KINROSS Great Bear

Great Bear Gold Project Impact Statement

Section 14: Predicted Changes to Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

14.0 Predicted Changes to Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area 14-1
14.1 Linkages to other Valued Components 14-4
14.2 Regulatory Setting 14-5
14.2.1 Federal Legislation, Policies and Guidelines 14-5
14.2.1.1 Impact Assessment Act 14-5
14.2.1.2 Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines 14-7
14.2.2 Provincial Legislation, Policies and Requirements 14-7
14.2.3 Other Requirements and Negotiated Commitments 14-8
14.3 Assessment Approach 14-9
14.3.1 Spatial and Temporal Boundaries 14-10
14.3.1.1 Spatial Boundaries 14-10
14.3.1.2 Temporal Boundaries 14-10
14.3.2 Effects Assessment Criteria 14-10
14.3.2.1 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures 14-16
14.3.3 Assessment of Significance 14-17
14.3.4 Analytical Methods 14-20
14.3.5 Assumptions and the Use of the Conservative Approach 14-22
14.4 Influence of Consultation and Engagement 14-22
14.4.1 Impact Statement Valued Components 14-22
14.4.2 Community Services and Infrastructure 14-23
14.4.3 Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes 14-24
14.4.4 Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites or Things of Significance 14-25
14.4.5 Community Well-being 14-25
14.4.6 Health 14-26
14.5 Community Services and Infrastructure 14-27
14.5.1 Spatial Boundaries 14-28
14.5.2 Existing Conditions 14-30
14.5.2.1 Methods 14-30
14.5.2.2 Description 14-30
14.5.2.2.1 Accommodation and Lodging 14-31
14.5.2.2.1.1 Kenora District 14-31
14.5.2.2.1.2 Municipality of Red Lake 14-31
14.5.2.2.1.3 Township of Ear Falls 14-32
14.5.2.2.2 Municipal, Provincial and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity 14-33
14.5.2.2.2.1 Municipality of Red Lake 14-33
14.5.2.2.2.2 Township of Ear Falls 14-34
14.5.2.2.3 Social Services 14-35
14.5.2.2.3.1 Municipality of Red Lake 14-35
14.5.2.2.3.2 Township of Ear Falls 14-37
14.5.2.2.4 Health Services, Elder Care, Mental Health and Addiction Services 14-37

14.5.2.2.4.1 Municipality of Red Lake 14-37
14.5.2.2.4.2 Township of Ear Falls 14-43
14.5.2.2.5 Burial Services 14-44
14.5.2.2.5.1 Municipality of Red Lake 14-44
14.5.2.2.5.2 Township of Ear Falls 14-44
14.5.2.2.6 Educational Services and Facilities 14-44
14.5.2.2.6.1 Municipality of Red Lake 14-44
14.5.2.2.6.2 Township of Ear Falls 14-47
14.5.2.2.7 Emergency Services 14-48
14.5.2.2.7.1 Municipality of Red Lake 14-48
14.5.2.2.7.2 Township of Ear Falls 14-50
14.5.2.2.8 Infrastructure 14-51
14.5.2.2.8.1 Municipality of Red Lake 14-51
14.5.2.2.8.2 Township of Ear Falls 14-54
14.5.3 Potential Effects 14-56
14.5.3.1 Construction Phase 14-58
14.5.3.1.1 Change in the Region's Housing and Accommodations 14-58
14.5.3.1.2 Change in the Region's Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity 14-58
14.5.3.1.3 Change in the Region's Transportation Infrastructure 14-59
14.5.3.2 Operations Phase 14-59
14.5.3.2.1 Change in the Region's Housing and Accommodations 14-59
14.5.3.2.2 Change in the Region's Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity 14-60
14.5.3.2.3 Change in the Region's Transportation Infrastructure 14-61
14.5.3.3 Closure Phase 14-61
14.5.3.3.1 Change in the Region's Housing and Accommodations 14-61
14.5.3.3.2 Change in the Region's Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity 14-62
14.5.3.3.3 Change in the Region's Transportation Infrastructure 14-62
14.5.4 Mitigation and Enhancement 14-62
14.5.5 GBA Plus Considerations 14-66
14.5.5.1 Indigenous Nations Population 14-66
14.5.6 Residual Effects After Mitigation - Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area 14-67
14.5.6.1 Residual Effects after Mitigation for Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area 14-67
14.5.6.2 Change in Municipal, Provincial, and Non-profit Service Delivery Capacity 14-68
14.5.7 Significance of Residual Effects 14-69
14.5.8 Confidence 14-69
14.6 Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes 14-69
14.6.1 Spatial Boundaries 14-70

14.6.2 Existing Conditions 14-73
14.6.2.1 Methods 14-73
14.6.2.1.1 Importance of Land and Resource Use for Traditional Purposes 14-73
14.6.2.1.2 Quality of Experience of Current Land and Resource Use for Traditional Purposes 14-74
14.6.2.2 Description 14-74
14.6.2.2.1 Governance and Legal Characteristics 14-75
14.6.2.2.2 Traditional Harvesting of Wildlife Species, Including Hunting and Trapping 14-77
14.6.2.2.3 Traditional Harvesting of Aquatic Resources, Including Fishing 14-78
14.6.2.2.4 Traditional Harvesting of Plants for Food, Medicine, and Natural Resources 14-79
14.6.2.2.5 Use of Traditional Habitation, and Cultural and Spiritual Sites and Areas 14-81
14.6.3 Potential Effects 14-82
14.6.3.1 Construction Phase 14-85
14.6.3.1.1 Wildlife Harvesting (Hunting and Trapping) 14-85
14.6.3.1.2 Fishing and Aquatic Resource Harvesting 14-85
14.6.3.1.3 Traditional Plant Harvesting (Including for Food and Medicinal Purposes and Natural Resources) 14-86
14.6.3.1.4 Traditional Habitation, Cultural, and Spiritual Sites and Areas 14-87
14.6.3.2 Operations Phase 14-87
14.6.3.3 Closure Phase 14-88
14.6.4 Mitigation and Enhancement 14-88
14.6.5 GBA Plus Considerations 14-93
14.6.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation – Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area 14-94
14.6.6.1 Residual Effects after Mitigation for Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area 14-94
14.6.6.1.1 Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Terrestrial Wildlife Harvesting (Hunting and Trapping) 14-95
14.6.6.1.2 Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Plant Harvesting (Food and Medicine) 14-97
14.6.6.1.3 Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Habitation, Cultural, and Spiritual Sites and Areas 14-98
14.6.7 Significance of Residual Effects 14-98
14.6.8 Confidence 14-99
14.7 Indigenous Physical, Cultural Heritage, Structures, Sites or Things of Significance 14-99
14.7.1 Spatial Boundaries 14-100
14.7.2 Existing Conditions 14-102
14.7.2.1 Methods 14-102
14.7.2.2 Description 14-103
14.7.2.3 Past and Current Traditional Use of Heritage Places and Practices 14-103
14.7.2.3.1 Historical Context of Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area 14-104
14.7.2.3.2 Current Heritage Perspectives of Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls 14-105

14.7.2.4 Archaeological Sites 14-106
14.7.2.5 Cultural Heritage Landscapes and Built Heritage Resources 14-108
14.7.3 Potential Effects 14-109
14.7.3.1 Construction Phase 14-112
14.7.3.2 Operations Phase 14-114
14.7.3.3 Closure Phase 14-114
14.7.4 Mitigation and Enhancement 14-115
14.7.5 GBA Plus Considerations 14-116
14.7.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation 14-117
14.7.6.1 Residual Effects to Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage after Mitigation 14-117
14.7.6.1.1 Residual Effects on Alteration or Destruction of Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance 14-118
14.7.6.1.2 Residual Effects on Access to or Quality of experience with Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance 14-119
14.7.6.1.3 Residual Effect on Sacred, Ceremonial, Spiritual, and Cultural Values Associated with Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance 14-120
14.7.7 Significance of Residual Effects 14-122
14.7.8 Confidence 14-122
14.8 Community Well-being 14-122
14.8.1 Spatial Boundaries 14-123
14.8.2 Existing Conditions 14-125
14.8.2.1 Methods 14-125
14.8.2.2 Description 14-126
14.8.2.2.1 Community Well-being Index 14-126
14.8.2.2.2 Social Determinants of Health 14-127
14.8.2.2.2.1 Income and Employment 14-127
14.8.2.2.2.2 Housing 14-146
14.8.2.2.3 Community Cohesion 14-152
14.8.2.2.3.1 Kenora District 14-152
14.8.2.2.3.2 Municipality of Red Lake 14-153
14.8.2.2.3.3 Township of Ear Falls 14-154
14.8.2.2.4 Public Safety 14-155
14.8.2.2.5 Access to Land and Resources 14-157
14.8.2.2.5.1 Land Tenure and Mineral Resources 14-158
14.8.2.2.5.2 Food and Water Access 14-158
14.8.2.2.5.3 Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems 14-160
14.8.2.2.5.4 Social Infrastructure and Community Spaces 14-161
14.8.2.2.6 Population Dynamics 14-162
14.8.2.2.6.1 Kenora District 14-162
14.8.2.2.6.2 Municipality of Red Lake 14-164
14.8.2.2.6.3 Township of Ear Falls 14-166
14.8.2.2.6.4 Regional Mobility and Immigration Trends 14-168

14.8.3 Potential Effects 14-169
14.8.3.1 Construction Phase 14-171
14.8.3.1.1 Housing, and Affordability 14-171
14.8.3.1.2 Cost of Living and Traditional Economy 14-172
14.8.3.1.3 Access to Services (Health and Social 14-172
14.8.3.1.4 Public Safety and Gender-Based Violence 14-172
14.8.3.1.5 Economic Opportunity and Inequality 14-172
14.8.3.1.6 Community Cohesion 14-173
14.8.3.1.7 Household dynamics 14-173
14.8.3.1.8 Access to Land and Resources 14-173
14.8.3.2 Operations Phase 14-174
14.8.3.3 Closure Phase 14-174
14.8.4 Mitigation and Enhancement 14-175
14.8.5 GBA Plus Considerations 14-179
14.8.5.1 Indigenous Women, Indigenous Youth 14-180
14.8.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation 14-181
14.8.6.1 Characterization of Residual Effects After Mitigation – Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls 14-181
14.8.6.1.1 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Cost of Living and Traditional Economy 14-182
14.8.6.1.2 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Access to Services (Health, Social, and Education Services) 14-182
14.8.6.1.3 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Access to Land and Resources 14-183
14.8.6.1.4 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Economic Opportunity and Inequality 14-184
14.8.7 Significance of Residual Effects 14-185
14.8.8 Confidence 14-185
14.9 Health 14-186
14.9.1 Spatial Boundaries 14-188
14.9.2 Existing Conditions 14-193
14.9.2.1 Methods 14-193
14.9.2.2 Description 14-195
14.9.2.2.1 Historical Health Context 14-196
14.9.2.2.2 Perceptions of Health and Wellness 14-196
14.9.2.2.3 Lifestyle and Behaviours 14-199
14.9.2.2.4 Hospitalizations and Safety 14-200
14.9.2.2.5 Chronic and Communicable Diseases 14-200
14.9.2.2.6 Mental Health and Substance Use 14-201
14.9.2.2.7 Cancer and Mortality 14-202
14.9.2.2.8 Food Security 14-203
14.9.3 Potential Effects 14-203
14.9.3.1 HHERA Methodology 14-205

14.9.3.2 HIA Methodology....14-207
14.9.3.3 Construction Phase....14-208
14.9.3.3.1 Air Quality....14-208
14.9.3.3.2 Multi-media Environmental Quality....14-212
14.9.3.3.3 Access and Availability of Water....14-218
14.9.3.3.4 Access and Availability of Traditional Foods....14-220
14.9.3.3.5 Sensory Disturbances: Sound, Vibration and Light....14-222
14.9.3.3.6 Economics (Employment, Income and Education)....14-223
14.9.3.3.7 Housing....14-226
14.9.3.3.8 Access of Health and Social Services....14-227
14.9.3.3.9 Food Security....14-230
14.9.3.3.10 Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours....14-231
14.9.3.3.11 Actual and Perceived Public Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions)....14-233
14.9.3.3.12 Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls....14-235
14.9.3.4 Operations Phase....14-237
14.9.3.4.1 Air Quality....14-237
14.9.3.4.2 Multi-media Environmental Quality....14-238
14.9.3.4.3 Access and Availability of Water....14-240
14.9.3.4.4 Access and Availability of Traditional Foods....14-241
14.9.3.4.5 Sensory Disturbances: Sound, Vibration and Light....14-242
14.9.3.4.6 Economics (Employment, Income and Education)....14-242
14.9.3.4.7 Housing....14-244
14.9.3.4.8 Access to Health and Social Services....14-245
14.9.3.4.9 Food Security....14-246
14.9.3.4.10 Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours....14-247
14.9.3.4.11 Actual and Perceived Public Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions)....14-248
14.9.3.4.12 Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls....14-249
14.9.3.5 Closure Phase....14-250
14.9.3.5.1 Air Quality....14-250
14.9.3.5.2 Multi-media Environmental Quality....14-250
14.9.3.5.3 Access and Availability of Water....14-251
14.9.3.5.4 Access and Availability of Traditional Foods....14-252
14.9.3.5.5 Sensory Disturbances: Sound, Vibration and Light....14-252
14.9.3.5.6 Economics (Employment, Income and Education)....14-252
14.9.3.5.7 Housing....14-253
14.9.3.5.8 Access of Health and Social Services....14-254
14.9.3.5.9 Food Security....14-255
14.9.3.5.10 Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours....14-256
14.9.3.5.11 Actual and Perceived Public Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions)....14-256
14.9.3.5.12 Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls....14-257
14.9.4 Mitigation and Enhancement....14-257

14.9.5 GBA Plus Considerations....14-261
14.9.5.1 Gender (Indigenous Women+)....14-264
14.9.5.2 Age (Indigenous youth, older adults and Elders)....14-264
14.9.5.3 Physical Ability (Indigenous individuals with disabilities or chronic conditions)....14-265
14.9.5.4 Socio-economic status (low-income Indigenous individuals and households)....14-266
14.9.5.5 Mental Ability (Indigenous individuals with mental health conditions)....14-266
14.9.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation....14-268
14.9.6.1 Characterization of Residual Effects After Mitigation....14-269
14.9.7 Significance of Residual Effects....14-271
14.9.8 Confidence....14-272
14.10 Impact on the Exercise or Practice of Rights....14-272
14.11 References....14-281

Tables

Table 14.2-1: Indigenous Communities and Populations-Related Federal Regulatory Requirements....14-6
Table 14.2-2: Indigenous Communities and Populations-Related Provincial Regulatory Requirements....14-8
Table 14.3-1: Criteria, Potential Effects, and Indicators for Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area....14-11
Table 14.3-2: Significance Determination Attributes and Rankings....14-17
Table 14.3-3: Criteria-specific Magnitude Rankings....14-19
Table 14.5-1: Health Services - Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025....14-38
Table 14.5-2: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, Priorities and Potential Opportunities - Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025....14-40
Table 14.5-3: Health Services -Ear Falls, 2025....14-43
Table 14.5-4: Schools -Municipality of Red Lake, 2025....14-45
Table 14.5-5: Schools - Township of Ear Falls, 2025....14-48
Table 14.5-6: Infrastructure Services - Municipality of Red Lake, 2025....14-51
Table 14.5-7: Infrastructure Services - Township of Ear Falls, 2025....14-54
Table 14.5-8: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Community Services and Infrastructure – Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area....14-56
Table 14.5-9: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for Community Services and Infrastructure - Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls....14-63
Table 14.5-10: Summary of Potential Residual Effects for Community Services and Infrastructure....14-68

Table 14.5-11: Characterization for Negative Residual Effects on Change in Municipal, Provincial, and Non-profit Service Delivery Capacity 14-69
Table 14.6-1: Trapline Areas in the LSA Registered to Indigenous Communities or Individuals - 2025 14-77
Table 14.6-2: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Current Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes 14-82
Table 14.6-3: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for CULRTP – Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls 14-89
Table 14.6-4: Residual Effects Remaining for Indigenous Peoples in Red Lake and Ear Falls CULTRP After Mitigation 14-95
Table 14.6-5: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Terrestrial Wildlife Harvesting (Hunting and Trapping) 14-96
Table 14.6-6: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Plant Harvesting (Food and Medicinal Purposes) 14-97
Table 14.6-7: Characterization of Negative Residual Effects on Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Habitation, Cultural, and Spiritual Sites and Areas 14-98
Table 14.7-1: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage and Structures, Sites or Things of Significance 14-110
Table 14.7-2: Residual Effects Remaining after Mitigation Measures for Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage – Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area 14-117
Table 14.7-3: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Alteration or Destruction of Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance 14-119
Table 14.7-4: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Change in Access to or Quality of experience with Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance 14-120
Table 14.7-5: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Sacred, Ceremonial, Spiritual, and Cultural Values (including language, stories, and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance 14-121
Table 14.8-1: Community Well-Being Index Scores for Selected Municipal Communities - Kenora District, 2025 14-126
Table 14.8-2: Prevalence of Low Income - Kenora District 2025 14-128
Table 14.8-3: Income Distribution - Kenora District 2025 14-129
Table 14.8-4: Labour Force Indicators - Kenora District and Ontario, 2025 14-130
Table 14.8-5: Income Composition Statistics - Kenora District and Ontario, 2025 14-131
Table 14.8-6: Educational Attainment -Kenora District and Ontario, 2025 14-132

Table 14.8-7: Top Industries by Proportion of the Employed Population – Kenora District 2025 14-134
Table 14.8-8: Prevalence of Low Income by Age Group – Red Lake, 2025 14-135
Table 14.8-9 Income Distribution (%) - Red Lake, 2025..... 14-135
Table 14.8-10: Labour Force Indicators – Red Lake,2025 14-136
Table 14.8-11: Income Composition -Red Lake and Ontario, 2025 14-137
Table 14.8-12: Top Industries by Proportion of the Employed Population - Red Lake, 2025 14-138
Table 14.8-13: Businesses and Service Providers - Red Lake 2025 14-138
Table 14.8-14: Prevalence of Low Income by Age Group – Ear Falls 2025..... 14-140
Table 14.8-15: Income Distribution - Ear Falls, 2025..... 14-140
Table 14.8-16: Labour Force Indicators - Ear Falls, 2025..... 14-141
Table 14.8-17: Income Composition - Ear Falls and Ontario, 2025 14-142
Table 14.8-18: Top Industries by Proportion of the Employed Population – Ear Falls2025..... 14-143
Table 14.8-19: Businesses by Category or Service Type Relevant to the Project – Ear Falls, 2025..... 14-143
Table 14.8-20: Mineral and Mining Exploration Projects - Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025..... 14-145
Table 14.8-21: Crime Statistics for the years 2019 and 2023 - Canada and Ontario, 2025 14-156
Table 14.8-22: Food Insecurity and Cost Indicators - Kenora-Rainy River Region, 2025 14-160
Table 14.8-23: Summary of Community Spaces and Infrastructure – City of Kenora, Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025..... 14-161
Table 14.8-24: Mobility Characteristics - Kenora District 2025 14-164
Table 14.8-25: Mobility Characteristics – Red Lake,2025 14-166
Table 14.8-26: Mobility Characteristics – Ear Falls, 2025..... 14-168
Table 14.8-27: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Community Well-being..... 14-170
Table 14.8-28: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for Community Well-being - Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls..... 14-176
Table 14.8-29: Potential Residual Effects for Community Well-being – Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area..... 14-181
Table 14.8-30: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect for Cost of Living and Traditional Economy..... 14-182
Table 14.8-31: Characterization for Negative Residual Effects on Access to Services..... 14-183

Table 14.8-32: Characterization for Negative Residual Effects on Access to Traditional Land and Natural Resources 14-184
Table 14.8-33: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect for Economic Opportunity and Inequality 14-184
Table 14.9-1: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Indigenous Health .. 14-204
Table 14.9-2: Acute Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for Indigenous Receptor 14-209
Table 14.9-3: Chronic Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risks and ALCM) for Indigenous Receptor 14-210
Table 14.9-4: Maximum Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for Indigenous Receptor (Average Consumer, Toddler) 14-213
Table 14.9-5: Maximum Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for Indigenous Receptor (Heavy Consumer, Toddler) 14-214
Table 14.9-6: Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for the Adult Female Indigenous Receptor (Average and Heavy Consumer) 14-215
Table 14.9-7: Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risks) for Indigenous Receptor (Average Consumer and Heavy Consumer, Lifetime Composite)..... 14-215
Table 14.9-8: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for Indigenous Health 14-258
Table 14.9-9: Key GBA Plus Identity Factors Selected for the Assessment of Health ... 14-262
Table 14.9-10: Identification of Residual Effects for Health (Indigenous Peoples)..... 14-270
Table 14.9-11: Characterization of Adverse Residual Effects for Indigenous Health 14-271

Figures

Figure 14.1-1: Treaty 3 Boundary 14-3
Figure 14.3-1: Assessment Approach 14-9
Figure 14.5-1: Spatial Boundaries for Community Services and Infrastructure 14-29
Figure 14.6-1: Spatial Boundaries for Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes 14-72
Figure 14.7-1: Spatial Boundaries for Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage and Structures, Sites or Things of Significance 14-101
Figure 14.8-1: Spatial Boundaries for Community Well-being 14-124
Figure 14.8-2: Age and Gender Characteristics – Kenora District 2025 14-163
Figure 14.8-3: Age and Gender Characteristics – Red Lake 2025 14-165
Figure 14.8-4: Age Characteristics – Ear Falls, 2025 14-167
Figure 14.9-1: Local Study Area for Biophysical Determinants of Health w..... 14-189

Figure 14.9-2: Regional Study Area for Biophysical Determinants of Health 14-190
Figure 14.9-3: Spatial Boundaries for Social Determinants of Health 14-192
Figure 14.9-4: Perceived Health is Good or Excellent, Northwestern Health Unit and the Province of Ontario, 2015-2020 14-197
Figure 14.9-5: Perceived Mental Health is Good or Excellent, Northwestern Health Unit and the Province of Ontario, 2015-2020 14-198
Figure 14.9-6: Current State of Health and Well-Being, Self-Identified Indigenous Respondents (n=22) 14-199

Appendix

Table 14.1-1: Summary of Linked pVC and fVC Key Mitigation and Residual Effects Assessment

Acronyms and Abbreviations

%	Percent
%HA	Percent Highly Annoyed
2SLGBTQQIA+	Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual communities, along with other sexual and gender identities represented by the + symbol
2SLGBTQIA plus	Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual plus
AEX	Advanced Exploration
ALCM	Additional Lung Cancer Mortality
ALIA	Anishinaabe-Led Impact Assessment
ANA	Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation)
CCHS	Canadian Community Health Survey
CHER	Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
CHR	Cultural Heritage Resource
CHVI	cultural heritage value or interest
cm	Centimetre
CO	Carbon Monoxide
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSI	Crime Severity Index
CSIN	Community Services and Infrastructure
CSWB	Community Safety and Well-Being
CULRTP	Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes
CWB	Community Well-Being
DDSAB	Data from district social services administration boards
DPM	Diesel Particulate Matter
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EPC	Exposure Point Concentration
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
FNFNES	First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study
fVC	Valued component under federal jurisdiction (federal valued component)
GBA Plus	Gender-Based Analysis Plus
Great Bear Resources	Great Bear Resources Ltd.
ha	Hectares
HHERA	Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment

HHRA	Human Health Risk Assessment
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ	Hazard Quotient
HR	Human Resources
IAA	*Impact Assessment Act*
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
ILCR	Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risk
KDSB	Kenora District Services Board
LAeq-1hr	A-weighted equivalent sound level
LIM-AT	Low-Income Measure After Tax
LSA	Local Study Area
LSFN	Lac Seul First Nation
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MPOI	Maximum Point of Impingement
MMIWG	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
MMIWG2S+	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse+ peoples
N/A	Not Applicable
NCCIH	National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health
NO_2	Nitrogen dioxide
NOS	National Occupancy Standard
NWHU	Northwestern Health Unit
NWOMC	Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (Region 1)
OHA	*Ontario Heritage Act*
PA	Project Area
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
PIT	Point-in-Time
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
POD	Point of Departure
POPC	Parameter of Potential Concern
POR	Point of Reception
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment

pVC	pathway valued component
RJ	Restorative Justice
RLEF	Indigenous peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area
RSA	Regional Study Area
SPP	Social Performance Plan
SLaFN	Sioux Lookout area First Nations
SLFNHA	Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority
SO_2	Sulphur dioxide
TISG	Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
TKLUS	Traditional Knowledge Land Use Study
TMF	Tailings Management Facility
TRV	Toxicity reference value
$\mu g/m^3$	Micrograms per cubic metre
UNDRIP	The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WFN	Wabauskang First Nation
WHO	World Health Organization

Table of Anishinaabe Words, with English Translations

Anishinaabe	Used to describe oneself or a collective group of First Nations peoples belonging to this particular cultural and linguistic family. Individuals use Anishinaabe (or plural form, Anishinaabeg/Anishinabek) to indicate membership and belonging to that group. Commonly used to describe Ojibwe people, but can also refer to other First Nations that also identify as Anishinaabe.
Anishinaabeg	plural form of Anishinaabe, referring to Anishinaabe Peoples
Manoomin	Wild rice
Nibi	Water

14.0 Predicted Changes to Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

This Impact Statement complies with the requirements of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), a federal Act that evaluates how major projects may impact the environment, health, economy, and well-being of local Indigenous communities.

The IAA requires consideration of the impact that a designated project may have on an interested Indigenous group or the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982.* This consideration is also reaffirmed by Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) for the Project as issued by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC).

Great Bear Resources, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation, is seeking to develop and operate the Great Bear Gold Project (the Project), a proposed gold mine located near the Municipality of Red Lake in the District of Kenora, Northwestern Ontario within Treaty 3 territory.

Figure 14.1-1 illustrates the Project location relative to Treaty 3 territory, participating Indigenous Nations, and nearby municipalities including the Municipality of Red Lake and the Township of Ear Falls.

This assessment describes the current health and socio-economic conditions and assesses potential effects for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, based on the definition of adverse effects in the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), which includes:

> "adverse effects within federal jurisdiction means, with respect to a physical activity or a designated project,
>
> (e) with respect to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, a non-negligible adverse impact occurring in Canada and resulting from any change to the environment, on:
>
> (i) physical and cultural heritage,
>
> (ii) the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, or
>
> (iii) any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance;
>
> (f) a non-negligible adverse change occurring in Canada to the health, social or economic conditions of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada; and…"

The impact assessment process requires proponents to examine aspects of projects in different ways. These are referred to in this report as pathway valued components (pVCs) and federal valued components (fVCs). As outlined in Section 6, fVCs and pVCs are defined:

- fVCs are valued components within federal jurisdiction, as guided by key issues identified in the TISG for the Project
- pVCs are valued components that provide a pathway for direct or indirect effects to fVCs.

The assessment follows the framework used for other fVCs and pVCs and has been adapted to reflect the nature of social science analysis and assessment of changes to Indigenous health, which consider the human experience. This includes supplemental text and tables to add broader context.

The assessment of the Project and its potential effects on Indigenous Peoples and their interests are considered based on the following areas, based on the requirements of the TISG (Appendix A-1):

- **Community Services and Infrastructure**, to assess the potential effects of the Project on the use of services and infrastructure in the region by Indigenous Peoples (Section 14.5).
- **Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes**, to assess the potential effects of the Project on the current use of lands and resources by Indigenous Peoples for traditional purposes, including hunting, trapping, gathering, and experience of using the land s (Section 14.6).
- **Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites, or Things of Significance**, to assess the potential effects of the Project on sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance (including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites), as well as associated ceremonial, spiritual and cultural values (Section 14.7).
- **Community Well-being**, to assess the potential effects of the Project on the broader social and economic conditions that contribute that contribute to the health, well-being, stability, resilience, and quality of life for Indigenous Peoples (Section 14.8).
- **Health**, to assess the potential effects of the Project on environmental and socio-economic conditions that contribute to overall health and wellness for Indigenous Peoples, such as how changes in air or water quality impact biophysical human health outcomes, and how changes to community cohesion impact cultural continuity thus impacting mental, emotional and spiritual health (Section 14.9).

The assessment also considers potential effects of the Project on the exercise or practice of the rights of Indigenous Peoples[1] or the rights arising from treaties in the PA (Section 14.10). The assessment process, and associated Project TISG, is not a process for rights determination. The discussion that follows assesses the predicted changes and effects for each of the Indigenous communities identified as potentially affected by the Project in the TISG (Appendix A-1):

- **Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, i.e., this section;**
- Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (ANA; Section 12);
- Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN; Section 10);
- Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC; Section 13); and
- Wabauskang First Nation (WFN; Section 11).

