests. As such, the characterizations, such as, duration, magnitude, and timing, may be ranked differently than those used to characterize related VCs. These differences were considered when evaluating the need for additional measures or plans to avoid, reduce, or otherwise manage adverse residual effects on Indigenous interests (as identified in Section 27.4).

27.1.10 Significance of Adverse Federal Effects Characterization

The Impact Statement must characterize the extent of significance of any residual adverse federal effect, which includes residual adverse effects within federal jurisdiction and any adverse direct or incidental effects as defined in section 2 of the IAA.

Among the likely effects of the Project on Indigenous interests, those that are “adverse federal effects” (i.e., adverse effects within federal jurisdiction and any direct or incidental effects) per section 2 of the IAA include:¹⁴

- an impact – occurring in Canada and resulting from any change to the environment – to Indigenous Peoples, such as to physical and cultural heritage, the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes or any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance
- any change occurring in Canada to the health, social or economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples

Canada Nickel recognizes that Indigenous Nations are best suited to determine culturally appropriate methodologies and thresholds for assessing potential effects and characterizing the extent of significance of adverse federal effects (i.e., the severity of the impacts) from an Indigenous perspective (IAAC 2023c).

The extent of significance of adverse federal effects are characterized using a negligible, low, moderate or high ranking-system (IAAC 2023c). For this assessment, the extent of significance characterization is as follows:

- A residual adverse effect of high extent of significance is one that, following the application of avoidance and mitigation measures, contributes to an exceedance of an established or conservation-based threshold required for the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, or is likely to create a change or disruption that interferes with physical and cultural heritage, any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or

¹⁴ See Chapter 8 Assessment Methodology.

architectural significance, or the health, social or economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples to a point where cultural activities and practices would be eliminated or meaningfully impaired.¹⁵

- A residual adverse effect of moderate extent of significance is one that, following the application of avoidance and mitigation measures, may reduce but not eliminate the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, physical and cultural heritage, any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, or the health, social, or economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples to point where they cannot continue at or near current levels and where accommodation and/or compensation is possible.
- A residual adverse effect of negligible/low extent of significance is one that, following the application of avoidance and mitigation measures, is not likely to interfere with the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, physical and cultural heritage, any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, or the health, social or economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples.

The extent of significance of adverse federal effects is characterized in Section 27.6 for those effects that remain following the implementation of avoidance, mitigation, and enhancement measures.

27.2 Existing Conditions

This section describes existing conditions for Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.

27.2.1 Flying Post First Nation

Flying Post First Nation completed the following Project-specific studies:

- Flying Post First Nation Socio-Economic Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Sulphide Project (FPFN 2023a)
- Flying Post First Nation Knowledge and Use Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Project (FPFN 2023b)

The results of these studies are incorporated below. Canada Nickel's responses to the concerns raised and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are provided in Attachment 27.1 of this chapter.

27.2.1.1 Rights, Governance and Legal Characteristics

Flying Post First Nation is a signatory of Treaty 9.

¹⁵ Contextually determined through any combination of the effect characterization attributes most applicable to one or more adverse federal effect, the concerns raised and status of the concerns, and the perspectives of the Indigenous nations regarding their preferred conditions or thresholds regarding the extent of significance of adverse federal effects.

The Project is located within the boundaries of Treaty 9 (also known as the James Bay Treaty) (GoC 1964). Treaty 9 was signed between 1905 and 1906 by Anishinaabe (Algonquin and Ojibwe) and Omushkegowuk Cree communities and the Canadian Crown (CIRNAC 2013, GoC 1964, GovOnt n.d.). Approximately two-thirds of Ontario's total landmass (~58,676,063 ha) is covered by Treaty 9, which spans the Great Lakes watershed encompassing the Hudson Bay and James Bay drainage basins (GoC 1964). The rights specified under Treaty 9 are protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

While Treaty 9 does not specifically mention practices such as gathering, Canada Nickel understands these activities to be reasonably equivalent or incidental to the Nation's expressed harvesting rights and were a means of earning a livelihood before the signing of Treaty 9 that have continued in a similar manner after the signing of the Treaty (GoC 1964, SCC 1990, SCC 1996, SCC 1999a, SCC 1999b).

Flying Post First Nation is an Ojibwe and Cree First Nation community, and its rights are recognized under section 35 of the Canadian *Constitution Act*, 1982. Flying Post First Nation's original Chief (Chief Black Ice) signed the Treaty 9 documentation of 1906 (GoC 1964, FPFN 2023c). Flying Post First Nation is a member of Wabun Tribal Council (WTC) and is politically associated with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) that was created in 1973 to represent 49 Indigenous Nations in Northern Ontario to advocate for the interests and rights of the Nations (FPFN 2023a).

Flying Post First Nation joined Nishnawbe Aski Nation through its establishment in 1973, when it was known as Grand Council Treaty 9 before changing to its current name in 1983 (GoC 1964). WTC was formed later in 1989 under the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada devolution policy and Flying Post First Nation officially joined WTC in 2007 (FPFN 2023b).

The Government of Flying Post First Nation is comprised of a Chief and four Councillors whose positions are held for three years (CIRNAC 2024a). The current Flying Post First Nation Chief has held this position for more than 20 years. Flying Post First Nation's Administrative office is in Nipigon, Ontario (FPFN 2023c).

27.2.1.1.1 Land Management, Claims, and Agreements

Flying Post First Nation's reserve, Flying Post 73, is situated northwest of Timmins, Ontario, along the Ground Hog River, and has an area of 5,957 ha (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post 73 is the Nation's nearest land base, and it is located approximately 46 km southwest of the PA.

This reserve was created through the signing of Treaty 9 in 1906. After Treaty 9 was signed, many members of the Nation relocated and joined other communities as the reserve lands were not located where most members were living (GoC 1964). As noted previously, the reserve lands of Flying Post First Nation are located northwest of Timmins, but most members currently live in the Nipigon area, near Thunder Bay, ON (FPFN 2023b). WTC have identified that the lands were assigned based on where the people (Flying Post First Nation) were located at that time and did not consider the mobile lifestyle of the Ojibway and Cree people in northern Ontario (WTC 2023a). Flying Post First Nation expressed interest in using reserve lands for traditional activities such as fishing and hunting but are unable to reside on the reserve as it is described as a swampland that is unsuitable for development (CTV News Northern Ontario 2020).

In July 2020, the shortfall of land received by Flying Post First Nation was addressed in a \$14.1 million land claim settlement agreement between the Government of Ontario and the Nation. A year prior to the settlement, in 2019 members of Flying Post First Nation that participated in a vote regarding the agreement unanimously cast their ballots in favour of the settlement for the 115-year-old land claim (GovOnt 2020).

There are no other active land claims or other agreements involving Flying Post First Nation.

27.2.1.2 Population and Demographics

As of February 2024, Flying Post First Nation has a registered population of 330 members. Of this population, only one female member is registered to live on reserve lands. The remaining 329 members are registered to live off-reserve lands. Of those registered living off-reserve, 160 are male and 169 are female (CIRNAC 2024a).

27.2.1.2.1 Language

Flying Post First Nation conducted a community member survey in 2021, supplemented by secondary data from the Canadian Census of 2016, and reported three languages spoken by members: Ojibwe, English, and French (FPFN 2023a). Of these languages, 65 survey respondents reported speaking English as their first language, followed by seven speaking Ojibwe, and two speaking French (FPFN 2023a).

Flying Post First Nation members have expressed hope that they will be able to support future generations in learning traditional Indigenous languages, such as Ojibwe, through funding that would allow them to develop language learning opportunities for youth (FPFN 2023a).

As described further in Section 27.2.1.2.1, Flying Post First Nation members have access to language revitalization programs offered through Nishnawbe Aski Nation (Northwest Health Line 2024).

27.2.1.2.2 Education

Flying Post First Nation offers members that are interested in pursuing further education post-secondary financial support. Following the land claim settlement in July 2020, the Chief reported that the settlement would help contribute to social and economic development, and identified that any member that wanted to, regardless of where they live, would be able to have their education paid for (CTV News Northern Ontario 2020).

In 2021, of the 86 members who reported the level of education they had completed, four did not complete high school, 23 had an OSSD, six had a general education diploma, 15 had completed a trade certificate or diploma, and 30 had completed a university degree or certificate (BD, MS, PhD) (FPFN 2023a).

As of 2023, Band office records show that 36 students are currently enrolled in school (K-12), and 17 students are enrolled at a college or university (FPFN 2023a). Of the survey respondents, 30 have completed postsecondary education at the university level, 15 completed a trade certificate or diploma, 23

completed high school, and six had a general education diploma (FPFN 2023a). Of the survey respondents, four had not completed high school (FPFN 2023a).

Flying Post First Nation members reported that barriers such as needing to relocate for programs, lack of financial assistance, conflicts with existing work, or issues with childcare or other family responsibilities, prevented them from pursuing and completing further education and training (FPFN 2023a).

27.2.1.3 Social Conditions and Services

The nearest service center outside of Flying Post First Nation's reserve, Flying Post 73, is accessible year-round. Flying Post 73 is situated northwest of Timmins, Ontario, along the Ground Hog River (CIRNAC 2024a).

Flying Post First Nation reported that the layered challenges from the Indian Residential School system and history of colonization in Canada, continues to be a contributing factor to the baseline conditions in the community today. Flying Post First Nation identified ongoing colonization, racism and marginalization, intergenerational trauma, land dispossession, loss of language and culture, child apprehension, overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, and other socio-economic factors continue to affect the socio-economic conditions and the wellbeing of community members (FPFN 2023a).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Flying Post First Nation stated that childcare is a big gap in their communities, affecting members living both on and off-reserve. Lack of reliable/adequate childcare services affects the abilities of their members to secure employment on projects in the region.

Flying Post First Nation also shared that many roads providing access to and/or those located on reserve need paving and other structural repairs, and that their communities could use assistance for housing Elders and other members of their communities that may require additional considerations/accommodations (e.g., mobility issues).

Information about social conditions and services connected to health (e.g., elimination of family violence; reduction of number of youths in the justice system; access to language programs) is described in Section 27.2.1.3.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.4 Health

27.2.1.4.1 Conditions

Flying Post First Nation stated it has the right to maintain and protect community well-being and safety from the risk of spills, accidents, or malfunctions resulting from Project construction, operation, or decommissioning/closure that could affect the environment and human health (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation defines community health to include physical, mental, spiritual, and cultural well-being (FPFN 2023b).

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As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Flying Post First Nation expressed concerns regarding the following potential effects to its health and well-being (FPFN 2023a; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN, FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Increased risk to Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ because of Project-related work camps, lack of public transit, and increased access to intoxicants
- Lack of a dedicated health centre that results in an insufficient understanding about mental and chronic health issues, as well as safety and security of members.
- Impacts to human health, including actual and perceived risks at key receptors due to changes to noise levels, air quality, recreational and drinking water quality, proximity to transmission lines, and accessibility and contamination of country foods
- Effects on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+, and discrimination and violence towards its members, and existing issues of human trafficking in their communities and in the broader region
- Impacts to local community services and infrastructure, including women's shelters, health facilities, mental health and addiction facilities, emergency services, childcare, and housing availability and pricing
- Increased traffic resulting in increased potential for pedestrian collisions, longer emergency response times, and a general decline in road safety due to an increase in non-local drivers

Flying Post First Nation expressed concerns about feeling unsafe on the land. Flying Post First Nation also expressed safety concerns for Indigenous women, girls, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ that could become vulnerable at the increase of a predominantly male workforce into temporary work camps and potential for rising rates of sexual violence (FPFN 2023b).

Some members of Flying Post First Nation are concerned about their ability to obtain enough store-bought foods and are also concerned over access to traditional lands and non-member competition for hunting, trapping, gathering, and fishing that could impact the community's food security (FPFN 2023b).

The Nation also expressed concerns about the Project's potential forestry practices, such as pesticide and herbicide spraying, which have been associated with instances of cancer or general bioaccumulation concerns in harvested meat in affected areas. The potential for recycled water from the Project to be put into the Mattagami River and other water sources is also a concern for Flying Post First Nation, as it could cause illnesses and various health impacts on people who fish/drink from them, as well as general contamination concerns over water treatment protocols (FPFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.4.2 Services

Flying Post First Nation has no health department or dedicated health centre for its members, which represents a gap in understanding chronic and mental health issues faced by Flying Post First Nation (FPFN 2023b). However, for all Flying Post First Nation members, Nishnawbe Aski Nation offers the Nishnawbe Aski Mental Health Wellness Support Access Program (NAN Hope) (NAN Hope 2024). This program is Nation-led and provides community members with access to mental health and addiction support including a 24/7 live answer toll-free telephone line, live webchat and text support, rapid access to confidential counselling, access to a 24/7 crisis/distress support line, and navigation to existing community-based and regional support services (NAN Hope 2024).

Flying Post First Nation members also have access to a Health Babies Healthy Children Program and a Family Well Being Program (Northwest Health Line 2024). These programs are made possible through Nishnawbe Aski Nation, who support Flying Post First Nation with the delivery of Nation-specific holistic, prevention-focused services/programs and cultural supports to promote a healthy community and support families as needed (Northwest Health Line 2024; NAN Hope 2024). The programs focus on improving the health and well-being of Nation members, eliminate family violence, build healthy relationships, and reduced the number of children in care and the number of youth in the justice system (Northwest Health Line 2024). Activities and programs available to Flying Post First Nation members include language revitalization classes, addictions counselling and recovery, support groups, traditional land-based healing events and school programs (Northwest Health Line 2024).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Flying Post First Nation stated that there is limited access to medical services as each community has a small clinic but no hospitals. Members explain that they can't rely on the Timmins hospital due to shortage of doctors and now members are travelling further for medical care. Flying Post First Nation also expressed frustration and concern with the level of service and quality of care available at the hospitals in the region, indicating that there are few mental health support facilities in the communities and recommended such facilities be opened.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.5 Economic Characteristics

27.2.1.5.1 Labour Force

As of 2021, 74% of Flying Post First Nation survey respondents (66) were participating in the Nation's workforce. Of these, 60% were employed in full-time positions, eight percent were employed in part-time positions, and five percent were employed in seasonal positions. An additional nine percent of survey respondents were actively looking for employment during the time of the survey, the majority of whom were looking for full time work. Of those that were employed, positions in health care and social assistance, administration, and management were the most common industries members were working in (FPFN 2023a).

Health care, administration and management, educational services, and public administration were among the most common industries members of Flying Post First Nation worked in (FPFN 2023a). Approximately 28% of respondents have a recognized professional designation or professional license, of which nursing and social work are the most common (FPFN 2023a). Most survey respondents were trained in common safety certificates though many had not maintained them (FPFN 2023a).

Flying Post First Nation members that were unemployed identified that health reasons, personal or family responsibilities, insufficient qualifications (no drivers license, limited education, and training), disability, the need to relocate for training or school, lack of financial assistance, and conflicts with existing work, limited their ability to find employment (FPFN 2023a).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Flying Post First Nation stated that its community is seeking to advance youth perspectives and opportunities for youth training, employment and careers in mining.

27.2.1.5.2 Economic Development

Flying Post First Nation, as a part of Wabun Tribal Council, has access to the Wabun Development Corporation. The Wabun Development Corporation was established by Wabun Tribal Council to promote economic development for its member Nations. The Wabun Development Corporation has an administrative building located in Timmins, Ontario (WTC 2023b).

Wabun Tribal Council has an Economic Development Department which that is responsible for encouraging and assisting members to establish and expand businesses. The Economic Development Department also provides technical and advisory assistance to its entrepreneurial members who are developing and operating their own businesses (WTC 2023b).

Wabun Tribal Council has a training and Employment Services Department which has a mandate to provide advisory services to its member Nations and is responsible for the delivery of funds and programs to its member Nations. The Employment Services Department offers training funding, targeted wage subsidies, pre-employment support, mobility support, funding for multi-year diplomas, and apprenticeships (WTC 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation, as a part of Wabun Tribal Council, has access to the Technical Services Department of the Council. The Technical Services Department is responsible for infrastructure, capital project development, strategic planning, policy development, and participation in negotiations at local, provincial, and federal, levels of government (WTC 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation's Chief and Council are dedicated to ensuring the Nation's ongoing and future prosperity through several partnerships that have connected community members with financial and employment opportunities (FPFN 2023c).

Flying Post First Nation developed Flying Post Camp & Logistics through a partnership with Morris Group of Companies (MGOC 2023). This partnership has built camps that house over 1,800 employees and provides full catering and housekeeping services (MGOC 2023). Through this partnership, there are also

several employment opportunities such as tradesman, operators, and IT support services at mine sites in the area, which provides long-term career opportunities (MGOC 2023).

Flying Post First Nation signed a Resource Development Agreement in 2014 with Niiwin General Partnership Inc., which is a partnership between Goldcorp Porcupine Gold Mines and Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, Mattagami First Nation, and Wahgoshig First Nations (WFN) (now known as Apitipi Anicinapek Nation). This agreement provides the Indigenous Nations with economic benefits and sustainable growth created through opportunities for employment, employment training, and contracting in the local mining sector (FPFN 2023c).

IAMGOLD, alternatively known as the Côte Gold project, is another mine site development project that is expected to support the Nation, with commercial production expected to begin at the start of 2024. Flying Post First Nation and IAMGOLD signed an Impact Benefits Agreement in 2019 that guarantees job opportunities and financial and economic benefits for the Nation and its members (FPFN 2023c).

Flying Post First Nation hopes that similar economic benefits in the form of Project-related contracts, educational, and employment opportunities will be provided to Flying Post First Nation members through the Project (FPFN 2023a; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN and FPFN 2022).

Flying Post First Nation expressed concerns regarding the potential for increased discrimination and/or harassment from the outside workforce, and potential effects on the Nation's economic benefits, investments, employment, and inclusion (FPFN 2023a; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN and FPFN 2022).

In a letter addressed to the Project from Wabun Tribal Council, of which Flying Post First Nation is a member of, the Nation expressed their endorsement of the Project, provided they follow the outlined exploration and process agreements signed between Canada Nickel and the Indigenous Nations.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.6 Exercised or Practiced Indigenous and Treaty Rights

27.2.1.6.1 Customs and Protocols

The practice and perpetuation of Indigenous customs and protocols are considered core components of a Nation's cultural continuity and wellbeing (Kirmayer 1994; Lewis et al. 2021). Flying Post First Nation reported that cultural teaching occurs through much of members' cultural and daily life and that knowledge transmission relies on the health and availability of, and access to, resources, gathering as a family, ceremony, and knowledge of place names and place-based oral histories. Flying Post First Nation reported that Indigenous land users teach youth about the Nation's customs and protocols, including safe and sustainable land use for the benefit of future generations (FPFN 2023a, b).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Flying Post First Nation stated that these practices are at the core of the Seven Grandfathers Teachings and the principle of Seven Generations Forward Thinking and requested that additional context be added to this section regarding these concepts.

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According to Ojibwe and Cree oral histories, there was once a time, long ago, that the people of Earth needed assistance to find balance and direction in life (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). The Creator gave seven powerful spirits, known as the Seven Grandfathers, the responsibility to relay their teachings to the people (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). After a long search, a spirit messenger found a young infant with the ability to transport to the Spirit World to learn the Seven Grandfathers Teachings (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). When the boy returned to Earth, he shared with the people seven guiding principles for living a good life in peace and without conflict: Wisdom (*Nibwaakaawin*), Love (*Zaagi'idiwin*), Respect (*Manaaji'idiwin*), Bravery (*Zoongide'ewin*), Honesty (*Gwayakwaadiziwin*), Humility (*Dabasebdiziwin*) and Truth (*Debwewin*) (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988).

These principles have been shared generation after generation, with the guiding belief that with each decision that is made, people are responsible to look forward and consider the impacts to the next seven generations (Benton-Banai 1988). As shared through engagement on the Project, the Seven Generations Forward Thinking is an ongoing recalibration and way of thinking for First Nations communities, and it resets ever year.

Many areas within Flying Post First Nation's Traditional Territory have family names or Anishinaabemowin names and the Nation maintains these traditional place names even though the names of some areas were changed or replaced during colonization (FPFN 2023b). The Nation reported there is need to raise awareness of the people, practices, and place names of Flying Post First Nation, particularly in public school and parks systems (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation reported baseline information and considerations regarding the Nation's values (FPFN 2023b), including:

- Maintaining hunting and trapping practices, which includes harvesting areas for large game and small game, critical habitat for target species such as moose calving areas, and experiences of disruption and alienation in these areas
- Maintaining critical waterbodies and systems and fishing practices, which includes protecting harvesting areas for a variety of fish species, sites for drinking water access and ceremonial purposes, and experiences of disruption or alienation in these areas
- Acknowledging that sturgeon are teachers and are considered a sacred animal
- Maintaining harvesting practices for food plants and medicine, which includes harvesting areas for berries and other plants, as well as experiences of disruption or alienation in these areas
- Protecting and providing spaces for Cultural continuity, which includes areas essential for knowledge transfer, places of community and family gathering, ceremonial sites, and experiences of disruption or alienation in these areas

Flying Post First Nation members engage in many traditional cultural activities including ceremonies, drumming, prayers, learning traditional languages (Ojibwe), spiritual practices, and playing music. Flying Post First Nation members described stories and teachings from Elders, respect and relationship to the land, spiritual connection, drafting, health (medicine, physical objects (drums, recipes, various plants,

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moccasins, dreamcatchers, and tomahawks), and many forms of knowledge and knowledge transmission as cultural gifts that they carry. The activities Flying Post First Nation members participate in and the gifts that they carry are important to Flying Post First Nation's values (FPFN 2023c).

Flying Post First Nation identified two food plant and medicinal plant cultural continuity areas within the PA, and another was identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 4 km south of the PA (FPFN 2023b). Other places identified as important for cultural continuity within the Indigenous Interests LSA include (FPFN 2023b):

- Cultural practices and ceremony site located 4.0 km west of the PA on the Mattagami River
- Cultural practices site located 4.1 km southeast of the PA at Bigwater Lake
- Road safety site located 5.3 km southeast of the PA at the Big Water Campground

Places identified as important for cultural continuity by Flying Post First Nation within the RSA include (FPFN 2023b):

- Ceremonial and recreational gathering areas located 14.8 km south of the PA at Hershey Lake Conservation Area
- Ceremonial areas located 17.6 km south of the PA near Timmins
- Ancestral place located 25.6 km southwest of the PA on Malette Road
- Ancestral place and teaching area located 37.6 km west of the PA on the Nat River
- Culturally important ecosystems located 46.3 km southwest of the PA near Flying Post IR 73
- Camping and teaching location located 50.3 km west of the PA on the Groundhog River

Four additional places identified as important for cultural continuity by Flying Post First Nation are located outside of the RSA (FPFN 2023b). These include ceremonial areas on Ivanhoe River and Ivanhoe Lake, and ancestral places/ habitation sites on Bromley Lake and Horwood Lake (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation also expressed the following concerns regarding its cultural continuity (FPFN 2023a; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN and FPFN 2022):

- Ongoing difficulty accessing ancestral places affecting members' ability to practice land-based teaching, including Big Water Campground and the Hersey Lake Conservation Area
- Food security and their ability to obtain sufficient store-bought food as well as to access sufficient traditional foods
- Impacts to ceremonial and/or cultural areas including rivers, ecological knowledge, generational knowledge transfer, culture (community feasts, family traditions), and future generations' traditional use
- Stockpiles will be visible by land-users, affecting quality of life, and ability to enjoy the land as it once was

- Effects to the Mattagamí River, as the river system is important for the exercise of harvesting rights and other cultural practices and ceremonies

Effects to current and future use of lands and resources, including from construction of the rail line, transmission line, and highway relocation; an increase in temporary workers; and perceived and real changes to the visual landscape, air quality, noise and vibrations, and contamination were identified as key concerns by Flying Post First Nation (IAAC 2023d). These Project activities could impact access to harvesting, traplines and hunting camps, wildlife corridors, breeding grounds, and overwintering sites, impact the experience of being on the water, water quality and/or quantity, fish and fishing and impact harvesting and gathering of medicines, plants, and mushrooms (IAAC 2023d).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.6.2 Hunting and Trapping

Flying Post First Nation stated that maintaining and protecting the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, which includes lands used for hunting and trapping, and the ability to practice its right to hunt and trap, as one of its core values (FPFN 2023b). Hunting and trapping were also identified as key components of the Nation's traditional practices, integral for year-round sustenance, connection with the ancestors, cultural transmission, and for economic purposes (FPFN 2023b).

The Nation identified that it has the right and interest to maintain and protect wildlife, which include the following species of importance; moose, ruffed grouse (partridge), and rabbits (FPFN 2023b). Moose was identified as a dietary staple for Flying Post First Nation (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation reported that ruffed grouse harvesting generally occurs in the fall to avoid interrupting their mating season, while rabbit are typically harvested in summer (FPFN 2023b). Other species of importance include marten, beaver, fisher, mink, fox, grey fox, muskrat, squirrel, otter, weasel, rabbit, wolf, coyote, lynx, wolverine, black bear, cougar, boreal caribou, deer, white-tailed deer; geese, eagle (bald eagle), duck, crane, and osprey (IAAC 2023d).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Flying Post First Nation identified that the spirit moose (white moose) is considered a culturally significant moose, it is traditionally not consumed. The spirit moose cannot be harvested at all now in the local wildlife Management Units 30 and 31 near Timmins (MNR 2024). The MNR protected predominantly white-coloured moose (over 50% white) due to their cultural and spiritual significance to First Nation communities in 2006 (MNR 2024). Flying Post First Nation also shared that it considers beaver and lynx to be indicator species in their Territory. Flying Post First Nation identified key hunting areas such as Oates, Malette, and Nova Roads, along the Groundhog and Ivanhoe Rivers, and around Oswald Lake. Flying Post First Nation reported that river systems are productive moose habitat and emphasized the importance of these areas for supporting multiple activities including fishing and camping (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation explained that these and other areas in its Territory have been important over multiple generations and continue to be important for hunting, trapping, and additional activities, including fishing, camping, gathering as a community, snowshoeing and quadding (all-terrain vehicle riding) (FNFP 2023b).

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Flying Post First Nation identified one subsistence and one environmental hunting and trapping values that intersect the PA (FPFN 2023b). The hunting and trapping area is located along backroads that intersect the PA and connect Highway 655 to Jocko Creek, Mattagami River, and the Lower Sturgeon River (FPFN 2023b). Another hunting area was identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 4 km west of the PA (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation identified the following hunting and trapping, wildlife and wildlife habitat areas within the RSA (FPFN 2023b):

- Hunting site located 17.6 km south of the PA near Timmins
- Hunting areas located 25.6 km southwest of the PA along Malette Road
- Hunting areas near Flying Post IR 73 located 46.3 km southwest of the PA
- Hunting and trapping areas located 37.6 km west of the PA Nat
- Hunting areas located 50.3 km west of the PA along the Groundhog River

Nine additional hunting and trapping areas were identified outside of the RSA (FPFN 2023b). These include sites on Bromley Lake, Horwood Lake, Ivanhoe River, Oswald Lake, and in the areas of Foleyet, Oates Road, Nove Road, and Biscotasing (FPFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Flying Post First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding hunting and trapping, wildlife and wildlife habitat (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Declining populations of important species and displacement, including moose and bears, as a result of forestry and mining activities, increased traffic and noise
- Lack of wildlife biodiversity as a result of monocropping and pesticide spraying for spruce budworm; effects are being experienced by insects through to small and large animals to humans
- Declining wildlife health, including deformities in harvested animals, attributed to mining and forestry activities (including herbicide spraying)
- Physical access barriers to harvesting areas
- Avoidance of previously preferred harvesting areas because of industrial (e.g., herbicide spraying) activities and concerns about the health of resources as well as increased harvesting pressures
- Effects to community health, as well as psychological health due to fear of consuming wildlife. The Nation noted that these effects are being experienced intergenerationally
- Impacts to migratory birds and their habitat from disturbance activities, such as noise and blasting, and the timing of these activities.
- Effects to boreal caribou and critical habitat, as well as other vulnerable species at risk in the area

- Effects on moose habitat, such as the Mattagami, Groundhog and Ivanhoe River systems, and moose populations due to changes in predator and prey relationships, and sensory disturbances related to rail line collisions, noise, and Project emissions
- Effects to the Mattagami River and resulting impacts to wildlife and the exercise of harvesting rights
- Impacts to waterfowl brood rearing habitat in and near the PA
- Impacts to eagle and osprey nesting in or near the PA
- Impacts to species at risk
- Impact from the use of light fixtures that can potentially disturb nocturnal species such as the common nighthawk and brown myotis
- Impacts of the dry stack tailings on fauna
- Increased recreational pressure on traplines and could affect food security and ability to practice trapping rights
- Increased presence of and conflict with recreational land users (e.g., off-road vehicle users) and hunters, resulting in concerns to travel to certain areas, particularly with children
- Inclusion of the large mammal survey including the presence of cougars and methods for identifying the presence or absence of spirit moose
- Effects to spirit moose.
- Barriers to wildlife movement and potential for increased mortality due to increased traffic associated with the Project
- Effects to country foods

Flying Post First Nation also expressed concerns that the Project would affect their traditional trapping rights, noting that they would not willingly harvest from the PA and its members would become limited in their ability to use traditional lands (FPFN 2023b). For example, Flying Post First Nation stated that pollution and contamination linked to the Project, would limit the areas they are able to hunt out of fear of bioaccumulation in hunted and harvested game meat (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation members reported tissue abnormalities in moose located in areas of other mining projects and areas subject to herbicide spraying (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation indicated that transparency about potential future contamination may enhance the Nation's confidence in harvesting from affected areas near the PA (FPFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.6.3 Fishing and Water

Flying Post First Nation stated that maintaining and protecting the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes including waterways used for fishing and practicing the right to fish, as one of its core values (FPFN 2023b). Fishing was identified as a key component of the Nation's traditional practices, for sustenance, engaging with the land, and cultural transmission (FPFN 2023b). It was identified as an important skill to teach to youth and cultural gatherings can also support language learning and learning about traditional medicines (FPFN 2023b). The Nation reported that fishing occurs seasonally when other food sources are unavailable; ice fishing is less common than it was in the past but often family's fish in the summer to store it for the winter (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation identified that members have the right and interest to maintain and protect fish in their Territory (FPFN 2023b). As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, fished species of importance to Flying Post First Nation include walleye (pickerel), northern pike (jackfish), perch, sturgeon (a sacred species), bait fish, sauger, sea trout, bass (large and smallmouth), mooneye, sheepshead, goldeye, splake, sucker (white and redhorse), brook trout, burbot, catfish (channel and brown bullhead), lake trout, and lake whitefish (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Flying Post First Nation identified the Mattagami River as a ceremonial area, and the Groundhog River as a drinking water source and swimming area (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023). Flying Post First Nation indicated to the Agency through Project engagement that clean water is essential for members' health, wellness, and recreation (FPFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023). Flying Post First Nation cited an oil spill into Boulder Lake near Foleyet and stated that due to a slow response time there is lack of confidence in the health of drinking water and fish in the area (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation stated that while some water bodies are accessed by road systems, others (e.g., Bromley Lake) are more remote and accessed by foot or by river in winter and summer (FPFN 2023b). The Nation noted that water bodies within its Territory support essential fish species but are also spiritually and historically significant, containing important place names from the early contact period in the region and cabins that have long been present, despite not being able to re-access the area until recently (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation identified a subsistence, water, and fishing site that intersects the PA (FPFN 2023b). Two additional fishing areas (North Driftwood River and unspecified lakes off Highway 655) and two fish habitats (West Buskegau River and North Driftwood River) were reported to intersect the PA (FPFN 2023b). A fishing area, a water route and a water-based ceremonial area were identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 4 km west of the PA along the Mattagami River (FPFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, the following water, fishing, fish and fish habitat areas were reported within the RSA (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN, FPFN 2022, 2023):

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- Fish habitat located 36.5 km northeast of the PA along the Abitibi River
- Fishing area 37.6km west of the PA along the Nat River
- Fishing area 46.3 km southwest of the PA near Flying Post IR 73
- Water source 42.5 km northwest of the PA at Smooth Rock Falls
- Fishing area, sturgeon habitat, drinking water source and swimming area 50.3 km west of the PA at Groundhog River

Six additional fishing areas, as well as a sturgeon spawning area and a spill site were identified outside of the RSA (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d). The spill was reported to have occurred at Boulder Lake, approximately 84 km southwest of the PA (FPFN 2023b). The fishing areas include Bromley Lake, Ivanhoe River, Ivanhoe Lake, Horwood Lake, Victoria Creek, and the Foleyet area (FPFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency and Canada Nickel through engagement on the Project, Flying Post First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding water, fishing, fish, and fish habitat (FPFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Disruption of food webs, including insects and fish
- Effects on species at risk such as sturgeon; this may occur with the disruption of natural water flows creating vulnerable pockets of habitat
- Contamination of local waterways and water sources, particularly the Mattagami River, resulting in effects on Flying Post First Nation's ability to practice water-related ceremonies and effects on humans consuming fish from these sources
- Loss of access and physical access barriers to fishing areas, including near Flying Post IR 73 since at least the 1990s
- Increased pressure and competition from recreational anglers resulting in reduced fishing success and threats to the First Nation's food security
- Impacts to safety with paddling or other recreational activities due to concerns about water quality
- Effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and the West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites
- Effects to lake sturgeon due to effluent discharge in the Mattagami River and noise and vibrations from blasting
- Effects to potable water sources and water intake at Smooth Rock Falls
- Effects to navigable waters and navigation by Indigenous Peoples
- Effects to water quality and quantity, including contamination from discharge, runoff, or seepage from water-crossings, waste rock stockpiles, ore stockpiles, overburden stockpiles, and the tailings management facility
- Effects to water quantity and quality, including sedimentation and associated risks of mercury mobilization

- Loss of natural waterbodies
- Changes to groundwater-surface water interactions
- Effects to aquatic life and traditional fishing activities in the Mattagami River including sturgeon, suckers and spawning areas
- Dewatering and diversion of any waterbodies since water management is a sacred First Nation responsibility to protect
- Water-crossings acting as potential inputs of contamination
- Impacts to pickerel (walleye) spawning locations
- Location, construction, and operation of crossing over Victoria Creek and how it could affect fish
- Influx of recreational fishers into the area associated with work camps that would impact food security for the community by increasing competition for resources
- The presence of pickerel (walleye) within the Indigenous Interests LSA and scoping this species into the Fish and Fish Habitat VC
- Past and potential future impacts to natural springs
- Potential for stockpiled materials to leach toxins into the environment, including fish habitat
- Effects on current and future generations' ability to fish during operation, post closure and reclamation

Flying Post First Nation identified two site-specific values within the RSA for water and fishing values (FPFN 2023b). These include a recreational fishing site; and a water route used along the Mattagami River (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation also reported that river systems are important habitat for moose and other resources and harvesting often occurs along riverbanks, sometimes accessed by boat (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation also expressed specific concerns on potential Project impacts on sturgeon in the area, identifying that sturgeon is an important species to Anishinaabe people across northern Ontario (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation stated that the sturgeon is seen as teachers and are considered a sacred animal (FPFN 2023b). As described above, Flying Post First Nation members identified important sturgeon spawning habitat in the RSA (Groundhog River and Bromley Lake), and recommended that these two areas should be protected from Project impacts to protect the declining sturgeon populations (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation raised additional concerns over potential water contamination, noting that such contamination could impact fish populations and its members' abilities to participate in traditional fishing practices (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation reported that past mining projects near Boulder Lake have had accidental oil spills and noted that the clean-up following the spill was slow and that they could see water quality deteriorating (FPFN 2023b). As a result, Nation members are concerned that similar accidents, and general contamination from tailing discharge and tailing dam failures, could significantly impact water quality and fish health (FPFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.6.4 Gathering

Flying Post First Nation noted that maintaining and protecting the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes such as harvesting plants for food and medicine is one of its core values (FPFN 2023b). Food plants and medicines were therefore identified as important to its members nutrition and health and the continuation of traditional healing and cultural practices (FPFN 2023b). Plant use and knowledge of plants was reported to be an important aspect of knowledge transmission and connecting youth with the land (FPFN 2023b). Plant harvesting was identified as a right-based value and an important part of Indigenous identity (FPFN 2023b).

Food plants of importance to Flying Post First Nation include but are not limited to pin cherry, wild blueberry, wild cranberry, wild raspberry, fireweed, wild rice, and wild strawberry (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d). Berry-picking generally occurs mid- to late-summer and the Nation continues to perpetuate ceremonial practices associated with plant harvesting (FPFN 2023b).

Plant harvesting activities were reported to sometimes occur opportunistically when Nation members are performing other activities such as travelling or camping (FPFN 2023b). Flying Post First Nation reported that members are harvesting traditional foods or sourcing traditional foods from community gatherings, cultural events, or local farms and markets; however, the majority stated that they are harvesting outside of Treaty 9 (GoC 1964, FPFN 2023a, b). Highways, backroads (including unpaved forestry roads), and trails (travelling on foot, vehicle, all-terrain vehicle) were reported to be used to access harvesting areas (FPFN 2023b). These routes allow access to culturally important harvesting areas that have a variety of plants and habitats (FPFN 2023b). Access to current quality and abundance of resources, variety of culturally important ecosystems, and preferred areas is necessary for the Nation's continued ability to enjoy and benefit from plant foods and medicines in its Territory (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d).

Flying Post First Nation identified a berry harvesting site within the PA along Highway 655 (FPFN 2023b). A plant gathering area was identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 4 km southeast of the PA near Bigwater Lake (FPFN 2023b). Two general plant gathering and harvesting sites were identified within the RSA (FPFN 2023b). These include one along Malette Road located approximately 25.6 km southwest of the PA, and another near Flying Post IR 73 located approximately 46 km southwest of the PA (FPFN 2023b).

Three additional harvesting and gathering areas were identified outside of the RSA (FPFN 2023b). These include Palomar Lake, Ivanhoe Lake, and the Foleyet Area (FPFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Flying Post First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding food and other culturally important plants and plant habitats, as well as gathering practices (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Reduced access to and ability to harvest food plants and medicines within its Territory, and on the ability to maintain cultural practices
- Effects on the abundance, quality, and productivity (e.g., bearing fruit) of culturally important plants, attributed to forestry activities, including logging and herbicide spraying, and soil contamination
- Avoidance of plants, including berries that have been sprayed and health concerns about the wildlife eating the berries
- Effects to muskeg and unevaluated wetlands in the PA
- Impacts to natural carbon sequestration, and from forest fragmentation and contamination of vegetation from fugitive dust, metals, and nitrogen from explosives
- Plans for invasive plant management and revegetation methods
- Impacts to plant harvesting caused by increased population.
- Impacts of the dry stack tailings on flora
- Plans for site reclamation and decommissioning

Flying Post First Nation also expressed specific concerns about impacts on harvesting from Project and related activities (FPFN 2023b). A main concern of Flying Post First Nation members was the impact chemical spraying is having on the ecological composition and availability of plants in the area (FPFN 2023b). Members reported that chemicals used cause a decline in fruit production and contaminates the plants with harmful toxins and makes them unsafe for human consumption (FPFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

Medicinal Plants

Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Flying Post First Nation identified medicinal plants as an important valued component for its community, and requested that Canada Nickel create a separate subsection for medicinal plants. As a result of this feedback, information provided by Flying Post First Nation regarding medicinal plants is included here and carried forward for assessment.

Flying Post First Nation noted that maintaining and protecting the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes such as harvesting plants for medicine is one of its core values (FPFN 2023b). Plants harvested for medicinal purposes were identified as important to its members nutrition and health and the continuation of traditional healing and cultural practices (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation identified plant species of cultural importance which include, but are not limited to bark, sage, sweetgrass, pearly everlasting, cedar and tobacco (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d).

Flying Post First Nation identified a medicine harvesting site within the PA along Highway 655 (FPFN 2023b). A medicinal plant gathering site was reported within the RSA and is located along the Groundhog River, approximately 50 km west of the PA (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding medicinal and other culturally important plants and plant habitats (FPFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d, 2024; MTFN, MGFN, FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Abundance and quality of medicinal plants present in the PA and potential impacts to harvesting sites
- Indirect impact on medicinal plants from the operating site including dust dispersal and deposition due to wind effects on tailings

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation are found in Attachment 27.1.

27.2.1.7 Cultural Heritage

Flying Post First Nation commented on the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage resources and structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in or near the PA, including: sacred, ceremonial, or culturally important places (e.g., waterbodies including the Mattagami River and the Abitibi River), plants (e.g., cedar, sage, spruce, sweetgrass), animals (e.g., bald eagles, moose, spirit moose), objects, beings or things and teaching areas used to transfer knowledge between generations; as well as sites occupied historically (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation identified a potential burial site at the north end of the PA (IAAC 2023d). The Nation also identified a cultural heritage site (i.e., culturally important place) within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 4 km west of the PA (FPFN 2023b). One cultural heritage site was identified within the RSA, approximately 37 km northeast of the PA along the Abitibi River (FPFN 2023b). Two additional cultural heritage sites were identified outside of the RSA. These include a burial ground on Bromley Lake (51.7 km southwest of PA) and a pictograph site on Horwood Lake (92.7 km southwest of the PA) (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation expressed concerns that Project development will affect access to traditional lands and further have an impact on members' connection to their culture and spirituality (FPFN 2023b).

Flying Post First Nation hopes that the Project will support language learning or cultural programs, as well as youth employment training and other accessible work trainings for other community members, to help mitigate impacts from the proposed Project and to support members who continue to connect to the Nation's rich cultural heritage (FPFN 2023a).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Flying Post First Nation expressed concerns regarding the lack of an archaeological field survey within the PA and the absence of an Archaeology and Heritage VC Chapter in the Impact Statement (IAAC 2024).

A Cultural Heritage Screening Report (CHSR) (Appendix B.10 CHSR) and a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (Stage 1 AA) (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA) was conducted for the baseline investigations prepared for the Impact Statement. The CHSR identified no potential non-Indigenous built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes within the PA and recommended that, unless the PA changes, no further cultural heritage assessment was required (Appendix B.10 CHSR). However, a Stage 1 AA was required and, through engagement with Indigenous Nations, Indigenous Knowledge informed the Stage 1 AA, and interested Indigenous Nations were provided with draft copies of the Stage 1 AA report for review and comment (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA). The Stage 1 AA indicated that approximately 416 ha (2.5%) of the PA has general archaeological potential due to the presence of elevated and well drained landforms, natural resources (e.g., medicinal plants) and proximity to primary water sources of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations (e.g., Mattagami, North Driftwood, and West Buskegau rivers) (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA; Figure 27.5). Remaining areas of the PA were determined to have no or low potential due to recent extensive and deep land alterations (461 ha; 2.7%); the negative results of previous archaeological investigations (175 ha; 1.0%); heavily saturated and/or permanently wet areas (11,671 ha; 69.3%); and areas at > 50 m distance from modern water sources and/or glacial shorelines (4,117 ha; 24.4%) (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA). On November 14, 2024, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) confirmed that the Stage 1 AA was completed in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture 2011). The Stage 1 AA report (Appendix B.11) has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports.

Areas where a Stage 2 AA is required are shown on Figure 27.5 (Appendix B.11). Previously assessed areas and areas of no or low archaeological potential (i.e., where no further assessment is required) are also shown on Figure 27.5 (Appendix B.11).

The Stage 1 AA report concluded that those areas (416 ha; 2.5%) of the PA with general archaeological potential warrant Stage 2 archaeological assessment (Stage 2 AA) prior to ground disturbance (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA). These areas include:

- 50 m along both sides of the North Driftwood River, West Buskegau River, Jocko Creek, and Kidd Creek and associated permanent tributaries
- Areas within 50 m of the lakeshores of Martin Lake, Gerry Lake, Jack Lake, Sutherland Lake, Mel Lake, Sed Lake, Boundary Lake and Feldman Lake
- The esker in the central portion of the PA and an area of well-drained and elevated topography located northeast of the Kidd Creek Mine

27.2.2 Matachewan First Nation

Matachewan First Nation completed the following Project-specific studies:

- Matachewan First Nation Socio-Economic Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Sulphide Project (MTFN 2023a)
- Matachewan First Nation Knowledge and Use Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Project (MTFN 2023b)

The results of these studies are incorporated below. Canada Nickel's responses to the concerns raised and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are provided in Attachment 27.2 of this Chapter.

27.2.2.1 Rights, Governance and Legal Characteristics

Matachewan First Nation is a signatory of Treaty 9.

The Project is within the boundaries of Treaty 9 (also known as the James Bay Treaty) (GoC 1964) Treaty 9 was signed between 1905 and 1906 by Anishinaabe (Algonquin and Ojibwe) and Omushkegowuk Cree communities and the Canadian Crown (CIRNAC 2013, GoC 1964, GovOnt n.d.). Approximately two-thirds of Ontario's total landmass (~58,676,063 ha) is covered by Treaty 9, which spans the Great Lakes watershed encompassing the Hudson Bay and James Bay drainage basins (GoC 1964). The rights specified under Treaty 9 are protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

While Treaty 9 does not specifically mention practices, such as gathering, Canada Nickel understands these activities to be reasonably equivalent or incidental to the expressed harvesting rights and are a means of earning a livelihood before the signing of Treaty 9 that would continue in a similar manner after the signing of the Treaty (GoC 1964, SCC 1990, SCC 1996, SCC 1999a, SCC 1999b).

Matachewan First Nation is a First Nation community located in northern Ontario whose rights are recognized under section 35 of the Canadian *Constitution Act*, 1982. In 1906, several members of Matachewan First Nation met with Treaty Commissioners to sign Treaty 9 after which Matachewan held an election and Chief Michel Batise was elected the Nation's first Chief under the new Treaty (GoC 1964, MTFN n.d.). Payment for the land designated under the Treaty was also made to 79 Matachewan members the day after the Treaty was signed (MTFN n.d.).

Matachewan First Nation is a member of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) previously known as Grand Council Treaty 9, and Wabun Tribal Council.

The Government of Matachewan First Nation comprises a Chief and nine Councillors whose positions are held for two years (CIRNAC 2024b). Matachewan First Nation's administrative office is in Matachewan, Ontario (MTFN n.d.).

27.2.2.1.1 Land Management and Agreements

Matachewan First Nation's community primarily resides at Matachewan 72, a reserve located in the Timiskaming District of Ontario that occupies an area of 4,158 ha (CIRNAC 2024b). The community is situated approximately 30 km southeast of the town of Matachewan and about 60 km west of Kirkland Lake off Highway 66 (MTFN n.d.). Matachewan 72 is approximately 85 km southeast of the PA.

Matachewan First Nation reached a bilateral settlement agreement with the Government of Canada in 2019 with Canada providing approximately \$16 million in compensation and a provision for Matachewan First Nation to seek to add at least 1,850 ha to its reserve lands (GovOnt 2024). This Treaty land entitlement claim settlements was intended to remedy circumstances where Matachewan First Nation did not receive the amount of reserve land promised to them (GovOnt 2024). Matachewan First Nation reached another bilateral settlement with the Ontario Government in 2023 on the First Nation's Treaty Land Entitlement Claim (GovOnt 2024). This Treaty Land Entitlement Claim provided the transfer of \$590,000 in compensation and an additional 2,035 ha of provincial land to Matachewan First Nation from Ontario (GovOnt 2024). Matachewan First Nation's Treaty Land Entitlement Claim was settled in May 2024 (GovOnt 2024).

There are no other active land claims or other agreements involving Matachewan First Nation.

No information was identified for land or water use plans and agreements for Matachewan First Nation through the review of publicly available information or through engagement with Canada Nickel.

27.2.2.2 Population and Demographics

As of February 2024, Matachewan First Nation has a registered population of 1,023 members. Of this population, 48 members are registered to live on reserve: 33 males and 15 females. Three Matachewan members, all female, are registered to live on other reserves. On their own Crown land, three members, one male and two females, are registered. On non-Band Crown Land, one male and two females are registered. A majority of registered Matachewan members (966) are registered to live off-reserve, including 456 males and 510 females (CIRNAC 2024b).

27.2.2.2.1 Language

Matachewan First Nation conducted a community survey in 2023 and was supplemented by secondary data from the 2016 Canadian Census. From the information collected, Matachewan First Nation reported four languages that are spoken by respondents: English, French, Ojibwe, and Oji-Cree. Of these languages, 70% of respondents reported speaking English as their first language, followed by 24% who speak Ojibwe, 14% speak French, and 3% speak Oji-Cree. All respondents identified what languages they were able to speak out of the four identified in the community, which reported that only 10% of respondents can speak a traditional language: Ojibwe, or Oji-Cree. Of those that reported being able to speak traditional languages, none of them reported speaking it daily (MTFN 2023a).

27.2.2.2.2 Education

As of 2023, Matachewan members surveyed indicated that members have received or are in the process of completing education and training ranging from high school to a post-secondary PhD (MTFN 2023a). Through this survey, Matachewan members also identified that barriers such as a lack of financial support, inability to balance school with full-time employment, and the need to relocate, had prevented them from pursuing further education and training (MTFN 2023a). Matachewan First Nation has a Department of Education that aims to provide support for Matachewan members that are interested in applying for college or university programs (MTFN n.d.). Nation members that would like to receive support can complete and submit an application through the Nation's official website (MTFN n.d.).

27.2.2.3 Social Conditions and Services

As described in Section 27.2.2.1, Matachewan First Nation is based in the Timiskaming District of Ontario southeast of the town of Matachewan, and west of Kirkland Lake (MTFN 2023a). The closest city is Timmins, and the closest service center is Kirkland Lake, to which the community has year-round road access (CIRNAC 2024b).

Matachewan First Nation has a Public Works Department that maintains the servicing of public buildings; service management of local infrastructure and utilities and regular road repair and maintenance (MTFN n.d.). Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Matachewan First Nation shared that many roads providing access to and/or those located on-reserve need paving and other structural repairs.

In March 2021, Matachewan received combined federal, provincial, and First Nation funding for the upgrade and relocation of a Wastewater Lagoon as part of the Investing in Canada Plan (GovOnt 2021). This plan aims to support clean water, wastewater, and storm water projects that will assure access to safe, drinkable water and environmental protection for First Nation communities across Ontario (GovOnt 2021).

Nishnawbe Aski Police Services (NAPS) have a detachment located in Matachewan, Ontario that provides services to Matachewan First Nation as part of the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service Northeast Region (NAPS n.d.). The Nishnawbe Aski Police Service's mission is to provide a unique, effective, efficient, and culturally appropriate service to all Nishnawbe Aski Nation members of the Nishnawbe Aski region through partnerships with the communities they serve (NAPS n.d.).

Matachewan First Nation members expressed their concerns through the 2023 survey over the lack of housing availability and financial constraints that affected their ability to live on or near their Nation's reserve (MTFN 2023a). Matachewan members also expressed concerns that temporary workers, specifically those coming to work on existing mines and the proposed Project, are and will outcompete Matachewan members in the housing market (MTFN 2023a). Matachewan First Nation identified that the layered challenges from the Indian Residential School system and history of colonization in Canada, continues to be a contributing factor to the baseline conditions in the community today (MTFN 2023a). Matachewan First Nation identified that ongoing colonization, racism and marginalization, intergenerational trauma, land dispossession, loss of language and culture, child apprehension,

overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, and other factors continue to affect the socio-economic conditions and the well-being of Matachewan members (MTFN 2023a).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Matachewan First Nation stated that their communities could use assistance for housing Elders and other members of their communities that may require additional considerations/ accommodations (e.g., mobility issues). Matachewan First Nation also stated that childcare is a big gap in their communities, affecting members living both on and off-reserve. Lack of reliable/adequate childcare services affects the abilities of their members to secure employment on projects in the region. Matachewan First Nation also expressed concern over the lack of reliable transportation to get to town or to the mines and that its members often rely on carpooling. There are ongoing conversations regarding the need for roadwork on reserve.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.4 Health

27.2.2.4.1 Conditions

Several priority values for social, economic, health and safety, and culture were reported by Matachewan First Nation to be directly linked to its members wellbeing (MTFN 2023a). Key health and safety values tied to the Nation's health conditions include mental, physical, spiritual and emotional wellness, as well as community wellness strengths and challenges (MTFN 2023a).

Matachewan First Nation identified many barriers faced by its members that have shaped the Nation's overall health conditions (MTFN 2023a). Some examples include lack of access to traditional health facilities or traditional healers and Elders (and provision of traditional medicines), excessive cost of transportation to access service areas, lack of facilities in their areas and/ or inadequate care options (MTFN 2023a). The Nation also reported lasting effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that impacted its community cohesion and overall physical and mental health conditions among its members (MTFN 2023a). Women and mothers within the community were identified by Matachewan First Nation to be more vulnerable to the impacts caused by COVID-19, noting a lack of safe spaces to go during emergency or violent situations and were therefore reported to have disproportionately affected health conditions (MTFN 2023a).

Matachewan First Nation expressed the following concerns following potential effects to its health and well-being (MTFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN, FPFN 2022, 2023): regarding its health conditions and the community's well-being:

- Increased risk to Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ because of Project-related work camps, lack of public transit, and increased access to intoxicants
- Lack of a dedicated health centre that results in an insufficient understanding about mental and chronic health issues, as well as safety and security of members

- Impacts to human health, including actual and perceived risks at key receptors due to changes to noise levels, air quality, recreational and drinking water quality, proximity to transmission lines, and accessibility and contamination of country foods
- Effects on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+, and discrimination and violence towards its members, and existing issues of human trafficking in their communities and in the broader region
- Effects to the health and quality of animals within the Indigenous Interests LSA due to industrial activities, reporting that such impacts have been observed in health indicators for beavers and moose such as the colour of the meat and other abnormalities in affected areas
- Mining pollution and forestry practices, such as spraying of herbicides and/or pesticides, and that the introduction and dispersal of these in the natural environment was affecting members' confidence that wild game is safe to consume
- Displaced wildlife being pushed closer to human populations, such as Timmins, which could increase human-wildlife interactions
- Impacts on access to traditional areas to harvest food, increase competition for hunting/fishing resources, and overall food security impacts
- Increased avoidance of areas such as Pearl Lake due to tailing and contaminants and arsenic from existing mining activities, and the potential for the Project to have similar impacts on surrounding waterbodies
- Pesticides, chemicals, gasses, and other contaminants from the mining and forestry industries leaking into streams and groundwater supplies in the area, affecting local fish species, as seen through reported walleye health changes (abnormal colouring and growths on fish)
- Wind dispersal of tailing dust containing arsenic which has been reported to have occurred previously with existing mining activities
- Connection between Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and the mining industry, and existing issues of human trafficking in their community and in the broader region

Positive health conditions and trends were also reported by Matachewan First Nation, including the development of diverse programming to support community connection and cohesion for members living on-reserve, such as community feasts and activities hosted by its cultural coordinators (MTFN 2023a).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.4.2 Services

Matachewan First Nation maintains several health care programs in the community and works with Wabun Health Services to deliver these programs to the community (MTFN n.d.). These programs focus on providing support, education, and activities relating to proper nutrition and healthy diets, physical activity, diabetes, smoking, human sexuality, teaching about common illnesses, awareness concerning over-the-counter drugs, and teachings that promote mental, physical, and emotional well-being (MTFN

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n.d.). A Community Health Representative works closely with the Community Health Nurse, to deliver these services in the community (MTFN n.d.). The Community Wellness Worker and the Culture/Recreation/Family Well-Being Coordinator, also help to create and support community health services (MTFN n.d.).

For all Matachewan First Nation members, Nishnawbe Aski Nation also offers the Nishnawbe Aski Mental Health Wellness Support Access Program (NAN Hope) (NAN Hope 2024). This program is Nation-led and provides community members with access to mental health and addiction support including a 24/7 live answer toll-free telephone line, live webchat and text support, rapid access to confidential counselling, access to a 24/7 crisis/distress support line, and navigation to existing community-based and regional support services (NAN Hope 2024).

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP), a Health Canada program controlled by First Nation communities, is also available to Matachewan First Nation members through the services provided by the Community Wellness Worker.

As of 2023, 63% of survey respondents reported that they were aware of community health services available to them (MTFN 2023a). Matachewan members also identified the frequency in which they accessed different types of health care services, of which 79% reported accessing professional health care in their local area within the past 12 months (MTFN 2023a). Seventy-one percent of respondents reported that they never accessed health services through the local community nurse (MTFN 2023a). Of those that responded, 64% reported accessing traditional medicine, and 37% reported accessing health services through a traditional healer in the past two years (MTFN 2023a). Furthermore, 41% of respondents identified that they would ideally access traditional medicine services monthly (MTFN 2023a). Matachewan members identified that barriers such as lack of available traditional health care facilities or traditional medicine providers, denials, or lack of clarity from non-insured health benefits (NIHB) approvals, and overly long wait times and lack of available doctors or nurses in the area, as well as other barriers had prevented them from accessing healthcare in the past 12 months (MTFN 2023a).

Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Matachewan First Nation stated that there is limited access to medical services as each community has a small clinic but no hospitals. Members explained that they can't rely on the Timmins hospital due to shortage of doctors and now members are travelling further for medical care. Matachewan First Nation also expressed frustration and concern with the level of service and quality of care available at the hospitals in the region.

In October 2024, Matachewan First Nation celebrated the grand opening of the new health care center, Mino Bimaadiziwin, which means "good life", through its partnership with Agnico Eagle Mines (MTFN n.d.). This partnership aims to enhance the health and well-being of the Matachewan community by providing comprehensive health services and promoting a healthy lifestyle (MTFN n.d.). The center is equipped with a range of services, including primary health care, mental health services, traditional healing practices, and community wellness programs (MTFN n.d.).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.5 Economic Characteristics

27.2.2.5.1 Labour Force

As of 2023, 76% of survey respondents were participating in the Nation's workforce through full-time employment (MTFN 2023a). Approximately eight percent of survey respondents reported that they were retired (MTFN 2023a). Of those that were unemployed (16%), they reported issues such as familial obligations, lack of qualifications or job availability, lack of transportation, and health/medical reasons as barriers that impacted their ability to acquire employment (MTFN 2023a). Approximately 22% of survey respondents reported having employment changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic (MTFN 2023a).

The most common jobs among survey respondents were reported to be in mining/oil/gas, administration/management, and health care/social assistance (MTFN 2023a). Of the survey respondents, 41% of respondents reported earning less than \$40,000, while 19% of respondents reported earning \$80,000 or more annually (MTFN 2023a). According to survey respondents, Matachewan youth no longer associate hard work with social or economic mobility (MTFN 2023a).

According to survey respondents, members of Matachewan First Nation have experienced IBA-mandated training programs that either never materialize, are too small to be impactful, or fail to provide direct pathways to jobs (MTFN 2023a). Through the Department of Education, Matachewan First Nation leadership also works closely with training initiatives to provide opportunities such as education and job experience that can lead to employment (MTFN n.d.). Through cooperative efforts with federal and provincial governments, Northgate Minerals Corp and Wabun First Nations, Matachewan First Nation created the Matachewan Aboriginal Access to Mine Jobs Training Strategy (MTFN n.d.). Matachewan First Nation is continually looking for ways to provide training and employment opportunities for its members (MTFN n.d.).

Relating to Project initiatives, Matachewan First Nation respondents expressed concerns that other mines in the area did not adequately provide training and did not lead to any jobs in the mine or elsewhere, and further that training opportunities through the Project would be inadequately split between the potentially impacted Indigenous Nations (MTFN 2023a).

Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Matachewan First Nation stated that its community is seeking to advance youth perspectives and opportunities for youth training, employment and careers in mining.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.5.2 Economic Development

Matachewan First Nation, as a part of Wabun Tribal Council, has access to the Wabun Development Corporation. The Wabun Development Corporation was established by Wabun Tribal Council to promote economic development for its member Nations. The Wabun Development Corporation has an administrative building located in Timmins Ontario (WTC 2023).

Wabun Tribal Council has an Economic Development Department which that is responsible for encouraging and assisting members to establish and expand businesses. The Economic Development Department also provides technical and advisory assistance to Indigenous Nation entrepreneurs developing and operating their own businesses (WTC 2023).

Wabun Tribal Council has a Training and Employment Services Department with a mandate to provide advisory services to the member Nations and is responsible for the delivery of funds and programs to the member Nations. The Employment Services Department offers training funding, targeted wage subsidies, pre-employment support, mobility support, funding for multi-year diplomas and apprenticeships (WTC 2023).

Matachewan First Nation, as a part of Wabun Tribal Council, has access to the Technical Services Department of the Council. The Technical Services Department is responsible for infrastructure, capital project development, strategic planning, policy development, and participation in negotiations at local, provincial, and federal levels of government (WTC 2023).

Matachewan First Nation has a dedicated Economic Development Office that is involved in strategic planning, business development, and liaisons with various government departments and the private sector (MTFN n.d.). The department identifies that there are many opportunities for Matachewan members in resource development projects, including major mining projects (MTFN n.d.). Matachewan First Nation is situated in the historic mining area of northeastern Ontario and has become actively involved in many mining developments in the area (MTFN n.d.).

One of the mining projects Matachewan First Nation is involved in is AuRico Gold, formerly known as Northgate Minerals, through an Impact and Benefits Agreement (MTFN n.d.). This partnership has allowed Matachewan First Nation to establish its first major business venture in mining, which has resulted in the Ednysian Camp & Logistics, a mining camp accommodation service, in partnership with Morris Modular Space Ltd. (MTFN n.d.).

In a letter addressed to the Project from Wabun Tribal Council, of which Matachewan First Nation is a member of, the Nation expressed their endorsement of the Project, provided Canada Nickel follow the outlined exploration and process agreements signed between Canada Nickel and the Indigenous Nations. Matachewan First Nation also identified an interest in economic benefits.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.6 Exercised or Practiced Indigenous and Treaty Rights

27.2.2.6.1 Customs and Protocols

The practice and perpetuation of Indigenous customs and protocols are considered core components of a Nation's cultural continuity and wellbeing (Kirmayer 1994; Lewis et al. 2021). Matachewan First Nation defines cultural continuity as, "Protecting our Treaty Rights. Protecting water. Protecting the elderly and children. Being able to continue this lifestyle for years and years and millennia," and identified that the Nations understanding of cultural continuity extend into the future in the concept of 'seven generations'

(MTFN 2023b). Cultural continuity was reported to be linked to its members abilities to carry on the traditions of their culture and to pass them on to future generations (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan members identified land-based and traditional knowledge, crafting, ethical principles, natural laws, stories, types of healing, spiritual practices, specifically the Seven Grandfather Teachings, as important cultural gifts that they carry (MTFN 2023a, b).

Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Matachewan First Nation stated that these practices are at the core of the Seven Grandfathers Teachings and the principle of Seven Generations Forward Thinking and requested that additional context be added to this section regarding these concepts. Matachewan First Nation stated that it is necessary to respect the people, plants, and water that are in the Project area as per the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

According to Ojibwe and Cree oral histories, there was once a time, long ago, that the people of Earth needed assistance to find balance and direction in life (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). The Creator gave seven powerful spirits, known as the Seven Grandfathers, the responsibility to relay their teachings to the people (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). After a long search, a spirit messenger found a young infant with the ability to transport to the Spirit World to learn the Seven Grandfathers Teachings (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). When the boy returned to Earth, he shared with the people seven guiding principles for living a good life in peace and without conflict: Wisdom (*Nibwaakaawin*), Love (*Zaagi'idiwin*), Respect (*Manaaji'idiwin*), Bravery (*Zoongide'ewin*), Honesty (*Gwayakwaadiziwin*), Humility (*Dabasebdiziwin*) and Truth (*Debwewin*) (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988).

These principles have been shared generation after generation, with the guiding belief that with each decision that is made, people are responsible to look forward and consider the impacts to the next seven generations (Benton-Banai 1988). As shared through engagement on the Project, the Seven Generations Forward Thinking is an ongoing recalibration and way of thinking for First Nations communities, and it resets ever year. Matachewan First Nation, for example, shared that the decisions made about the Project today should result in a sustainable world for the next seven generations.

Matachewan First Nation reported the following preconditions for cultural continuity (MTFN 2023b):

- Protection of Matachewan Treaty Rights
- Protection of children and Elders
- Transmission of knowledge through intergenerational interaction in both urban and rural or remote settings
- Access to land and resources that are close, safe, and productive
- Access to areas of ancestral significance, including gathering places, burial sites, and family cabins
- Access to areas that are uncrowded and undisturbed by industrial activity
- Dedicated time spent on the land for parents, children, extended families, and community members, including time spent away from school

- Protection of terrestrial skidoo trails located in the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA, as well as potential burial sites, ceremonial sites, permanent habitation sites, and sites used for the transmission of knowledge relating to traditional harvesting practices located in the Indigenous Interests RSA

Matachewan First Nation identified one cultural continuity feature within the PA (MTFN 2023b). Two cultural activity areas were identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA (MTFN 2023b). These include a country foods/ cultural area on the Mattagami River, approximately 4 west of the PA, and a swimming area at Bigwater Lake where approximately 4 km southeast of the PA (MTFN 2023b).

Two habitation areas and two cultural areas were identified by Matachewan First Nation within the RSA at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Cedar Meadows (cultural area), Ice Chest Lake (habitation area), Connaught (habitation area), and Magusie River (cultural area). An additional 10 mapped cultural continuity features (approximately) were identified by Matachewan First Nation within the Indigenous Interests LSA, also at locations 10 km or more from the PA.

Effects to current and future use of lands and resources, including from construction of the rail line, transmission line, and highway relocation; an increase in temporary workers; and perceived and real changes to the visual landscape, air quality, noise and vibrations, and contamination were identified as key concerns by Matachewan First Nation (IAAC 2023d). These Project activities could impact access to harvesting, traplines and hunting camps, wildlife corridors, breeding grounds, and overwintering sites, impact the experience of being on the water, water quality and/or quantity, fish and fishing and impact harvesting and gathering of medicines, plants, and mushrooms (IAAC 2023d).

Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns that cultural programs and teaching areas will be lost because of the Project and current industrial activities (MTFN 2023b). The Nation further identified that mineral excavations would cause major spiritual energy disruptions and affect the spiritual integrity of areas within the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA, noting that these impacts are spiritually harmful (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation also expressed the following concerns regarding cultural continuity (MTFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN and FPFN 2022):

- Effects to the Mattagami River, as the river system is important for the exercise of harvesting rights and other cultural practices and ceremonies
- Impacts to target species in areas used for transmission of harvesting knowledge
- Foreclosure of Matachewan members' options to use the area of the Project in the future
- Displacement of Matachewan culture camps from the area of the Project
- Avoidance of the area of the Project for aesthetic enjoyment
- Spiritual impacts resulting from industrial activity

Matachewan First Nation reported that the environmental impacts of any mining projects in its Territory go directly against the traditional cultural values of the Ojibway people (MTFN 2023a). Matachewan members expressed concern that current environmental guidelines do not include the Seven Generations teachings to frame and assess impacts, and that current environmental guidelines are not comprehensible or enforceable enough (MTFN 2023a).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.6.2 Hunting and Trapping

Matachewan First Nation identified hunting as an important value that is critical for providing nutrition and food security, sharing knowledge and cultural teachings, and connecting the Nation to the land within its Territory (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation stated that hunting and trapping continue to be critical cultural and subsistence practices for members today (MTFN 2023b). These practices and associated values provide members with a range of tangible and intangible benefits including nutrition, food security, knowledge transmission, connection to land within its Territory, and cultural persistence (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation continues to rely on an abundance and diversity of species to exercise hunting and trapping rights (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d). Harvested and traditional species include moose, black bear, lynx, rabbits, beaver, fisher, mink, fox, grey fox, muskrat, squirrel, otter, weasel, coyote, wolverine, cougar, boreal caribou, deer, white-tailed deer, geese, eagle (bald eagle), partridge, duck, crane, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, and osprey (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d).

One environmental feature, two subsistence features and a hunting and trapping area were identified within the PA (MTFN 2023b).

A cultural area and a subsistence area connected to the Nations general hunting and trapping activities were identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 2 km north of the PA (MTFN 2023b). A hunting and trapping area located along the Mattagami River also falls within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 4 km west of the PA (MTFN 2023b).

Six hunting and trapping areas identified by Matachewan First Nation within the RSA, at locations 10 km or more from the PA, include the areas of Hall Lake, Timmins, Hunta, Kamiskotia Lake, Driftwood, and Forsythe Lake (MTFN 2023b). An additional 12 mapped hunting and trapping locations (approximately) were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA (MTFN 2023b). Four additional hunting and trapping features (cultural; subsistence; environmental) were identified outside of the RSA (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation has expressed concerns that Project activities will affect wildlife and wildlife habitat within the surrounding area (MTFN 2023b). As noted previously, Matachewan First Nation is concerned that industrial mining activities will affect the health and quality of wildlife in the area, as observed through reported health changes seen in moose and beavers resulting from existing mining activities in the area (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan members also report that logged and managed areas compared to natural areas have observed a decline in the presence of birds, identifying a loss of

biodiversity in the area as a result of clearing natural areas as another point of concern (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan further expressed concerns that development in the Project will result in wildlife habitat loss, and affect beavers and diversity of migratory birds, and that the clearing of undeveloped land and noise disturbance from the Project will affect the behaviours of migratory birds and other animals in the surrounding area (MTFN 2023b).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Matachewan First Nation expressed concern regarding fur valued species such as marten, red fox, wolf, and mink that may be impacted by Project activities.

Airborne contaminants were also of concern to Matachewan members, who noted that the release and deposition of airborne contaminants from mine tailings would be ingested by species of importance, affecting, and decreasing the animal's health and quality and further affecting Matachewan hunting practices (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation expressed a general concern that developing the area for the Project and displacing wildlife from the Indigenous Interests LSA will affect wildlife availability, and that the increase in traffic and people in the Indigenous Interests LSA will also increase the dispersal of animals from the area, affecting traditional hunting and trapping values that allow members to meet their nutritional and cultural needs (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation expressed species-specific concerns that habitat loss because of the Project would displace wolves in the area and affect hunting through increased predation and pressure on moose populations in other parts of the Nation's Territory (MTFN 2023b). The Nation also expressed concerns that the re-routing of Highway 655 will result in an increase of wildlife and motor vehicle collisions, specifically increasing moose mortality in the area (MTFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, other concerns expressed by Matachewan First Nation regarding hunting and trapping, wildlife and wildlife habitat include (MTFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Declining populations of important species and displacement, including moose and bear, as a result of forestry and mining activities, increased traffic and noise
- Declining wildlife health, including deformities in harvested animals, attributed to mining and forestry activities (including herbicide spraying)
- Reduced availability of land and access to harvesting areas
- Increased presence of and conflict with recreational land users and hunters, resulting in safety concerns
- Avoidance of previously preferred harvesting areas because of industrial (e.g., herbicide spraying) activities and concerns about the health of resources as well as increased harvesting pressures
- Effects to community health, as well as psychological health due to fear of consuming wildlife
- Introduction of contaminants into the environment (e.g., airborne deposition of mine dust and tailings) and reduced confidence in the health and quality of animals

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- Reduced hunting opportunities for future generations, with subsequent effects on knowledge transmission and cultural persistence
- Impacts to migratory birds and their habitat from disturbance activities, such as noise and blasting, and the timing of these activities
- Impacts to moose habitat, including calving sites, aquatic feeding areas, and wintering grounds, as well as changes in predator and prey relationships, and sensory disturbances related to rail line collisions, noise, and Project emissions
- Health and relative abundance of the identified species of importance, as well as impacts on trapping practices
- Effects to wildlife or birds encountering tailings
- Effects to the Mattagami River and resulting impacts to wildlife and the exercise of harvesting rights
- Impacts to waterfowl brood rearing habitat in and near area of the Project
- Impacts to eagle and osprey nesting in or near the area of the Project
- Impacts to species at risk
- Impact from the use of light fixtures that can potentially disturb nocturnal species such as the common nighthawk and brown myotis
- Impacts of the dry stack tailings on fauna.
- Large mammal surveys including the presence of cougars and methods for identifying the presence or absence of spirit moose in the PA
- Effects to spirit moose
- Effects to country foods
- Barriers to wildlife movement and potential for increased mortality due to increased traffic associated with the Project

Matachewan First Nation members identified that harvesting and hunting practices are affected by mining activities that cause members to avoid areas with real and perceived contamination concerns, noting that this is especially true when Indigenous Nations are not sought to participate in mining projects (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation also noted that by removing hunting opportunities within the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA, there may be an increase of non-Indigenous hunters encroaching on traditional hunting and fishing areas, increasing competition for limited space and resources, and further affecting members' self-reliance and food security (MTFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.6.3 Fishing and Water

Matachewan First Nation identified water and fishing practices such as harvesting, sharing of ecological knowledge, cooking, and processing fish as culturally important values (MTFN 2023b). Waterbodies were reported to be directly connected to the Nations way of life, as waterbodies facilitate recreational activities such as camping and enjoying being on the land, as well as fishing (MTFN 2023b). Members use waterbodies to travel across their Territory to access different fishing locations during different seasons of the year (MTFN 2023b).

Harvesting of water from the land was reported to have occurred for generations and water is perceived to be a conduit for land-based activities, a resource that is obtained and used by Matachewan, and also a supportive factor for all lifeforms and species – both plants and animals (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation reported that natural spring water is collected by the community for drinking purposes from Spring Lake (within the RSA), Mistinikon Lake (outside the RSA), and multiple other natural spring sources west of Kirkland that are highly valued for their water quality (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation reported that numerous fish species are important sources of nutrition and facilitate the transmission of fishing knowledge and practices. These species include, pickerel (walleye), perch, northern pike/jackfish, trout, whitefish, lingcod, lake trout, speckled trout, sturgeon, minnow, and bass (MTFN 2023b). Traditional species of importance also include bait fish, sauger, sea trout, mooneye, sheepshead, goldeye, splake, sucker (white and redhorse), brook trout, burbot, and catfish (channel and brown bullhead) (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d).

Matachewan First Nation identified several water, fishing, environmental, and/or fish habitat features that intersect the PA (MTFN 2023d). These include a fishing area along Highway 655 and North Driftwood River, a snowmobile trail from Timmins to Cochrane, multiple natural spring sources west of Kirkland, and fish habitat on the West Buskego River (MTFN 2023d). Additional water/fishing features were identified in the Indigenous Interests LSA (MTFN 2023b). These include fishing areas on the Mattagami River located 4.0 km west of the PA, a fishing area on Bigwater Lake located 4.1 km southeast of the PA, a general environmental feature located 2.8 km west of the PA, two subsistence features approximately 4 km south of the PA, and one subsistence feature within 10km south of the PA (MTFN 2023b).

Nineteen fishing areas were identified within the RSA at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Sandy Falls (fishing area), Pickerel Lake (fishing area; important for walleye/ pickerel, pike, and speckled trout), Three Nations Lake (fishing area; important for walleye/pickerel), Frederick House Lake (fishing area; important for walleye, sauger, pike, whitefish, and lingcod), Abitibi Lake (fishing area; important for walleye/pickerel), Buffalo Bay (fishing area; important for walleye, sauger, pike, whitefish, and lingcod), Simpson Island (fishing area), Grassy River (fishing area; important for pike), High Falls (fishing area), Night Hawk River (fishing area), Canoeshed Lake (fishing area), Redwing Lake (fishing area), Matachewan Lake (fishing area; important for lake trout), McNaughton Lake (fishing area, spawning grounds), Horwood Lake (fishing area; important for walleye/pickerel), Bloom Lake (fishing area), Magusie River (fish with abnormalities), Victoria Creek (fishing area), and Forsythe Lake (fishing area) (MTFN 2023b). Three water features were identified within the RSA at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Spring Lake (drinking water), Smooth Rock Falls (water source), and Mistinikon Lake

(drinking water) (MTFN 2023b). An additional 21 general water and fishing locations were identified within the RSA, at locations 10 km or more from the PA (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns about mining activities that could and have previously affected fish species and Matachewan fishing practices in the area (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation reported that a large power dam broke, flowed into Elk Lake located southwest of Timmins, which destroyed the lake habitat through a drastic decrease in water quality (MTFN 2023b). Members reported that they were unable to find fish to harvest in the lake following the destruction of habitat (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan also reported that pickerel and pike species have seen population declines following mining developments and failed relocations, noting Three Nations Lake, located at the southeast boundary of the RSA, was previously abundant with fish species before being dammed for mining when the fish were not relocated (MTFN 2023b). Physical deformities were observed in sturgeon attributed to hydro developments that interfere with the movement and spawning in the Mattagami River. A damming malfunction in McNaughton Lake affected the spawning grounds for many other fish species (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation reported that a previous spill on Mattagami First Nation's reserve, Mattagami 71, severely affected the water quality and that similar concerns were felt in relation to the construction of the Project. Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns that Project activities such as drilling and milling, as well as tailings storage and tailing pond discharge will become contamination sources and affect water quality in the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA (MTFN 2023b).

A Matachewan First Nation participant noted that even though mining projects try to filter contaminants out of wastewater, this source of contamination is still a major concern if the water is being released back into the Mattagami River (MTFN 2023b). Another Matachewan First Nation member, with experience in the mining industry, expressed concerns over the effectiveness of the Canada Nickel Company's filtration and cleaning of tailing pond water, stating that in practice they will miss things that they stated they would clean from the water (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation participants expressed concerns that the Project will affect access and the state of areas such as Duck Lake, which is an important gathering place, and the surrounding environment within the Indigenous Interests LSA for current and future generations. Matachewan First Nation participants expressed concerns that the Project will have immediate impacts on their ability to connect with the land through recreation and habitation (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan expressed specific concerns that proposed Project changes to the waterways could negatively affect fish populations in the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA by decreasing suitable fish habitats (MTFN 2023b). A Matachewan member that has experience working in the mining industry expressed concern that the diversion of water outlined in the Project will have major impacts on riparian habitats and the species that rely on them (MTFN 2023b). Specific concerns for sturgeon were identified by Matachewan members, identifying that the re-routing of waterways for the Project could affect aquatic species, as the fish rely on the full length of the river for their long spawning process and development (MTFN 2023). To mitigate the many concerns of Project impacts on fish species and fishing practices, Matachewan members identified that ecological monitoring of contamination impacts and spread through

waterways in the area needs to be thorough and coordinated to assure the health of aquatic species (MTFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency through Project engagement, Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns regarding the presence of pickerel within the Indigenous Interests LSA and ensuring that this species is included in the Fish and Fish habitat VC chapter. Matachewan First Nation also indicated to the Agency that it is concerned about past and potential future impacts to natural springs, and the potential for stockpiled materials to leach toxins into the environment (IAAC 2024).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter Matachewan First Nation stated that all waterbodies are important to communities. Matachewan First Nation stated that there was an area where Springwater was gathered but can no longer be collected due to contamination. The location of the spring will remain confidential per the Nation's request, to limit access by non-community members.

Other concerns expressed by Matachewan First Nation regarding water, fishing, fish, fish habitat include (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d):

- Disruption of the natural flow of waterways and waterbodies, including the Mattagami River, impacting aquatic and terrestrial species due to landscape alteration and excavation from open pit mining
- Contamination of the local waterways emanating from tailings and settling ponds, as well as machinery spills or accidents which would negatively affect waterways and consequently the fish and animals that Matachewan members consume
- Potential for effluent release into watersheds, affecting fish in these waterways, as well as the safety and potability of water.
- Impacts to fish migration and movement, harming the spawning and development of fish species.
- Impacts to fish habitats and available food sources for fish (e.g., insects), especially due to the loss of water and waterways throughout the area due to Project activities
- Increased outsider traffic in the area contributing to existing overfishing, and negatively harming fish populations
- Diminished trust and confidence in the safety of consuming fish
- Inhibited access to key Matachewan fishing areas due to the rerouting of Highway 655
- Effects to potable water sources and water intake at Smooth Rock Falls
- Effects to water and waterways, including the Mattagami River and Abitibi River
- Effects to navigable waters and navigation by Indigenous Peoples
- Effects to water quality and quantity, including contamination from discharge, runoff, or seepage from water-crossings, waste rock stockpiles, ore stockpiles, overburden stockpiles, and the tailings management facility.
- Effects to water quantity and quality, including sedimentation and associated risks of mercury mobilization

- Loss of natural waterbodies
- Changes to groundwater-surface water interactions
- Effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites
- Effects to lake sturgeon due to effluent discharge in the Mattagami River and noise and vibrations from blasting
- Impacts to aquatic life and traditional fishing activities in the Mattagami River including sturgeon, suckers and spawning areas
- Dewatering and diversion of any waterbodies since protecting water is a sacred First Nation responsibility
- Water-crossings acting as potential inputs of contamination
- Impacts to pickerel (walleye) spawning locations
- Plans for the location, construction, and operation of crossing over Victoria Creek and potential fish impacts

Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns that the increase in non-Indigenous workers in the Timmins area, including those working on the Project, may compete with Matachewan members for fishing and affect the abundance of fish species (MTFN 2023b). Impacts on available fish were previously reported by members in Canoeshed and Redwing Lake areas, located southwest of Timmins, which experienced an increase in people arriving from Timmins that then overfished these areas (MTFN 2023b). In general, such competition for resources may affect Matachewan members ability to practice their fishing rights (MTFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.6.4 Gathering

Harvesting practices for food plants and medicine, and the health of plant habitats, were reported to be important values for Matachewan First Nation (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation highlighted the cultural importance of plants, berries, and medicines for a variety of uses (MTFN 2023b). These include, but are not limited to, foods harvested in specific areas or encountered during other activities and calling tools for moose (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation stated that obtaining food plants from the land is important both for sustenance and for maintaining traditional ecological knowledge (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation reported that preferred locations for harvesting food plants and medicines, include areas of intact forest free from chemical spraying (MTFN 2023d). A variety of plant medicines are harvested including blueberry, raspberry, pin cherry, bamagillia buds (balsam poplar), and swampy tea (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Matachewan First Nation indicated that the spirit berry is a culturally important species that should be described in this section. The spirit berry was reported to be a white berry like a blueberry that is perceived as pure and sacred. The spirit berry is only known to grow in two localized patches near the Nation's main reserve, Matachewan 72, approximately 77 km southeast of the PA.

Matachewan First Nation identified one cultural feature within the PA (MTFN 2023b). A berry gathering area was reported to be located within the Indigenous Interests LSA near Feldman Lake, approximately 100 m east of the PA (MTFN 2023b). Six food plant gathering locations were identified by Matachewan First Nation within the Indigenous Interests RSA at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Highway 655 immediately north of Timmins (berry harvesting), Kamiskotia (medicine harvesting), Cochrane (berry harvesting), and Forsythe Lake (berry harvesting) (MTFN 2023b). A cultural site and a subsistence site were also identified outside of the Indigenous Interests RSA, approximately 154 m north of the PA (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns that proposed mining activities will further harm forests already affected by high levels of habitat fragmentation in the area, noting that the PA is located on one of the few remaining patches of land that, according to the Nation, remains an intact ecosystem (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan identified that plants such as wildflowers could be lost because of Project activities, noting that mining needs to be more attentive to the local ecosystems (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation members also identified concerns that pollution such as dust from tailings and the extraction process, as well as chemicals pose a major risk to plant health in the vicinity of the mine (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation identified that they would avoid harvesting from the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA to avoid dust contamination if the Project proceeded as proposed (MTFN 2023b).

Other concerns expressed by Matachewan First Nation regarding gathering include (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d):

- Avoidance of previously preferred harvesting areas because of industrial (e.g., herbicide spraying) activities
- Impacts to plant harvesting caused by increased population
- Impacts of the dry stack tailings on flora

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

Medicinal Plants

Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Matachewan First Nation identified medicinal plants as an important Valued Component for its Nation and requested that Canada Nickel create a separate subsection for medicinal plants. As a result of this feedback, information provided by Matachewan First Nation regarding medicinal plants is included here and carried forward for assessment.

Harvesting practices for medicine and the health of plant habitats were reported to be important values for Matachewan First Nation (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation highlighted the cultural importance of

plants, berries and medicines for a variety of uses (MTFN 2023b). These include ceremonial resources as part of the four sacred medicines, and topical and internal medicines for a variety of ailments including colds, rashes, and cancer (MTFN 2023b).

Matachewan First Nation reported that preferred locations for harvesting medicines, include areas of intact forest free from chemical spraying (MTFN 2023d). A variety of plant medicines are harvested including Labrador tea, cedar, mint, birch bark, mountain ash, mushroom chaga, sage, willow, and wild rose (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d).

Matachewan First Nation identified one subsistence feature for food plant and medicine within the PA (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan First Nation identified medicine gathering locations within the Indigenous Interests RSA at locations 10 km or more from the PA at Kamiskotia, Abitibi Lake, and Matachewan (MTFN 2023b). An additional nine mapped food plants and medicine locations (approximately) were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA (MTFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency through Project engagement, Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns for the presence of medicinal plants in the PA and potential impacts on harvesting sites as well as plans for reclamation following decommissioning (IAAC 2024).

During engagement with Canada Nickel, Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns about direct and indirect effects impacts to medicinal plants from the operating site, as well as dust dispersal and deposition due to wind effects on tailings. Matachewan First Nation indicated that these effects have been observed on other projects in the region.

Other concerns expressed by Matachewan First Nation regarding gathering include (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d):

- Impacts to food and medicine plant quality and usability from mine dust and air pollution, affecting both medicine quality and safety for Matachewan members who use those plants
- Loss of abundance of medicines and plants
- Increased travel distances to harvest plant medicines
- Indirect impact on medicinal plants from the operating site including dust dispersal and deposition due to wind effects on tailings

Matachewan expressed further concerns that the spatial extent of the Project could result in a permanent loss of medicines and access to medicine harvesting areas (MTFN 2023b). A Matachewan First Nation member noted that medicine and harvesting sites were lost previously through the Young-Davidson Alamos mine near Matachewan (MTFN 2023b). Matachewan members also expressed concerns that Elders in the community will struggle to harvest plants and medicines in the area because of the large PA (MTFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation are found in Attachment 27.2.

27.2.2.7 Cultural Heritage

Matachewan First Nation commented on the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage resources and structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, or architectural significance in or near the area of the Project, including sacred, ceremonial, or culturally important places (e.g., waterbodies including the Mattagami River and the Abitibi River), plants (e.g., cedar, sage, spruce, sweetgrass), animals (e.g., bald eagles, moose, spirit moose), objects, beings or things and teaching areas used to transfer knowledge between generations, as well as sites occupied historically (MTFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d).

Matachewan members identified several sites of ancestral significance that may be affected by Project activities, including important gathering places, potential burial sites, and family cabins (MTFN 2023b). The potential burial site was reported to be in the northern end of the PA and a culturally important place was identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA along the Mattagami River, approximately 4 km west of the PA (IAAC 2023d; MTFN 2023b).

One culturally important place and two locations of historic battles were identified by Matachewan First Nation within the Indigenous Interests RSA at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: The Abitibi River (culturally important place), Nighthawk Lake (location of historic battle), and Frederick House Lake (location of historic battle) (IAAC 2023d; MTFN 2023b). The Nation identified that cultural camps located within the Indigenous Interests LSA and Indigenous Interests RSA are important for social gatherings and cultural connections, and provide access to waterways, ceremonies, and medicine harvesting (MTFN 2023b).

As shared with the Agency through Project engagement, Matachewan First Nation expressed concerns over the lack of an archaeological field survey in the PA and the absence of an Archaeology and Heritage Chapter in the Impact Statement (IAAC 2024).

The results of the CHRS (Appendix B.10 CHSR) and the Stage 1 AA (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA;) are provided in Section 27.2.1.7. Areas where a Stage 2 AA is required are shown on Figure 27.5 (Appendix B.10 CHSR). Previously assessed areas and areas of no or low archaeological potential (i.e., where no further assessment is required) are also shown on Figure 27.5 (Appendix B.11).

Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Matachewan First Nation identified the Powell township and the Montreal River as “no go zones”. Matachewan First Nation stated that it does not condone the development of a mine in areas that overlap its “no-go zones”. Matachewan First Nation stated that it has not yet identified any buffer/ “no-go zones” that are applicable to the Project.

27.2.3 Mattagami First Nation

Mattagami First Nation completed the following Project-specific studies:

- Mattagami First Nation Knowledge and Use Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Project (MGFN 2023a)

- Mattagami First Nation Socio-Economic Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Sulphide Project (MGFN 2023b)

The results of these studies are incorporated below. Canada Nickel's responses to the concerns raised and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are provided in Attachment 27.3 of this Chapter.

27.2.3.1 Rights, Governance and Legal Characteristics

Mattagami First Nation is a signatory of Treaty 9.

The Project is located within the boundaries of Treaty 9 (also known as the James Bay Treaty) (GoC 1964). Treaty 9 was signed between 1905 and 1906 by Anishinaabe (Algonquin and Ojibwe) and Omushkegowuk Cree communities and the Canadian Crown (CIRNAC 2013c, GoC 1964, GovOnt n.d.). Approximately two-thirds of Ontario's total landmass (~58,676,063 ha) is covered by Treaty 9, which spans the Great Lakes watershed encompassing the Hudson Bay and James Bay drainage basins (GoC 1964). The rights specified under Treaty 9 are protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

While Treaty 9 does not specifically mention practices such as gathering, Canada Nickel understands these activities to be reasonably equivalent or incidental to the expressed harvesting rights and are a means of earning a livelihood before the signing of Treaty 9 that would continue in a similar manner after the signing of the Treaty (GoC 1964, SCC 1990, SCC 1996, SCC 1999a, SCC 1999b).

Mattagami First Nation, Mattagami meaning "Meeting of the Waters" in Ojibwe, is home to the Ojibwe and Oji-Cree people (MGFN 2023a). The Ojibwe and Oji-Cree have long occupied the Mattagami River shores and Mattagami Lake areas, going as far as the Moose River head waters of the James Bay Coast (MGFN 2023c).

Mattagami First Nation is part of Wabun Tribal Council, a non-profit regional Chief's Council that represents, advocates, and provides services to six Indigenous Nations. The Chiefs of the Indigenous Nations make up the organization's Board of Directors (WTC 2023b)

Mattagami First Nation signed Treaty 9, also known as the James Bay Treaty, on July 7, 1906, by Mattagami members Andrew Luke, Joseph Shemeket, Thomas Chicken, and James Nevue (GoC 1964, WTC 2023b).

Mattagami First Nation's reserve, Mattagami 71 (5,261 ha), is 113 km southwest of Kirkland Lake (CIRNAC 2024c). The Mattagami reserve is about 20 km northeast of Gogama and is accessible by road 5 km from Highway 144 (WTC 2023b). The closest service centre, with year-round access is Timmins, 97 km away (CIRNAC 2024c). The original Mattagami First Nation community was located in a small area on the shore of Mattagami Lake but was moved in the early 1950s to gain better access to the developing road system (MGFN 2023c, WTC 2023b), and due to displacement by flooding resulting from hydroelectric development (MGFN 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation's nearest land base, Mattagami 71, is approximately 85 km south of the PA.

The Government of Mattagami First Nation comprises a Chief and six Councillors and positions are held for four years.

27.2.3.1.1 Land Management and Agreements

Wabun Tribal Council including Mattagami First Nation, has a Resource Development Department that seeks to apply a consistent approach when engaging with the resource industry. The goal of the Resource Development Department is to facilitate dialogue between Indigenous Nations and resource developers to encourage meaningful relationships that deliver results to all parties. The Resource Development Department's position is that agreements are mandatory as they require commitments to provide socio-economic deliverables to member Nations. The Resource Development Department has provided technical support to member Nations for the negotiation of forestry, mining, and hydro-electric development (WTC 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation is a part of Wabun Tribal Council Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement, by which Indigenous Nations share in the economic benefits of forestry and mining operations near their communities. The Indigenous Nations a part of this agreement receive a portion of; 45% of annual revenue from contributing forest management units, 40% of the annual mining tax and royalties from operational mines, and 45% from future mines in the areas covered by the agreements. The revenue from the agreement can be used for economic development, education, health, and community development (WTC 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation is a member of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) that was created in 1973 to represent 49 Indigenous Nations in northern Ontario (MGFN 2023b). Nishnawbe Aski Nation advocates for the interests of its member Nations to all levels of government, and to support self-determination efforts while re-establishing independence (MGFN 2023b).

There are no active Specific Claims involving Mattagami First Nation (GoC RCSC 2023).

27.2.3.2 Population and Demographics

As of February 2024, Mattagami First Nation had a registered population of 720. Of this population, 164 live on the reserve, and of these, 88 are male and 76 are female. Six live on other reservations, four being male and two being female. Six members live on Crown land, four being male and two females. 544 members of Mattagami First Nation live off reserve, of this 254 are male and 290 are female (CIRNAC 2024c).

27.2.3.2.1 Language

Mattagami First Nation conducted a community survey in 2023 that included a background review of data from a previous baseline socioeconomic study completed by Mattagami First Nation in 2021, interviews with community members, and was supplemented by secondary data from the 2016 Canadian Census.

As of 2016, of 190 members surveyed, 15 spoke Indigenous language(s), 155 spoke English only and 30 spoke both English and French (CIRNAC 2024c). According to survey results, most members of

Mattagami First Nation are not using the Ojibwe language on a regular basis, and most respondents reported English as their mother tongue (MGFN 2023b).

Language loss is a major concern for Mattagami First Nation (MGFN 2023b). There are programs in place to restore traditional languages including a language revitalization committee (MGFN 2023b).

27.2.3.2.2 Education

Mattagami First Nation operates a private school on reserve called the Mary Jane Naveau Memorial School which approximately 34 elementary students from the community currently attend (211 Ontario North 2023). The school offers a full curriculum for students from kindergarten to Grade eight (211 Ontario North 2023, MGFN 2023c). Examples of the courses offered at the school include Indigenous language studies, cultural education (e.g., traditional skills; teachings of the local area), computer labs, and construction technology (211 Ontario North 2023).

There is presently no high school level courses offered on reserve. Mattagami First Nation reported that it plans to build a high school in the future (MGFN 2023b). Some community members registered in grades nine and up were reported to commute to Timmins for school or take online courses (MGFN 2023b). Approximately 23 students are currently registered in remote learning programs that enable them to complete their high school classes online (MGFN 2023b). As of 2019, 10 students have obtained their high school diplomas through the remote learning program (MGFN 2023b). Mattagami First Nation reported that the bus schedules for those travelling to Timmins and back restrict students from accessing and participating in extracurricular activities (MGFN 2023b). Mattagami First Nation reported that the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected students that were attending primary school and high school off reserve, as the students enrolled in the Timmins school did not have access to necessary support and had to repeat a grade (MGFN 2023b).

Of the 165 Mattagami First Nation members over the age of 15 that participated in the 2021 Census, 85 reported having an OSSD or equivalent certificate, 60 reported having a postsecondary certificate diploma or degree below bachelor level, 25 reported having a college, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma, and 10 reported having a bachelor's degree (Statistics Canada 2023b).

More recently, Mattagami First Nation reported that approximately 19 of the adult members that participated in their community survey had completed post-secondary education, with 16 having a college diploma and three having a university degree (MGFN 2023b). Approximately 13 of survey respondents have gone into trades and received a trades certificate or diploma (MGFN 2023b). Education rates among adults were reported as being lower, with a large portion of adults having no high school equivalent training (MGFN 2023b). Most Mattagami First Nation members do not have a trades certificate or designation (MGFN 2023b). There are 14 students recorded as currently attending a post-secondary institution (MGFN 2023b). Survey respondents that indicated having trades training had training in the following industries: mining, welding, heavy equipment operation, health and safety, and DZ (Class D with air brake endorsement) driver license (MGFN 2023b). Other respondents indicated they had training in the following professional sectors: teaching, nursing, personal support worker, grooming, cooking, policing, and service industry (MGFN 2023b).

Mattagami First Nation reported that it is interested in identifying training and education opportunities for its members related to the following professions: heavy equipment operation, health and safety, social work, environmental or renewable resource management, cultural, logistics, construction, resource industry, social sciences, public service or administration, legal, architecture, IT, engineering, advertising, veterinary, business, finance, management, construction (building, installation, finishing, restoration), health care and social assistance (nurse, doctor, midwife, counsellor, child day care), educational services, fine and applied arts, accommodation and food services (hospitality, restaurants), and transportation (MGFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.3 Social Conditions and Services

Mattagami First Nation has a volunteer Fire Department, but no information regarding Mattagami First Nation's additional emergency services, such as police and ambulance are publicly available (Indigenous Fire Services Directory n.d.).

Mattagami First Nation residents can participate in financial support programs that assist residents in purchasing homes (MGFN 2023b). Mattagami First Nation currently has 69 units in its portfolio, and most houses are listed as being in good condition and suitable to live in (MGFN 2023b). Housing remains a demand for Mattagami First Nation. As of June 2021, 34 families/individuals are on a waiting list for housing (MGFN 2023b). Members of Mattagami First Nation have suggested that the waitlist is populated by people who live off reserve and are trying to find a means back to the reserve (MGFN 2023b). The waitlist for housing, especially housing suitable for families is very long, leading to people being forced to live in unsuitable conditions while they wait (MGFN 2023c). Housing shortages and the quality of houses were identified as a significant concern for Mattagami First Nation (MGFN 2023b). There are 45 privately owned homes in the community (MGFN 2023b). Following provision of a draft of this section of the Impact Statement for review, Mattagami First Nation stated that their communities could use assistance for housing Elders and other members of their communities that may require additional considerations or accommodations (e.g., mobility issues).

Transportation has been identified as a concern for Mattagami First Nation. A lack of transportation or inability to afford a vehicle has an impact on work opportunities for members of Mattagami First Nation (MGFN 2023c). Mattagami First Nation's reserve does not have public transportation, and the nearest bus stop is a six km walk (MGFN 2023b). Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Mattagami First Nation stated that childcare is a big gap in their communities, affecting members living both on and off reserve. Consistent with information shared by the Nation in its social and economic conditions report (MGFN 2023c), lack of reliable or adequate childcare services affects the abilities of their members to secure employment on projects in the region.

Mattagami First Nation also shared that many roads providing access to and/or those located on reserve need paving and other structural repairs.

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Mattagami First Nation expressed concerns regarding the following potential effects to social conditions and services:

- Lack of available/adequate housing in the region and potential increased demand due to the Project's workforce
- Increased waitlist times for housing
- Increased traffic due the Project affecting those travelling in the region

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.4 Health

27.2.3.4.1 Conditions

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Wabun Tribal Council, of which Mattagami First Nation is a member, stated that it has strong concerns regarding contamination of the biophysical environment from tailings, due to the legacy of mining impacts on Indigenous Nations' rights and requested a description of worst-case scenarios and effects from severe weather conditions on alternative means (MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2023).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Wabun Tribal Council First Nations (i.e., Flying Post First Nation, Mattagami First Nation, Matachewan First Nation) requested that a diet and harvest study be conducted to adequately understand Indigenous Nation contexts and baseline health profiles and that the proper assessment of effects on Indigenous Peoples needs to be conducted in each of the following realms: at home, in the community, on the land, and in the workplace (MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2023).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Mattagami First Nation expressed concerns regarding the following potential effects to its health and well-being (MGFN 2023b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN, FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Increased risk to Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ because of Project-related work camps, lack of public transit, and increased access to intoxicants
- Lack of a dedicated health centre that results in an insufficient understanding about mental and chronic health issues, as well as safety and security of members
- Social impacts caused by influxes of non-Indigenous People into First Nation communities.
- Increase in human trafficking in their communities and in the broader region, especially as it is amplified by the presence of mining activities
- Impacts to human health, including actual and perceived risks at key receptors due to changes to air quality, recreational and drinking water quality

- Impacts on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+, and discrimination and violence towards Indigenous Peoples
- Impacts to local community services and infrastructure, including women's shelters, health facilities, mental health and addiction facilities, emergency services, childcare, and housing availability and pricing
- Increased discrimination from outside workforce, such as increased harassment and discrimination

In their Project-specific study, Mattagami First Nation highlighted specific concerns regarding impacts from the Project. Of significant concern are the contamination of air and water from open-pit mining and associated blasting and waste management (MGFN 2023a).

Food insecurity is experienced by members of Mattagami First Nation multiple times a month (MGFN 2023b). Mattagami First Nation stated that a lack of a grocery store affects food security, and the only nearby option is a gas station that offers unhealthy choices (MGFN 2023b).

Housing shortages were identified by Mattagami First Nation as exacerbating domestic violence (MGFN 2023c). Discrimination, bullying, and substance abuse were also identified as issues (MGFN 2023b). Mattagami First Nation is concerned that the Project will amplify human trafficking, and that young Indigenous women are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence, grooming, and assault due to mining projects in the Nation's Traditional Territory (MGFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.4.2 Services

For all Mattagami First Nation members, Nishnawbe Aski Nation offers the Nishnawbe Aski Mental Health Wellness Support Access Program (NAN Hope) (NAN Hope 2024). This program is Nation-led and provides community members with access to mental health and addiction support including a 24/7 live answer toll-free telephone line, live webchat and text support, rapid access to confidential counselling, access to a 24/7 crisis/distress support line, and navigation to existing community-based and regional support services (NAN Hope 2024).

Following provision of a draft of this section of the Impact Statement for review, Mattagami First Nation also stated that there is limited access to medical services as each community has a small clinic but no hospitals. Members explain that they can't rely on the Timmins hospital due to shortage of doctors and now members are travelling further for medical care. Mattagami First Nation also expressed frustration and concern with the level of service and quality of care available at the hospitals in the region. Mattagami First Nation highlighted the First Nations Mental Health Wellness Continuum Framework (the framework) and the importance of this framework to their community (FNMWC 2015). The framework was launched in 2015, and it presents a shared vision for future Indigenous mental wellness programs and services as well as practical steps towards achieving that vision (FNMWC 2015). The framework identifies that mental wellness is supported by a nation's culture, language, Elders, families and creation (Indigenous worldview) and that there are many gaps within existing federal, provincial and territorial mental wellness services (FNMWC 2015). Essential services identified by the framework include health promotion, prevention, community development, education, early identification and intervention, crisis response, coordination of care and care planning, detox, trauma-informed treatment, and support and aftercare (FNMWC 2015).

No additional information for Mattagami First Nation regarding water sources was available through review of publicly available information and engagement with the Nation.

27.2.3.5 Economic Characteristics

27.2.3.5.1 Labour Force

As of 2016, of 145 members surveyed, 53.3% of Mattagami First Nation was participating in the labor force, 36.7% were employed and 25% were unemployed. Fifteen members were working in agriculture, 10 were working in manufacturing and construction, 10 were involved in wholesale and retail, 20 were in health and education, 10 were working in business services and 30 were working in other services (CIRNAC 2024c).

According to Mattagami First Nation, there are limited career opportunities on reserve other than mining, which are low paying and low skilled jobs, although some opportunities in construction have led to community members creating their own businesses (MGFN 2023b). For members of Mattagami First Nation who wish to pursue careers other than mining, options are limited and the only option for people is to seek social assistance or leave the reserve (MGFN 2023b).

Fifty-one survey participants provided information regarding their income bracket. One quarter of respondents reported earning higher than \$80,000 annually, while more than half earn less than \$40,000 annually, including 13 members earning \$20,000 annually (MGFN 2023c). According to a survey, households have between one and three working adults that support the household (MGFN 2023b). According to survey respondents, 21% provide for four to six people (MGFN 2023b).

Transportation issues were identified by survey respondents as a barrier to employment opportunities (MGFN 2023b). Approximately 12% of survey respondents reported losing work because of transportation issues (MGFN 2023b). Access to transportation can be seen as an equity issue that increases vulnerability for those who do not possess a driver's license or cannot afford a vehicle or fuel

(MGFN 2023b). Other barriers to employment identified by survey respondents included childcare and other familial obligations (MGFN 2023b).

Few working survey respondents have registered designations or professional licenses (16%). Most common amongst these are teachers and nurses (MGFN 2023b). Most adults are trained in common safety certificates but have not maintained them (MGFN 2023b). The most common industries represented by survey respondents is health and safety, mining, heavy equipment operators, and trades (welding) (MGFN 2023b). Members of Mattagami First Nation are interested in a wide variety of training and career paths, but experience barriers to achieving this such as cost, time, and access (MGFN 2023b).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Mattagami First Nation stated that its community is seeking to advance youth perspectives and opportunities for youth training, employment, and careers in mining.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.5.2 Economic Development

Mattagami First Nation, as a part of Wabun Tribal Council, has access to the Wabun Development Corporation. The Wabun Development Corporation was established by Wabun Tribal Council to promote economic development for its member Nations. The Wabun Development Corporation has an administrative building located in Timmins Ontario (WTC 2023a).

Wabun Tribal Council has an Economic Development Department that is responsible for encouraging and assisting members to establish and expand businesses. The Economic Development Department also provides technical and advisory assistance to Indigenous Nation entrepreneurs developing and operating their own businesses (WTC 2023a).

Wabun Tribal Council has a Training and Employment Services Department with a mandate to provide advisory services to the member Nations and is responsible for the delivery of funds and programs to the member Nations. The Employment Services Department offers training funding, targeted wage subsidies, pre-employment support, mobility support, funding for multi-year diplomas, and apprenticeships (WTC 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation, as a part of Wabun Tribal Council, has access to the Technical Services Department of the Council. The Technical Services Department is responsible for infrastructure, capital project development, strategic planning, policy development, and participation in negotiations at local, provincial, and federal levels of government (WTC 2023a).

The Economic Development Corps has apprenticeships and funding available for training programs, although this funding is usually insufficient for covering the entire cost of a training program (MGFN 2023b). Mattagami First Nation stated that there needs to be training opportunities for members of the community before the Project begins, so that community members can take advantage of employment opportunities associated with the Project (MGFN 2023b).

In a letter addressed to the Project from Wabun Tribal Council, of which Mattagami First Nation is a member of, the Nation expressed their endorsement of the Project, provided they follow the outlined exploration and process agreements signed between Canada Nickel and the Indigenous Nations.

Mattagami First Nation has identified an interest in economic benefits, investment and inclusion opportunities with the Project. Through engagement with Canada Nickel, Mattagami First Nation emphasized the need for more time when planning business opportunities related to the Project.

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.6 Exercised or Practiced Indigenous and Treaty Rights

27.2.3.6.1 Customs and Protocols

The practice and perpetuation of Indigenous customs and protocols are considered core components of a Nation's cultural continuity and wellbeing (Kirmayer 1994; Lewis et al. 2021). Mattagami First Nation described knowledge transmission as the passing of knowledge between people and generations, stating that knowledge that is fundamental to Mattagami First Nation's cultural practice and way of life. As Mattagami First Nation's culture and cultural practices are inextricably tied to the land within Mattagami First Nation's Traditional Territory, knowledge and knowledge transmission is often place-based and requires opportunities for multiple generations to spend time together outdoors in important places. Mattagami First Nation's knowledge transmission is experiential, oral, rooted on the land, and hands-on – it is very much about learning by doing, and spending time with knowledge holders. As knowledge transmission brings Mattagami people together, it also helps to create or maintain meaningful bonds within or between Mattagami First Nation families and generations (MGFN 2023a).

Following review of a draft of this assessment chapter, Mattagami First Nation stated that these practices are at the core of the Seven Grandfathers Teachings and the principle of Seven Generations Forward Thinking and requested that additional context be added to this section regarding these concepts.

According to Ojibwe and Cree oral histories, there was once a time, long ago, that the people of Earth needed assistance to find balance and direction in life (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). The Creator gave seven powerful spirits, known as the Seven Grandfathers, the responsibility to relay their teachings to the people (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). After a long search, a spirit messenger found a young infant with the ability to transport to the Spirit World to learn the Seven Grandfathers Teachings (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988). When the boy returned to Earth, he shared with the people seven guiding principles for living a good life in peace and without conflict: Wisdom (*Nibwaakaawin*), Love (*Zaagi'idiwin*), Respect (*Manaaji'idiwin*), Bravery (*Zoongide'ewin*), Honesty (*Gwayakwaadiziwin*), Humility (*Dabasebdiziwin*) and Truth (*Debwewin*) (Seven Generations Education Institute 2021; Benton-Banai 1988).

These principles have been shared generation after generation, with the guiding belief that with each decision that is made, people are responsible to look forward and consider the impacts to the next seven generations (Benton-Banai 1988). Mattagami First Nation shared that the Nation continues to relay the

principles of the Seven Grandfather Teachings to youth in many ways including, but not limited to, demonstrating how to show respect for the land with asemaa (tobacco) offerings (MGFN 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation noted that culture and cultural practices are inextricably tied to the land within Mattagami First Nation's Traditional Territory (MGFN 2023a). Knowledge and knowledge transmission is often place-based and requires opportunities for multiple generations to spend time together outdoors in important places (MGFN 2023a). Half of the 2021 survey respondents of Mattagami First Nation participate in traditional ceremonies (MGFN 2023b). Some members of Mattagami First Nation stated that they have been practicing their culture for over four decades, while others discussed the need for members to learn the language and connect/reconnect with Elders to restore cultural roots (MGFN 2023b). Many survey respondents stated that there are more opportunities to participate in cultural events compared to ten years ago with revitalized ceremonies, powwows, arts, and cultural camps that introduce youth to land-based activities (MGFN 2023b). Land loss is a major barrier to these revitalization efforts, as their land-based activities are now restricted (MGFN 2023b).

Access to the land is critical for the persistence of Mattagami First Nation knowledge transmission processes. Certain types of places have attributes that are especially valuable for knowledge sharing and other intangible cultural values. These sites support "learning by doing" and repetition, which is crucial for knowledge retention. Maintaining access to important places and teaching areas on the land is integral to the intactness of knowledge and knowledge transmission processes. Participants identified several preferred access routes (e.g., trails) that also support teaching and other aspects of cultural continuity (MGFN 2023a). The creation of the Chapleau Game Preserve in the 1920s on the traditional Indigenous harvesting Territories placed a provincial ban on hunting, trapping, and fishing in the area and broke the Treaty Rights of Mattagami First Nation (MGFN 2023b).

Many members of Mattagami First Nation participate in traditional harvesting including hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering (MGFN 2023b). Most survey respondents stated that they collect their own food from the Treaty 9 Territory or during community gatherings (GoC 1964, MGFN 2023b). Some participants stated that there are barriers to land access, and that traditional foods are unavailable to them. Others cited health issues as a physical impediment to harvesting, including issues related to COVID-19 (MGFN 2023b).

Mattagami First Nation identified a cultural feature and three transportation features within the PA, and two habitation features and one cultural feature within the Indigenous Interests LSA, approximately 5 km south of the PA (MGFN 2023b). Highway 655 as well as Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club [OFSC] trails near Highway 655 between Timmins and Cochrane intersect the PA and are areas for cultural continuity. Other places identified as important for cultural continuity within the Indigenous Interests LSA include (MGFN 2023b):

- Mattagami River, a culturally important place, located 4.0 km west of the PA
- A snowmobile trail near Iroquois Falls located 4.8 km east of the PA
- Big Water Camp (Bigwater Lake Campground) habitation site located 5.3 km southeast of the PA

Additionally, 11 areas for cultural activities and ceremonial practices were identified by Mattagami First Nation in the Indigenous Interests RSA, including: Timmins (OFSC trails), Kamiskotia Lake (tangible connection to cultural heritage), Cochrane (OFSC trails), Grassy River (camping area, teaching area), Smooth Rock Falls (cultural transmission area), Kenetogami Lake off of Highway 144 (cultural area), Mattagami Lake (habitation site, snowshoe route, cabin), Kenogamissi Falls Road (country foods), Mattagami IR 71 Reserve (cultural transmission), Hurst (cultural area), Nighthawk Lake (habitation site), and 9 mapped cultural continuity locations.

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Mattagami First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding cultural continuity (MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; MTFN, MGFN and FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Loss of ability or desire to use the area surrounding the Project due to industrial impacts
- Loss of continuity of harvesting practice (e.g., harvesting) and access to key species
- Reduced ability to access the land in the PA resulting from the potential disruption of existing trail routes (e.g., OFSC trails)
- Loss of access the lands for teaching knowledge and connecting to place-based ancestral history
- Reduced sense of place arising from land clearing and sensory disturbance (e.g., visual, noise) and increased presence of other land users resulting in diminished ability to enjoy solitude and connect to land
- Historical and anticipated future impacts to air quality as a result of industrial activity
- Loss of ability to connect with important areas and spiritual values due to the relocation of Highway 655, increased road usage, and potential increases in wildlife mortality
- Increase in the overall pace of development in Mattagami Territory
- Exclusion of Mattagami First Nation from decision-making and consultation processes regarding industrial development, as well as legal and financial deterrents to exercising Mattagami First Nation rights in certain areas and systemic unequal distribution of costs and benefits associated with resource development on Mattagami lands
- Uncertainty and skepticism over Project operations and remediation, including adherence to relevant regulations and the use and storage of tailings and other industrial chemicals
- Lack of trust in the safety of harvesting areas as a result of known or expected chemical spraying associated with industrial activity
- Potential impacts to current and future use of lands and resources, including from construction of the rail line, transmission line, and highway relocation; an increase in temporary workers; and perceived and real changes to the visual landscape, air quality, noise and vibrations, and contamination. These Project activities could affect access to harvesting, traplines and hunting camps, wildlife corridors, breeding grounds, and overwintering sites, affect the experience of being on the water, water quality and/or quantity, fish and fishing and impact harvesting and gathering of medicines, plants, and mushrooms

- Effects to the Mattagami River, as the river system is important for the exercise of harvesting rights and other cultural practices and ceremonies

Mattagami First Nation described several stressors, such as urbanization and privatization, industrial development, and colonial policies, which have already contributed to the conditions of Mattagami First Nation cultural continuity (MGFN 2023a).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.6.2 Hunting and Trapping

Wild game forms a central part of Mattagami First Nation's diet and therefore access to wild game and a year-round supply of meat are critically important. Members of Mattagami First Nation remarked that they have a strong preference for wild over store-bought meat, based on health benefits and flavour preferences (MGFN2023a).