1 Rights of Indigenous Peoples" and "Rights" refers to the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. (Guidance: Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)

Last Saved: November 19, 2025 8:54 AM by eappel

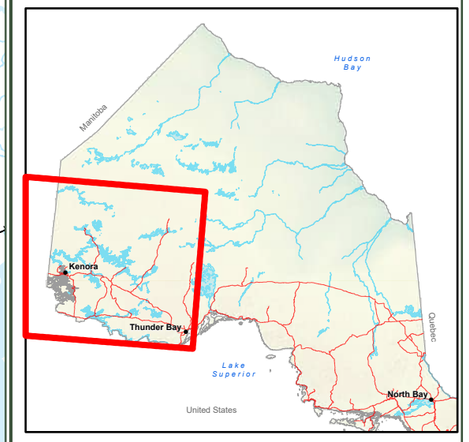
GIS PATH: G:_Projects\241\241_031748_Kinross_GreatBearLake\1_Maps\RPT\RPT_202511\RPT_202511_RL_EF\241_030825_RL_EF.aprx || 241_030825_14.0-1_Treaty3Boundary

Berens River
Pigeon River
Goose Creek
Leyond River
Minago Creek
Bloodvein River
Rice River
Beaver Creek
Gammon River
Wanipigow River
Manigotagan River
Sandy River
O'Hanly River
Black River
Moose River
Maskwa River
Cat Creek
Bird River
Stout Lake
Qoooowee Sahkaheekahn/ McInnes Lake
MacDowell Lake
WINTER ROAD
Postelnic Creek
Peekahchekahmeewee Sahkaheekahn/ Pikangikum Lake
Keechewahshaykahmeeshek/ Cairns Lake
Cat Lake
Tarp Creek
Ooshkahtahkahwee Sahkaheekahn/ Nungesser Lake
Birch Lake
Zionz Lake
Gull Lake
Trout Lake
Red Lake
Gullrock Lake
Bamaji Lake
Lake St. Joseph
Pashkokogan Lake
McCrea Lake
Whitewater Lake
Miniss Lake
Smoothrock Lake
Pakwash Lake
Sydney Lake
HIGHWAY 105
Savant Lake
Caribou Lake
Wabauskang
Lac Seul
Umfreville Lake
Separation Lake
Grassy Narrows
Lac Seul
Crowduck Lake
Lost Lake
Seseganaga Lake
Sturgeon Lake
Rennie River
Bog River
Whitedell River
Big Vermilion Lake
Minnitaki Lake
HIGHWAY 72
Hazel Creek
Birch River
Boggy River
Seine River
Tourond Creek
Whitemouth River
Eagle Lake
Wabigoon Lake
Lake of the Woods (lac des Bois)
Shoal Lake
Dryberry Lake
Mameigwess Lake
Lake Nipigon
Atikwa Lake
Upper Manitou Lake
Rowan Lake
Lower Manitou Lake
Rat River
Roseau River
Sprague Creek
Reed River
Kakagi Lake
Lake of the Woods
HIGHWAY 11
White Otter Lake
Otukamamoan Lake
Marmion Lake
Lac des Mille Lacs
Rainy Lake (lac à la Pluie)
Dog Lake
Minnesota
HIGHWAY 11 & 71
Pickerel Lake
HIGHWAY 11
HIGHWAY 17
HIGHWAY 11 & 17
Rainy Lake
Kabetogama Lake
Namakan Lake
Namakan Lake
Lac la Croix
Lac la Croix
Northern Light Lake
Lake Superior (lac Supérieur)
Michigan
Upper Red Lake
Lower Red Lake

N

LEGEND:

- PROJECT AREA
- TREATY 3 BOUNDARY
- HIGHWAY
- RAILWAY
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- FIRST NATION RESERVE
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY (LOWER TIER)



NOTES:
NOTE1: BASE DATA ACQUIRED FROM LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO.

0 5 10 20 30 km

SCALE 1:1,800,000
PAGE SIZE 11 x 17
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N

THIS MAP IS FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

GREAT BEAR GOLD PROJECT

TREATY 3 BOUNDARY

SLR

FIGURE NO:
14.1-1

DATE: November 19, 2025

PROJECT NO: 241.030825

14.1 Linkages to other Valued Components

Predicted social, economic and health changes to Indigenous Peoples who may be affected by the Project are presented in this assessment. Other potential effects are covered in the appropriate sections as noted.

Pathway Valued Components (pVCs):

- **Air Quality** (Section 7.2), **Sound** (Section 7.3) and **Vibration** (Section 7.4): Project-related activities which may create changes to air quality, sound or vibration may cause changes to the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes and affect the quality of their experiences. A change in the quality of these experiences may also cause changes to the health and well-being of the community.
- **Groundwater** (Section 7.5): Project-related activities may result in changes to groundwater flows and levels which may impact use of land, water, and resources for traditional purposes and affect the quality of experiences. A change in quality of experiences may also cause changes to the well-being of the community.
- **Surface Water Levels and Flows** (Section 7.6): Project-related activities may result in changes to surface water quantity which may impact navigation and water-based activities related to the current use of lands for traditional purposes and health.
- **Water Quality** (Section 7.7): Project-related activities may result in changes to surface water quality which may impact navigation and water-based activities (i.e., fishing) related to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes and health.
- **Vegetation Communities** (Section 7.8) and **Wild Rice** (Section 7.9): Project-related activities may result in changes to vegetation communities or wild rice availability that may impact the use of the land and resources for traditional purposes and affect the quality of their experiences. A change in the quality of these experiences may also cause changes to the health and well-being of the community.
- **Moose** (Section 7.10), **Other Wildlife** (Section 7.11), and **Species at Risk** (Section 7.12): Project-related activities may result in changes in moose, other wildlife (e.g., furbearers and other ungulates), and species at risk, resulting in changes to the ability to use the land or resources for traditional hunting, trapping, and harvesting purposes.
- **Land and Resource Use** (Section 7.13): Potential changes to land and resource use (particularly changes in land use, access, and navigation) may affect the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes and the quality of experience for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area while practicing their traditional activities near the Project.
- **Cultural Heritage** (Section 7.14): Potential changes to cultural heritage during the construction, operations and closure phases of the Project may affect Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, including structures, sites, or things of significance.
- **Archaeology** (Section 7.15): Potential changes to archaeology during the construction, operations and closure phases of the Project may affect Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, including structures, sites, or things of significance.

- **Local and Regional Economy** (Section 7.16): Project-related activities that result in changes to the local and regional economy may affect Community Services and Infrastructure and Community Well-being due to linkages with the employment and economy within the region.

Federal Valued Components (fVCs):

- **Fish and Fish Habitat** (Section 8): Project-related activities may affect fish and fish habitat resulting in changes to the ability to use the land for traditional purposes, such as fishing and the consumption of traditional foods.
- **Migratory Birds** (Section 9): Project-related activities may affect migratory birds (e.g., migration patterns, behaviours), resulting in changes in the ability to use the land for traditional purposes, such as hunting and the consumption of traditional foods.

Attached Table 14.1-1 provides a summary of the pVC and fVC mitigation measures and the residual changes or effects after mitigation. Detailed description of the methods, existing conditions, mitigation measures, and residual effects can be found in the respective section

14.2 Regulatory Setting

Government environmental regulations, objectives, policy or guidelines most relevant to Indigenous Peoples are summarized in the following. Further information regarding anticipated approval requirements is provided in Section 19. Further information regarding treaty, self-government, land claims or other agreements between federal and provincial governments and Indigenous Nations is presented in Section 14.10. Further information regarding negotiated agreements between Great Bear Resources and Indigenous communities is presented in Section 14.2.3.

14.2.1 Federal Legislation, Policies and Guidelines

Federal regulatory requirements related to Indigenous communities and populations are summarized in the following.

14.2.1.1 Impact Assessment Act

The Project follows the Impact Assessment of Canada (IAAC) guidance when assessing and reviewing information from Indigenous communities, including:

- *Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous People* (Impact Assessment Agency of Canada 2024a)
- *Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions* (Impact Assessment Agency of Canada 2021)
- *Guidance: Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act* (Impact Assessment Agency of Canada 2024b)
- *Guidance: Protecting Confidential Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act* (Impact Assessment Agency of Canada 2024c)

The assessment of human health considers the following guidance from IAAC, and provided by Health Canada for used under the *Impact Assessment Act*:

- Interim Guidance – Health Impact Assessment of Designated Projects under the Impact Assessment Act. December 2024 (Health Canada 2024a)
- Analyzing Health, Social and Economic Effects under the Impact Assessment Act. 27 November 2020 (Impact Assessment Agency of Canada 2020)
- Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Human Health Risk Assessment (Health Canada 2023a)
- Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Air Quality(Health Canada 2023b)
- Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Country Foods (Health Canada 2023c).
- Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Drinking and Recreational Water Quality (Health Canada 2023d).

Additional guidance specific to the HHERA and HIA is presented in Appendix N-1 and Appendix N-2, respectively. In addition, relevant guidance related to other specific determinants of health are referenced in Section 14.9.

In addition to the *Impact Assessment Act*, this assessment also considers the regulations and requirements related to Indigenous communities and populations presented in Table 14.2-1.

Table 14.2-1: Indigenous Communities and Populations-Related Federal Regulatory Requirements

Act or Requirement	Ministry or Agency	Details
The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2021 (UNDRIP Act)	Government of Canada, and IAAC	This federal legislation affirms UNDRIP as a universal international human rights instrument with application in Canadian law.
Constitution Act, 1982	Government of Canada	Section 35 recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights.
Indian Act, 1876	Government of Canada	Governs matters pertaining to Indian Bands and reserves.
Migratory Birds Convention Act, 2005	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Contains broad legal safeguards and key protections that prohibit the killing, harming or disturbance of migratory birds and their nests or eggs. This includes effects from any lawful and permitted activities like construction and development related to the Project.
Canadian Navigable Waters Act, 2019 (CNWA)	Transport Canada	Prohibits the construction or placement of any works in a navigable waterway that may interfere with the right to navigation, including Indigenous use as a means to exercise aboriginal or treaty rights, without complying with the requirements of the CNWA. The Project may require approvals under Section 5, 10, and 24 of the CNWA, and has completed a Navigable Waters Report.

Act or Requirement	Ministry or Agency	Details
Species At Risk Act, 2002 (SARA)	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Prevents the harm and disappearance of wildlife species in Canada. The Act imposes critical habitat protection, permitting and compliance for activities that could affect listed species or their habitats, action plans, recovery strategies, and enforcement.
Fisheries Act, 1868/2019	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Responsible for the proper management and control of fisheries; and the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat including by preventing pollution. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) may also be involved in fisheries issues, particularly in relation to the prevention provisions within the *Fisheries Act*.

14.2.1.2 Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines

The TISG, developed by IAAC for the Project, indicate that the proponent must:

- Provide an analysis of any potential effects on Indigenous communities including impacts on Community Infrastructure and Services (Section 14.5); Current Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes (Section 14.6); Physical and Cultural Heritage, Structures, Sites, or Things of Significance (Section 14.7); Community Well-being (Section 14.8); and Health (Section 14.9);
- Provide an analysis on the impacts on the exercise or practice of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Section 14.10).
- Work with each Indigenous community in the development of the Impact Statement, should they wish to participate. If communities choose to not participate, the proponent will continue to share information through preferred contact methods, such as providing Project updates through email, letter, or phone conversations.
- Describe the local and regional economic conditions and trends (Section 14.8). This includes information on any use of lands and water for economic activity (e.g., fishing and hunting guides, trapping, or seasonal resorts).

The TISG also references the implementation and consideration of responsibilities under the *Constitution Act*, 1982, the *Impact Assessment Act*, and the *UNDRIP Act*.

14.2.2 Provincial Legislation, Policies and Requirements

Provincial regulatory requirements that have ties to Indigenous interests, or that may require the participation of or deeper engagement with Indigenous communities are summarized in Table 14.2-2. Section 19 contains details related to permitting requirements, some of which will require Indigenous consultation or notification.

Table 14.2-2: Indigenous Communities and Populations-Related Provincial Regulatory Requirements

Act or Requirement	Ministry or Agency	Details
Ontario *Heritage Act*, 1975/2005 (OHA)	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	Governs the practice of archaeology and protecting archaeological and cultural / heritage sites. Consultation and verification with Indigenous communities is required during the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER).
Ontario *Water Resources Act*, 1990	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Governs mine development through water management permits, pollution prevention measures, and environmental compliance measures. There are multiple authorizations under this legislation that are informed by technical considerations and consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples.
Clean Water Act, 2006	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks	This Act protects existing and future sources of drinking water through source water protection and prevention. The Act establishes locally led protection of drinking water supplies through prevention. It requires collaborative, watershed-based source protection. No source water protection plans are currently available for Red Lake and Ear Falls or surrounding areas.
Mining Act, 1990	Ministry of Energy and Mines	Governs mineral exploration and mining activities. Advanced exploration permits and the Closure Plan (rehabilitation measures) for the Project.
Crown Forest Sustainability Act	Ministry of Natural Resources	The cutting of merchantable timber reserved to the provincial Crown for site development will require a provincial license and an agreement with the Sustainable Forest License holder.
Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, Public Lands Act	Ministry of Natural Resources	Work Permits (or Letter of Authority) are required for work on provincial Crown land including within any setback and / or below the high-water mark of watercourses and waterbodies. Also required for construction of a dam below the high-water level of a lake or river requires approval for the location of the dam, and its plans and specifications

14.2.3 Other Requirements and Negotiated Commitments

Further details on agreements and negotiated commitments between by Kinross – Great Bear Resources with participating Indigenous communities can be found in Section 3 (Participation and Engagement).

An amended Exploration Agreement was signed jointly with Lac Seul First Nation and Wabauskang First Nation on July 19, 2023. This includes a commitment to enter into negotiations for a Project Agreement for mine construction and operation. A Process Agreement was signed jointly with Lac Seul and Wabauskang on April 24, 2024, to assist with the negotiation of the Project Agreement. The parties are currently negotiating a Project Agreement.

A Relationship and Capacity Building Agreement was signed with the NWOMC and MNO on November 1, 2024, to provide Métis Parties with adequate capacity to participate in the regulatory process. This agreement also includes the commitment to negotiate and conclude a Community Benefit Agreement. Métis parties are currently negotiating a Benefit Agreement.

A Capacity Funding Agreement was signed with ANA on September 1, 2024, to support ANA's engagement with Great Bear and the provincial and federal agencies related to this Project.

14.3 Assessment Approach

The assessment approach for the Project followed a step-by-step process as shown in Figure 14.3-1. A more thorough explanation of the approach is described in Section 6.

Sections 14.3.1 through 14.4 provide additional details on the assessment approach and influence of consultation and engagement. Sections 14.5 through 14.9 document the existing conditions, effects assessment, mitigation and enhancements, and residual effects. Residual effects after mitigation that are linked to the exercise or practice of rights as affirmed under the Constitution Act, 1982 are assessed in Section 14.10 to determine the Project's potential impacts on the ability of Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area to exercise or practice rights. Cumulative effects (if applicable) are assessed in Section 15.0.

Figure 14.3-1: Assessment Approach

14.3.1 Spatial and Temporal Boundaries

Spatial and temporal boundaries were established to describe the baseline existing conditions for, and to guide the assessment of each criteria. The boundaries vary depending on the criteria and are generally considered separately for each one. Where appropriate, criteria share spatial boundaries.

14.3.1.1 Spatial Boundaries

Each boundary is described and defined, including justification, in each individual valued component section (e.g., Sections 14.5.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1, 14.8.1, and 14.9.1). Maps for each spatial boundary are provided in their respective section.

14.3.1.2 Temporal Boundaries

Temporal boundaries were defined by the schedule of phases of the Project (i.e., construction, operations, and decommissioning and closure), past conditions, and historical context of the Project.

The temporal boundaries for the assessment as defined in Section 6.5 are:

Construction phase:

- Years -3 to -1 (3 years) representing the primary period of Project construction
- Mining of the Viggo pit will be completed during this phase and will be initiated in the last year of construction in the LP Central pit

Operations phase:

- Years 1 to 26 (26 years), during year 1 the Project will transition from construction into operations and will not be at full capacity

Closure phase:

- Years 27 to 29 (3 years) represent the active closure period when most of the decommissioning and reclamation of the Project area is completed
- Year 30 is a passive closure period
- Year 31 is the final closure (removal of water management infrastructure).

14.3.2 Effects Assessment Criteria

In undertaking the assessment of effects to Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, the following criteria were used:

- Change in Community Services and Infrastructure
- Change in Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes
- Change in Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites, or Things of Significance
- Change in Community Well-being
- Change in Health

To identify how the Project may result in positive or negative changes to the criteria, potential Project-related effects are assessed against the existing conditions. Indicators characterize the existing conditions and used to measure the change due to the Project-related activities. The criteria, potential effects, and indicators are summarized in Table 14.3-1.

Table 14.3-1: Criteria, Potential Effects, and Indicators for Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

Criteria	Potential Effects	Indicators
Change in Community Services and Infrastructure	• Change in housing and accommodations	• Existing housing (by type, quality, number of available units, vacancy rates) • Housing costs ($) • Planned builds ($, number of housing starts per year) • Size of anticipated non-local Project construction workforce (from Project Description and Employment and Economy pVC modelling)
	• Change in municipal, provincial, and non-profit service delivery capacity	• Number, capacity, and location of social service facilities, programs, and providers • Current accessibility, and planned upgrades for services (e.g., schools, Elder, youth, and women's services, health services, mental health and addiction services, and community recreation) – to be measured as a percent (%) availability
	• Change in transportation infrastructure	• Availability and timeliness of community transportation programs
Change in Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes	• Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting (hunting and trapping)	• Location of areas for hunting, trapping, and wildlife harvesting in relation to the PA • Qualitative understanding of quality of experience, including spiritual and cultural activities and practices relating to transmission of knowledge, laws, customs, and traditions
	• Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing)	• Location of areas for fishing and aquatic resources in relation to the PA • Qualitative understanding of quality of experience, including spiritual and cultural activities and practices relating to transmission of knowledge, laws, customs, and traditions
	• Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional plant (food and medicinal) harvesting	• Location of areas for plant harvesting (for food, medicinal, and natural resource purposes) in relation to the PA • Qualitative understanding of quality of experience, including spiritual and cultural activities and practices relating to transmission of knowledge, laws, customs, and traditions

Criteria	Potential Effects	Indicators
	• Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional habitation, cultural, spiritual sites/areas	• Location of sites and areas for Indigenous traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual activities in relation to the PA • Qualitative understanding of quality of experience, including spiritual and cultural activities and practices relating to transmission of knowledge, laws, customs, and traditions
Change in Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites, or Things of Significance	• Alteration or destruction of sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	• Number and area of affected sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites • Indigenous cultural importance of sites, including current use for Indigenous social, cultural, economic, ceremonial, spiritual and other cultural practices and activities
	• Change in access to or quality of experience with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	• Number and area of affected currently visited / used sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites • Importance of sites, including current use for Indigenous social, cultural, economic, ceremonial, spiritual and other cultural practices and activities • Detectable changes to sensory conditions, including acoustic changes (sound and vibration), visual quality (including changes to sightlines and viewsheds), and air quality (including fugitive dust and airborne particles)
	• Change in sacred, ceremonial, spiritual and cultural values (including language, stories and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	• Number and area of currently visited / used sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites • Importance of sites, including current use for Indigenous social, cultural, economic, ceremonial, spiritual and other cultural practices and activities • Detectable changes to sensory conditions, including acoustic changes (sound and vibration), visual quality (including changes to sightlines and viewsheds), and air quality (including fugitive dust and airborne particles)

Criteria	Potential Effects	Indicators
Change in Community Well-being	• Change in community well-being	• Changes in housing availability, vacancy rates, and rental prices over time (e.g., housing unit counts, planned additional units, and population change percentages) • Cost of living metrics for goods and services (e.g., cost of living trends) • Safety statistics in RSA (e.g., number of incidents per year, rates per 100,000 population, Crime severity index values, and population change percentages) • Local crime rates (violent and non-violent) with a focus on crimes committed against women and girls • Employment participation data by gender • Access to lands and resources (e.g., proximity to harvesting areas and the presence of access constraints) • Service provider assessments of wait times, capacity limitations, and staffing needs in health, social, and education sectors • Community feedback and historical documentation on household pressures and caregiver challenges (e.g., interviews, service provider input) • Regional community feedback on perceived cohesion, division, or well-being collected through engagement and interviews • Proximity to traditional use areas, interview data on access and use
Change in Health (1)	• Change in Health (Biophysical Determinants of Health)	Air Quality: • Change in air quality (measured as µg/m^3) • Change in health risks from exposure to air (measured as calculated Hazard Quotients, Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risks and / or Additional Lung Cancer Mortality) Multi-media Environmental Quality: • Change in soil quality (measured as milligrams per kilogram; mg/kg) • Change in water quality (measured as milligrams per litre; mg/L) • Change in traditional food quality (measured as mg/kg in food, mg/kg of body weight per day as dose) • Change in health risks from exposure to multiple environmental media including soil, water and traditional foods (measured as calculated Hazard Quotients and / or calculated Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risks) Access and Availability of Water:

Criteria	Potential Effects	Indicators
		• Change in access (location), and availability of water (flow, levels) for drinking, recreational and cultural uses • Change in perception of environmental quality (avoidance) Access and Availability of Traditional Foods: • Change in traditional foods access and availability via wildlife, vegetation and fish population changes (measured as qualified and / or quantified population-level changes and land use) • Change in risks to ecological receptors, including plants, mammals, birds, fish (measured as calculated Hazard Quotients) • Change in perception of environmental quality (avoidance) Sensory Disturbances (Sound, Vibration, Light): • Change in sound levels (measured in dBA) and % Highly Annoyed (%HA) • Change in vibration levels (measured as air overpressure in dB) • Change in light emissions (measured as sky glow and light trespass levels) Change in environmental quality (avoidance)
	• Change in Health (Social Determinants of Health) (1,2)	Economics (Employment, Income, Education): • Change in cost of living and traditional economy (measured as change in cost of living metrics for goods and services, cost of living trends, traditional economy practices) • Change in economic opportunity and inequality (measured as people-years of employment, Project revenues, employment participation, access to employment, income $CAD) • Change in access to health and social services (measured by capacity for service delivery, availability of services) • Education and training statistics as it relates to employment opportunities Housing: • Change in Availability (measured as size of non-local workforce, and existing housing type, quality, available units, vacancy rates, planned builds) • Change in Home Value, Affordability and Ownership (measured as size of non-local workforce, and existing housing costs $CAD; change in cost of living metrics for goods and services; change in economic opportunity and inequality)

Criteria	Potential Effects	Indicators
		Access to Health and Social Services: • Change in access to health and social services (measured as number, capacity, and location of facilities, programs, providers, and planned upgrades e.g., schools, Elder, youth, and women's services, health services, mental health and addiction services, and community recreation) • Change in municipal, provincial, and non-profit service delivery (measured number, capacity, demand, planned upgrades) • Service provider assessments of wait times, capacity limitations, and staffing needs in health, social, and education sectors • Information on household pressures and caregiver challenges Food Security: • Changes in Food Security (measured by access, availability and utilization [quality and use] and stability of traditional foods; cost of living changes; perceptions of effects) • Changes in use (avoidance) of certain traditional food sources or drinking or recreational water sources, and resultant changes to traditional economy, due to the perception of environmental quality • Perceived changes in environmental quality and tranquillity and effects on diet Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours Community Cohesion: • Change in mental wellness and personal behaviours (including perceived stress, depression, anxiety, concern for future generations) via qualitative discussion analysis of community feedback and regional data on the state of intergenerational trauma, mental wellbeing, cultural continuity, poverty, community cohesion, perception of wellness, and if applicable, substance use in the absence of site-specific quantitative data on mental wellness • Change in community cohesion and perception of wellness (qualitative discussion of community feedback and regional data to describe potential changes to community cohesion in the absence of site-specific quantitative data) Actual and Perceived Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions):

Criteria	Potential Effects	Indicators
		• Change in actual and perceived public safety, including emotional and social stress factors, due to risk of accidents and malfunctions (measured as risk characterization per potential accident type; qualitative analysis using community feedback in the absence of site-specific quantitative data on emotional and social stress) Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls: • Change in the safety of Indigenous Women and Girls (local crime rates [violent and non-violent] with a focus on crimes committed against women and girls) Statistics on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

Notes:

1 Health is assessed through consideration of upstream conditions and changes to biophysical and social determinants of health; therefore, the indicators identified above are for the assessment of the determinants of health, in accordance with HIA guidelines. The existing conditions and assessment of potential effects for these determinants are described in detail in the relevant Impact Statement sections and appendices, the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (Appendix N-1) and in the Health Impact Assessment (Appendix N-2). To provide additional context for health, existing conditions around current health status for Indigenous communities in the region are summarized in the health sections below, and described in detail in Attachment A of the Health Impact Assessment (Appendix N-2).

2 Some indicators are the same as indicators/assessment criteria for upstream conditions (environment, social, cultural, economic); however, they are considered through a different lens in terms of effects (i.e., Indigenous health)

$CAD = Canadian dollars; dB = decibel; dBA = adjusted decibels; %HA = percent highly annoyed; mg/kg = milligram per kilogram; mg/L = milligrams per litre; PA = Project Area; pVC = pathway valued component; RSA = Regional Study Area; µg/m^3 = micrograms per cubic metre

14.3.2.1 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Following the identification of potential effects, each interaction between Project activities and indicators was evaluated to determine whether the proposed mitigation measures would manage ant risk associated with the effect. Where mitigation measures were determined to effectively avoid or minimize the interaction, no residual effect was identified. Where the mitigation measures reduced, but did not fully eliminate, the potential for an effect, the interaction was carried forward for residual characterization.

Great Bear Resources believes that responsible mining includes the following characteristics: 1) generates sustainable value for investors, host countries and communities; 2) prioritizes health and safety; 3) strives to create positive economic and social benefits; 4) improves the overall quality of people's lives during and after the mine operation; and 5) employs responsible stewardship of the environment. Great Bear Resources' policy statement includes the following objectives:

- Align biodiversity practices with regulatory requirements and industry best practices to support responsible land use and long-term environmental benefits. Through proactive stewardship, we aim to support ecosystem recovery, promote sustainable land management, and leave a positive environmental legacy beyond mining.
- Develop and operate projects in a manner that respects and strengthens Indigenous communities and brings positive contributions to their quality of life which are sustainable after mine closure.

14.3.3 Assessment of Significance

An assessment of significance is completed in a structured format described in Section 6.6.2 if residual effects are identified. The significance of residual effects to these criteria is evaluated utilizing the following attributes according the three threshold levels listed in Table 14.3-2 and Table 14.3-3:

- Ecological and social context: a qualitative measure of the sensitivity and / or resilience of the criteria to the potential effect
- Magnitude: a quantitative (statistical desktop data, usually collected from Statistics Canada's Census) or qualitative (information collected through interviews, questionnaires and focus groups) measure of the size or severity of the effect after mitigation relative to the baseline condition and / or applicable guideline
- Extent: the geographic area where the effect is expected to occur
- Duration: the period of time over which an effect is expected to occur
- Frequency: how often an effect is expected to occur
- Reversibility: the ability for the effect to be reversed
- Timing: the degree to which the effect is expected to occur during a sensitive period for the criteria (applicable to select criteria).

For a residual effect of a criteria to be determined to be significant, the following conditions must both be satisfied:

- A Level II or III rating is attained for ecological and social context; and
- A Level II or III rating is attained for all of the attributes involving magnitude, extent, duration, frequency, reversibility, and timing, as applicable.

Similarly, the effect is not likely to be significant if it has low or limited importance to the ecological and / or social context.

- A Level I rating is achieved for any of the attributes involving magnitude, extent, duration, frequency, reversibility or timing; or, if a Level I rating is achieved for the ecological and / or social context, then the residual effect is not considered to be significant.

Table 14.3-2: Significance Determination Attributes and Rankings

Attribute	Description	Category
Ecological and Social Context	A qualitative measure of the sensitivity and / or resilience to change, based on professional judgement, consultation and Indigenous Knowledge	• Level I: Criteria may or may not be sensitive and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures. • Level II: Criteria is sensitive and requires special measures to support the predicted change. • Level III: Criteria is sensitive and unable to support the predicted change even with special measures.

Attribute	Description	Category
Magnitude	A qualitative or quantitative measure to describe the size or degree of the residual effects relative to baseline conditions	• Defined separately for each criteria in Table 14.3-3.
Geographic Extent	The spatial extent over which the residual effect will take place	• Level I: Effect is restricted to the LSA. • Level II: Effect extends beyond the LSA but within the RSA. • Level III: Effect extends beyond the RSA.
Duration	The time period over which the residual effect will or is expected to occur	• Level I: Effect occurs over the short term: less than or equal to three years. (1) • Level II: Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years. (1) • Level III: Effect occurs over the long-term: greater than 32 years.(1)
Frequency	The rate of occurrence of the residual effect	• Level I: Effect occurs once, infrequently. • Level II: Effect occurs intermittently or regularly. • Level III: Effect occurs frequently or continuously.
Reversibility	The extent to which the residual effect may be reversed	• Level I: Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases. • Level II: Effect is partially reversible during the Project phases. • Level III: Effect is not reversible during the Project phases.
Timing (2)	A measure of whether the residual effect occurs during a sensitive period of the year	• Level I: Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated. • Level II: Effects occur during a sensitive period and are partially mitigated. • Level III: Effects occur during a sensitive period and are not mitigated.

Notes:
1. These timelines approximately align with the Project: construction phase is approximately three years, operations phase is approximately 26 years, and the active closure period is an additional three years.
2. As applicable.

Table 14.3-3: Criteria-specific Magnitude Rankings

Criteria	Category
Change in Community Services and Infrastructure	• Level I: Project-related demand for regional services and infrastructure used by local Indigenous People are manageable, and well within the existing regional capacity. • Level II: Some elements of regional services and infrastructure used by local Indigenous People are operating close to or beyond capacity; however, the Project-related demand for regional services and infrastructure can be managed with mitigation measures. • Level III: Some elements of regional services and infrastructure used by local Indigenous People are operating tenuously close to or beyond capacity, and the Project-related demand for regional services and infrastructure cannot be managed with mitigation measures.
Change in Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes	• Level I: Project-related changes may increase the effort necessary but will not reduce the ability of Indigenous Peoples to practice traditional activities related to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. • Level II: Project-related changes may reduce but not eliminate the ability of Indigenous Peoples to practice traditional activities related to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. • Level III: Project-related changes will greatly reduce or eliminate the ability of Indigenous Peoples to practice traditional activities related to the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes.
Change in Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites, or Things of Significance	• Level I: Project-related change that is insufficient to alter how Indigenous heritage structures, sites or things, are used, accessed or experienced. • Level II: Project-related change that may alter how Indigenous heritage structures, sites or things are used, accessed or experienced. Associated Indigenous interests (such as intergenerational knowledge transfer) may be affected. • Level III: Project-related change that will result in a loss of Indigenous heritage structures, sites or things, and loss of access or use. Associated Indigenous interests (such as intergenerational knowledge transfer) are impeded
Change in Community Well-being	• Level I: Measurable Project-related change in social determinants of well-being that may result in a slight adverse change in the population-level social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous people. • Level II: Measurable Project-related change in social determinants of well-being that will result in a material adverse change in the population-level social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous people. • Level III: Measurable Project-related change in social determinants of well-being that will result in a substantive adverse change in the population-level social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous people.

Criteria	Category
Change in Health	• Level I: measurable Project-related changes in environmental exposures and / or social determinants of health are unlikely to result in a material adverse change in population-level health status of local Indigenous people. • Level II: measurable Project-related changes in environmental exposures and / or social determinants of health may result in a material adverse change in population-level health status of local Indigenous people. • Level III: measurable Project-related changes in environmental exposures and / or social determinants of health will result in a substantial adverse change in population-level health status of local Indigenous people.

14.3.4 Analytical Methods

The assessment of the potential effects of the Project has been completed in accordance with standard regulatory methods. The methods used to assess Indigenous health are provided in the health section below and detailed in the HHERA (Appendix N-1) and the HIA (Appendix N-2).

The Project's effects on the criteria were assessed by first collecting data via desktop research from reputable sources, such as Statistics Canada and municipal websites. While Statistics Canada remains the standard data source in the assessment process, due to the timing of the census, some of the data may reflect pandemic related limitations of the time. The 2021 census data was primarily collected in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, when reporting statistics for small populations, there may be data suppression, or rounding errors. This can result in the total counts not matching the reported data.

While community-maintained population records may reflect more current or locally specific information, particularly for on-reserve populations, Statistics Canada data were used across the Impact Statement to support consistency and comparability across communities and assessment components.

As part of the methods, Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) was applied to understand how the Project may affect different groups. GBA Plus is a framework that considers how intersecting identity factors, including but not limited to, gender, age, culture, and education levels can shape diverse experiences of project effects. Within this framework, the terms men+ and women+ are used to acknowledge diversity within gender groups, recognizing that individuals may experience impacts differently depending on these intersecting identities. GBA Plus considerations are applied throughout this section, with each valued component including a dedicated subsection that addresses subgroup-specific effects in its context.

Following the collection of the desktop data, packages were developed and distributed to service providers in Red Lake and Ear Falls. The packages included:

- desktop data, which required validation by key service providers,
- tailored interview questions, designed to collect information about resources, capacity, thresholds and targeted information about vulnerable, and at-risk groups (populations that would be considered within the Gender Based Analysis Plus umbrella) within the communities.

The package's qualitative socio-economic data, including information on vulnerable groups were collaboratively reviewed, revised and augmented based on feedback from the service provider interviews. The output from these interviews was used to inform the Community Services and Infrastructure and Community Well-being criteria.

Where feasible, additional data from other sources have been added to reflect more current statistics or provide additional information on restrictions or limitations of the data.

In addition to publicly available sources of information, the description of existing conditions was informed by the confidential reports prepared by or for specific Indigenous communities:

- A report titled Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study for the Great Bear Gold Mine.
- A report titled "The Centre of The Universe": Stories of Obishikokaang, Lac Seul First Nation Traditional Knowledge & Land Use Study, prepared for Lac Seul First Nation.
- A report titled Response Memo to Impact Statement – Indigenous Knowledge – Typical Requirements from SLR, Lac Seul First Nation Traditional Knowledge Studies, prepared for Lac Seul First Nation.
- What We Heard Report (Extract), prepared for Lac Seul First Nation and Wabauskang First Nation.
- A report titled Wabauskang First Nation Traditional Knowledge Mapping Study Using GIS Project 2021-2022, prepared for Wabauskang First Nation.
- A report titled Wabauskang First Nation Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study, prepared for Wabauskang First Nation.

Great Bear Resources will continue to consider supporting studies and future monitoring identified by Indigenous communities during all phases of the Project.

The use of Indigenous Knowledge received by Indigenous Nations aligns with digital data governance principles for Indigenous data sovereignty, such as OCAP Principles (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) that were established by the First Nations Information Governance Centre. Information received by Indigenous Nations relating to land use documentation, cultural and heritage sites, community services and infrastructure, and community well-being is considered proprietary to the respective Indigenous communities.

To maintain confidentiality for these received documents, direct quotation from Indigenous Knowledge studies and documents (including traditional land use studies) are avoided, and the documents are broadly identified as confidential reports, where applicable, throughout this assessment.

Complementing these qualitative sources, the assessment of Indigenous health is conducted through a single comprehensive assessment. This approach relies on the combined findings of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA; Appendix N-1) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA; Appendix N-2) for all participating Indigenous communities (i.e., LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF). The health subsection includes the assessment and discussion of Indigenous health overall, presenting findings for all five Indigenous communities.

Interactions between the Project and valued components were determined based on professional judgment and technical expertise based on experience with other projects similar in breadth, along with input from consultation / engagement activities.

It is acknowledged that changes to pVCs and residual effects on fVCs represent distinct concepts. However, for the purpose of consistency in reporting across this Section, the terminology of “residual effects” may be applied uniformly to both pVCs and fVCs. This approach supports consistency while recognizing the methodological distinction.

The overall assessment methodology for the Project is further described in Section 6.

14.3.5 Assumptions and the Use of the Conservative Approach

Given the limited information available, the assessment of effects and significance is based on a conservative approach. This means assuming a ‘worst-case’ or less favorable scenario when considering the effect of a change. The details on the use of conservatism in the Indigenous health assessment are provided in the HHERA (Appendix N-1) and the HIA (Appendix N-2).

The available information may not reflect all activities for an Indigenous community and may also reflect cultural sensitivity about sharing such information in a study of this nature. In these instances, information from other sources, such as projects of similar nature or within the same region, was also used to supplement information to inform this assessment of Project-related changes.

The best available information is included, and if new information emerges about physical and cultural heritage sites, there are regulatory processes to identify and manage any such resources. The Project Area will continue to be subject to monitoring, and additional steps will be taken as required to support appropriate consideration of potential cultural and heritage values.

14.4 Influence of Consultation and Engagement

Engagement has been ongoing for several years prior to, and throughout this impact assessment process, and will continue with Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area over the life of the Project.

Section 3 provides more detail on the extensive consultation to date. The Record of Consultation (Appendix C) includes detailed comments received, and responses provided, during the development of the Impact Statement.

14.4.1 Impact Statement Valued Components

As required by the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG; Appendix A-1), the Impact Statement must identify the valued components of the environment that will be the focal points for the impact assessment. Valued components are components of the natural and human environment that are of particular concern or value to participants and that may be affected by the Project.

Great Bear Resources identified a preliminary list of potential valued components based on comments raised during consultation on the Project, as well as data from extensive biophysical and human environment baseline studies, and literature sources.

A preliminary list of pVCs and fVCs was developed and consulted upon during preparation of the Impact Statement as summarized in Section 6. The pVCs and fVCs confirmed as important by participating Indigenous Nations include: air, wildlife, lands, water, and people.

Based on the TISG and feedback received through consultation, the pVCs and fVCs identified for assessment in the Impact Statement include Indigenous Peoples and their interests: Community Services and Infrastructure; Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes; Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage and Structures, Sites, or Things of Significance; Community Well-being; and Health.

As part of both consultation and engagement, Great Bear Resources has held both on and off-reserve meetings to present the Project. Engagement sessions were held in Red Lake for off-reserve band members of LSFN on February 20, March 24, and April 25, 2025, to introduce the topics of Fish Compensation measures, Species at Risk, and of Interest and Closure Planning. During engagement, the communities shared that important fish habitats included the Chukuni River and Pakwash Lake. Feedback received through these consultation activities have been addressed through direct responses and incorporated into the Impact Statement as appropriate.

Comments related to the assessment of the potential effect of changes to the environment on Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area are provided in this assessment. Comments have also been provided by members of the ANA, LSFN, the NWOMC communities and WFN. Indigenous Peoples make up 24% and 19% of the populations of Red Lake and Ear Falls, respectively, and engagement with community service providers has informed the understanding of Indigenous population dynamics within these communities.

Due to this, it is assumed that there will be some overlap in values and traditions of Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls with nearby reserves. Where appropriate, commentary reflecting these assumptions and provided comments are included in this assessment.

Engagement with Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve in Red Lake and Ear Falls has primarily taken place through open houses/townhall meetings, and consultation with community service providers. Feedback from members of ANA, LSFN, NWOMC and WFN has been incorporated into the Impact Statement, particularly regarding fish habitats, water quality, social services, and cultural heritage. This process incorporated the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples residing in Red Lake and Ear Falls within the assessment.

14.4.2 Community Services and Infrastructure

Comments have been raised regarding transportation including the existing public road infrastructure and limited bus and other transportation services. During engagement, it was identified that the existing transportation services may be impacted with changes in population due to the Project which may limit access to the existing transportation services needed for healthcare, childcare, school, and other social services. Elders and seniors within the community were identified as being particularly susceptible to changes in existing public transportation services.

Changes to other social services access, such as daycare services, social services, and women’s shelters were identified as services that are either close to, or at capacity. Additionally, employers are not able to increase employee salaries. Due to this, there are concerns that current employees in these roles may seek out new job opportunities, reducing the available number of staff necessary to continue running these services.

Concerns were raised around workers moving into to the area, potentially putting increased strain on the electricity services offered to Red Lake. There are currently regular power outages, and increased population related to the Project may further these challenges with electricity reliability.

Based on engagement and consultation, and confidential reports prepared by or for Indigenous communities, key issues for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area include: transportation, changes to social services access, and changes to infrastructure (including supply and demand of energy). These are assessed in Section 14.5.

14.4.3 Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes

Indigenous community members have reiterated their commitment to the stewardship of their traditional territories and emphasized the importance of addressing concerns about the Project's effects on lands, waters, and species at risk from their perspective.

Potential contamination of waterways and food resources were identified as concerns. It was noted that the Project may change the quality of hunted and trapped game due to environmental contamination of water and food that animals are dependent on. This is captured in the assessment as a change to the health and availability of harvested plants and medicines within the Project area (PA).

Engagement and input from confidential traditional land and resource use studies identified contamination concerns about resource quality (inclusive of culturally important plant and animal species for harvesting and subsistence activities) from ANA, LSFN, NWOMC and WFN.

Concerns about the potential for increased diseases, such as masses or tumours found in fish, and the contamination of important waterways and waterbodies from mercury, arsenic, or phosphorous were highlighted. Other challenges included changes in air quality from Project activities, risks of increased dust, and chemicals used to spray roads for dust management.

Potential changes to the access of culturally important areas and resources were identified by LSFN and WFN, noting that harvesters may be less interested in accessing their preferred and traditional areas due to real or perceived changes in water quality from tailings and other contamination sources that affect water.

Potential changes in water quality from Project activities were identified as having the potential to affect the quality of experience of LSFN, ANA, LSFN, NWOMC and WFN members who use waterways and waterbodies as sites of transmitting intergenerational knowledge.

LSFN and WFN also identified that these changes to the land from Project activities may make harvesters, hunters, and trappers view the land as less functional, less desirable for traditional harvesting and subsistence or cultural activities, and less safe for use. Disturbances relating to dust, air quality, noise, and flooding were also identified by LSFN and WFN as potentially affecting the quality of experience for those on the land.

It is assumed that Indigenous Peoples living with Red Lake and Ear Falls area share similar values as other Indigenous communities in the area. Based on engagement and consultation to date, and confidential reports prepared by or for participating Indigenous Nations, key issues incorporated under current use of lands and resourced for traditional purposed (Section 14.6) include: changes to access, availability, and quality of experience related to terrestrial wildlife harvesting (wildlife and land quality), changes to access, availability, and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing and water quality), changes to access, availability, and quality of experience related to plant harvesting (vegetation and land quality), and reduction in access to culturally important areas and the experience (traditional habitation, spiritual, and cultural sites).

14.4.4 Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites or Things of Significance

Cultural heritage site and areas (archaeological, sacred, ceremonial and 14.) have been identified as an important consideration by all Indigenous communities in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area. These sites and areas, with traditional culture and practice, were noted as the way community members pass on skills, Indigenous Knowledge and stories to the next generation. Potential changes associated with access and use of these sites and areas (potential tangible and intangible effects) should be considered in the assessment and providing continued access to land and water for harvesting was identified as important.

For the archaeological sites identified in or near the PA, archaeological reports have been shared with Indigenous communities, and, based on input from LSFN and WFN, avoidance of all potentially affected archaeological sites has been selected as the mitigation.

Based on engagement and consultation to date with Indigenous Peoples and participating Indigenous Nations, key issues incorporated under Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, Including Structures or Things of Significance (Section 14.7) include: alteration or loss of these physical and cultural areas; associated changes to the quality of experience and practices of LSFN community members potentially undertaking traditional activities in these locations; and implications for cultural continuity and LSFN's ability to transmit Indigenous Knowledge intergenerationally.

14.4.5 Community Well-being

Engagement with Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area noted concerns around changes to income (resulting from higher wages associated with the Project), which could further increase cost of living. With the potential for increases and changes to the existing population, those in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area are concerned that this will reduce access to an already limited number of rental properties and increase house prices.

Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area relate food insecurity challenges with the increased cost-of-living that community members are facing. Of particular note is the concern that Project activities may place strains on social services, reducing capacity needed to run food security and food bank programs.

An additional noted concern is the women's shelter in Red Lake, which runs a food bank service. Increased population in the area due to the Project may increase use of the food bank, decreasing availability of baby formula and other items for parents and / or caregivers.

An increased number of male workers was identified to increase the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), crime, and potential violence against Indigenous women+ and girls. Of importance for Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area was the potential for increased violence related to changes in the population due to Project employment.

Similar to what was identified within current use of land and resources for traditional purposes, the potential for contamination and its effect on health and community well-being were cited as concerning for ANA, LSFN, NWOMC and WFN. Therefore, this would likely also be of concern to Indigenous Peoples living in and around Red Lake and Ear Falls. These contamination exposure risks include drinking water, cultural uses of water (e.g., bathing, medicinal), and effects on medicines that grow by the river (e.g., wildlife, plants, berries). Land and soil quality changes were cited by LSFN and WFN as also having a risk to mushrooms, medicines, wild plants and berries.

During a Fish Compensation Workshop hosted by the Great Bear Project on February 19, 2025, a meeting attendee asked if wild rice compensation programs could be done in unison with the fish compensation. GBR has funded a study by Lakehead University, Northern Bioscience and Harris Ecological Consulting, upon the request of LSFN and WFN. The purpose of this study is to help address the loss of historic manoomin (wild rice) production on Wabauskang Lake.

Based on engagement and consultation to date, and confidential reports prepared by or for participating Indigenous Nations, key issues incorporated under Community Well-being (Section 14.7) include: increased cost of living due to the increase in population; food security and access to hunting areas; increase of crime within the community; potential impacts to water, wildlife, fish, and vegetation that will impact the health and well-being of the community members.

14.4.6 Health

This section provides a summary of the past and ongoing activities that have supported the discussion, scoping and assessment of Indigenous health.

As detailed in Impact Statement Section 3 (Participation and Engagement), engagement activities between Great Bear Resources and Indigenous communities have included in-person and virtual small group meetings, in-person and virtual community meetings, site visits, small workshops, formal presentations, public engagements, one-on-one in-person engagements, letters, and emails.

Feedback from Indigenous Nations and stakeholders has directly influenced the assessment of potential effects on Indigenous health and the development of mitigation and enhancement measures, including:

Potential Points of Reception: Confidential reports in the form of Traditional Knowledge Land Use Study (TKLUS) for LSFN, WFN, and NWOMC included information on land and resource use, species of importance for subsistence and cultural purposes, and cultural areas of importance. The assessment of human health, including the selection of surrogate species and points of reception (PORs) used in the HHERA included consideration of this information. Further detail on this process is provided in Section 4.4 of Appendix N-2.

Wild Rice Enhancement Project: At the request of LSFN and WFN, Great Bear Resources has funded a collaborative study to address the loss of historic Wild Rice production on Wabauskang Lake. The enhancement project, located on the WFN reserve and supported by LSFN, will develop options for habitat restoration and knowledge-sharing on sustainable harvesting practices, supporting long-term stewardship by community members. Wild Rice has been highlighted as a key interest by Indigenous communities. This mitigation measure supports Indigenous health and wellness.

Contamination: In response to concerns about waterfowl exposure to contaminants (e.g., tailings and toxins), the Project has committed to robust tailings management, regular environmental monitoring, and transparent communication of results. Wildlife will be discouraged from inhabiting contact water ponds, including but not limited to the Tailings Management Facility (TMF) pond, mine water pond and collection water pond. In order to address concerns surrounding the possibility of the Project further contributing to ongoing mercury levels and risk of methylation, Great Bear Resources undertook a study requested by IAAC to evaluate potential methylmercury generation from Project in downstream watersheds and evaluated potential risk to human health associated with fish consumption. This study can be referenced in Appendix T.

Environmental monitoring and Indigenous participation: Great Bear Resources has committed to ongoing engagement with Indigenous environmental monitors and the Environmental Management Committee, to support Indigenous knowledge informing the monitoring of species of importance.

Communication and adaptive management: The Project will maintain open communication with communities regarding monitoring results, adaptive management measures, and opportunities for community input throughout the Project lifecycle.

It is assumed that RLEF area share similar values as other Indigenous communities in the area. It was noted that potential surface water contamination, particularly in rivers and wetlands, could adversely affect the safety and quality of traditional food sources, including hunted and trapped game, harvested plants and fish.

Additionally, concerns were raised that visual and sensory disturbances, flooding, changes to air quality as a result of elevated dust levels and dust suppressant products approved for use by the Province of Ontario to spray roads for dust management, as well as changes to water quality may change the experience of land users and the transfer of intergenerational knowledge, change access to traditional harvesting areas, change resource quality, and pose health risks.

RLEF noted concerns related to potential increases in violence, racism, crime, sexually transmitted infections, and violence against Indigenous women and girls due to the increased population. Concerns were also raised about increased strain on social services such as daycare, food banks and women's shelters.

Based on engagement and consultation to date, and confidential reports prepared by or for Indigenous communities, key considerations for RLEF incorporated under health include: ongoing communication, food security, access to health and social services, community safety, access to harvesting areas and potential effects to water, wildlife, fish, and vegetation that could potentially affect the health of the community members.

14.5 Community Services and Infrastructure

Community services and infrastructure was selected as a criteria to evaluate how the Project may interact with the capacity of regional and local facilities and services, infrastructure, and transportation networks utilized by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. These components are considered individually and collectively. Collectively, they help evaluate the broader social and economic conditions of residents that depend on the stability and consistency of these programs, services, and systems. The community services and infrastructure assessment includes a review of:

- Housing and accommodations (including short-term rentals and temporary lodgings)
- Access to social services (e.g., childcare, daycare, Elder care, community wellness workers, women's shelters, and mental health and addictions counselling)
- Healthcare services (primary and secondary services)
- Emergency response services (e.g., fire, police, ambulance, and emergency responders)
- Infrastructure (e.g., power, utilities, landfill and waste disposal, water and wastewater treatment)

- Traffic networks and infrastructure.

14.5.1 Spatial Boundaries

There are three study areas within the spatial boundaries. They are the Project Area (PA), the Local Study Area (LSA), and the Regional Study Area (RSA), which includes both the PA and the LSA. The spatial boundaries used for the assessment of community services and infrastructure are shown in Figure 14.5-1 and are defined:

- The PA is defined as the footprint of the Project including all temporary and permanent areas associated with the Project, as well as a buffer to allow flexibility for design optimizations prior to construction and over the mine life (Section 6.4). The PA is approximately 3,349 hectares (ha) in size.
- The LSA is the area within which Project-related effects may reasonably be expected to occur and can be predicted or measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy and confidence. The regions that the Project's socio-economic demands are expected to influence, possibly causing direct, indirect and / or induced effects on community services and infrastructure include the Indigenous communities of ANA, LSFN, NWOMC (the community of Métis citizens in the region), WFN, and Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.
- The RSA encompasses the LSA and is used to provide regional context for the significance of residual effects and is also the area within which potential for cumulative effects of the Project in combination with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects or activities are considered. The region surrounding the LSA and the PA may also experience direct, indirect, and / or induced effects on community services and infrastructure due to the socio-economic demands of the Project. This could include transportation corridors, and / or services which operate throughout the region. The RSA for both community services and infrastructure is the District of Kenora. The RSA is the region which cumulative effects on the pVCs and fVCs are likely to occur.

These boundaries are consistent with those used for other social criteria including Community Well-being (Section 14.8) and Health (Section 14.9).

Last Saved: November 19, 2025 8:54 AM by eappel

GIS PATH: G:_Projects\241\241_031748_Kinross_GreatBearLake\1_Maps\RPT\RPT_202511\RPT_202511_RL_EF\241_030825_RL_EF.aprx || 241_030825_14.5-1_SpBoundaries_CommunityServiceInfrastructure

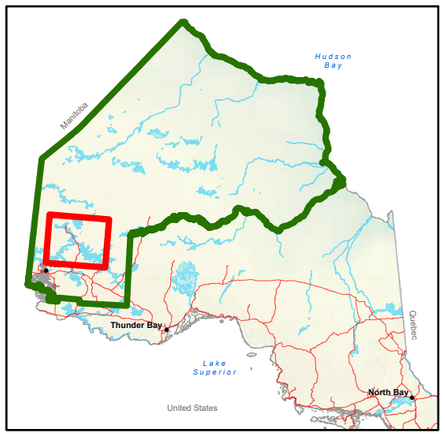
KAHNAHMAYKOOSAYSEEKAHK
WOODLAND CARIBOU PROVINCIAL PARK (WILDERNESS CLASS)
TROUT LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
MUNICIPALITY OF RED LAKE
HIGHWAY 125
PAKWASH PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CLASS)
TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS
HIGHWAY 105
WEST ENGLISH RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK (WATERWAY CLASS)
MAYNARD LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
TIDE LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
Wabauskang First Nation
Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek
WINDIGO POINT PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
Lac Seul First Nation
MUNICIPALITY OF SIOUX LOOKOUT

Olive Lake
Kahnahmaykoosaysensikahk/ Valhalla Lake
Little Vermilion Lake
Coli Lake
Linge Lake
Bloodvein River
Paishk Lake
Knox Lake
Golden Creek
Alford Lake
Ranger Creek
Red Lake
Hammell Lake
Indian House Lake
Ranger Lake
Otter Lake
Trout Lake
Bathurst Creek
Joyce Lake
Little Trout Lake
Little Bear Lake
Joyce River
Parker Lake
Douglas Lake
Embryo Lake
Telescope Lake
Keg Lake
Starrau Channel
Gullrock Lake
Two Island Lake
Moose Creek
Ten Mile Creek
Caribou Creek
Trout Lake River
Medicine Stone Lake
Upper Medicine Stone Lake
Dixie Creek
Pakwash Lake
Bruce Lake
Bluffy Lake
Longlegged Lake
Kilburn Lake
Confusion Lake
Pineneedle Lake
Sydney Lake
Rice Creek
Chukuni River
Wenasaga Lake
Celt Lake
Fork Creek
Aerofoil Lake
Pilot Lake
Camping Lake
Longlegged River
Sumach Lake
Conifer Lake
Wegg Lake
Barnston Lake
Goose Lake
Rowdy Lake
Confusion River
Unexpected Lake
Wilcox Lake
Cedar River
Anishinabi River
Roger Lake
Camille River
Oak Lake
Anishinabi Lake
Wine Lake
Fletcher Lake
Salvesen Lake
Treelined Lake
Scotty Lake
Maynard Lake
Lennan Lake
Ball Lake
Separation Lake
Brown Bear Lake
Scenic Lake
Indian Lake
Wabigoon River
Big Fox Lake
Lount Lake
Little Fox Lake
Grassy Narrows Lake
Delaney Lake
Wonderland Lake
Segise Bay
Segise Lake
Cliff Lake
Cedar Lake
Ord Lake
Thaddeus Lake
Clay Lake
Big Canon Lake
Wabauskang Lake
Scout Lake
Aerobus Lake
Bornite Lake
Sup Lake
Perrault Lake
Ord River
Lac Seul
Williams Lake
Clear Lake
Whitefish Lake
Lost Lake
Pelican Lake
Route Lake
Big Vermilion Lake
Pelican Creek
Rowan Creek
Pauls River
Shabumeni River
Shabumeni Lake
Birch Lake
Birch River
Springpole Lake
Gull Lake
Seagrave Lake
Bertha Lake
Washagomis Lake
Narrow Lake
Woman Lake
Okanse Lake
Confederation Lake
Woman River
Margaret Lake
Hailstone Lake
Sesikinaga River
Tarpley Lake
Sesikinaga Lake
Perrigo Lake
Jeanette Lake
Wakeman Lake
Uchi Lake
Fly Lake
Jubilee Lake
Brokenmouth River
Uchi River
Slate Lake
Roadhouse River
Papaonga Lake
Papaonga River
Wesley River
Wenasaga River
Whitemud Lake
Whitemud River
Pikky Creek
Trout Lake River
Ten Mile Creek
Moose Creek
Caribou Creek
Creamy Creek
Celt Lake
Alimeter Creek
Wapesi Lake
Aerial Lake
Sunlight Lake
Hall Creek
Broad Lake
Spruce River
Wapesi River
Twain Lake
Broadcast Lake
Spruce River
Williams Creek
Ord River
Cliff Creek
Segise Creek
Segise Bay
Clay Lake
Big Canon Lake
Pauls River
Pelican Creek
Rowan Creek
Lost Lake
Pelican Lake
Route Lake
Big Vermilion Lake
Lac Seul
Aerobus Lake
Bornite Lake
Sup Lake
Perrault Lake
Ord River
Williams Lake
Clear Lake
Whitefish Lake
Lost Lake
Pelican Lake
Route Lake
Big Vermilion Lake
Pelican Creek
Rowan Creek
Pauls River
Lac Seul
Aerobus Lake
Bornite Lake
Sup Lake
Perrault Lake
Ord River
Williams Lake
Clear Lake
Whitefish Lake
Lost Lake
Pelican Lake
Route Lake
Big Vermilion Lake
Pelican Creek
Rowan Creek
Pauls River

N

LEGEND:

- PROJECT AREA
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- REGIONAL STUDY
- HIGHWAY
- MAJOR ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD
- RAILWAY
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
- PROVINCIAL PARK
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY (LOWER TIER)



NOTES:
NOTE1: BASE DATA ACQUIRED FROM LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO.

0 5 10 20 30 km

SCALE 1:550,000
PAGE SIZE 11 x 17
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N

THIS MAP IS FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

GREAT BEAR GOLD PROJECT

SPATIAL BOUNDARIES FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SLR

FIGURE NO:
14.5-1

DATE: November 19, 2025
PROJECT NO: 241.030825

14.5.2 Existing Conditions

A summary of existing conditions for community services and infrastructure, and the methods used to characterize baseline conditions is presented. Additional details are provided in the Socio-Economic Baseline Study (Appendix O-1).

Current services and infrastructure specific to Indigenous communities are consider in Section 10.5 (LSFN), Section 11.5 (WFN), Section 12.5 (ANA), and Section 13.5 (NWOMC). Regional residents rely on services and infrastructure available in Red Lake, Ear Falls, and other larger centres (e.g., Kenora) within the RSA. Many essential services, such as hospitals, secondary education institutions, and specialized social programs, are only available in these larger communities and may require travel to access.

14.5.2.1 Methods

A description of existing community services and infrastructure conditions for Red Lake, Ear Falls, and Kenora District are presented. These existing conditions were collected through desktop research of publicly available data sources, including statistical data from the 2021 Census and other public sources (where available), as well as qualitative information gathered through interviews with key service providers and community organizations.