Participants interviewed as a part of Mattagami First Nations' Project-specific study, reported harvesting a variety of large and small game including moose, bear, beaver, spruce, and ruffed grouse (partridge), ducks, and rabbit. Hunting continues to sustain Mattagami First Nation's year-round diet, and participants recalled the prevalence of hunting and wild game (along a variety of fish) in their childhoods (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation noted that the eastern whip-poor-will is a species of concern and has the potential to be present in the PA (MGFN 2022). Traditional species of importance also include fisher, mink, fox, grey fox, muskrat, squirrel, otter, weasel, rabbit, coyote, lynx, wolverine and cougar, boreal caribou, deer, white-tailed deer, geese, eagle (bald eagle), duck, crane, and osprey (IAAC 2023d).

Mattagami First Nation members reported that using a reported using a variety of vehicles to access and retrieve animals while hunting in difficult terrain, including all-terrain vehicles, boats, and backhoes (MGFN 2023a). Several members of Mattagami First Nation have reported that they hunt from permanent or short-term camps, including trap lines, in addition to the more common day trips for hunting or harvesting animals while travelling for other purposes (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation reported that hunting for moose, grouse, bear, and deer starts in August and finishes in November, and ducks and geese are hunted from April to May and August to September. Mattagami First Nation reported a strong preference for wild meat over store-bought food and emphasized the importance of sharing with Elders and those who are no longer able to access the land.

Members of Mattagami First Nation reported beginning hunting as youths, under the supervision of older family and community members; with one participant noting that family cabins and traplines are important areas where youth learn how to harvest and process animals as part of the transition towards supporting older generations. For some, annual intergenerational hunting trips are an explicit component of ensuring the continuation of Mattagami traditional knowledge (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation members articulate a hunting and trapping ethic that emphasizes the humane killing of animals and the conservation of meat. As with other elements of hunting and trapping described above, this ethic, too, is explicitly taught to younger generations of harvesters. As the subject of cultural teaching and learning, and as critical to food security, success in hunting is celebrated in Mattagami communities. Participants

further describe the act of hunting as relaxing, and as essential to fostering bonding and learning experiences (MGFN 2023a).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Wabun Tribal Council, of which Mattagami First Nation is a part, stated that wildlife is a priority and that references to Indigenous participation in wildlife studies should be included. Wabun Tribal Council First Nation indicated to the Agency through engagement on the Project that they are concerned with the effectiveness of deterrence mechanisms for preventing birds and other wildlife from coming into contact with tailings (MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2023). Additionally shared to the Agency through Project engagement, moose and spirit moose are highly valued and culturally important to Wabun Tribal Council First Nations; and their baseline context must include understanding cumulative effects and legacy impacts (MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2023).

Hunting and trapping values in the PA included habitats for moose, partridge, and turtles, harvesting sites for ruffed grouse and spruce grouse, and terrestrial trails used while hunting, including Highway 655. Mattagami First Nation identified the following hunting and trapping features within the Indigenous Interests LSA (MGFN 2023a):

- Hunting and trapping environmental and subsistence features located 624 m north of the PA
- Hunting and trapping environmental feature located 734 m east of the PA
- Hunting and Trapping along the Mattagami River located 4.0 km west of the PA

The hunting and trapping values located within the Indigenous Interests LSA included a harvesting site for beaver, a habitat area for beaver, and multiple terrestrial trails used while trapping wolves (MGFN 2023a). Interviewed members of Mattagami identified several areas as highly productive hunting grounds, including along Kenogamissi Falls Road, Highways 655, 101, and 576 along the Mattagami River for moose, and Kamiskotia Lake for birds. Interviewed participants also identified that clearcutting could indicate a productive hunting area, but also noted that extensive forest harvesting is generally detrimental to vegetation (MGFN2023b).

The hunting and trapping values located in the Indigenous Interests RSA included a habitat area for rabbit, harvesting sites for moose and ruffed grouse, and several processing sites for moose (MGFN 2023a). The hunting and trapping identified by Mattagami First Nation within the Indigenous Interests LSA included Highway 101 and 576 along the Mattagami River, Highway 576 near Kamiskotia Lake, Nighthawk Lake, Grassy River, Hassard Creek, Kenogamissi Falls Road, McBride Lake, between Mattagami and Gogama, and four mapped hunting and trapping locations.

Mattagami First Nation members reported numerous ongoing impacts to their ability to hunt and trap in the Indigenous Interests RSA, and in the Mattagami First Nation Territory more broadly, including impacts to harvested species from forestry and mining. Participants indicated a general decline in the number of animals available for members to harvest, noting that this decline in local animal populations means that Mattagami First Nation members must travel further to hunt, with economic impacts associated with increased vehicle wear and tear. As more animal habitat is affected by forestry and mining, one participant highlighted the inadequacy of reserve lands for supporting Mattagami First Nation community

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needs and the importance of remaining intact habitat for healthy populations of harvested species (MGFN 2023a).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Mattagami First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding hunting and trapping, wildlife and wildlife habitat (MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Impacts to air and water from Project activities, with associated impacts to animal and human health
- Habitat loss and the displacement of animals because of habitat loss and noise disturbance
- Loss of access to preferred hunting and trapping sites
- Increased conflict with recreational hunters
- Impacts to migratory birds and their habitat from disturbance activities, such as noise and blasting, and the timing of these activities
- Impacts to moose habitat, including calving sites, aquatic feeding areas, and wintering grounds, as well as changes in predator and prey relationships, and sensory disturbances related to rail line collisions, noise, and Project emissions
- Impacts to wildlife or birds encountering tailings
- Effects to the Mattagami River and resulting impacts to wildlife and the exercise of harvesting rights
- Impacts to waterfowl brood rearing habitat in and near PA
- Impacts to eagle and osprey nesting in or near the PA
- Impacts to species at risk
- Impact from the use of light fixtures that can potentially disturb nocturnal species such as the common nighthawk and brown myotis
- Impacts of the dry stack tailings on fauna
- Plans for the large mammal survey, including the presence of cougars and methods for identifying the presence or absence of spirit moose
- Effects to spirit moose
- Barriers to wildlife movement and potential for increased mortality due to increased traffic associated with the Project
- Effects to country foods
- Effects to the health of harvested wildlife, as Nation members have observed diseased moose beaver due to contaminants introduced by other projects in the region

In addition to declines in animal quantity, Mattagami First Nation reported a marked decline in animal quality. Participants reported increased frequency of parasites in moose populations, as well as second-hand knowledge of abnormalities on internal organs in harvested animals, particularly near Nighthawk

Lake and along Grassy River. Participants emphasized that the meat of affected animals was not suitable for consumption and was not shared with community members. Members described the disheartening experience of having to discard the meat from harvested animals, and one participant indicated avoidance of areas near known industrial development (MGFN 2023a). Members of Mattagami First Nation stated that member's ability to harvest traditional foods has been impeded by perceived health risks associated with the spraying of herbicides and pesticides near industrial projects (MGFN 2023b).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.6.3 Fishing and Water

Fish represent an important component of Mattagami First Nation members' wild food diets, along with many other species of animals and plants (MGFN 2023a). A wide diversity of fish species, such as pickerel, walleye, northern pike, whitefish, sucker (white and redhorse), and perch, are harvested, processed, and preserved by Mattagami First Nation members using a range of techniques (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation fishers utilize different fishing techniques across species and fishing seasons including rod and reel, spring net fishing, and ice fishing (MGFN 2023a). Other traditional species of importance also include bait fish, sauger, sea trout, bass (large and smallmouth), mooneye, sheepshead, goldeye, splake, jackfish, brook trout, burbot, catfish (channel and brown bullhead) and lake sturgeon (IAAC 2023d).

Fishing supports Mattagami First Nation Members' cultural health in ways other than traditional food access and knowledge transmission by providing a sense of place and connection to land that promotes mental health, sense of identity, and social fabric (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation fishing knowledge is rich and place-based and typically passed down intergenerationally and learned through spending significant time on the water and provides Mattagami First Nation fishers with an understanding of fish habitat, spawning patterns, behaviour, and seasonality (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation members move between different fishing areas to harvest a variety of species. North Driftwood River, for example, which intersects the PA, was identified as a place for smelt fishing (MGFN 2023a). Preserving Mattagami First Nation members access to and confidence in lakes and rivers is vital to Mattagami First Nation fishing practices and food security. Traditional food sharing protocols, grounded in Elder care and mutual aid, make sure that the benefits of fishing practices are amplified throughout the community (MGFN 2023a).

Collecting water from natural sources while out on the land (e.g., at cabins, traplines, fishing sites, harvesting areas) has always been an important activity for Mattagami First Nation members. Access to reliable and clean natural drinking water sources is therefore essential to Mattagami First Nation members' land-based way of life. Mattagami First Nation reported harvesting water for drinking and cooking from multiple freshwater sources, including springs and surface water bodies such as the Grassy and Nabakwasi rivers (MGFN 2023a).

For members of Mattagami First Nation, certain waterbodies can have multiple layers of significance. A single waterway could be a fishing area, a spawning habitat, a ceremonial site, a drinking water source, and a navigation route, among many others. Water is also critical for intangible elements of Mattagami

First Nation culture practiced by Mattagami First Nation members including spirituality and ceremonial values (MGFN 2023a). Members of Mattagami First Nation have explained that that natural watercourses (lakes and rivers) have been lost or altered by dam construction and mine development. In addition to industrial developments, increased use of the Mattagami River by non-Indigenous recreational fishers and fishing boats has created more shoreline erosion and sedimentation in the river. Existing water quality issues were also reported by Mattagami First Nation Study members, with one no longer feeling comfortable harvesting drinking water from natural sources (e.g., creeks) due to concerns about the pollution levels in the Timmins area (MGFN 2023a). In addition to mining and forestry, the transportation industry has also affected water and fish health in Mattagami First Nation Traditional Territory. One participant described a train derailment and oil spill that became a fish mortality event in the Minisinakwa River, which flows towards the community at Mattagami. Given the nutritional and cultural importance of fish to Mattagami First Nation members and families the rail incidents and other impacts on water quality and fish health are highly detrimental to Mattagami First Nation way of life, and health and well-being (MGFN 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation identified North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River as fish habitat, and these rivers intersect the PA. Additionally, the following water and fishing features were identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA (MGFN 2023a):

- water and fishing subsistence value located 1.4 km east of the PA
- water and fishing transportation value located 3.5 km south of the PA
- water and fishing environmental value located 3.8 km south of the PA
- water and fishing subsistence value located 4.1 km south of the PA
- water and fishing subsistence value located 4.3 km south of the PA
- water and fishing subsistence value located 4.3 km south of the PA
- Mattagami River located 4.0 km west of the PA
- Bigwater Lake located 4.1 km southeast of the PA

The water and fishing values found within the Indigenous Interests RSA included a boat launch used for fishing; a catch and release site for sturgeon; several areas used for recreational swimming; numerous fishing sites for perch, pickerel, and pike; multiple water routes used while fishing; and one historical Mattagami First Nation canoe route used for commuting from Mattagami First Nation to Timmins (MGFN 2023a). These water, fishing, fish and fish habitat features within the Indigenous Interests RSA includes: Sandy Falls (fishing area), Twenty-three Mile Creek (fishing area), Kamiskotia Lake (fishing area), Driftwood (fishing area), Tatachikapika River (fishing area), off of Price Main Road (fishing area), Grassy River (drinking water, fishing area, walleye habitat), Nabakwasi River (water collection, fishing area), Abitibi River (fish habitat), Smooth Rock Falls (water collection), Mattagami Lake (water collection), Sinclair Lake (fishing area, pickerel spawning), Minisinakwa River (fishing area), Togo Rapids (fishing area), Victoria Creek (fishing area), and six mapped water and fishing locations.

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Mattagami First Nation also expressed the following concerns regarding water, fishing, fish and fish habitat (MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Reduced water quality due to the introduction of Project-related contaminants into waterways
- Effects to the health of harvested fish, as Nation members have observed diseased fish due to contaminants introduced by other projects in the region
- Loss of confidence in fish health arising from water quality concerns, with an associated avoidance of fishing areas
- Reduced access to fishing areas and fish due to Project-related access restrictions
- Increased use of the Mattagami River by non-Indigenous recreational fishers and fishing boats has created more shoreline erosion and sedimentation in the river
- Effects to potable water sources and water intake at Smooth Rock Falls
- Effects to water and waterways, including the Mattagami River and the Abitibi River
- Effects to navigable waters and navigation by Indigenous Peoples
- Effects to water quality and quantity, including contamination from discharge, runoff, or seepage from water-crossings, waste rock stockpiles, ore stockpiles, overburden stockpiles, and the tailings management facility
- Effects to water quantity and quality, including sedimentation and associated risks of mercury mobilization
- Loss of natural waterbodies
- Changes to groundwater-surface water interactions
- Effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites
- Effects to lake sturgeon due to effluent discharge in the Mattagami River and noise and vibrations from blasting
- Impacts to aquatic life and traditional fishing activities in the Mattagami River including sturgeon, suckers and spawning areas
- The dewatering and diversion of any waterbodies since protection of water is a sacred First Nation responsibility
- Water-crossings acting as potential inputs of contamination
- Impacts to pickerel (walleye) spawning locations
- Potential fish impacts
- The presence of pickerel (walleye) within the Indigenous Interests LSA and scoping this species into the Fish and Fish Habitat VC

- Past and potential future impacts to natural springs, particularly in the Mattagami Village due to proximity to tailings ponds from other projects in the region
- Potential for stockpiled materials to leach toxins into the environment

In a letter addressed to the Project, Wabun Tribal Council, of which Mattagami First Nation is a member of, wrote that it is concerned that the requirements for assessing fish and fish habitats are too narrow in focus. Wabun Tribal Council noted to the Agency during Project engagement that all fish in all life cycles stages in the Indigenous Interests LSA and Indigenous Interests RSA need to be assessed and at minimum species must also include perch, walleye, and baitfish (MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2023).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.6.4 Gathering

Mattagami First Nation stated that harvesting occurs at a number of preferred harvesting locations and reported harvesting numerous species including but not limited to blueberries, raspberries, cranberries, chokecherries, strawberries, as well as a variety of mushrooms including chanterelle, puffball, and shaggy mane mushrooms (IAAC 2023d; MGFN 2023b). For Mattagami First Nation berries are especially important food species as they can be preserved for the winter, and thus provide an important source of nutrients and vitamins throughout the year. While berries are harvested primarily in the summer, food plants are gathered by Mattagami throughout the seasons and a diversity of mushrooms species is often harvested in the fall (MGFN 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation identified values related to gathering and travel within the PA, the Indigenous Interests LSA and the Indigenous Interests RSA. The Nation identified presence of 17 food/medicinal plants within the Indigenous Interests LSA and 22 in the Indigenous Interests RSA (MGFN 2023a). The food plant values identified in the PA included several collection sites for berries (e.g., blueberry and raspberry) (MGFN 2023a). The food plant value identified within the Indigenous Interests LSA was a blueberry collection site (MGFN 2023a). The food plant and medicine values found within Indigenous Interests RSA included several collection sites for berries, and a collection site for chanterelle mushrooms (MGFN 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation identified potential ways the Project could affect its food plants stating that land clearing, air pollution, contamination and barriers to access would likely affect Mattagami's harvesting of all plant species (MGFN 2023a).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Mattagami First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding food, medicinal and other culturally important plants and plant habitats, as well as gathering practices (MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Reduced plant quality and abundance due to Project-related air pollution
- Barriers to accessing preferred harvesting locations due to Project-related gates, fencing, and the rerouting of Highway 655

- Changes to the quantity and quality of food plants due to industrial activities, forestry and logging, transmission lines, pesticides, forest fires
- Impacts to plant harvesting caused by increased population
- Impacts of the dry stack tailings on flora
- Lack of trust in the safety of harvesting areas because of known or expected chemical spraying associated with industrial activity
- Plans for site reclamation following decommissioning

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Wabun Tribal Council, of which Mattagami First Nation is a part of, stated that it is concerned with the impacts from the use of herbicide (MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2023).

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

Medicinal Plants

Following review of a draft of this assessment Chapter, Mattagami First Nation identified medicinal plants as an important valued component for its community and requested that Canada Nickel create a separate subsection for medicinal plants. As a result of this feedback, information provided by Mattagami First Nation regarding medicinal plants is included here and carried forward for assessment.

Mattagami First Nation stated that harvesting occurs at a number of preferred harvesting locations and reported harvesting numerous species including, but not limited to, rosehips, sweetgrass, cedar, birch, maple, balsam, tamarack, red willow, swampy sage, and white grandmother sage (IAAC 2023d; MGFN 2023b).

Medicinal plants are valued for their healing properties and used as teas, smudges, are processed with other plants to make medicine, or used in ceremonies and are critical for Mattagami's ability to seek culturally relevant healing and wellness (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation has a variety of medicinal plant species which members harvest and rely on, including, but not limited to, cedar, birch, maple, balsam, tamarack, red willow, Labrador tea, sage (multiple varieties), sweetgrass, rose hips, tobacco, and chaga (MGFN 2023a). Similar to food plants, Mattagami relies on a diversity of different medicinal species, and access to a diversity of different harvesting locations for these medicines. Medicinal plants are stewarded to make sure an abundance of high-quality resources, and when possible and needed are traded, or shared, to make sure individuals have access to the medicines they require (MGFN 2023a). Members of Mattagami First Nation explained how attention to plant health is critical to assure the freshness and purity for medicinal and sacred uses. It is important to Mattagami members that medicinal species are found growing naturally (rather than replanted) to assure their potency and quality. This is especially the case for cedar, which is used in teas, for sacred fires, as a cleansing smudge, and during funerals. The knowledge of surrounding habitat conditions, quality, purity, and other ecological knowledge (e.g., soil conditions) is critical to assure that harvested medicine helps to heal community members effectively (and avoids potentially harming them) (MGFN 2023a).

The stewarding of medicinal plants to assure abundance and availability for future harvests is also critical for the community to maintain medicine cabinets (MGFN 2023a). Medicines from the Mattagami area are harvested for community use but are also swapped or traded with plants that are only found further north, ensuring that ample medicines are always available (MGFN 2023a). Some medicinal plants, particularly hardy ones, are available year-round, while others are only harvested during particular seasons (MGFN 2023a).

Like most land-based activities, the harvesting of medicinal plants (as well as food plants) provides opportunities for intergenerational knowledge transmission regarding plant ecology and uses, locating and proper harvesting of plants, as well as practices around the sharing of resources (MGFN 2023a). Transmitting knowledge regarding medicinal plant harvesting and use was stressed by interviewees as vital for younger Mattagami generations to be able to access medicines for their own healing and health (MGFN 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation identified numerous collection sites for medicinal plants (e.g., balsam, birch, Labrador tea, maple, red willow, sage, sweetgrass, tamarack, and tobacco) (MGFN 2023a). Mattagami First Nation identified a medicine value within the Indigenous Interests RSA, which was identified as a rosehip collection site (MGFN 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation identified potential ways the Project could affect its medicines stating that land clearing, air pollution, contamination and barriers to access would likely affect Mattagami's harvesting of all plant species (MGFN 2023a). Concerns were also expressed regarding general mine contamination affecting the purity of medicinal species (MGFN 2023a).

As shared with the Agency through engagement on the Project, Mattagami First Nation expressed the following concerns regarding medicinal and other culturally important plants and plant habitats (MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024; MTFN, MGFN, and FPFN 2022, 2023):

- Impacts to food and medicine plant quality and usability from mine dust and air pollution, affecting both medicine quality and safety for community members who use those plants
- Contamination of medicines with associated impacts on the perceived purity and trade value of these resources
- Plans for the presence of medicinal plants in the PA and potential impacts to harvesting sites
- Plans for site reclamation following decommissioning
- Indirect impact on medicinal plants from the operating site including dust dispersal and deposition due to wind effects on tailings
- Impacts from the use of herbicides

Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation are found in Attachment 27.3.

27.2.3.7 Cultural Heritage

Oral traditions, archaeological evidence, and ancient trails all demonstrate that Mattagami First Nation has occupied the land for thousands of years (MGFN 2023b). Mattagami First Nation, as a part of Wabun Tribal Council, has a Wabun Youth program with an annual Wabun Youth Gathering that allows member youths to reconnect with their cultural identity and bring balance to their lives (WTC 2023a).

Mattagami First Nation commented on the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage resources and structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in or near the PA, including: sacred, ceremonial, or culturally important places (e.g., waterbodies including the Mattagami River and Abitibi River), plants (e.g., cedar, sage, spruce, sweetgrass), animals (e.g., bald eagles, moose, spirit moose), objects, beings or things and teaching areas used to transfer knowledge between generations; as well as sites occupied historically (IAAC 2023d).

Mattagami First Nation identified a potential burial site at the north end of the PA (IAAC 2023d). Mattagami River, within the Indigenous Interests LSA located 4.0 km west of the PA, was identified as a historic canoe and trade route and a tangible connection to cultural heritage. Two areas for cultural activities and ceremonial practices were identified by Mattagami First Nation in the Indigenous Interests RSA including Abitibi River (culturally important place) and Kamiskotia Lake (burial site).

As shared with the Agency during Project engagement, Mattagami First Nation expressed concerns regarding the lack of an archaeological field survey within the PA and the absence of an Archaeology and Heritage VC Chapter in the Impact Statement (IAAC 2024).

The results of the CHRS (Appendix B.10 CHSR) and the Stage 1 AA (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA;) are provided in Section 27.2.1.7. Areas where a Stage 2 AA is required are shown on Figure 27.5 (Appendix B.10 CHSR). Previously assessed areas and areas of no or low archaeological potential (i.e., where no further assessment is required) are also shown on Figure 27.5 (Appendix B.11).

27.3 Project Interactions

Table 27.4 identifies, for each potential Project effect, the physical activities that might interact with the Nation's rights and interests and result in the identified effect. These interactions are indicated by a check mark or a dash and are discussed in Section 27.4, in the context of effects pathways, standard and Project-specific mitigation/enhancement, and residual effects.

Table 27.4 Project Interactions with Indigenous Interests – Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation

Project Activities and Physical Works	Potential Project Effects		
	Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights	Change in Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage	Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions
Construction			
Mobilization of construction equipment and materials on site.	✓	–	✓
Vegetation clearing, including the removal and disposal of trees, brush, shrubs, and other foliage.	✓	✓	✓
Stripping, including the removal of topsoil and other organic materials, as well as storing of some materials for use in reclamation.	✓	✓	✓
Grading of overburden to be used as fill.	–	✓	✓
Handling and use of explosives, including blasting.	✓	✓	✓
Excavating and pre-stripping of mine rock from the Open Pit and surrounding area.	✓	–	✓
Development of the Impoundment Facility for storage of rock, clay, sand, and till.	✓	✓	✓
Preparation of construction surfaces, including hauling reclaimed graded material and crushed mine rock to construction locations.	✓	✓	✓
Construction of water management systems to collect, manage, treat and discharge contact water from mine components to the receiving waterbodies via collection ponds, ditches, and water treatment plants.	✓	✓	✓
Construction of minor water diversions around perimeter of the mine site to collect and divert flows.	✓	✓	✓
Dewatering of natural water bodies within the PA.	✓	✓	✓
Waste management, including collection and temporary storage.	–	–	✓
Construction of mine infrastructure, including crusher facilities, process plant and TMF, as well as the potable water well, and ancillary infrastructure (e.g., offices, workshop, fuel farm, magazine storage and explosives pad).	✓	✓	✓

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Chapter 27 Assessment of Potential Effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's and
Mattagami First Nation's Interests
November 22, 2024

Project Activities and Physical Works	Potential Project Effects		
	Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights	Change in Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage	Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions
Construction of internal haul roads and internal access roads, including water crossings.	✓	✓	✓
Construction of power supply and distribution systems.	✓	✓	✓
Construction of temporary Highway 655 bypass and overpass.	✓	✓	✓
Construction of the rail spur.	✓	✓	✓
Vehicle operation within the PA.	✓	✓	✓
Employment and expenditures ¹ .	–	–	✓
Operation (Mining and Processing)			
Construction of Project infrastructure, including the expansion of ore processing components.	✓	✓	✓
Relocation and decommissioning of Highway 655 and associated infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓
Relocation of 500 kV transmission line.	✓	–	–
Construction of the North Driftwood Diversion Channel.	✓	✓	✓
Handling and use of explosives including blasting.	✓	–	✓
Ore extraction in the Main Zone and East Zone of the Open Pit, including drilling, loading and hauling of mine rock from the pits.	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance and management of mine rock stockpiles, overburden, and TMF.	✓	✓	–
Ore processing, including conveyor, crushing and processing activities with and between the stockpiles, crusher facilities and process plant.	✓	✓	✓
Operation of water management systems, including the collection, management, treatment and discharge of contact water from mine components to the receiving waterbodies via collection ponds, ditches and water treatment plants.	✓	✓	✓
Transportation of Ore via the rail spur line.	✓	–	✓
Waste management, including collection and temporary storage.	–	–	✓
Vehicle operation within the PA.	✓	✓	✓

Project Activities and Physical Works	Potential Project Effects		
	Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights	Change in Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage	Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions
Progressive reclamation of disturbed areas.	✓	✓	✓
Employment and expenditures ¹ .	–	–	✓
Decommissioning			
Pit flooding through the creation of channels from the collection ponds towards the Open Pit.	✓	✓	✓
Water management, including groundwater and surface water.	✓	✓	✓
Decommissioning, dismantling and/or disposal of buildings and mine infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓
Removal of power lines and electrical equipment.	✓	–	✓
Decommissioning of potable water and sewage systems.	✓	–	✓
Vehicle operation within the PA	✓	✓	✓
Reclamation, including the placement of overburden, seeding and re-grading.	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring and maintenance.	–	–	–
Employment and expenditures ¹ .	–	–	✓
Notes: ✓ = Potential interaction – = No interaction ¹ Project employment and expenditures are generated by most Project activities and are the main drivers of many potential socio-economic effects. Rather than acknowledging this by placing a checkmark against each of these activities, ‘employment and expenditures’ is listed as a separate item under each phase of the Project.			

27.4 Assessment of Residual Effects

The assessment of residual effects is described for each of the identified Indigenous interests in Section 27.1.5. This evaluation focuses on the effect pathways listed in Section 27.1.5 and characterizes adverse residual effects according to the approach described in Section 27.1.7. A summary of the assessment of the residual effects of the Project is provided in Section 27.4.4.

Residual effects on aspects of Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s, and Mattagami First Nation’s interests identified for assessment have been conservatively overestimated with consideration for the interconnectedness of the effect pathways that inform the Indigenous interests. The analysis in Section 27.4 incorporates the findings of relevant VCs; however, potential effects may not fully align with effects on the Indigenous interests. As a result, the characterization of residual effects on the Indigenous

interests are generally ranked higher than the residual effects characterized for related VCs (e.g., magnitude, timing). This is considered when evaluating the need for additional mitigation and enhancement measures, review processes, or monitoring initiatives that are specific to Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests.

27.4.1 Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights Project Pathways

This section provides the assessment of potential Project effects on Indigenous and Treaty Rights.

27.4.1.1 Project Pathways

All phases of the Project (construction, operation, decommissioning and closure) have the potential to affect Indigenous and Treaty Rights. Changes to Indigenous and Treaty Rights could result through the pathways identified in Table 27.2 in Section 27.1.5.

The conclusions in this section are informed by the results of engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, the literature review, and related biophysical and socio-economic VC assessments presented in the Impact Statement.

27.4.1.2 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Mitigation measures were selected based on the considerations described in Section 27.1.8 and are intended to be implemented in combination with Project design considerations and measures to mitigate and enhance potential effects of the Project on environmental resources and conditions that are connected to Indigenous and Treaty Rights. Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, and Attachment 27.3 provide Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.¹⁶

Canada Nickel will develop and implement a Project-specific construction environmental protection plan (CEPP) that describes the mitigation and enhancement measures tied to Project-related activities and physical works associated with construction. The CEPP will be incorporated into appropriate construction-related contracts.

Environmental Management plans are also proposed to be prepared to address important management issues, regulatory requirements, and incorporate mitigation measures and commitments identified in the Impact Statement related to the Project generally, and to VCs. The plans will identify risks to VCs, and outline measures and means planned to protect the environment. The plans will describe the management actions, roles and responsibilities, evaluation mechanisms, updating requirements, and reporting schedules. The Environmental Management Plans that will be prepared prior to the start of Project construction and/or operations are described in Section 27.4.1.3, where applicable.¹⁷

¹⁶ A complete listing of measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) of the Impact Statement.

¹⁷ See Table 34.2 Chapter 34 Follow-up Programs and Adaptive Management.

Canada Nickel will continue to engage Indigenous Nations to understand and mitigate the Project's impacts on its Indigenous interests, explore opportunities to enhance Project benefits, and consider its recommendations and input on Project decisions, including the development of management plans and offsetting (e.g., CEPP, Fisheries Offsetting Plan; Site-Wide Water Management Plan; Closure Plan). Through this ongoing collaboration, Canada Nickel aims to foster a positive long-term relationship with Indigenous Nations throughout the life of the Project.

27.4.1.3 Project Residual Effect

The analysis in this section incorporates the findings of the VC assessments found in the Impact Statement that are relevant to Indigenous and Treaty Rights.¹⁸

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation identified cultural important waterbodies (e.g., wetlands), animal, plant and fish species, and associated activities that occur within the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA (FPFN 2023b, MTFN 2023b, MGFN 2023a). Flying Post First Nation reported that cultural teaching occurs through much of members' cultural and daily life and that knowledge transmission relies on the health and availability of and access to resources, gathering as a family, ceremony, and knowledge of place names and place-based oral history (FPFN 2023a, b). Matachewan First Nation defines cultural continuity as "Protecting our Treaty Rights. Protecting Water. Protecting the elderly and children. Being able to continue this lifestyle for years and years and millennia" (MTFN 2023b,). Mattagami First Nation shared that culture and cultural practices are inextricably tied to the land within Mattagami First Nation's Traditional Territory; knowledge and knowledge transmission is often place-based and requires opportunities for multiple generations to spend time together outdoors in important places (MGFN 2023a).

A summary of Project activities during the Construction, Operation, Decommissioning, and Closure Phases is provided in Section 27.1.6.2.¹⁹ Site preparation and clearing within the PA will result in a direct loss of 11,785 ha of land area, of which approximately 11,334 ha is patented (private) land, and 450 ha is assumed to be provincial Crown land.²⁰ As described in Section 27.1.6, Canada Nickel will also establish a boundary around the periphery of the PA which is referred to as the MMB for the purpose of this assessment. Canada Nickel will own, lease, or have agreements in place that will restrict access to the public or members of Indigenous Nations to areas of the MMB if required for site safety and security. The MMB encompasses approximately 19,312 ha of land additional to that described above for the PA, of which approximately 18,436 ha is patented (private) land, and 876 ha is assumed to be provincial Crown

¹⁸ These include Chapter 12 Atmospheric Environment, Chapter 13 Acoustic Environment, Chapter 14 Groundwater, Chapter 15 Surface Water, Chapter 16 Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments, Chapter 17 Fish and Fish Habitat, Chapter 18 Bird and Bird Habitat, Chapter 19 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Chapter 20 Climate Change, Chapter 21 Health, 22 Social Conditions, and Chapter 23 Economic Conditions.

¹⁹ Project phases and activities are also described in Chapter 3.

²⁰ Information used for geographic information systems (GIS) analysis of Crown land was the Teranet parcel polygons as purchased from First Base Solutions Inc. For this assessment, where no Property Identification Numbers (PIN) and associated parcel fabric are recorded within the PA and MMB, these lands are assumed to be provincial Crown land. Through engagement with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in Ontario, this assumption was determined to be acceptable for the purpose of this assessment. For this assessment, it is assumed that the identified provincial Crown lands are currently accessible within the PA and the MMB for the exercise of Indigenous and treaty rights.

land. Combined, the total area of the PA and MMB equal 31,097 ha, with 1,326 ha of provincial Crown lands. The total area of the PA and MMB represent approximately 0.05% of the Treaty 9 land base.

Areas assumed to be Crown lands within the PA and MMB represent approximately 0.002% of the Treaty 9 land base. Crown lands in the PA and MMB are not contiguous and are largely surrounded by patented (private) lands that may constrain access to the Crown lands. It is currently unknown if there are existing arrangements that support access to these Crown lands through the patented (private) lands. For this assessment, it is assumed that the provincial Crown lands located adjacent to Highway 655 and within the PA and the MMB may be accessible for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty rights.

Following review of a draft of this chapter, Mattagami First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Flying Post First Nation explained that the entire PA is within the Treaty 9 Territory and that the privatization of lands directly impacts the Treaty 9 promise of the rights to hunt, fish and trap.

Access to the PA and MMB will be restricted and/or controlled during all Project phases. Indigenous Nations' access routes and ability to travel to or through preferred use areas/sites of interest that overlap with accessible Crown lands within the PA and/or the MMB will be altered through these access restrictions. However, site access is a key element considered in the Impact Benefit Agreements under negotiation with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation and will include the conditions for members of Indigenous Nations to access select areas of the PA and MMB for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights, acknowledging that, for safety and operational reasons, it may be necessary for Canada Nickel to restrict access to certain lands and/or activities within the PA and MMB. For example, it is anticipated that members of Indigenous Nations could still pass through the MMB on snowmobile trails, rivers, or other routes adjacent to the PA, but time spent within the MMB would be limited and no overnight stays would be possible. Canada Nickel will provide in-kind support to local snowmobile club(s) for the loss of a snowmobile trail and associated warming hut in establishing a snowmobile trail bypass around the PA. The presence of the new transmission line through portions of the PA, along with the joining at the north and south to the existing corridor, may facilitate access along the new Right-of-Way (ROW) corridor for Indigenous Nations exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights. However, the new ROW corridor may also be viewed as a hinderance by creating undesired access to harvesting areas by non-members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation.

Canada Nickel will increase flexibility in work schedules to enable the continued participation of Indigenous employees in traditional and cultural activities, however, Project workers will be prohibited from bringing hunting and fishing gear while working at the Project to limit competition for wildlife and fish species of value to Indigenous Nations. Non-Indigenous workers would also need to obtain the necessary licences from the MNR to be able to hunt wildlife species in this area and there are a limited number of licenses issued to hunt certain species at certain times of the year. However, potential for disruptions to Indigenous Nations' hunting, fishing and other harvesting activities associated with the Project workforce are predicted within portions of the PA, the MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA when Project workers are on leave or otherwise off-duty. A community feedback tool or process will be implemented to receive and address community concerns and complaints with the aim of reducing adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous subgroups related to harvesting pressure or other matters related to the Project workforce.

Additional information regarding disproportionately distributed residual effects on Indigenous subgroups is provided in Section 25.4.4.3.

Overall, in consideration of the agreement under negotiation with Indigenous Nations, including provisions for site access (i.e., PA, MMB), the Project is not expected to create a change or disruption that widely reduces or restricts Indigenous Nations' current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, including the Nations' ability to access culturally important sites or features (e.g., hunting sites, fishing sites) within the Indigenous Interest LSA or its broader Traditional Territory.

Indigenous receptors used for air quality and health modelling included generalized locations identified by the Indigenous Nations for overnight use and/or for other use (e.g., harvesting country foods/ hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering; water use, including canoeing; traditional, ceremonial or spiritual purposes).²¹ Changes to air quality are predicted within the PA and Atmospheric Environment LSA during Project construction and operation. Air quality emissions during Project decommissioning and closure were not explicitly modelled because active closure emissions are expected to be less than construction emissions. Therefore, the assessment of the construction-related scenario was considered to implicitly address emissions during the active closure phase as well. In terms of inhalation, Project-related contaminants in air are not likely to be greater than the applicable exposure limits and toxicity reference values at locations where people are expected to be present for extended periods of time (including overnight stays or beyond). For Chrysotile asbestos inhalation specifically, it is predicted that potential inhalation throughout the Project lifetime will not result in unacceptable cancer risk to people spending time in the Indigenous Interests LSA. However, given that some identified Contaminants of Potential Concern (CoPCs) are non-threshold contaminants for which any increase in exposure could result in increased health effects (e.g., PM_{2.5}), reasonable mitigations will be undertaken to minimize releases of CoPCs to the environment and an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) will be developed for Project construction and operations. The AQMP will specify the mitigation measures for the management and reduction of air emissions during Project construction and operations and the proposed ambient air quality monitoring program.

In terms of multimedia exposures (including consumption of country food), Project-related health risks for arsenic were identified for the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River watersheds, while Project-related health risks are negligible for the Jocko Creek watershed. For arsenic, the greatest contribution to health risk estimates is from exposures associated with modelled changes in surface water (i.e., fish and potable water consumption). Even though the health risk estimates for consumption of fish and potable water are above targets, modelled concentrations are less than guidelines that are protective of health (Health Canada 2022, 2024). As it relates to surface water quality, follow-up and monitoring measures will be implemented at key Project locations to meet regulatory requirements related to surface water. The focus on monitoring activities will be at the final discharge point locations, as well as upstream and downstream locations, and this will include monitoring of arsenic in surface water and fish in each watershed.

For the North Driftwood River channel realignment, changes in mercury concentration in angling fish was calculated to be low (approximately 4%) and are not expected to increase potential exposures to methyl

²¹ See Appendix C.7 Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment.

mercury through fish consumption for people who consume fish within the Indigenous Interests LSA (including members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation). While Project-related activities are not expected to result in increased concentrations of mercury in the environment, the presence of mercury in fish is a regional concern as mercury concentrations in angling fish tissue are greater than the Health Canada maximum limit for retail fish and there are fish consumption advisories in the Indigenous Interest LSA (MECP 2021a, 2021b).

Lighting sources from Project construction and operation will include stationary and mobile lighting sources that may cause some increased lighting outside the PA. During construction and operations, with mitigation, the levels of light trespass and glare from mobile artificial lighting units are not expected to exceed guidelines at the receptor locations within the Atmospheric Environment LSA (International Commission on Illumination 2017). There are few light sensitive receptors in the Atmospheric Environment LSA, and they are all well removed from the Project with intervening forested areas that will obstruct Project lighting. Thus, no substantive adverse impacts from Project light trespass are expected to influence the quality of experience or required conditions that are connected to the exercise of Indigenous Nations Indigenous and Treaty Rights within the Indigenous Interests LSA. Following decommissioning and closure, ambient lighting is expected to return to baseline conditions once project lighting sources are removed from the area.

Changes to noise and vibration are predicted within the PA and Acoustic Environment LSA during all Project phases, however, the effects are not predicted to exceed federal or provincial criteria, including at the generalized receptor locations identified by the Indigenous Nations as places of overnight use, and are predicted to be reversible as the increase in sound levels will end once the related activities cease (e.g., blasting; realignment of Highway 655; rail traffic). Although federal and provincial criteria for noise will be met, sensory disturbance (e.g., change in noise levels) is predicted within the Indigenous Interests LSA as noise generated through construction, operation, and decommissioning and closure activities may influence the quality of experience or required conditions that are connected to the exercise of Indigenous Nations Indigenous and Treaty Rights, and are likely to increase when harvesting or engaging in other cultural activities in proximity to the PA and modelled mine boundary.

The Project is expected to result in a net release of GHG emissions during the Project's lifetime, the magnitude of which is estimated to be 11,135 kilotonnes (kt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). However, the Project is also expected to result in a net increase in carbon sinks, and therefore carbon sequestration potential, during the Project's lifetime, the magnitude of which is estimated to be 46,678 kt CO₂e. While the change in release of GHG emissions and the change in carbon sinks (net increase) is expected to occur with irregular frequency (e.g., tied to operation schedules; operation of equipment and vehicles; periodic land clearing and blasting activities; reclamation activities) the resulting effects are expected to be long-term and lasting beyond the duration of the Project. This is because, the effects on climate change due to the release of GHG in the atmosphere and climate sink changes are by definition persistent and long-term. Similarly, with climate change effects by definition only being realized globally, the net release of GHG emissions and the net change in carbon sinks due to the Project are characterized as being global effects, extending beyond the Indigenous Interests RSA. The net release of GHG emissions due to the Project is irreversible, since once GHGs are released to the lower atmosphere, there is currently no mechanism by which they can be mitigated. The net change in carbon sinks due to

the Project is reversible, since carbon sinks may be added or removed at any point either during the Project lifetime or after, to the extent where no change in carbon sink may be detected when compared to prior to Project implementation.²²

Alteration of habitats and the current and future quality, quantity, or distribution of country foods and other resources harvested by the Indigenous Nations are predicted within the PA and Indigenous Interests LSA and are described separately below in relation to groundwater and surface water, and for plants, fish, birds and wildlife. Alteration to harvesting methods, timing or seasonality are not anticipated as the species present within the PA are also present within the Indigenous Interests LSA, the broader Treaty 9 land base (GoC 1964), and the Traditional Territories of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. It is expected that the Indigenous Nations will be able to continue their harvesting, hunting, trapping and fishing activities on accessible Crown lands and other areas where their member's currently exercise their Indigenous and Treaty Rights outside of the PA and within and beyond the MMB.

Changes in groundwater levels are predicted within the PA and the Groundwater LSA because of the planned Open Pit dewatering, diversion of the North Driftwood River, and operation of the Tailings Management Facility (TMF) during the construction and operation phases. Changes in surface water are also predicted within the PA and Surface Water LSA because of Open Pit dewatering, centralized mine water management, sequestration of water into tailings pore spaces and other mine water uses. Construction and/or operation activities resulting in dewatering and/or fluctuations in ground and surface water levels may alter habitat supporting harvested resources within the PA and these temporary effects are predicted to extend to waterbodies within the Indigenous Interests LSA (e.g., West Buskegau River, Gerry Lake, Martin Lake, Jocko Creek, North Driftwood River). During the operations phase, the North Driftwood watershed is predicted to experience a greater reduction in flow compared to baseline levels. However, no substantive Project-related reductions in surface water flow is predicted for Jocko Creek or the West Buskegau Watersheds for any Project phase.

During and after the decommissioning and passive closure phase, groundwater levels will slowly recover within the PA and Groundwater LSA as the Open Pit refills and groundwater returns to a steady state. Furthermore, mounding of the water table in the vicinity of the Tailings Management Facility and in the PA during operations and passive closure may result in a positive change to groundwater quantity. Seepage from the East and West Stockpiles, Tailings Management Facility and Impoundment Facility is not predicted to exceed the criteria established within the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations for its impacts to groundwater quality (GOC 2024). However, Project-related seepage may exceed the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards, the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, the Provincial Water Quality Objectives and the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for Protection of Freshwater Aquatic Life regarding nitrate, Hexavalent chromium, sodium, arsenic, copper and uranium, and aesthetic guidelines for chloride and manganese throughout the life of the Project (GovOnt 2002; GovOnt 1994; Health Canada 2024; MOEE 1994; CCME 2024). Residual effects on surface water quality are not predicted to be substantial as effluent will comply with regulatory requirement limits/guidelines at the Final Discharge Points and no watershed management targets will be contravened. Local water

²² See Appendix C.6 Greenhouse Gases Following the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change.

quality immediately downstream of some Final Discharge Points will experience an increase in Parameter of Potential Concerns above baseline levels (GOC 2024). However, these changes are expected to be contained within the boundaries of the Surface Water LSA and dissipate at the edge of the mixing zone. In addition, surface water quality may be adversely affected by erosion and sedimentation during construction through to the end of operations. A Site-Wide Water Management Plan (Appendix J) has been developed for the PA that incorporates standard management practices, including drainage control, excavation and open pit dewatering.

Plant species of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations are present in the Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments LSA (e.g., hazelnut, blueberries, Labrador tea, tamarack) and are likely to be present in the PA (Section 27.2.1.6.4, Section 27.2.2.6.4, Section 27.2.3.6.4). Site preparation and clearing activities will result in a loss of abundance of plant species of cultural importance within the PA (if present) as well as indirect effects (e.g., dust; edge effects), that may change the species composition in the vicinity of the PA. No change in plant species richness in the Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments LSA is expected as the identified species are common and widely distributed in the region and are expected to remain present and persist over time. No plant species at risk or plant species of conservation concern are documented in the PA or in the Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments LSA, however riparian communities and wetlands were identified in these assessment areas and direct (loss) and indirect effects (changes in wind, light, and hydrology) are predicted for these features during the construction and operation phases. Overall, direct loss of plant species of Indigenous interest and riparian communities and wetland areas will be offset in part by reclamation and revegetation activities after the operations phase is complete, and through progressive reclamation where appropriate.

Some fish species of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations are present in the Fish and Fish Habitat LSA (e.g., northern pike, yellow perch, burbot, walleye) (Section 27.2.1.6.3, Section 27.2.2.6.3, Section 27.2.3.6.3). Direct loss of fish habitat will occur in the PA and changes to fish habitat within the Fish and Fish Habitat LSA are predicted due to the altering of stream flows during all phases of the Project. It is anticipated that this effect will be reversible, with flows returning close to baseline within the Fish and Fish Habitat LSA after the decommissioning and closure phase. Mitigation of potential effects on species of cultural importance such as sturgeon, walleye, pike and white sucker was accomplished in part during preliminary design and multiple accounts assessment by strategic reduction of the PA in the West Buskegau River and Jocko Creek watersheds, and through avoidance of effluent discharge to the Mattagami River. Changes in fish health, growth and survival for species of importance to Indigenous Nations are also expected to occur within the Fish and Fish Habitat LSA due to changes in water quality and possible reduction in aquatic invertebrate abundance. The effects on fish health, growth and survival are considered reversible, as effluent discharge will cease at the end of the Project and water quality is expected to return to conditions close to baseline after the decommissioning and closure phase. Both the loss of fish habitat in the PA and the potential reduction in productivity of downstream fish communities in the Fish and Fish Habitat LSA cannot be avoided and therefore will be addressed through the development and submission of a Fisheries Offset Plan to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as part of the section 35(2)(b) *Fisheries Act* Authorization application. As described in Section 27.4.1.2, the Fisheries Offset Plan (Appendix M) has been developed in consultation with the Indigenous Nations and others to form the basis for further discussions, refinement, and confirmation of proposed habitat offsetting measures.

Bird species of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations are present in the Bird and Bird Habitat LSA (e.g., bald eagle, geese, ducks) (Section 27.2.1.6.2, Section 27.2.2.6.2, Section 27.2.3.6.2). Direct loss of bird habitat will occur in the PA during the construction phase because of vegetation clearing, stripping in preparation for excavation and construction of mine infrastructure, water management, access and haul roads, power supply and distribution systems, construction of temporary Highway 655 by-pass and overpass and the rail spur. Indirect habitat loss will occur in the Bird and Bird Habitat LSA during the construction and operations phases due to sensory disturbance from noise and vibration from blasting, infrastructure construction and heavy equipment use, site lighting, increased traffic volumes, presence of workers and dust deposition. Changes are predicted to be both reversible (e.g., light and noise disturbance) and irreversible (e.g., loss of mature forest habitat). A change in mortality risk is predicted for birds during all Project phases (e.g., due to vegetation and clearing during construction; collisions with vehicle traffic or transmission lines during operation; edge effects), however the implementation of timing windows will greatly reduce the likelihood of mortality to birds during construction and the implementation of design features (e.g., contouring of stockpiles; bird nesting deterrents) reduce the likelihood of adverse interactions with bird species during the operation phase. Habitat for waterbirds and waterfowl is expected to increase following decommissioning and closure because aquatic habitats such as lakes and ponds will be established in the PA, which could be used for nesting and foraging.

Wildlife species of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations are present in the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat LSA (e.g., moose, beaver, red fox, marten, Canada Lynx, Northern gray wolf) (Section 27.2.1.6.2, Section 27.2.2.6.2, Section 27.2.3.6.2). Changes to wildlife habitat are predicted within the PA and the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat LSA. Direct loss of wildlife habitat (approximately 20%) will occur within the PA during construction (e.g., site clearing, stripping, grading, and excavation) but will be reversible through progressive reclamation which will be initiated in Year 7 to restore habitat lost within the PA by incorporating biodiversity-focused strategies. This process aims to create more suitable habitats for various wildlife species, including amphibians, reptiles, moose, bats, and boreal caribou, eventually resulting in a landscape that is more consistent with the natural habitats of the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat LSA. Indirect effects such as changing vegetation and microclimate conditions are also predicted within the PA and adjacent areas within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat LSA and are considered reversible through the mechanisms described above. Wildlife habitat may be altered during the operation phase due to changes in hydrology and flood regime through the Open Pit dewatering, however progressive reclamation during the operations phase is predicted to have a positive change in habitat, allowing wildlife to return to the area. As the Project transitions to passive closure, wildlife habitat will continue to regenerate and allow wildlife to return to the PA.

Changes to wildlife movement and mortality risk are also predicted within the PA and Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat LSA during all Project phases. Changes to wildlife movement within the PA and areas of the Wildlife and Wildlife LSA are predicted through a combination of habitat alteration, fragmentation and edge effects, sensory disturbances (e.g., lighting, noise, vibration, smells), and impediments to movement such as physical barriers (e.g., fencing and mine infrastructure), and installation of the transmission line and Highway 655 realignment. Changes in wildlife mortality risk are also predicted due to existing and continued potential for vehicle collisions and interactions with equipment, human-wildlife conflict, and predator prey dynamics. Change in wildlife health is not anticipated for most species as exposure to CoPCs was considered negligible to low for all species; however, exposure risk of nickel was identified for

the masked shrew (used as a representative for insectivorous mammals, including SAR bats) and selenium for North American river otter and American mink. Although changes to the health of harvested wildlife species is not predicted, the physical presence of the Project could change Indigenous land use, which could lead to reductions in country food availability and accessibility that may affect physical health of Indigenous Nations through diet and nutritional changes. As described in Section 27.4.1.2, Canada Nickel will engage with the Indigenous Nations regarding the development of the Wildlife Management Plan for the Project, which will include review of standard wildlife monitoring activities and adaptive management that will be conducted during all phases of the Project.

With the implementation of mitigation measures outlined in Section 27.4.1.2, Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, and Attachment 27.3, and Appendix E (Summary of Commitments) of the Impact Statement, residual effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Indigenous and Treaty Rights during all Project phases are anticipated to be adverse and moderate in magnitude within the PA, the MMB and the Indigenous Interests LSA, inclusive of timing considerations due to the seasonal movements of migratory species, and the seasonal availability of harvested species. Residual effects are short-term during the Construction and Decommissioning and Closure Phases and will occur as multiple irregular events. Residual effects are medium-term during the Operation Phase and will occur as multiple regular events. However, residual effects are considered reversible during all phases as they are primarily tied to Project activities (i.e., restricted/controlled access; clearing and grading; construction and operational noise and vibration; open pit dewatering) and it is anticipated that the PA, MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA will return to current conditions once the open pit refills and Project activities, inclusive of progressive reclamation and revegetation activities, cease.

27.4.2 Change to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage

This section provides the assessment of potential Project effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage.

27.4.2.1 Project Pathways

All phases of the Project (construction, operation, decommissioning and closure) have the potential to affect Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage. Changes to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage could result through the pathways identified in Table 27.2 in Section 27.1.5.

The conclusions in this section are informed by the results of engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, the literature review, related biophysical VC assessments presented in the Impact Statement, the CHSR (Appendix B.10 CHRS) and the Stage 1 AA (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA) conducted for the baseline investigations undertaken for the Impact Statement.

27.4.2.2 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Mitigation measures were selected based on the considerations described in Section 27.1.8 and are intended to be implemented in combination with Project design considerations and measures to mitigate

and enhance potential effects of the Project on environmental resources and conditions that are connected to Indigenous Nations Physical and Cultural Heritage. Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, and Attachment 27.3 provide Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.²³

Examples of key mitigation measures specific to archaeological and heritage sites include:

- Complete Stage 2 AA of areas identified as retaining archaeological potential in the Stage 1 AA (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA; Figure 27.5)
- If archaeological resources are found and determined to have cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) then complete additional recommended work, such as Stage 3 archaeological assessment (Stage 3 AA) and, if necessary, Stage 4 mitigation of archaeological resources as per the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture 2011)
- Prepare and implement an Archaeological Resources Protection Plan
- Prepare and implement a Heritage Chance Find Protocol agreed upon between the Nations and Canada Nickel
- Prepare and implement a worker education program about appropriate protocols in case of accidental discoveries
- Further assessment of changes to the PA through the life of the Project

The initial step in mitigation measures for archaeological resources will be the completion of recommended Stage 2 AA and then any subsequent follow-up work recommended from the Stage 2 AA (and subsequent reports, as applicable).

In addition, key construction staff will be trained in the recognition of basic archaeological artifacts such as Indigenous material culture (e.g., clay ceramics, lithic artifacts, and faunal remains), and Euro-Canadian material culture (e.g., refined ceramics, glassware, construction debris, and personal effects) in case any archaeological resources are found during Project construction. The staff training would also include a brief history of potential and documented historic use and occupation of the PA.

If an archaeological resource is discovered within the PA during the construction phase, the Project's Heritage Chance Find Protocol will be implemented. All construction will cease within a radius of at least 20 m of the archaeological resource. In the event of a discovery, Canada Nickel will stop work immediately and inform MCM prior to the implementation of procedures and mitigation. A licensed archaeologist will be retained by Canada Nickel and a Stage 2 AA will be conducted with the participation of any interested Indigenous Nations. Follow-up Stage 3 or Stage 4 archaeological investigations will be conducted, as required. Once any archaeological resources with CHVI have been mitigated through excavation, construction will proceed. Although it is not anticipated that human remains will be found, if a discovery is made within the PA, Canada Nickel will stop work immediately and contact the police or

²³ A complete listing of measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).

coroner, the Archaeology Programs Unit, and the Registrar or Deputy Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Section at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery. Canada Nickel will also notify the Indigenous Nations, as appropriate.

Canada Nickel will continue to engage Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to understand and mitigate the Project's impacts on their Indigenous interests, explore opportunities to enhance Project benefits, and consider their recommendations and input on Project decisions, including the development of management plans (e.g., Archaeological Resources Protection Plan). Through this ongoing collaboration, Canada Nickel aims to foster a positive long-term relationship with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation throughout the life of the Project.

27.4.2.3 Project Residual Effect

The analysis in this section incorporates the findings of the VC assessments found in the Impact Statement that are relevant to each Indigenous Nation's Physical and Cultural Heritage.²⁴

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation commented on the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage resources and structures, sites, or things of historical, archeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in or near the PA, including sacred, ceremonial, or culturally important places, plants, animals, objects, beings or things and teaching areas used to transfer knowledge between generations; as well as sites occupied historically (FPFN 2023a, b, MTFN2023a, b, MGFN2023a,b IAAC 2023d).

Changes in air quality and noise (real or perceived) described in Section 27.4.1.3 may alter the quality of experience or required conditions at Indigenous Nations physical and cultural heritage sites within the Indigenous Interests LSA during all Project phases. As described in Section 27.4.1.3, changes in water quality and quantity is also predicted within the Indigenous Interests LSA. If the Indigenous Nations experience changes in necessary conditions or changes in water quality and quantity at its physical and cultural heritage sites, the Nation may also experience loss or alteration of the ability to maintain and transmit Indigenous Knowledge and culture (e.g., language, histories, stories, practices) specific to these areas with its current and future generations.

As described in Section 27.4.1.3, a measurable change in access is also predicted within the PA and the MMB as access will be restricted and/or controlled during all Project phases. However, the Project is not expected to create a change or disruption that widely reduces or restricts Indigenous Nations ability to access its physical and cultural heritage sites within the Indigenous Interests LSA and the broader Traditional Territories of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to the extent that the Nations cannot continue at current activity levels. Site access is a key element considered in the Impact Benefit Agreements under negotiation with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation and will include the conditions for Indigenous Nations to access select areas of the PA and MMB for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights,

²⁴ These include Chapter 10 Geology and Geologic Hazards, Chapter 11 Soil, Chapter 12 Atmospheric Environment, Chapter 13 Acoustic Environment, Chapter 14 Groundwater, Chapter 15 Surface Water, and Chapter 20 Health.

acknowledging that, for safety and operational reasons, it may be necessary for Canada Nickel to restrict access to certain lands and/or activities within the PA and MMB.

Changes in terrain stability and surficial geology will occur within the PA during construction and operation of the Project, however these changes will not extend beyond the PA. Changes to soils and sediment are similarly predicted to be limited to the PA during all Project phases. Changes predicted for geology, soil and sediment within the PA may affect the integrity of surface or subsurface physical and cultural heritage sites (if present). The predicted changes in geology, soils and sediment are not expected to extend to the Indigenous Interests LSA.

The potential residual effect to archaeological and heritage resources (if present) within the PA is the loss of information resulting from alterations to site contents or context prior to, or without, the implementation of mitigation measures. Although no archaeological or heritage sites have been identified within the PA to date, the Stage 2 AA will determine the presence or absence of these features prior to construction, and any sites (if present), will be subject to the requirements of the MCM (2011). With the implementation of mitigation measures to offset the loss of information resulting from site alteration (if present), no adverse residual effects to physical/tangible archaeological and heritage sites are anticipated. Adverse residual effects are however predicted for Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation intangible physical and cultural heritage (e.g., storied places; named places; sacred sites) if present within the PA and MMB due to the predicted alterations in access and necessary conditions described above.

With the implementation of mitigation measures outlined in Section 27.4.2.2 and Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, and Attachment 27.3, and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) of the Impact Statement, residual effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage are anticipated to be adverse and low in magnitude within the PA, MMB and the Indigenous Interests LSA during all Project phases, inclusive of timing considerations due to the seasonal use of physical and cultural heritage sites, and due to connections between cultural heritage and cultural practices dependent upon the movements of migratory species and/or availability of harvested species. Residual effects are short-term during the Construction and Decommissioning and Closure Phases and will occur as multiple irregular events. Residual effects are medium-term during the Operation Phase and will occur as multiple regular events. However, residual effects are considered reversible during all phases as they are primarily tied to Project activities (e.g., restricted/controlled access; clearing and grading; construction and operational noise and vibration) and it is anticipated that the PA, MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA will return to current conditions once Project activities, inclusive of progressive reclamation and revegetation activities, cease.

27.4.3 Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions

This section provides the assessment of potential Project effects on the Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.

27.4.3.1 Project Pathways

All phases of the Project (construction, operation, decommissioning and closure) have the potential to affect the Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions of the Indigenous Nations. Changes to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions could result through the pathways identified in Table 27.2 in Section 27.1.5.

The conclusions in this section are informed by the results of engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, the literature review, and related biophysical and socio-economic VC assessments presented in the Impact Statement.

27.4.3.2 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Mitigation measures were selected based on the considerations described in Section 27.1.8 and are intended to be implemented in combination with Project design considerations and measures to mitigate and enhance potential effects of the Project on environmental resources and conditions that are connected to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions. Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, and Attachment 27.3 provide Canada Nickel's responses and proposed mitigation measures for the concerns and recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.²⁵

Canada Nickel will continue to engage Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to understand and mitigate the Project's impacts on their Indigenous interests, explore opportunities to enhance Project benefits, and consider their recommendations and input on Project decisions, including the development of management plans (e.g., CEPP, Traffic Management Plan; Health and Medical Services Plan). Through this ongoing collaboration, Canada Nickel aims to foster a positive long-term relationship with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation throughout the life of the Project.

27.4.3.3 Project Residual Effect

The analysis in this section incorporates the findings of the VC assessments found in the Impact Statement that are relevant to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions.²⁶

Social determinants of Indigenous Peoples health are connected to environmental, cultural, psychological, physical, spiritual and economic factors (Loppie and Wien 2022). Encompassed within these are health activities, geophysical environments, employment and income, education, food security, knowledge systems, community infrastructure, resources and capacities, environmental stewardship, cultural resurgence, Indigenous self-determination and the effects of colonial ideologies and colonial governance (Loppie and Wien 2022). Indigenous health is also influenced by wellbeing. Vulnerable

²⁵ A complete listing of measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).

²⁶ These include Chapter 10 Geology and Geologic Hazards, Chapter 11 Soil, Chapter 12 Atmospheric Environment, Chapter 13 Acoustic Environment, Chapter 14 Groundwater, Chapter 15 Surface Water, Chapter 16 Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments, Chapter 17 Fish and Fish Habitat, Chapter 18 Bird and Bird Habitat, Chapter 19 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Chapter 21 Health, 22 Social Conditions, Chapter 23 Economic Conditions.

populations, including members of the Indigenous Nations experiencing inequities in the social determinants of health, are more likely to carry an additional burden of ill health as well as be restricted from access to resources that might ameliorate these conditions (Loppie and Wien 2022; see Section 28.4.4.3).

Residual effects are anticipated on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Indigenous and Treaty Rights and Physical and Cultural Heritage during all Project phases through changes in access, necessary conditions, and the quality, quantity, or distribution of resources (including surface water and ground water) that are connected to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions within the PA, MMB and Indigenous Interests LSA (Section 27.5.2.3 and Section 27.4.1.2.3). These residual effects are linked to Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's traditional (e.g., trade) and commercial (e.g., trapping) economies and other subsistence-based livelihoods, as well as the Nations' overall health and social conditions (e.g., ability to harvest sufficient resources for other Nation members and/or to supply for community events). Changes in access to the PA, MMB and areas within the Indigenous Interests LSA will also result in an alteration to Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's decision-making abilities regarding land and water, and ability to uphold cultural traditions, laws, and governance systems that inform how rights are exercised within the PA and MMB. A summary of existing services offered or accessed by the Indigenous Nations (both on and off-reserve) is provided in Section 27.2.1.3, Section 27.2.2.3, Section 27.2.3.3.

As described in Section 27.4.1.3, changes in air and water quality and the quality of country foods are predicted within the Indigenous Interests LSA. These changes may result in changes to Indigenous Nations health through alteration of harvesting and consumption activities, and/or through exposures associated with modelled changes in surface water (i.e., fish and potable water consumption). For consumption of fish and potable water, modelled concentrations are less than guidelines that are protective of health (Health Canada 2022, 2024). As it relates to surface water quality, follow-up and monitoring measures will be implemented at key Project locations to meet regulatory requirements related to surface water. The focus on monitoring activities will be at the final discharge point locations, as well as upstream and downstream locations, and this will include monitoring of surface water and fish in each watershed. For changes in air quality, the AQMP will specify the mitigation measures for the management and reduction of air emissions during Project construction and operations and the proposed ambient air quality monitoring program.

Actual or perceived changes in air and water quality and the quality of country foods may lead to changes in the way that members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation harvest or eat traditional foods within the Indigenous Interests LSA, and therefore alter food security, which could lead to physical health changes. Another barrier to participation in harvesting activities and cultural events associated with mining, which can affect mental health conditions including personal identity, self-esteem, and healthy coping mechanisms (Loppie and Wien 2022), may result from time limitations due to employment and shift work (PDAC 2022). However, Canada Nickel has committed to actions to provide flexibility in work schedules to enable the continued participation of Indigenous employees in traditional and cultural activities.

Indigenous Peoples and low-income (including persons living with a disability or lone parent families) households may be more susceptible to potential changes in Project-related cost of living and food insecurity as these populations already experience disproportionate rates of food insecurity. Therefore, any potential changes to cost of living as a result of the Project may place these populations and their families at a disadvantage and risk of becoming food insecure. Potential changes of cost of living due to the Project may also contribute to these segments of the population struggling to find safe and affordable housing, thereby risking increased homelessness or overcrowding.

Project workers may place additional demands on local health services if they require health care due to illness or workplace injuries. To reduce adverse effects on local health care services and facilities, Canada Nickel will prepare a Health and Medical Services Plan (HMSP), which will outline the services available to employees, as well as policies and training to promote and encourage healthy behaviours. A medical room and first aid stations will be provided on-site, and medical services will be provided through the on-site presence of medical personnel. Canada Nickel will employ a doctor in the who will see workers for occupational related illnesses and emergencies. Twenty-four-hour medical services will be available through virtual doctors to assist employees with non-occupational-related illnesses. The Project HMSP will also provide information on on-site injury/illness prevention and management, and communicable disease management. It is expected that for conditions that require long-term care, non-local workers will continue to use the services of family physicians or specialists located in their home communities.

Canada Nickel anticipates that workers will commute daily from existing residences in communities located within approximately a one-hour drive of the Project site, with the possibility that some workers may choose to drive further distances based on their personal preference or circumstances. Though Canada Nickel wishes to hire primarily from local and Indigenous nations, workers from outside of the region may be required to meet the workforce demand of the Project.

Demands on other local emergency services, including police and fire protection, will be managed through Project planning and management strategies, including incorporating design mitigation measures and preparing safety and environmental management plans in accordance with applicable requirements and industry best practices. Canada Nickel will have discussions with emergency services personnel in advance of construction and operation, which will inform Project and emergency services planning. There will be fire prevention equipment on-site and fire prevention measures will be outlined in the Project Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP). Project personnel will also be trained in fuel handling, equipment maintenance, and fire prevention and response measures.

Canada Nickel will reduce effects on local utilities through Project design. For instance, domestic sewage during the operations phase will be treated by an appropriately sized, technically acceptable method, such as an on-site sewage treatment system. Domestic sewage waste will be limited because there will not be a Project accommodation complex at the Project site. Primary and secondary collection ponds will provide water for mine operations. These will be designed with sufficient capacity to support the retention and treatment of contact water, and to provide water for processing operations.

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Potable water for the Project will be supplied by groundwater sourced from water wells located within the PA. The fresh water will be treated to meet provincial drinking water standards. The Project's potable water system will not draw from any municipal water supply.

There are four landfills within the District of Cochrane and plans are being developed to expand the capacities of two of them. Canada Nickel will implement a Waste Management Plan for the Project to manage and reduce Project-related waste. Non-hazardous solid wastes will be recycled, reused, or collected in a central secure area onsite and then disposed of in a licensed waste receiver facility. Hazardous liquid and solid waste will be collected in a secure, enclosed location and transported off-site to a licensed hazardous waste facility.

Power to the site will be provided by a future 230 kV transmission line that is being designed, constructed and operated by a third-party as part of an independent transmission expansion project that is expected to promote stronger electricity reliability for northern communities and Indigenous nations that will connect the Porcupine Substation in Timmins. The line is anticipated to be sufficient to supply the Project with the necessary operating power. This is not anticipated to impact local power availability and may encourage greater availability through new or improved infrastructure to meet increased demand.

It is unlikely that non-local construction workers will bring families with them for Project work because the construction phase will only last about three years. Therefore, it is not expected that schools in the region will see increased demand during the Project construction phase. During the approximately 40-year operations phase, workers could bring families to live in the region. Schools in northern Ontario have experienced declining enrollment for decades; however, some schools have seen modest increases since 2022. Given their history, it is likely that there is spare capacity at regional schools to accommodate families of operations employees.

With respect to pre-school and daycare services and infrastructure, the District of Cochrane is experiencing a shortage of early childhood educators (ECEs), which is making it challenging for families to acquire childcare. Should Project employees move to the region with young children, childcare services could see additional demand. The childcare shortage could also present a barrier to residents with children, particularly women, seeking Project employment. Having acknowledged the lack of childcare availability in the District, the Ontario Minister of Education has announced the creation of 189 new childcare spaces and the Mayor of Timmins has addressed the need for an ECE recruitment and retention strategy.

The Project is not expected to affect parks and protected areas or Indigenous Reserve lands. With the application of mitigation and enhancement measures, including hiring from local communities where possible, provision of a company doctor and virtual health services, Project design for utilities, planned work rotations, and implementation of a Traffic Management Plan, the Project's 'adverse' residual effects on services and infrastructure (change in demand on services and infrastructure, change in accommodation availability, and change in demand for transportation infrastructure) are expected to occur in the Social Conditions LSA/RSA throughout construction and operations and will be reversible following the decommissioning and closure phase. Canada Nickel is exploring opportunities with Indigenous partners and local entrepreneurs to foster the development of workforce accommodations. In addition, surrounding communities have developed plans to increase housing availabilities that will further mitigate effects of the Project on housing should those projects proceed.

An accommodations complex (or similar) is not proposed to be developed as part of the Project due to the close proximity of local communities. Canada Nickel anticipates that resident workers who obtain Project employment will commute daily from existing communities/residences, which are located within approximately one hour drive of the Project site, with the possibility that some workers may choose to drive further distances based on their personal preference or circumstances.

The Project will have a peak workforce of 1,998 full-time equivalents (FTEs) and an average of 708 FTEs over the life of the mine. Shift rotations during construction were not available at the time of writing, but during operations, it is expected that there will be four rotating crews that work 12-hour shifts and on average 42-hours a week. At a peak of 1,371 employees during operations, divided by four crews, each crew will have up to 343 workers.

It is estimated that there will be a deficit in required labour for the mining industry, and that the use of mobile workers will be required to fulfill this void. By 2037, it is estimated that there will be a potential shortfall of 23% to 30% of vacancy rates in the mining industry within the Social Conditions LSA. However, it is also estimated that approximately 30% of the current mining workforce will be retired by 2027, leaving a 44% vacancy rate of positions needing replacements.

Canada Nickel will aim to increase the percentage of the local workforce and reduce the requirement to hire workers from outside the region by providing training opportunities to local residents. Canada Nickel is working with the Northern Centre for Advanced Technology (NORCAT) to develop courses that will be administered by Northern College, which will include apprenticeship programs as well as specialized training for vehicle operation. This program will be run multiple times to provide an opportunity to equip locals with the skills needed to work on the Project. Further, Canada Nickel will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which does not discriminate against employees or contractors of the company based on race, ethnicity, physical/mental capabilities, sexual orientation, or Indigeneity, and requires employees to adhere to respectful workplace practices.

Results of a housing needs assessment indicate that there is sufficient supply of owned homes (as opposed to rentals) in the District of Cochrane. As described in the Social and Economic Conditions Report (Appendix B.9 of the Impact Statement), active residential listings for the Timmins, Cochrane, and Timiskaming Districts at the end of October 2023 were 23.9% higher than they were in October 2022. In addition, housing sales have been decreasing across Northeastern Ontario, with the biggest decline

happening in Timmins. However, members of the Project's Socio-Economic Committee, which is comprised of members of the Cochrane District, including representatives for service providers and municipal governments, have suggested that the supply of owned housing as described in the housing needs assessment does not represent the current condition of housing in the region. The committee stated that the existing stock of home ownership housing is not adequate to meet the current demand. According to members of the Socio-Economic Committee and relevant literature, certain sub-populations, including seniors, youth, and low-income families, are not accommodated well by existing housing in the Social Conditions LSA and may be disproportionately affected by the Project's potential demand on housing availability.

Steps are also being taken throughout the District of Cochrane to increase the supply of appropriate housing. For instance, the Town of Smooth Rock Falls is encouraging lot development through its Municipal Property Acquisition and Sale Program and is developing its waterfront with the construction of 435 residential units (Town of Smooth Rock Falls and JLR 2022). Timmins is hoping to expand two subdivisions by adding 150 new homes and The Town of Cochrane is working on a plan to sell residential lots for as low as \$10 (City of Timmins 2024; Lentz-McGrath 2024).

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) is a corporation with a mandate to provide safe and affordable housing to urban and rural First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people living off-Reserve in Ontario. OAHS provides a variety of housing options along the housing continuum starting at rent geared-to-income units and currently ending with assisted homeownership and home repair assistance. Rents are set at rates ranging from 25% of gross income (core need) to 80% of market (affordable) (OAHS 2021). OAHS is the largest Indigenous non-profit housing provider in Ontario with 2,700 homes throughout the province (Grech 2023). In 2020, CDSSAB and OAHS established a partnership to reduce homelessness, increase options for housing Indigenous populations, and reduce housing waitlist managed by CDSSAB (CDSSAB 2021).

In September 2023, the Timmins City Council donated 2.9 ha of City-owned land to OAHS so it can build two three-storey 62-unit affordable housing complexes for a total of 124 units. Construction on the housing complexes is expected to begin in July 2026.

The Timmins Native Non-Profit Housing Corporation aims to provide quality affordable housing to families of Indigenous descent in Timmins. It is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors and managed by two staff: an Operations Coordinator and an Administrative Clerk. The Timmins Native Non-Profit Housing Corporation is funded by the Government of Canada through the CMHC. It manages 36 housing units made up of two-, three- and four-bedroom units. There are 20 individual and semi-detached units and 16 row housing units in Timmins.

The presence of the Project may create positive effects for the Indigenous Nations if potential demands on accommodations result in efforts to increase the stock of permanent and temporary housing in the Social Conditions LSA and RSA. The Project workforce will contribute economically to the Social Conditions LSA and RSA through property and income taxes, representing a potential expansion of municipal tax bases and thus, in turn, may help pay for service providers to re-size appropriately for the increased population.

To manage adverse effects on accommodation availability, Canada Nickel will implement hiring practices to employ locally to the extent possible. It will work with education institutions to provide training in skills that will better prepare residents for Project employment. Canada Nickel will encourage non-local Project construction workers to share rooms at temporary accommodations, including hotels and motels, as well as rental units. Canada Nickel will communicate Project requirements for accommodation to local service providers so they may prepare for periods of increased demand. Northeastern Ontario has experience hosting mining projects and their workforces. It is likely that mine operations workers in northern Ontario will commute to their hometowns even for long-term work, such as Project operations. Canada Nickel will encourage home sharing for those operations workers who do not bring families to the Social Conditions LSA. Canada Nickel will also communicate Project activities and accommodations requirements to municipal authorities. Some past and existing mining projects in the region have had their workforce accommodations developed by independent accommodations providers. In addition, Canada Nickel has plans to undertake an accommodations study and is engaging with third parties, including Indigenous Nations, which may result in an agreement for the provision of Project accommodations. This study may provide insight into additional mitigation and management measures for Project accommodation. Historically, independent accommodation providers in the region have followed the trends of demand and have had the capacity to provide accommodations for temporary workers when required for large projects. The same is expected in the case of the Project.

Despite mitigation and management measures, members of vulnerable groups, including Indigenous subgroups, may still experience differential effects on services and infrastructure in the region. The Project is committed to reducing these differential effects to the extent possible. A community feedback tool or process will be implemented to receive and address community concerns and complaints with the aim of reducing adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous subgroups. Additional information regarding disproportionately distributed residual effects on Indigenous subgroups is provided in Section 27.4.4.3.

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation emphasized the importance of maintaining or improving the ability of members to earn a living and to increase economic benefits, investment and inclusion for its members and local Indigenous businesses related to development activities within their Traditional Territories (FPFN 2023a, b, MTFN 2023a, b, MGFN 2023a, b). The Project is anticipated to result in both positive and adverse effects on Indigenous employment, business, and economy within the region during all Project phases. Positive effects include direct, indirect, and induced employment and labour income in the Economic Conditions LSA and other parts of Ontario and Canada. Increased employment is expected to have positive effects on Indigenous unemployment rates, increase income levels for Indigenous individuals (and families) who secure employment with the Project and will provide valuable employment experience that can be leveraged by Indigenous workers to secure employment with other projects/employers following completion of Project-related work. Canada Nickel will also implement measures specifically aimed at increasing economic participation among local and Indigenous businesses. Adverse effects on regional business (including Indigenous businesses) are however predicted during all Project phases, largely due to Project wages being greater than existing conditions, albeit consistent with wages in the mining industry. Adverse effects are also predicted due to the potential for Project employment to be deemed more desirable than other forms of employment in the Economic Conditions LSA, which can result in increased competition for labour and upward pressure on wages (to attract and retain workers). With the implementation of

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mitigation measures outlined in Section 27.4, Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, and Attachment 27.3 and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments), residual effects on Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions are anticipated to be both adverse and positive and low in magnitude within the PA, MMB and the Indigenous Interests LSA during all Project phases, inclusive of timing considerations due to the seasonal movements of migratory species, the seasonal availability of harvested species, and the seasonal nature of certain cultural practices. Residual effects are short-term during the Construction and Decommissioning and Closure Phases and will occur as multiple irregular events. Residual effects are medium-term during the Operation Phase and will occur as multiple regular events. However, residual effects are considered reversible during all phases as they are primarily tied to Project activities (e.g., restricted/controlled access; presence of Project workforce; duration of contract/employment) and it is anticipated that the PA, MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA will return to current conditions once Project activities, inclusive of progressive reclamation and revegetation activities, cease.

27.4.4 Summary of Project Residual Effects

Table 27.5 summarizes Project residual effects on Indigenous Nations rights and interests. The assessment of disproportionately distributed residual effects on Indigenous Nations’ interests is provided in Section 27.1.5.

Table 27.5 Project Residual Effects on Indigenous Interests

Residual Effect	Residual Effects Characterization							
	Project Phase	Direction	Magnitude	Geographic Extent	Timing	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights	C/O/D	A	M	PA/MMB/LSA	A	ST/MT	MIR/MRE	R
Change in Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage	C/O/D	A	L	PA/MMB/LSA	A	ST/MT	MIR/MRE	R
Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions	C/O/D	A/P	L	PA/MMB/LSA	A	ST/MT	MIR/MRE	R
<p>KEY: See Table 27.3 for detailed definitions</p> <p>Project Phase: C: Construction O: Operations D: Decommissioning and closure</p> <p>Direction: P: Positive A: Adverse N: Neutral</p> <p>Magnitude: N: Negligible L: Low M: Moderate H: High</p> <p>Geographic Extent: PA: Project Area LSA: Local Study Area MMB: Modelled Mine Boundary RSA: Regional Study Area</p> <p>Timing: NA: Not Applicable A: Applicable</p> <p>Duration: ST: Short-term MT: Medium-term LT: Long-term</p> <p>Frequency: S: Single event MIR: Multiple Irregular event MRE: Multiple Regular event C: Continuous</p> <p>Reversibility: R: Reversible I: Irreversible</p>								

27.4.4.1 Summary of Adverse Residual Effects

Adverse residual effects are anticipated on Indigenous and Treaty Rights, Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions during all Project phases. Changes predicted within the biophysical environment (e.g., effects on terrestrial and aquatic resources), and changes predicted for access to lands and waters, social, and economic conditions and cultural/experiential values within the PA, MMB and Indigenous Interests LSA will result in adverse residual effects ranging from low to moderate in magnitude on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation and Mattagami First Nation's exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights.

Timing is applicable during all Project phases due to the seasonal movements of migratory species, the seasonal availability of harvested species, and the seasonal nature of certain cultural practices. Residual effects are short-term during the Construction and Decommissioning and Closure Phases and will occur as multiple irregular events. Residual effects are medium-term during the Operation Phase and will occur as multiple regular events. However, residual effects are considered reversible during all phases as they are primarily tied to Project activities (e.g., restricted/controlled access; clearing and grading; construction and operational noise and vibration; open pit dewatering; presence of Project workers) and it is anticipated that the PA, MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA will return to current conditions once the open pit refills and Project activities, inclusive of progressive reclamation and revegetation activities, cease.

27.4.4.2 Summary of Positive Changes

Positive residual effects are anticipated on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests within the PA, MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA and are described below in relation to VCs considered in the Impact Statement. Positive residual effects are largely connected to benefit agreements and Indigenous-centered mitigation and enhancement measures identified for social and economic conditions during all Project phases, involvement of the Indigenous Nations in the development of Project plans (e.g., CEPP, Archaeological Resources Protection Plan; Transportation Management Plan) and through site rehabilitation and restoration efforts following decommissioning and closure activities (i.e., forward looking for the benefit of future generations).

The Project is anticipated to result in positive effects on employment, business, and the economy during all Project phases (construction, operations, and decommissioning) in the form of direct, indirect and induced employment and labour income within the Economics LSA, other local and regional economies and at the provincial and federal level. Increased employment is expected to have positive effects on Indigenous unemployment rates, increase income levels for Indigenous individuals (and families) who secure employment with the Project and will provide valuable employment experience that can be leveraged by Indigenous workers to secure employment with other projects/employers following completion of Project-related work. Canada Nickel will also implement measures specifically aimed at increasing economic participation among local and Indigenous businesses.

In addition, the presence of the Project may create positive effects for the Indigenous Nations if potential demands on accommodations result in efforts to increase the stock of permanent and temporary housing in the region.²⁷ The Project workforce will contribute economically to the region through property and income taxes, representing a potential expansion of municipal tax bases and thus, in turn, may help pay for service providers to re-size appropriately for the increased population.

27.4.4.3 Disproportionately Distributed Residual Effects on Indigenous Subgroups

Canada Nickel recognizes that because of the location of the PA in Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Traditional Territories, as provided by the Indigenous Nations, some effects, such as alteration to the current use of lands and resources may affect Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation disproportionately in comparison with the non-Indigenous population. While the Project will not affect parks and protected areas or Indigenous reserves, Project effects on Crown lands are predicted (see Section 27.4.1.3).

Based on the predicted residual effects described in Section 27.4, the Project may disproportionately affect Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation subgroups in the following ways:

- Reduced quality of the harvesting experience, as well as access to fishing or harvesting sites, which may disproportionately affect Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation members who rely more heavily on these environments and their resources for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes and or to provide for Elders, hereditary leaders, and others in the community, as well as for feasting or other culturally important events, and for other purposes (e.g., spiritual, trade).
- Reduced decision-making and reduced access to areas where social and economic activities occur (e.g., commercial bait fishing), which may disproportionately affect Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation members who rely more heavily on these environments and their resources for income or FSC purposes and for other purposes (e.g., cultural, economic, spiritual, trade).
- Reduced access and quality of experience at physical and cultural heritage sites, which may disproportionately affect Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation members who rely more heavily on these places for knowledge transmission, sharing cultural teachings and history, and spirituality.
- Reduced access and travel, which may disproportionately affect Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation members who rely more heavily on established travel and access routes (e.g., snowmobile trails) to access harvesting sites and physical and cultural heritage sites, to maintain trade relationships, to maintain income or for FSC purposes and for other cultural pursuits (e.g., spiritual, trade).

²⁷ See Chapter 22 (Social Conditions).

Canada Nickel recognizes that airborne CoPCs, noise and light exposure may result in changes to physical health that could disproportionately affect the Indigenous Nations in relation to traditional land use and employment conditions. Mitigation and enhancement measures are designed to limit indirect and direct effects to physical health.

Canada Nickel recognizes that Elders, youth, women, low-income families and other members of Indigenous Nations may experience disproportionate adverse effects on infrastructure and services compared to the general population. With respect to pre-school and daycare services and infrastructure, the District of Cochrane is experiencing a shortage of early childhood educators, which is making it challenging for families to acquire childcare. Should Project employees move to the region with young children, childcare services could see additional demand. It is therefore predicted that Elders, youth, women, low-income families and other members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation may experience disproportionate effects when it comes to accessing childcare and appropriate housing in the region. Mitigation and enhancement measures are designed to decrease Project effects to these groups. Local strategies to recruit and retain Early Childhood Educators and the planned opening of nearly 200 new childcare spaces in the District of Cochrane should increase access to childcare and reduce the magnitude of disproportionate effects on the Indigenous Nations.

Potential Project-related changes in the cost of living and food security are expected to have disproportionate effects on Indigenous Nations. Since a disproportionate number of youth and Indigenous Peoples in the District of Cochrane are experiencing, or are at risk, of homelessness, these conditions may be exacerbated by the Project. The potential increase in food and housing insecurity is also associated with disproportionate adverse effects to mental health and wellbeing for members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. Canada Nickel will address Project-related demands on accommodation availability in the Accommodations Plan for the Project and work with municipalities to increase the supply of housing to reduce adverse effects.

Canada Nickel understands that Indigenous women and girls experience disproportionate rates of violence compared to the general population. For instance, 46% of Indigenous women experience sexual violence in their lifetime compared to 33% of non-Indigenous women (Heidinger 2021). In response to the disproportionate rates of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls, including the 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) was launched in 2016 (GoC 2020). The National Inquiry into MMIWG discussed how the dehumanizing process and structure of colonization has contributed to discrimination, racism and is foundational to the social inequities that contribute to the disproportionate rates of (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

As described in Section 27.3, the Indigenous Nations expressed concerns effects on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+, and discrimination and violence towards its members, and existing issues of human trafficking in their communities and in the broader region. Given that majority of transient workers are anticipated to be men, there remains a degree of safety concerns related to sexual behaviours in the community. Indigenous women and girls and the 2SLGTBQIIA+ community are particularly at risk of

being victims of gender-based violence as there is an overrepresentation of intimate partner violence and gender-based violence among these populations.

The number of transient workers required to observe an increase over existing rates in community crime rates is uncertain; however, Canada Nickel will implement and enforce several policies, procedures and training that are anticipated to reduce potential unethical behaviour from workers including having workers adhere to a code of conduct and ethics policy, a violence and harassment policy and a drug and alcohol policy. Failure to comply to these policies can result in worker disciplinary action including termination. Canada Nickel will have internal and external community feedback mechanisms to capture Project-related comments and concerns from community members, which can include unethical observations. Canada Nickel will investigate and document each complaint accordingly and take any necessary follow-up actions.

Canada Nickel is committed to providing cultural awareness training to enhance the outside workforces' understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures and to describe the root causes of inequities that Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation experience. Canada Nickel will engage with the Indigenous Nations to develop the cultural awareness training so that it includes topics of importance to the Nations (e.g., Treaty 9; MMIWG). Additionally, Canada Nickel will implement an internal whistleblower mechanism for confidential reporting of workplace harassment to mitigate disproportionate effects to Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQA+ employed by the Project.

Positive effects (direct, indirect, and induced) of the Project on employment and labour income in the Economic Conditions LSA are expected to be unevenly distributed as it is likely that a larger percentage of non-Indigenous men will be employed on the Project than other subpopulations. Mitigation and enhancement measures are designed to increase participation among underrepresented groups on the Project who will disproportionately benefit from these measures (e.g., Indigenous men and women). Canada Nickel will also implement measures specifically aimed at increasing economic participation among local and Indigenous businesses. As a result, a disproportionate amount of Project contracting and procurement in Ontario is expected to be realized by Indigenous related businesses. However, the Project is not expected to measurably reduce economic inequities across the Economic Conditions LSA.

With the use of mitigation and enhancement measures described throughout the Impact Statement, including the development and implementation of a feedback process to hear concerns from residents and members of vulnerable groups, Canada Nickel aims to reduce the differential effects on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation sub-groups.

27.5 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

The assessment of cumulative effects is initiated with a determination of whether two conditions exist:²⁸

- the Project is assessed as having adverse residual effects on Indigenous interests
- the adverse residual effects from the Project overlap spatially and temporally with residual effects of other physical activities on Indigenous interests

Where these two conditions are met, then the assessment of cumulative effects is completed. If these two conditions are not met, there is no expectation that the Project will contribute cumulatively to residual effects, and further assessment is not warranted.

As described in Section 27.4, residual effects are predicted on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests. A Regional Historical Overview (RHO) is provided in Chapter 29 of the Impact Statement (Cumulative Effects Assessment). The RHO provides a summary of natural and human conditions, on a regional basis, prior to baseline conditions. The reason for an RHO is to acknowledge such past conditions and improve the context by which the assessment baseline, and hence also the VC assessments, reflect past conditions. Canada Nickel has adopted a historical timeline of 1905 to present as the focus of this RHO. This timeline was selected because Treaty 9, which covers the region in which the Project is located, was signed between 1905 and 1906 (GoC 1964). Furthermore, to provide a larger environmental and cultural context for the events considered in the historical timeline, the RHO provides a high-level overview of the natural and human history of the region prior to 1905. In consideration of the history and predicted trajectory of anthropogenic disturbance and land use in the Indigenous Interests RSA, Seven Generation Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings, further assessment is warranted.

This section therefore provides the assessment of potential cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests for those effects from the Project that have the potential to act cumulatively with the effects of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future physical activities in the region.

Existing environmental conditions reflect cumulative effects from past and present physical activities and are accounted for within the residual Project effects assessment. Future physical activities in the cumulative effects assessment include those that are considered to be certain to proceed and generally includes physical activities that are reasonably foreseeable. More specifically, certain and reasonably foreseeable future physical activities considered in the cumulative effects assessment are restricted to those that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- are currently undertaking site preparation or are under construction
- have received regulatory approval
- have been publicly announced with applications filed with a defined project execution period and with sufficient project details for consideration

²⁸ See Section 8.8 of Chapter 8 (Assessment Methodology) and Chapter 29 (Cumulative Effects Assessment).

- are currently undergoing an impact assessment/environmental assessment
- are in a permitting process
- are identified in an approved development plan

To complete the cumulative effects assessment, a Project Inclusion List (Attachment 29.1 in Chapter 29 [Cumulative Effects Assessment]) has been developed to identify the past, present and future physical activities that may interact cumulatively with the effects of the Project.

The identification and selection of specific physical activities to date was based on a conservative assumption that a potential interaction may exist due to the nature of that activity, the surrounding environment, and the VCs assessed. Those physical activities in the RSAs for the VCs and Indigenous Interests for the Project have been identified from readily accessible records, including federal, provincial and municipal government records, press releases and GIS mapping applications. The list of past, present and future physical activities included in Attachment 29.1 (Chapter 29 [Cumulative Effects Assessment]) is based on public information available up to 2024.

Since not all future physical activities may proceed, the cumulative effects assessment should be considered conservative.

27.5.1 Residual Project Effects Likely to Interact Cumulatively

The Project residual effects identified in Section 27.4 likely to act cumulatively with physical activities found in Attachment 29.1 (Project Inclusion List) in Chapter 29 (Cumulative Effects Assessment) are listed in Table 27.5.

Table 27.6 Interactions with the Potential to Contribute to Cumulative Effects to Indigenous Rights and Interests

Physical Activities with Potential for Cumulative Effects	Indigenous Nations Rights and Interests		
	Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights	Change to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage	Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions
Past and Present Physical Activities			
Mining	✓	✓	✓
Aggregate Extraction	✓	✓	✓
Community Development	✓	✓	✓
Water Management	✓	✓	✓
Transportation	✓	✓	✓
Power	✓	✓	✓
Energy	✓	✓	✓

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Chapter 27 Assessment of Potential Effects on Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s and Mattagami First Nation’s Interests

November 22, 2024

Physical Activities with Potential for Cumulative Effects	Indigenous Nations Rights and Interests		
	Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights	Change to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage	Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions
Forestry	✓	✓	✓
Agriculture	✓	✓	✓
Recreation	✓	✓	✓
Hunting and Fishing	✓	✓	✓
Future Physical Activities			
Mining			
North Timmins Gold Project – Bradshaw Mine	✓	✓	✓
Upper Beaver Gold Project	✓	✓	✓
ERO: 019-8122 - Permit to take water renewal (Proposal)	✓	✓	✓
Fox Mining Complex Expansion Project – Froome, Stock West, Grey Fox and Fuller Deposits	✓	✓	✓
Other mine-related physical activities (e.g., mineral exploration permits)	✓	✓	✓
Transportation			
Highway 652 Extension to Highway 11	✓	✓	✓
Northlander Passenger Train Expansion of Service	✓	✓	✓
Other transportation-related physical activities (e.g., road rehabilitation, bridge and culvert replacement)			
Power			
Transmission Infrastructure Partnership-1	✓	✓	✓
Wawa to Porcupine Transmission Line	✓	✓	✓
<p>Notes:</p> <p>✓ = Other physical activities whose residual effects are likely to interact cumulatively with Project residual effects.</p> <p>– = Interactions between the residual effects of other physical activities and residual effects of the Project are not expected.</p> <p>The list of past, present and future physical activities (i.e., development applications within regulatory approval processes) is based on public information available up to 2024.</p>			

27.5.2 Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights

Various rulings and acts implemented over more than the last 150 years, including European settlement in Canada, and the creation and implementation of Canadian policies and laws have transformed the lives of Indigenous Peoples, have shaped Indigenous Peoples' rights, and subsequently resulted in cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the Indigenous Interests RSA (FPFN 2023a, b; MGFN 2023a,b; MTFN 2023a,b; IAAC 2024).

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation reported that there are existing stressors on member's abilities to harvest and live their culture due to the developments in their Traditional Territories (FPFN 2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; MTFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2024). Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation expressed concerns regarding the cumulative effects from mining, forestry, hydro power, agriculture (e.g., herbicide spraying), and linear infrastructure on member's abilities to exercise their Indigenous and Treaty Rights and continue with their way of life (FPFN 2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; MTFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2024). Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation also expressed concern regarding the cumulative effects of declining fish populations and water quality and quantity from the Projects contribution (FPFN 2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; MTFN 2023a, b).

27.5.2.1 Cumulative Effect Pathways

As summarized in Table 27.6, past and present physical activities that have been or are being carried out have contributed to the existing conditions for the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA, and the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights. Future physical activities are also anticipated to contribute to the future conditions in the Project assessment areas. Overall, increased mining and other activity (e.g., forestry, agricultural conversion) and the privatization of lands within the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA has altered the current regional areas, contributing to existing cumulative effects on Indigenous and Treaty Rights.

All phases of the Project (construction, operations, decommissioning and closure) have the potential to contribute to cumulative effects on Indigenous and Treaty Rights. Cumulative effects on Indigenous and Treaty Rights could result through the pathways identified in Table 27.2 in Section 27.1.5.

The conclusions in this section are informed by the results of engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, the literature review, and related biophysical and socio-economic VC assessments presented in the Impact Statement.

27.5.2.2 Mitigation and Enhancement for Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures to limit residual cumulative effects to Indigenous and Treaty Rights are described in Attachment 27.1 to Attachment 27.3 and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) of the Impact Statement.

It is expected that proponents of future physical activities that require regulatory approval will develop mitigation measures like those proposed for this Project. Canada Nickel is committed to working with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to explore opportunities to further mitigate adverse effects to Indigenous interests and enhance Project benefits. This includes a commitment to working directly with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to identify opportunities for Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to realize potential benefits from the Project that can be used to both offset potential adverse effects and create positive effects for the Nations.

27.5.2.3 Cumulative Effects

The analysis in this section includes consideration of the RHO provided in Chapter 29 (Cumulative Effects Assessment) and incorporates the findings of the cumulative effects assessments for VCs found in the Impact Statement that are relevant to Indigenous and Treaty Rights.²⁹

Cumulative effects from past, present and future physical activities in combination with the Project are predicted to adversely affect the Indigenous and Treaty Rights of the Indigenous Nations. As described in Section 27.4, Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation indicated that the quality and quantity of harvested wildlife, vegetation, and fish have diminished and that the lands and resources (including surface water and ground water) have been impacted by industrial development in their Traditional Territories.

Existing agricultural conversion, residential development, linear development, mining, and forestry activities have affected the quality, quantity or distribution of resources involved in or required for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights by reducing habitat availability and suitability, increasing mortality risk for culturally important wildlife and fish species, as well as reducing or altering vegetation communities relied upon for Indigenous land and resource use in the Indigenous Interests RSA. The Project occurs in an area that has been altered by ongoing anthropogenic disturbance including forestry, mining, facilities, agriculture and linear development including roads and transmission line corridors.

Residual effects of the Project in combination with effects of future physical activities identified in Table 27.6 may affect access to the resources used or required for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights within the Indigenous Interests RSA. These proposed developments may result in disturbance to trails and travel ways or impediments to access through fencing or other obstacles within the Indigenous Interests RSA. Short-term sensory disturbances and localized access restrictions associated with the PA and MMB may act cumulatively if they occur concurrently with similar effects arising from the future physical activities listed in Table 27.6.

Changes in the current and future quality, quantity or distribution of resources (including surface water and groundwater) involved in or required for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights have and will

²⁹ These include the following sections of Chapter 29: Section 29.2 Regional Historical Overview, Section 29.6 Atmospheric Environment, Section 29.7 Acoustic Environment, Section 29.8 Groundwater, Section 29.9 Surface Water, Section 29.10 Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments, Section 29.11 Fish and Fish Habitat, Section 29.12 Bird and Bird Habitat, Section 29.13 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Section 29.14 Climate Change, Section 29.15 Health, Section 29.16 Social Conditions, and Section 29.17 Economic Conditions.

arise from residual effects of past, present and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project. While the areas of Crown land to be disturbed by the Project represent a small proportion in the Indigenous Interests RSA and some current use activities could continue to be conducted within the Indigenous Interests RSA, certain practices and related knowledge are often rooted in specific places that have important cultural and spiritual associations that are not readily transferable to other locations.

The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the Indigenous Interests RSA are predicted to be adverse, moderate in magnitude and long-term in duration, which reflects the ongoing nature of disturbance that has been and continues to occur in the area because of agriculture, forestry and industrial development, but are largely reversible. However, following engagement with the Indigenous Nations, Canada Nickel understands that residual effects of past, present and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for members of the Indigenous Nations who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from harvesting areas within the Indigenous Interests RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed. The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Indigenous and Treaty Rights is expected to be moderate, because the area to be disturbed in native vegetation represents a small proportion of native vegetation in the Indigenous Interests RSA, the Project is largely on private lands, and the PA will be reclaimed and revegetated throughout the operations phase and following decommissioning and closure. Overall, direct loss of habitat and riparian communities and wetland areas within the PA will be offset in part by reclamation and revegetation activities after the operations phase is complete, and this will involve engagement with Indigenous Nations as described in Sections 27.5.2.2 and 27.8.

As such, no additional mitigation measures are proposed for incremental Project contributions to the cumulative effects on the related VCs or on Indigenous and Treaty Rights.

27.5.3 Change in Indigenous Nations Physical and Cultural Heritage

As described in Section 27.5.2, various rulings, acts, policies, laws and European settlement in Canada implemented over more than the last 150 years have transformed the lives of Indigenous Peoples and have shaped Indigenous Peoples' rights. These changes have subsequently resulted in cumulative effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage (FPFN 2023a, b; MTFN2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2024).

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation emphasized the importance of maintaining and protecting its customs, protocols, culture, traditions, and land uses (FPFN 2023a, b; MTFN2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d; IAAC 2024). These include culturally and historically significant sites and sacred places such as Lake Abitibi, archaeological heritage, burials and cemeteries, and significant landforms; as well as habitation sites such as cabins and overnight campsites; hunting, trapping, fishing and plant harvesting areas; and trails and travel routes that provide access to

important places within the Traditional Territories of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation (FPFN 2023a, b; MTFN2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d).

27.5.3.1 Cumulative Effect Pathways

As summarized in Table 27.6, past and present physical activities that have been or are being carried out have contributed to the existing conditions for the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA, and Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage. Future physical activities are also anticipated to contribute to the future conditions in the Project assessment areas. Overall, increased mining and other activities (e.g., forestry, agricultural conversion) and the privatization of lands within the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA has altered the current regional areas, contributing to existing cumulative effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage.

All phases of the Project (construction, operations, decommissioning and closure) have the potential to contribute to cumulative effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage. Cumulative effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage could result through the pathways identified in Table 27.2 in Section 27.1.5.

The conclusions in this section are informed by the results of engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, the literature review, and related biophysical VC assessments presented in the Impact Statement.

27.5.3.2 Mitigation and Enhancement for Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures to limit residual cumulative effects to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage are described in Sections 27.2.1.7, 27.2.2.7 and 27.2.3.7, Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, Attachment 27.3 and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) of the Impact Statement.

27.5.3.3 Cumulative Effects

The analysis in this section includes consideration of the RHO provided in Chapter 29 (Cumulative Effects Assessment) and incorporates the findings of the cumulative effects assessments for VCs found in the Impact Statement that are relevant to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage.³⁰

Cumulative effects from past, present and future physical activities in combination with the Project are predicted to adversely affect Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage. The increased mining and other activities (e.g., forestry, agricultural conversion) and the privatization of lands within the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA has altered the current regional areas, contributing to existing cumulative effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage.

Existing agricultural conversion, residential development, linear development, mining and forestry activities have resulted in the loss or alternation of use, access, value, quality of experience and required

³⁰ These include the following sections of Chapter 29: Section 29.2 Regional Historical Overview, Section 29.4 Geology and Geologic Hazards, Section 29.5 Soil, Section 29.6 Atmospheric Environment, Section 29.7 Acoustic Environment, Section 29.8 Groundwater, Section 29.9 Surface Water, and Section 29.15 Health.

condition of Indigenous physical or cultural heritage sites in the Indigenous Interests RSA. The Project occurs in an area that has been altered by ongoing anthropogenic disturbance including mining, forestry, linear development including roads and transmission line corridors.

Residual effects of the Project in combination with effects of future physical activities identified in Table 27.6 may affect Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's physical or cultural heritage. These proposed developments may result in sensory disturbances and changes in air quality within the Indigenous Interest RSA where traditional important areas are present. Short-term sensory disturbances and localized access restrictions associated with the PA and MMB may act cumulatively if they occur concurrently with similar effects arising from the future physical activities listed in Table 27.6.

As described in Section 27.5.2.3 residual cumulative effects are anticipated on access, necessary conditions, and the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g., change in quality, quantity or distribution of resources and/or their habitats; change in access) within the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA, and these changes will result in residual cumulative effects on Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage. If Indigenous Nations experiences changes in necessary conditions at its physical and cultural heritage sites in the Indigenous Interests RSA, the Indigenous Nation's may also experience loss or alteration of the ability to share knowledge and history with current and future generations.

Changes in the current and future access, terrain stability, and effects to archaeological and heritage resources involved in or required for the exercise of Physical and Cultural Heritage have and will arise from residual effects of past, present and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project. While the areas of Crown land to be disturbed represent a small proportion in the Indigenous Interests RSA and some current use activities could continue to be conducted within the Indigenous Interests RSA, certain practices and related knowledge are often rooted in specific places that have important cultural and spiritual associations that are not readily transferable to other locations.

The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Physical and Cultural Heritage in the Indigenous Interests RSA are anticipated to be adverse and low in magnitude, long-term in duration during all Project phases, but are largely reversible. However, following engagement with the Indigenous Nations, Canada Nickel understands that residual effects of past, present, and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for members of the Indigenous Nations who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from physical and cultural heritage sites within the Indigenous Interests RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed. The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Physical and Cultural Heritage is expected to be low because sensory effects will be short-term and localized and the area to be disturbed represents a small proportion of Crown land in the Indigenous Interests RSA. Overall, direct loss of habitat and riparian communities and wetland areas within the PA that may be connected to physical and cultural heritage will be offset in part by reclamation and revegetation activities after the operations phase is complete, and this will involve engagement with Indigenous Nations as described in Sections 27.5.3.2 and 27.8.

As such, no additional mitigation measures are proposed for incremental Project contributions to the cumulative effects on the related VCs or on Indigenous Nations Physical and Cultural Heritage.

27.5.4 Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions

As described in Section 27.5.2, various rulings, acts, policies, laws, and European settlement in Canada implemented over more than the last 150 years have transformed the lives of Indigenous Peoples and have shaped Indigenous Peoples' rights. These changes have subsequently resulted in cumulative effects on Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions (FPFN 2023a, b; MTFN2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2024).

Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation stated that they have used the lands within their Traditional Territories since time immemorial and that their members depend on a deep connection with their land to support their spiritual, cultural, and economic life. Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation emphasized the importance of maintaining and protecting the wellbeing and safety of its community (FPFN 2023a, b; MTFN2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; IAAC 2023d, 2022).

27.5.4.1 Cumulative Effect Pathways

As summarized in Table 27.6, past and present physical activities that have been or are being carried out have contributed to the existing conditions for the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA, and Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions. Future physical activities are also anticipated to contribute to the future conditions in the Project assessment areas. Overall, increased mining and other activities (e.g., forestry, agricultural conversion) and the privatization of lands within the PA and Indigenous Interests RSA has altered the current regional areas, contributing to existing cumulative effects on Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions.

All phases of the Project (construction, operations, decommissioning and closure) have the potential to contribute to cumulative effects on Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions. Cumulative effects on Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions could result through the pathways identified in Table 27.2 in Section 27.1.5.

The conclusions in this section are informed by the results of engagement with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation, the literature review, and related biophysical and socio-economic VC assessments presented in the Impact Statement.

27.5.4.2 Mitigation and Enhancement for Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures to limit residual cumulative effects to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions are described in Section 27.4.3.2, Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, Attachment 27.3 and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) of the Impact Statement.

27.5.4.3 Cumulative Effects

The analysis in this section includes consideration of the RHO provided in Chapter 29 (Cumulative Effects Assessment) and incorporates the findings of the cumulative effects assessment for VCs found in the Impact Statement that are relevant to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions.³¹

Cumulative effects from past, present and future physical activities in combination with the Project are predicted to adversely affect Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions. As described in Section 27.5.4, increased development in the Indigenous Interests RSA has altered Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagamí First Nation's connection to their Territories and their members abilities to maintain their spiritual, cultural, and economic life ways. These include changes related to subsistence-based livelihood, access to key sites, decision-making abilities regarding land and water, and ability to uphold cultural traditions, laws, and governance systems that inform how rights are exercised within the Indigenous Interest RSA. Increased development in regional business in the Indigenous Interest RSA and associated demand on infrastructure, services, accommodation and transportation has also contributed to existing cumulative effects on Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions.

The general presence of the Project and its workforce within the PA and Indigenous Interest RSA, may result in reduced decision-making, interference, community concerns, and safety constraints on the land, which may affect Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions. It may also affect Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagamí First Nation's harvest and consumption of terrestrial resources, quality of fishing, hunting, plant harvesting and cultural sites, trade and traditional journey routes, the transmission of cultural knowledge, the strengthening of family ties, and tourism, all of which are connected to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions.

As described in Section 27.4, Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagamí First Nation emphasized the importance of maintaining or improving the ability of members to earn a living and to increase economic benefits. The Project is anticipated to result in both positive and adverse effects on Indigenous employment. It is assumed that the Project will increase employment opportunities for Indigenous individuals resulting in increased income levels and provide valuable employment experience.

The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagamí First Nation's Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions in the Indigenous Interests RSA are predicted to be both positive (low in magnitude) and adverse (moderate in magnitude). Both positive and adverse residual cumulative effects are long-term in duration and largely reversible. Positive effects of the training and employment experience that may be acquired by members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagamí First Nation through employment on the Project could be leveraged in pursuit of future employment and career opportunities in the region.

³¹ These include the following sections of Chapter 29: Section 29.2 Regional Historical Overview, Section 29.4 Geology and Geologic Hazards, Section 29.5 Soil, Section 29.6 Atmospheric Environment, Section 29.7 Acoustic Environment, Section 29.8 Groundwater, Section 29.9 Surface Water, Section 29.10 Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments, Section 29.11 Fish and Fish Habitat, Section 29.12 Bird and Bird Habitat, Section 29.13 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Section 29.14 Climate Change, Section 29.15 Health, Section 29.16 Social Conditions, and Section 29.17 Economic Conditions.

However, following engagement with the Indigenous Nations, Canada Nickel understands that residual effects of past, present and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's decision-making in the PA and MMB, and for Nation members who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from harvesting areas or physical or cultural heritage sites within the Indigenous Interests RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed. The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions is expected to be low to moderate because positive effects (direct, indirect, and induced) of the Project are expected to be unevenly distributed, the areas of Crown land to be disturbed represent a small proportion in the Indigenous Interests RSA and current use activities associated with Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's governance, health, social and economic conditions could continue to be conducted within the Indigenous Interests RSA. Overall, direct loss of habitat and riparian communities and wetland areas and decision-making ability within the PA will be offset in part through engagement with the Indigenous Nations as described in Sections 26.5.4.2 and 26.8.

As such, no additional mitigation measures are proposed for incremental Project contributions to the cumulative effects on the related VCs or on Indigenous Nations Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions.

27.5.5 Cumulative Effects Without the Project

As described in Sections 27.5.2 to 27.5.4, various rulings and acts implemented over more than the last 150 years, including European settlement in Canada, and the creation and implementation of Canadian policies and laws, have resulted in cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests within the Indigenous Interests RSA (FPFN 2023a, b; MGFN 2023a, b; MTFNa, b; IAAC 2024). Past and present anthropogenic disturbance within the Indigenous Interests RSA (e.g., mining, aggregate extraction, water management, transportation, power, energy, and forestry), as well as land use by non-Indigenous Peoples (e.g., recreation, hunting, fishing), have also resulted in cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests. Examples of residual cumulative effects from past and present physical activities include changes in the quality, quantity, and distribution of resources harvested and consumed by the Indigenous Nations, as well as changes to the use of lands for traditional purposes, changes in access and travel (inclusive of historic and preferred land and/or water-based routes), and changes to cultural practices and the transfer of knowledge. Such effects that have occurred in the region due to ongoing anthropogenic disturbance and non-Indigenous land use are likely to continue to occur in the future if the Project does not proceed.

It is reasonable to assume that mineral exploration in the region will continue to occur in the future whether the Project occurs or not. The same can be assumed of other industries and non-Indigenous uses in the region. Past and present physical activities are largely concentrated along existing transportation corridors (e.g., highways, railways) in the region and it is likely that areas in proximity to

existing transportation and other infrastructure continue to be potential areas for future developments.³² Without the Project, future regional cumulative effects to bio-physical and socio-economic VCs considered in the Impact Statement are therefore predicted to be the same as those identified if the proposed Project proceeds. For example, without the Project, surface water quality and quantity within the Indigenous Interests RSA is likely to continue to be influenced by past and present physical activities and is also likely to be influenced by future physical activities such as mineral exploration or mining developments. However, these projects would be expected to implement mitigation measures to, for example, protect water quality and quantity, similar to those proposed for the Project, and any changes to water quality or quantity from other projects would likely be limited to a localized area downstream of the future exploration site or mine. In consideration of other examples, such as cumulative effects on harvested resources and/or culturally important species (e.g., fish, wildlife), future mineral exploration activities would require provincial permitting and/or an environmental impact assessment if the future physical activities proceed to regulatory review. These processes would require the future proponents to go through an assessment process to identify potential effects to fish and wildlife, and to identify and implement appropriate mitigation or offset measures through engagement with Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's, as has been required for the proposed Project.

In consideration of the history and predicted trajectory of anthropogenic disturbance and land use in the Indigenous Interests RSA, cumulative effects on Indigenous interests described in Sections 27.5.2 to 27.5.4 are predicted to occur with or without the implementation of the Project.

27.5.6 Summary of Cumulative Effects

Table 27.7 summarizes cumulative effects on Indigenous rights and interests. The assessment of disproportionately distributed residual cumulative effects on Indigenous rights and interests is provided following the table.

³² See Figure 29.1 of Chapter 29 (Cumulative Effects Assessments).