The TISGs also states that the description of baseline economic conditions must include "any relevant treaty provisions pertaining to economic development for Indigenous Peoples". Great Bear Resources is not aware of any treaty provisions pertaining to regional economic development.

Additional information from related criteria sections, including community well-being, the Project Description, and employment and economy studies were used to understand the potential for effects on community services and infrastructure.

This quantitative and qualitative information is used to describe the current existing conditions. The potential Project-related changes to community services and infrastructure are relative to these existing (or baseline) conditions. The assessment of potential effects from these changes informs the development of appropriate mitigation measures, which in turn support the prediction of residual effects. The finding of this assessment will inform the mitigation measures and long-term monitoring proposed for the Project.

14.5.2.2 Description

Community services and infrastructure within the RSA are provided by the Kenora District, the Municipality of Red Lake, and the Township of Ear Falls. The description characterizes the demographic makeup of Red Lake and Ear Falls and describes data about community services and infrastructure uses, values, and concerns in the region by off-reserve Indigenous populations.

Community services and infrastructure reflect the overall social and economic conditions that support the populations within the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. The existing capacity and challenges for infrastructure and service areas are closely connected with other fVCs, including:

- Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes (Section 14.6)
- Community Well-Being (Section 14.8)
- Health (Section 14.9)

- Local and Regional Economy (Section 7.16).

Existing conditions is based on both statistical information (e.g., income, employment, housing) and insights from community-based organizations. When presented together, these sources offer a foundation for evaluating how potential future changes may affect overall well-being in the LSA and RSA.

14.5.2.2.1 Accommodation and Lodging

14.5.2.2.1.1 Kenora District

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) offers affordable housing programs and services to residents of Kenora District. Programs offered by KDSB include:

- Supportive housing programs
- Affordable housing units
- Market rental housing units
- Rent-geared-to-income programs
- Homelessness prevention programs.

KDSB also provides rental assistance to eligible families, special priority placements, seniors, and single, non-elderly residents. This is based on wait list occupancy with priority to applicants with unique circumstances (Kenora District Services Board n.d.-a). As of 2020, the waitlist for housing in the Kenora District increased by 346% from 2011, with single individuals and families making up the majority of people in need of housing (Kenora District Services Board 2021).

14.5.2.2.1.2 Municipality of Red Lake

As of the 2021 Census, Red Lake had a total population of 4,094 and 1,705 occupied private dwellings (1,425 single-detached houses, and 280 attached dwellings), and 420 tenant households. Of these dwellings, 1,560 needed regular maintenance or minor repairs, while 150 dwellings were in need of major repairs (Statistics Canada 2023e)). Within Red Lake, 97.1% of households were deemed to be living in suitable housing (Statistics Canada 2021). Housing suitability refers to whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household.

Red Lake's population has the potential to increase by 4,553 by 2031 if additional mines begin operations in the area. To accommodate this growth, the Municipality would require approximately 1,751 new dwellings (Municipality of Red Lake 2015).

Currently under development, the KDSB is converting a former motel into supportive senior housing. The facility will accommodate at least 10 units (Con-Pro n.d.; Mantle 2025)

There are two shelters in Red Lake; the New Starts for Women Shelter, and the Red Lake Emergency Shelter. The New Starts for Women Shelter is a 10-bed facility available to women+ and their under-18 dependents. In 2024, they served 47 individuals and 61 children. An additional 1,347 people accessed the food share program (Chamberlin 2025). The food share program is open to anyone struggling with food security challenges.

The Red Lake Emergency Shelter is a 14-bed facility that is available to anyone over the age of 18 within Kenora District. In 2024, they served 7,455 meals and provided 1,268 total bed nights. The shelter is staffed by 13 Indigenous and non-Indigenous People.

The shelter has not met or exceeded capacity in the last two years, but it does have additional overflow capacity to increase to 17 beds. The Emergency Shelter also has two transitional housing apartments to transition people out of homelessness (Mantle 2025).

Great Bear Resources supports local initiatives addressing housing and social needs through financial donations to organizations such as New Starts for Women and the Emergency Shelter.

Among their wide range of community services, the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre also provides a Homelessness Outreach Program that assists people obtain and maintain housing and maintains the Red Lake Food Bank Program (Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre n.d.-b).

The Centre helps individuals with housing applications, and hosts workshops, group events, and one-on-one activities with the objective of preventing and reducing homelessness in Red Lake (Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre n.d.-b).

According to the 2020 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan survey, housing insecurity was identified as the third highest priority for Red Lake. Seven of the 141 respondents specifically mentioned seniors in other risk factors to be addressed. House insecurity affects low-income households and seniors who pay 30% or more of their income in accommodations. There are two seniors' complex in Red Lake that are subsidized unassisted living apartments.
The long-term care facility in Red Lake was reported as having a waitlist as of the 2020 survey (MNP LLP 2020b). The 2016 Census shows that the demand for senior housing is projected to grow by 57% between 2016 and 2025 (Statistics Canada 2017c). Additionally, as of 2023, the average home price in Red Lake was $149,000 (Zolo 2023). Given that the average employment income of Red Lake residents was $79,000 in 2021, the average Red Lake resident is spending 53% of their yearly income on housing (Statistics Canada 2023f).

Red Lake residents also have a higher portion of households in subsidized housing, 20.2% versus 11.7% nationally (Statistics Canada 2023e).

The current existing conditions have also identified challenges of the housing and accommodation programs in, and around Red Lake include:

- Shelters do not provide mental health and treatment beds; though the hospital provides a Safe Beds program that is voluntary (Mantle 2025).
- Limited options for independent boys under the age of 18 seeking shelter. The Red Lake Emergency Shelter is 18+, and the Red Lake Women's Shelter requires boys under 18 to be a dependent of a woman at the shelter (Chamberlin 2025).
- Affordable housing is limited within the community (Mantle 2025).

14.5.2.2.1.3 Township of Ear Falls

As of the 2021 Census, Ear Falls had a population of 924, a total of 470 (305 single-detached houses, and 165 attached dwellings) occupied private dwellings, and 110 tenant households. Of the 470 occupied private dwellings in Ear Falls, 435 needed regular maintenance or minor repairs, and 35 of these dwellings needed major repairs (Statistics Canada 2023b). Within Ear Falls, 100% of households are living in suitable housing (Statistics Canada 2023a).

According to the Township of Ear Falls' 2015 Official Plan, the community is forecasting a population of 1,098 by 2026 (Fotenn Planning and Urban Design 2015), therefore, additional housing types will be required to support the population growth.

The housing issues Ear Falls is facing includes a lack of long-term care facilities for seniors, and housing costs, The median home price in Ear Falls as of 2023 was $198,000 (Redfin 2023; MNP LLP 2020b). Given that the average employment income of Ear Falls residents in 2020 was $77,500, Ear Falls residents are spending 39% of their income on housing (Statistics Canada 2023a).

14.5.2.2.2 Municipal, Provincial and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity

14.5.2.2.2.1 Municipality of Red Lake

The Municipality of Red Lake provides a variety of recreation and leisure facilities, which includes (The Municipality of Red Lake 2025):

- Cochenour Arena (ice rink, concession booth and heated viewing area)
- Cochenour Hall
  (accommodates up to 200 people, commercial kitchen and preparation area)
- Red Lake Community Fitness Centre (gym facilities, squash court and fitness programs for members)
- Phillip Thomas Vinet Centennial Park (pavilion, splash pad, skate park, covered outdoor rink, baseball field, play structures, multi-use paths and an electric vehicle (EV) charging station)
- Balmertown Outdoor Rink (outfitted with lighting and a warmup shack)
- Cochenour Baseball Diamond and Soccer Field
  (includes bleachers and enclosed dugouts)
- Cochenour Basketball Court (public outdoor court)
- Other parks, playgrounds and beaches:
- Beaches: Couchenour Beach, Keesic Beach, Kinsmen Beach, Rahill Beach and Sandy Point Beach
- Playgrounds: Couchenour Playground, Kelson’s Farm Playground, Madsen Playground and McKenzie Island Playground
- Parks: Laverty Park and Norseman Park
- The Evolution Mining Recreation Centre (swimming pool, fitness centre, bowling alley, curling rink, meeting rooms, lounge and youth programs during school breaks) (Evolution Recreation Centre n.d.; StJean 2025).

Clubs, Associations and Activities

There are dozens of recreation and leisure associations and clubs in Red Lake (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation 2022a). The municipality of Red Lake also provides workshops and events dedicated to mental well-being, cultural activities, and community development (Municipality of Red Lake 2014b)).

Other Recreation / Leisure Organizations

Red Lake is home to the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre (RLRHC). RLRHC has 30,000+ historical documents and photographs in its archives and provides educational tours and programs.

The Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre aims to provide social, recreational and cultural activities, while promoting traditional values of unity, sharing, respect, honesty, caring and spirituality. The programs and service areas available include children and youth, education to employment, family, healing, health, and justice ((Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre n.d.-d)).

Highway 105 Tourism and Marketing Board services the Red Lake region, and promotes a recreational area for fishing, hunting, camping and cabin accommodations, and trailer parks.

It also supports local businesses through a publication of available offerings, including parks, splash pads, beaches, tennis coursts, winter activities (e.g., snowmobile trails, fishing), and summer festivals (e.g., snowmobile dragging) and other seasonal tourism (Riddell 2025).

14.5.2.2.2.2 Township of Ear Falls

The Township of Ear Falls provides a variety of recreation and leisure facilities, which includes (Township of Ear Falls 2020; Township of Ear Falls 2022f; McCarthy 2020; Ballance 2025; Wigle 2023):

- Recreation Centre (fitness gym for ages 16+, arena for hockey, skating and curling, court space for floor hockey, shuffleboard and basketball)
- Sportsplex (baseball field, pavilion with washrooms, toboggan hill and fenced dog park)
- Public Parks (pavilions, public washrooms, swimming dock, horseshoe pit, storage buildings, play structures, swing sets and a Bicycle Motocross course)
- Community splash pad (seasonal use)
- Golf Course (nine holes, clubhouse, cart and club rentals)
- Trails (hiking and cross-country skiing, ski rentals at Municipal Office)
- Community Garden (free plots for residents)
- Boat Launches (free access to Lac Seul, Wenesaga Lake and the English River).

The noted services currently have additional capacity, as they are not operating at capacity. The community garden is fully utilized and has been expanded previously to meet the demand (Ballance 2025).

Clubs, Associations, and Activities

Ear Falls has a variety of activities and clubs for residents(Township of Ear Falls 2022e). Some clubs are offered by non-profit groups, service clubs, youth groups, or municipal endeavours. Membership may have a fee requirement.

Other Recreation / Leisure Organizations

Whispering Pines Seniors Centre offers recreational and educational programs for a membership fee (211 Ontario North – Lakehead Social Planning Council 2022).

The existing conditions within the recreation and leisure services delivered in around Ear Falls have also identified challenges that include:

While staffing is not currently an issue, with a new mine opening, resources may be drawn away from the Township due to higher wages offered. Many of the current staff have been with the township for a long time (Ballance 2025).

Summer student staff are hard to attract as other organizations are able to pay higher wages. Council has considered additional raises but do not want to negatively effect local businesses looking to hire from the same pool of students (Ballance 2025).

14.5.2.2.3 Social Services

14.5.2.2.3.1 Municipality of Red Lake

There are several non-profit organizations in Red Lake, and the wider Kenora District that provide a variety of social, environmental, and health services. These include:

- The Ministry of the Attorney General: funds domestic violence programs.
- Community Counseling and Addiction Services (CCAS): virtual and in-person counseling and mental health services for individuals struggling with addiction (Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital 2018a). The organization currently employs two full-time in-person staff and three virtual counselors. Due to ongoing staffing challenges, CCAS relies primarily on virtual counselling and has discontinued several previously offered services, such as supportive housing. While core counselling needs are being met, capacity limitations have narrowed the range of available services. The most common areas of need include addiction support for alcohol, cocaine, cannabis, opioids and methamphetamine (Tennant 2025)
- Safe Beds Program: CCAS and Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital are working to jointly provide a voluntary, non-medical program offering a therapeutic environment for individuals working through a mental health or addictions crisis (Tennant 2025).
- FIREFLY Physical Emotional Development Community Services provides a range of physical, emotional, developmental, and community services for children, youth, and families across northwestern Ontario (Ingebrigston 2025). The FIREFLY Red Lake location employs seven staff members. If a service is not provided by local staff, employees will travel from other locations to offer services.
- Kenora Rainy River Child and Family Services and Tikinagan Child and Family Services offer child protective services in the Municipality (Tennant 2023).
- The Children's Aid Society is an Ontario-wide organization with an office in Red Lake. Their objective is to protect, and provide support to, infant, children, and youth who are experiencing domestic abuse (Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies 2022)

- The Indian Friendship Centre offers social services for Indigenous People living in Red Lake. These include the Red Lake Family Food Bank, the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder community support program, community action program for children, Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, Akwe:go and Akwe: GoSpecial Supports Programs, the Wasa-Nabin Youth Program, the Urban Aboriginal Healthy Kids Program, and the Kids are Recreationally Equal Program. These programs use a holistic approach to improve the quality of life of Indigenous families and children through the delivery of culturally appropriate services (Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre n.d.-d)
- The Harmony Centre, a government service that is specialized in providing programs for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Red Lake and Ear Falls. The centre has a staff of 26 full time employee, and their services are at full capacity. The two existing locations service 50 individuals.

  Where feasible, the centre delivers programs in-home and utilizes the Centre's wheelchair accessible vehicle to assist program members with their transportation needs (Parsons 2025).
- There are three childcare services in Red Lake: Balmertown Early Learning, Red Lake Early Learning, and Moozoons Childcare Centre.

Balmertown Early Learning operates out of two rooms within Golden Learning Centre Public School (Parrish 2025). The centre provides licenced services for infant, toddler, and before and after school programs for school aged children (Keewatin-Patricia District School Board 2025; Parrish 2025). This centre is operated by the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB), which is actively working to expand childcare capacity in response to high demand. Staffing remains a challenge due to competition with higher-paying jobs in the mining sector, and KDSB is implementing recruitment strategies including progressive wage increases and partnerships with school boards to help address staffing shortages (Stevenson & Lansdell-Roll 2025).

Red Lake Early Learning provides daycare services for toddlers, preschool, and school age children (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-c). Located within Red Lake-Madsen Public School, the centre is also operated by KDSB and meets provincial licencing requirements, which mandates at least one qualified Early Childhood Educator per program. In response to community needs, the centre has extended its hours to accommodate early mine shifts, placing additional pressure on staffing resources (Stevenson & Lansdell-Roll 2025).

Moozoons Childcare Centre operates as part of the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre which provides a range of social and educational services to the community. The daycare provides programs for youth from 0 to 12 years of age. The program has a maximum capacity of 15 children, with 12 currently enrolled. Indigenous children make up 60% of attendees at the childcare. Some staff are also Indigenous and integrate traditional language and teachings into the program. Transportation to and from the centre is somewhat difficult given age and other limitations put on school bus transportation (Tougas 2025)

Red Lake offers health care support for elders through the NorthWest Home and Community Care Support Services. Located in the Northwood Lodge senior home, this organization supports individuals who are facing the challenges of age, illness, injury or disability (NorthWest Healthline n.d.). Services include:

- Assisting clients to plan and make informed choices about managing their health care needs.

- Coordinates information about other services available within the community and links them with these services when appropriate.
- Determines access to health care services provided in the home.
- Determines admission to Long Term Care Facilities (homes for the aged, nursing homes).
- Maintains an ongoing waitlist.

At the time of the interview with Community Counseling and Addiction Services in March 2025, there were no withdrawal management or residential addictions treatment facilities in the Municipality of Red Lake; the nearest facilities were located in the City of Kenora and the City of Thunder Bay.

However, since June 2025, the hospital has begun operating a Safe Beds program, a voluntary, non-medical residential initiative that provides a therapeutic environment for individuals experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis (Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital 2018a).

These existing conditions also face shortcomings and challenges with the social services delivered in around Red Lake that include (Vachon 2025):

- Staff retention and recruitment (specifically wages and housing availability)
- Without necessary staff, programming has been reduced below the needs of the community, particularly around mental health and addiction services, child speech therapists
- Lack of funding limits programs offered
- Transportation limits the ability of residents to access some services. This is including no community wheelchair accessible vehicle.

14.5.2.2.3.2 Township of Ear Falls

Most social services for Ear Falls residents are provided in the municipality of Red Lake (Township of Ear Falls 2022i)

Ear Falls Non-Profit Housing Corporation is an organization serving low-income clients (Township of Ear Falls n.d. - a).

Despite the availability of social services, existing conditions indicate ongoing shortcomings and challenges in the delivery of these services in and around Ear Falls, including:

- Access to intercommunity transportation between Red Lake and Ear Falls is a barrier for some residents (Stirling-Kattler, 2025; Tougas 2025).

14.5.2.2.4 Health Services, Elder Care, Mental Health and Addiction Services

14.5.2.2.4.1 Municipality of Red Lake

There are six health clinics, hospitals and medical centres in Red Lake. The Municipality of Red Lake identified a physician and nursing shortage in the community, with personnel vacancies currently being filled with agency nurses and locums (Stirling-Kattler 2023).

The closest mental health facility is in the City of Kenora. Table 14.5-1 summarizes the social services provided in Red Lake as well as associated existing challenges (where available) with delivery.

While regional facilities such as the Vermilion Bay Clinic, are situated outside the typical service area for Red Lake residents. Given the greater proximity and service linkages to Kenora and Dryden for specialized and hospital-based care, these locations remain the primary points of access for most health services referenced.

Table 14.5-1: Health Services - Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025

Health Services	Details
Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital	• Serves the areas of Red Lake and Ear Falls including on- and off-reserve residents • The hospital has 18 beds, 105 full-time, part-time and casual employees, 24-hour emergency care, inpatient acute and chronic care, telemedicine program, endoscopy services (every six weeks by visiting physician), outpatient physiotherapy, laboratory services and mental health and addictions counselling • Outpatient chemotherapy is also provided though the program managed by Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Care • The hospital has available capacity for in-patient needs (i.e., available beds); however, staffing is the major capacity constraint as they don't have enough staff to be able to have all beds full • Currently, the hospital does not provide obstetrics care, meaning pregnant individuals must travel out of town to give birth • The hospital is currently working on a project to allocate more space to end-of-life care. They are working with their partners, however, funding for renovations is needed as donations are not enough (Bishop A. 2025). • Working with various community partners, the Hospital Indigenous Patient Experience Working Group has been established and implemented its first project the Fire Circle Gathering Area. Opened in September (Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital 2021)this space provides a safe space for traditional healing practices. It will also provide a place for visiting and friendship.
	Existing community challenges: staffing and recruitment (maternity leave coverage, retirements); agencies have the ability to fill vacancies, but cost is much higher; Emergency department might need to close due to lack of physicians; specialized types of care are not provided or limited (e.g., obstetrics, elder care); lack of diagnostic equipment, including funding and Ministry of Health approvals; given limited services available, patients have to travel elsewhere for treatment (Bishop 2025).

Health Services	Details
Goldcorp Red Lake Regional Medical Centre	• Provides family health services along with an urgent care clinic (Red Lake Clinic 2025) • The Family Health Team is made up of three registered nurses, two nurse practitioners, a dietician, and a social worker. There is also an executive director and one administration staff. The medical associate team is the equivalent of three full time positions, but eight doctors rotate to fill the roles. • Recruiting to rural community during a nationwide doctor shortage is challenging, in addition to funding shortages and a wage gap between clinical services and the hospital. • The lack of diagnostic equipment (e.g., a CT scanner) makes medical decisions more difficult. • The physicians' roster of patients is overcapacity and so they can't see everyone who wants an appointment, leading to a decline in community health. According to the provincial guidelines, the roster is not full. • Obstetrics program has been shut down. Pregnant individuals leave the community when they are 36 weeks pregnant and return after they give birth. • A crisis response team is facing staffing shortages (Shuurman 2025).
	Existing community challenges: staffing, recruitment and wage gap; lacking transportation services to assist elderly patients; appointment scarcity; lack of diagnostic and medical equipment.
Red Lake Dental Clinic	• Provides a range of general dentistry services including replacement of natural teeth, dentures and partials, repairment of older dentures, nightguards, mouthguards and bleaching trays, and emergency care. • The clinic also has a program for low-income individuals and families to make monthly payments (211 Ontario North – Lakehead Social Planning Council 2021b). • At the time of the development of this report, the clinic had recently closed.
Northwood Lodge	• Provides nursing supervision and physician coverage for seniors. • A 32-bed long-term care facility and offers the following services: 24-hour nursing care and supervision, 24-hour on call physician, care conferences, foot care, hairdressing and barber services, laundry services, meals, medication administration, palliative care (end-of-life care), physician visits, social work services and family services coordinator, spiritual programs and pastoral care, and other recreational programs and social events (211 Ontario North - Lakehead Social Planning Council 2021c).

Health Services	Details
The Northwestern Health Unit	• Service area covers 174,000 square km, including 19 municipalities, 39 Indigenous Nation Communities and two unincorporated / unorganized territories. • The health unit's catchment area includes about 82,000 people, or roughly 0.5 people per square km. The provincial average is roughly 14 people per square km. • Offices in 12 municipalities, including one in Red Lake. • Offers services in five key areas: health promotion, disease and injury prevention, health protection, population health assessment and surveillance and emergency preparedness. • Employ approximately 150 full-time and part-time staff in a range of health-related professions. Recruitment and retention are challenges, though the health unit offers competitive salaries and benefits (Berry 2025).
Integrated Services for Northern Children	• Provides special needs services such as speech, language, occupational therapy, and psychological and psychiatric assessment services (Municipality of Red Lake n.d. - a)
Note: For some health service providers included in this table, direct interviews were not conducted as part of this assessment. In these cases, institution-specific operational challenges could not be confirmed. The absence of identified challenges should not be interpreted as confirmation that no service delivery, staffing, or resource limitations exist.	

To address some of these challenges, Red Lake and Ear Falls adopted a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (the Plan) in 2020. Table 14.5-2 summarizes the Plan and indicates key risk categories and gaps in community safety and well-being. These include the gap in residential treatment centres for substance abuse and psychiatric and psychological services, waitlist for mental health counselling, limited housing options for youth and low-income individuals, and shortage of housing for seniors(MNP LLP 2020b)

Table 14.5-2: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, Priorities and Potential Opportunities - Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025

Priority Pillar	Current Conditions and Concerns	Objectives
Safe Substance Use	• Substance abuse is common in the communities and emergency room visits related to substance abuse are higher than the rest of Ontario.	• Establish Detox Centre and Safe Beds in Red Lake. • Establish Managed Alcohol Program to provide individuals a regular dosage to help manage addiction. • Develop and implement proactive protocols that encourage preventative interventions. • Implement evidence-based prevention planning. • Develop and implement standard assessment and referral protocols and resources. • Establish shared agency training protocols and resources.

Priority Pillar	Current Conditions and Concerns	Objectives
Mental Health	• Issues related to mental health including diagnosed problems, grief, self-harm, suicide, and intellectual functioning, are higher when compared to rest of Ontario. • Underlying causes include intergenerational trauma, social isolation, and poverty. • Many experience a combination of substance abuse and mental health issues. • Adverse child and youth mental health outcomes. • Emergency Room visits and hospitalizations related to mental health issues higher that rest of Ontario in both the communities in general and in children and youth.	• Establish Youth Drop-In Centre. • Establish Safe and Stabilization Beds meant to address the needs of individuals in a mental health crisis. • Optimize use of telehealth for psychiatric and support services • Establish proactive community-based supports for caregivers.
Housing	• Lack of housing and housing insecurity. • Specialized housing and supports for those experiencing cognitive issues relating to dementia, developmental disabilities, and impaired cognitive functioning lacking. • Cost of utilities in Red Lake leading to housing insecurity. • No local option between independent living and a long-term care facility for seniors.	• Establish affordable, assisted living facility for seniors. • Establish Supportive Youth Housing. • Establish in-home support services (to enable aging in place).

Priority Pillar	Current Conditions and Concerns	Objectives
Family Environment	• Intergenerational trauma, substance abuse, poverty and housing influence parenting outcomes. • Employment instability due to instability of resource industry may also affect family environment. • Limited access to resources to support parenting a child with mental health issues. • Increased number of children being placed in the care of other family members other than parents (kin placements). • Decreased availability of local foster homes. • No foster or agency homes for children with complex needs in Red Lake or Ear Falls • Reports of domestic violence increasing.	• Develop and implement community recreation programming and promotion strategy that meets needs of diverse community members including children, youth, adults and seniors. • Establish coordinated family support services and programs. • Promote Early ON programming and offer programs to support positive parenting. • Establish inter / intra community transportation. • Establish partnerships with local and regional service providers for coordinated delivery of pre-natal support. • Develop and provide support community-based and led outreach.
Financial Security	• Most employment is in low-paying tourism and service industries. • Economic disparity among community members. • High cost of living due to geographic remoteness. • High paying employment in the local resource industries do not require post-secondary education and this may reduce demand for higher education. • Reliance on Ontario Works increasing in Ear Falls. • Far distances to travel for higher education and training. • Social factors such as substance abuse influence employment and education and financial security.	• Improve internet connectivity, speed, and cost to better facilitate remote work, web-based education and training and access to job searches. • Expand access to adult and continuing education including more access to literacy, high school diploma, upgrading, technical and professional development opportunities both in-person and online. • Establish food security program that is coordinated with educational institutions, health units and other service providers. • Monitor and report on educational achievement by consolidating data from all school completion programs including high school and adult education. • Expand local access to Early Childhood Education training, may facilitate expansion of childcare services. • Explore how to diversify economic opportunities to support more employment options and stability.

Source: (MNP LLP 2020b)

Table 14.5-2 indicates that there are a limited number of psychiatric and psychological services available in Red Lake. The existing waitlist for mental health counselling services is also projected to be up to six months as of the 2020 report. Additionally, there is a stigma attached to asking for help with mental health. Given these circumstances, the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan identifies mental health as a high-priority item that needs to be addressed(MNP LLP 2020b).

The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Red Lake and Ear Falls also identifies gaps in emotional and sexual violence support as there is only one shelter that focuses on women+ experiencing domestic and sexual violence in the RSA. The Plan's survey indicates that the services available are limited in providing the necessary support for women+, and specifically Indigenous women+, that may be coping with sexual and domestic violence (MNP LLP 2020b).

Research indicates that one in three Canadian women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, with Indigenous women+ experiencing a higher rate of sexual assault compared to non-Indigenous women (Sexual Assault Support Centre, n.d.).For additional information on sexual assault occurrence and crime, see Section 14.8.2.2.3.

14.5.2.2.4.2 Township of Ear Falls

Ear Falls has four Health Service locations - a Community Health Centre, a dental clinic, the Northwestern Health Unit, and a pharmacy, as noted in Table 14.5-3.

Table 14.5-3: Health Services -Ear Falls, 2025

Health Services	Details
Ear Falls Community Health Centre - Family Health Team	• Operated by the Township of Ear Falls. • Staff includes one full-time doctor and two nurses. • Services include scheduled appointments, a walk-in clinic and on-site lab work. • Provides Ministry of Transportation medical reviews. • Offers support for medical related travel to Dryden, Kenora, Thunder Bay, and Winnipeg (Township of Ear Falls 2022j)
Ear Falls Dental Clinic - Ear Falls Community Health Centre	• Privately operated dental office. • Accepts patients by appointment and emergency patients as needed. • Offers monthly payment plans for low-income patients (211 Ontario North – Lakehead Social Planning Council 2023).
The Northwestern Health Unit	• Service area covers 174,000 square km, including 19 municipalities, 39 Indigenous Nation Communities and two unincorporated/ unorganized territories. • The health unit's catchment area includes about 82,000 people, or roughly 0.5 people per square km. The provincial average is roughly 14 people per square km. • Offices in 12 municipalities, including one in Ear Falls. • Offers services in five key areas: health promotion, disease and injury prevention, health protection, population health assessment and surveillance and emergency preparedness. • Employ approximately 150 full-time and part-time staff in a range of health-related professions. Recruitment and retention are challenges, though the health unit offers competitive salaries and benefits (Berry 2025).

Health Services	Details
Guardian Ear Falls Pharmacy	• Dispensary and store that provides flu shots (Guardian 2022)
Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital	• Ear Falls does not have its own hospital and uses services provided at the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital. See Section 15.1.2.4.1 for details on the services provided at the hospital.

14.5.2.2.5 Burial Services

14.5.2.2.5.1 Municipality of Red Lake

Red Lake has one funeral home in the area, Red Lake Funeral Chapel Limited, it coordinates burials and cremation services (Red Lake Funeral Chapel Limited n.d.). The municipality also maintains an active cemetery to accommodate burial services within the community (Municipality of Red Lake n.d. - d)

14.5.2.2.5.2 Township of Ear Falls

The Deputy Clerk handles cemetery requests. The cemetery is located at 45 Highway 804 (Township of Ear Falls 2022d).