Table 27.7 Residual Cumulative Effects

Residual Cumulative Effect	Residual Cumulative Effects Characterization						
	Direction	Magnitude	Geographic Extent	Timing	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
Change to Indigenous and Treaty Rights							
With the Project	A	M	PA/RSA	A	LT	MIR/MRE	R/IR
Without the Project	A	L/M	PA/RSA	A	LT	MIR/MRE	R/IR
Contribution from the Project to the Residual Cumulative Effect	<p>The Project may result in the direct loss or alteration of native vegetation, bird, wildlife, and fish habitats that are connected to the exercise or practice of Indigenous and Treaty Rights. The Project may also result in indirect effects from sensory disturbance that may further alter the abundance and distribution of harvested resources and/or the necessary conditions for the exercise or practice of Indigenous or Treaty Rights. Access routes and ability to travel to or through preferred use areas/sites of interest that overlap with accessible Crown lands within the PA will be altered through access restrictions, however, the Project is not expected to create a change or disruption that widely reduces or restricts the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, including the Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s, and Mattagami First Nation’s abilities to access culturally important sites or features (e.g., hunting sites, fishing sites) within the Indigenous Interests RSA or within their broader Traditional Territories. While the areas of Crown land to be disturbed represent a small proportion in the Indigenous Interests RSA and some current use activities could continue to be conducted within the Indigenous Interests RSA, certain practices and related knowledge are often rooted in specific places that have important cultural and spiritual associations that are not readily transferable to other locations. The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects to Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s, and Mattagami First Nation’s Indigenous and Treaty Rights is expected to be moderate and long-term in duration, which reflects the ongoing nature of disturbance that has been and continues to occur in the area because of agriculture, forestry and industrial development, are largely reversible. However, residual effects of past, present and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for members of the Indigenous Nations who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from harvesting areas within the Indigenous Interests RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed. Overall, direct loss of habitat and riparian communities and wetland areas within the PA will be offset in part by reclamation and revegetation activities after the operations phase is complete, and this will involve engagement with the Indigenous Nations as described in 27.5.2.2 and 27.8.</p>						
Change to Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage							
With the Project	A	L	PA/RSA	A	LT	MIR/MRE	R/IR
Without the Project	A	L	PA/RSA	A	LT	MIR/MRE	R/IR
Contribution from the Project to the Residual Cumulative Effect	<p>The Project will result in changes in access and necessary conditions required for Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s, and Mattagami First Nation’s Physical and Cultural Heritage sites through direct loss or alteration of trails and travel ways, restrictions on the ability to travel to and through preferred areas that overlap with the PA, or through indirect effects of sensory disturbance in the vicinity of the PA. The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s, and Mattagami First Nation’s Physical and Cultural Heritage is expected to be low because sensory effects will be short-term and localized, the area to be disturbed represents a small proportion of Crown land in the Indigenous Interests RSA and effects are largely reversible. However,</p>						

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November 22, 2024

Residual Cumulative Effect	Residual Cumulative Effects Characterization									
	Direction	Magnitude	Geographic Extent	Timing	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility			
	residual effects of past, present and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for members of the Indigenous Nations who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from Physical and cultural heritage sites within the Indigenous Interests RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed. Overall, direct loss of habitat and riparian communities and wetland areas within the PA that may be connected to physical and cultural heritage will be offset in part by reclamation and revegetation activities after the operations phase is complete, and this will involve engagement with the Indigenous Nations as described in Sections 27.5.2.2 and 27.8.									
Change to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions										
With the Project	A/P	L/M	PA/RSA	A	LT	MIR/MRE	R/IR			
Without the Project	A/P	L/M	PA/RSA	A	LT	MIR/MRE	R/IR			
Contribution from the Project to the Residual Cumulative Effect	<p>The Project may result in changes to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social, and Economic Conditions that inform the way Indigenous and Treaty Rights are exercised because of reduced access and decision-making abilities, and associated effects. The Project’s contribution to residual cumulative effects to Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions in the Indigenous Interests RSA are predicted to be both positive (low in magnitude) and adverse (moderate in magnitude). Both positive and adverse residual cumulative effects are long-term in duration and largely reversible. The positive effects of the training and employment experience that may be acquired by Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation members through employment on the Project could be leveraged in pursuit of future employment and career opportunities in the region. However, residual effects of past, present and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s, and Mattagami First Nation’s decision-making in the PA and MMB, and for Nation members who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from harvesting areas or physical or cultural heritage sites within the Indigenous Interests RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed. The contribution of the Project to residual cumulative effects on Indigenous Governance, Health, Social and Economic Conditions is expected to be low to moderate because positive effects (direct, indirect, and induced) of the Project are expected to be unevenly distributed, the areas of Crown land to be disturbed represent a small proportion in the Indigenous Interests RSA and current use activities associated with Flying Post First Nation’s, Matachewan First Nation’s, and Mattagami First Nation’s governance, health, social and economic conditions could continue to be conducted within the Indigenous Interests RSA. Overall, direct loss of habitat and riparian communities and wetland areas and decision-making ability within the PA will be offset in part through engagement with the Indigenous Nations as described in Sections 27.5.2.2 and 27.8.</p>									
<p>KEY:</p> <p>See Table 27.3 for detailed definitions</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Project Phase:</p> <p>C: Construction</p> <p>O: Operations</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Geographic Extent:</p> <p>PA: Project Area</p> <p>LSA: Local Study Area</p> <p>RSA: Regional Study Area</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Frequency:</p> <p>S: Single event</p> <p>MIR: Multiple Irregular event</p> <p>MRE: Multiple Regular event</p> </td> </tr> </table>								<p>Project Phase:</p> <p>C: Construction</p> <p>O: Operations</p>	<p>Geographic Extent:</p> <p>PA: Project Area</p> <p>LSA: Local Study Area</p> <p>RSA: Regional Study Area</p>	<p>Frequency:</p> <p>S: Single event</p> <p>MIR: Multiple Irregular event</p> <p>MRE: Multiple Regular event</p>
<p>Project Phase:</p> <p>C: Construction</p> <p>O: Operations</p>	<p>Geographic Extent:</p> <p>PA: Project Area</p> <p>LSA: Local Study Area</p> <p>RSA: Regional Study Area</p>	<p>Frequency:</p> <p>S: Single event</p> <p>MIR: Multiple Irregular event</p> <p>MRE: Multiple Regular event</p>								

Residual Cumulative Effect	Residual Cumulative Effects Characterization						
	Direction	Magnitude	Geographic Extent	Timing	Duration	Frequency	Reversibility
<i>D: Decommissioning and closure</i>				<i>C: Continuous</i>			
Direction: <i>P: Positive</i> <i>A: Adverse</i> <i>N: Neutral</i>		Timing: <i>A: Applicable</i> <i>NA: Not Applicable</i>		Reversibility: <i>R: Reversible</i> <i>IR: Irreversible</i>			
Magnitude: <i>N: Negligible</i> <i>L: Low</i> <i>M: Moderate</i> <i>H: High</i>		Duration: <i>ST: Short-term</i> <i>MT: Medium-term</i> <i>LT: Long-term</i>					

27.5.6.1 Disproportionately Distributed Residual Cumulative Effects on Indigenous Subgroups

Project activities in combination with activities associated with past, present and future physical activities are anticipated to result in the same disproportionately distributed effects on Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation subgroups as those identified in Section 27.4.3. Disproportionately distributed cumulative effects on Indigenous subgroups extend into the Indigenous Interests RSA and may also be experienced in the vicinity of the PA and MMB.³³

27.6 Extent of Significance and Prediction Confidence

As described in Section 27.1.10, adverse federal effects considered in the assessment include:

- an impact – occurring in Canada and resulting from any change to the environment – to Indigenous Peoples, such as to physical and cultural heritage, the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes or any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance
- any change occurring in Canada to the health, social, or economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples

The characterization of the extent of significance of adverse federal effects (i.e., the severity of the impacts) has been conservatively overestimated with consideration of any combination of the effect

³³ Disproportionately distributed cumulative effects are also predicted for Health (Chapter 21), Social Conditions (Chapter 22), and Economic Conditions (Chapter 23).

characterization attributes most applicable to one or more adverse federal effect, the concerns raised and status of the concerns, and the perspectives of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation regarding its preferred conditions or thresholds regarding the extent of significance of adverse federal effects.

Various rulings and acts implemented over more than the last 150 years, including European settlement in Canada, and the creation and implementation of Canadian policy and law have transformed the lives of Indigenous Peoples and have shaped Indigenous Peoples' rights and subsequently resulted in cumulative effects on the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA. Existing agricultural conversion, residential development, linear development, mining and forestry activities have affected the quality, quantity or distribution of resources involved in or required for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights by reducing habitat availability and suitability, increasing mortality risk for culturally important wildlife and fish species, as well as reducing or altering vegetation communities relied upon for Indigenous land and resource use in the Indigenous Interest LSA and RSA. The Project occurs in an area that has been altered by ongoing anthropogenic disturbance including forestry, mining, facilities, agriculture and linear development including roads and transmission line corridors

As described in Sections 27.4 and 27.5, Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's access routes and ability to travel to or through preferred use areas/sites of interest that overlap with accessible Crown lands within the PA and/or the MMB will be altered through access restrictions and changes in necessary conditions.

Residual effects of the Project in combination with effects of future physical activities identified in Table 27.6 may result in disturbance to trails and travel ways or impediments to access through fencing or other obstacles within the Indigenous Interests RSA. However, site access and continued engagement are key elements considered in the Impact Benefit Agreements under negotiation with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation and will include the conditions for Indigenous Nations to access select areas of the PA and MMB for the exercise of Indigenous and Treaty Rights, acknowledging that, for safety and operational reasons, it may be necessary for Canada Nickel to restrict access to certain lands and/or activities within the PA and MMB.

Indigenous health conditions may be affected through changes to the availability of wildlife, fish, and plants that are harvested for country foods and the perceived quality of country foods in the PA, MMB and Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA, as assessed in Sections 27.4.1.3 and 27.5.2.3. The Project is expected to remove vegetation and wetland areas during construction activities that may be used as country food or for medicinal purposes by Indigenous Nations. Development of the PA will also remove habitat suitable for wildlife, vegetation or fish species harvested for consumption. Project-related transportation may cause wildlife mortality and reduce the availability of traditionally harvested resources in the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA. Project-related noise, light and vibration may also alter the availability of traditional resources in these areas.

Actual or perceived changes in food quality and aesthetics in the MMB and the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA could lead to changes in the way members of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation harvest or eat traditional foods and therefore alter food security, which

could lead to physical health changes. However, the Project is not expected to create a change or disruption that widely reduces or restricts Indigenous Nations current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, including a Nation's ability to access culturally important sites or features (e.g., hunting sites, fishing sites, physical and cultural heritage sites) within the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA or within the broader Traditional Territories of Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.

Changes to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes within the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA are anticipated to be negligible, while changes to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes within the PA and MMB are predicted to be adverse, moderate in magnitude, short term during the construction and decommissioning and closures phases and occur with multiple irregular frequency, and medium term during the operation phase, occurring with multiple regular frequency. Adverse federal effects are considered largely reversible during all Project phases as they are primarily tied to Project activities (e.g., restricted/controlled access; clearing and grading; construction and operational noise and vibration; open pit dewatering) and it is anticipated that the PA, MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA will return to current conditions once the open pit refills and Project activities, inclusive of progressive reclamation and revegetation activities, cease. However, residual effects of past, present, and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for members of Indigenous Nations who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from harvesting areas within the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed.

Changes to any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance are not anticipated within the PA as no historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architecturally significant sites have been identified within the PA to date (Appendix B.11 Stage 1 AA:). Additionally, the Stage 2 AA will determine the presence or absence of these features prior to construction, and any sites (if present), will be subject to the requirements of the MCM (Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture 2011) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Plan. With the implementation of mitigation measures to offset the loss of information resulting from site alteration (if present), no adverse residual effects to historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architecturally significant sites are anticipated. Adverse residual effects are however predicted for Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's intangible physical and cultural heritage (e.g., storied places; named places; sacred sites) if present within or in proximity to the PA and MMB due to the predicted alterations in access and necessary conditions described above. However, while the areas of Crown land to be disturbed within the PA and MMB represent a small proportion in the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA and some current use activities could continue to be conducted within the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA, certain practices and related knowledge are often rooted in specific places that have important cultural and spiritual associations that are not readily transferable to other locations.

Changes to demand on services and infrastructure, accommodation availability, and transportation infrastructure are expected to occur within the Indigenous Interests LSA and the Social Conditions LSA (e.g., the City of Timmins and the Towns of Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, and Smooth Rock Falls) throughout

construction and operations and will be largely reversible following the decommissioning and closure phase. Changes to Indigenous employment, business, and economy are anticipated both on and off-reserve during all Project phases. Adverse effects on regional business (including Indigenous businesses) are predicted due to Project wages being greater than existing conditions, albeit consistent with wages in the mining industry, and due to the potential for Project employment to be deemed more desirable than other forms of employment in the Indigenous Interest LSA.

Adverse residual effects on the Health, Social, and Economic Conditions of the Indigenous Nations are anticipated to be low in magnitude within the PA, MMB and the Indigenous Interests LSA during all Project phases, inclusive of timing considerations due to the seasonal nature of certain cultural practices that are connected to health, social, and economic conditions. Residual effects are short-term during the Construction and Decommissioning and Closure Phases and will occur as multiple irregular events. Residual effects are medium-term during the Operation Phase and will occur as multiple regular events. However, residual effects are considered largely reversible during all phases as they are primarily tied to Project activities (e.g., restricted/controlled access; presence of Project workforce; duration of contract/employment) and it is anticipated that the PA, MMB, and Indigenous Interests LSA will return to current conditions once Project activities, inclusive of progressive reclamation and revegetation, cease. However, residual effects of past, present, and future physical activities combined with the predicted residual effects of the Project are anticipated to be irreversible for Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's decision-making in the PA and MMB, and for Nation members who have already experienced alienation and dispossession from harvesting areas or physical or cultural heritage sites within the Indigenous Interests RSA and in the vicinity of the PA and MMB, as these experiences are likely to increase in the future rather than decrease and require regional initiatives and programs to be addressed.

In consideration of Project design, specific mitigation, enhancement and restoration measures, Impact Benefit Agreement measures, and commitments to collaborate with interested Indigenous Nations throughout the Project's lifespan, the predicted extent of significance of adverse federal effects is low to moderate.

The prediction confidence in the conclusions for Project residual effects and residual cumulative effects for Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests is moderate and is based on available information and feedback provided by the Indigenous Nations; the suite of mitigation measures and management plans proposed in Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, Attachment 27.3 and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) of the Impact Statement; Canada Nickel's understanding that Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests occur on lands and waters within the Project assessment areas that overlap with their Traditional Territories; and assumptions described in Section 27.7.

27.7 Assumptions

Canada Nickel understands that Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation hold asserted or established Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the area of the Project. By adopting a rights recognition-based approach informed by the regulatory and policy setting described in Section

27.1.1, this assessment included consideration for all effects to interests or matters of importance identified by the Indigenous Nations.

Conservative assumptions regarding the Project were also made for VCs related to Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests, as described throughout the Impact Statement, to overestimate the effects assessed.

Patented (private) land data was limited to the use of mining land tenure and non-mining tenure as a private land proxy approximation. Limitations for the land and resource use analysis includes that of Crown land ownership (e.g. lack of property identifiers). Unpatented Crown land is assumed to be Crown land after patent land, Indigenous reserves, provincial parks, and conservation reserves are removed, and is an estimate only as a separate Crown land data set is unavailable. Certain other data, such as confidential identifier information (e.g., permit holders, licence holders) were not readily available for inclusion due to privacy and/or publication limitations.

27.8 Follow-up and Monitoring

Canada Nickel is committed to achieving its sustainability principles and objectives.³⁴ Canada Nickel's follow-up programs that relate to Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests will be prepared and implemented to monitor environmental protection and follow-up requirements for the Project and to identify opportunities for corrective actions and/or refinements to mitigation measures described in Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, Attachment 27.3 and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) to further reduce or avoid potential impacts from the Project.³⁵

Canada Nickel will engage with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation in the design and implementation of the follow-up and monitoring programs, and evaluation of follow-up results and subsequent updates to the program. Canada Nickel will further engage Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation for various monitoring programs on a go-forward basis, where appropriate.

Some examples of planned engagement activities and commitments include:

- Engaging with the Indigenous Nations to develop a shared understanding of how the Project may affect their interests
- Engaging with the Indigenous Nations to discuss the Project and its effects, understand concerns that may arise and respond to those concerns
- Engaging with the Indigenous Nations to seek their opinions, recommendations and Nation-specific expertise in the development of monitoring programs relating to biodiversity
- Working directly with the Indigenous Nations to identify opportunities for the Indigenous Nations to realize potential benefits from the Project that can be used to both offset potential adverse effects and create positive effects for the Indigenous Nation

³⁴ See Chapter 33 (Sustainability) of the Impact Statement.

³⁵ See Chapter 34 (Follow-up Programs and Adaptive Management).

Canada Nickel recognizes the importance of working in partnership with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation to establish a mutually beneficial, cooperative, and productive relationship centered around transparent information sharing, respectful engagement, open dialogue, and meaningful partnerships. Site access and continued engagement are key elements considered in the Impact Benefit Agreement's under negotiation with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation. Canada Nickel will remain available through regulatory Application review should Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation bring forward additional information related to this assessment or should concerns arise or requests for alternate engagement approaches be requested by the Indigenous Nations. Through ongoing engagement (i.e., throughout the life of the Project) Canada Nickel aims to maintain a positive long-term relationship with Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation.

27.9 Potential Effects on Federal Lands

There are no federal lands within the PA or the Indigenous Interests LSA. As such, there are no direct physical impacts (e.g., vegetation clearing and grading) that would occur on federal lands used or accessed by the Indigenous Nations.

There are, however, federal lands within the Indigenous Interests RSA and these consist of Indigenous reserve lands. The closest lands under federal jurisdiction are Taykwa Tagamou Nation's reserve (New Post 69A) located approximately 37 km northeast of the PA and Flying Post First Nation's reserve (Flying Post 73) located approximately 46 km southwest of the PA (Section 27.2.1.1). Mattagami First Nation's reserve land is 84.9 km away (refer to Section 27.2.3.1) and Matachewan First Nation is 77.7 km away (Section 27.2.2.1). Both Mattagami First Nation and Matachewan First Nation's reserves are located outside of the Indigenous Interests RSA.

The Project is not expected to adversely affect Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's interests specific to federal lands (e.g., Indigenous reserves), as no changes to the environment are anticipated on these lands. Effects on federal lands (e.g., Indigenous reserves), in consideration of disproportionate effects on Indigenous Nations and women, are anticipated to be like other areas in the Economic Conditions LSA and RSA. Mitigation measures are provided in Attachment 27.1, Attachment 27.2, Attachment 27.3 and Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments) for these various components. No additional mitigation measures beyond those identified are specifically required for federal lands.

27.10 References

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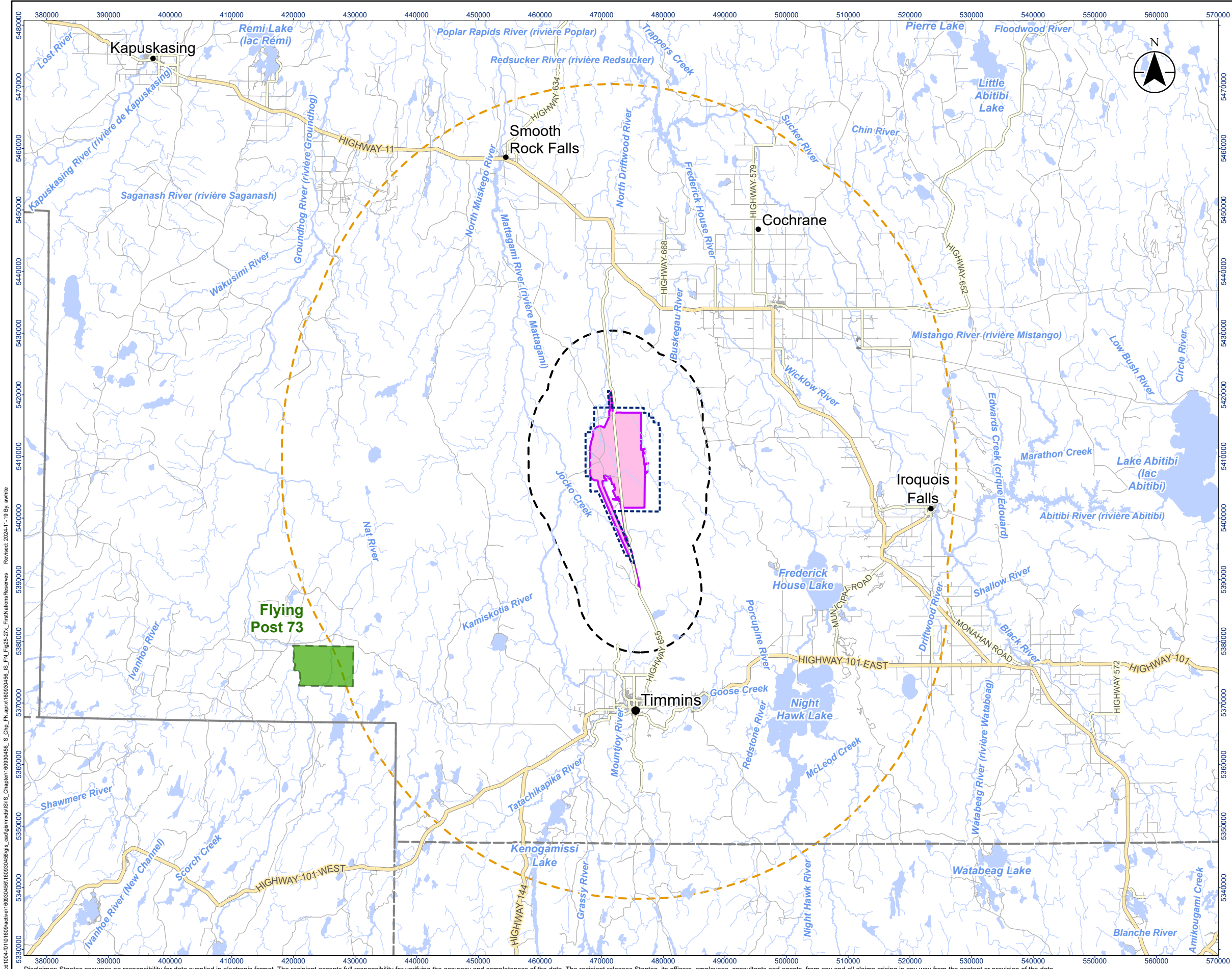
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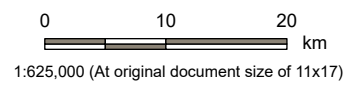
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27.11 Figures



Legend

- Project Area
- Local Study Area
- Regional Study Area
- Modelled Mine Boundary
- Flying Post First Nation Reserve
- Expressway / Highway
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Watercourse
- Municipal Boundary
- Waterbody



- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 2. Base features produced under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry © King's Printer for Ontario, 2024.
 3. Treaty 9 boundaries adapted from Morris 1943 (1964 reprint). For cartographic representation only.
 4. Features are generalized. Not all waterbodies and watercourses are shown, due to the scale of the map.



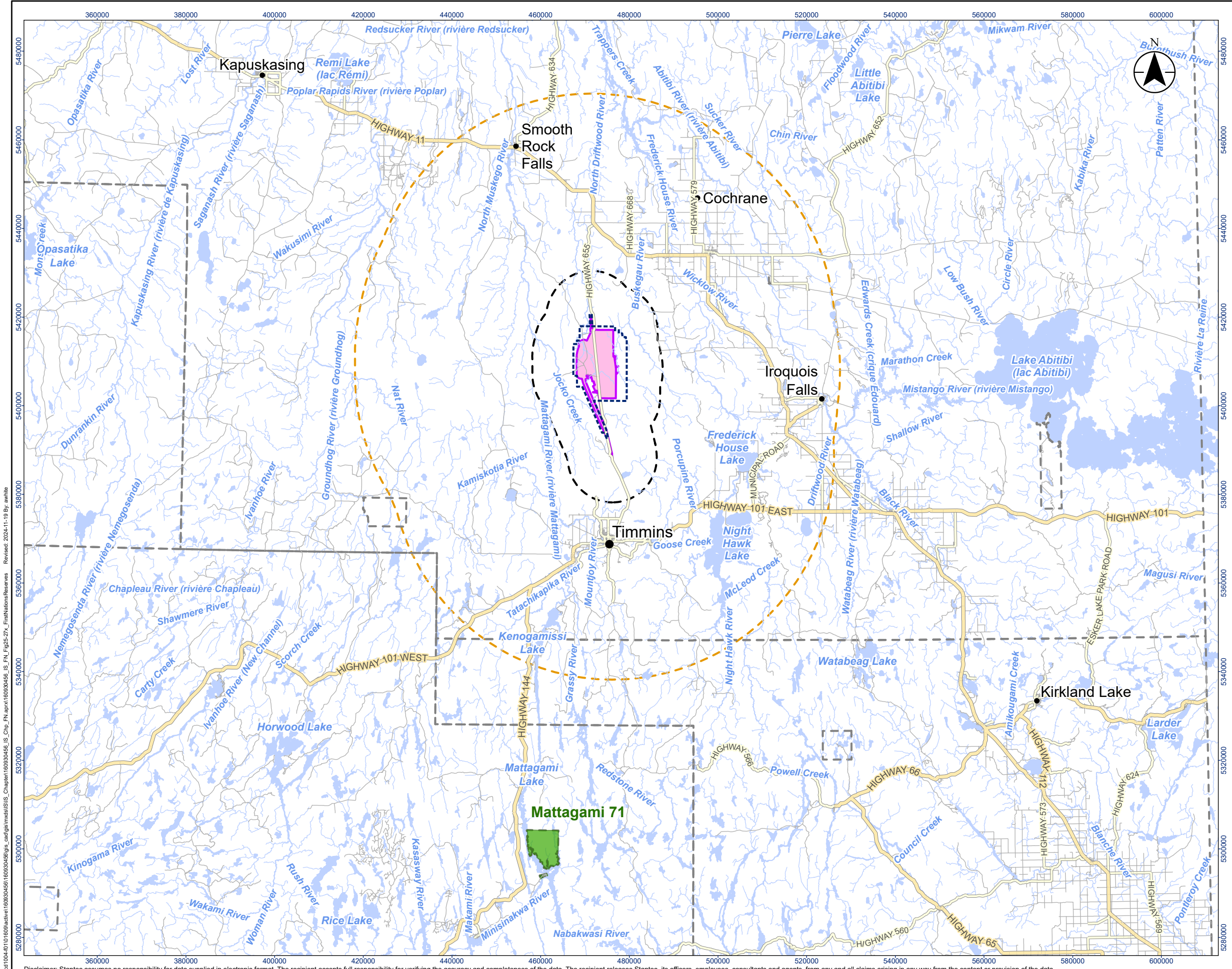
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 Prepared by awhite on 2024-11-19

Client/Project:
 Canada Nickel Company (CNC)
 Crawford Nickel Project

Figure No.
27.1

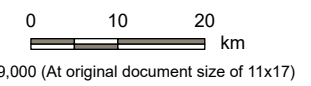
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 Flying Post First Nation**

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Legend

- Project Area
- Local Study Area
- Regional Study Area
- Modelled Mine Boundary
- Mattagami First Nation Reserve
- Expressway / Highway
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Watercourse
- Municipal Boundary
- Waterbody



1:869,000 (At original document size of 11x17)

- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 2. Base features produced under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry © King's Printer for Ontario, 2024.
 3. Treaty 9 boundaries adapted from Morris 1943 (1964 reprint). For cartographic representation only.
 4. Features are generalized. Not all waterbodies and watercourses are shown, due to the scale of the map.



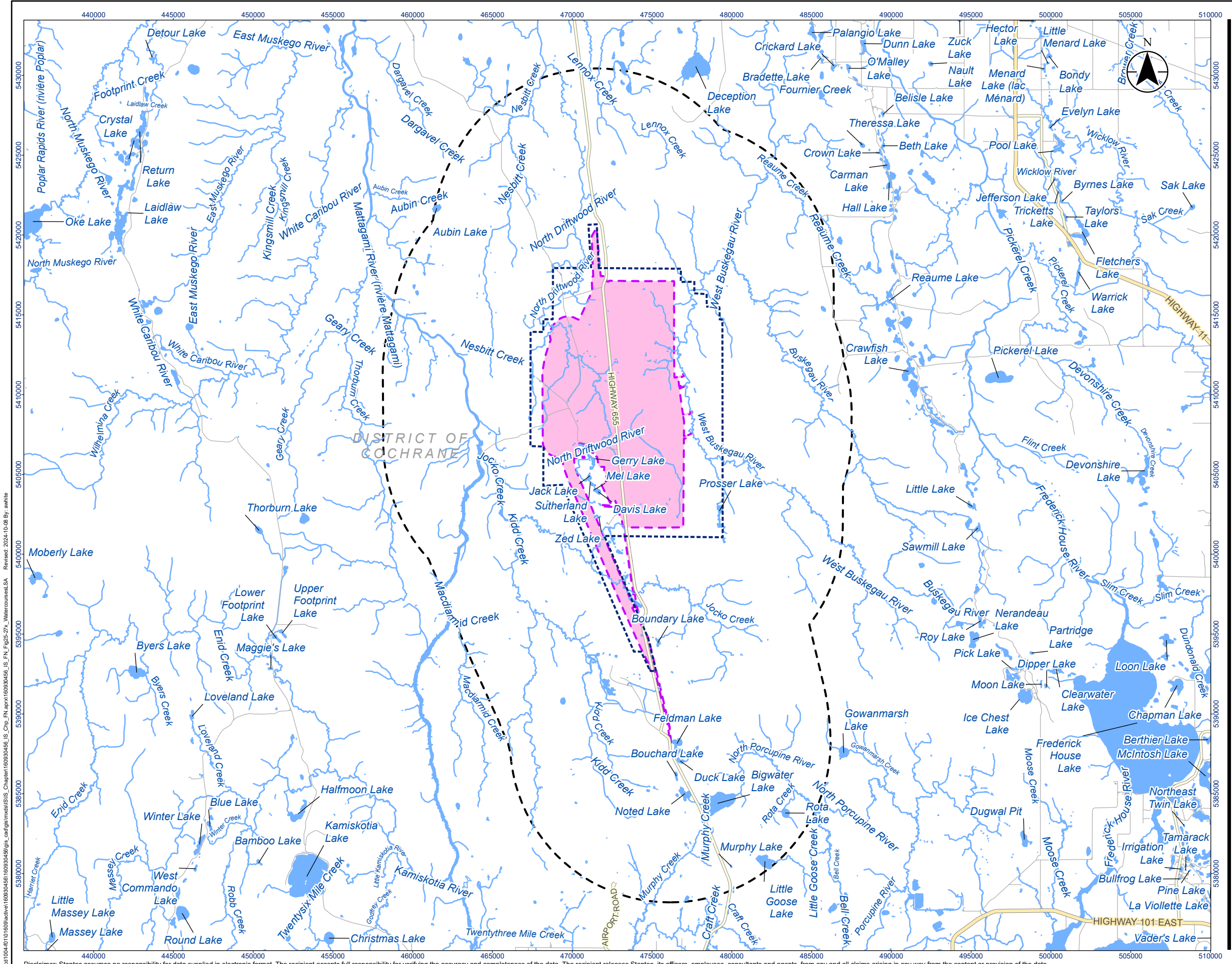
Project Location: Timmins, Ontario
 160930456 REVA
 Prepared by awhite on 2024-11-19





Client/Project:
 Canada Nickel Company (CNC)
 Crawford Nickel Project

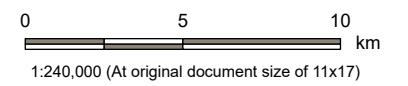
Figure No.
27.3

**Indigenous Interests Assessment Areas -
 Mattagami First Nation**

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 2024-11-19 By: awhite
 Revised: 2024-11-19 By: awhite



- Legend**
-  Project Area
 -  Local Study Area
 -  Modelled Mine Boundary
 -  Expressway / Highway
 -  Major Road
 -  Minor Road
 -  Watercourse
 -  Waterbody
 -  Municipal Boundary



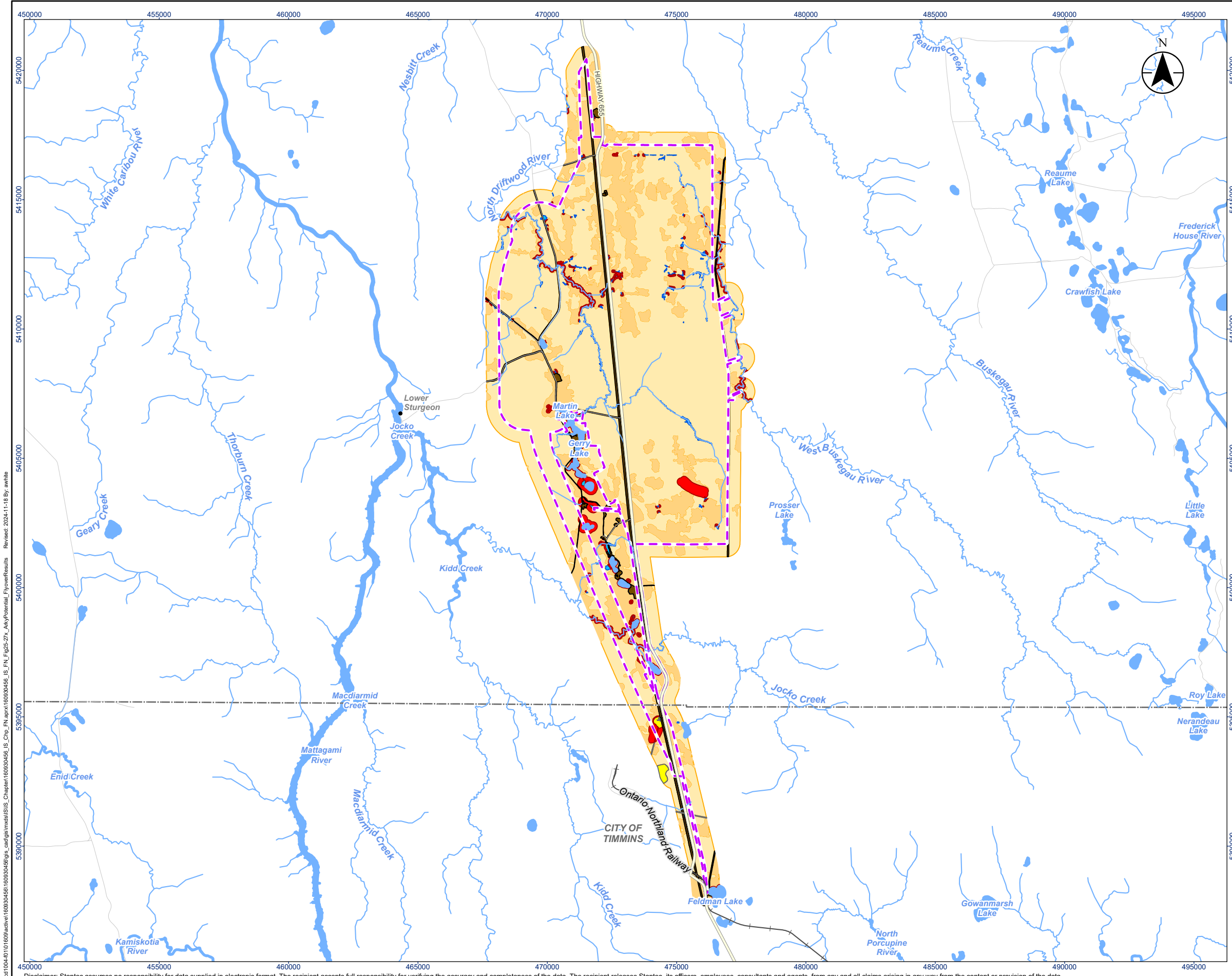
- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 2. Base features produced under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry © King's Printer for Ontario, 2024.

















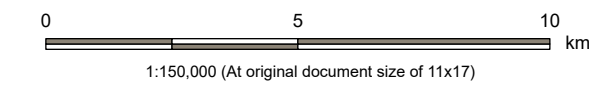
Project Location: Timmins, Ontario
 Prepared by: awhite on 2024-10-08
 160930456 REVA

Client/Project:
 Canada Nickel Company (CNC)
 Crawford Nickel Project

Figure No.
27.4
 Title
Waterbodies and Watercourses



- Legend**
-  Project Area
 - Archaeological Potential**
 -  Unploughable Land (wooded): Stage 2 Test-Pit Survey Required
 -  Permanently Low and Wet: No Further Assessment Required
 -  Over 50 m from Modern Water Sources: No Further Assessment Required
 -  Disturbed (Forestry Activity and Roads): No Further Assessment Required
 -  Previously Assessed: No Further Assessment Required
 -  Previously Assessed: Stage 1 Property Inspection Recommended
 -  Water
 -  Major Road
 -  Minor Road
 -  Railway
 -  Watercourse
 -  Municipal Boundary - Lower Tier
 -  Waterbody



- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 2. Base features produced under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry © King's Printer for Ontario, 2023.
 3. Source: Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, Crawford Nickel Project, District of Cochrane and City of Timmins, Ontario (Appendix B.11 of the Impact Statement)



Project Location: Timmins, Ontario
 160930456 REVA
 Prepared by awhite on 2024-11-18

Client/Project: Canada Nickel Company (CNC) Crawford Nickel Project

Figure No.: **27.5**

Title: **Archaeological Potential**

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Attachments

Attachment 27.1 Flying Post First Nation Engagement Outcomes
for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project)

Flying Post First Nation Engagement Outcomes for the Crawford Nickel Project

Row No.	Flying Post First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Flying Post First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in the Impact Statement
1	<p>Cultural Continuity</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation reported that cultural teaching occurs through much of citizens' cultural and daily life and that knowledge transmission relies on the health and availability of and access to resources, gathering as a family, ceremony, and knowledge of place names and place-based oral histories. Land users teach youth about safe and sustainable land use for the benefit of future generations.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation reported that citizens are harvesting traditional foods or sourcing traditional foods from community gatherings, cultural events, or local farms and markets; however, the majority stated that they are harvesting outside of Treaty 9.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation reported that many areas have family names or Anishinaabemowin names, even though the names were changed replaced during colonization. The Nation reported there is need to raise awareness of the people, practices, and place names of Flying Post First Nation, particularly in public school and parks systems.</p> <p>Potential effects to cultural continuity identified by Flying Post First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing difficulty accessing ancestral places affecting citizens' ability to practice land-based teaching, including Big Water Campground and the Hersey Lake Conservation Area. Food security is an issue as many citizens are concerned about their ability to obtain sufficient store- 	<p>Project Area (PA), Local Study Area (LSA) and Regional Study Area (RSA)</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified two food plants and medicines cultural continuity areas within the PA, and one additional area at a location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.3 km south of the Project <p>Flying Post First Nation identified the following cultural continuity areas at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [cultural practices and ceremonies]) 4.1 km southeast of the PA (Bigwater Lake [cultural practices]) 5.3 km southeast of the PA (Big Water Campground [road safety]) 14.8 km south of the PA (Hershey Lake Conservation Area [ceremonial and recreational gathering areas]) 17.6 km south of the PA (Timmins [ceremonial areas]) 25.6 km southwest of the PA (Malette Road [ancestral places]) 37.6 km west of the PA (Nat River [ancestral place, teaching area]) 46.3 km southwest of the PA (Flying Post IR 73 [culturally important ecosystems]) 	<p>Flying Post First Nation recommends the following considerations for engagement and collaboration with Canada Nickel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on the location of any new access roads that could lead to increased access by non-members to areas used for harvesting by members. The need to raise awareness of the people, practices, and place names, particularly in public school and parks systems. Gaining access to education about harvesting and traditional foods. Further information on how confidential Indigenous Knowledge and traditional land use information will be protected. Request for ceremony to acknowledge the Project on traditional lands. Specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as leading studies to support the development of the Impact Statement, including Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies, Indigenous Knowledge and land uses, and Indigenous and Treaty Rights. Inclusion of Indigenous Land Use Plans in the preparation of the Impact Statement. Co-drafting portions of the Impact Statement, such as an assessment of the potential impacts of the Project, including cumulative impacts, on the exercise of Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights. Commitment from Canada Nickel to support and fund the desired studies, and for Canada Nickel to provide adequate time to include the results of studies in the Impact Statement. 	<p>Canada Nickel acknowledges that the Project may have an impact on the exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Indigenous Peoples recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i>, 1982, including on Flying Post First Nation. Canada Nickel values, and has, where possible, incorporated the recommendations made by Flying Post First Nation regarding the Project. Responses to Flying Post First Nation's recommendations are provided below.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's recommendations for engagement and collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flying Post First Nation was identified as one of the Indigenous Nations that make up the Crown Consultation list and who were informed of the Project during the Pre-Planning Phase of the Project's impact assessment process. Canada Nickel recognizes the importance of working in partnership with Flying Post First Nation to establish a mutually beneficial, cooperative, and productive relationship centered around transparent information sharing, respectful engagement, open dialogue, and meaningful partnerships. To this end, Canada Nickel has provided resources to support Flying Post First Nation's participation in the assessment process, including the formation of an Impact Assessment Process Agreement, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full participation of Flying Post First Nation in the federal Impact Assessment process. The preparation of its Nation-led studies for the Project (e.g., Socio-economic studies, Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies). Canada Nickel is also negotiating an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Flying Post First Nation. The specific content of the IBA established with Flying Post First Nation is considered confidential, however, the purpose of these agreements is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commitment by Canada Nickel to engage in ongoing consultation with Flying Post First Nation. Opportunities to participate in the benefits of the Project through business, and training, and financial compensation. The development and maintenance of a collaborative relationship between Canada Nickel and Flying Post First Nation with respect to the Project, which recognizes the need for mutual respect, mutual benefit, cooperation and co-existence with Indigenous people. The development and implementation of measures to protect the environment for ongoing and future use by Flying Post First Nation members. To facilitate effective, efficient, and streamlined consultation with Flying Post First Nation by Canada Nickel relating to regulatory permitting, approvals processes, and other environmental matters associated with the Project and Project activities. The basis for legal certainty and the support of Flying Post First Nation for the Project. A detailed description of Canada Nickel's engagement with Flying Post First Nation is provided in Chapter 7. The agreements established with Flying Post First Nation supported the participation of Nation members in baseline studies and arrangements were made for members to attend site visits. Baseline program work plans and schedules were shared with primary community contacts in advance. <p>Since the submission of the Detailed Project Description (DPD), Canada Nickel has continued sharing Project information with Flying Post First Nation based on a current understanding of the Nation's Territory and the terms of the established agreements. The use of data throughout the Impact Statement has been presented according to the preference of Flying Post First Nation through its iterative reviews, its respective policies and protocols,</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.3, 27.4, 27.5.</p> <p>Chapters 7, 12, 21, 22 and 33.</p>

Row No.	Flying Post First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Flying Post First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in the Impact Statement
	<p>bought food as well as to access sufficient traditional foods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to current and future use of lands and resources, including from construction of the rail line, transmission line, and highway relocation; an increase in temporary workers; and perceived and real changes to the visual landscape, air quality, noise and vibrations, and contamination. These Project activities could impact access to harvesting, traplines and hunting camps, wildlife corridors, breeding grounds, and overwintering sites, affect the experience of being on the water, water quality and/or quantity, fish and fishing and the harvesting and gathering of medicines, plants, and mushrooms. Impacts to ceremonial and/or cultural areas including rivers, ecological knowledge, generational knowledge transfer, and culture (community feasts, family traditions), future generations' traditional use. Stockpiles will be visible by land-users, affecting quality of life and ability to enjoy the land as it once was. Effects to the Mattagami River, as the river system is important for the exercise of harvesting rights and other cultural practices and ceremonies. Potential for stockpiled materials to leach toxins into the environment. Effects to country foods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50.3 km west of the PA (Groundhog River [camping, teaching location]) 51.7 km southwest of the PA (Bromley Lake [ancestral place, habitation site]) 57.9 km west of the PA (Ivanhoe River [ceremonial areas]) 92.7 km southwest of the PA (Horwood Lake) 101.0 km southwest of the PA (Ivanhoe Lake [ceremonial areas]) <p>An additional 2 cultural continuity locations were identified by Flying Post First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p> <p>Other features and values identified by Flying Post First Nation are provided in the following rows of this table to facilitate resource-specific responses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional information on follow-up programs and remediation plans, including monitoring for seepage from stockpiles and the tailings facilities over time, and clarifications on monitoring methodology. Consent of Indigenous communities throughout the impact assessment process. Opportunities to verify the Agency's and Canada Nickel's records of Indigenous engagement. Further research and/or assessments are required for a more complete characterization of risks posed by industrial activity to Flying Post First Nation cultural interests, Indigenous rights, and Treaty rights. Need for Indigenous monitors, long-term environmental monitoring, and enforcements mechanisms to mitigate risk of Project impacts. Work with Nations for site reclamation plans. Collaboration with Nations to document country foods in the region. <p>Flying Post First Nation recommends the following considerations regarding Project design and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-contact baseline for temporal scope. To demonstrate the Project's contribution to sustainability, the temporal scope must also assess impacts and or positive effects for at least seven future generations. Alternative corridors for the new 230 kilovolt transmission line corridor, relocated Highway 655, rail spur, and relocated 500 kilovolt transmission line. Potential re-use of excavated waste rock to improve nearby ATV trails. 	<p>consent for its use and public disclosure, and views regarding the characterization of its data and Indigenous Knowledge within the assessment.</p> <p>Canada Nickel recognizes that western knowledge and worldviews, which have been the foundation for current Canadian and provincial legislation, policy, regulation, and institutions, may constrain how Indigenous Knowledge is incorporated in Project planning. Canada Nickel also recognizes that Indigenous Nations are best positioned to identify their priorities and interests, and to share their views in their own words, and that such information requires the same consideration as any other information source (Chapters 7 and 27). Where made available by Flying Post First Nation through engagement, information gathering, and voluntary information sharing, Indigenous Knowledge has been reviewed and incorporated in the Impact Statement, as applicable. Through engagement activities, Flying Post First Nation has been requested to provide feedback with respect to potential impacts of the Project on its rights and interests and has been provided the opportunity to validate the use of its Indigenous Knowledge in the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's recommendation to hold an acknowledgment ceremony for the Project, Canada Nickel acknowledges this request and will continue to engage with Flying Post First Nation's regarding this topic.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for impacts to current and future use of lands, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will develop and implement an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) which will describe the efforts to be taken to manage the effects of the Project on ambient air quality in accordance with provincial regulatory requirements. The AQMP will specify the mitigation measures for the management and reduction of air emissions during Project construction and operations. Primary crushers, secondary crushers and crushed ore Stockpiles will be enclosed and equipped with dust collectors or vent filters as necessary allowing to filter the internal air before the exhaust is released to the environment. Install a trolley-assist system in the Open Pit for haul trucks to reduce diesel fuel combustion during phase 1 of operations. Usage of dust suppressants during non-precipitation days in the summertime. Watering application rates and intervals will be adjusted to achieve the required mitigation efficiency, and additional operational measures that can control water evaporation rates will be implemented if needed. Implement an idling policy on site for mobile equipment and vehicles. Where possible maintain existing vegetation along the haul roads to act as a wind break. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for food security and access to sufficient traditional foods, Chapters 21 and 27 include an assessment of potential effects to the quality of country foods. Chapters 21 and 27 were informed by engagement with Flying Post First Nation and review of the Nation's Socio-economic and Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies. Additional information, including mitigation measures related to potential effects on country foods, are provided below in Rows 3, 5, 6 and 7.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's recommendation for alternative corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project does not include a new transmission line as the Project will connect directly to a 230 kV transmission line constructed and operated by a third party as part of an independent transmission expansion project that is expected to promote stronger electricity reliability for northern communities and Indigenous 	

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				<p>Nations. A Transmission Facilities Class EA was initiated by the third party for the 230 kV transmission line project in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the ore deposit is partially located under the existing Highway 655/500 kV transmission line corridor, realignment of an approximately 26 kilometre (km) segment of the highway and transmission line is required to accommodate the Open Pit and other Project components, since mine operation would not be feasible without relocating the corridor (Chapter 5). Only a single corridor was considered given that using the same physical space (smaller footprint than separate alignments) would be more efficient and result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced potential for environmental effects. • Reduced need for materials needed during construction of the realignment. • Reduced visual clutter by avoiding multiple parallel lines of infrastructure. • The proposed locations of the corridors for facilities and infrastructure ancillary to the Project will be built and/or operated by others but are included in the activities considered in the assessment. Flying Post First Nation's concerns regarding ancillary components will be communicated by Canada Nickel to the third-parties responsible for their construction and/or operation. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for potential impacts to current and future use of lands, Canada Nickel will maintain access to the lower Sturgeon Dam Road and Camp 40 Road for use by Flying Post First Nation.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's recommendation to demonstrate the Project's contribution to sustainability, the Seven Generations Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings were incorporated into the assessment on Sustainability in Chapter 33. In addition, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel regarding sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel has developed and will implement a net-zero plan for the Project and is committed to continuous improvement of the net-zero plan, as new technology becomes available or best practices evolve. • Canada Nickel plans to implement a novel active carbon sequestration process known as the In Process Tailings (IPT) Carbonation process. • Canada Nickel participates in the initiative "Equal by 30," which aims to increase benefits to women and to accelerate gender equality and diversity to close the gender gap by 2030. • Canada Nickel will use autonomous mining trucks which can achieve a higher level of safety and productivity during haulage operations and greatly improve efficiency of overall operations. Improves in efficiency will lower fuel consumption during mining operations and result in lower emissions from diesel combustion. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns specific to accidents and malfunctions, and noise and vibrations, additional information is provided in Row 3.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns specific to measures that will be implemented by Canada Nickel to manage waste rock, including collection and temporary storage, additional information is provided below in Row 6.</p> <p>Chapter 27 (Section 27.5) provides the assessment of Project-related effects and residual cumulative effects specific to and reflective of the interests of Flying Post First Nation. It was informed by the assessment of cumulative effects relative to each of the VCs considered in Chapter 29 of the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Canada Nickel recognizes the interests of Indigenous communities in all aspects of Project activities and environmental protection. Canada Nickel is committed to continue discussing Flying Post First Nation's concern about potential environmental impacts during construction and post-construction activities, as well as the mitigation measures to reduce such impacts.</p>	

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				<p>Canada Nickel will continue to engage Flying Post First Nation to understand and mitigate the Project's impacts on its interests, explore opportunities to enhance Project benefits included in the IBA, and consider its recommendations and input on Project decisions, including the development of management plans and offsetting. Through this ongoing collaboration, Canada Nickel aims to foster a positive long-term relationship with Flying Post First Nation throughout the life of the Project.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures is provided in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
2	<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation commented on the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage resources and structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in or near the Project area (PA), including: sacred, ceremonial, or culturally important places (e.g., waterbodies including the Mattagami River and Abitibi River), plants (e.g., cedar, sage, spruce, sweetgrass), animals (e.g., bald eagles, moose, spirit moose), objects, beings or things and teaching areas used to transfer knowledge between generations; as well as sites occupied historically.</p> <p>Potential effects to cultural heritage identified Flying Post First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding the lack of an archaeological survey within the PA and the absence of an Archaeology and Heritage VC chapter in the Impact Statement. 	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified one potential burial site that intersects the north end of the PA.</p> <p>Additional cultural heritage areas were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [culturally important place]) 36.5 km northeast of the PA (Abitibi River [culturally important place]) 51.7 km southwest of the PA (Bromley Lake [burial grounds]) 92.7 km southwest of the PA (Horwood Lake [pictographs]) 	<p>Flying Post First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to provide input to identifying areas of potential archeological significance and opportunity to review any studies, desktop or otherwise, used to assess the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage features. Establishment a "chance find procedure" to direct proponent on how to respond to a "chance find" having potential archaeological significance. Specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as leading studies to support the development of the Impact Statement, including cultural and physical heritage. 	<p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as, leading studies to support the development of the impact Statement, including an Indigenous-led evaluation of effects on cultural and physical heritage, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Descriptions of the archaeological assessment work undertaken for the Project is provided in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.2.1.7, 27.2.2.7 and 27.2.3.7).</p> <p>Canada Nickel engaged with Indigenous Nations regarding participation in the archaeological program undertaken for the Project. A draft Stage I Archeological Assessment was conducted and reviewed by Flying Post First Nation, and comments and concerns were considered in the preparation of the final version.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on cultural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Stage 2 archeological assessment of areas identified as retaining archaeological potential in the Stage 1 archeological assessment. If archaeological resources are found and determined to have cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) then complete additional recommended work, such as Stage 3 archaeological assessment and, if necessary, Stage 4 mitigation of archaeological resources as per the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's <i>Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists</i>. Prepare and Implement an Archaeological Resources Protection Plan. Canada Nickel will have a Heritage Chance Find Protocol (HCFP) agreed upon between the Indigenous Nations and Canada Nickel. If an archaeological resource is discovered during the construction phase, all construction will cease within a radius of at least 20 m of the archaeological resource. A licensed archaeologist will be retained by Canada Nickel and a Stage 2 AA will be conducted with the participation of any interested Indigenous Nations. Follow-up Stage 3 or Stage 4 archaeological investigations will be conducted, as required. Once any archaeological resources with CHVI have been mitigated through excavation, construction will proceed. Prepare and implement a worker education program about appropriate protocols in case of accidental discoveries. Further assessment in case of changes to the Project Area (PA) through the life of the Project. <p>Additional information regarding Flying Post First Nation specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as, leading studies to support the development of the Impact Statement, is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures is provided in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.2.1.7, 27.2.2.7, 27.2.3.7, 27.4.2 and 27.5.3.</p>
3	<p>Health and Well-Being</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p>	<p>Flying Post First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for diet and harvest studies to adequately understand First Nation 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Flying Post First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity and funding to conduct Nation-led studies for the Project that focus on Indigenous health and socio-economic conditions. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.3, 27.4.3.3, 27.4.4.3,</p>

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	<p>Potential effects to health and well-being identified by Flying Post First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects to country foods. • Effects on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ (including potential increase in human trafficking), and discrimination and violence towards its members, and existing issues of human trafficking in their communities and in the broader region. • Increased risk to Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit people as a result of Project-related work camps, lack of public transit, and increased access to intoxicants. • Lack of a dedicated health centre that results in an insufficient understanding about mental and chronic health issues, as well as safety and security of members. • Impacts to human health, including actual and perceived risks at key receptors due to changes to noise levels, air quality, recreational and drinking water quality, proximity to transmission lines, and accessibility and contamination of country foods. • Effects on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+, and discrimination and violence towards Indigenous Peoples. • Impacts to local community services and infrastructure, including women's shelters, health facilities, mental health and addiction facilities, emergency services, 		<p>community contexts and baseline health profiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibration and noise emissions mitigation and monitoring measures throughout all phases of the Project, including method to address noise complaints. • Characterization of baseline and any modelling for the atmospheric, acoustic, and visual environment needs to be informed by diet and harvest studies. • Engagement of youth in the preparation of the GBA Plus report and the chance for Flying Post First Nation to review report prior to submission. • Promoting increased public awareness of Flying Post First Nation's rights and presence at Flying Post IR 73, and in the region more broadly, to improve safe access in this area. • Reinvestment of Project revenues in Flying Post First Nation cultural programming and infrastructure improvements at Flying Post IR 73. • Specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as the Indigenous-led evaluation of effects on health and socio-economic conditions. • Consider parameters that encourage GBA Plus policy considerations and adoption of Canada Nickel prerogatives in positive relationship building with Indigenous Peoples (e.g., Could include grievance reporting, employee training and policies and practices, support recruitment and retention of Indigenous peoples and codes of conduct that are gender responsive and consider human rights instruments around substance abuse, employee rights and good business practices). 	<p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for impacts to human health and social well-being, including actual and perceived risks, Chapter 21 includes an assessment of effects on changes to physical health, community safety, and mental health and social well-being. This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27 in relation to Flying Post First Nation interests (Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4).</p> <p>Changes in air, water, country foods and sensory disturbances were addressed in the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA). This assessment examined the interactions between measured or modelled concentrations of chemicals in the environment for these components and addressed the potential for these interactions to result in adverse health risks to humans. Chemicals associated with construction, operation and closure of the Project were assessed and toxicological risks were addressed in accordance with regulatory guidelines. The results were considered in the development of mitigation and management measures, and further informed the assessment on Flying Post First Nation interests.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on human health and social well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will develop a Health and Medical Services Plan to manage occupational and non-occupational injuries and illnesses. This will include provision of medical care at the Project site through onsite presence of medical personnel. Canada Nickel will also make available an online physician 24 hours/day. • Canada Nickel has made, and will continue to make, contributions to support social, economic, health, and other activities/programs for local, including Indigenous, communities through its Community Contributions Program. The Program will include a local procurement policy as well as a sponsorship and donation strategy adapted to Canada Nickel's guiding principles and the needs of the communities. • Canada Nickel has developed an internal Whistleblower Program for employee feedback and communication of concerns, as well as an external feedback mechanism to capture Project-related comments and concerns from community members. • Canada Nickel presently has or is in the process of developing several policies, procedures, and training which will mitigate adverse effects on health which include Code of Conduct and Ethics; Violence and Harassment; Diversity and Inclusion; Fit for Duty, including Drug and Alcohol Policy; Cultural Awareness Training. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for impacts to local community services and infrastructure, and consideration of GBA Plus policy considerations, Chapter 27 and Chapter 22 include an assessment of effects on a change in demand for community services and infrastructure, including for Indigenous subgroups. This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27 in relation to Indigenous Interests, including Indigenous determinants of health (Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4).</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on community services and consideration of GBA Plus policy considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will engage with local municipalities on the availability of housing to inform the housing strategy for the area that encourages and provides opportunities for workers to move permanently into the area. • Canada Nickel is in regular communication with local training/education institutions regarding existing, upcoming, and potential course and training offerings, and how this aligns with Canada Nickel's anticipated needs. Canada Nickel continues to explore education, training opportunities and will develop hiring practices that encourages the employment and retention of qualified Indigenous peoples and local community members, including opportunities targeted towards youth • Canada Nickel will explore opportunities to support training, education, and scholarship programs that improve employment opportunities, including participation in and contribution to local training networks, which are 	<p>27.5.4, and 27.5.6.1. Chapters 13, 21, 22 and 31.</p>

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	<p>childcare, and housing availability and pricing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased traffic resulting in increased potential for pedestrian collisions, longer emergency response times, and a general decline in road safety due to an increase in non-local drivers. 			<p>targeted at diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, and various relevant subgroups, such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will communicate Project needs to local accommodation providers, including hotel, motel, and bed-and-breakfast accommodation providers to help secure rooms for construction workers. Canada Nickel will provide security at the Project site. Canada Nickel will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which encompasses respectful workplace behaviours for diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, seniors, 2SLGBTQIA+, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and members of the GBA Plus community. Such a policy and subsequent training consist of awareness training for non-Indigenous employees to foster a respectful working relationship with Indigenous employees and contractors. Canada Nickel will implement traffic control measures, which may include gating approaches to Project access roads and/or gated fencing to restrict public access to the PA. Speed limits will be posted and monitored onsite access roads. Canada Nickel will follow up with contractors on any reports of transport trucks travelling at excessive speeds along the transport route. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for changes in housing availability and pricing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel conducted a housing needs assessment for the Project and determined that there is a sufficient supply of home ownership housing (as opposed to rentals) in the District of Cochrane to support a new workforce. Canada Nickel will engage with local municipalities on the availability of housing to inform the housing strategy for the area that encourages and provides opportunities to move permanently into the area. Canada Nickel will undertake a detailed Project accommodation study based on workforce requirements and develop an Accommodations Management Plan. The presence of the Project may create positive effects for Flying Post First Nation if potential demands on accommodations result in efforts to increase the stock of permanent and temporary housing in the region. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for impacts to human health due to changes to noise levels, as described in Chapter 13, a Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be developed for the Project which will describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for the routine management/maintenance of sources of noise and vibration during construction and operations. Communication protocol requirements and a procedure for verifying and addressing complaints. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for increased pedestrian collisions, Chapter 31 includes an assessment of effects of potential accidents or malfunctions, including safety and mitigation measures, and a Conceptual Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential accidents or malfunctions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will design, construct and operate the Project according to accepted standard practices for healthy, safety and environmental management, to reduce the risk of potential Project-related environmental, health, social and economic effects and effects to Indigenous Nations, including those that could result from accidents or malfunctions. Canada Nickel will maintain construction equipment in good working order and implement careful maintenance and monitoring of all equipment to reduce emissions and the risk of spills or leaks of petroleum-based products. 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will develop and apply procedures and training aimed at safe operation of the Project, that reduce or prevent the potential conditions that may lead to accidents or malfunctions. • Canada Nickel will develop and implement Management Plans for the Project to outline the proposed safety and mitigation measures and commitments to be carried out by Canada Nickel and their contractors. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for potential increases in human trafficking in the region, the GBA Plus analysis conducted in Chapter 27 (informed by the GBA Plus analysis in Chapter 21 Health, Chapter 22 Social Conditions and Chapter 23 Economic Conditions), considers potential effects on and risk of change in safety for Indigenous women and youth (Sections 27.4.3.3, 27.4.4.3, 27.5.6.1). Canada Nickel is committed to providing cultural awareness training to enhance the outside workforces' understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures and to describe the root causes of inequities that Flying Post First Nation's, Matachewan First Nation's, and Mattagami First Nation's experience. Canada Nickel will engage with the Indigenous Nations to develop the cultural awareness training so that it includes topics of importance to the Nations (e.g., Treaty 9; MMIWG). Additionally, Canada Nickel will implement a harassment policy and an internal whistleblower mechanism for confidential reporting of workplace harassment to mitigate disproportionate effects to Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ employed by the Project.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
4	<p><u>Economic Benefits, Investment and Inclusion</u></p> <p>Potential effects to economic benefits, investment, employment and inclusion identified by Flying Post First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased discrimination and/or harassment from outside workforce. 	PA, LSA, RSA	<p>Flying Post First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with First Nations to identify community-specific opportunities to enhance positive impacts (e.g., education and training opportunities, support for community programs, etc.). • Inclusion of traditional practices on-site for Indigenous employees, such as tobacco offering and smudging areas. • Development of employment retention policies specific to Indigenous peoples in consultation with such groups. • The Nation is hopeful that the Project will fund infrastructure (including roads, power lines, water systems, and bridges) as well as language and cultural programs. • Agreements to enable Project remediation will be carried out regardless of future changes of Project ownership. • Reinvestment of Project revenues in education and employment for Flying Post First Nation members. • Increased ownership of Project-related contracts by Flying Post First Nation. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Flying Post First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify economic interests in the Project through an IBA and Impact Assessment Process Agreement. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's recommendation to consider policy guidance development that may be adopted by Subject Matter Experts, including Indigenous businesses to ensure policy alignment between the corporation and contractors, Canada Nickel recognizes the unique role that industry can play in supporting Indigenous Peoples, including supporting equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities. Canada Nickel will therefore place a focus on regional and Indigenous employment when seeking to fill workforce requirements for construction and operation.</p> <p>Canada Nickel has held early discussions with Indigenous Nations, Keepers of the Circle, local colleges, and other regional training institutions around ways to emphasize Indigenous employment in the mining industry.</p> <p>Canada Nickel has provided information about contracting and employment opportunities with Indigenous Nations, as well as obtain information regarding employment interests and the capacity and the capabilities of Indigenous Nations related to Project needs. Canada Nickel is committed to continue discussing potential economic participation in the Project to help build reciprocal business relationships with Flying Post First Nation, including engaging contractors to uphold commitments to encourage participation of local Indigenous services on the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Engagement with Flying Post First Nation throughout the assessment supported Canada Nickel's understanding of the needs of diverse population groups to help enhance employment opportunities through strategic, targeted programs.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will place a focus on regional and Indigenous employment when seeking to fill workforce requirements for construction and operation. Engagement with Flying Post First Nation helps Canada Nickel understand the needs of diverse population groups to help enhance employment opportunities through strategic, targeted programs.</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4.</p> <p>Chapter 23.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and education opportunities. • Support to overcome barriers to employment, improve recruitment, and retention of women in the industry. • Consider policy guidance development that may be adopted by Subject Matter Experts, including Indigenous businesses to ensure policy alignment between the corporation and contractors. 	<p>Through partnerships and discussions with regional training institutions, Canada Nickel hopes that training for the new workforce, per advice and program specifics of regional training institutions, will begin as appropriate on a case-by-case basis to meet anticipated employment opportunities.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on economic conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will explore opportunities to support training, education, and scholarship programs that improve employment opportunities, including participation in and contribution to local training networks, which are targeted at diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, and various relevant subgroups, such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program. • Canada Nickel will increase flexibility in work schedules to enable the continued participation of Indigenous employees in traditional and cultural activities. • Canada Nickel will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which encompasses respectful workplace behaviours for diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, seniors, 2SLGBTQIA+, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and members of the GBA Plus community. Such a policy and subsequent training consist of awareness training for non-Indigenous employees to foster a respectful working relationship with Indigenous employees and contractors. • Canada Nickel will participate in initiatives aimed at addressing inequality among Indigenous populations through working with organizations such as Keepers of the Circle. • Canada Nickel will prepare plans, programs and policies to encourage contracting and procurement opportunities for Indigenous businesses. Such plans will include the enhancement of supplier network development initiatives, including keeping a repository of local and Indigenous suppliers with potential to bid on the Project. Indigenous Nations located near the Project will be directly contacted regarding procurement opportunities from Canada Nickel and Canada Nickel will accommodate barriers there may be to bid on a contract (such as translation services), where feasible. • Canada Nickel commits to consider bids from qualified locally owned businesses first, including those submitted from diverse groups such as Indigenous-owned companies, women-owned companies, 2SLGBTQIA+-owned companies, persons with disabilities-owned companies and visible minority-owned companies, as per Canada Nickel's Local Procurement Policy. • Canada Nickel has and will continue to engage local Indigenous Nations and has established agreements to support present engagement and participation in the Project. <p>Canada Nickel will provide information about contracting and employment opportunities with Flying Post First Nation, as well as obtain information regarding employment interests and the capacity and the capabilities of Flying Post First Nation related to Project needs. Canada Nickel is committed to discussing potential economic participation in the Project to help build reciprocal business relationships Flying Post First Nation, including engaging contractors to uphold commitments to encourage participation of local Indigenous services on the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Canada Nickel is committed to maintaining an updated list of Indigenous businesses and their capacity and capabilities for the Project. This will be done through engagement with Flying Post First Nation to collect, verify, and validate business information on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Canada Nickel's Indigenous subcontracting, employment, and training expectations will be outlined through sourcing events (e.g., request for proposals). The majority of opportunities for contracting and employment will</p>	

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				<p>occur in the construction phase of the Project; however, Canada Nickel will seek to provide economic opportunities for local Indigenous communities throughout all phases of the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's request to include traditional practices on-site for Indigenous employees, such as tobacco offering and smudging areas, Canada Nickel's ongoing negotiations with the Indigenous Nations for Project-related agreements provides the opportunity for the consideration of additional mitigation strategies that may be proposed by the Nations, including discussions focused on the implementation of culturally relevant on-site services important for the retention of Indigenous employees.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures applicable to economic conditions potentially affected by the Project is found in Chapter 23 of the Impact Statement and in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
5	<p><u>Hunting and Trapping, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</u></p> <p>Flying Post First Nation stated that hunting and trapping are key components of the Nation's traditional practices, for year-round sustenance, connection with the land and ancestors, cultural transmission, and economic purposes.</p> <p>Hunted and trapped species of importance to Flying Post First Nation include moose, ruffed grouse (partridge), and rabbit. Moose was identified as a dietary staple for Flying Post First Nation. Flying Post First Nation reported that ruffed grouse harvesting generally occurs in the fall to avoid interrupting their mating season, while rabbit are typically harvested in summer.</p> <p>Other species of importance include marten, beaver, fisher, mink, fox, grey fox, muskrat, squirrel, otter, weasel, rabbit, wolf, coyote, lynx, wolverine, black bear, cougar, boreal caribou, deer, white-tailed deer, geese, eagle (bald eagle), duck, crane, and osprey.</p> <p>Land users added that river systems are important habitat for moose and other resources and harvesting occurs along riverbanks, sometimes accessed by boat.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation explained that these areas have been important over multiple generations and continue to be important for hunting,</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified one subsistence and one environmental hunting and trapping values that intersect the PA.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified one hunting and trapping area that intersects the PA along backroads connecting Highway 655 to Jocko Creek and Mattagami and Lower Sturgeon rivers.</p> <p>Additional hunting and trapping, wildlife and wildlife habitat areas were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.6 km south of the PA (Timmins [hunting]) • 25.6 km southwest of the PA (Malette Road [hunting areas]) • 46.3 km southwest of the PA (Flying Post IR 73) • 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [hunting area]) • 51.7 km southwest of the PA (Bromley Lake [hunting and trapping area]) • 93.4 km southwest of the PA (Foleyet Area [hunting area]) 	<p>Flying Post First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency regarding potential contamination and remediation is essential for restoring the Nation's confidence in harvesting in the study area for future generations. • Herbicides are not used. • Additional baseline studies including the identification of potential hibernacula for bats, potential effects to bats and bat habitat, including methodologies for assessing effects, and associated mitigation measures and their effectiveness. • Mitigation measures regarding birds, migratory birds, and their habitat from accidents, ambient light, interactions with tailings, and disturbance activities. • Additional baseline studies on species at risk, including recovery strategies or plans; the potential effects to species at risk and their habitat from Project activities, such as increased rail and road traffic, increased sensory disturbances, fragmentation of habitat due to new linear corridors and accidents and malfunctions; and the need for associated mitigation measures. • Indigenous participation in wildlife studies. • Support for Flying Post First Nation-led moose studies. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Flying Post First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify wildlife species of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement and for the development of an IBA related to Flying Post First Nation harvesting rights. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation interests, including changes to or loss of access to the land and loss of ability to exercise the right to harvest is provided in Chapter 27, Section 27.5.2.</p> <p>Baseline data for wildlife and wildlife habitats, and birds and bird habitats, were based on a review of background information from publicly available data sources, feedback and engagement with stakeholders, government and Indigenous Nations and site-specific field investigations completed between 2021 and 2023. This included, but was not limited to, surveys of amphibians, bats, moose, and boreal caribou, as well as several bird species, including Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for waterfowl brood, eagle and osprey, species at risk and migratory birds and their habitats, Chapter 18 includes an assessment of effects on birds and bird habitats, including changes to habitat, mortality risk, health, and abundance and distribution. This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27, Section 27.4.1.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on birds and bird habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will restrict clearing to the approved PA. • Canada Nickel will schedule vegetation clearing activities outside the migratory breeding bird period (Zone C5: April 30 to August 20) to reduce the likelihood of disturbing or harming nests of migratory birds, to the extent practical. • If small scale, localized vegetation clearing is required during the migratory bird breeding season and the area can be effectively searched for presence of nests, Canada Nickel will have an experienced biologist/scientist survey for signs of nesting before vegetation removal. • Canada Nickel will complete pre-disturbance surveys to identify any nests that are protected under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> (e.g., Bald Eagle, other raptors) or nests that are protected year-round on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i> (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron). Canada Nickel will not remove these nests unless appropriate permits are in place. • Canada Nickel personnel or contractors will report the discovery of bird nests to appropriate Canada Nickel personal (e.g., the Environmental Department) who will follow appropriate action or follow-up as per the Wildlife Management Plan for the Project. 	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2.</p> <p>Chapters 10, 18, 19 and 22.</p>

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	<p>trapping, and additional activities, including fishing, camping, gathering as a community, snowshoeing and quadding (all-terrain vehicle riding). Potential effects to hunting and trapping, wildlife and wildlife habitat identified by Flying Post First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declining populations of important species and displacement, including moose and bears, as a result of forestry and mining activities, increased traffic and noise. • Lack of wildlife biodiversity as a result of monocropping and pesticide spraying for spruce budworm; effects are being experienced by insects through to small and large animals to humans. • Declining wildlife health, including deformities in harvested animals, attributed to mining and forestry activities (including herbicide spraying). • Physical access barriers to harvesting areas. • Increased presence of and conflict with recreational land users (e.g., off-road vehicle users) and hunters, resulting in concerns to travel to certain areas, particularly with children. • Avoidance of previously preferred harvesting areas because of industrial (e.g., herbicide spraying) activities and concerns about the health of resources as well as increased harvesting pressures. • Effects to community health, as well as psychological health due to fear of consuming wildlife. The First Nation noted that these effects are being experienced intergenerationally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112.9 km southwest of the PA (Ivanhoe [hunting and trapping area]) • 89.1 km southwest of the PA (Oates Road [hunting areas]) • 92.7 km southwest of the PA (Horwood Lake [hunting and trapping area]) • 50.3 km west of the PA (Groundhog River [hunting area]) • 57.9 km west of the PA (Ivanhoe River [moose hunting]) • 37.6 km west of the PA (Nat [hunting and trapping area]) • 65.2 km west of the PA (Nova Road [hunting and trapping area]) • 80.2 km west of the PA (Oswald Lake [hunting and trapping area]) • 168 km south if the PA (Biscotasing [hunting area]) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion in any habitat compensation plans. • Opportunity to be involved with Species at Risk mitigation plans. • Alternative means and mitigation for waste rock, effluent discharge, including site selection, tailings management, and ore processing location. • Provide workforce with training regarding wildlife in the region, including the sacred white moose, and their importance to local Indigenous communities. • Construction of wildlife fences, overpasses and corridors during realignment of HWY 655 to promote protections of moose and other wildlife and the consideration of historical wildlife corridors. • Consideration of regional and local data about wildlife mortalities on highways and roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will provide training for environmental personnel responsible for site monitoring during construction to recognize species at risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC) that may be present in PA, as well as nests protected under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>, and Great Blue Heron and Pileated Woodpecker nests that are protected year-round on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i>. • Consider the needs of bird species at risk (SAR), such as encouraging the development of a high, dense shrub layer to support Canada Warblers. • Canada Nickel will not disturb or destroy active nests of migratory birds, which are protected under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>. Canada Nickel will also comply with the Migratory Bird Regulation, 2022, including the Schedule 1 species (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker and Great Blue Heron). • Canada Nickel will complete pre-disturbance surveys to locate raptor nests and nests of species protected on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Bird Registry, 2022</i> (Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron). • Canada Nickel will notify the Environment and Climate Change Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service of mortality of any migratory bird species at risk (SAR) in the PA. • Canada Nickel will develop and implement a Site-Wide Water Management Plan (Appendix J of the Impact Statement) for the Project that will treat effluent prior to discharge to the environment, which will reduce the likelihood of harmful effects to migratory birds. • Canada Nickel will deploy bird deterrents (e.g., noise makers, wire barricades) as necessary to discourage birds from entering onsite ponds, including the Tailings Management Facility NE and NW Collection Ponds or other project infrastructure that could attract birds. • Canada Nickel will maintain embankments of the Tailings Management Facility and collection ponds to be free of trees and shrubs to limit the attraction of waterfowl and/or wildlife to these ponds for foraging or breeding. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for wildlife biodiversity, declining populations of importance species and displacement of wildlife, Chapter 19 includes an assessment of effects on changes to wildlife and wildlife habitat, including changes in habitat, wildlife movement, mortality risk, health, and abundance and distribution. Key indicator species or wildlife groups selected to assess biodiversity and Project effects include amphibians and reptiles, moose, furbearers, species of conservation concern (midland painted turtle, snapping turtle, monarch and yellow-banded bumble bee) and species at risk (Blanding's turtle, boreal caribou and bats). This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27, Section 27.4.1. The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on wildlife and wildlife habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will prepare and implement a Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan, which will include tailored strategies for species and sensitive habitats that align with the principles of the "hierarchy of mitigation measures." Avoiding and restricting activities during sensitive and crucial timing windows will be prioritized, to the extent practical. • Canada Nickel will maintain vegetation cover along the boundaries of high activity areas (e.g. access roads) to reduce sensory effects such as noise and visual disturbances, where practical. • Canada Nickel will consider wildlife friendly road and railway design principles and features, such as signage, adapting crossings (e.g., culverts) to allow small wildlife passage, speed limits, where relevant and practical. • Canada Nickel will implement measures to deter or exclude wildlife, where feasible. The specific measures and locations will be determined on a case-by-case scenario and will be monitored for effectiveness. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to migratory birds and their habitat from disturbance activities, such as noise and blasting, and the timing of these activities. Effects to boreal caribou and critical habitat. Effects on moose habitat and individuals due to changes in predator and prey relationships, and sensory disturbances related to rail line collisions, noise, and Project emissions. Effects to the Mattagami River and resulting impacts to wildlife and the exercise of harvesting rights. Impacts to waterfowl brood rearing habitat in and near the PA. Impacts to eagle and osprey nesting in or near the PA. Impacts to species at risk. Impact from the use of light fixtures that can potentially disturb nocturnal species such as the common nighthawk and brown myotis. Impacts of the dry stack tailings on fauna. Concerns regarding large mammal surveys including the presence of cougars, and the methods for identifying the presence or absence of sacred white moose. Effects to sacred white moose. Concerns regarding barriers to wildlife movement and the potential for increased wildlife mortality due to increased traffic associated with the Project. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If wildlife is encountered, Project personnel will temporarily suspend activities until the species is out of harm's way. The encounter will be reported to Canada Nickel representative (e.g., environmental department). Canada Nickel will incorporate mitigation measures into the design of the Project and will be included in the Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan to avoid or reduce project-related effects on turtles, boreal caribou and bats. Canada Nickel will implement measures in the Spill Management and Contingency Plan to prevent the release of harmful substances into waters or areas that could be accessed by wildlife. Canada Nickel will develop a follow up and monitoring program focused on biodiversity that will be completed during all Project phases, including prior to construction and extending throughout construction and year one, year five, and every ten years during operations. <p>The Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan provides policy direction for the management and recovery of boreal caribou. This Project occurs within the Kesagami Range area and boreal caribou and their habitat are included in this assessment. Canada Nickel will incorporate the following mitigation measures as it relates to potential Project-related effects on boreal caribou:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wildlife Management Plan will take into consideration Ontario's best management practices for mineral exploration and development activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario. Consideration will be given to the creation of boreal caribou habitat onsite as part of the Mine Development Closure Plan in conjunction with other priorities identified through engagement activities. Obtain an Overall Benefit Permit under the Endangered Species Act, if required, for impacts to Category 3 habitat within the PA. Any permit conditions, including compensation requirements, timing windows, and setbacks, will be integrated into the appropriate management plan (e.g., Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan). <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for increased presence of and conflict with recreational land users, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project due to increased competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will prohibit Project personnel from hunting and bringing firearms to the site while working to limit competition for wildlife. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern specific to effects to country foods and community health, including psychological health, additional information is provided above in Row 3.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern specific to noise and vibrations, and accidents and malfunctions, additional information is provided in the Row 3.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures is provided in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
6	<p><u>Water, Fishing, Fish and Fish Habitat</u></p> <p>Flying Post First Nation reported that fishing is a key component of the</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified one subsistence water</p>	<p>Flying Post First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Groundhog River system and Bromley Lake (sturgeon spawning area) 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Flying Post First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify fish species and habitats of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement. Flying Post First Nation has been and will continue to be engaged regarding water discharge plans.</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2.</p>

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	<p>Nation's traditional practices, for sustenance, engaging with the land, and cultural transmission. It was identified as an important skill to teach to youth and cultural gatherings can also support language learning and learning about traditional medicines. The Nation reported that fishing occurs seasonally when other food sources are unavailable; ice fishing is less common than it was in the past but often families fish in the summer to save for the winter.</p> <p>Fished species of importance to Flying Post First Nation include walleye (pickerel), northern pike (jackfish), perch, sturgeon (a sacred species), bait fish, sauger, sea trout, bass (large and smallmouth), mooneye, sheepshead, goldeye, splake, sucker (white and redhorse), brook trout, burbot, catfish (channel and brown bullhead), lake trout, and lake whitefish.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified Mattagami River as a ceremonial area, and Groundhog River is a drinking water source and swimming area. The First Nation stated that clean water is essential for members' health, wellness, and recreation. Flying Post First Nation cited an oil spill into Boulder Lake near Foleyet and stated that due to a slow response time there is lack of confidence in the health of drinking water and fish in the area.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation stated that while some water bodies are accessed by road systems, others (e.g., Bromley Lake) are more remote and accessed by foot or by river in winter and summer. They noted that water bodies within Flying Post First Nation's Territory support essential fish species but also are also spiritually and historically significant, containing important place names from the early contact period in the region and cabins that have long</p>	<p>and fishing value that intersects the PA.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified three water, fishing and fish habitat areas that intersect the PA at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Driftwood River (fish habitat, fishing area) • West Buskegau River (fish habitat) • Unspecified lakes off Highway 655 (fishing area) <p>Additional water, fishing, fish and fish habitat areas were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [fishing area, water route, water based ceremonial area]) • 36.5 km northeast of the PA (Abitibi River [fish habitat]) • 37.6 km west of the PA (Nat River [fishing area]) • 42.5 km northwest of the PA (Smooth Rock Falls [water source]) • 46.3 km southwest of the PA (Flying Post IR 73 [fishing area]) • 50.3 km west of the PA (Groundhog River [fishing area, sturgeon habitat, drinking water, swimming]) • 51.7 km southwest of the PA (Bromley Lake [fishing area, sturgeon spawning area]) • 57.9 km west of the PA (Ivanhoe River [perch habitat], fishing area]) 	<p>should be protected to support the survival of the species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative means to minimize habitat loss and overprinting of tributaries of the North Driftwood and West Buskegau Rivers. • Defined spatial and temporal boundaries, including the spatial extent of Project effects on the aquatic environment, and a temporal scope that is inclusive of historical activities and legacy effects. • All fish in all life cycle stages in the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA need to be assessed. At minimum, species must also include perch, walleye, and baitfish. • Opportunity to participate and or collaborate on fish and fish habitat studies. • Inclusion of Indigenous groups in all ground and surface water studies. • Inclusion of Indigenous groups in the decision-making process regarding effluent discharge locations. • Opportunity to provide input on the water management plans including dewatering, storm runoff studies, surface water and ground water pond level and water quality monitoring and related emergency warning infrastructure. • Opportunity to provide input on any site-specific closure plans, including decommissioning of ground water wells, water treatment ponds, and water management infrastructure on site. • Further information regarding methodology of fish relocation and the ability to participate in fish relocation programs. • Opportunity to provide input on proposed water-crossing locations. 	<p>Baseline hydrology and aquatics studies have been conducted for comparison to future conditions of nearby water bodies, and results will be shared once available. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Potential effects on fish species of cultural importance to Flying Post First Nation were assessed in Chapters 17 and 21 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>Potential effects on water quality and quantity relative to Flying Post First Nation interests were assessed in Chapters 14 and 15 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation interests, including changes to or loss of access to the land and loss of ability to exercise the right to harvest is provided in Chapter 27 (Section 27.5.2). The assessment also considers cumulative effects on surface water and ground water quality and quantity, and fish and fish habitat. Additional information is provided in Chapter 29.</p> <p>Assessment boundaries (spatial and temporal) are specific to each valued component and are provided in each applicable chapter of the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for changes to water quantity and quality, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit construction footprint (i.e., PA) to the extent possible to reduce the potential for reductions in groundwater recharge, and limit the number of watersheds overprinted by the PA. • Use standard construction methods, such as seepage cutoff collars, where trenches extend below the water table to mitigate preferential flow paths. • Design of the Stockpiles and Impoundment Facility to increase the amount of runoff and reduce the amount of infiltration, thereby reducing the seepage and loading to groundwater. • Implementation of progressive rehabilitation (placement of vegetated soil cover) to reduce infiltration into the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, thereby reducing the amount of water and loading to groundwater and improvements to groundwater quality. • If faults or fractures which act as conduits for increased flow of groundwater are encountered during advancement of the Open Pit, Canada Nickel will evaluate potential impacts from the increased flows and, if necessary, implement grouting or other practical measures to reduce groundwater inflow. • Prepare an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan which will describe spill prevention, contingency planning and reporting practices for the timely and effective response to fuel and other chemical spills. • Install contact water collection ditches around the Stockpiles, Impoundment Facility, and Tailings Management Facility to collect toe seepage and groundwater recharge from these Project components. • Implement progressive rehabilitation (placement of a vegetated soil cover) to reduce infiltration into the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, thereby reducing the amount of water and loading to groundwater and improvements to groundwater quality • Develop and implement a Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage Management Plan to reduce and limit the known and potential risks of ML/ARD associated with the Project, thereby reducing potential effects to water quality. • Monitoring wells upgradient, cross gradient, and downgradient of the Stockpiles will be established to collect groundwater levels and water quality during construction and operations to document changes to groundwater levels and flow and groundwater quality. 	<p>Chapters 3, 10,14, 15, 17 and 21.</p>

Row No.	Flying Post First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Flying Post First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in the Impact Statement
	<p>been present, despite not being able to re-access the area until recently.</p> <p>Potential effects to water, fishing, fish and fish habitat identified by Flying Post First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption of food webs, including insects and fish. • Effects on species at risk such as sturgeon; this may occur with the disruption of natural water flows creating vulnerable pockets of habitat. • Contamination of local waterways and water sources, particularly the Mattagami River, resulting in effects on Flying Post First Nation's ability to practice water-related ceremonies and effects on humans consuming fish from these sources. • Loss of access and physical access barriers to fishing areas, including near Flying Post IR 73 since at least the 1990s. • Increased pressure and competition from recreational anglers resulting in reduced fishing success and threats to the First Nation's food security. • Impacts to safety with paddling or other recreational activities due to concerns about water quality. • Effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites. • Effects to lake sturgeon due to effluent discharge in the Mattagami 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83.6 km southwest of the PA (Boulder Lake [spill site]) • 92.7 km southwest of the PA (Horwood Lake [fishing area]) • 93.4 km southwest of the PA (Foleyet Area [fishing area]) • 101.0 km southwest of the PA (Ivanhoe Lake [fishing area]) • 119.2 km southeast of the PA (Victoria Creek [fishing area]) <p>An additional two mapped water and fishing locations were identified by Flying Post First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate storm water management on-site to ensure contaminated/contact-water is treated as required before discharge to the environment. • Opportunity to review Overburden Management Plan. • Long-term assessment of potential for metal leaching or acid mine drainage. • Information about navigability of waterways, traditional use of waterways for navigation, and proposed mitigation measures. • The need for mitigation measures for effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites. • Work with Nations to develop fisheries offsetting plans. • Measures to prevent and avoid accidents, including release of hazardous materials, spills, transportation and storage of dangerous goods, tailings dam breach, and forest fires (from increased rail traffic); and details of plans to notify, involve and communicate with local residents, including Indigenous residents and in Indigenous languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A representative subset of monitoring wells will be instrumented with data loggers to collect regular groundwater levels. Groundwater levels will be manually measured, and data loggers download in spring, summer, and fall, as possible. • Groundwater quality samples from monitoring wells will be monitored in spring, summer, and fall, as possible, during construction, operations and decommissioning and closure with the frequency progressively reduced based on monitoring results and Project phase. Winter groundwater sampling is not feasible as, based on the baseline data, the monitoring wells are generally frozen and not possible to sample. Groundwater quality samples will be analyzed for general chemistry and select dissolved metals. • Water discharges to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River will be balanced to the extent feasible to maintain watercourse flows. • Canada Nickel will design the seepage collection ditches to intercept shallow groundwater seepage from the Tailings Management Facility, ore Stockpiles and Impoundment Facility. • Canada Nickel will implement water treatment through use of a water treatment plant to received discharge from the Tailings Management Facility, collection ponds, and will use proven processes to treat the water to meet regulatory effluent criteria prior to discharge to the environment. • Canada Nickel will verify the adequacy and effectiveness of mitigation measures for surface water quantity and quality through implementation of a follow-up and monitoring program. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for impacts to fish species, spawning locations, and effects from fish relocation, Chapter 17 contains an assessment of existing conditions for fish and fish habitat, which were informed from a desktop review of existing reports, provincial and federal datasets, Indigenous Knowledge provided by Indigenous Nations, and a three-year field program conducted between 2021 and 2023. Additional sampling was also completed in the North Driftwood and West Buskegau Rivers in spring 2024 for the Fish and Fish Habitat Baseline report. The chapter identifies a total of 29 fish species that were identified including, but not limited to, perch, walleye (pickerel) and small-bodied fish such as the fathead minnow and northern redbelly dace.</p> <p>As described in Chapter 17, lake sturgeon was identified as a species of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations, and it was included as a focal fish species in the assessment of effects on Fish and Fish Habitat.</p> <p>A summary of potential residual and cumulative effects to fish and fish habitat related to Flying Post First Nation interests was provided in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on fishing, fish and fish habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will limit the construction footprint (i.e., PA) to the extent possible to limit the number of subwatersheds overprinted by the PA and to avoid larger watercourses (e.g. the West Buskegau River) and lakes (e.g. Martin Lake). • Canada Nickel will progressively reclaim mine infrastructure to reduce erosion and sediment loading to streams. • Canada Nickel will implement fish habitat compensation measures for unavoidable harm to fish habitat to satisfy requirements under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> to offset serious harm caused by Project-related activities. • Canada Nickel will apply natural channel design principles to appropriately design and dimension the North Driftwood Diversion Channel. • Canada Nickel will implement a no-fishing policy in watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA by all Project personnel while on-shift. 	

Row No.	Flying Post First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Flying Post First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in the Impact Statement
	<p>River and noise and vibrations from blasting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects to potable water sources and water intake at Smooth Rock Falls. • Effects to navigable waters and navigation by Indigenous peoples. • Effects to water quality and quantity, including contamination from discharge, runoff, or seepage from water-crossings, waste rock stockpiles, ore stockpiles, overburden stockpiles, and the tailings management facility. • Effects to water quantity, quality, including sedimentation, and associated risks of mercury mobilization. • Loss of natural waterbodies. • Changes to groundwater-surface water interactions. • Impacts to aquatic life and traditional fishing activities in the Mattagami River including sturgeon, suckers and spawning areas. • Plans regarding the dewatering and diversion of any waterbodies since water management is a sacred First Nation responsibility to protect. • Potential for water-crossings to become inputs of contamination. • Impacts to pickerel (walleye) spawning locations. • Location, construction, and operation of crossing over Victoria Creek and how it could affect fish. • Impacts to the presence of pickerel (walleye) within the Indigenous Interests LSA and scoping the species into the Fish and Fish Habitat VC. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will develop an Explosives Management Plan which will describe the safe use and storage of explosives and explosive components at the Project site. This plan will consider the Guidelines for Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters. • Canada Nickel will verify the adequacy and effectiveness of mitigation measures for changes to fish habitat and fish health, growth and survival, through the implementation of a follow-up and monitoring program. • If an unexpected deterioration of the environment is observed as part of follow-up and/or monitoring, Canada Nickel will employ intervention mechanisms which will include the adaptive management process. This will include an investigation of the cause of the deterioration and identification of existing and/or new mitigation measures to be implemented to address it, if needed. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concern for regarding hazardous waste rock, effluent discharge, seepage, and disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, Canada Nickel prepared a Conceptual Closure Plan (Appendix F) to provide the rehabilitation measures to be implemented during closure for the purposes of fully evaluating the potential effects and necessary mitigation and monitoring measures for the Project and to provide the basis for future planning and design updates.</p> <p>The Project will utilize two Ore Stockpiles located east and west of the Open Pit, and an impoundment facility (including rock impoundment, sand and till impoundment, and clay impoundment) to the north of the Open Pit. The Tailings Management Facility will be located to the south and will be progressively raised as the volume of the tailings increases.</p> <p>Hydrologic modelling is being completed to predict the time to fill the pit lake and the ultimate discharge rate from the pit lake rate at the East and West spillways. Preliminary hydrological modelling suggests greater than 100 years for the Open Pit to fill to the design elevation of 272.5 m above mean sea level. Water quality modelling of the pit lake is being completed to assess water quality and will consider inputs to the Open Pit from atmospheric precipitation, runoff from rock and ore exposed on pit walls, groundwater inflows, and interactions of the pit lake water with the tailings used to backfill the Open Pit.</p> <p>The tailings placed in the Open Pit and the pit wall rock are predicted to be not potentially acid generating. Preliminary metal leaching rates are predicted to result in runoff and seepage quality that meets the Provincial Water Quality Objectives. Based on existing geochemistry data, no further water treatment is anticipated in closure. Two passive spillway channels are expected to be constructed to connect the open pit to natural, adjacent waterbodies once water quality is stable and meets the criteria for discharge.</p> <p>The water quality from the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, and pit lake have been predicted using a site wide water balance and water quality model. The modelling approach incorporates conservative assumptions to support the assessment of potential effects for the Impact Statement. As the project progresses modeling will be updated, contingency measures (potentially including passive treatment systems such as wetland treatment) will be identified based on those updates.</p> <p>Filling of the pit will commence during Project operations. During operations, Open Pit groundwater and surface runoff from haul roads and the pits will be pumped to the Tailings Management Facility Northwest and Northeast Collection Ponds. As per mining best practice, perimeter collection ditching will be constructed to intercept shallow groundwater seepage at the toe of stockpiles and dams. Non-contact water will be diverted around mine infrastructure to reduce the amount of water needing to be managed and to maintain existing flow to the adjacent watercourses to the extent possible. Effluent will be treated prior to discharge to the receiving environment, as required, to meet regulatory effluent criteria as well as criteria developed through the receiving watercourse Assimilative Capacity Assessment. A water treatment plant will receive discharge from the tailings pond and use proven processes to treat the water to meet regulatory effluent criteria prior to discharge to the environment.</p>	

Row No.	Flying Post First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Flying Post First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in the Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past and potential future impacts to natural springs. Effects on current and future generations' ability to fish during operation, post closure and reclamation. 			<p>A detailed water balance and water management plan has been developed. Additional information is provided in Chapter 3. In addition, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project from waste rock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply best management practices to promote terrain stability via recontouring, terracing or benching and maintaining slope gradients for all excavated areas and stockpiled materials through the duration of the Project for construction activities. At closure, Canada Nickel will conduct a slope stability assessment to demonstrate the long-term physical stability of the Open Pit and the Impoundment Facility. For the TMF embankments, Canada Nickel will demonstrate that the requirements set out by the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management or and Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines for long-term care are met. <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nations concerns specific to effects to noise and vibrations, and community health, including psychological health, additional information is provided above in Row 3.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will continue to engage Flying Post First Nation to seek its recommendations regarding sites that should be considered for conservation and reclamation efforts.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures is provided in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
7	<p>Vegetation and Plant Gathering</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified food plants and medicines as important to citizens' nutrition and health and the continuation of traditional healing and cultural practices, which are passed intergenerationally. Land users stated that plant use and knowledge of plants is an important aspect of knowledge transmission and connecting youth with the land.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation stated that plant harvesting is a right-based value and an important part of Indigenous identity. Land users stated that plant harvesting sometimes occurs opportunistically, while performing other activities, such as travelling or camping.</p> <p>Food plants and medicines of importance to Flying Post First Nation include but are not limited to pin cherry, wild blueberry, wild cranberry, wild raspberry, wild strawberry, gooseberry, and bark. Sage, sweetgrass, tamarack, hazelnut, pearly everlasting, fireweed, mushrooms, Labrador tea, wild rice,</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified one subsistence food plant and medicine value that intersects the PA.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation identified one berry and medicine gathering area within the PA.</p> <p>Additional vegetation and plant gathering areas were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 km southeast of the PA (Bigwater Lake [gathering area]) 25.6 km southwest of the PA (Malette Road [gathering area]) 46.3 km southwest of the PA (Flying Post IR 73 [harvesting area]) 50.3 km west of the PA (Groundhog River [plant gathering, medicine]) 	<p>Flying Post First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to protect the integrity and functionality of the PA for future generations. Input on dust management plans and consultation on dust suppressants to be used on the Project. Involvement in monitoring of medicines, plants or berries that are affected by fugitive dust. Implementation of best practices in the maintenance (e.g., aeration, maintain microflora/fauna) of soil (overburden) piles that would be used in progressive reclamation. Flying Post First Nation wants to reduce the potential need of disturbing/soil stripping an area to provide the topsoil required for revegetation. Using plants of cultural significance during site reclamation and revegetation. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Flying Post First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify plant species of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Potential effects on plant species of cultural importance to Flying Post First Nation, including those used as medicines or country foods, were assessed in Chapters 16 and 21 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Section 27.4.1).</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Flying Post First Nation interests, including plants present in its Traditional Territory, is provided in Chapter 27 (Section 27.5.2). The assessment of cumulative effects on Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments is provided in Chapter 29.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will notify and work with Indigenous Nations who have expressed an interest in harvesting plants within the PA before construction to provide safe access for these activities, prior to any clearing occurring.</p> <p>The Project's proposed tailings management facility will be operated as a "thickened tailings cone" and is described further in Chapter 3, Section 3.3.4. Canada Nickel will not have dry stack tailing storage.</p> <p>Regarding Flying Post First Nation's concerns for effects to muskeg and evaluated wetlands in the PA, and plans for invasive plant management and revegetation methods, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on vegetation, wetlands and plant gathering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will notify and work with Indigenous Nations who have expressed an interest in harvesting plants within the PA before construction to provide safe access for these activities, prior to any clearing occurring. Canada Nickel will mark clearing boundaries prior to site preparation to maintain clearing activities within the designated footprint. Restrict clearing to the approved PA. Implement industry-standard management practices to reduce and control the introduction or spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds, such as development of a clean equipment protocol. Progressively revegetate disturbed areas in the PA to reduce the potential for colonization of disturbed areas by invasive plant species. Where invasive plant species are discovered within the Project Area, Canada Nickel will implement vegetation 	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2.</p> <p>Chapters 3, 16, 19, 21 and 29.</p>

Row No.	Flying Post First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Flying Post First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in the Impact Statement
	<p>and tobacco were also identified as culturally important.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation reported that berry-picking generally occurs mid- to late-summer and stated that there are ceremonial practices associated with plant harvesting.</p> <p>To access harvesting areas, Flying Post First Nation reported using a variety of methods, including using highways, backroads (including unpaved forestry roads), and trails, travelling on foot or vehicle, including all-terrain vehicle. They stated that these routes allow access to a variety of culturally important plants and habitats.</p> <p>Flying Post First Nation stated that access to quality and abundance of resources, variety of culturally important ecosystems, and preferred areas is necessary for the continued ability to enjoy and benefit from plant foods and medicines.</p> <p>Potential effects to gathering identified by Flying Post First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced access to and ability to harvest food plants and medicines within its Territory, and on the ability to maintain cultural practices. • Effects on the abundance, quality, and productivity (e.g., bearing fruit) of culturally important plants, attributed to forestry activities, including logging and herbicide spraying, and soil contamination. • Avoidance of plants, including berries that have been sprayed and health concerns about the wildlife eating the berries. • Effects to muskeg and unevaluated wetlands in the PA. • Impacts to natural carbon sequestration, and from forest 	<p>gathering, blueberry, raspberry, cranberry picking))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87.9 km southwest of the PA (Palomar Lake [harvesting area]) • 93.4 km southwest of the PA (Foleyet Area [gathering area]) • 101.0 km southwest of the PA (Ivanhoe Lake [harvesting area]) <p>An additional 5 food plants and medicines locations were identified by Flying Post First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>		<p>control to eliminate the occurrence and prevent further spread. Use only native Ontario species and nurse crops when conducting progressive reclamation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate plant species at risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC) in reclamation planting activities planning, if and where habitat is deemed suitable. • Incorporate plant species of importance to Indigenous Nations into progressive reclamation and planting associated with decommissioning and closure of the site. • Avoid or reduce vegetation clearing activities within identified areas of plant species of management concern (SOMC) within the Project Area (if present), where practical. • Incorporate rare vegetation communities into reclamation planning for progressive reclamation and eventual decommissioning and closure of the site where appropriate and feasible. • When crossing watercourses and wetlands that will be preserved over the Project duration with linear features such as roads, Canada Nickel will maintain hydrological connectivity using appropriately sized culverts to reduce impacts on riparian vegetation. • Incorporate wetlands into reclamation planning to re-establish wetlands, where practical. Canada Nickel will undertake vegetation test plots to identify suitable reclamation options. <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures applicable to vegetation, riparian and wetland environments potentially affected by the Project is found in Chapter 16 of the Impact Statement and in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	

Row No.	Flying Post First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Flying Post First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in the Impact Statement
	fragmentation and contamination of vegetation from fugitive dust, metals, and nitrogen from explosives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for invasive plant management and revegetation methods. • Impacts to plant harvesting caused by increased population. • Impacts of the dry stack tailings on flora. • Abundance and quality of medicinal plants present within the PA and potential impacts on harvesting sites and site reclamation following decommissioning. 				

Note:

¹ A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).

SOURCES:

Feedback obtained through Canada Nickel Project-specific engagement with Flying Post First Nation. Refer to Chapter 7 of the Impact Statement for additional details.

Flying Post First Nation. 2023a. Flying Post First Nation Knowledge and Use Study for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Nickel Project.

Flying Post First Nation. 2023b. Flying Post First Nation Socio-economic Study for Canada Nickel Company's [Crawford] Nickel Sulphide Project.

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC 2023). Crawford Nickel Project – Impact Assessment Agency of Canada responses to comments received during the Planning Phase (August 8, 2022, to March 08, 2023). Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #101). Available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/153115>. Accessed January 2024.

Matachewan First Nation, Mattagami First Nation and Flying Post First Nation 2023. Comments from Matachewan, Mattagami and Flying Post First Nations on the draft TIS Guidelines for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Project Impact Assessment. Submitted on March 8, 2023. Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #77). Available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857/contributions/id/59457>. Accessed January 2024.

Matachewan First Nation, Mattagami First Nation and Flying Post First Nation 2022. Matachewan, Mattagami and Flying Post First Nations Values, Concerns and Comments for Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Project Impact Assessment: Initial Project Description September 2022. Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #36). Available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83857/contributions/id/58780>. Accessed January 2024.

Attachment 27.2 **Matachewan First Nation Engagement**
Outcomes for the Crawford Nickel Project (the
Project)

Matachewan First Nation Engagement Outcomes for the Crawford Nickel Project

Row No.	Matachewan First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Matachewan First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
1	<p>Cultural Continuity</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation reported that cultural continuity is understood as the ability to carry on the traditions of a given culture and to pass them on to future generations.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation articulated the importance of cultural continuity and further noted that a set of preconditions for Matachewan cultural continuity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of Matachewan Treaty rights. • Protection of children and elders. • Transmission of knowledge through intergenerational interaction in both urban and rural or remote settings. • Access to land and resources that are close, safe, and productive. • Access to areas of ancestral significance, including gathering places, burial sites, and family cabins. • Access to areas that are uncrowded and undisturbed by industrial activity. • Dedicated time spent on the land for parents, children, extended families, and community members, including time spent away from school. 	<p>Project Area (PA), Local Study Area (LSA) and Regional Study Area (RSA)</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation identified one cultural continuity feature within the PA.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation identified the following cultural activities and ceremonial practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [cultural area, country foods]) • 4.1 km southeast of the PA (Bigwater Lake [swimming area]) <p>Two habitation areas and two cultural areas were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Cedar Meadows (cultural area), Ice Chest Lake (habitation area), Connaught (habitation area), and Magusi River (cultural area).</p> <p>An additional 10 mapped cultural continuity features (approximately) were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p> <p>Other features and values identified by Matachewan First Nation are provided in the following rows of this table to facilitate resource-specific responses.</p>	<p>Matachewan First Nation recommends the following considerations for engagement and collaboration with Canada Nickel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of and support for ongoing Matachewan-led environmental monitoring of the Project Area (PA). • Improved communication between Canada Nickel and Matachewan regarding anticipated road closure timelines. • Monthly newsletters to First Nation communities should be provided to disclose Project timelines and next steps. • Further information on decommissioning and closure plans. • Incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge into the Impact Statement and the protection of confidential information. • Engagement by Canada Nickel on all aspects of the Project. • Consultation on the location of any new access roads that could lead to increased access by non-members to areas used for harvesting by members. • Work with Nations for site reclamation plans. • Collaboration with Nations to document country foods in the region. • Request to have a ceremony to acknowledge the Project on traditional lands. <p>Matachewan First Nation recommends the following considerations regarding Project design and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assured remediation processes to return the Project footprint to pre-Project baseline 	<p>Canada Nickel acknowledges that the Project may have an impact on the exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Indigenous Peoples recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i>, 1982, including on Matachewan First Nation. Canada Nickel values, and has, where possible, incorporated the recommendations made by Matachewan First Nation regarding the Project. Responses to Matachewan First Nation's recommendations are provided below.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendations for engagement and collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matachewan First Nation was identified as one of the Indigenous Nations that make up the Crown Consultation list and who were informed of the Project during the Pre-Planning Phase of the Project's impact assessment process. Canada Nickel recognizes the importance of working in partnership with Matachewan First Nation to establish a mutually beneficial, cooperative, and productive relationship centered around transparent information sharing, respectful engagement, open dialogue, and meaningful partnerships. • To this end, Canada Nickel has provided resources to support Matachewan First Nation's participation in the assessment process, including the formation of an Impact Assessment Process Agreement, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full participation of Matachewan First Nation in the federal Impact Assessment process. • The preparation of its Nation-led studies for the Project (e.g., Socio-economic studies, Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies). • Canada Nickel is also negotiating an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Matachewan First Nation. The specific content of the IBA established with Matachewan First Nation is considered confidential, however, the purpose of these agreements is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment by Canada Nickel to engage in ongoing consultation with Matachewan First Nation. • Opportunities to participate in the benefits of the Project through business, and training, and financial compensation. • The development and maintenance of a collaborative relationship between Canada Nickel and Matachewan First Nation with respect to the Project, which recognizes the need for mutual respect, mutual benefit, cooperation and co-existence with Indigenous people. • The development and implementation of measures to protect the environment for ongoing and future use by Matachewan First Nation members. • To facilitate effective, efficient, and streamlined consultation with Matachewan First Nation by Canada Nickel relating to regulatory permitting, approvals processes, and other environmental matters associated with the Project and Project activities. • The basis for legal certainty and the support of Matachewan First Nation for the Project. <p>A detailed description of Canada Nickel's engagement with Matachewan First Nation is provided in Chapter 7.</p> <p>The agreements established with Matachewan First Nation supported the participation of Nation members in baseline studies and arrangements were made for members to attend site visits. Baseline program work plans and schedules were shared with primary community contacts in advance.</p> <p>Since the submission of the Detailed Project Description (DPD), Canada Nickel has continued sharing Project information with Matachewan First Nation based on a current understanding of the Nation's Territory and the terms of the established agreements. The use of data throughout the Impact Statement has been presented according to the preference of Matachewan First Nation through its iterative reviews, its respective policies and protocols, consent for its use and public disclosure, and views regarding the characterization of its data and Indigenous Knowledge within the assessment.</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.3, 27.4, 27.5.</p> <p>Chapters 10 to 23, 29 and 33.</p>

Row No.	Matachewan First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Matachewan First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<p>Potential effects to cultural continuity identified by Matachewan First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts to current and future use of lands and resources, including from construction of the rail line, transmission line, and highway relocation; an increase in temporary workers; and perceived and real changes to the visual landscape, air quality, noise and vibrations, and contamination. These Project activities could impact access to harvesting, traplines and hunting camps, wildlife corridors, breeding grounds, and overwintering sites, impact the experience of being on the water, water quality and/or quantity, fish and fishing and impact harvesting and gathering of medicines, plants, and mushrooms. • Effects to the Mattagami River, as the river system is important for the knowledge. • Foreclosure of Matachewan members' options to use the Project Area (PA) in the future. • Displacement of Matachewan culture camps from the PA. • Avoidance of the PA for aesthetic enjoyment. • Spiritual impacts resulting from industrial activity. • Potential for stockpiled materials to leach toxins into the environment. • Effects to country foods. 		<p>conditions once operations have concluded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assured access to the local and regional PAs for Matachewan members for the purpose of exercising hunting, fishing, and harvesting rights. • The environmental impact assessment process should use the Seven Generations teachings to frame and assess impacts. • Alternative corridors for the new 230 kilovolt transmission line corridor, relocated Highway 655, rail spur, and relocated 500 kilovolt transmission line. • Potential re-use of excavated waste rock to improve nearby ATV trails. • Vibration and noise emissions mitigation and monitoring measures throughout all phases of the Project, including method to address noise complaints. • Inclusion of Indigenous Land Use Plans in the preparation of the Impact Statement. • Pre-contact baseline for temporal scope. To demonstrate the Project's contribution to sustainability the temporal scope must also assess impacts and or positive effects for at least seven generations. • Characterization of baseline and any modelling for the atmospheric, acoustic, and visual environment needs to be informed by diet and harvest studies. 	<p>Canada Nickel recognizes that western knowledge and worldviews, which have been the foundation for current Canadian and provincial legislation, policy, regulation, and institutions, may constrain how Indigenous Knowledge is incorporated in Project planning. Canada Nickel also recognizes that Indigenous Nations are best positioned to identify their priorities and interests, and to share their views in their own words, and that such information requires the same consideration as any other information source (Chapters 7 and 27). Where made available by Matachewan First Nation through engagement, information gathering, and voluntary information sharing, Indigenous Knowledge has been reviewed and incorporated in the Impact Statement, as applicable. Through engagement activities, Matachewan First Nation has been requested to provide feedback with respect to potential impacts of the Project on its rights and interests and has been provided the opportunity to validate the use of its Indigenous Knowledge in the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation to hold an acknowledgment ceremony for the Project, Canada Nickel acknowledges this request and will continue to engage with Matachewan First Nation regarding this topic.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for the displacement of Matachewan culture camps and spiritual impacts resulting from industrial activity, Chapter's 27 and 22 includes an assessment of potential effects on cultural continuity and cultural connectedness. As described in these chapters, Canada Nickel is developing several policies, procedures, and training which will mitigate adverse effects on social conditions (Code of Conduct and Ethics, Violence and Harassment, Diversity and Inclusion, Fit for Duty, including Drug and Alcohol Policy, Cultural Awareness Training).</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation for alternative corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project does not include a new transmission line as the Project will connect directly to a 230 kV transmission line constructed and operated by a third party as part of an independent transmission expansion project that is expected to promote stronger electricity reliability for northern communities and Indigenous Nations. A Transmission Facilities Class EA was initiated by the third party for the 230 kV transmission line project in 2023. As the ore deposit is partially located under the existing Highway 655/500 kV transmission line corridor, realignment of an approximately 26 kilometre (km) segment of the highway and transmission line is required to accommodate the Open Pit and other Project components, since mine operation would not be feasible without relocating the corridor (Chapter 5). Only a single corridor was considered given that using the same physical space (smaller footprint than separate alignments) would be more efficient and result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced potential for environmental effects. • Reduced need for materials needed during construction of the realignment. • Reduced visual clutter by avoiding multiple parallel lines of infrastructure. • The proposed locations of the corridors for facilities and infrastructure ancillary to the Project will be built and/or operated by others but are included in the activities considered in the assessment. Matachewan First Nation's concerns regarding ancillary components will be communicated by Canada Nickel to the third-parties responsible for their construction and/or operation. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for effects to country foods, Chapters 21 and 27 include an assessment of potential effects to the quality of country foods. Chapters 21 and 27 were informed by engagement with Matachewan First Nation and review of the Nation's Socio-economic and Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies. Additional information, including mitigation measures related to potential effects on country foods, are provided below in Rows 3, 5, 6 and 7.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for potential impacts to current and future use of lands and resources due to changes in air quality, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will develop and implement an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) which will describe the efforts to be taken to manage the effects of the Project on ambient air quality in accordance with provincial regulatory requirements. The AQMP will specify the mitigation measures for the management and reduction of air emissions during Project construction and operations. 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary crushers, secondary crushers and crushed ore Stockpiles will be enclosed and equipped with dust collectors or vent filters as necessary allowing to filter the internal air before the exhaust is released to the environment. • Install a trolley-assist system in the Open Pit for haul trucks to reduce diesel fuel combustion during phase 1 of operations. • Usage of dust suppressants during non-precipitation days in the summertime. Watering application rates and intervals will be adjusted to achieve the required mitigation efficiency, and additional operational measures that can control water evaporation rates will be implemented if needed. • Implement an idling policy on site for mobile equipment and vehicles. • Where possible maintain existing vegetation along the haul roads to act as a wind break. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for potential impacts to current and future use of lands and resources due to noise and vibration, a Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be developed for the Project which will describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for the routine management/maintenance of sources of noise and vibration during construction and operations. • Communication protocol requirements and a procedure for verifying and addressing complaints. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's request for further information on decommissioning and closure plans, as described in Chapter 19, the closure plan will indicate how the Project will be responsibly and safely decommissioned, reclaimed, and closed in a manner that reduces environmental impacts and promotes restoration of wildlife habitat. The plan will include measures for environmental remediation, land rehabilitation, water management, and community engagement so that the site is returned to a safe and stable condition. The goal is to mitigate any potential long-term environmental and social risks associated with mining activities.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for potential impacts to current and future use of lands, Canada Nickel will maintain access to the lower Sturgeon Dam Road and Camp 40 Road for use by Matachewan First Nation.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation to demonstrate the Project's contribution to sustainability, the Seven Generations Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings were incorporated into the assessment on Sustainability in Chapter 33. In addition, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel regarding sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel has developed and will implement a net-zero plan for the Project and is committed to continuous improvement of the net-zero plan, as new technology becomes available or best practices evolve. • Canada Nickel plans to implement a novel active carbon sequestration process known as the In Process Tailings (IPT) Carbonation process. • Canada Nickel participates in the initiative "Equal by 30," which aims to increase benefits to women and to accelerate gender equality and diversity to close the gender gap by 2030. • Canada Nickel will use autonomous mining trucks which can achieve a higher level of safety and productivity during haulage operations and greatly improve efficiency of overall operations. Improves in efficiency will lower fuel consumption during mining operations and result in lower emissions from diesel combustion. <p>Chapter 27 (Section 27.5) provides the assessment of Project-related effects and residual cumulative effects specific to and reflective of the interests of Matachewan First Nation. It was informed by the assessment of residual effects for bio-physical and social and economic VCs (Chapters 10 to 23) and the cumulative effects assessments for each of the VCs considered in Chapter 29 of the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Canada Nickel recognizes the interests of Indigenous Nations in all aspects of Project activities and environmental protection. Canada Nickel is committed to continue discussing Matachewan First Nation's concern about potential environmental impacts during construction and post-construction activities, as well as the mitigation measures to reduce such impacts.</p>	