14.5.2.2.6 Educational Services and Facilities

14.5.2.2.6.1 Municipality of Red Lake

Red Lake has both public and Catholic school systems that provides a wide range of learning services and programming for both children and adults. Table 14.5-4 provides a list of all available schools and the associated existing challenges (where available) to service delivery.

The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan outlined the correlation between insufficient education and unemployment, and financial insecurity. In Red Lake, employment is predominantly in low-paying sectors where post-secondary diplomas are not a requirement. The Plan states that *"…while the resource-based economies in Red Lake and Ear Falls provide many well-paying jobs, most other employment in these communities [are] in low-paying tourism and service industry occupations. The high cost of goods and services in Red Lake is reported to be driven, in part, by prices geared to higher income earners and otherwise by geographic remoteness*" (MNP LLP 2020b).

Additionally, sectors in the area, especially mining, have historically been subject to lay-offs as the price of commodities and / or global markets fluctuate. These fluctuations have contributed to labour market instability. The Plan identifies gaps in educational opportunities for the area, which have contributed to financial insecurity and unemployment (MNP LLP 2020b). These gaps include:

- Limited availability of subsidized childcare - essential to support "working poor." While Ontario offers subsidies, rural communities continue to face limited spaces due to provider shortages, staffing challenges, and geographic barriers.
- Older adults may be embarrassed to access Adult Education Centre for literacy support.
- Limited post-secondary programs available due to remote delivery (e.g., not able to deliver some programs with hands-on training).

- Ability to be an apprentice is limited by the number of journeypersons in the community, and ratio requirements.
- Lack of public transportation affects access to post-secondary, affects participation in after-hours high school activities.
- The cost of the internet is a barrier to online learning for lower income individuals.

Additional demographic barriers, such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, and the geographic location of individuals affect how individuals experience these gaps. Through addressing barriers, the Plan aims to explore partnerships with Confederation College to train and educate for targeted high-demand jobs, such as health occupations and trades. In addition, the Municipality plans to explore flexible learning and working models, such as co-op programs (MNP LLP 2020b)

Table 14.5-4: Schools -Municipality of Red Lake, 2025

School	Details
Keewatin Patricia District School Board	
Red Lake District High School (Grades 9-12)	• Established in 1951, with additions in 1956, 1964 and 1965. Total square footage of 68,283 ft^2 (Keewatin Patricia District School Board n.d.). • Approximately 282 students are registered at the school, the school has a capacity of 300 but rarely reaches this number. • There is one principal, one vice principal, 20 teachers, four educational assistants, a mental health nurse, a psychotherapist and four graduation coaches. ○ Some staff and resource personnel are Indigenous. • Staff recruitment is made more challenging by a lack of affordable housing and the transient nature of the community. • Students who live outside of Red Lake may not have access to reliable transportation to get to the high school (Vachon 2025).
	Existing community challenges: staff recruitment and retention (housing affordability), limited bus routes for school buses to transport students to and from other communities.
Golden Learning Centre Public School (Grades Junior Kindergarten (JK) -8)	• Established in 1991 in Balmertown, with a square footage of 35,653 ft^2 and serves the communities of Balmertown, Cochenour, McKenzie Island, and the northern side of the Chukuni River subdivision (Keewatin Patricia District School Board n.d.). • Approximately 190 students are enrolled, but the school has a capacity of 300. • Approximately 15% of students are Indigenous. • The school experiences high staff turnover due to challenges in accessing healthcare and other services. Transportation and housing access restrictions make it difficult to recruit talent. • The school is known for its music and arts program, both of which are rare in the area, but many of the school programs rely heavily on volunteers from the community, including over 1000 volunteer hours to support the bi-annual school theatre production.

School	Details
	• The school is funded via the provincial government, but extracurricular equipment requires donations or fundraising (Parrish 2025).
	Existing community challenges: staff recruitment and retention, reliance on donations and volunteers (Parrish 2025).
Red Lake-Madsen Public School (Grades JK-8)	• Established in 1996, with a square footage of 35,035 ft^2 (Keewatin Patricia District School Board n.d.). • There are currently 192 students enrolled, though enrolment fluctuates. • There is one principal, 20 educators, a part time library and three educational assistants. • Of the staff and students, 49% self-identify as Indigenous. • The school struggles to recruit when positions open. • The building is currently being shared with FIREFLY and is currently undergoing some construction. • The school fronts one of the main roads through Red Lake, Ontario Highway 618, and therefore has no safe drop off zones. There is also limited school bus availability for the community and very little flexibility in the zone that the bus can travel through, which prohibits school bus pick up from the local shelter (Ramasaywak 2025).
	Existing community challenges: staff recruitment and retention, reliance on donations and volunteers particularly for extra curriculars and breakfast and lunch programs, insufficient school bus coverage.
Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre	• The Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre is a non-profit organization funded by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre 2025). • The centre has two staff members, a Program Coordinator and a Program Instructor. • Attracting and retaining staff for this program has been challenging, and its structure does not align well with community needs. For example, it cannot accommodate caregivers who alternate weekly responsibilities due to the common one-week-on/one-week-off work schedules in the mining sector. The program is currently offering outreach services at the local shelters and libraries in Red Lake and Ear Falls, while regular programming is paused due to renovations that are expected to finish in April 2025. • A large barrier for participation is transportation to and from the centre (Breton-Plouffe 2025).
	Existing community challenges: staff recruitment due to lack of housing, retention, funding, transportation.

School	Details
Kenora Catholic District School Board	
St. John's School (Grades JK-8)	• The total enrolment between 2019 and 2020 was 142 students. • The school has a close relationship with St. John's Roman Catholic Church and teaches Ojibway language. • The school offers a North Studies program, which aims to explore traditions and activities of Indigenous Peoples • This program is in collaboration with the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre (Kenora Catholic District School Board n.d.). • Additionally, 15% of student population receive special education services (Ontario Ministry of Education 2021c)
Conseil Scolaire De District Catholique	
École Catholique des Étoiles-du-Nord	• The enrolment numbers are suppressed, due to enrolment of fewer than 50 students (Ontario Ministry of Education n.d.)
Confederation College	
Red Lake Campus	• Established in 2011, the Red Lake Campus of Confederation College offers post-secondary programs, full-time and part-time certificate programs, continuing education courses, general interest courses, and other education training opportunities (Confederation College n.d.)
Indian Friendship Centre	
Alternative Secondary School Program	• Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre offers an alternative secondary school program for Indigenous students with services including one-on-one supports, cultural supports, life skills, services to help students obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, and access to services in the Red Lake District High School (Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre n.d.-a)
Note: For some institutions included in this table, direct interviews were not conducted during preparation of this assessment. In these cases, institution-specific challenges could not be confirmed. The absence of identified challenges does not necessarily indicate absence of operational or service delivery issues.	

14.5.2.2.6.2 Township of Ear Falls

Ear Falls has one elementary school named Ear Falls Public School which is part of the Keewatin Patricia District School Board. The closest secondary school is found approximately 70 km from Ear Falls in Red Lake and there are no post-secondary institutions in Ear Falls. Table 14.5-5 provides a list of all available schools.

Ear Falls encounters similar educational and employment barriers as Red Lake, as per the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. Additionally, Ear Falls does not have secondary schools or Employment Ontario offices (MNP LLP 2020b). School boards may provide Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Programs for youth aged 14 to 17 years old who are at risk of not graduating. The youth with a SAL are able to attend Employment Ontario youth programming (Ontario Ministry of Education 2022)

Table 14.5-5: Schools - Township of Ear Falls, 2025

School	Details
Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	
Ear Falls Public School	• Established in 1970, this school has a square footage 19,377 ft^2 (Keewatin Patricia District School Board 2021). • The grades range from kindergarten to grade eight (Keewatin Patricia District School Board 2021). • Ear Falls Public School Ear Falls Public School is part of Keewatin Patricia District School Board and serves the communities of Ear Falls and Wabauskang First Nation (Township of Ear Falls 2022g) • The school has 115 students, is staffed by 11 teachers, an Early Childhood Educator, six educational assistants, a principal, a librarian and an administrative assistant. Support staff for the school includes two caretakers and a maintenance staff member (Keewatin Patricia District School Board 2021).
Secondary	
• Secondary school students attend high school in the nearby community of Red Lake.	
Post-secondary	
• Ear Falls does not have any post-secondary education institutions and students may attend post-secondary education in Red Lake, other communities or virtually (Township of Ear Falls 2022g)	

14.5.2.2.7 Emergency Services

14.5.2.2.7.1 Municipality of Red Lake

Fire

Red Lake Fire Service consists of a full-time fire chief, approximately 50 volunteer firefighters and four fire stations (three mainland stations and one on McKenzie Island. For forest-related emergencies, the fire department relies on the Ministry of Natural Resources for support (Grant 2023). The fire service covers an area with approximately 4,500 people, 3 operating mines and multiple logging operations. The average response time is between 8 and 11 minutes from the time of the firefighters are notified of the emergency until the first firetruck leaves the station (Butterfield 2025).

Under these existing conditions, challenges for this department include (Butterfield 2025):

- Attracting new staff is difficult because fly in / fly out mining is attractive to younger community members. Additionally, most volunteers have been with the service for 10-20 years.
- McKenzie Island is difficult to reach. The municipality operates a ferry that is the only means of public transportation to the island. Firefighters sometimes use their own boat to access the island in an emergency. The fire service keeps equipment on the island so it's available once staff arrive.
- Limited financial resources – four fire stations need to be supplied with equipment, and the service covers a large area.

Police

Red Lake is home to an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment. This location serves as a host to the Ear Falls satellite station and provides officers and supervisors to multiple locations in the region as needed (Hall & Lamme 2025). The Municipality has a mobile crisis team, with an OPP officer and a mobile crisis worker, responding to crisis calls. This not including domestic violence calls Red Lake's OPP detachment has a domestic violence specialist (Tennant 2023).

Under these existing conditions challenges for the Police Service include (Hall & Lamme 2025):

- Staffing shortages, particularly in Pikangikum First Nation, where critical staffing levels require officers to be flown in on two-week rotations. The detachment is not operating at 100%, and delays in transfers and recruitment continue to limit service consistency.
- Access to remote communities (Pikangikum First Nation and McKenzie Island First Nation) during seasonal freeze/thaw conditions. These constraints affect emergency response times. Ambulance response times may reach up to 1.5 hours, and OPP officers will often transport individuals to the hospital themselves rather than wait for the paramedics to arrive. Helicopters, ferries, and float planes are used when necessary to access isolated areas.
- Increased demand for safety services is anticipated due to population growth. Existing concerns include high rates of impaired driving in Pikangikum First Nation (over 480 charges annually) and increased road traffic risks.
- Tourism-related pressures further strain emergency response capacity, particularly during the fishing and hunting seasons. Remote camps and float plane-accessible lodges have been linked to seasonal incidents, including fatalities among elderly visitors and alcohol-related disturbances among some visiting hunting and fishing groups.
- Vulnerable populations, particularly Indigenous residents, face substantial challenges due to geographic isolation and the lasting effects of residential schools. There are also increasing issues with intimate partner violence, mental health, and alcohol addiction, along with concerns about cocaine use in the area.

Ambulance

Red Lake is served by the Northwest Emergency Medical Services by the KDSB, which has approximately 120 primary care paramedics and 10 administrative personnel and a fleet of 26 vehicles. Red Lake houses one of the nine stations in the Kenora region, which consists of two ambulances and 10 paramedics (Kenora District Services Board n.d. - b)). In the surrounding remote communities, ambulance response times may reach up to 1.5 hours.

When delays occur, the Ontario Provincial Police assist by transporting individuals to the hospital to allow for timely access to care (Hall & Lamme 2025). The service offers housing, incentives, wage premiums and tuition cost recovery to help attract staff (Hamilton 2025).

ORNGE air ambulance services also respond to the area, offering emergency air transport in cases where remote access or travel time present barriers to timely care (ORNGE n.d.).

The Northwest Emergency Medical Services have a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide specialty equipment to access remote areas, which resulted in a decrease in response times.

Under these existing conditions challenges for the emergency medical services include (Hamilton 2025): An increased number of calls due to an aging population.

- Difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff, requires recruitment across the province.

14.5.2.2.7.2 Township of Ear Falls

Fire

The Ear Falls Fire Services is a volunteer fire service with 18 firefighters currently on staff. The department is structured like any other, with a Fire Chief, captains, health and safety liaison and fire prevention and education officers. The township also provides support via community emergency staff and administrative support. The service is made up of a diverse workforce, including women+ and Indigenous Peoples. Service response time average 8 minutes within the community (Desjardins 2025).

The service also relies on the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Power Generation, and companies in the area to support during large scale emergencies. Additional provincial resources are also available if or when needed (Desjardins 2025). Generally, the service covers 30 km to the north and 10 km to the south of the fire station, and 50km north and south on the provincial highway. The PA is outside of this range by about 1.5 km, as such Red Lake Fire Service would be called and they would request support from Ear Falls, if required.

Under these existing conditions challenges for the fire department include (Desjardins 2025):

- Fire service demand increases during summer months due to seasonal activity in the area, requiring additional on-call firefighters to meet staffing needs.
- Provincial certification requirements have placed a burden on recruitment and budget. Especially because there is no northern training facility, meaning staff have to travel for the training. The training takes a total of two years.
- While the volume of calls is not very high, because the service is a volunteer organization, scheduling can be difficult.
- Outside of the municipal serviced area, tankers are required to bring water to the site.

Police

There is a satellite Ontario Provincial Police detachment office in Ear Falls located at the south end of the township. This location does not have an administrator and is staffed ‘as needed’ from the Red Lake Ontario Provincial Police department (Hall & Lamme 2025).

Under these existing conditions challenges for the Police Service include (Hall & Lamme 2025):

- Ability to retain new staff members, often having to reach into Manitoba for recruitment efforts.
- Emergency response times may vary due to the remoteness of the communities that are covered by the detachment.
- Limited road access and intermittent telecommunications coverage often results in slower response times for the OPP.
- Tourism related pressures further strain emergency response capacity, particularly during the fishing and hunting seasons.

- Vulnerable populations face substantial challenges due to geographic isolation and increasing issues with intimate partner violence, mental health, and addiction.

Ambulance

Ear Falls is served by the Northwest Emergency Medical Services by the KDSB, which has approximately 120 primary care paramedics, 10 administrative personnel, and a fleet of 26 vehicles. Ear Falls houses one of the nine stations in the Kenora region, which consists of two ambulances and 5 paramedics (Kenora District Services Board, n.d. – b; Hamilton 2025). The service offers housing, incentives, wage premiums and tuition cost recovery to help attract staff (Hamilton 2025).

The Ear Falls ambulance base responds to 140–220 calls per year. While overall call volume is relatively low, call durations often take 2–2.5 hours due to the large area covered and travel distances to the Red Lake hospital. In addition, recruitment and retention challenges place pressure on staffing capacity to maintain full-service coverage. The Ear Falls service covers an area that includes the north shore of Lac Seul, westerly to ANA, and northerly to Snake Falls. ORNGE air ambulance services also respond to the area, offering emergency air transport in cases where remote access or travel time present barriers to timely care (ORNGE n.d.).

The Northwest Emergency Medical Services have a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide specialty equipment to access remote areas, which resulted in a decrease in response times.

Under these existing conditions challenges for the emergency medical services include (Hamilton 2025):

- An increased number of calls due to an aging population
- Difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff, requires recruitment across the province.

14.5.2.2.8 Infrastructure

14.5.2.2.8.1 Municipality of Red Lake

The infrastructure services available in the Municipality of Red Lake are presented in Table 14.5-6 with associated existing challenges (where available).

Table 14.5-6: Infrastructure Services - Municipality of Red Lake, 2025

Service	Information
Transportation - Road	• Accessible by road and located at the end of Highway 105 (Ontario Ministry of Education n.d.) • School bus transportation is available through Hutchison Bus Lines Limited, and truck transportation is provided by Gardewine North, Purolator Courier, and Manitoulin Transportation (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-d) • A bridge crossing the Berens River and a 25 km all-season road is currently planned to connect Red Lake to Pikangikum First Nation to the north. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025 (Northern Ontario Business 2024).

Service	Information
	• The new road and bridge will provide Pikangikum First Nation additional access to the rest of the provincial highway network and to services provided in Red Lake. Access may also affect level of service, particularly for emergency services as it will increase their call volumes (Hamilton 2025). • In 2021, Ontario had one of the lowest motor-vehicle fatality rates in North America (0.52 per 10,000 licensed drivers) (Ministry of Transportation 2021). More recent provincial data do not include district-level results such as for Kenora (Ministry of Transportation 2023). Despite the lack of disaggregated data, highway safety remains a concern in northwestern Ontario, where frequent accidents and closures are reported along key travel corridors (Jeffrey 2023).
	Existing community challenges: additional access into the community by way of the all-season road may place additional strain on the community's emergency services already at or near capacity (e.g., increases in call volumes for police, fire, ambulance).
Transportation - Winter Road	• The Northern Ontario Resource Trail travels north from Red Lake, linking winter roads to northern Indigenous communities, including Pikangikum, Poplar Hill, North Spirit Lake, and Deer Lake (Northern Ontario Winter Roads Map n.d.). • See Transportation – Roads regarding the all-season road replacing the winter road. The new all-season road will provide greater winter road access to Poplar Hill First Nation, McDowell Lake First Nation, Deer Lake First Nation, North Spirit Lake First Nation, Sandy Lake First Nation, and Keewaywin First Nation (Ontario Newsroom 2024).
Transportation - Air	• Air services are provided through the Red Lake Municipal Airport which is municipally owned and operated. • Aircrafts serve scheduled passenger services year-round as well as cargo. • The Ministry of Natural Resources also uses the airport as a base of their forest fire operations. • The airport employs approximately 10 staff, including part time and seasonal staff. The airport is generally busy and is currently at operational capacity. • The airport is landlocked by the Evolution Mine (Riddell 2025).
	Existing community challenges: staff nearing retirement, recruitment and competition with higher paying jobs in mining, funding for infrastructure improvements and expansion (rely on federal / provincial funding and airport fees).
Transportation - Rail	• There are no rail transportation services in or around Red Lake.
Transportation - Water Access	• Accessible by water via ferry, access between the communities of Cochenour and Mackenzie Island on Red Lake from May to November (Municipality of Red Lake n.d. - b)
Utilities; Municipal Water and Wastewater	• Municipal drinking water and sewage treatment facilities in Red Lake, Balmertown, Cochenour, McKenzie Island and Madsen are contracted out to Northern Waterworks. • The McKenzie Island water treatment facility was recently upgraded (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation 2022c)Upgrades to the facilities in Cochenour are near completion (Stirling-Kattler 2023).

Service	Information
Solid Waste Management	• Solid waste management in Red Lake is provided by the municipality; roadside collection is provided by a private contractor under license from the municipality. • The Municipality also operates a waste transfer facility that accepts clean wood, metal, e-waste, brush, tires, recyclables, general waste, and household hazardous materials. Only municipal residents are eligible to drop off materials at the site. The Waste Disposal Site reached its approved capacity of 200,000 m³ and was capped and closed in 2017. Ongoing discussions with the Municipality of Red Lake indicate that the preferred long-term waste management strategy involves the siting, licensing, and development of a new disposal facility in partnership with Pikangikum First Nation and potentially other Indigenous communities. • Two staff work at the transfer facility; however, the municipality struggles to recruit staff as they have to compete with higher paying mining jobs. Infrastructure upgrades are also very expensive and generally require provincial or federal government funding. • Everything except low leachate construction material is transferred out of the area for final disposal. On site disposal capacity of low leachate construction material is currently at 25%, or approximately 30 years of capacity remaining. • The municipality of Red Lake, Indigenous Services Canada, and the province are working with northern and Indigenous communities on a proposal for a regional landfill to service the area (Labont 2025).
	Existing community challenges: funding, recruitment, no local facilities (waste is transferred and shipped out of the area)
Communications	• Telephone services are provided by Bell Canada and Shaw Mobile. • Cellular phone services are provided by TbayTel and other major service providers including Bell, Telus, and Rogers. • Internet services in the area include Bell Canada, Shaw Cable Internet Services, Starlink, and TbayTel • Radio stations available in the area include Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) which broadcasts on FM 90.5 and the regional radio station, broadcast callsign for Dryden radio station (CKDR), which broadcasts on FM 97.1. • Newspapers in circulation include the Wataway News, Kenora Enterprise, Thunder Bay Times-News, Kenora Miner, Chronicle Journal Winnipeg Free Press, and Toronto Globe and Mail (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-b)
Energy Supply	• 6-Megawatt Distribution Station at a volume of 12.4 / 7.2 KV. Secondary voltages are 120 / 240 volt single phase and 120 / 208 and 34 7/ 600-volt three phase. Residents of Red Lake are supplied at a 1R1 rate (high density rate). • Natural Gas is provided through Enbridge (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation 2022c).
Note: For some service providers included in this table, direct interviews were not conducted as part of this assessment. In these cases, institution-specific operational challenges could not be confirmed. The absence of identified challenges should not be interpreted as confirmation that no service delivery, staffing, or resource limitations exist.	

14.5.2.2.8.2 Township of Ear Falls

The infrastructure services available in the Township of Ear Falls are presented in Table 14.5-7 with associated existing challenges (where available)

Table 14.5-7: Infrastructure Services - Township of Ear Falls, 2025

Service	Information
Transportation - Road	• The urban portion of Ear Falls is situated at the crossing of two roads: Highway 105 and Tertiary Highway 804 (CBC News 2022). Highway 105 cuts through Ear Falls and continues through the Township of Ear Falls passing along Pakwash Provincial Park at the north end of the Township. It is 70 km to Red Lake along this road (The Corporation of the Township of Ears Falls n.d.) • Tertiary Highway 804 is a forest access road (Township of Ear Falls 2016b). Highway 657 extends from Ear Falls north to join Wenesaga Road. • In 2021, Ontario had one of the lowest motor-vehicle fatality rates in North America (0.52 per 10,000 licensed drivers; Ministry of Transportation 2021). More recent provincial data do not include district-level results such as for Kenora (Ministry of Transportation 2023). Despite the lack of disaggregated data, highway safety remains a concern in northwestern Ontario, where frequent accidents and closures are reported along key travel corridors (Jeffrey 2023).
Transportation - Winter Road	• There are no winter roads that connect to the provincial highway network or local municipal roads in Ear Falls.
Transportation - Air	• Ear Falls has a water aerodrome operated by Kay Air Service (KayAir n.d.) • The Ear Falls public airport has been permanently closed and is currently leased to provide an emergency response support centre that provides 33 Indigenous communities with medical supplies, search and rescue, aid for disaster relief and fire detection through drones. This project is partnering with Transport Canada (3 Points In Space Media 2025; Ballance 2025).
Transportation - Rail	• There are no rail transportation services in or around Ear Falls.
Transportation - Water Access	• There are four boat launches in Ear Falls open to the public (Township of Ear Falls 2022b).
Utilities, Municipal Water and Wastewater	• The Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Facility are owned and operated by the Township of Ear Falls. It was originally constructed in 1967 and was upgraded in the 1970s. • Three municipal staff operate both the wastewater treatment plant and the drinking water system. • Both water and wastewater facility are five times larger than the community requires, as such, there are no plans for expansion of either facility. • Residential properties pay a flat rate for water / wastewater and commercial and institutional facilities pay based on the service they provide. • Both facilities are vulnerable to power outages and staff have to start a generator to support continued service during power outages. In the summer months, Hydro One plans 4-5 outages for maintenance, and these may last up to 8 hours. Additionally, unplanned outages occur frequently as well. • As the mine will have similar water systems, they may attract town staff away from their roles which would leave the town without staff (Ballance 2025).

Service	Information
	Existing community challenges: power outages require use of a backup generator, may complete with the mine for staff.
Solid Waste Management	• Waste Collection for the urban area of Ear Falls is Thursdays, and commercial bins are picked up on Thursdays and Mondays. The rural area outside of Ear Falls has waste pick up on Mondays with commercial bins being attended to on Mondays and Thursdays. • The hours of operation for the Waste Disposal Site are 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays (Township of Ear Falls 2022n; Ballance 2025). The site is accessible by car only; however the township provides a bin in town for any overflow waste that is not collected curbside. • There is no recycling within the community, however, this is planned for 2026. Any household currently receiving curbside waste collection will receive curbside recycling collection. There are plans for a depot for recycling; however, the location has not yet been determined. • Waste from Red Lake is transported to Ear Falls by Chukuni Sanitation. Landfill capacity and utilization is reviewed every five years. The landfill currently has 80 years of capacity remaining, with room for future expansion if necessary. The landfill also takes waste from other areas in the vicinity (Ballance 2025).
	Existing community challenges: access to the disposal site is only accessible by driving, recycling program not yet operating in the community,
Municipal Office	• The Municipal Office in Ear Falls is located at 2 Willow Crescent; P.O. Box 309 (Township of Ear Falls 2022k).
Communications	• Telephone services in Ear Falls are provided by Bell Canada (Township of Ear Falls 2021a) • Cellular phone services are provided by TbayTel (Township of Ear Falls n.d. - a) as well as other major service providers including Bell, Telus, and Rogers. • Internet services include Bell Canada, Shaw Cable, and TbayTel (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-b). • Radio stations in the area include the CBC, which broadcasts on the CBC channel, and the regional radio station, CKDR, which broadcasts on FM 97.5 (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-b). • Newspapers in circulation include the Dryden Observer, Kenora Enterprise, Thunder Bay Times-News, Winnipeg Free Press and Toronto Globe, and Mail (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-b).
Energy Supply (onsite distribution or transmission lines)	• Hydroelectricity is provided through Ontario Power Generation, Manitou Hydroelectric Generating Station with a capacity of 73MW (Ontario Power Generation 2022a; Ontario Power Generation 2022b). • Natural Gas is provided through Union Gas (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation 2022c).
Note: For some service providers included in this table, direct interviews were not conducted as part of this assessment. In these cases, institution-specific operational challenges could not be confirmed. The absence of identified challenges should not be interpreted as confirmation that no service delivery, staffing, or resource limitations exist	

14.5.3 Potential Effects

Potential interactions between proposed Project-related activities and community services and infrastructure for Red Lake and Ear Falls area are used to identify potential effects (positive and negative), and whether they are direct or indirect effects.

A detailed overview of the Project's potential interactions with community services and infrastructure for the Red Lake and Ear Falls area is presented in Table 14.5-8. Project interactions are characterized as either having no interaction (-) or a potential interaction (✓). Project activities that result in no interaction were not considered further in the assessment. Project interactions that were identified as a potential interaction are carried forward to the potential effects assessment to determine the positive (desirable and beneficial) and negative (undesirable or adverse) potential effects on the community services and infrastructure criteria.

Table 14.5-8: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Community Services and Infrastructure – Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

Project Component / Activity	Change in Housing and Accommodations	Change in Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity	Change in Transportation Infrastructure
Construction Phase			
Site preparation activities	-	-	-
Establishment and operation of water management and treatment facilities	-	-	-
Open pit mining	-	-	-
Underground mining	-	-	-
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	-	-	-
Establishment of onsite fish habitat and compensation measures	-	-	-
Establishment of onsite aggregate operations	-	-	-
Construction of the starter embankments for the Tailings management facility	-	-	-
Construction and operation of buildings and infrastructure	-	-	-
Waste management	-	-	-
Commissioning of the process plant	-	-	-
Power supply	-	-	-
Employment and expenditures	✓	✓	✓

Project Component / Activity	Change in Housing and Accommodations	Change in Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity	Change in Transportation Infrastructure
Operations Phase			
Underground mining	-	-	-
Mining of the LP Central pit	-	-	-
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	-	-	-
Process plant operation	-	-	-
Management of desulphurized tailings in the tailings management facility	-	-	-
Management of concentrate tailings and contact water in the Viggo management facility	-	-	-
Operation of water management and treatment facilities	-	-	-
Construction of a mine water pond	-	-	-
Operation and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure	-	-	-
Waste management	-	-	-
Power supply	-	-	-
Progressive reclamation activities	-	-	-
Employment and expenditures	✓	✓	✓
Closure Phase			
Active closure	-	-	-
Passive closure	-	-	-
Final reclamation	-	-	-
Employment and expenditures	✓	✓	✓

Legend: ✓ = Interaction exists

- = No interaction exists

The following describe the potential Project effects on community services and infrastructure for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area as a result of these interactions. This considers the potential effects on current conditions for housing and accommodations, community social and health services, emergency services, infrastructure (including waste, water, power, and sewage facilities), and local transportation infrastructure.

Given the proximity of the Municipality of Red Lake to the PA, and its role as a service centre for the region, indirect pressures on local housing, social services, and infrastructure may occur during construction and operations and considered in the assessment.

These potential effects informed the selection and design of mitigation measures (in Section 14.5.4) to reduce, avoid, and minimize negative potential effects, and enhance positive potential effects.

14.5.3.1 Construction Phase

The construction phase of the Project is expected to occur over a three-year period and will include preparation of the site and the construction of Project infrastructure. The construction phase is expected to result in short-term population changes due to non-local workforce population growth. This may change short-term demand for housing and temporary accommodations, and place increased and temporary demands on local infrastructure and services.