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				<p>Canada Nickel will continue to engage Matachewan First Nation to understand and mitigate the Project's impacts on its interests, explore opportunities to enhance Project benefits included in the IBA, and consider its recommendations and input on Project decisions, including the development of management plans and offsetting. Through this ongoing collaboration, Canada Nickel aims to foster a positive long-term relationship with Matachewan First Nation throughout the life of the Project.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation specific to measures that will be implemented by Canada Nickel to manage waste rock, including collection and temporary storage, additional information is provided below in Row 6.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to accidents and malfunctions, additional information is provided below in Row 3.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures is provided in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
2	<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation commented on the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage resources and structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance in or near the PA, including sacred, ceremonial, or culturally important places (e.g., waterbodies including the Mattagami River and Abitibi River), plants (e.g., cedar, sage, spruce, sweetgrass), animals (e.g., bald eagles, moose, spirit moose), objects, beings or things and teaching areas used to transfer knowledge between generations, as well as sites occupied historically.</p> <p>Potential effects to cultural heritage identified Matachewan First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding the lack of an archaeological survey within the PA and the absence of an Archaeology and Heritage VC chapter in the Impact Statement. 	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation identified one potential burial site that intersects the north end of the PA.</p> <p>An additional cultural heritage area was identified at a location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [culturally important place]) <p>One culturally important place and two locations of historic battles were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Abitibi River (culturally important place), Nighthawk Lake (location of historic battle), and Frederick House Lake (location of historic battle).</p>	<p>Matachewan First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to provide input to identifying areas of potential archaeological significance and opportunity to review any studies, desktop or otherwise, used to assess the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage features. Establishment a "chance find procedure" to direct Canada Nickel on how to respond to a "chance find" having potential archaeological significance. Establishment of "no-go" or buffer zones for archaeological resources (if present) in the PA, and provided an example of the Powell township, specifically the Montreal River that is currently identified as a "no-go" zone due to the presence of archaeological resources. 	<p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as, leading studies to support the development of the impact Statement, including an Indigenous-led evaluation of effects on cultural and physical heritage, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Descriptions of the archaeological assessment work undertaken for the Project is provided in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.2.1.7, 27.2.2.7 and 27.2.3.7).</p> <p>Canada Nickel engaged with Indigenous Nations regarding participation in the archaeological program undertaken for the Project. A draft Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was conducted and reviewed by Matachewan First Nation, and comments and concerns were considered in the preparation of the final version.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on cultural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Stage 2 archeological assessment of areas identified as retaining archaeological potential in the Stage 1 archeological assessment. If archaeological resources are found and determined to have cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) then complete additional recommended work, such as Stage 3 archaeological assessment and, if necessary, Stage 4 mitigation of archaeological resources as per the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's <i>Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists</i>. Prepare and Implement an Archaeological Resources Protection Plan. Canada Nickel will have a Heritage Chance Find Protocol (HCFP) agreed upon between the Indigenous Nations and Canada Nickel. If an archaeological resource is discovered during the construction phase, all construction will cease within a radius of at least 20 m of the archaeological resource. A licensed archaeologist will be retained by Canada Nickel and a Stage 2 AA will be conducted with the participation of any interested Indigenous Nations. Follow-up Stage 3 or Stage 4 archaeological investigations will be conducted, as required. Once any archaeological resources with CHVI have been mitigated through excavation, construction will proceed. Prepare and implement a worker education program about appropriate protocols in case of accidental discoveries. Further assessment in case of changes to the Project Area (PA) through the life of the Project. 	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.2.1.7, 27.2.2.7, 27.2.3.7, 27.4 and 27.5.</p>

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				<p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation for the establishment of "no-go" or buffer zone for archaeological resources (if present) in the PA, Canada Nickel has engaged with Matachewan First Nation regarding this topic and anticipates that this topic will continue to be a focus of the IBA being negotiated with Matachewan First Nation. As stated in the row above, Canada Nickel will have an HCFP in place for the Project that will be developed through engagement with Matachewan First Nation and will include a requirement for buffers zones for any archaeological resources discovered during the construction phase (i.e., within a radius of at least 20 m of the archaeological resource).</p> <p>Additional information regarding Matachewan First Nation specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as, leading studies to support the development of the Impact Statement, is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures is provided in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
3	<p>Health and Well-Being</p> <p>Potential effects to health and well-being identified Matachewan First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects to country foods. • Effects on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (including potential increase in human trafficking), and discrimination and violence towards its members, and existing issues of human trafficking in their communities and in the broader region. • Changes to water quality and quantity in important gathering places. • Air and waterborne contamination from existing mining activities in the region • Social impacts caused by huge influxes of non-Indigenous people into First Nation communities. • Impacts to human health, including actual and perceived risks at key receptors due to changes to air quality, recreational and drinking water quality. 	PA, LSA, RSA	<p>Matachewan First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of youth in the preparation of the GBA Plus Report and the chance for Matachewan First Nation to review report prior to submission. • Support for diet and harvest studies to adequately understand our First Nation community contexts and baseline health profiles. • Consider parameters that encourage GBA Plus policy considerations and adoption of Canada Nickel prerogatives in positive relationship building with Indigenous Peoples (e.g., Could include grievance reporting, employee training and policies and practices and support recruitment and retention of Indigenous peoples and codes of conduct that are gender responsive and consider human rights instruments around substance abuse, employee rights and good business practices). 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Matachewan First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity and funding to conduct Nation-led studies for the Project that focus on Indigenous health and socio-economic conditions. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for impacts to human health and social well-being, including actual and perceived risks, Chapters 27 and 21 includes an assessment of effects on changes to physical health, community safety, and mental health and social well-being. This assessment conducted in Chapter 21 is summarized in Chapter 27 in relation to Matachewan First Nation interests (Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4).</p> <p>Changes in air, water, country foods and sensory disturbances were addressed in the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA). This assessment examined the interactions between measured or modelled concentrations of chemicals in the environment for these components and addressed the potential for these interactions to result in adverse health risks to humans. Chemicals associated with construction, operation and closure of the Project were assessed and toxicological risks were addressed in accordance with regulatory guidelines. The results were considered in the development of mitigation and management measures, and further informed the assessment on Matachewan First Nation interests.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on human health and social well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will develop a Health and Medical Services Plan to manage occupational and non-occupational injuries and illnesses. This will include provision of medical care at the Project site through onsite presence of medical personnel. Canada Nickel will also make available an online physician 24 hours/day. • Canada Nickel has made, and will continue to make, contributions to support social, economic, health, and other activities/programs for local, including Indigenous, communities through its Community Contributions Program. The Program will include a local procurement policy as well as a sponsorship and donation strategy adapted to Canada Nickel's guiding principles and the needs of the communities. • Canada Nickel has developed an internal Whistleblower Program for employee feedback and communication of concerns, as well as an external feedback mechanism to capture Project-related comments and concerns from community members. • Canada Nickel presently has or is in the process of developing several policies, procedures, and training which will mitigate adverse effects on health which include Code of Conduct and Ethics; Violence and Harassment; Diversity and Inclusion; Fit for Duty, including Drug and Alcohol Policy; Cultural Awareness Training. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for impacts to local community services and infrastructure, and consideration of GBA Plus policy considerations, Chapters 27 and 22 includes an assessment of effects on a change in demand for community services and infrastructure, including for Indigenous subgroups. The assessment in Chapter 22 is summarized in Chapter 27 in relation to Indigenous Interests, including Indigenous determinants of health Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4).</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.3 27.4.3.3, 27.4.4.3, 27.5.4 and 27.5.6.1.</p> <p>Chapters 21, 22 and 31.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+2, and discrimination and violence towards Indigenous Peoples. • Impacts to local community services and infrastructure, including women's shelters, health facilities, mental health and addiction facilities, emergency services, childcare, and housing availability and pricing. • Intergenerational impacts associated with Project timelines and market volatility. • Increased competition for affordable housing from influx of mine employees. • Increased discrimination from outside workforce, such as increased harassment. 			<p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on community services and regarding GBA Plus considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will engage with local municipalities on the availability of housing to inform the housing strategy for the area that encourages and provides opportunities for workers to move permanently into the area. • Canada Nickel is in regular communication with local training/education institutions regarding existing, upcoming, and potential course and training offerings, and how this aligns with Canada Nickel's anticipated needs. Canada Nickel continues to explore education, training opportunities and will develop hiring practices that encourages the employment and retention of qualified Indigenous peoples and local community members, including opportunities targeted towards youth • Canada Nickel will explore opportunities to support training, education, and scholarship programs that improve employment opportunities, including participation in and contribution to local training networks, which are targeted at diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, and various relevant subgroups, such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program. • Canada Nickel will communicate Project needs to local accommodation providers, including hotel, motel, and bed-and-breakfast accommodation providers to help secure rooms for construction workers. • Canada Nickel will provide security at the Project site. • Canada Nickel will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which encompasses respectful workplace behaviours for diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, seniors, 2SLGBTQQIA+, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and members of the GBA Plus community. Such a policy and subsequent training consist of awareness training for non-Indigenous employees to foster a respectful working relationship with Indigenous employees and contractors. • Canada Nickel will implement traffic control measures, which may include gating approaches to Project access roads and/or gated fencing to restrict public access to the PA. • Speed limits will be posted and monitored onsite access roads. Canada Nickel will follow up with contractors on any reports of transport trucks travelling at excessive speeds along the transport route. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for changes in housing availability and pricing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel conducted a housing needs assessment for the Project and determined that there is a sufficient supply of home ownership housing (as opposed to rentals) in the District of Cochrane to support a new workforce. Canada Nickel will engage with local municipalities on the availability of housing to inform the housing strategy for the area that encourages and provides opportunities to move permanently into the area. • Canada Nickel will undertake a detailed Project accommodation study based on workforce requirements and develop an Accommodations Management Plan. • The presence of the Project may create positive effects for Matachewan First Nation if potential demands on accommodations result in efforts to increase the stock of permanent and temporary housing in the region. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for potential increases in human trafficking in the region, the GBA Plus analysis conducted in Chapter 27 (informed by the GBA Plus analysis in Chapter 21 Health, Chapter 22 Social Conditions and Chapter 23 Economic Conditions), considers potential effects on and risk of change in safety for Indigenous women and youth (Sections 27.4.3.3, 27.4.4.3, 27.5.6.1). Canada Nickel is committed to providing cultural awareness training to enhance the outside workforces' understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures and to describe the root causes of inequities that Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation experience. Canada Nickel will engage with the Indigenous Nations to develop the cultural awareness training so that it includes topics of importance to the Nations (e.g., Treaty 9; MMIWG). Additionally, Canada Nickel will implement a harassment policy and an internal whistleblower mechanism for confidential reporting of workplace harassment to mitigate disproportionate effects to Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ employed by the Project.</p>	

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				<p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for traffic safety, Chapter 27 considers the effects on a change in demand for community services and infrastructure, including a change in demand for transportation infrastructure in relation to Matachewan First Nation's interests (Sections 27.4 and 27.5).</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation for measures to prevent and avoid accidents, Chapter 31 includes an assessment of effects of potential accidents or malfunctions, including safety and mitigation measures, and a Conceptual Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential accidents or malfunctions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will design, construct and operate the Project according to accepted standard practices for healthy, safety and environmental management, to reduce the risk of potential Project-related environmental, health, social and economic effects and effects to Indigenous Nations, including those that could result from accidents or malfunctions. • Canada Nickel will maintain construction equipment in good working order and implement careful maintenance and monitoring of all equipment to reduce emissions and the risk of spills or leaks of petroleum-based products. • Canada Nickel will develop and apply procedures and training aimed at safe operation of the Project, that reduce or prevent the potential conditions that may lead to accidents or malfunctions. • Canada Nickel will develop and implement Management Plans for the Project to outline the proposed safety and mitigation measures and commitments to be carried out by Canada Nickel and their contractors. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for impacts on rail traffic, as described in Chapter 3, transportation of materials by train, included concentrate, would be in the care and control of third parties. No definitive agreement has been reached at this stage and is subject to further discussions with relevant stakeholders. However, for the purposes of the assessment, transportation of materials from the Project to the Kidd Metallurgical Site are included in the assessment of Project effects. On average, two trains per day (up to 4 roundtrip trains per 24-hours) are anticipated to transport concentrate from the processing plant for further processing.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to air quality, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern specific to Indigenous employment, training and business contracting opportunities, additional information is provided below in Row 4.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern specific to water quantity and quality, additional information is provided below in Row 6.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
4	<p><u>Economic Benefits, Investment and Inclusion</u></p> <p>Matachewan First Nation identified an interest in economic benefits.</p>	PA, LSA, RSA	<p>Matachewan First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-investment of Project revenues into employment, education, and social programming for Matachewan members. • Funding and targeted efforts towards developing culturally relevant programs and training opportunities for Nation members and mine employees. • Funding for the construction of new housing, rather than bringing in employees 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Matachewan First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify economic interests in the Project through an IBA and Impact Assessment Process Agreement. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation to consider policy guidance development that may be adopted by Subject Matter Experts, including Indigenous businesses to ensure policy alignment between the corporation and contractors, Canada Nickel recognizes the unique role that industry can play in supporting Indigenous Peoples, including supporting equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities. Canada Nickel will therefore place a focus on regional and Indigenous employment when seeking to fill workforce requirements for construction and operation.</p> <p>Canada Nickel has held early discussions with Indigenous Nations, Keepers of the Circle, local colleges, and other regional training institutions around ways to emphasize Indigenous employment in the mining industry.</p> <p>Canada Nickel has provided information about contracting and employment opportunities with Indigenous Nations, as well as obtain information regarding employment interests and the capacity and the capabilities of Indigenous Nations related to Project</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4 and 27.5.</p> <p>Chapter 23.</p>

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			<p>to out-compete Matachewan residents in an already impacted housing market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with First Nations to identify community-specific opportunities to enhance positive impacts (e.g., education and training opportunities, support for community programs, etc.). • Development of employment retention policies specific to Indigenous peoples. • Support for women in the industry to overcome barriers to employment. • Inclusion of traditional practices on-site for Indigenous employees, such as tobacco offering and smudging areas. • Consider policy guidance development that may be adopted by Subject Matter Experts, including Indigenous businesses to ensure policy alignment between the corporation and contractors. 	<p>needs. Canada Nickel is committed to continue discussing potential economic participation in the Project to help build reciprocal business relationships with Matachewan First Nation, including engaging contractors to uphold commitments to encourage participation of local Indigenous services on the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Engagement with Matachewan First Nation throughout the assessment process supported Canada Nickel's understanding of the needs of diverse population groups to help enhance employment opportunities through strategic, targeted programs.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will place a focus on regional and Indigenous employment when seeking to fill workforce requirements for construction and operation. Engagement with Matachewan First Nation helps Canada Nickel understand the needs of diverse population groups to help enhance employment opportunities through strategic, targeted programs.</p> <p>Through partnerships and discussions with regional training institutions, Canada Nickel hopes that training for the new workforce, per advice and program specifics of regional training institutions, will begin as appropriate on a case-by-case basis to meet anticipated employment opportunities.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on economic conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will explore opportunities to support training, education, and scholarship programs that improve employment opportunities, including participation in and contribution to local training networks, which are targeted at diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, and various relevant subgroups, such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program. • Canada Nickel will increase flexibility in work schedules to enable the continued participation of Indigenous employees in traditional and cultural activities. • Canada Nickel will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which encompasses respectful workplace behaviours for diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, seniors, 2SLGBTQQA+, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and members of the GBA Plus community. Such a policy and subsequent training consist of awareness training for non-Indigenous employees to foster a respectful working relationship with Indigenous employees and contractors. • Canada Nickel will participate in initiatives aimed at addressing inequality among Indigenous populations through working with organizations such as Keepers of the Circle. • Canada Nickel will prepare plans, programs and policies to encourage contracting and procurement opportunities for Indigenous businesses. Such plans will include the enhancement of supplier network development initiatives, including keeping a repository of local and Indigenous suppliers with potential to bid on the Project. Indigenous Nations located near the Project will be directly contacted regarding procurement opportunities from Canada Nickel and Canada Nickel will accommodate barriers there may be to bid on a contract (such as translation services), where feasible. • Canada Nickel commits to consider bids from qualified locally owned businesses first, including those submitted from diverse groups such as Indigenous-owned companies, women-owned companies, 2SLGBTQQA+-owned companies, persons with disabilities-owned companies and visible minority-owned companies, as per Canada Nickel's Local Procurement Policy. • Canada Nickel has and will continue to engage local Indigenous Nations and has established agreements to support present engagement and participation in the Project. <p>Canada Nickel will provide information about contracting and employment opportunities with Matachewan First Nation, as well as obtain information regarding employment interests and the capacity and the capabilities of Matachewan First Nation related to Project needs. Canada Nickel is committed to discussing potential economic participation in the Project to help build reciprocal business relationships with Matachewan First Nation, including engaging contractors to uphold commitments to encourage participation of local Indigenous services on the Project, where possible.</p>	

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				<p>Canada Nickel is committed to maintaining an updated list of Indigenous businesses and their capacity and capabilities for the Project. This will be done through engagement with Matachewan First Nation to collect, verify, and validate business information on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Canada Nickel's Indigenous subcontracting, employment, and training expectations will be outlined through sourcing events (e.g., request for proposals). The majority of opportunities for contracting and employment will occur in the construction phase of the Project; however, Canada Nickel will seek to provide economic opportunities for local Indigenous communities throughout all phases of the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's recommendation specific to housing and community infrastructure, additional information is provided in Row 3.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures applicable to economic conditions potentially affected by the Project is found in Chapter 23 of the Impact Statement and in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
5	<p><u>Hunting and Trapping, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</u></p> <p>Matachewan First Nation stated that hunting and trapping continue to be critical cultural and subsistence practices for members today. These practices and associated values provide members with a range of tangible and intangible benefits including nutrition, food security, knowledge transmission, connection to land, and cultural persistence.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation continue to rely on an abundance and diversity of species to exercise hunting and trapping rights. Harvested species include moose, black bear, partridge, lynx, rabbits, duck, beaver.</p> <p>Traditional species of importance also include fisher, mink, fox, grey fox, wolf, marten, muskrat, squirrel, otter, weasel, coyote, wolverine, cougar, moose, boreal caribou, deer, geese, eagle (bald eagle), duck, crane, and osprey.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation reported that hunting and trapping knowledge and skills are often passed down from older generations to younger generations and frequently within families. Wild</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation identified one environmental feature and two subsistence features within the PA.</p> <p>Additional hunting and trapping features were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125.4 m west of the PA (cultural) • 125.4 m west of the PA (subsistence) • 127.4 m east of the PA (subsistence) • 522.1 m east of the PA (environmental) • 1.5 km north of the PA (cultural) • 1.5 km north of the PA (subsistence) <p>Matachewan First Nation identified one hunting and trapping area that intersects the PA along Highway 655.</p> <p>An additional hunting and trapping area was identified at a location:</p>	<p>Matachewan First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying Project operations and infrastructure to reduce or eliminate impacts to wildlife. • Re-investment of Project revenues into wildlife and habitat conservation in the local and regional PA. • Mitigation measures for effects to birds, migratory birds, and their habitat from accidents, ambient light, interactions with tailings, and disturbance activities. • Additional baseline studies including the identification of potential hibernacula for bats, potential effects to bats and bat habitat, including methodologies for assessing effects, and associated mitigation measures and their effectiveness. • Indigenous participation in wildlife studies. • Support for First Nation-led moose studies. • Inclusion in any habitat compensation plans. • Opportunity to be involved with species at risk mitigation plans. • Provide workforce with training regarding wildlife in the region, including the sacred white moose, and their importance to local Indigenous communities. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Matachewan First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify wildlife species of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement and for the development of an IBA related to Matachewan First Nation harvesting rights. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Matachewan First Nation interests, including changes to or loss of access to the land and loss of ability to exercise the right to harvest is provided in Chapter 27, Section 27.5.2.</p> <p>Baseline data for wildlife and wildlife habitats, and birds and bird habitats, were based on a review of background information from publicly available data sources, feedback and engagement with stakeholders, government and Indigenous Nations and site-specific field investigations completed between 2021 and 2023. This included, but was not limited to, surveys of amphibians, bats, moose, and boreal caribou, as well as several bird species, including Species at Risk (SAR) and Species of Conservation Concern.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for effects to waterfowl brood, eagle and osprey nesting, species of risk and other birds and bats, Chapter 18 includes an assessment of effects on birds and bird habitats, including changes to habitat, mortality risk, health, and abundance and distribution. This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27, Section 27.4.1.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on birds and bird habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will restrict clearing to the approved PA. • Canada Nickel will schedule vegetation clearing activities outside the migratory breeding bird period (Zone C5: April 30 to August 20) to reduce the likelihood of disturbing or harming nests of migratory birds, to the extent practical. • If small scale, localized vegetation clearing is required during the migratory bird breeding season and the area can be effectively searched for presence of nests, Canada Nickel will have an experienced biologist/scientist survey for signs of nesting before vegetation removal. • Canada Nickel will complete pre-disturbance surveys to identify any nests that are protected under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> (e.g., Bald Eagle, other raptors) or nests that are protected year-round on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i> (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron). Canada Nickel will not remove these nests unless appropriate permits are in place. • Canada Nickel personnel or contractors will report the discovery of bird nests to appropriate Canada Nickel personal (e.g., the Environmental Department) who will follow appropriate action or follow-up as per the Wildlife Management Plan for the Project. • Canada Nickel will provide training for environmental personnel responsible for site monitoring during construction to recognize species at risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC) that may be present in PA, as well as nests protected under 	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4 and 27.5.</p> <p>Chapters 18, 19 and 22.</p>

Row No.	Matachewan First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Matachewan First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<p>foods, and especially wild meat, comprise a major portion of preferred diets. Hunting and trapping support the practice of sharing wild foods within the community, especially with elders and others less able to harvest themselves.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation reported that certain conditions must be in place for hunters and trappers to gain experience and proficiency including (but not limited to) having the time and resources to spend time on the land; healthy populations of valued species; availability of animals in preferred harvesting areas; unfettered access to the land and preferred harvesting areas; and access to knowledge holders from whom to learn harvesting and processing skills and knowledge.</p> <p>Potential effects to hunting and trapping, wildlife and wildlife habitat identified by Matachewan First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declining populations of important species and displacement, including moose and bear, as a result of forestry and mining activities, increased traffic and noise. • Declining wildlife health, including deformities in harvested animals, attributed to mining and forestry activities (including herbicide spraying). • Reduced availability of land and access to harvesting areas. • Increased presence of and conflict with recreational land users and hunters, resulting in safety concerns. 	<p>4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River)</p> <p>Six hunting and trapping areas identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Hall Lake, Timmins, Hunta, Kamiskotia Lake, Driftwood, and Forsythe Lake.</p> <p>An additional 12 mapped hunting and trapping locations (approximately) were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of wildlife fences, overpasses and corridors during realignment of HWY 655 to promote protections of moose and other wildlife and the consideration of historical wildlife corridors. • Consideration of regional and local data about wildlife mortalities on highways and roads. • Matachewan First Nation recommends that Canada Nickel conduct testing at known beaver habitats in proximity to the Project. Additionally, Matachewan First Nation recommends for Canada Nickel to contact trappers in the area to coordinate collecting beaver carcasses for testing purposes regrading contamination of the animals or their habitats. 	<p>the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>, and Great Blue Heron and Pileated Woodpecker nests that are protected year-round on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations</i>, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the needs of bird species at risk (SAR), such as encouraging the development of a high, dense shrub layer to support Canada Warblers. • Canada Nickel will not disturb or destroy active nests of migratory birds, which are protected under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>. Canada Nickel will also comply with the Migratory Bird Regulation, 2022, including the Schedule 1 species (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker and Great Blue Heron). • Canada Nickel will complete pre-disturbance surveys to locate raptor nests and nests of species protected on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Bird Registry</i>, 2022 (Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron). • Canada Nickel will notify the Environment and Climate Change Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service of mortality of any migratory bird species at risk (SAR) in the PA. • Canada Nickel will develop and implement a Site-Wide Water Management Plan (Appendix J of the Impact Statement) for the Project that will treat effluent prior to discharge to the environment, which will reduce the likelihood of harmful effects to migratory birds. • Canada Nickel will deploy bird deterrents (e.g., noise makers, wire barricades) as necessary to discourage birds from entering onsite ponds, including the Tailings Management Facility NE and NW Collection Ponds or other project infrastructure that could attract birds. • Canada Nickel will maintain embankments of the Tailings Management Facility and collection ponds to be free of trees and shrubs to limit the attraction of waterfowl and/or wildlife to these ponds for foraging or breeding. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for impacts to wildlife, including wildlife populations, habitats, movement and health, Chapter 19 includes an assessment of effects on changes to wildlife and wildlife habitat, including changes in habitat, wildlife movement, mortality risk, health, and abundance and distribution. Key indicator species or wildlife groups selected to assess biodiversity and Project effects include: amphibians and reptiles, moose, furbearers, species of conservation concern (midland painted turtle, snapping turtle, monarch and yellow-banded bumble bee) and species at risk (Blanding's turtle, boreal caribou and bats). This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27, Section 27.4.1.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on wildlife and wildlife habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will prepare and implement a Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan, which will include tailored strategies for species and sensitive habitats that align with the principles of the "hierarchy of mitigation measures." Avoiding and restricting activities during sensitive and crucial timing windows will be prioritized, to the extent practical. • Canada Nickel will maintain vegetation cover along the boundaries of high activity areas (e.g. access roads) to reduce sensory effects such as noise and visual disturbances, where practical. • Canada Nickel will consider wildlife friendly road and railway design principles and features, such as signage, adapting crossings (e.g., culverts) to allow small wildlife passage, speed limits, where relevant and practical. • Canada Nickel will implement measures to deter or exclude wildlife, where feasible. The specific measures and locations will be determined on a case-by-case scenario and will be monitored for effectiveness. • If wildlife is encountered, Project personnel will temporarily suspend activities until the species is out of harm's way. The encounter will be reported to Canada Nickel representative (e.g., environmental department). 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of previously preferred harvesting areas because of industrial (e.g., herbicide spraying) activities and concerns about the health of resources as well as increased harvesting pressures. • Effects to community health, as well as psychological health due to fear of consuming wildlife. • Introduction of contaminants into the environment (e.g., airborne deposition of mine dust and tailings) and reduced confidence in the health and quality of animals. • Reduced hunting opportunities for future generations, with subsequent effects on knowledge transmission and cultural persistence. • Impacts to migratory birds and their habitat from disturbance activities, such as noise and blasting, and the timing of these activities. • Impacts to moose habitat, including calving sites, aquatic feeding areas, and wintering grounds, as well as changes in predator and prey relationships, and sensory disturbances related to rail line collisions, noise, and Project emissions. • Effects to wildlife or birds encountering tailings. • Effects to the Mattagami River and resulting impacts to wildlife and the exercise of harvesting rights. • Impacts to waterfowl brood rearing habitat in and near PA. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will incorporate mitigation measures into the design of the Project and will be included in the Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan to avoid or reduce project-related effects on turtles, boreal caribou and bats. • Canada Nickel will implement measures in the Spill Management and Contingency Plan to prevent the release of harmful substances into waters or areas that could be accessed by wildlife. • Canada Nickel will develop a follow up and monitoring program focused on biodiversity that will be completed during all Project phases, including prior to construction and extending throughout construction and year one, year five, and every ten years during operations. <p>The Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan provides policy direction for the management and recovery of boreal caribou. This Project occurs within the Kesagami Range area and boreal caribou and their habitat are included in this assessment. Canada Nickel will incorporate the following mitigation measures as it relates to potential Project-related effects on boreal caribou:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wildlife Management Plan will take into consideration Ontario's best management practices for mineral exploration and development activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario. • Consideration will be given to the creation of boreal caribou habitat onsite as part of the Mine Development Closure Plan in conjunction with other priorities identified through engagement activities. • Obtain an Overall Benefit Permit under the Endangered Species Act, if required, for impacts to Category 3 habitat within the PA. Any permit conditions, including compensation requirements, timing windows, and setbacks, will be integrated into the appropriate management plan (e.g., Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan). <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for increased presence and conflict with recreational land users and hunters, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project due to increased competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will prohibit Project personnel from hunting and bringing firearms to the site while working to limit competition for wildlife. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to noise and vibrations, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to accidents and malfunctions, and effects to country foods and community health, including psychological health, additional information is provided above in Row 3.</p> <p>The complete listing of mitigation measures is provided in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to eagle and osprey nesting in or near the PA. Impacts to species at risk. Impact from the use of light fixtures that can potentially disturb nocturnal species such as the common nighthawk and brown myotis. Effects to muskeg and unevaluated wetlands in the PA. Plans for large mammal surveys including the presence of cougars, and the methods for identifying the presence or absence of sacred white moose. Effects to sacred white moose. Barriers to wildlife movement and the potential for increased wildlife mortality due to increased traffic associated with the Project. 				
6	<p><u>Water, Fishing, Fish and Fish Habitat</u></p> <p>Matachewan First Nation stated that water is both a resource that is obtained and used by Matachewan, a conduit for land-based activities, but also a supportive factor for all lifeforms and species – both plants and animals.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation reported that the harvesting of water from the land has occurred for generations.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation stated that water is important for Matachewan's way of life, as waterbodies facilitate recreational activities such as camping and enjoying being on the land, as well as fishing. Members travel across their Territory to access these</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation identified one environmental feature within the PA and the following water and fishing features at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.8 km west of the PA (environmental) 3.8 km south of the PA (subsistence) 4.3 km south of the PA (subsistence) 10.0 km south of the PA (subsistence) <p>Matachewan First Nation identified the following water, fishing, fish and fish habitat areas that intersect the PA:</p>	<p>Matachewan First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifying Project operations and infrastructure to reduce or eliminate impacts to water. Re-investment of Project revenues into fish, and habitat conservation in the local and regional PA. Additional information on follow-up programs and remediation plans, including monitoring for seepage from stockpiles and the tailings facilities over time, and clarifications on monitoring methodology. Alternative means and mitigation for waste rock, effluent discharge, including site selection, tailings management, and ore processing location. All fish in all life cycle stages in the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA need to be assessed. At minimum, species must also include perch, walleye, and baitfish. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Matachewan First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify fish species and habitats of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation have been and will continue to be engaged regarding water discharge plans. Baseline hydrology and aquatics studies have been conducted for comparison to future conditions of nearby water bodies, and results will be shared once available.</p> <p>Potential effects on fish species of cultural importance to Matachewan First Nation were assessed in Chapters 17 and 21 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>Potential effects on water quality and quantity relative to Matachewan First Nation interests were assessed in Chapters 14 and 15 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Matachewan First Nation interests, including changes to or loss of access to the land and loss of ability to exercise the right to harvest is provided in Chapter 27 (Section 27.5.2). The assessment also considers cumulative effects on surface water and ground water quality and quantity, and fish and fish habitat. Additional information is provided in Chapter 29.</p> <p>Assessment boundaries (spatial and temporal) are specific to each valued component and are provided in each applicable chapter of the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for changes to water quality and quantity, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on water:</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4 and 27.5.</p> <p>Chapters 3, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17 and 21.</p>

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	<p>different fishing locations, during different seasons of the year.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation reported that numerous fish species are important sources of nutrition and facilitate the transmission of fishing knowledge and practices. These species include, pickerel (walleye), perch, northern pike/jackfish, trout, whitefish, lingcod, lake trout, speckled trout, sturgeon, minnow, and bass.</p> <p>Traditional species of importance also include bait fish, sauger, sea trout, mooneye, sheepshead, goldeye, splake, sucker (white and redhorse), brook trout, burbot, catfish (channel and brown bullhead) and lake sturgeon.</p> <p>Potential effects to water, fishing, fish and fish habitat identified by Matachewan First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption of the natural flow of waterways and waterbodies, including the Mattagami River, impacting aquatic and terrestrial species due to landscape alteration and excavation from open pit mining. • Contamination of the local waterways emanating from tailings and settling ponds, as well as machinery spills or accidents which would negatively affect waterways and consequently the fish and animals that Matachewan First Nation members consume. • Potential for effluent release into watersheds, affecting fish in these waterways, as well as the safety and potability of water. • Impacts to fish migration and movement, harming the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along Highway 655 (fishing area) • Snowmobile trail from Timmins to Cochrane • Multiple natural spring sources west of Kirkland • North Driftwood River (fish habitat, fishing area) • West Buskegau River (fish habitat) <p>An additional two water, fishing, fish and fish habitat areas were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [fishing area]) • 4.1 km southeast of the PA (Bigwater Lake [fishing area]) <p>19 fishing areas identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Sandy Falls (fishing area), Pickerel Lake (fishing area), Three Nations Lake (fishing area), Frederick House Lake (fishing area), Abitibi Lake (fishing area), Buffalo Bay (fishing area), Simpson Island (fishing area), Grassy River (fishing area), High Falls (fishing area), Night Hawk River (fishing area), Canoeshed Lake (fishing area), Redwing Lake (fishing area), Matachewan Lake (fishing area), McNaughton Lake (fishing area, spawning grounds), Horwood Lake (fishing area), Bloom Lake (fishing area), Magusi River (fish with abnormalities), Victoria Creek (fishing area),</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to participate and or collaborate on fish and fish habitat studies. • Inclusion of Indigenous groups in all ground and surface water studies. • Inclusion in the decision-making process regarding effluent discharge locations. • Opportunity to provide input on the water management plans including dewatering, storm runoff studies, surface water and ground water pond level and water quality monitoring and related emergency warning infrastructure. • Opportunity to provide input on any site-specific Closure Plans, including decommissioning of ground water wells, water treatment ponds and water management infrastructure on site. • Further information regarding methodology of fish relocation and the ability to participate in fish relocation programs. • Opportunity to provide input on proposed water-crossing locations. • Adequate storm water management on-site to enable contaminated/contact-water is treated as required before discharge to the environment. • Opportunity to review Overburden Management Plan. • Long-term assessment of potential for metal leaching or acid mine drainage. • Defined spatial and temporal boundaries, including the spatial extent of Project effects on the aquatic environment, and a temporal scope that is inclusive of historical activities and legacy effects. • Information about navigability of waterways, traditional use of waterways for navigation, and proposed mitigation measures. • The need for mitigation measures for effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit construction footprint (i.e., PA) to the extent possible to reduce the potential for reductions in groundwater recharge, and limit the number of watersheds overprinted by the PA. • Use standard construction methods, such as seepage cutoff collars, where trenches extend below the water table to mitigate preferential flow paths. • Design of the Stockpiles and Impoundment Facility to increase the amount of runoff and reduce the amount of infiltration, thereby reducing the seepage and loading to groundwater. • Implementation of progressive rehabilitation (placement of vegetated soil cover) to reduce infiltration into the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, thereby reducing the amount of water and loading to groundwater and improvements to groundwater quality. • If faults or fractures which act as conduits for increased flow of groundwater are encountered during advancement of the Open Pit, Canada Nickel will evaluate potential impacts from the increased flows and, if necessary, implement grouting or other practical measures to reduce groundwater inflow. • Prepare an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan which will describe spill prevention, contingency planning and reporting practices for the timely and effective response to fuel and other chemical spills. • Install contact water collection ditches around the Stockpiles, Impoundment Facility, and Tailings Management Facility to collect toe seepage and groundwater recharge from these Project components. • Implement progressive rehabilitation (placement of a vegetated soil cover) to reduce infiltration into the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, thereby reducing the amount of water and loading to groundwater and improvements to groundwater quality • Develop and implement a Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage Management Plan to reduce and limit the known and potential risks of ML/ARD associated with the Project, thereby reducing potential effects to water quality. • Monitoring wells upgradient, cross gradient, and downgradient of the Stockpiles will be established to collect groundwater levels and water quality during construction and operations to document changes to groundwater levels and flow and groundwater quality. • A representative subset of monitoring wells will be instrumented with data loggers to collect regular groundwater levels. Groundwater levels will be manually measured, and data loggers download in spring, summer, and fall, as possible. • Groundwater quality samples from monitoring wells will be monitored in spring, summer, and fall, as possible, during construction, operations and decommissioning and closure with the frequency progressively reduced based on monitoring results and Project phase. Winter groundwater sampling is not feasible as, based on the baseline data, the monitoring wells are generally frozen and not possible to sample. Groundwater quality samples will be analyzed for general chemistry and select dissolved metals. • Water discharges to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River will be balanced to the extent feasible to maintain watercourse flows. • Canada Nickel will design the seepage collection ditches to intercept shallow groundwater seepage from the Tailings Management Facility, ore Stockpiles and Impoundment Facility. • Canada Nickel will implement water treatment through use of a water treatment plant to received discharge from the Tailings Management Facility, collection ponds, and will use proven processes to treat the water to meet regulatory effluent criteria prior to discharge to the environment. • Canada Nickel will verify the adequacy and effectiveness of mitigation measures for surface water quantity and quality through implementation of a follow-up and monitoring program. 	

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	<p>spawning and development of fish species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to fish habitats and available food sources for fish (e.g., insects), especially due to the loss of water and waterways throughout the area due to Project activities. Increased outsider traffic in the area contributing to existing overfishing, and negatively harming fish populations. Diminished trust and confidence in the safety of consuming fish. Inhibited access to key Matachewan fishing areas due to the rerouting of Highway 655. Effects to potable water sources and water intake at Smooth Rock Falls. Effects to water and waterways, including the Mattagami River and Abitibi River. Effects to navigable waters and navigation by Indigenous peoples. Effects to water quality and quantity, including contamination from discharge, runoff, or seepage from water-crossings, waste rock stockpiles, ore stockpiles, overburden stockpiles, and the tailings management facility. Effects to water quantity and quality, including sedimentation, and associated risks of mercury mobilization. Loss of natural waterbodies. Changes to groundwater-surface water interactions. 	<p>and Forsythe Lake (fishing area).</p> <p>Three water features were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Spring Lake (drinking water), Smooth Rock Falls (water source), and Mistinikon Lake (drinking water).</p> <p>An additional 21 water and fishing locations were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>	<p>West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Nations to develop fisheries offsetting plans. Measures to prevent and avoid accidents, including release of hazardous materials, spills, transportation and storage of dangerous goods, tailings dam breach, and forest fires (from increased rail traffic); and details of plans to notify, involve and communicate with residents, including Indigenous residents and in Indigenous languages. 	<p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for impacts to fish migration and movement, habitats, and available food sources, Chapter 9 contains an assessment of existing conditions for fish and fish habitat, which were informed from a desktop review of existing reports, provincial and federal datasets, Indigenous Knowledge provided by Indigenous Nations, and a three-year field program conducted between 2021 and 2023. Additional sampling was also completed in the North Driftwood and West Buskegau Rivers in spring 2024 for the Fish and Fish Habitat Baseline report.</p> <p>As described in Chapter 17, lake sturgeon was identified as a species of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations, and it was included as a focal fish species in the assessment of effects on Fish and Fish Habitat.</p> <p>A summary of potential residual and cumulative effects to fish and fish habitat related to Matachewan First Nation interests was provided in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on fishing, fish and fish habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will limit the construction footprint (i.e., PA) to the extent possible to limit the number of subwatersheds overprinted by the PA and to avoid larger watercourses (e.g. the West Buskegau River) and lakes (e.g. Martin Lake). Canada Nickel will progressively reclaim mine infrastructure to reduce erosion and sediment loading to streams. Canada Nickel will implement fish habitat compensation measures for unavoidable harm to fish habitat to satisfy requirements under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> to offset serious harm caused by Project-related activities. Canada Nickel will apply natural channel design principles to appropriately design and dimension the North Driftwood Diversion Channel. Canada Nickel will implement a no-fishing policy in watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA by all Project personnel while on-shift. Canada Nickel will develop an Explosives Management Plan which will describe the safe use and storage of explosives and explosive components at the Project site. This plan will consider the Guidelines for Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters. Canada Nickel will verify the adequacy and effectiveness of mitigation measures for changes to fish habitat and fish health, growth and survival, through the implementation of a follow-up and monitoring program. If an unexpected deterioration of the environment is observed as part of follow-up and/or monitoring, Canada Nickel will employ intervention mechanisms which will include the adaptive management process. This will include an investigation of the cause of the deterioration and identification of existing and/or new mitigation measures to be implemented to address it, if needed. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns regarding hazardous waste rock, recommendation for alternative means and mitigation for waste rock, Canada Nickel prepared a Conceptual Closure Plan (Appendix F) to provide the rehabilitation measures to be implemented during closure for the purposes of fully evaluating the potential effects and necessary mitigation and monitoring measures for the Project and to provide the basis for future planning and design updates.</p> <p>The Project will utilize two Ore Stockpiles located east and west of the Open Pit, and an impoundment facility (including rock impoundment, sand and till impoundment, and clay impoundment) to the north of the Open Pit. The Tailings Management Facility will be located to the south and will be progressively raised as the volume of the tailings increases.</p>	

Row No.	Matachewan First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Matachewan First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites. • Effects to lake sturgeon due to effluent discharge in the Mattagami River and noise and vibrations from blasting. • Impacts to aquatic life and traditional fishing activities in the Mattagami River including sturgeon, suckers and spawning areas. • Dewatering and diversion of any waterbodies since to protect water is a sacred First Nation responsibility. • Water-crossings acting as potential inputs of contamination. • Impacts to pickerel (walleye) spawning locations. • The presence of pickerel (walleye) within the Indigenous Interests LSA and scoping the species into the Fish and Fish Habitat VC. • Plans for the location, construction, and operation of crossing over Victoria Creek and potential fish impacts. • Past and potential future impacts to natural springs. 			<p>Hydrologic modelling is being completed to predict the time to fill the pit lake and the ultimate discharge rate from the pit lake rate at the East and West spillways. Preliminary hydrological modelling suggests greater than 100 years for the Open Pit to fill to the design elevation of 272.5 m above mean sea level. Water quality modelling of the pit lake is being completed to assess water quality and will consider inputs to the Open Pit from atmospheric precipitation, runoff from rock and ore exposed on pit walls, groundwater inflows, and interactions of the pit lake water with the tailings used to backfill the Open Pit.</p> <p>The tailings placed in the Open Pit and the pit wall rock are predicted to be not potentially acid generating. Preliminary metal leaching rates are predicted to result in runoff and seepage quality that meets the Provincial Water Quality Objectives. Based on existing geochemistry data, no further water treatment is anticipated in closure. Two passive spillway channels are expected to be constructed to connect the open pit to natural, adjacent waterbodies once water quality is stable and meets the criteria for discharge.</p> <p>The water quality from the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, and pit lake have been predicted using a site wide water balance and water quality model. The modelling approach incorporates conservative assumptions to support the assessment of potential effects for the Impact Statement. As the project progresses modeling will be updated, contingency measures (potentially including passive treatment systems such as wetland treatment) will be identified based on those updates.</p> <p>Filling of the pit will commence during Project operations. During operations, Open Pit groundwater and surface runoff from haul roads and the pits will be pumped to the Tailings Management Facility Northwest and Northeast Collection Ponds. As per mining best practice, perimeter collection ditching will be constructed to intercept shallow groundwater seepage at the toe of stockpiles and dams. Non-contact water will be diverted around mine infrastructure to reduce the amount of water needing to be managed and to maintain existing flow to the adjacent watercourses to the extent possible. Effluent will be treated prior to discharge to the receiving environment, as required, to meet regulatory effluent criteria as well as criteria developed through the receiving watercourse Assimilative Capacity Assessment. A water treatment plant will receive discharge from the tailings pond and use proven processes to treat the water to meet regulatory effluent criteria prior to discharge to the environment.</p> <p>A detailed water balance and water management plan has been developed. Additional information is provided in Chapter 3.</p> <p>In addition, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project from waste rock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply best management practices to promote terrain stability via recontouring, terracing or benching and maintaining slope gradients for all excavated areas and stockpiled materials through the duration of the Project for construction activities. • At closure, Canada Nickel will conduct a slope stability assessment to demonstrate the long-term physical stability of the Open Pit and the Impoundment Facility. For the TMF embankments, Canada Nickel will demonstrate that the requirements set out by the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management or and Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines for long-term care are met. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to noise and vibrations, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to accidents and malfunctions, and effects to community health, including psychological health, additional information is provided in Row 3.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to effects to increased competition, additional information is provided above in Row 5.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will continue to engage Matachewan First Nation to seek its recommendations regarding sites that should be considered for conservation and reclamation efforts.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	

Row No.	Matachewan First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Matachewan First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
7	<p>Vegetation and Plant Gathering</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation highlighted the importance of plants, berries and medicines for a variety of uses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foods harvested in specific areas or encountered during other activities. • Calling tools for moose. • Ceremonial resources as part of the four sacred medicines. • Topical and internal medicines for a variety of ailments including colds, rashes, and cancer. <p>Matachewan First Nation stated that obtaining food plants from the land is important both for sustenance and for maintaining traditional ecological knowledge. A variety of plant medicines are harvested including blueberry, raspberry, gooseberry, pin cherry, bamagillia buds (balsam poplar), swampy tea, cedar, mint, birch bark, mountain ash, mushroom chaga, sage, willow, tamarack, labrador tea, moss, reindeer lichen, hazelnut, sweetgrass, and rose.</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation reported that preferred locations for harvesting food plants and medicines, include areas of intact forest free from chemical spraying.</p> <p>Potential effects to gathering identified by Matachewan First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to food and medicine plant quality and usability from mine dust and air pollution, affecting both medicine quality and safety for Matachewan members who use those plants. 	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Matachewan First Nation identified one cultural feature and one subsistence feature within the PA, and the following food plant and medicine features at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 153.3 m north of the PA (cultural) • 153.3 m north of the PA (subsistence) <p>Matachewan First Nation identified a berry gathering areas 0.1 km east of the PA (Feldman Lake).</p> <p>Six food plant and medicine were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Highway 655 immediately north of Timmins (berry harvesting), Kamiskotia (medicine harvesting), Abitibi Lake (medicine harvesting), Cochrane (berry harvesting), Matachewan (medicine harvesting), and Forsythe Lake (berry harvesting).</p> <p>An additional 9 mapped food plants and medicine locations (approximately) were identified by Matachewan First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>	<p>Matachewan First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-investment of Project revenues into plant habitat conservation in the local and regional PA. • Minimizing impacts to terrestrial habitats during Project operations and remediation using available technology and appropriate recovery timelines. • Cumulative effects assessment on Indigenous Peoples and their Traditional Territories including plants. • Opportunity for collaboration on weed management strategies with Indigenous groups. • Input on dust management plans and consultation on dust suppressants to be used on the Project. • Involvement in monitoring of medicines, plants or berries that are affected by fugitive dust. • Implementation of best practices in the maintenance (e.g., aeration, maintain microflora/fauna) of soil (overburden) piles that would be used in progressive reclamation. Matachewan First Nation wants to reduce the potential need of disturbing/soil stripping an area to provide the topsoil required for revegetation. • Using plants of cultural significance during site reclamation and revegetation. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Matachewan First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify plant species of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Potential effects on plant species of cultural importance to Matachewan First Nation, including those used as medicines or country foods, were assessed in Chapters 16 and 21 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Section 27.4.1).</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Matachewan First Nation interests, including plants present in its Traditional Territory, is provided in Chapter 27 (Section 27.5.2). The assessment of cumulative effects on Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments is provided in Chapter 29.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will notify and work with Indigenous communities who have expressed an interest in harvesting plants within the PA before construction to provide safe access for these activities, prior to any clearing occurring.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concern for the impacts of dry stack tailing on flora, the Project's proposed tailings management facility will be operated as a "thickened tailings cone" and is described further in Chapter 3, Section 3.3.4. Canada Nickel will not have dry stack tailing storage.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns for impacts to food and medicine plant quality, usability and abundance, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on vegetation, wetlands and plant gathering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will notify and work with Indigenous Nations who have expressed an interest in harvesting plants within the PA before construction to provide safe access for these activities, prior to any clearing occurring. • Canada Nickel will mark clearing boundaries prior to site preparation to maintain clearing activities within the designated footprint. Restrict clearing to the approved PA. • Implement industry-standard management practices to reduce and control the introduction or spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds, such as development of a clean equipment protocol. Progressively revegetate disturbed areas in the PA to reduce the potential for colonization of disturbed areas by invasive plant species. Where invasive plant species are discovered within the Project Area, Canada Nickel will implement vegetation control to eliminate the occurrence and prevent further spread. Use only native Ontario species and nurse crops when conducting progressive reclamation. • Incorporate plant species at risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC) in reclamation planting activities planning, if and where habitat is deemed suitable. • Incorporate plant species of importance to Indigenous Nations into progressive reclamation and planting associated with decommissioning and closure of the site. • Avoid or reduce vegetation clearing activities within identified areas of plant species of management concern (SOMC) within the Project Area (if present), where practical. • Incorporate rare vegetation communities into reclamation planning for progressive reclamation and eventual decommissioning and closure of the site where appropriate and feasible. • When crossing watercourses and wetlands that will be preserved over the Project duration with linear features such as roads, Canada Nickel will maintain hydrological connectivity using appropriately sized culverts to reduce impacts on riparian vegetation. • Incorporate wetlands into reclamation planning to re-establish wetlands, where practical. Canada Nickel will undertake vegetation test plots to identify suitable reclamation options. <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to air quality, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4 and 27.5.</p> <p>Chapters 16, 21 and 29.</p>

Row No.	Matachewan First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Matachewan First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of abundance of medicines and plants. • Increased travel distances to harvest plant medicines. • Avoidance of previously preferred harvesting areas because of industrial (e.g., herbicide spraying) activities. • Impacts to plant harvesting caused by increased population. • Impacts of the dry stack tailings on flora. • Plans for the presence of medicinal plants present within the PA and potential impacts on harvesting sites and site reclamation following decommissioning. 			<p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to effects to increased competition, additional information is provided above in Row 5.</p> <p>Regarding Matachewan First Nation's concerns specific to effects to community health, including psychological health, additional information is provided above in Row 3.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	

Note:

¹ A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).

SOURCES:

Feedback obtained through Canada Nickel Project-specific engagement with Matachewan First Nation. Refer to Chapter 7 of the Impact Statement for additional details.

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Attachment 27.3 **Mattagami First Nation Engagement Outcomes**
for the Crawford Nickel Project (the Project)

Mattagami First Nation Engagement Outcomes for the Crawford Nickel Project

Row No.	Mattagami First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Mattagami First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
1	<p>Cultural Continuity</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation stated that cultural continuity is comprised of numerous interrelated values important for Mattagami First Nation's cultural persistence and way of life, including knowledge transmission, spirituality, sense of place, and identity. These values are highly intertwined hunting and trapping, food plants and medicines, water and fishing. Knowledge transmission describes the passing of knowledge between people and generations.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation noted that culture and cultural practices are inextricably tied to the land within Mattagami First Nation's Traditional Territory. Knowledge and knowledge transmission is often place-based and requires opportunities for multiple generations to spend time together outdoors in important places. As knowledge transmission brings Mattagami people together, it also helps to create or maintain meaningful bonds within or between families and generations in the Mattagami community.</p> <p>Potential effects to cultural continuity, health and well-being identified by Mattagami First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced ability to access the land in the Project Area (PA) resulting from the potential disruption of existing trail routes (e.g., Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club [OFSC] trails). • Loss of access the lands for teaching knowledge and connecting to place-based ancestral history. • Reduced sense of place arising from land clearing and sensory disturbance (e.g., visual, noise) and increased presence of other land users resulting in diminished 	<p>Project Area (PA), Local Study Areas (LSA) and Regional Study Area (RSA)</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation identified one cultural feature and three transportation features within the PA.</p> <p>In addition, the following cultural continuity features were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.4 km south of the PA (habitation) • 4.4 km south of the PA (cultural) • 4.5 km south of the PA (habitation) <p>Mattagami First Nation identified the following cultural activities and ceremonial practice areas that intersect the PA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway 655 (cultural area) • OFSC trails near Highway 655 between Timmins and Cochrane <p>In addition, Mattagami First Nation identified the following cultural activities and ceremonial practice areas at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [culturally important place]) • 4.8 km east of the PA (Iroquois Falls [snowmobile trail]) 	<p>Mattagami First Nation recommends the following considerations for engagement and collaboration with Canada Nickel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding Canada Nickel accountable to commitments made to complete Project remediation. • Further information on decommissioning and closure plans. • Incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge into the Impact Statement and the protection of confidential information. • Engagement by Canada Nickel on all aspects of the Project. • Inclusion of Indigenous Land Use Plans in the preparation of the Impact Statement. • Consultation on the location of any new access roads that could lead to increased access by non-members to areas used for harvesting by members. • Providing adequate time to prepare Project-specific baseline studies to inform the assessment of effects on their interests. • Work with Nations for site reclamation plans. • Collaboration with Nations to document country foods in the region. • Request to have a ceremony to acknowledge the Project on traditional lands. <p>Mattagami First Nation recommends the following considerations regarding Project design and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressly incorporating Mattagami values, vision, respect for community, and recognition of Treaty 9 rights into Project planning and operations processes. • Cultural competency and safety training for mining employees are necessary to alleviate 	<p>Canada Nickel acknowledges that the Project may have an impact on the exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Indigenous Peoples recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i>, 1982, including on Mattagami First Nation. Canada Nickel values, and has, where possible, incorporated the recommendations made by Mattagami First Nation regarding the Project. Responses to Mattagami First Nation's recommendations are provided below.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendations for engagement and collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattagami First Nation was identified as one of the Indigenous Nations that make up the Crown Consultation list and who were informed of the Project during the Pre-Planning Phase of the Project's impact assessment process. Canada Nickel recognizes the importance of working in partnership with Mattagami First Nation to establish a mutually beneficial, cooperative, and productive relationship centered around transparent information sharing, respectful engagement, open dialogue, and meaningful partnerships. • To this end, Canada Nickel has provided resources to support Mattagami First Nation's participation in the assessment process, including the formation of an Impact Assessment Process Agreement, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full participation of Mattagami First Nation in the federal Impact Assessment process. • The preparation of its Nation-led studies for the Project (e.g., Socio-economic studies, Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies). • Canada Nickel is also negotiating an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Mattagami First Nation. The specific content of the IBA established with Mattagami First Nation is considered confidential, however, the purpose of these agreements is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment by Canada Nickel to engage in ongoing consultation with Mattagami First Nation. • Opportunities to participate in the benefits of the Project through business, and training, and financial compensation. • The development and maintenance of a collaborative relationship between Canada Nickel and Mattagami First Nation with respect to the Project, which recognizes the need for mutual respect, mutual benefit, cooperation and co-existence with Indigenous people. • The development and implementation of measures to protect the environment for ongoing and future use by Mattagami First Nation members. • To facilitate effective, efficient, and streamlined consultation with Mattagami First Nation by Canada Nickel relating to regulatory permitting, approvals processes, and other environmental matters associated with the Project and Project activities. • The basis for legal certainty and the support of Mattagami First Nation for the Project. <p>A detailed description of Canada Nickel's engagement with Mattagami First Nation is provided in Chapter 7.</p> <p>The agreements established with Mattagami First Nation supported the participation of Nation members in baseline studies and arrangements were made for members to attend site visits. Baseline program work plans and schedules were shared with primary community contacts in advance.</p> <p>Since the submission of the Detailed Project Description (DPD), Canada Nickel has continued sharing Project information with Mattagami First Nation based on a current understanding of the Nation's territory and the terms of the established agreements. The use of data throughout the Impact Statement has been presented according to the preference of Mattagami First Nation through its iterative reviews, its respective policies and protocols, consent for its</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.3, 27.4, 27.5.</p> <p>Chapters 7, 12, 13, 21, 22, 29 and 33.</p>

Row No.	Mattagami First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Mattagami First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<p>ability to enjoy solitude and connect to land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of ability to connect with important areas and spiritual values due to the relocation of Highway 655, increased road usage, and potential increases in wildlife mortality. Increase in the overall pace of development in Mattagami territory. Exclusion of Mattagami First Nation from decision-making and consultation processes regarding industrial development, as well as legal and financial deterrents to exercising Mattagami First Nation rights in certain areas. Uncertainty and skepticism over Project operations and remediation, including adherence to relevant regulations and the use and storage of tailings and other industrial chemicals. Potential impacts to current and future use of lands and resources, including from construction of the rail line, transmission line, and highway relocation; an increase in temporary workers; and perceived and real changes to the visual landscape, air quality, noise and vibrations, and contamination. These Project activities could affect access to harvesting, traplines and hunting camps, wildlife corridors, breeding grounds, and overwintering sites, affect the experience of being on the water, water quality and/or quantity, fish and fishing and impact harvesting and gathering of medicines, plants, and mushrooms. Effects to the Mattagami River, as the river system is important for the exercise of harvesting rights and other cultural practices and ceremonies. Potential for stockpiled materials to leach toxins into the environment. Effects to country foods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.3 km southeast of the PA (Big Water Camp [habitation site]) <p>11 areas for cultural activities and ceremonial practices were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Timmins (OFSC trails), Kamiskotia Lake (tangible connection to cultural heritage), Cochrane (OFSC trails), Grassy River (camping area, teaching area), Smooth Rock Falls (cultural transmission area), Kenogami Lake off of Highway 144 (cultural area), Mattagami Lake (habitation site, snowshoe route, cabin), Kenogamissi Falls Road (country foods), Mattagami IR 71 Reserve (cultural transmission), Hurst (cultural area), and Nighthawk Lake (habitation site).</p> <p>An additional 9 mapped cultural continuity locations (approximately) were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p> <p>Other features and values identified by Mattagami First Nation are provided in the following rows of this table to facilitate resource-specific responses.</p>	<p>the social impacts that sometimes come from influxes of non-Indigenous people into First Nation communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative corridors for the new 230 kilovolt transmission line corridor, relocated Highway 655, rail spur, and relocated 500 kilovolt transmission line. Potential re-use of excavated waste rock to improve nearby ATV trails. Vibration and noise emissions mitigation and monitoring measures throughout all phases of the Project, including method to address noise complaints. Pre-contact baseline for temporal scope. To demonstrate the Project's contribution to sustainability, the temporal scope must also assess impacts and or positive effects for future at least seven generations. 	<p>use and public disclosure, and views regarding the characterization of its data and Indigenous Knowledge within the assessment.</p> <p>Canada Nickel recognizes that western knowledge and worldviews, which have been the foundation for current Canadian and provincial legislation, policy, regulation, and institutions, may constrain how Indigenous Knowledge is incorporated in Project planning. Canada Nickel also recognizes that Indigenous Nations are best positioned to identify their priorities and interests, and to share their views in their own words, and that such information requires the same consideration as any other information source (Chapters 7 and 27). Where made available by Mattagami First Nation through engagement, information gathering, and voluntary information sharing, Indigenous Knowledge has been reviewed and incorporated in the Impact Statement, as applicable. Through engagement activities, Mattagami First Nation has been requested to provide feedback with respect to potential impacts of the Project on its rights and interests and has been provided the opportunity to validate the use of its Indigenous Knowledge in the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation to hold an acknowledgment ceremony for the Project, Canada Nickel acknowledges this request and will continue to engage with Mattagami First Nation regarding this topic.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation for cultural competency and safety training, Chapter 21 includes an assessment of potential effects on cultural continuity and cultural connectedness. As described in that chapter, Canada Nickel is developing several policies, procedures, and training which will mitigate adverse effects on social conditions (Code of Conduct and Ethics, Violence and Harassment, Diversity and Inclusion, Fit for Duty, including Drug and Alcohol Policy, Cultural Awareness Training).</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for effects to country foods, Chapter 21 includes an assessment of potential effects to the quality of country foods. This section of the Impact Statement was informed by engagement with Indigenous Nations and Mattagami First Nation's Socio-economic and Traditional Knowledge and Land Use studies. Additional information, including mitigation measures related to potential effects on country foods, are provided below in Rows 3, 5, 6 and 7.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation for alternative corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project does not include a new transmission line as the Project will connect directly to a 230 kV transmission line constructed and operated by a third party as part of an independent transmission expansion project that is expected to promote stronger electricity reliability for northern communities and Indigenous Nations. A Transmission Facilities Class EA was initiated by the third party for the 230 kV transmission line project in 2023. As the ore deposit is partially located under the existing Highway 655/500 kV transmission line corridor, realignment of an approximately 26 kilometre (km) segment of the highway and transmission line is required to accommodate the Open Pit and other Project components, since mine operation would not be feasible without relocating the corridor (Chapter 5). Only a single corridor was considered given that using the same physical space (smaller footprint than separate alignments) would be more efficient and result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced potential for environmental effects. Reduced need for materials needed during construction of the realignment. Reduced visual clutter by avoiding multiple parallel lines of infrastructure. The proposed locations of the corridors for facilities and infrastructure ancillary to the Project will be built and/or operated by others but are included in the activities considered in the assessment. Mattagami First Nation's concerns regarding ancillary components will be communicated by Canada Nickel to the third-parties responsible for their construction and/or operation. 	