Collectively these interactions could affect local Indigenous communities and individuals living within the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.5.3.1.1 Change in the Region's Housing and Accommodations

During the construction phase, the Project is expected to drive temporary population growth within the region due to an influx of construction workers for a period of three years. Workforce demands are anticipated to peak during this phase, with approximately 1,300 workers required in the first year, and around 1,000 workers staying on site at any given time. The Project will aim to source workers locally where possible.

To meet accommodation needs, the Project includes an on-site camp. The camp is designed to accommodate approximately 1,000 people on a temporary basis during construction and approximately 300 people during operations. The camp will support construction-related workforce accommodations as well as early development of the LP Central pit and underground mine.

If on-site accommodations are not available at the time when workers are needed, particularly during early construction activities, there may be short-term demand for off-site housing and rental properties. Other temporary accommodations such as hotels, motels, and lodges in Red Lake and Ear Falls may also be required for specialized or short-duration service providers. During construction, the use of these facilities is expected to be limited.

14.5.3.1.2 Change in the Region's Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity

During the construction phase, temporary population growth associated with the Project workforce may increase demand for municipal, provincial, and non-profit services in Red Lake and Ear Falls. Although most workers will be housed in the on-site camp, some may relocate to nearby communities, creating additional pressure on existing social, healthcare, childcare, and emergency service systems

Local service providers already experience staffing shortages, recruitment challenges, and funding limitations that constrain service delivery. Increased competition for labour from mining-related employment may further limit the availability of qualified personnel across healthcare, social, and childcare sectors.

Healthcare and emergency services in Red Lake are currently constrained by physician shortages, periodic emergency department closures, and lack of obstetrical care. An influx of non-local workers and families could amplify service demand, reducing accessibility for current residents. Emergency response systems, including police, fire, and ambulance services, may experience greater call volumes and increased strain on limited staff resources.

Community-based social programs, such as shelters, women's services, and counselling programs, already operate with limited capacity and fluctuating staffing levels. Project-related workforce changes may increase service demand related to substance use, family stress, or mental health challenges.

Population increases may also affect childcare and education systems, where staff retention and affordability already present barriers to service continuity. Overall, Project-related workforce growth during construction could exacerbate existing capacity limitations across municipal and non-profit services, particularly within healthcare, emergency response, and social support sectors.

14.5.3.1.3 Change in the Region's Transportation Infrastructure

Transportation infrastructure in the region is currently limited, particularly active and public transit options. Access to affordable and reliable transportation remains a challenge for residents in some parts of the municipality, particularly for those without private vehicles (Stirling-Kattler 2025). The Project is not expected to create substantial strain on the regional transportation network or public transportation services.

Traffic volumes along regional highways are currently low, and no substantial change in local traffic levels are anticipated due to construction activities or Project-related population growth. During construction, there will be limited personal vehicle traffic, with carpooling, shuttle busses, and other consolidations employed for Project employees working rotational shifts.

Bussing may be employed to transport contractors and employees from larger hubs, such as Thunder Bay and Winnipeg, during the construction phase. Additional use of the Red Lake airport may be used for rotational workforce. These approaches would also help consolidate workforce movement and minimize traffic effects on local roads.

14.5.3.2 Operations Phase

The operations phase is anticipated to be a 26-year period. Project activities during this phase are expected to result in long-term population stability, sustained workforce presence, and change in demand on local infrastructure and services for Red Lake and Ear Falls populations. The changes on community services and infrastructure during operations, drawing on themes of housing affordability and availability, community social and health service capacity, and local infrastructure and transportation capacities. Collectively these interactions could negatively affect local Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.5.3.2.1 Change in the Region's Housing and Accommodations

During the operations phase, the Project is expected to result in sustained population growth in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area due to a long-term workforce presence. Peak employment is anticipated to reach approximately 1,100 workers during periods when both the LP Central pit and underground mines are active. When only underground mining is underway, the workforce is expected to decrease to approximately 700 workers.

To accommodate this workforce, the Project will include an on-site operations camp with a capacity of 300 personnel. This facility is intended to house a portion of the workforce on a rotational basis.

If the operations workforce cannot be fully sourced from the local population, new workers may relocate to the LSA. Given the current housing market has affordability concerns and limited rental availability there is potential that increasing demand for permanent housing and rental accommodations may further compound these challenges (Hendry 2025; Stirling-Kattler 2025). Without expanded capacity, housing services may struggle to meet growing demands.

Operational staff are expected to be accommodated through rotational shift schedules and will have permanent residence off-site and stay in camp when on-shift. Some personnel will have regular work week with fixed hours and report daily and will have off-site housing. This need for off-site housing could further contribute to ongoing housing pressures, particularly during peak workforce periods.

Occasional short-term contractors will also be present for on-going construction and maintenance activities (sustaining capital work), but their accommodation needs are expected to be met by the on-site camp and are unlikely to substantially affect local temporary lodging capacity. Need for off-site housing could further contribute to ongoing housing pressures, particularly during peak workforce periods. Occasional short-term contractors will also be present for on-going construction and maintenance activities (sustaining capital work), but their accommodation needs are expected to be met by the on-site camp and are unlikely to substantially affect local temporary lodging capacity.

Given the current limitations in housing availability and affordability in Red Lake and Ear Falls, even modest additional demand from operations-phase staff could intensify existing challenges. Without coordinated efforts to expand local housing supply, the Project's operational workforce may intensify existing barriers for Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members seeking affordable housing in the region.

14.5.3.2.2 Change in the Region's Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity

During the operations phase, the Project's long-term workforce presence may result in sustained population growth in Red Lake and Ear Falls, leading to increased demand for municipal, provincial, and non-profit services. While a portion of the workforce will reside in on-site accommodations, other workers and their families may relocate to nearby communities, placing ongoing pressure on existing service systems.

Healthcare and emergency services may experience higher utilization as population levels stabilize. Existing physician shortages, limited emergency department coverage, and the absence of obstetrical and specialized care in Red Lake could be further strained by additional residents. Police, fire, and ambulance services may face increased call volumes and staffing challenges, particularly in smaller municipalities that rely on volunteer or limited personnel.

Social programs, counselling, and addictions services currently operating at or near capacity may see higher and more sustained demand, particularly if population growth contributes to greater social or mental health pressures. Families relocating to the area may increase the need for childcare and educational services, which already face recruitment and retention difficulties. High housing costs and limited service availability could reduce equitable access for vulnerable and Indigenous residents.

Although these pressures may amplify existing capacity limitations, the Project's long-term presence also has the potential to generate indirect benefits. Sustained employment and associated economic activity may contribute to community stability, encourage workforce retention, and support incremental improvements in municipal revenues and local service delivery capacity over time.

14.5.3.2.3 Change in the Region's Transportation Infrastructure

During the operations phase, rotational and temporary workforce travel will continue to rely in part on commercial or charter flights into the Red Lake airport.

While airport usage is not expected to place undue strain on transport systems, staff recruitment and retention challenges at the airport maybe compounded by the mining sector's higher wages, with several current staff nearing retirement (Riddell 2025).

Traffic levels across the regional transportation network are not expected to change beyond current capacities. Existing transportation networks are not expected to experience additional stress as a result of Project activities.

Indirectly, population growth associated with the Project may contribute to new demand for expanded transportation services in the area. While a formal public transit system is not currently in place, the municipality has initiated a feasibility study to assess potential transit options. Although school busing services are available, access remains limited in some areas. For example, Red Lake District High School has reported challenges with certain routes and student access to regular transportation (Vachon 2025). These existing gaps in service are not expected to be directly affected by Project-related transportation demand.

14.5.3.3 Closure Phase

The closure phase is anticipated to occur over a three-year period, immediately after operations stop. These activities will be similar to those during the construction phase (e.g., similar mining and construction equipment used), though activities will be on a much smaller scale.
This passive closure period includes occasional maintenance, limited use of mining and construction equipment, and a short final close-out period where water treatment infrastructure will be removed. Vehicle movement is anticipated to mimic the construction phase activities. Project activities during the closure phase are expected to result in temporary and short-term population changes. This has the potential to change demand for temporary accommodations (once camp has been decommissioned), increase demand for some community and health services (such as emergency response and medical services) and transportation infrastructure.

14.5.3.3.1 Change in the Region's Housing and Accommodations

Closure activities are anticipated to occur over a three-year period and may result in temporary and short-term demands on temporary accommodations (including hotels, motels, or rental units) increases in Red Lake and Ear Falls.

It is anticipated that dismantling the site and water treatment facility will be final activities during the passive closure phase. Contractor-provided accommodations are not expected to be available during the closure phase. Short-duration or specialized contractors may rely on limited hotel and motel capacity in the region, which is already minimal. For longer-term assignments, increased demand could place additional strain on the already limited rental housing market in Red Lake and Ear Falls, where challenges related to affordability and flexible housing options have been previously identified (Hendry 2025; Stirling-Kattler 2025).

As closure activities are completed and workforce levels decline, reduced population levels may contribute to a softening of housing demand, with potential implications for rental availability, vacancy rates, and property values. Consideration of timing for these closure activities should be considered to avoid peak-tourist times for the region.

14.5.3.3.2 Change in the Region's Municipal, Provincial, and Non-Profit Service Delivery Capacity

During the active closure phase, the Project workforce is expected to be substantially reduced. Most personnel employed by the Project are anticipated to be on a temporary basis and accommodated in temporary on-site facilities. As a result, no measurable effect on municipal, provincial, or non-profit service delivery capacity in Red Lake or Ear Falls is anticipated.

Healthcare and emergency interactions may still occur but at a lower frequency than in earlier phases. Most routine needs are expected to be managed on-site, with only occasional call-outs to regional fire, police, or ambulance services for more serious incidents. Overall pressure on community-based health and emergency systems is expected to be limited.

Municipal infrastructure services experience similar reductions in interaction. Water, wastewater, and power requirements decrease as facilities are decommissioned. Remaining needs are small in scale and are expected to be accommodated within existing municipal capacity without additional strain.

14.5.3.3.3 Change in the Region's Transportation Infrastructure

During the closure phase, vehicle movements are expected to resemble those during the construction phase due to continued use of strategies such as bussing and carpooling to consolidate workforce travel. Transportation patterns are not anticipated to change, as regional traffic counts remain low and no considerable change in traffic levels is expected.

The continued use of charter or shuttle buses transport temporary employees from larger centres such as Thunder Bay and Winnipeg would further reduce individual vehicle use and contribute to minimizing potential effects.

Although the Project is not expected to directly affect regional transportation infrastructure during closure, any associated population changes could contribute to longer-term opportunities to improve local transit options.

14.5.4 Mitigation and Enhancement

Mitigation measures and management approaches for community services and infrastructure have been developed to address the potential effects identified in Section 14.5.3.

Identified mitigation measures proposed to minimize and reduce potential effects to community services and infrastructure are discussed. Mitigation efforts consider both direct and indirect effects including a mix of Project design measures, operational policies, community partnerships, and regionally targeted supports. The goal with these limitations is to reduce the magnitude, duration, and likelihood of adverse residual effects on community services and infrastructure.

Table 14.5-9 outlines mitigation measures thematically. These are anticipated to apply to all phases, unless indicated otherwise.

Table 14.5-9: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for Community Services and Infrastructure - Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
Change in housing and accommodations	Camp Operations and Services: A camp complex will be established on the Property. The camp will accommodate 1,000 people during construction and then scaled down to approximately 300 people during operations. As a portion of the workforce is expected to come from outside the local community, and work on a rotational basis, a camp is required. Great Bear Resources will also continue discussions with local municipalities regarding potential housing and / or infrastructure initiatives in the region. The camp complex will include recreation, and a non-denominational spiritual space.
	Community Financial Support (housing): Great Bear Resources will engage with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) regarding regional housing issues. Great Bear Resources will work collaboratively to support for culturally appropriate housing initiatives led by Indigenous and municipal partners. This will include development of a housing strategy and plans for ongoing monitoring of housing capacity issues, and an adaptive management approach (as part of the Social Performance Plan) to address additional pressures imposed from the influx of workers and their families. Great Bear Resources will work closely with Municipality of Red Lake and the Township of Ear Falls to support housing strategies that encourage workers to relocate to the area for work.
	Education and training (Region): Provide bursaries and targeted mentorship. Mentorship programs may include new hire initiatives which pair up new employees with a senior staff member who will provide guidance and support during the onboarding process, internships and summer programming for youth. Deliver training locally using mobile facilities and simulators. Implement job-matching, retraining programs, and economic diversification supports in anticipation of closure Great Bear Resources has committed to the establishment of the Industrial Research Chair (IRC) in Mineral Exploration with Lakehead University. Great Bear Resources recognizes the importance of this research and its potential to drive advancements in mineral exploration, which directly supports our business and the broader mining sector in northwestern Ontario and the community in which we operate. In addition, Great Bear Resources has, and will continue to support STEM and training strategy to focus on a range of opportunities including apprenticeship opportunities, on-the-job training, work readiness, and scholarships and bursaries. Great Bear Resources will offer training to local Indigenous job seekers and contractors. Great Bear Resources are committed to working with local suppliers, including Indigenous owned businesses, to develop their capacity to effectively compete and win business while meeting the Company's standards for ethical conduct, due diligence, quality of goods and services, health and environmental safety.

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Identify critical roles and recruitment barriers; provide job-readiness scholarships / bursaries. Develop equity-based hiring protocols, Indigenous procurement policies, and job coaching programs.
Change in municipal, provincial, and non-profit service delivery capacity	Camp Operations and Services (health care): Provide emergency response and basic health services on site to reduce workforce-related pressures on local social and healthcare services. On-site medical facilities and staff will be in place to address health services for emergencies, injuries, and other routine needs. Medical personnel will be trained on supports that are available through Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Telus telehealth (or similar service/provider), and local/regional providers to foster connected health care on and off-site. Information about these services and supports (available to employees and their immediate families), will be posted in a visible location at the medical facilities and accommodations. Create access to Telus telehealth or similar provider for employees (and immediate family members) throughout the life of the Project helping to alleviate pressures on local services.
	Community Financial Support: Sponsor cultural awareness initiatives and social integration programming. Address barriers to training or employment through transport assistance, and inclusive program design Support regional communities to expand social services and health care services in the region, including mental health and addiction services, and implement an adaptive management approach (as part of the Social Performance Plan) to address additional pressures resulting from the influx of workers and their families. Great Bear Resources will work collaboratively to fund programming through the Friendship Centre and community partners, including programing and supports to promote physical and mental health outcomes for Indigenous adults and youth. Establish and maintain Community Liaison Committee to monitor changes and service capacities and / or the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Continue to partner with community organizations and educational institutions to support youth programming through summer camps and in-school programming, provide workshops, tours and presentations to youth that promote careers and opportunities in Mining and STEM fields. Partner with local Indigenous communities to evaluate community health and well-being to prevent negative pathways associated with the Project from developing.
	Community Liaison Committee: Great Bear Resources will maintain relationships and discussions through the establishment of the Community Liaison Committee to monitor social and health service capacities.
	Community Services: Great Bear Resources will work with provincial and Indigenous health and education authorities to plan for projected demand on social services, healthcare services (including secondary healthcare services), and education capacities.

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Great Bear Resources will work with local health care providers to support recruitment initiatives and potential job share arrangements for increased local resident opportunities.
	Education and Training (Project): Provide voluntary health and wellness seminars, nutrition and substance use seminars for interested employees through the Employee Assistance Program. Provide opportunities for youth with vocational skills, including those that prepare them for local job markets and mining-related knowledge.
	Education and training (Region): Provide bursaries and targeted mentorship. Mentorship programs may include new hire initiatives which pair up new employees with a senior staff member who will provide guidance and support during the onboarding process, internships and summer programming for youth. Deliver training locally using mobile facilities and simulators. Implement job-matching, retraining programs, and economic diversification supports in anticipation of closure. Great Bear Resources has committed to the establishment of the Industrial Research Chair (IRC) in Mineral Exploration with Lakehead University. Great Bear Resources recognizes the importance of this research and its potential to drive advancements in mineral exploration, which directly supports our business and the broader mining sector in northwestern Ontario and the community in which we operate. In addition, Great Bear Resources has, and will continue to support STEM and training strategy to focus on a range of opportunities including apprenticeship opportunities, on-the-job training, work readiness, and scholarships and bursaries. Great Bear Resources will offer training to local Indigenous job seekers and contractors. Great Bear Resources are committed to working with local suppliers, including Indigenous owned businesses, to develop their capacity to effectively compete and win business while meeting the Company's standards for ethical conduct, due diligence, quality of goods and services, health and environmental safety. Identify critical roles and recruitment barriers; provide job-readiness scholarships / bursaries. Develop equity-based hiring protocols, Indigenous procurement policies, and job coaching programs.
	Social Performance Plan: Through the development and implementation of its Social Performance Plan, Great Bear Resources will work with provincial and Indigenous infrastructure authorities, if and where appropriate. In collaboration with local health care providers, support recruitment initiatives and potential job share arrangements for increased local resident opportunities . In collaboration with regional organizations and government representatives, develop a social performance plan to outline activities and plans to invest in a range of focus areas, including local infrastructure development, education, and skill-building

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Social Closure Plan: Support consistent communication and planning throughout closure with emphasis on legacy, continuity, and shared decision-making. Develop a community transition plan in consultation with local Indigenous communities and groups so that decisions are made with integrity, based on cultural, spiritual and Indigenous well-being in mind. The plan will include collaborative planning, implement job-matching, retraining programs, financial literacy workshops, and economic diversification supports in anticipation of closure.
Change in transportation infrastructure	Transportation Management: Buses may be offered if there is sufficient interest (e.g., from the Red Lake Municipal Airport and from Ear Falls and Red Lake as well as local Indigenous communities) to limit personal vehicle traffic on the road and reduce the risk of driver fatigue and travel during poor weather conditions. Car-pooling will also be encouraged, as appropriate. Busing may also be utilized to gather contractors and employees from larger hubs (i.e., Thunder Bay and Winnipeg) during the construction phase to consolidate transportation to and from the Project. Provision of buses reduces commuting burdens for employees and contractors and has the potential to support other community services.

14.5.5 GBA Plus Considerations

14.5.5.1 Indigenous Nations Population

While the Project will provide housing in the form of a camp in the PA, there will most likely be some project staff who will relocate to the area during the Operations phase to Red Lake, as it is the largest community in close proximity to the Project, and offers the most amenities and range of services for families.

There are key demographics which are particularly due in part (but not limited to) to systemic racism, historical traumas, and barriers including location and poverty. These demographics are reliant on service and infrastructure provided in the communities of Red Lake. A change to the existing Red Lake population will apply pressure to existing services and infrastructure and has the potential to further alienate sub-groups that are already at risk. As presented in Appendix X, these groups include:

- Young men aged 16-18 in need of emergency housing
- Indigenous women+ and girls' safety and well-being (more on this in section 15.8.5)
- Indigenous people without training/education
- Indigenous women+ and youth lack of employment opportunities

While mitigation measures are expected to prevent negative pathways from developing, potential project interactions will have to be monitored to ensure these sub-groups are not negatively impacted by the Project.

The Project will work to prevent direct population growth in the region from becoming problematic, focusing on benefits and opportunities. However, there are limitations to what policies and protocols can manage as a region experiences growth, specifically indirect population growth.

In terms of the Project, indirect population growth is the immediate family members who relocate to the area with a Project employee. This means, for every one employee who chooses to permanently relocate (instead of utilizing camp housing at the PA) there is potentially an accompanying spouse and / or children. This can result in increased demand for regionally delivered health and social services, delaying service delivery.

As presented in Appendix X, key Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) subgroups who could be affected by delayed access include:

Indigenous Peoples living on and off reserve in the LSA, where specialized services, including those for the gender diverse (including 2SLGBTQIA+), are already strained, or require service-users to travel to the city of Kenora to access.

The Project will be offering Employee Assistance Programs, and offer basic medical services at site, which will reduce the demand for medical services associated with the direct population increase. Family members of Project employees will most likely increase demand for local services, reducing access and prolonging service times for Indigenous Peoples in the LSA. As seen with other projects of this size and scope, the initial demand for services exceeds capacity, however, once the demand thresholds have been established, organizations and service providers respond accordingly, increasing capacity, access and reducing wait times.

14.5.6 Residual Effects After Mitigation - Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

After the implementation of mitigation measures, assessment and characterization of potential residual effects on community services and infrastructure is completed using the methodology outlined in Section 6. Further details on residual effect criteria ratings that are specific to CSI are defined in Section 6 and in Section 14.3.2.

The attached Table 14.1-1 summarizes the results of the assessment for the linked pVC and fVC components. Detailed description on the methods, existing conditions, mitigation measures, and residual effects can be found in their respective sections.

Based on the assessment of linked pVCs and fVCs, residual changes after mitigation considered as part of the assessment of residual effects on community services and infrastructure after mitigation include:

- Local and Regional Economy (pVC)

There are no other pVCs and fVCs listed in Table 14.1-1 linked to community services and infrastructure.

14.5.6.1 Residual Effects after Mitigation for Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

Following the identification of potential effects between Project activities and community services and infrastructure indicators, potential effects were evaluated to determine whether the proposed mitigation measures would fully address the effect. Where mitigation measures were determined to effectively avoid interaction, no residual effect was carried forward. Where the mitigation measures reduced but did not fully eliminate the potential for an effect, the interaction was carried forward for residual effects characterization. This process made sure that only unmitigated or partially mitigated effects were included in the residual effects assessment.

Table 14.5-10 summarizes the potential effects that remain after mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented.

Table 14.5-10: Summary of Potential Residual Effects for Community Services and Infrastructure

Potential Effect	Potential Residual Effect Remaining After Mitigation (Y/N)
Change in the region's housing and accommodations	N
Change in the region's municipal, provincial, and non-profit service delivery capacity	Y
Change in region's transportation infrastructure	N

Following implementation of mitigation measures, only one residual effect remains for the community services and infrastructure:

- Change in region's municipal, provincial and non-profit service delivery capacity

All other effects identified in Table 14.5-10 are anticipated to be fully addressed through Project design measures and mitigation and are not predicted to result in residual effects.

14.5.6.2 Change in Municipal, Provincial, and Non-profit Service Delivery Capacity

Project-related workforce changes during construction and early operations may result in additional demand for local social services, childcare, daycare, and healthcare services in Red Lake and Ear Falls area. While mitigation measures such as hiring initiatives, on-site programs, community partnerships, and coordination with Indigenous service providers are expected to reduce potential effects, broader systemic limitations related to staffing, service capacity, and funding persist. These pressures may be particularly experienced by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, who already face barriers to culturally appropriate care and access.

After implementation of mitigation measures, a Level I residual effect is predicted for all attributes except duration (which is predicted at a Level II residual effect) for access to social and healthcare services. This residual effect is anticipated to be temporary, low in magnitude, and reversible through coordinated management.

Characterization of the residual effect is provided in Table 14.5-11.

Table 14.5-11: Characterization for Negative Residual Effects on Change in Municipal, Provincial, and Non-profit Service Delivery Capacity

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures.
Magnitude	Level I	Measurable Project-related change that is insufficient to alter the social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous People.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.5.7 Significance of Residual Effects

Residual effects after mitigation to community services and infrastructure as a result of Project-related activities are limited to a change in the regional municipal, provincial, and non-profit service delivery capacity. The magnitude of the residual is low (Level I) and restricted to the LSA (Level I). The effect will occur infrequently (Level I), will occur over the medium term of more than three years but less than 32 years (Level II), and will be fully reversible at closure (Level I). The small, localized effect can be accommodated in terms of social context (Level I). The residual effect is therefore not significant.

14.5.8 Confidence

The prediction confidence assignment reflects the information available through Project-specific TKLUS reports, publicly available data (statistical websites, government pages, previously completed EA/IS reports), understanding of the effectiveness of applicable mitigation measures, and outcomes of other pVCs and fVCs. The assessment is informed by substantial primary and secondary information and robust analysis.

With the proposed management and mitigation measures, including careful implementation of normal planning procedures by the relevant authorities, and liaison between GBR and those local authorities, the residual environmental effect of a change in capacity of community services and infrastructure has been determined with a high level of confidence.

14.6 Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes

Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (CULRTP) includes activities related to the harvesting of species and resources, such as trapping, hunting, fishing, gathering plants, and use of areas where the transfer of knowledge regarding cultural practices occurs, such as traditional habitation sites, ceremonial sites, travel routes, or sacred sites.

The CULRTP criteria reflects traditional or Indigenous Knowledge that are adaptive, intergenerational, and responsive to social, economic and environmental changes. Information regarding Indigenous rights and history, and the assessment of effects on the right to exercise or practice traditional activities is provided in Section 14.10.

The CULRTP criteria evaluates how the Project may affect Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, such as changes to access, use, and quality of experience while engaging in these activities.

As outlined in Assessment Approach (Section 14.3), the assessment includes consideration of the following potential effects:

- Change in the availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting (hunting and trapping)
- Change in the availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing and aquatic resources)
- Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional plant harvesting (food, medicinal, and natural resources)
- Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional habitation, cultural, spiritual sites and areas.

While both Section 14.6 and 14.7 assess traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual use sites and areas, Section 14.6 (CULRTP) assesses the current use of these sites, inclusive of currently used campsites, cabins, and culturally important sites and areas. Section 14.7 assesses these sites and areas in relation to their heritage values (e.g., potential changes to their physical and cultural heritage values).

14.6.1 Spatial Boundaries

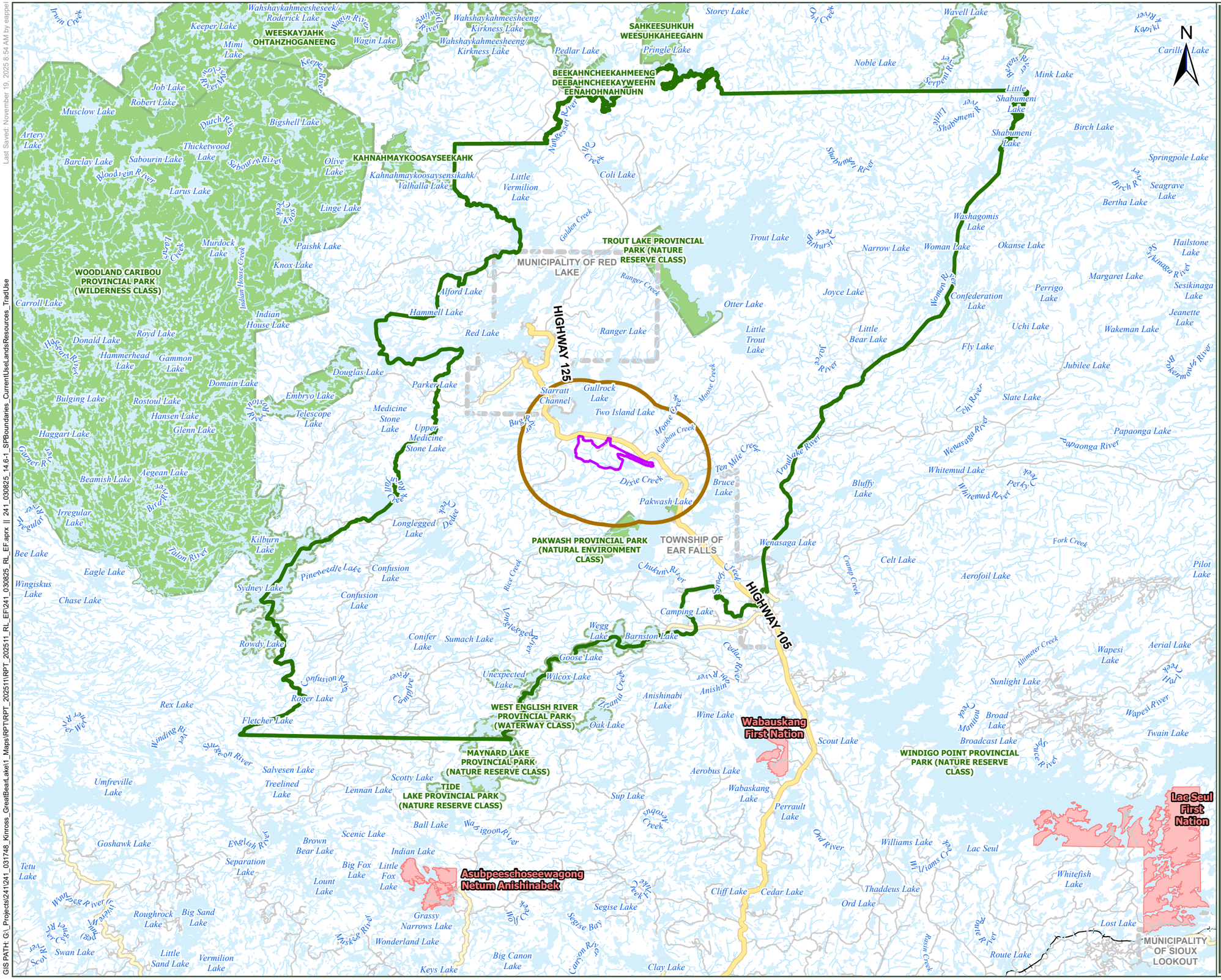
There are three study areas within the spatial boundaries. They are the Project Area (PA), the Local Study Area (LSA), and the Regional Study Area (RSA). The RSA includes both the PA and the LSA. The spatial boundaries used for the assessment of current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes are shown in Figure 14.6-1 and are defined:

- The PA is defined as the footprint of the Project including all temporary and permanent areas associated with the mine site, as well as a buffer to allow flexibility for design optimizations prior to construction and over the mine life (Section 6.4). The PA is approximately 3,349 hectares (ha) in size.
- The LSA is the area within which Project-related effects may reasonably be expected to occur and can be predicted or measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy and confidence. For CULRTP, the LSA is defined based on the LSA for the Moose and Other Wildlife pVCs. This defines an area over which ongoing traditional use forms the basis for continuing practices integral to CULRTP, as well as associated intergenerational transfer of associated knowledge, values, beliefs and traditions. Specifically, the Moose and Other Wildlife pVC captures the largest extent across which traditional use may be affected.
- The RSA encompasses the LSA and is used to provide regional context for the significance of residual effects and is also the area within which potential for cumulative effects of the Project in combination with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects or activities are considered. For current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, the RSA is also defined based on the RSA for Moose and Other Wildlife pVCs for the same reasons as identified for the LSA. The Moose and Other Wildlife pVCs have relevance for past, present, and future traditional activities and captures the largest extent across which traditional use may be affected.

These boundaries are consistent with those used for Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites, or Things of Significance.

Last Saved: November 19, 2025 8:54 AM by eappel

GIS PATH: G:_Projects\241\241_031748_Kinross_GreatBearLake\1_Maps\RPT\RPT_202511\RPT_202511_RL_EF\241_030825_RL_EF.aprx || 241_030825_14.6-1_SPBoundaries_CurrentUseLandsResources_TradUse



LEGEND:

- PROJECT AREA
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA
- HIGHWAY
- MAJOR ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD
- RAILWAY
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- FIRST NATION RESERVE
- PROVINCIAL PARK
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY (LOWER TIER)

NOTES:
NOTE1: BASE DATA ACQUIRED FROM LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO.

0 5 10 20 30 km

SCALE 1:650,000
PAGE SIZE 11 x 17
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N

THIS MAP IS FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

GREAT BEAR GOLD PROJECT

SPATIAL BOUNDARIES FOR CURRENT USE OF LANDS AND RESOURCES FOR TRADITIONAL PURPOSES

SLR

FIGURE NO:
14.6-1

DATE: November 19, 2025 PROJECT NO: 241.030825

14.6.2 Existing Conditions

An overview of CULTRP for Indigenous Peoples living in the Municipality of Red Lake (Red Lake) and the Township of Ear Falls (Ear Falls) includes demographic context, land governance, and spatial patterns of cultural use (where available). It outlines known practices of harvesting and ceremonial land use, which are central to Indigenous identity, health, and cultural continuity.

This Section focuses on Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls. Information on existing conditions of other participating Indigenous Nations are provided in Sections 10 (LSFN), 11 (WFN), 12 (ANA), and 13 (NWOMC).

14.6.2.1 Methods

A description of the baseline existing conditions for CULRTP is presented to characterize the known and existing conditions for current use of land and resources for traditional purposes (CULTRP) by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. This is based on:

- Community knowledge received through engagement activities such as meetings, oral input and written input, traditional land use information and Indigenous Knowledge for the area around the Project, and additional input as described in Section 14.4, Influence of Consultation and Engagement;
- Publicly available secondary sources: relevant documents and publicly available studies which contain biophysical, cultural heritage, archaeological aspects, Indigenous Knowledge and traditional land use information for the area around the Project
- Socio-Economic Baseline Study for the Great Bear Project (2024) (Appendix O-1).

In addition to these publicly available sources of information and ongoing engagement, the existing conditions have been informed by confidential reports prepared by or for LSFN, NWOMC and WFN.

These combined information sources provide an understanding of the current CULRTP information. The existing conditions are used to support the assessment of potential effects from the Project on CULRTP and will support long-term monitoring for the Project with interested Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.6.2.1.1 Importance of Land and Resource Use for Traditional Purposes

The nature and importance of current land and resource use for traditional purposes is based on the unique, and deeply rooted relationships that Indigenous Peoples have with the land, water, animals, and ecosystems. These relationships are holistic, incorporating physical, economic, spiritual, cultural, and communal components. These cultural relationships with the natural world foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship, where caring for the land is a sacred duty passed down through generations. Access to land and resources is essential for Indigenous Peoples maintenance of their cultural practices, intergenerational knowledge sharing, food sovereignty, and community well-being.

Indigenous Knowledge systems are based on observation, experience, and adaptation of diverse Indigenous communities through time. They offer valuable insight into land and resource use patterns.

It is through traditional, and current land and resource use studies that an understanding of the existing nature and importance can be described and changes due to the Project can be determined.

Important areas and sites of current use may reflect both past Indigenous community areas (e.g., village sites, historic harvesting, spawning, or hunting sites), and the ongoing importance of present-day campsites, tourist camps, water travel routes, or harvesting and social areas. These sites and areas are still used by Indigenous Peoples throughout the year to connect with the land and traditional values, sharing harvesting knowledge and socializing with entire families as they return to work together. Harvesting sites and areas for fishing, plant gathering, and hunting or trapping also reflect how many generations have accumulated knowledge through their deep relationships with the land and water and are still used by Indigenous Peoples to maintain these connections to land and place.

14.6.2.1.2 Quality of Experience of Current Land and Resource Use for Traditional Purposes

Quality of experience for current use of land and resources for traditional purposes refers to the preferred and / or required conditions (e.g., not disturbed by changes in sensory conditions) needed to use or maintain traditional and current use practices (e.g., technologies, methods, and habits). This includes changes to environmental, biophysical, or spiritual and cultural qualities of areas, sites, and resources that would make them inappropriate for Indigenous use or value. These may change the ability of these lands, waters, and resources to support their cultural practices and traditions. Disturbances to lands, waters, and resources include changes to sensory conditions (e.g., air and dust emissions, sound, light) which may affect tangible and intangible aspects of culture. Tangible aspects of culture include traditional current use areas, cultural sites, and landscapes. Intangible aspects of culture include gatherings, rituals, and embedded Indigenous Knowledge.

14.6.2.2 Description

The description of CULRTP by Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area includes demographic context, land governance, and spatial patterns of cultural use by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. It also outlines known practices of harvesting and ceremonial land use, which are central to Indigenous identity, health, and cultural continuity.

While Indigenous Peoples may or may not access the areas in the LSA for harvesting activities, it is expected that they may use the RSA for hunting, fishing, plant gathering, and performing traditional cultural and spiritual activities. With the assumptions outlined (Section 14.6.2), it is assumed that current use for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, may occur in the PA, LSA or RSA. For this reason, this assessment focuses on known high-use and high-value areas within Treaty 3 territory between Lac Seul Watershed, the English-Wabigoon Watershed, and the Chukuni River and its greater watershed (including Pakwash and Gullrock Lake, Wabauskang Lake, Red Lake, and Trout Lake). For this reason, this assessment focuses on known high-use and high-value areas within Treaty 3 territory between Lac Seul Watershed, the English-Wabigoon Watershed, and the Chukuni River and its greater watershed (including Pakwash and Gullrock Lake, Wabauskang Lake, Red Lake, and Trout Lake).

While this includes known current use identified by LSFN, NWOMC and WFN at the time of writing this Impact Statement, the results of ANA's Land Use and Occupancy Study are not yet available.

However, Great Bear Resources is aware that the Project is located in the ANA Interim Core Area of Interest for Mining and their proposed Indigenous Protected Conservation Area for moose.

14.6.2.2.1 Governance and Legal Characteristics

This description of governance includes legal characteristics and historic and modern governance of Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area. Further information regarding the Treaty rights and history as advised by Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area is provided in Section 14.10, Impact on the Exercise or Practice of Rights.

The Municipality of Red Lake (Red Lake) is located approximately 270 km north of the City of Kenora, Ontario, and is one of the largest municipalities in the Kenora District. Red Lake is comprised of the Golden Township, Red Lake Township and the Unorganized Territory, which may be accessed by Highway 105, Highway 125 and Highway 618.

The total population of Red Lake was 4,094, according to the 2021 Census. A total of 950 individuals identified as Indigenous (i.e., 570 First Nations Peoples, 350 Métis citizens, 30 other Indigenous identity), making up 24% of the Red Lake population. Red Lake anticipates continued growth in the Indigenous population, recognizing they have an interest in land use planning within the municipality (Impact Assessment Agency of Canada 2024d)

The land use of Red Lake is primarily rural with five serviced townsites: Red Lake, Balmertown, Cochenour, Madsen and McKenzie Island. Development in Red Lake is limited to these townsite locations. Of these townsites, Red Lake is the largest settlement area. There are also three non-serviced residential settlements, which accommodate rural residential subdivisions. These settlements are Starratt-Olsen, Flat Lake and McMarmac. As per the Keewatin Litigation Area, in which Red Lake is situated, there may be a need to receive Indigenous Nation consent or federal authorization before changes to land uses are made. This is currently pending a decision at the Ontario Court of Appeal (Municipality of Red Lake 2015).

The Municipal Council in Red Lake is made up of five members. Red Lake acknowledges the need for a more diverse representation to accurately reflect the demographics, needs and plans of the municipality. (Municipality of Red Lake n.d.-c) Red Lake has a Strategic Plan (2020-2023), which provides a vision and direction for the municipality to lead towards a sustainable future (Muncipality of Red Lake 2020).

The local economy in Red Lake is anchored in resource extraction, with employment concentrated in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas (24.4%), followed by health care and social assistance (13.5%). However, in terms of business count, the most common types of enterprise in Red Lake are tourist camps and outposts (39), retail stores (34), and contractors (28) (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-a). This distribution highlights the significance of outdoor and recreational land use in the area, including both traditional and non-traditional uses of land and water by Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents. These uses contribute to subsistence, cultural continuity, and local economic development.

The Township of Ear Falls (Ear Falls) is located approximately 200 km northeast of Kenora, Ontario. The Township is surrounded by several lakes such as Pakwash Lake, Bruce Lake, Lac Seul, Wenasaga Lake and Camping Lake in Northwestern Ontario (Township of Ear Falls 2016b). The total population of Ear Falls was 924 according to the 2021 census. A total of 195 individuals identified as Indigenous (i.e.,105 First Nations Peoples, 90 Métis citizens), making up roughly 19% of the population (Statistics Canada 2023f).

Ear Falls does not currently share the same makeup of business services in the tourism and guiding services as Red Lake, but the Township of Ear Falls Strategic Plan lists growing tourism initiatives and growing cottage development as top priorities within the local economy (The Township of Ear Falls 2019). This indicates a desire and focus to build on strategic advantage of an accessible and desirable landscape, and a focus on preserving landscape values that attract visitors and tourists for the purpose of outdoor recreation, fishing, and guiding outfits. Conservation for the purpose and benefit of recreation and tourism is both a positive to preserving the landscape and supports traditional resource use in the region.

This indicates a desire and focus to build on strategic advantage of an accessible and desirable landscape, and a focus on preserving landscape values that attract visitors and tourists for the purpose of outdoor recreation, fishing, and guiding outfits. Conservation for the purpose and benefit of recreation and tourism is both a positive to preserving the landscape and supports traditional resource use in the region.

Treaty 3 covers approximately 142,450 km² from west of Thunder Bay to Manitoba. It is governed by the Grand Council Treaty 3, representing 28 Indigenous Nations and approximately 25,000 people. The treaty rights are governed today by the Grand Council Treaty #3, which represents 28 Indigenous communities (including ANA, LSFN, and WFN) and a total approximate population of 25,000 individuals (Grand Council Treaty #3 2025b).

Several councils guide and inform the work of Grand Council Treaty #3, including an Elder's Council, Oshkiniigiig (a Youth Executive Council), Mizi'iwe Aana Kwat (2SLGBTQIA plus), Gaagiidoo-Ikwewag (Women), and Mamawichi-Gabowitaa-Ininiwag (Men) councils (Grand Council Treaty #3 2025a). This is to support balance and equity across different sub-communities of Anishinaabek Nation.

Central to Anishinaabe treaty assertion is Anishinaabe Inakonigaawin (law), which has been inherent to their relationship with land and its inhabitants since time immemorial (Grand Council Treaty #3 2025a) This includes:

- Respecting the land and waters
- Giving offerings to spirit and Creator when one benefits from the gifts of the earth (e.g., fishing, hunting, or transportation)
- Knowing rights as Treaty 3 members
- Understanding the responsibilities of land stewardship.

Key written Inakonigaawin (laws) include (Grand Council Treaty #3 Women's Council, 2019a):

- Manito Aki Inakonigaawin (Great Earth Law)
- Nibi Declaration (Water Law)
- Abinooji Inakonigewin (Childcare Law).

A confidential report prepared for LSFN and WFN noted that both Anishinaabe communities identified several important teachings that guide their stewardship of land, water, and traditional territories including:

- Seven Grandfather Teachings: Truth, Humility, Respect, Love, Honesty, Courage, Wisdom (Seven Generations Education Institute, 2021)
- Seven Generations Thinking: Long-term decision-making

- Ceremonial practices: water ceremonies, pipe ceremonies, sacred fires, and shaking tent ceremonies
- Principles of reciprocity and circle work.

In 2016, the Government of Canada entered into an agreement with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) that would renegotiate NWOMC's claims to treaty rights in the area (referred to as the "Halfbreed Adhesion") (Métis Nation of Ontario 2022).). NWOMC have stated they do not wish to seek return of any Treaty 3 lands from First Nations in the region but do wish to benefit from treaty rights relating to it (Métis Nation of Ontario 2022)

14.6.2.2.2 Traditional Harvesting of Wildlife Species, Including Hunting and Trapping

Traditional harvesting of wildlife is a central cultural and subsistence practice for Indigenous Peoples in the PA, LSA, and RSA using the Boreal Forest to move between harvesting and hunting or trapping grounds and participating in their seasonal harvesting.

Current use areas for hunting, trapping, and harvesting of traditional wildlife resources by LSFN, WFN, ANA, and NWOMC occur in the LSA and RSA. Section 7.13 (Land and Resource Use) identifies four traplines identified either in the PA or the LSA (Table 14.6-1). The trapline areas within the PA include RL068 and RL059, which are both registered to LSFN trappers; a non-Indigenous trapper is also active at RL068. In the LSA, trapline RL061 is registered to an ANA member. Additionally, registered trapline RL073 sits in the LSA, and is registered to a non-Indigenous individual.

Table 14.6-1: Trapline Areas in the LSA Registered to Indigenous Communities or Individuals - 2025

Trapline Area	Trapline Total Area (km^2)	Overlap with PA (km^2)	Overlap with LSA (km^2)
RL061	215.3	0	108.6
RL073	360.8	0	44.7
RL068	789.2	26.2	363.5
RL059	650.8	7.3	173

Other areas have been noted for current use in the LSA including Snake Falls area (approximately 9km away from the PA boundary), Pakwash Lake and the Chukuni River area. Additional mapped wildlife harvesting areas are most concentrated in the lands and waters surrounding Lac Seul, Trout Lake, Wabauskang Lake, Perrault Lake, and areas south of Red Lake. Although there are few mapped harvesting areas directly within the urban boundaries of Red Lake and Ear Falls, it is assumed that Indigenous Peoples living in these communities actively participate in harvesting activities across the surrounding region.

Confidential reports prepared for LSFN and WFN identified that the most recorded important species in the PA, LSA, and RSA include: beaver, muskrat, moose, wolf, Whitetail deer, duck, porcupine, goose, Boreal caribou, partridge, grouse, rabbit and bear. Hunted species include moose, bear, deer, rabbit, waterfowl, and grouse. Trapped species include beaver, muskrat, wolf, and marten.

NWOMC has identified the PA as containing habitat that supports potential large and small game harvesting, and moose habitat. Harvesting of moose, partridge, rabbit, deer and grouse is noted in the LSA. In the RSA, NWOMC has noted large game kill sites, additional large game harvesting sites, small game harvesting areas, and waterfowl harvesting areas.

In the RSA, NWOMC have confirmed hunting for large and small game, including: moose, partridge, deer, grouse, rabbit, spruce hen, wolf, bear, goose, and duck. NWOMC also traps species in the LSA and RSA, including: beaver, lynx, marten, otter, wolf, fox, fisher, rabbit, muskrat, mink, coyote, weasel, bear, wolverine, and bobcat. In general, Métis trapping and hunting locations are common around lakes where wildlife take advantage of trails and resource movement patterns within the surrounding forest.

LSFN and WFN identified trapping by members occurring over a wide range of the LSA and RSA, including: Lac Seul, Big Vermillion Lake, Minnitaki Lake, Lake of the Bays, Snake Falls, Trout Lake, Narrow Lake, Swain Lake, and Shabumeni Lake.

Most trapping activity throughout Treaty 3 territory occurs during the fall and winter seasons by Indigenous Peoples, with muskrat trapping occurring in the spring (Zappe and Dowsley 2025). Trapping activity by Anishinaabeg throughout Treaty 3 territory that overlaps with the RSA has been identified in harvesting areas around Trout Lake, Ear Falls, Narrow Lake, Swain Lake, and Shabumeni Lake. Most of the current hunting and trapping areas for LSFN occur outside the RSA, including areas around Frenchmen's Head, Kejick Bay, and Sioux Lookout. LSFN also uses some areas for commercial hunting, including activities relating to where furs are sold, as well as subsistence through personal trapping. These areas include Sachigo Lake, Brodeur Lake, and Stirland Lake.

Important waterfowl hunting areas are used by Anishinaabeg during the fall migration. These areas are manoomin beds that provide habitat and food to waterfowl located Pakwash Lake, Chukuni River, Bruce Lake, and areas downstream from Ear Falls (LSA).

LSFN and WFN have noted species at risk sightings within their traditional territories. This includes:

- Caribou (west of PA toward Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, along park or logging roads, around Snake Falls Roads, the northeast side of the Chukuni River, on the beach on Pakwash Lake, Trout Lake, frequent along route between Vermillion Bay to WFN, one sighting east of Ear Falls, no recorded sightings within the PA).
- Cougar (along Highway 105 between WFN and Ear Falls).
- Golden Eagle (at Parker Lake).
- Wolverine (near Ear Falls for WFN, recorded stealing catches in traps for WFN).

14.6.2.2.3 Traditional Harvesting of Aquatic Resources, Including Fishing

Fishing occurs throughout Treaty 3 territory as an important source of food, economic livelihood, and plays a central role in culture, traditions and connection to the land. It is an aspect of Indigenous identity and way of life in stewarding the natural resources in the territory. The sharing of resources with community and Elders is a part of cultural tradition . LSFN and WFN have identified fishing was identified as occurring largely during the summer, with ice fishing in the winters.

The sharing of resources with community and Elders is a part of cultural tradition. LSFN and WFN have identified fishing was identified as occurring largely during the summer, with ice fishing in the winters.

For Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, no current use of the PA for fishing or aquatic resource harvesting has been identified. It is expected that their current use areas in the LSA and RSA for fishing and aquatic resources would be similar to those described for ANA, LSFN, NWOMC and WFN. This includes fish harvesting and spawning areas in the LSA near the inflow of the Chukuni River, Dixie Creek, Pakwash Lake, Gullrock Lake, and Trout Lake, and in the RSA, including Two Island Lake, Keg Lake, East Lake, Bruce Lake, and Wabauskang Lake. Although there are few mapped fish harvesting areas directly within the LSA for Indigenous communities, it is assumed that Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area are actively participating in fish and aquatic resource harvesting practices in the surrounding region. This reflects their geographic proximity and the cultural continuity of seasonal harvesting practices among First Nations and Métis families.

LSFN and WFN have identified common fish species harvested include: sucker (longnose and white), tullibee, burbot, northern pike, sauger, lake whitefish, trout (lake), yellow perch, rock bass, bait fish, walleye (pickerel), bass (rock, smallmouth, and largemouth), muskellunge, and mooneye. NWOMC identify that their community members fish in the LSA at the mouth of the Chukuni River, Dixie Lake Two Island Lake, and Pakwash Lake, and in the RSA at Gullrock Lake, Red Lake, Trout Lake and several other areas. NWOMC noted fished species in the LSA and RSA include walleye (pickerel), minnows, crappie, whitefish, northern pike, perch, bass, muskie, trout, lake trout, tullibee/northern cisco, sucker, sauger, whitefish, and other non-commercial fish.

As identified in Section 7.13 (Land and Resource Use), there are several waterbodies and watercourses located within the PA. Further detail on navigation is available in Section 7.13. Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area have not identified any watercourses within the PA as navigable. No groundwater sites or systems have been identified in the PA; however, WFN has identified groundwater sites outside of the PA.

14.6.2.2.4 Traditional Harvesting of Plants for Food, Medicine, and Natural Resources

Plants used for food and medicinal purposes have always been very important to Anishiniaabeg. For Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, plant harvesting includes for use as food sources, medicines, and cultural materials. The knowledge of plant harvesting areas and uses is passed down through generations. Indigenous Peoples rely on both terrestrial plants and aquatic plants, such as manoomin, from the waterways within Treaty 3 territories. These waterways and traditional manoomin harvesting areas are also used to harvest migratory birds and waterfowl that populate manoomin ecosystems.

Several current use areas for terrestrial and aquatic plant gathering by ANA, LSFN, NWOMC, and WFN have been identified in the PA, LSA, and RSA. Current use identified in the PA includes harvesting of edible mushrooms by LSFN members. No current use of the PA was identified in relation to wild rice harvesting or other aquatic plant species harvesting. It is expected that their current use areas in the LSA and RSA for plant gathering and harvesting would be similar to the practices of Anishinaabeg and Métis citizens living in the RSA. It is also expected that Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area would be actively participating in these plant harvesting practices in the surrounding region.

Current use of the LSA for terrestrial and aquatic plant harvesting has been identified. LSFN and WFN have identified annual harvesting of wild cranberries in the LSA at the confluence of Dixie Creek and the Chukuni River, and blueberry picking sites in the LSA. No groundwater sites or systems have been identified in the PA; however, WFN has identified groundwater sites outside of the PA.

Both ceremonial and commercial harvesting is prevalent in the area, with commercial and personal harvesting recorded at Minnitaki Lake and Wabauskang Lake, located outside of the RSA. Current use by NWOMC has been identified in the LSA along Highway 105, and they have identified wild rice harvesting and gathering areas in the LSA and RSA.

From confidential reports, typically harvested species for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area include: Wild Rice (Manoomin), Tamarack, Red-Osier Dogwood, Red Willow, Wild plum, Cow parsnip, Grandfather Root, Wild Red Raspberry, Wild Strawberry, Cranberry, Blueberry, Sweetgrass, White birch, Wild Mint, Sweežlag, Calamus, Eastern White Cedar, Chaga Mushroom, Chanterelle Mushroom, Pin Cherry, Choke Cherry, Wild Crab Apple, Heart-leaved Willow, Diamond Willow, Wild Ginger, Wild Gooseberry, Bush Honeysuckle, Juniper, Labrador Tea, Water-Lily, Lilypad, Sagebrush, Sage, saskatoon berries, Jack Pine, mint, tree buds (unspecified), fiddleheads, nuts, wild rice, and wood and birch bark.

NWOMC has noted plants and natural resources gathered in the LSA include: fiddleheads, mushrooms, blueberries, and firewood, cranberries, raspberries, pin cherries, choke cherries, chaga, plantain, elderberries, sage, rosehips, Labrador tea, saskatoon berries, wild rice, ginseng, clover, mint, and other natural materials.

Harvesting of plants includes food sources, medicines and cultural materials, with the knowledge of harvesting areas and uses passed down through generations within families. LSFN and WFN have identified important plants used in spiritual and ceremonial teachings that are also considered to be medicinal plants, including sweetgrass which is twisted into braids for ceremonial gatherings. NWOMC citizens also have identified their uses of a variety of plants for medicinal, nutritional, domestic, and ceremonial purposes.

Both ceremonial and commercial harvesting is prevalent in the area, with commercial and personal harvesting recorded at Minnitaki Lake and Wabauskang Lake, located outside of the RSA.

Wild rice (manoomin) is a culturally important resource and harvesting tradition for Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area. Manoomin is an important source of nutrition, economic stability, and a way for youth and community members to connect with knowledge holders, Elders and their cultural practices. Families would harvest and reseed areas year after year to allow for continual annual harvest. Manoomin ecosystems are sources for both consumption and hunting grounds for the wildlife and waterfowl that gather in wild rice areas. Under the Nibi Declaration, there is a sacred relationship between manoomin and nibi, where the spread of manoomin through water during the harvest supports humans and non-humans (Paridy 2021).). Under Anishinaabe migration stories, manoomin is understood as food growing on the water, becoming a sacred gift (Paridy 2021).

In the Cultural Heritage Report, two cultural heritage resource (CHR) sites were identified that were associated with wild rice fields: CHR 3 in the PA and CHR 5 in the LSA. No changes to CHR 5 are anticipated, as it is located outside the PA.

14.6.2.2.5 Use of Traditional Habitation, and Cultural and Spiritual Sites and Areas

Land use for Indigenous Peoples is inseparable from culturally important spaces, as land and water hold knowledge about cultural identifies, stories, traditions, and relations. Cultural and spiritual sites and areas include birth sites, marriage sites, burial sites, settlement areas, historic and contemporary harvesting and gathering sites, and sacred or spiritual areas.

This section includes an assessment of Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area's current use of these sites and areas. An assessment of these sites physical and cultural heritage value is assessed in Section 12.8.

No current use sites related to traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual use have been identified within the PA. However, current use sites have been identified in the LSA. LSFN has identified several sites and areas in the LSA currently used, including spiritual sites at the mouth of the Chukuni (Snake Falls) and on the west side of Pakwash Lake. The reports also identified culturally important navigation routes, where LSFN continues annual paddles from Ear Falls to Treaty Point for a Treaty Day gathering. Artifacts found at Pakwash Lake also indicate their historical use as temporary habitation and seasonal sites, including projectile points (arrowheads), and pottery artifacts. No groundwater sites or systems of cultural importance have been identified in the PA; however, WFN has identified groundwater sites outside of the PA.

In the LSA, ANA has identified current use areas of cultural and spiritual importance around fishing areas, wild rice harvesting areas, and the canoe transportation route along Chukuni River. While some of these identified areas and sites may not have current harvesting use by ANA, they maintain their spiritual and cultural value. Manoomin is sacred for ANA, and the spiritual important of wild rice and water for ANA is maintained through the integrity of these traditional sites of spiritual and cultural importance.

LSFN and WFN have identified that the communities use boats along the waterways and waterbodies in the LSA, which also have Anishinaabe language descriptions that denote places, features, and connections with their communities. Historical trapping areas have been identified by LSFN and WFN in the LSA that were used by their ancestors. These include many of the same areas where LSFN and WFN currently trap, including Trout Lake, around Lac Seul, as well as additional historically used areas in the RSA north of Red Lake.

In the LSA, NWOMC has identified waterways and waterbodies that remain important networks for hunting, trapping, fishing, travel, and overnight stays. These include the Chukuni River and Pakwash Lake. Several historic use and occupation sites have been identified in the LSA by members of NWOMC, in relation to the historic Métis community's use of the area. These include locations of historic pictographs and rock paintings, historic burial grounds, and a former Residential school. Additional current use sites and areas identified in the LSA include: historic trading or Hudson Bay Company post, historic occupation sites (including camps and cabins), trailheads, boat launches, and portage sites, as well as other undisclosed cultural and historic sites. The landscapes of Métis harvesting and traditional use territories are important in maintaining cultural heritage and knowledge, passing on that knowledge, harvesting and travelling, maintaining ceremony, collecting supplies and supplementing income.

Cultural landscapes where Métis citizens may practice traditional ways of life and from where Indigenous Knowledge about the way of life is anchored. NWOMC has mapped boat launches, portages, trailhead, and travel routes in the LSA and RSA that are important for habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites.

Through these land and water practices, spiritual relationships are maintained, and cultural landscapes are understood as “alive and contemporary pathways” to support the continuation of Indigenous Knowledge (Fedyk 2016). Additional high-use areas of cultural and spiritual importance for NWOMC in the RSA include: Jones Road, Longlegged Lake, and Sydney Lake.

14.6.3 Potential Effects

The potential interactions between proposed Project-related activities and CULRTP criteria identifies the potential effects (positive and negative), and whether they are direct or indirect effects.

A detailed overview of the Project’s potential interactions with current use of land and resources for traditional purposes for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area is presented in Table 14.6.2. Project interactions are characterized as either having no interaction (-) or a potential interaction (✓). Project activities (Section 5.0) that result in no interaction are not considered further in the assessment. Project interactions that were identified as a potential interaction are carried forward to the potential effects assessment to determine the positive (desirable and beneficial) and negative (undesirable or adverse) potential effects on the CULRTP criteria.