Row No.	Mattagami First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Mattagami First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
				<p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for potential impacts to current and future use of lands and resources, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will develop and implement an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) which will describe the efforts to be taken to manage the effects of the Project on ambient air quality in accordance with provincial regulatory requirements. The AQMP will specify the mitigation measures for the management and reduction of air emissions during Project construction and operations. • Primary crushers, secondary crushers and crushed ore Stockpiles will be enclosed and equipped with dust collectors or vent filters as necessary allowing to filter the internal air before the exhaust is released to the environment. • Install a trolley-assist system in the Open Pit for haul trucks to reduce diesel fuel combustion during phase 1 of operations. • Usage of dust suppressants during non-precipitation days in the summertime. Watering application rates and intervals will be adjusted to achieve the required mitigation efficiency, and additional operational measures that can control water evaporation rates will be implemented if needed. • Implement an idling policy on site for mobile equipment and vehicles. • Where possible maintain existing vegetation along the haul roads to act as a wind break. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for potential impacts to current and future use of lands and resources, as described in Chapter 13, a Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be developed for the Project which will describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for the routine management/maintenance of sources of noise and vibration during construction and operations. • Communication protocol requirements and a procedure for verifying and addressing complaints. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for potential impacts to current and future use of lands, Canada Nickel will maintain access to the lower Sturgeon Dam Road and Camp 40 Road for use by Mattagami First Nation.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation to demonstrate the Project's contribution to sustainability, the Seven Generations Forward Thinking and Seven Grandfather Teachings were incorporated into the assessment on Sustainability in Chapter 33. In addition, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel regarding sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel has developed and will implement a net-zero plan for the Project and is committed to continuous improvement of the net-zero plan, as new technology becomes available or best practices evolve. • Canada Nickel plans to implement a novel active carbon sequestration process known as the In Process Tailings (IPT) Carbonation process. • Canada Nickel participates in the initiative "Equal by 30," which aims to increase benefits to women and to accelerate gender equality and diversity to close the gender gap by 2030. • Canada Nickel will use autonomous mining trucks which can achieve a higher level of safety and productivity during haulage operations and greatly improve efficiency of overall operations. Improves in efficiency will lower fuel consumption during mining operations and result in lower emissions from diesel combustion. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for the overall pace of development in Mattagami territory, Chapter 27 (Section 27.5) provides the assessment of Project-related effects and residual cumulative effects specific to and</p>	

Row No.	Mattagami First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Mattagami First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
				<p>reflective of the interests of Mattagami First Nation. It was informed by the assessment of cumulative effects relative to each of the VCs considered in Chapter 29 of the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Canada Nickel recognizes the interests of Indigenous communities in all aspects of Project activities and environmental protection. Canada Nickel is committed to continue discussing Mattagami First Nation's concern about potential environmental impacts during construction and post-construction activities, as well as the mitigation measures to reduce such impacts.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will continue to engage Mattagami First Nation to understand and mitigate the Project's impacts on its interests, explore opportunities to enhance Project benefits included in the IBA, and consider its recommendations and input on Project decisions, including the development of management plans and offsetting. Through this ongoing collaboration, Canada Nickel aims to foster a positive long-term relationship with Mattagami First Nation throughout the life of the Project.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for stockpiled materials to leach toxins into the environment, additional information specific to accidents and malfunctions is provided below in Row 6.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation to re-use excavated waste rock, additional information specific to measures that will be implemented by Canada Nickel to manage waste rock, including collection and temporary storage, is provided below in Row 6.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
2	<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation commented on the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage resources and structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance in or near the PA, including sacred, ceremonial, or culturally important places (e.g., waterbodies including the Mattagami River and Abitibi River), plants (e.g., cedar, sage, spruce, sweetgrass), animals (e.g., bald eagles, moose, spirit moose), objects, beings or things and teaching areas used to transfer knowledge between generations; as well as sites occupied historically.</p> <p>Potential effects to cultural heritage identified Mattagami First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding the lack of an archaeological survey within the PA and the absence of an Archaeology and Heritage VC chapter in the Impact Statement. 	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation identified one potential burial site that intersects the north end of the PA.</p> <p>An additional cultural heritage area was identified at a location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [historic canoe and trade route, tangible connection to cultural heritage]) <p>Two areas for cultural activities and ceremonial practices were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Abitibi River (culturally important place) and Kamiskotia Lake (burial site).</p>	<p>Mattagami First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to provide input to identifying areas of potential archaeological significance and opportunity to review any studies, desktop or otherwise, used to assess the potential presence of physical and cultural heritage features. Establishment a "chance find procedure" to direct proponent on how to respond to a "chance find" having potential archaeological significance. 	<p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as, leading studies to support the development of the impact Statement, including an Indigenous-led evaluation of effects on cultural and physical heritage, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Descriptions of the archaeological assessment work undertaken for the Project is provided in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.2.1.7, 27.2.2.7 and 27.2.3.7).</p> <p>Canada Nickel engaged with Indigenous Nations regarding participation in the archaeological program undertaken for the Project. A draft Stage I Archaeological Assessment was conducted and reviewed by Mattagami First Nation, and comments and concerns were considered in the preparation of the final version.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on cultural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Stage 2 archeological assessment of areas identified as retaining archaeological potential in the Stage 1 archeological assessment. If archaeological resources are found and determined to have cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) then complete additional recommended work, such as Stage 3 archaeological assessment and, if necessary, Stage 4 mitigation of archaeological resources as per the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's <i>Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists</i>. Prepare and Implement an Archaeological Resources Protection Plan. Canada Nickel will have a Heritage Chance Find Protocol (HCFP) agreed upon between the Indigenous Nations and Canada Nickel. If an archaeological resource is discovered during the construction phase, all construction will cease within a radius of at least 20 m of the archaeological resource. A licensed archaeologist will be retained by Canada Nickel and a Stage 2 AA will be conducted with the participation of any interested Indigenous Nations. Follow-up Stage 3 or Stage 4 archaeological investigations will be conducted, as required. Once any archaeological resources with CHVI have been mitigated through excavation, construction will proceed. 	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.2.1.7, 27.2.2.7, 27.2.3.7, 27.4.2 and 27.5.3.</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and implement a worker education program about appropriate protocols in case of accidental discoveries. • Further assessment of in case changes to the PA through the life of the Project. <p>Additional information regarding Mattagami First Nation specific engagement opportunities with Canada Nickel, such as, leading studies to support the development of the Impact Statement, is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
3	<p>Health and Well-Being</p> <p>Potential effects to health and well-being identified by Mattagami First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects to country foods. • Social impacts caused by influxes of non-Indigenous people into First Nation communities. • Effects on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ (including potential increase in human trafficking), and discrimination and violence towards its members, and existing issues of human trafficking in their communities and in the broader region. • Impacts to human health, including actual and perceived risks at key receptors due to changes to air quality, recreational and drinking water quality. • Impacts on social well-being from in and out migrations, including crime rates, addiction, mental health, impacts to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+, and discrimination and violence towards Indigenous Peoples. • Impacts to local community services and infrastructure, including women's shelters, health facilities, mental health and addiction facilities, emergency services, childcare, and housing availability and pricing. • Increased discrimination from outside workforce, such as increased harassment. 	PA, LSA, RSA	<p>Mattagami First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of youth in the preparation of the GBA Plus Report and the opportunity for Mattagami First Nation to review report prior to submission. • Support for diet and harvest studies to adequately understand our First Nation community contexts and baseline health profiles. Characterization of baseline and any modelling for the atmospheric, acoustic, and visual environment needs to be informed by diet and harvest studies. • Contribution to youth scholarships or other pathways for community members to have access to higher-level jobs like engineering or management positions. • Investment in cultural revival projects, including those that do not directly relate to the mine and whose benefits would outlast the Project lifespan, such as, funding cultural camps and a greenhouse to increase community food security. • Funding to create additional community spaces such as a youth centre, swimming pools, restaurants, or grocery stores. • Financial literacy classes that could teach mine employees how to invest in themselves or in their communities and reduce the increase in drug use and risk-taking behaviours. • Engagement with First Nations to identify community-specific opportunities to enhance positive impacts (e.g., education and training opportunities, support for community programs, etc.). 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Mattagami First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity and funding to conduct Nation-led studies for the Project that focus on Indigenous health and socio-economic conditions. Additional information is provided in the Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for effects to human health and social well-being, including actual and perceived risks, Chapter 21 includes an assessment of effects on changes to physical health, community safety, and mental health and social well-being. This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27 in relation to Mattagami First Nation interests (Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4).</p> <p>Changes in air, water, country foods and sensory disturbances were addressed in the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA). This assessment examined the interactions between measured or modelled concentrations of chemicals in the environment for these components and addressed the potential for these interactions to result in adverse health risks to humans. Chemicals associated with construction, operation and closure of the Project were assessed and toxicological risks were addressed in accordance with regulatory guidelines. The results were considered in the development of mitigation and management measures, and further informed the assessment on Mattagami First Nation interests.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on human health and social well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will develop a Health and Medical Services Plan to manage occupational and non-occupational injuries and illnesses. This will include provision of medical care at the Project site through onsite presence of medical personnel. Canada Nickel will also make available an online physician 24 hours/day. • Canada Nickel has made, and will continue to make, contributions to support social, economic, health, and other activities/programs for local, including Indigenous, communities through its Community Contributions Program. The Program will include a local procurement policy as well as a sponsorship and donation strategy adapted to Canada Nickel's guiding principles and the needs of the communities. • Canada Nickel has developed an internal Whistleblower Program for employee feedback and communication of concerns, as well as an external feedback mechanism to capture Project-related comments and concerns from community members. • Canada Nickel presently has or is in the process of developing several policies, procedures, and training which will mitigate adverse effects on health which include Code of Conduct and Ethics; Violence and Harassment; Diversity and Inclusion; Fit for Duty, including Drug and Alcohol Policy; Cultural Awareness Training. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for impacts to local community services and infrastructure, and consideration of GBA Plus policy considerations, Chapters 27 and 22 include an assessment of effects on a change in demand for community services and infrastructure, including for Indigenous subgroups. This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27 in relation to Indigenous Interests, including Indigenous determinants of health (Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4).</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.3, 27.4.3.3, 27.4.4.3, 27.5.4 and 27.5.6.1.</p> <p>Chapters 21, 22 and 31.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of traditional practices on-site for Indigenous employees, such as tobacco offering and smudging areas. Consider parameters that encourage GBA Plus policy considerations and adoption of Canada Nickel prerogatives in positive relationship building with Indigenous Peoples (e.g., Could include grievance reporting, employee training and policies and practices and support recruitment and retention of Indigenous peoples and codes of conduct that are gender responsive and consider human rights instruments around substance abuse, employee rights and good business practices). 	<p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on community services and regarding GBA Plus considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will engage with local municipalities on the availability of housing to inform the housing strategy for the area that encourages and provides opportunities for workers to move permanently into the area. Canada Nickel is in regular communication with local training/education institutions regarding existing, upcoming, and potential course and training offerings, and how this aligns with Canada Nickel's anticipated needs. Canada Nickel continues to explore education, training opportunities and will develop hiring practices that encourages the employment and retention of qualified Indigenous peoples and local community members, including opportunities targeted towards youth Canada Nickel will explore opportunities to support training, education, and scholarship programs that improve employment opportunities, including participation in and contribution to local training networks, which are targeted at diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, and various relevant subgroups, such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program. Canada Nickel will communicate Project needs to local accommodation providers, including hotel, motel, and bed-and-breakfast accommodation providers to help secure rooms for construction workers. Canada Nickel will provide security at the Project site. Canada Nickel will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which encompasses respectful workplace behaviours for diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, seniors, 2SLGBTQQIA+, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and members of the GBA Plus community. Such a policy and subsequent training consist of awareness training for non-Indigenous employees to foster a respectful working relationship with Indigenous employees and contractors. Canada Nickel will implement traffic control measures, which may include gating approaches to Project access roads and/or gated fencing to restrict public access to the PA. Speed limits will be posted and monitored onsite access roads. Canada Nickel will follow up with contractors on any reports of transport trucks travelling at excessive speeds along the transport route. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for changes in housing availability and pricing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel conducted a housing needs assessment for the Project and determined that there is a sufficient supply of home ownership housing (as opposed to rentals) in the District of Cochrane to support a new workforce. Canada Nickel will engage with local municipalities on the availability of housing to inform the housing strategy for the area that encourages and provides opportunities to move permanently into the area. Canada Nickel will undertake a detailed Project accommodation study based on workforce requirements and develop an Accommodations Management Plan. The presence of the Project may create positive effects for Mattagami First Nation if potential demands on accommodations result in efforts to increase the stock of permanent and temporary housing in the region. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for potential increases in human trafficking in the region, the GBA Plus analysis conducted in Chapter 27 (informed by the GBA Plus analysis in Chapter 21 Health, Chapter 22 Social Conditions and Chapter 23 Economic Conditions), considers potential effects on and risk of change in safety for Indigenous women and youth. Canada Nickel is committed to providing cultural awareness training to enhance the outside workforces' understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures and to describe the root causes of inequities that Flying Post First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, and Mattagami First Nation experience. Canada Nickel will engage with the Indigenous Nations to develop the cultural awareness training so that it includes topics of importance</p>	

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				<p>to the Nations (e.g., Treaty 9; MMIWG). Additionally, Canada Nickel will implement a harassment policy and an internal whistleblower mechanism for confidential reporting of workplace harassment to mitigate disproportionate effects to Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ employed by the Project.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for traffic safety, Chapter 27 considers the effects on a change in demand for community services and infrastructure, including a change in demand for transportation infrastructure in relation to Mattagami First Nation's interests (Sections 27.4 and 27.5).</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation for measures to prevent and avoid accidents, Chapter 31 includes an assessment of effects of potential accidents or malfunctions, including safety and mitigation measures, and a Conceptual Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential accidents or malfunctions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will design, construct and operate the Project according to accepted standard practices for healthy, safety and environmental management, to reduce the risk of potential Project-related environmental, health, social and economic effects and effects to Indigenous Nations, including those that could result from accidents or malfunctions. • Canada Nickel will maintain construction equipment in good working order and implement careful maintenance and monitoring of all equipment to reduce emissions and the risk of spills or leaks of petroleum-based products. • Canada Nickel will develop and apply procedures and training aimed at safe operation of the Project, that reduce or prevent the potential conditions that may lead to accidents or malfunctions. • Canada Nickel will develop and implement Management Plans for the Project to outline the proposed safety and mitigation measures and commitments to be carried out by Canada Nickel and their contractors. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns specific to air quality, additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendations specific to Indigenous employment, training and business contracting opportunities, additional information is provided below in Row 4.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns specific to drinking water quality, additional information is provided below in Row 6.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
4	<p><u>Economic Benefits, Investment and Inclusion</u></p> <p>Mattagami First Nation has identified an interest in economic benefits, investment and inclusion opportunities.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation emphasized the need for more time when planning business opportunities related to the Project.</p>	PA, LSA, RSA	<p>Mattagami First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training opportunities for Mattagami First Nation members to take advantage of new employment opportunities with the Project. • Investment in affordable housing to alleviate pressures on housing market. • Creation of public transportation options to allow Mattagami First Nation members to take advantage of employment opportunities with the Project. • Development of employment retention policies specific to Indigenous peoples. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Mattagami First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify economic interests in the Project through an IBA and Impact Assessment Process Agreement. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation to consider policy guidance development that may be adopted by Subject Matter Experts, including Indigenous businesses to ensure policy alignment between the corporation and contractors, Canada Nickel recognizes the unique role that industry can play in supporting Indigenous Peoples, including supporting equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities. Canada Nickel will therefore place a focus on regional and Indigenous employment when seeking to fill workforce requirements for construction and operation.</p> <p>Canada Nickel has held early discussions with Indigenous Nations, Keepers of the Circle, local colleges, and other regional training institutions around ways to emphasize Indigenous employment in the mining industry.</p> <p>Canada Nickel has provided information about contracting and employment opportunities with Indigenous Nations, as well as obtain information regarding employment interests and the capacity and the capabilities of Indigenous Nations related to Project needs. Canada Nickel is committed to continue discussing potential economic participation in the</p>	Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.3 and 27.5.4. Chapter 23.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to overcome barriers to employment for women in the industry. Consider guidance development that may be adopted by Subject Matter Experts, including Indigenous businesses to ensure policy alignment between the corporation and contractors. 	<p>Project to help build reciprocal business relationships with Mattagami First Nation, including engaging contractors to uphold commitments to encourage participation of local Indigenous services on the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Engagement with Mattagami First Nation throughout the assessment supported Canada Nickel's understanding of the needs of diverse population groups to help enhance employment opportunities through strategic, targeted programs.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will place a focus on regional and Indigenous employment when seeking to fill workforce requirements for construction and operation. Engagement with Mattagami First Nation helps Canada Nickel understand the needs of diverse population groups to help enhance employment opportunities through strategic, targeted programs.</p> <p>Through partnerships and discussions with regional training institutions, Canada Nickel hopes that training for the new workforce, per advice and program specifics of regional training institutions, will begin as appropriate on a case-by-case basis to meet anticipated employment opportunities.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on economic conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will explore opportunities to support training, education, and scholarship programs that improve employment opportunities, including participation in and contribution to local training networks, which are targeted at diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, and various relevant subgroups, such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program. Canada Nickel will increase flexibility in work schedules to enable the continued participation of Indigenous employees in traditional and cultural activities. Canada Nickel will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which encompasses respectful workplace behaviours for diverse groups such as Indigenous Nations, local youth, seniors, 2SLGBTQQIA+, visible minorities, persons with disabilities and members of the GBA Plus community. Such a policy and subsequent training consist of awareness training for non-Indigenous employees to foster a respectful working relationship with Indigenous employees and contractors. Canada Nickel will participate in initiatives aimed at addressing inequality among Indigenous populations through working with organizations such as Keepers of the Circle. Canada Nickel will prepare plans, programs and policies to encourage contracting and procurement opportunities for Indigenous businesses. Such plans will include the enhancement of supplier network development initiatives, including keeping a repository of local and Indigenous suppliers with potential to bid on the Project. Indigenous Nations located near the Project will be directly contacted regarding procurement opportunities from Canada Nickel and Canada Nickel will accommodate barriers there may be to bid on a contract (such as translation services), where feasible. Canada Nickel commits to consider bids from qualified locally owned businesses first, including those submitted from diverse groups such as Indigenous-owned companies, women-owned companies, 2SLGBTQQIA+-owned companies, persons with disabilities-owned companies and visible minority-owned companies, as per Canada Nickel's Local Procurement Policy. Canada Nickel has and will continue to engage local Indigenous Nations and has established agreements to support present engagement and participation in the Project. <p>Canada Nickel will provide information about contracting and employment opportunities with Indigenous communities, as well as obtain information regarding employment interests and the capacity and the capabilities of Indigenous communities related to Project needs. Canada Nickel is committed to discussing potential economic participation in the Project to help build reciprocal business relationships with Indigenous communities, including engaging</p>	

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				<p>contractors to uphold commitments to encourage participation of local Indigenous services on the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Canada Nickel is committed to maintaining an updated list of Indigenous businesses and their capacity and capabilities for the Project. This will be done through engagement with Indigenous communities to collect, verify, and validate business information on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Canada Nickel's Indigenous subcontracting, employment, and training expectations will be outlined through sourcing events (e.g., request for proposals). The majority of opportunities for contracting and employment will occur in the construction phase of the Project; however, Canada Nickel will seek to provide economic opportunities for local Indigenous communities throughout all phases of the Project, where possible.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendations specific to housing and community infrastructure, additional information is provided in Row 3.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
5	<p><u>Hunting and Trapping, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</u></p> <p>Mattagami First Nation stated hunting and trapping continue to be core practices for members, for numerous reasons including as a supporting practice for food sovereignty and security, as a subject of traditional knowledge and protocol concerning the harvesting, processing, and sharing of country foods, and as vehicle for social gathering and the continuation of community and family traditions.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported harvesting a variety of large and small game including moose, bear, beaver, spruce and ruffed grouse (partridge), ducks, marten, wolf and rabbit.</p> <p>Traditional species of importance also include fisher, mink, fox, grey fox, muskrat, squirrel, otter, weasel, rabbit, coyote, lynx, wolverine, black bear, and cougar, moose, boreal caribou, deer, white-tailed deer, geese, eagle (bald eagle), duck, crane, and osprey. Mattagami First Nation noted that the eastern whip-poor-will is a species of concern and has the potential to be present in the PA.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported that hunting for moose, grouse, bear, and deer starts in August and finishes in November, and ducks and geese are hunted from April to May and August to September. The First Nation further</p>	<p>PSA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation identified one subsistence feature, three environmental features and four transportation features within the PA.</p> <p>In addition, the following hunting and trapping features were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 624.7 m north of the PA (environmental) 624.7 m north of the PA (subsistence) 734.7 m east of the PA (transportation) <p>Mattagami First Nation identified one hunting and trapping area that intersects the PA along Highway 655.</p> <p>In addition, one hunting and trapping areas was identified at a location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River) <p>Eight hunting and trapping areas were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including:</p>	<p>Mattagami First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimizing impacts to wildlife habitats during Project operations and remediation using available technology and appropriate recovery timelines. Mitigation measures for effects to birds, migratory birds, and their habitat from accidents, ambient light, interactions with tailings, and disturbance activities. Additional baseline studies including the identification of potential hibernacula for bats, potential effects to bats and bat habitat, including methodologies for assessing effects, and associated mitigation measures and their effectiveness. Indigenous participation in wildlife studies. Support for Mattagami First Nation-led moose studies. Inclusion in any habitat compensation plans. Opportunity to be involved with species at risk mitigation plans. Provide workforce with training regarding wildlife in the region, including the sacred white moose, and their importance to local Indigenous communities. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Mattagami First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify wildlife species of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement and for the development of an IBA related to Mattagami First Nation harvesting rights. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Mattagami First Nation interests, including changes to or loss of access to the land and loss of ability to exercise the right to harvest is provided in Chapter 27, Section 27.5.2.</p> <p>Baseline data for wildlife and wildlife habitats, and birds and bird habitats, were based on a review of background information from publicly available data sources, feedback and engagement with stakeholders, government and Indigenous Nations and site-specific field investigations completed between 2021 and 2023. This included, but was not limited to, surveys of amphibians, bats, moose, and boreal caribou, as well as several bird species, including Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for effects to waterfowl brood, eagle and osprey nesting, species of risk and other birds and bats, Chapter 18 includes an assessment of effects on birds and bird habitats, including changes to habitat, mortality risk, health, and abundance and distribution. This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27, Section 27.4.1. The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on birds and bird habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Nickel will restrict clearing to the approved PA. Canada Nickel will schedule vegetation clearing activities outside the migratory breeding bird period (Zone C5: April 30 to August 20) to reduce the likelihood of disturbing or harming nests of migratory birds, to the extent practical. If small scale, localized vegetation clearing is required during the migratory bird breeding season and the area can be effectively searched for presence of nests, Canada Nickel will have an experienced biologist/scientist survey for signs of nesting before vegetation removal. Canada Nickel will complete pre-disturbance surveys to identify any nests that are protected under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> (e.g., Bald Eagle, other raptors) or nests that are protected year-round on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i> (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron). Canada Nickel will not remove these nests unless appropriate permits are in place. 	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2.</p> <p>Chapters 18, 19 and 22.</p>

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	<p>notes that the seasonal round remains relatively intact, though it is constantly and increasingly under pressure from a variety of stressors (e.g., resource development projects, forestry practices, settlement, and urbanisation).</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported a strong preference for wild meat over store-bought food, based on health benefits and flavour preferences. Participants indicated the centrality of wild game in daily meals and emphasized the importance of sharing with Elders and those who are no longer able to access the land.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported that while moose are described as central to Mattagami diets, they are important for other reasons, including healing properties, their role in managing the landscape, and as a source of income from furs.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported declines in animal quantity and quality, reporting increased parasitizing of moose populations, and concerns regarding the health of other harvested animals.</p> <p>Potential effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat identified by Mattagami First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to air and water from Project activities, with associated impacts to animal and human health. • Displacement of animals because of habitat loss and noise disturbance. • Declines in animal quality due to contaminated animal forage. • Increased parasitizing of moose populations. • Loss of access to preferred hunting and trapping sites. • Increased conflict with recreational hunters. • Impacts to migratory birds and their habitat from disturbance activities, such as noise 	<p>Highways 655, 101, and 576 along the Mattagami River, Highway 576 near Kamiskotia Lake, Nighthawk Lake, Grassy River, Hassard Creek, Kenogamissi Falls Road, McBride Lake, and between Mattagami and Gogama.</p> <p>An additional four mapped hunting and trapping locations were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of wildlife fences, overpasses and corridors during realignment of HWY 655 to promote protections of moose and other wildlife and consideration of historical wildlife corridors. <p>Consideration of regional and local data about wildlife mortalities on highways and roads.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel personnel or contractors will report the discovery of bird nests to appropriate Canada Nickel personal (e.g., the Environmental Department) who will follow appropriate action or follow-up as per the Wildlife Management Plan for the Project. • Canada Nickel will provide training for environmental personnel responsible for site monitoring during construction to recognize species at risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC) that may be present in PA, as well as nests protected under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>, and Great Blue Heron and Pileated Woodpecker nests that are protected year-round on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i>. • Consider the needs of bird species at risk (SAR), such as encouraging the development of a high, dense shrub layer to support Canada Warblers. • Canada Nickel will not disturb or destroy active nests of migratory birds, which are protected under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>. Canada Nickel will also comply with the Migratory Bird Regulation, 2022, including the Schedule 1 species (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker and Great Blue Heron). • Canada Nickel will complete pre-disturbance surveys to locate raptor nests and nests of species protected on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Bird Registry, 2022</i> (Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron). • Canada Nickel will notify the Environment and Climate Change Canada-Canadian Wildlife Service of mortality of any migratory bird species at risk (SAR) in the PA. • Canada Nickel will develop and implement a Site-Wide Water Management Plan (Appendix J of the Impact Statement) for the Project that will treat effluent prior to discharge to the environment, which will reduce the likelihood of harmful effects to migratory birds. • Canada Nickel will deploy bird deterrents (e.g., noise makers, wire barricades) as necessary to discourage birds from entering onsite ponds, including the Tailings Management Facility NE and NW Collection Ponds or other project infrastructure that could attract birds. • Canada Nickel will maintain embankments of the Tailings Management Facility and collection ponds to be free of trees and shrubs to limit the attraction of waterfowl and/or wildlife to these ponds for foraging or breeding. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for wildlife movement, displacement of animals, habitat loss, declines in animal quality due to contaminated animal forage, increased parasitizing of moose populations, and effects to sacred white moose, Chapter 19 includes an assessment of effects on changes to wildlife and wildlife habitat, including changes in habitat, wildlife movement, mortality risk, health, and abundance and distribution. Key indicator species or wildlife groups selected to assess biodiversity and Project effects include amphibians and reptiles, moose, furbearers, species of conservation concern (midland painted turtle, snapping turtle, monarch and yellow-banded bumble bee) and species at risk (Blanding's turtle, boreal caribou and bats). This assessment is summarized in Chapter 27, Section 27.4.1.</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on wildlife and wildlife habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will prepare and implement a Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan, which will include tailored strategies for species and sensitive habitats that align with the principles of the "hierarchy of mitigation measures." Avoiding and restricting activities during sensitive and crucial timing windows will be prioritized, to the extent practical. • Canada Nickel will maintain vegetation cover along the boundaries of high activity areas (e.g. access roads) to reduce sensory effects such as noise and visual disturbances, where practical. 	

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	<p>and blasting, and the timing of these activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to moose habitat, including calving sites, aquatic feeding areas, and wintering grounds, as well as changes in predator and prey relationships, and sensory disturbances related to rail line collisions, noise, and Project emissions. • Impacts to wildlife or birds encountering tailings. • Effects to the Mattagami River and resulting impacts to wildlife and the exercise of harvesting rights. • Impacts to waterfowl brood rearing habitat in and near PA. • Impacts to eagle and osprey nesting in or near the PA. • Impacts to species at risk. • Impact from the use of light fixtures that can potentially disturb nocturnal species such as the common nighthawk and brown myotis. • Impacts of the dry stack tailings on fauna. • Plans for the large mammal surveys, including the presence of cougars, and the methods for identifying the presence or absence of sacred white moose. • Effects to sacred white moose. • Barriers to wildlife movement and the potential for increased wildlife mortality due to increased traffic associated with the Project. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will consider wildlife friendly road and railway design principles and features, such as signage, adapting crossings (e.g., culverts) to allow small wildlife passage, speed limits, where relevant and practical. • Canada Nickel will implement measures to deter or exclude wildlife, where feasible. The specific measures and locations will be determined on a case-by-case scenario and will be monitored for effectiveness. • If wildlife is encountered, Project personnel will temporarily suspend activities until the species is out of harm's way. The encounter will be reported to Canada Nickel representative (e.g., environmental department). • Canada Nickel will incorporate mitigation measures into the design of the Project and will be included in the Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan to avoid or reduce project-related effects on turtles, boreal caribou and bats. • Canada Nickel will implement measures in the Spill Management and Contingency Plan to prevent the release of harmful substances into waters or areas that could be accessed by wildlife. • Canada Nickel will develop a follow up and monitoring program focused on biodiversity that will be completed during all Project phases, including prior to construction and extending throughout construction and year one, year five, and every ten years during operations. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for increased conflict with recreational hunters, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project due to increased competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will prohibit Project personnel from hunting and bringing firearms to the site while working to limit competition for wildlife. <p>The Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan provides policy direction for the management and recovery of boreal caribou. This Project occurs within the Kesagami Range area and boreal caribou and their habitat are included in this assessment. Canada Nickel will incorporate the following mitigation measures as it relates to potential Project-related effects on boreal caribou:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wildlife Management Plan will take into consideration Ontario's best management practices for mineral exploration and development activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario. • Consideration will be given to the creation of boreal caribou habitat onsite as part of the Mine Development Closure Plan in conjunction with other priorities identified through engagement activities. • Obtain an Overall Benefit Permit under the Endangered Species Act, if required, for impacts to Category 3 habitat within the PA. Any permit conditions, including compensation requirements, timing windows, and setbacks, will be integrated into the appropriate management plan (e.g., Construction Environmental Protection Plan and Wildlife Management Plan). <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's request to support Nation-led moose studies, Canada Nickel's ongoing negotiations with the Indigenous Nations for Project-related agreements provides the opportunity for the consideration of additional mitigation strategies that may be proposed by the Nations, including discussions focused on Nation-specific wildlife studies. Additionally, as described above, Canada Nickel has committed to engaging with the Indigenous Nations regarding the Wildlife Management Plan for the Project.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns specific to noise disturbances, additional information is provided above in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation specific to mitigation measures for birds and their habitat in relation to accidents, additional information is provided above in Row 3.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	

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6	<p>Water, Fishing, Fish and Fish Habitat</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation stated that water and fishing values are essential to Mattagami members' land-based way of life, culture, health, and food security. Freshwater lakes and rivers flow through and connect the different regions of Mattagami First Nation Traditional Territory, and the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems therein.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported harvesting a wide diversity of fish species including pickerel (walleye), northern pike, whitefish, smelts, suckers, and perch. Fishers utilise different fishing techniques across species and fishing seasons. Different practices include rod and reel, spring net fishing, and winter ice fishing.</p> <p>Traditional species of importance also include bait fish, sauger, sea trout, bass (large and smallmouth), mooneye, sheepshead, goldeye, splake, northern pike/jackfish, sucker (white and redhorse), brook trout, burbot, perch, catfish (channel and brown bullhead) and lake sturgeon.</p> <p>Additionally, Mattagami First Nation reported that the collection of water from natural sources while out on the land (e.g., at cabins, traplines, fishing sites, harvesting areas) has always been an important activity and access to reliable and clean natural drinking water sources, therefore, is essential to Mattagami First Nation's land-based way of life.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation indicated that waterbodies could have multiple layers of significance and a single waterway could be a fishing area, a spawning habitat, a ceremonial site, a drinking water source, a navigation route, among many other values.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported that preserving access to and confidence in lakes and rivers is vital to fishing practices and Mattagami First Nation food security. Traditional food sharing protocols grounded in Elder care and mutual aid, to ensure that the</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation identified the following water and fishing features at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4 km east of the PA (subsistence) 3.5 km south of the PA (transportation) 3.8 km south of the PA (environmental) 4.1 km south of the PA (subsistence) 4.3 km south of the PA (subsistence) 4.3 km south of the PA (subsistence) <p>Mattagami First Nation identified the following water, fishing, fish and fish habitat areas that intersect the PA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Driftwood River (fish habitat) West Buskegau River (fish habitat) <p>In addition, the following water, fishing, fish and fish habitat areas were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 km west of the PA (Mattagami River [fishing area]) 4.1 km southeast of the PA (Bigwater Lake [recreation activities, fishing area]) <p>16 water, fishing, fish and fish habitat features were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Sandy Falls (fishing area), Twenty-three Mile</p>	<p>Mattagami First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional information on follow-up programs and remediation plans, including monitoring for seepage from stockpiles and the tailings facilities over time, and clarifications on monitoring methodology. Alternative means and mitigation for waste rock, effluent discharge, including site selection, tailings management, and ore processing location. All fish in all life cycle stages in the Indigenous Interests LSA and RSA need to be assessed. At minimum, species must also include perch, walleye, and baitfish. Opportunity to participate and or collaborate on fish and fish habitat studies. Inclusion of Indigenous groups in all ground and surface water studies. Inclusion of Indigenous groups in the decision-making process regarding effluent discharge locations. Opportunity to provide input on the water management plans including dewatering, storm runoff studies, surface water and ground water pond level and water quality monitoring and related emergency warning infrastructure. Opportunity to provide input on any site-specific Closure Plans, including decommissioning of ground water wells, water treatment ponds and water management infrastructure on site. Further information regarding methodology of fish relocation and the ability to participate in fish relocation programs. Opportunity to provide input on proposed water-crossing locations. Adequate storm water management on-site to enable contaminated/contact-water is treated as required before discharge to the environment. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Mattagami First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify fish species and habitats of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation have been and will continue to be engaged regarding water discharge plans. Baseline hydrology and aquatics studies have been conducted for comparison to future conditions of nearby water bodies, and results will be shared once available.</p> <p>Potential effects on fish species of cultural importance to Mattagami First Nation were assessed in Chapters 17 and 21 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>Potential effects on water quality and quantity relative to Mattagami First Nation interests were assessed in Chapters 14 and 15 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Mattagami First Nation interests, including changes to or loss of access to the land and loss of ability to exercise the right to harvest is provided in Chapter 27 (Section 27.5.2). The assessment also considers cumulative effects on surface water and ground water quality and quantity, and fish and fish habitat. Additional information is provided in Chapter 29.</p> <p>Assessment boundaries (spatial and temporal) are specific to each valued component and are provided in each applicable chapter of the Impact Statement.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for effects to water quality and quantity, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit construction footprint (i.e., PA) to the extent possible to reduce the potential for reductions in groundwater recharge, and limit the number of watersheds overprinted by the PA. Use standard construction methods, such as seepage cutoff collars, where trenches extend below the water table to mitigate preferential flow paths. Design of the Stockpiles and Impoundment Facility to increase the amount of runoff and reduce the amount of infiltration, thereby reducing the seepage and loading to groundwater. Implementation of progressive rehabilitation (placement of vegetated soil cover) to reduce infiltration into the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, thereby reducing the amount of water and loading to groundwater and improvements to groundwater quality If faults or fractures which act as conduits for increased flow of groundwater are encountered during advancement of the Open Pit, Canada Nickel will evaluate potential impacts from the increased flows and, if necessary, implement grouting or other practical measures to reduce groundwater inflow. Prepare an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan which will describe spill prevention, contingency planning and reporting practices for the timely and effective response to fuel and other chemical spills. Install contact water collection ditches around the Stockpiles, Impoundment Facility, and Tailings Management Facility to collect toe seepage and groundwater recharge from these Project components. Implement progressive rehabilitation (placement of a vegetated soil cover) to reduce infiltration into the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, thereby reducing the amount of water and loading to groundwater and improvements to groundwater quality 	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2.</p> <p>Chapters 3, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21 and 29.</p>

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	<p>benefits of fishing practices are amplified throughout the community.</p> <p>Potential effects to water, fishing, fish and fish habitat identified by Mattagami First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced water quality due to the introduction of Project-related contaminants into waterways. • Loss of confidence in fish health arising from water quality concerns, with an associated avoidance of fishing areas. • Reduced access to fishing areas and fish due to Project-related access restrictions. • Increased use of the Mattagami River by non-Indigenous recreational fishers and fishing boats has created more shoreline erosion and sedimentation in the river. • Effects to potable water sources and water intake at Smooth Rock Falls. • Effects to water and waterways, including the Mattagami River and Abitibi River. • Effects to navigable waters and navigation by Indigenous peoples. • Effects to water quality and quantity, including contamination from discharge, runoff, or seepage from water-crossings, waste rock stockpiles, ore stockpiles, overburden stockpiles, and the tailings management facility. • Effects to water quantity quality, including sedimentation, and associated risks of mercury mobilization. • Loss of natural waterbodies. • Changes to groundwater-surface water interactions. • Effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in 	<p>Creek (fishing area), Kamiskotia Lake (fishing area), Driftwood (fishing area), Tatachikapika River (fishing area), off of Price Main Road (fishing area), Grassy River (drinking water, fishing area, walleye habitat), Nabakwasi River (water collection, fishing area), Abitibi River (fish habitat), Smooth Rock Falls (water collection), Mattagami Lake (water collection), Sinclair Lake (fishing area, pickerel spawning), Minisnakwa River (fishing area), Togo Rapids (fishing area), and Victoria Creek (fishing area).</p> <p>An additional six mapped water and fishing locations were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to review Overburden Management Plan. • Long-term assessment of potential for metal leaching or acid mine drainage. • Defined spatial and temporal boundaries, including the spatial extent of Project effects on the aquatic environment, and a temporal scope that is inclusive of historical activities and legacy effects. • Information about navigability of waterways, traditional use of waterways for navigation, and proposed mitigation measures. • The need for mitigation measures for effects from fish relocation, overprinting of tributaries to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River, changes in water levels and flows, effluent discharge, seepage, disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites. • Work with Nations to develop fisheries offsetting plans. • Measures to prevent and avoid accidents, including release of hazardous materials, spills, transportation and storage of dangerous goods, tailings dam breach, and forest fires (from increased rail traffic); and details of plans to notify, involve and communicate with residents, including Indigenous residents and in Indigenous languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage Management Plan to reduce and limit the known and potential risks of ML/ARD associated with the Project, thereby reducing potential effects to water quality. • Monitoring wells upgradient, cross gradient, and downgradient of the Stockpiles will be established to collect groundwater levels and water quality during construction and operations to document changes to groundwater levels and flow and groundwater quality. • A representative subset of monitoring wells will be instrumented with data loggers to collect regular groundwater levels. Groundwater levels will be manually measured, and data loggers download in spring, summer, and fall, as possible. • Groundwater quality samples from monitoring wells will be monitored in spring, summer, and fall, as possible, during construction, operations and decommissioning and closure with the frequency progressively reduced based on monitoring results and Project phase. Winter groundwater sampling is not feasible as, based on the baseline data, the monitoring wells are generally frozen and not possible to sample. Groundwater quality samples will be analyzed for general chemistry and select dissolved metals. • Water discharges to the North Driftwood River and West Buskegau River will be balanced to the extent feasible to maintain watercourse flows. • Canada Nickel will design the seepage collection ditches to intercept shallow groundwater seepage from the Tailings Management Facility, ore Stockpiles and Impoundment Facility. • Canada Nickel will implement water treatment through use of a water treatment plant to received discharge from the Tailings Management Facility, collection ponds, and will use proven processes to treat the water to meet regulatory effluent criteria prior to discharge to the environment. • Canada Nickel will verify the adequacy and effectiveness of mitigation measures for surface water quantity and quality through implementation of a follow-up and monitoring program. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for impacts to aquatic life and traditional fishing activities, Chapter 9 contains an assessment of existing conditions for fish and fish habitat, which were informed from a desktop review of existing reports, provincial and federal datasets, Indigenous Knowledge provided by Indigenous Nations, and a three-year field program conducted between 2021 and 2023. Additional sampling was also completed in the North Driftwood and West Buskegau Rivers in spring 2024 for the Fish and Fish Habitat Baseline report.</p> <p>As described in Chapter 17, lake sturgeon was identified as a species of cultural importance to Indigenous Nations, and it was included as a focal fish species in the assessment of effects on Fish and Fish Habitat.</p> <p>A summary of potential residual and cumulative effects to fish and fish habitat related to Mattagami First Nation interests was provided in Chapter 27 (Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2).</p> <p>The following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on fishing, fish and fish habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will limit the construction footprint (i.e., PA) to the extent possible to limit the number of subwatersheds overprinted by the PA and to avoid larger watercourses (e.g. the West Buskegau River) and lakes (e.g. Martin Lake). • Canada Nickel will progressively reclaim mine infrastructure to reduce erosion and sediment loading to streams. • Canada Nickel will implement fish habitat compensation measures for unavoidable harm to fish habitat to satisfy requirements under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> to offset serious harm caused by Project-related activities. 	

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	<p>waterbodies, and blasting in or near fish and fish habitat and spawning sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects to lake sturgeon due to effluent discharge in the Mattagami River and noise and vibrations from blasting. • Impacts to aquatic life and traditional fishing activities in the Mattagami River including sturgeon, suckers and spawning areas. • The dewatering and diversion of any waterbodies since protection of water is a sacred First Nation responsibility. • Water-crossings acting as potential inputs of contamination. • Impacts to pickerel (walleye) spawning locations. • Potential fish impacts. • The presence of pickerel (walleye) within the Indigenous Interests LSA and scoping the species into the Fish and Fish habitat VC. • Past and potential future impacts to natural springs, particularly impacts to natural springs in the Mattagami Village due to proximity to tailings ponds from other projects in the region. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will apply natural channel design principles to appropriately design and dimension the North Driftwood Diversion Channel. • Canada Nickel will implement a no-fishing policy in watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA by all Project personnel while on-shift. • Canada Nickel will develop an Explosives Management Plan which will describe the safe use and storage of explosives and explosive components at the Project site. This plan will consider the Guidelines for Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters. • Canada Nickel will verify the adequacy and effectiveness of mitigation measures for changes to fish habitat and fish health, growth and survival, through the implementation of a follow-up and monitoring program. • If an unexpected deterioration of the environment is observed as part of follow-up and/or monitoring, Canada Nickel will employ intervention mechanisms which will include the adaptive management process. This will include an investigation of the cause of the deterioration and identification of existing and/or new mitigation measures to be implemented to address it, if needed. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for impacts on rail traffic, as described in Chapter 3, transportation of materials by train, included concentrate, would be in the care and control of third parties. No definitive agreement has been reached at this stage and is subject to further discussions with relevant stakeholders. However, for the purposes of the assessment, transportation of materials from the Project to the Kidd Metallurgical Site are included in the assessment of Project effects. On average, two trains per day (up to 4 roundtrip trains per 24-hours) are anticipated to transport concentrate from the processing plant for further processing.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's recommendation for the need for mitigation measures from changes in water levels and flows, hazardous waste rock, effluent discharge, seepage and disposal of mine waste in waterbodies, Canada Nickel prepared a Conceptual Closure Plan (Appendix F) to provide the rehabilitation measures to be implemented during closure for the purposes of fully evaluating the potential effects and necessary mitigation and monitoring measures for the Project and to provide the basis for future planning and design updates.</p> <p>The Project will utilize two Ore Stockpiles located east and west of the Open Pit, and an impoundment facility (including rock impoundment, sand and till impoundment, and clay impoundment) to the north of the Open Pit. The Tailings Management Facility will be located to the south and will be progressively raised as the volume of the tailings increases.</p> <p>Hydrologic modelling is being completed to predict the time to fill the pit lake and the ultimate discharge rate from the pit lake rate at the East and West spillways. Preliminary hydrological modelling suggests greater than 100 years for the Open Pit to fill to the design elevation of 272.5 m above mean sea level. Water quality modelling of the pit lake is being completed to assess water quality and will consider inputs to the Open Pit from atmospheric precipitation, runoff from rock and ore exposed on pit walls, groundwater inflows, and interactions of the pit lake water with the tailings used to backfill the Open Pit.</p> <p>The tailings placed in the Open Pit and the pit wall rock are predicted to be not potentially acid generating. Preliminary metal leaching rates are predicted to result in runoff and seepage quality that meets the Provincial Water Quality Objectives. Based on existing geochemistry data, no further water treatment is anticipated in closure. Two passive spillway channels are expected to be constructed to connect the open pit to natural, adjacent waterbodies once water quality is stable and meets the criteria for discharge.</p> <p>The water quality from the Impoundment Facility and Tailings Management Facility, and pit lake have been predicted using a site wide water balance and water quality model. The modelling approach incorporates conservative assumptions to support the assessment of potential effects for the Impact Statement. As the project progresses</p>	

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				<p>modeling will be updated, contingency measures (potentially including passive treatment systems such as wetland treatment) will be identified based on those updates.</p> <p>Filling of the pit will commence during Project operations. During operations, Open Pit groundwater and surface runoff from haul roads and the pits will be pumped to the Tailings Management Facility Northwest and Northeast Collection Ponds. As per mining best practice, perimeter collection ditching will be constructed to intercept shallow groundwater seepage at the toe of stockpiles and dams. Non-contact water will be diverted around mine infrastructure to reduce the amount of water needing to be managed and to maintain existing flow to the adjacent watercourses to the extent possible. Effluent will be treated prior to discharge to the receiving environment, as required, to meet regulatory effluent criteria as well as criteria developed through the receiving watercourse Assimilative Capacity Assessment. A water treatment plant will receive discharge from the tailings pond and use proven processes to treat the water to meet regulatory effluent criteria prior to discharge to the environment.</p> <p>A detailed water balance and water management plan has been developed. Additional information is provided in Chapter 3.</p> <p>In addition, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project from waste rock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply best management practices to promote terrain stability via recontouring, terracing or benching and maintaining slope gradients for all excavated areas and stockpiled materials through the duration of the Project for construction activities. • At closure, Canada Nickel will conduct a slope stability assessment to demonstrate the long-term physical stability of the Open Pit and the Impoundment Facility. For the TMF embankments, Canada Nickel will demonstrate that the requirements set out by the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management or and Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines for long-term care are met. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern specific to blasting, noise and vibrations, additional information is provided above in Row 1.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns regarding loss of confidence in fish health, additional information is provided above in Row 3.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concern for increased use of the Mattagami River by non-Indigenous recreational fishers and fishing boats, additional information specific to effects to increased competition is provided above in Row 5.</p> <p>Canada Nickel will continue to engage Mattagami First Nation to seek its recommendations regarding sites that should be considered for conservation and reclamation efforts.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	
7	<p><u>Vegetation and Plant Gathering</u></p> <p>Mattagami First Nation stated that harvesting occurs at a number of preferred harvesting locations and reported harvesting numerous species including rosehips, blueberries, raspberries, cranberries, chokecherries, strawberries, sweetgrass, cedar, birch, maple, balsam, tamarack, red willow, swampy sage, white grandmother sage, tobacco,</p>	<p>PA, LSA, RSA</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation identified six cultural features and two subsistence features within the PA.</p> <p>An additional food plants and medicines feature was identified at a location:</p>	<p>Mattagami First Nation recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimizing impacts to terrestrial habitats during Project operations and remediation using available technology and appropriate recovery timelines. • Cumulative effects assessment on Indigenous Peoples and their Traditional Territories including plants. 	<p>Canada Nickel has provided engagement opportunities for Mattagami First Nation relative to the Project, including the opportunity to identify plant species of cultural importance for consideration in the Impact Statement. Additional information is provided in Row 1.</p> <p>Potential effects on plant species of cultural importance to Mattagami First Nation, including those used as medicines or country foods, were assessed in Chapters 16 and 21 and summarized in Chapter 27 (Section 27.4.1).</p> <p>The assessment of cumulative effects on Mattagami First Nation interests, including plants present in its Traditional Territory, is provided in Chapter 27 (Section 27.5.2). The assessment of cumulative effects on Vegetation, Riparian and Wetland Environments is provided in Chapter 29.</p>	<p>Chapter 27, Sections 27.4.1 and 27.5.2.</p> <p>Chapters 16, 19, 21 and 29.</p>

Row No.	Mattagami First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Mattagami First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<p>reindeer lichen, moss, spruce, as well as a variety of mushrooms including chanterelle, puffball, and shaggy mane mushrooms. While berries are harvested primarily in the summer, food plants are gathered throughout the seasons.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported that harvesting food plants is often carried out on the land during other harvesting activities such as hunting and plant foods are often processed (e.g., into jams, medicines, and/or preserved, or dried), and shared or traded with other community members, and involve the transmission of unique ecological and ethnobotanical knowledge, often <i>in situ</i> in key harvesting locations.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported that medicinal plants are valued for their healing properties when used as teas or smudges and are also processed with other plants to make medicines or used in ceremonies. Plant-based medicines are critical for Mattagami's ability to seek culturally relevant healing and wellness. A diversity of different medicinal species is relied on and require access to a diversity of different harvesting locations for these medicines.</p> <p>Mattagami First Nation reported that harvesters are attentive to the condition of the habitat areas where medicines are harvested, to enable the safety, purity, and overall quality of medicines, noting that it is increasingly difficult today to find suitable harvesting areas free of contamination.</p> <p>Potential effects to gathering identified by Mattagami First Nation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to food and medicine plant quality and usability from mine dust and air pollution, affecting both medicine quality and safety for community members who use those plants. • Reduced plant quality and abundance due to Project-related air pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4 km south of the PA (subsistence) <p>Mattagami First Nation identified the following vegetation and plant gathering areas that intersect the PA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along Highway 655 (harvesting area) • Jocko Creek (harvesting area) <p>In addition, the following vegetation and plant gathering areas were identified at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.4 km east of the PA (Boundary Lake [harvesting area]) • 4.1 km southeast of the PA (Bigwater Lake [harvesting area]) <p>6 vegetation and plant gathering features were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA, including: Hershey Lake (harvesting area), Kamiskotia Lake (medicinal plant harvesting area), off of Price Main Road (chanterelle picking), Kenogamissi Dam (harvesting area), Kenogamissi Falls Road (cranberry, mushroom harvesting), and Mattagami IR 71 Reserve (harvesting area).</p> <p>An additional three mapped food plants and medicine locations were identified by Mattagami First Nation at locations 10 km or more from the PA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for collaboration on weed management strategies with Indigenous groups. • Input on dust management plans and consultation on dust suppressants to be used on the Project. • Involvement in monitoring of medicines, plants or berries that are affected by fugitive dust. • Implementation of best practices in the maintenance (e.g., aeration, maintain microflora/fauna) of soil (overburden) piles that would be used in progressive reclamation. The First Nation wants to reduce the potential need of disturbing/soil stripping an area to provide the topsoil required for revegetation. • Using plants of cultural significance during site reclamation and revegetation. 	<p>Canada Nickel will notify and work with Indigenous Nations who have expressed an interest in harvesting plants within the PA before construction to provide safe access for these activities, prior to any clearing occurring.</p> <p>The Project's proposed tailings management facility will be operated as a "thickened tailings cone" and is described further in Chapter 3, Section 3.3.4. Canada Nickel will not have dry stack tailing storage.</p> <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for impacts to food and medicine plant quality and quantity, the following measures will be implemented by Canada Nickel to reduce potential adverse effects of the Project on vegetation, wetlands and plant gathering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Nickel will notify and work with Indigenous Nations who have expressed an interest in harvesting plants within the PA before construction to provide safe access for these activities, prior to any clearing occurring. • Canada Nickel will mark clearing boundaries prior to site preparation to maintain clearing activities within the designated footprint. Restrict clearing to the approved PA. • Implement industry-standard management practices to reduce and control the introduction or spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds, such as development of a clean equipment protocol. Progressively revegetate disturbed areas in the PA to reduce the potential for colonization of disturbed areas by invasive plant species. Where invasive plant species are discovered within the Project Area, Canada Nickel will implement vegetation control to eliminate the occurrence and prevent further spread. Use only native Ontario species and nurse crops when conducting progressive reclamation. • Incorporate plant species at risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC) in reclamation planting activities planning, if and where habitat is deemed suitable. • Incorporate plant species of importance to Indigenous Nations into progressive reclamation and planting associated with decommissioning and closure of the site. • Avoid or reduce vegetation clearing activities within identified areas of plant species of management concern (SOMC) within the Project Area (if present), where practical. • Incorporate rare vegetation communities into reclamation planning for progressive reclamation and eventual decommissioning and closure of the site where appropriate and feasible. • When crossing watercourses and wetlands that will be preserved over the Project duration with linear features such as roads, Canada Nickel will maintain hydrological connectivity using appropriately sized culverts to reduce impacts on riparian vegetation. • Incorporate wetlands into reclamation planning to re-establish wetlands, where practical. Canada Nickel will undertake vegetation test plots to identify suitable reclamation options. <p>Regarding Mattagami First Nation's concerns for impacts of the dry stack tailings on flora, additional information specific to air quality is provided above in Row 1.</p> <p>A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).</p>	

Row No.	Mattagami First Nation's Perspectives and Concerns	Approximate Location Relative to Project	Mattagami First Nation's Recommendations	Canada Nickel Response / Proposed Mitigation Measures ¹	Where Addressed in Impact Statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barriers to accessing preferred harvesting locations due to Project-related gates, fencing, and the rerouting of Highway 655. Contamination of medicines with associated impacts on the perceived purity and trade value of these resources. Changes to the quantity and quality of food plants due to industrial activities, forestry and logging, transmission lines, pesticides, forest fires. Impacts to plant harvesting caused by increased population. Impacts of the dry stack tailings on flora. Lack of trust in the safety of harvesting areas because of known or expected chemical spraying associated with industrial activity. Plans for the presence of medicinal plants within the PA and potential impacts to harvesting sites and plans for reclamation following decommissioning. 				

Note:

¹ A complete listing of mitigation measures can be found in Appendix E (Summary of Project Commitments).

SOURCES:

Feedback obtained through Canada Nickel Project-specific engagement with Mattagami First Nation. Refer to Chapter 7 of the Impact Statement for additional details.

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