Table 14.6-2: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Current Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes

Project Component / Activity	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting (hunting and trapping)	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing)	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional plant (food and medicinal) harvesting	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional habitation, cultural, spiritual sites/areas
Construction Phase				
Site preparation activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establishment and operation of water management and treatment facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open pit mining	✓	✓	✓	✓
Underground mining	-	-	-	-
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	✓	✓	✓	✓

Project Component / Activity	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting (hunting and trapping)	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing)	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional plant (food and medicinal) harvesting	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional habitation, cultural, spiritual sites/areas
Establishment of onsite fish habitat and compensation measures	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establishment of onsite aggregate operations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Construction of the starter embankments for the tailings management facility	✓	✓	✓	✓
Construction and operation of buildings and infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waste management	-	-	-	-
Commissioning of the process plant	✓	✓	✓	✓
Power supply	✓	✓	✓	✓
Employment and expenditures	-	-	-	-
Operations Phase				
Underground mining	-	-	-	-
Mining of the LP Central pit	✓	✓	✓	✓
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	✓	✓	✓	✓
Process plant operation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Management of desulphurized tailings in the tailings management facility	✓	✓	✓	✓

Project Component / Activity	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting (hunting and trapping)	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing)	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional plant (food and medicinal) harvesting	Change in availability, access to and quality of experience related to traditional habitation, cultural, spiritual sites/areas
Management of concentrate tailings and contact water in the Viggo management facility	✓	✓	✓	✓
Operation of water management and treatment facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Construction of a mine water pond	✓	✓	✓	✓
Operation and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Waste management	-	-	-	-
Power supply	-	-	-	-
Progressive reclamation activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Employment and expenditures	-	-	-	-
Closure Phase				
Active closure	-	-	-	-
Passive closure	-	-	-	-
Final reclamation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Employment and expenditures	-	-	-	-

Legend: ✓ = Interaction exists

- = No interaction exists

The interactions identified in Table 14.6.2 are used in Sections 14.6.3.1 to 14.6.3.3 to identify the potential effects on CULRTP prior to the application of mitigation measures. These potential effects may be direct or indirect negative effects, where applicable.

14.6.3.1 Construction Phase

The construction phase of the Project is expected to occur over a three-year period and will include preparation of the site and the construction of Project infrastructure. Since the construction phase is expected to cause potential interactions with the natural environment and landscape, there may be direct or indirect effects on use of land and resources for traditional purposes.

During the construction phases, interactions and effects may occur within the PA, LSA and RSA. Project activities identified in Table 14.6-2 have the potential to result in effects to current land and resource use for traditional purposes including for wildlife harvesting, fish and aquatic resource harvesting, plant gathering, and traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas.

14.6.3.1.1 Wildlife Harvesting (Hunting and Trapping)

Project activities during the construction phase at the Project are anticipated to have potential direct and indirect effects on traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting activities within the PA and LSA. Interactions with Project activities may lead to direct and indirect effects on Indigenous Peoples current use of the PA (LSFN traplines) and LSA for hunting and trapping activities. As identified in Section 10.6 (LSFN), the two trapline areas held by LSFN members (RL068 and RL059) overlap with the PA by 26.2 and 7.3 km^2, respectively. The remaining area of these traplines is in the LSA (see Table 14.6-1).

The availability of traditionally hunted and trapped terrestrial wildlife species may be indirectly affected by habitat loss or alteration, changes in surface water quality, and sensory disturbances such as dust and visual changes. These factors can disrupt ecosystems that support traditional harvesting activities. Wildlife availability in the LSA may be also indirectly affected by habitat changes and disturbances due to sound, and vibration that can alter wildlife behavior, distribution, and presence.

Access to wildlife harvesting areas that overlap the PA will change due to safety access restrictions. Access to wildlife harvesting areas in the LSA and RSA are not anticipated to change during construction.

The quality of experience for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area while hunting and trapping in the LSA may change due to sensory disturbances in proximity to the PA. Sound, dust, vibration, light and visual changes to the landscape may make these areas less culturally suitable for hunting and trapping activities. As detailed in Section 7.13, (Land and Resource Use), changes to visual setting will commence during construction and will continue throughout all phases of the Project. Construction-related activities, such as vegetation clearing and development of Project infrastructure may also influence the quality of harvesting experiences near the site.

14.6.3.1.2 Fishing and Aquatic Resource Harvesting

While there is no identified current use of the PA by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area for fishing or aquatic resource harvesting, there is identified current use of the LSA, indirect potential effects are anticipated as a result of Project activities.

There may be an indirect change to the availability of fished species or aquatic resources in the LSA due to Project-related changes.

Aquatic habitats may be indirectly affected by vibration, surface water runoff, and sedimentation, which may in turn affect fish and aquatic species population and distribution. These changes can damage fish habitats, alter spawning areas in Pakwash Lake and the Chukuni River, and reduce the availability of culturally significant fish species. Additionally, treated effluent discharge into the Chukuni River may impact water quality and fish health. The Cultural Heritage Report (Appendix P-1) indicates that while a segment of the Chukuni River (comprising CHR 1) falls partly within the PA, it will not be subjected to direct or indirect effects from the Project. The Cultural Heritage Report predicts that the planned effluent pipe will not hinder river use for travel, and the discharge from the pipe will avoid changes to water and fish by adhering to regulatory requirements for water quality and quantity (Appendix P-1, p. 27).

Since there is no identified current use of the PA for fishing identified, no potential effects on access to fishing and aquatic resource harvesting areas and sites are anticipated. Access is not anticipated to be altered in the LSA or RSA during construction. None of the watercourses or waterbodies identified in the PA have met the definition of 'navigable waters' as defined by the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act.*

The quality of experience of fishing in traditional areas within the LSA may be affected due to sensory disturbances. A reduction of groundwater flows and levels during construction and operations will reduce groundwater contributions to the baseflow of some watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA. Project activities may lead to a change in the quality of fishing and aquatic harvesting experiences. Sound, vibration, and dust, along with changes to the landscape and view, can disrupt the experience and make these fishing areas less suitable for cultural activities.

14.6.3.1.3 Traditional Plant Harvesting (Including for Food and Medicinal Purposes and Natural Resources)

Project activities during the construction phase at the Project are anticipated to have potential direct and indirect effects on traditional plant gathering and harvesting activities within the PA and LSA. Interactions with Project activities may lead to direct and indirect negative effects on Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area's current use of the PA (for edible mushroom harvesting) and LSA for these activities.

The availability of plant species for harvesting in the PA and LSA by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area may change as a result of direct and indirect effects to vegetation health and availability. Vegetation health and availability may change as a result of several factors, including changes in dust, surface water quality and flow, and alteration to vegetation areas caused by vegetation removal and clearing. As a result, the availability of plant harvesting areas in the LSA may change due to indirect environmental changes.

Access to areas where Indigenous Peoples traditionally gather plants in the PA will change due to changes in the landscape, PA access requirements, and infrastructure development. This will limit the ability to travel to, or through, areas in the PA currently used for gathering and harvesting of plants for food and medicinal purposes. Access is not anticipated to be altered in the LSA or RSA during construction.

The quality of experience at traditional plant harvesting areas in the LSA immediately adjacent to the PA may be affected by sensory disturbances from Project activities. A reduction of groundwater flows and levels during construction and operations will reduce groundwater contributions to the baseflow of some watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA.

Sound, dust, and vibrations during closure activities can interfere with the culturally meaningful nature of harvesting practices. Project components such as the mine rock storage areas and tailings management area may change the landscape and viewscape, which may make these areas less suitable for traditional plant gathering activities.

14.6.3.1.4 Traditional Habitation, Cultural, and Spiritual Sites and Areas

There is no identified current use of traditional habitation, cultural, or spiritual sites and areas in the PA for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. As such, there are no potential effects anticipated that would change access or availability in the PA. However, the Project has the potential to indirectly change detectable changes to sensory conditions for Indigenous Peoples' quality of experience with traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas in the LSA. The assessment of these sites' cultural and physical heritage value is found in Section 14.7.

Sensory disturbances that have the potential to change the quality of experience for Indigenous Peoples in the LSA include levels of sound and dust deposition. A reduction of groundwater flows and levels during construction and operations will reduce groundwater contributions to the baseflow of some watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA. Changes to the landscape, particularly from the development of Project components such as the mine rock storage areas and tailings management area, may visually alter culturally important areas for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area while in the LSA. Additionally, modifications to surface water flow conditions can affect water travel routes in the LSA, which are often used to access traditional sites.

These disruptions from sensory disturbances, altered travel routes, or environmental changes may make traditional areas less suitable for cultural use.

14.6.3.2 Operations Phase

The operation phase is anticipated to occur over a 26-year period. Similar interactions as the construction phase will continue, and potential effects to CULRTP for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area may occur within the LSA, and RSA during operations. Availability of wildlife for hunting and trapping, fishing and aquatic areas, and plant harvesting areas will continue to be directly and indirectly affected by Project-related activities, though on a larger area, as the footprint of the operations will advance throughout the operations phase.

There will be no access to areas within the PA for harvesting or traditional habitation, cultural, or spiritual sites and area use throughout operations. However, access to land and resource areas within the LSA will remain available during Project operations.

Quality of experience for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area that are harvesting or using traditional sites and areas in the LSA may continue to be affected by changes in groundwater flows and levels for waterbodies adjacent to the PA from interactions with open pit and underground mining activities in the PA, or sensory disturbances from sound and visual changes during operations for those sites and areas in the LSA that are in close proximity to the PA. Project facilities, such as the tailings management facility and the mine rock storage area, will be at maximum height and extent during operations. These additional features on the landscape may have the potential to affect land users visual experience while accessing or visiting harvesting or traditional sites and areas within the LSA where the Project is visible (refer to Appendix O-3 for further detail on viewshed analysis).

14.6.3.3 Closure Phase

The active closure phase is anticipated to occur over a three-year period, immediately after operations stop. Closure activities will start the initial reclamation and revegetation of mining areas and stockpiles. Mining and equipment used during closure will be similar to those used during construction, but on a much smaller scale. The passive closure period includes occasional maintenance, limited use of mining and construction equipment, and a short final close-out period where water treatment infrastructure will be removed.

Project activities during the closure phases are expected to result in temporary and short-term ground and sensory disturbances, and continued changes to harvesting site access related to the Project.

Interactions similar to those identified during the construction and operation phases will continue during closure activities for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area in the PA, LSA, and RSA. This includes potential effects relating to availability of traditionally harvested species and habitation, cultural, and spiritual use sites and areas, as well as potential changes to the quality of experience while harvesting or accessing current use sites and areas.

With progressive rehabilitation, the re-establishment of vegetation communities would allow wildlife to return to the PA and surrounding area. Progressive and final reclamation, including active and passive revegetation, will minimize visual effects. A viewshed analysis conducted for the Project (Appendix O-3) concluded that there will be very limited viewing of the Project facilities even at their maximum extent and height, generally later in operations and only in the far distance. Once progressive and final reclamation activities are completed, supplemented by natural regrowth after closure, the residual stockpiles are expected to visually blend into the natural landscape in the limited location where they are visible in the far distance.

Sensory disturbances due to sound and vibration are expected to change over the active closure phase as mining and milling operations cease. Changes to groundwater flows and levels are expected to return to near baseline conditions post-closure, after the cessation of open pit and underground mining. With the closure of the PA and site rehabilitation allowing for the return of wildlife, there is the possibility of a return of use of the PA for harvesting for food and medicinal purposes.

14.6.4 Mitigation and Enhancement

Mitigation measures for CULRTP have been developed to address the potential effects identified in Section 14.6.3. Mitigation measures are technical measures proposed by the Project, informed by baseline studies, predictive reports, and engagement with Indigenous communities.

Great Bear Resources is designing the mine operation with appropriate safeguards and believes in the spirit of cooperation and consultation; the mine will be a strong source of positive benefits for host communities and Indigenous groups. This commitment is illustrated through Great Bear Resources funding a regional community-based Chukuni Watershed Aquatic Monitoring Program. This will focus on the transfer of knowledge from Elder Advisors from each Nation to youth throughout all phases of the Project. The program will also serve to increase capacity of Indigenous Nations to complete future monitoring programs to protect the waters throughout Treaty 3 territory.

Mitigation measures include a mix of Project design measures, operational policies, and community partnerships for environmental monitoring. The goal with these limitations is to reduce the magnitude, duration, and likelihood of adverse residual effects on CULRTP.

Table 14.6-6 outlines mitigations thematically, aligning with the interactions identified in Table 14.6-3. These are anticipated to apply to all phases, unless indicated otherwise. Anticipated residual effects after the application of these mitigation measures are discussed in more detail in Section 14.6.6.

Table 14.6-3: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for CULRTP – Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting (hunting and trapping)	Access: There will be no access within the PA (the active mine site), due to safety. Access will be maintained to the LSA, via the existing road / trail network or planned forestry roads. Environment Management Committee: Great Bear Resources will work with the environmental management committee(s) and interested Indigenous members throughout the duration of the Project (all phases), to facilitate ongoing communications, sharing and integration of Indigenous Knowledge and environmental information, and share and evaluate Project approvals, adaptive management and monitoring plans, and address emerging issues and interests identified by Indigenous Nations. Environmental Monitors: Great Bear Resources will continue to work with the Environmental Management Committee and engage Indigenous environmental monitors from local communities in the implementation of mitigation and monitoring practices for Project activities. Herbicide use: Avoid the use of chemical herbicides. Inclusive and Local Hiring Strategy (Project policies): Support reasonable requests and work schedule flexibility for Indigenous employees relating to time off to pursue traditional land use and harvesting activities. Great Bear Resources will offer employees an Annual Fitness and Mental Health Benefit fund ($500 per annum) which may be used to purchase gear and equipment which would facilitate land-based activities including but not limited to fishing equipment and snowshoes. Integrated Mine Closure: Great Bear Resources is committed to progressively rehabilitating the mine site wherever practical to reduce potential erosion, improve stability and work towards meeting end land use objectives. Closure end land use objectives will be informed by ongoing consultation with local Indigenous Nations. Test plot revegetation studies may occur during operation as part of the commitment to progressive rehabilitation. These studies will evaluate the most effective revegetation approach for various application areas. The results will be used to update and inform the revegetation approach with respect to growth medium, seed mixes and nutrient mixes. Active and passive re-vegetation of Project area to encourage and support terrestrial and aquatic species.

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Prohibition of Fishing and Hunting: Prohibit fishing and hunting within the PA by employees, suppliers, and contractors while working or residing on site. Project Design (visual, dust, and sound): Infrastructure and mine stockpile height have been limited to reduce effects on standard viewscapes; Controlling dust and debris from roads through water sprays and potentially chemical suppressants. The Project has also been designed to minimize construction sounds where applicable (e.g., reduction of generator noise, reduced sound haul trucks); where practical, maintain trees and other vegetation to provide a buffer for the view of Project components. Trapline Engagement: Maintain regular communication with trapline holders regarding activities and opportunities to facilitate their land use activities. Work with Ministry of Natural Resources and trapline license holders (LSFN members) to determine alternative options for trapline losses.
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing and aquatic resources)	Environment Management Committee: Great Bear Resources will work with the environmental management committee(s) and interested Indigenous members throughout the duration of the Project (all phases), to facilitate ongoing communications, sharing and integration of Indigenous Knowledge and environmental information, and share and evaluate Project approvals, adaptive management and monitoring plans, and address emerging issues and interests identified by Indigenous Nations. Environmental Monitors: Great Bear Resources will continue to work with the Environmental Management Committee and engage Indigenous environmental monitors from local communities in the implementation of mitigation and monitoring practices for Project activities. Fish Offsetting Plan: Develop and implement Fish Habitat Offset and Compensation plan, including habitat diversion plans, and fish relocation from affected watercourses. Inclusive and Local Hiring Strategy (Project policies): Support reasonable requests and work schedule flexibility for Indigenous employees relating to time off to pursue traditional land use and harvesting activities. Great Bear Resources will offer employees an Annual Fitness and Mental Health Benefit fund ($500 per annum) which may be used to purchase gear and equipment which would facilitate land-based activities including but not limited to fishing equipment and snowshoes. Integrated Mine Closure: Great Bear Resources is committed to progressively rehabilitating the mine site wherever practical to reduce potential erosion, improve stability and work towards meeting end land use objectives. Closure end land use objectives will be informed by ongoing consultation with local Indigenous Nations. Test plot revegetation studies may occur during operation as part of the commitment to progressive rehabilitation. These studies will evaluate the most effective revegetation approach for various application areas.

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	The results will be used to update and inform the revegetation approach with respect to growth medium, seed mixes and nutrient mixes. Active and passive re-vegetation of Project area to encourage and support terrestrial and aquatic species Prohibition of Fishing and Hunting: Prohibit fishing and hunting within the PA by employees, suppliers, and contractors while working or residing on site.
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional plant harvesting (food and medicinal)	Access: There will be no access within the PA (the active mine site), due to safety. Access will be maintained to the LSA, via the existing road / trail network or planned forestry roads. Environment Management Committee: Great Bear Resources will work with the environmental management committee(s) and interested Indigenous members throughout the duration of the Project (all phases), to facilitate ongoing communications, sharing and integration of Indigenous Knowledge and environmental information, and share and evaluate Project approvals, adaptive management and monitoring plans, and address emerging issues and interests identified by Indigenous Nations. Environmental Monitors: Great Bear Resources will continue to work with the Environmental Management Committee and engage Indigenous environmental monitors from local communities in the implementation of mitigation and monitoring practices for Project activities. Herbicide use: Avoid the use of chemical herbicides. Inclusive and Local Hiring Strategy (Project policies): Support reasonable requests and work schedule flexibility for Indigenous employees relating to time off to pursue traditional land use and harvesting activities. Great Bear Resources will offer employees an Annual Fitness and Mental Health Benefit fund ($500 per annum) which may be used to purchase gear and equipment which would facilitate land-based activities including but not limited to fishing equipment and snowshoes. Integrated Mine Closure: Great Bear Resources is committed to progressively rehabilitating the mine site wherever practical to reduce potential erosion, improve stability and work towards meeting end land use objectives. Closure end land use objectives will be informed by ongoing consultation with local Indigenous Nations. Test plot revegetation studies may occur during operation as part of the commitment to progressive rehabilitation. These studies will evaluate the most effective revegetation approach for various application areas. The results will be used to update and inform the revegetation approach with respect to growth medium, seed mixes and nutrient mixes. Active and passive re-vegetation of Project area to encourage and support terrestrial and aquatic species. Plant Harvesting (for food and medicinal purposes): Where there is interest, provide opportunities to local Indigenous community members to harvest plants for traditional purposes prior to construction activities.

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Project Design (visual, dust, and sound): Infrastructure and mine stockpile height have been limited to reduce effects on standard viewscapes; Controlling dust and debris from roads through water sprays and potentially chemical suppressants. The Project has also been designed to minimize construction sounds where applicable (e.g., reduction of generator noise, reduced sound haul trucks); where practical, maintain trees and other vegetation to provide a buffer for the view of Project components. Wild Rice Enhancement Project: Great Bear Resources has funded a study by Northern Bioscience and Harris Ecological Consulting, upon the request of LSFN and WFN. The purpose of this study is to help address the loss of historic wild rice (Manoomin) production on Wabauskang Lake. Potential effects on wild rice are anticipated because of an overprint at Unnamed Waterbody 1 by Project infrastructure. The enhancement study is anticipated to offset potential effects on wild rice as a result of the Project. The wild rice enhancement location, on WFN reserve, has been recommended by the WFN and supported by LSFN. The study will develop potential enhancement options for implementation in 2026. In addition to habitat restoration, the Project will incorporate education and knowledge-sharing on sustainable harvesting practices, supporting long-term stewardship by community members. This collaborative initiative could support broader wild rice revitalization projects in the future and could be shared with other Indigenous communities in the local area if there is interest, advancing the understanding, and recovery of this culturally and ecologically important plant. Together, these efforts will support a more holistic understanding of Wild Rice habitats, cultural values, and their continued importance to the region.
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional habitation cultural, and spiritual sites and areas	Access: There will be no access within the PA (the active mine site), due to safety. Access will be maintained to the LSA, via the existing road / trail network or planned forestry roads. Environment Management Committee: Great Bear Resources will work with the environmental management committee(s) and interested Indigenous members throughout the duration of the Project (all phases), to facilitate ongoing communications, sharing and integration of Indigenous Knowledge and environmental information, and share and evaluate Project approvals, adaptive management and monitoring plans, and address emerging issues and interests identified by Indigenous Nations. Environmental Monitors: Great Bear Resources will continue to work with the Environmental Management Committee and engage Indigenous environmental monitors from local communities in the implementation of mitigation and monitoring practices for Project activities. Inclusive and Local Hiring Strategy (Project policies): Support reasonable requests and work schedule flexibility for Indigenous employees relating to time off to pursue traditional land use and harvesting activities.

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Great Bear Resources will offer employees an Annual Fitness and Mental Health Benefit fund ($500 per annum) which may be used to purchase gear and equipment which would facilitate land-based activities including but not limited to fishing equipment and snowshoes. Integrated Mine Closure: Great Bear Resources is committed to progressively rehabilitating the mine site wherever practical to reduce potential erosion, improve stability and work towards meeting end land use objectives. Closure end land use objectives will be informed by ongoing consultation with local Indigenous Nations. Test plot revegetation studies may occur during operation as part of the commitment to progressive rehabilitation. These studies will evaluate the most effective revegetation approach for various application areas. The results will be used to update and inform the revegetation approach with respect to growth medium, seed mixes and nutrient mixes. Active and passive re-vegetation of Project area to encourage and support terrestrial and aquatic species. Project Design (visual, dust, and sound): Infrastructure and mine stockpile height have been limited to reduce effects on standard viewscapes; Controlling dust and debris from roads through water sprays and potentially chemical suppressants. The Project has also been designed to minimize construction sounds where applicable (e.g., reduction of generator noise, reduced sound haul trucks); where practical, maintain trees and other vegetation to provide a buffer for the view of Project components.

Attached Table 14.1-1 includes mitigation measures applicable to the management of effects on pVCs and fVCs that are linked with CULRTP by Indigenous Peoples. It includes relevant plans, policy and measures from predictive reporting on linked pVCs and fVCs. These will be applied for effects management.

14.6.5 GBA Plus Considerations

During the life of the Project, the PA will be inaccessible. This is expected to last for approximately 32 years once construction begins until the end of active closure. As presented in Appendix X, the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) subgroups who could experience negative effects by restricted access include:

- Indigenous Peoples. This includes men+, women+, Elders and youth. The inability to access sites of typical harvesting activity may result in the loss of transmission of knowledge across multiple generations for that location

While the PA will be inaccessible, traditional land use activities reported in the LSA and RSA, ranging from trapping to plant gathering and wild rice harvesting can continue.

14.6.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation – Indigenous Peoples Living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

After the implementation of mitigation measures the assessment and characterization of potential residual effects on CULRTP is completed using the methodology outlined in Section 6. Further details on residual effect criteria ratings that are specific to CULTRP are defined in Section 6 and in Section 14.3.2.

The attached Table 14.1-1 summarizes the results of the assessment for the linked pVC and fVC components. Detailed description on the methods, existing conditions, mitigation measures, and residual effects can be found in their respective sections.

Based on the assessment of linked pVCs and fVCs, residual changes after mitigation considered as part of the assessment of residual effects on CULRTP include:

- Migratory birds (fVC)
- Air quality (pVC)
- Sound (pVC)
- Vibration (pVC)
- Visual Environment (pVC)
- Groundwater (pVC)
- Surface Water Flows and Levels (pVC)
- Water quality (pVC)
- Vegetation communities (pVC)
- Moose (pVC)
- Other wildlife (pVC)
- Species at Risk (pVC)
- Cultural Heritage (pVC)

There are other linked pVCs and fVCs listed in Table 14.1-1 and section 14.1 that do not have residual changes after mitigation measures have been applied. This includes the fVC of Fish and Fish Habitat, and the pVCs of Wild Rice, Land and Resource Use, and Archaeology. This means that Project activities will not change their existing conditions over the Project life cycle. Therefore, those linked pVCs and fVCs are not carried forward into the residual effects assessment for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.6.6.1 Residual Effects after Mitigation for Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

Following the identification of potential effects between Project activities and CULRTP indicators, potential effects were evaluated to determine whether the proposed mitigation measures would fully address the effect. Where mitigation measures were determined to effectively avoid the interaction, no residual effect was carried forward. Where the mitigation measures reduced but did not fully eliminate the potential for an effect, the interaction was carried forward for residual effects characterization. This process made sure that only unmitigated or partially mitigated effects were included in the residual effects assessment.

Table 14.6-4 summarizes the potential effects that remain after mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented.

Table 14.6-4: Residual Effects Remaining for Indigenous Peoples in Red Lake and Ear Falls CULTRP After Mitigation

Potential Effect		Potential residual effect remaining after mitigation (Y/N)
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional terrestrial wildlife harvesting (hunting and trapping)	Availability (quantity of traditionally hunted and trapped wildlife species available)	Y
	Access (to locations and areas for hunting and trapping)	Y
	Quality of experience (detectable changes to sensory conditions at harvesting sites or areas)	Y
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional aquatic harvesting (fishing)	Availability (quantity of traditionally fished species available)	N
	Access (to locations for fishing and aquatic harvesting)	N
	Quality of experience (detectable changes to sensory conditions at harvesting sites or areas)	N
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional plant harvesting (food and medicinal purposes)	Availability (quantity of traditionally gathered plant species available)	Y
	Access (to locations for plant gathering and picking)	Y
	Quality of experience (detectable changes to sensory conditions at harvesting sites or areas)	Y
Change in availability, access to, and quality of experience related to traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas	Availability (of traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas – e.g., not altered or destroyed)	N
	Access (changes to access to sites and areas identified)	N
	Quality of experience (detectable changes to sensory conditions at traditional habitation, cultural, or spiritual sites and areas currently used)	Y

14.6.6.1.1 Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Terrestrial Wildlife Harvesting (Hunting and Trapping)

As Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area have identified hunting, trapping, and harvesting areas of terrestrial wildlife in the PA, LSA and RSA, there may be direct and indirect changes to access, availability and quality of experience relating to traditional wildlife harvesting for Indigenous Peoples. These will have direct effects for trapping in the PA, and indirect effects to those hunting and trapping in the LSA.

Project activities through construction to closure may affect wildlife behaviour and responses, resulting in a localized change in environmental conditions. While it is acknowledged that the PA is an area identified for wildlife harvesting, there will be no access to the PA during the Project lifecycle. However, access and availability of harvesting opportunities will remain in the LSA and RSA.

No critical moose habitat types are expected to be eliminated, and there are no residual changes to Moose, Other Wildlife, or Species at Risk pVCs. Due to this, it is anticipated that availability of large and small game will not be reduced for hunting and trapping activities as a result of changes to wildlife populations. While residual effects were predicted for Migratory Birds (fVC), they were predicted to be not significant after mitigation has been applied.

For Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area hunting within the LSA, it is anticipated that access in the LSA (outside the PA) will not be directly affected, but availability of hunted and trapped species may be indirectly affected at LSA areas immediately adjacent to the PA. This is due to changes in wildlife behaviour as a result of sensory disturbance. Habitat in the RSA will remain for all wildlife species, and there are no Project features expected to affect any wildlife species or populations.

Table 14.6-5 characterizes the residual effect attributes relating to terrestrial wildlife harvesting.

Table 14.6-5: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Terrestrial Wildlife Harvesting (Hunting and Trapping)

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures.
Magnitude	Level I	Project-related changes may increase the effort necessary but will not reduce the ability of Indigenous Peoples to practice traditional activities related to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. Access and availability of terrestrial wildlife trapping in the PA is anticipated to be restricted due to safety regulations on site, however the affected area of the trapline is relatively small and harvesting opportunities remain in the LSA. Changes to the availability and quality of experience in the LSA may increase the effort necessary to harvest but not reduce the ability to practice these traditional activities.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly.
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.6.6.1.2 Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Plant Harvesting (Food and Medicine)

As Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area gather edible mushrooms in the PA and terrestrial plants in the LSA, it is anticipated that changes to access, availability, and quality of experience relating to plant harvesting will have direct effects to plant harvesting in the PA, and indirect effects to those gathering in the LSA.

For Indigenous Peoples gathering plants in the LSA, it is anticipated that access and availability will not be directly affected, as it is outside of the PA. Available terrestrial and aquatic plant harvesting sites in the LSA and RSA, which include yearly harvesting of wild berries and wild rice, will remain accessible. For Indigenous Peoples gathering plants in the PA, it is anticipated that access and availability of plant gathering sites and areas will be directly affected throughout the duration of the Project phases.

While access to the PA will be prohibited for safety purposes from the onset of construction until following active closure, Great Bear Resources will provide opportunities to local Indigenous community members to harvest plants for traditional purposes in the PA prior to initiating construction activities.

For Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area gathering plants in the LSA their quality of experience while gathering plants for food and medicinal purposes may still be indirectly affected by Project activities at sites and areas immediately near the PA. This is due to changes in flows and levels of groundwater reducing groundwater contributions to waterways and waterbodies adjacent to the PA, and sensory disturbances (dust, sound, light, vibration) in the harvesting areas along roads.

Table 14.6-6 characterizes the residual effect attributes relating to terrestrial plant gathering for food and medicinal purposes.

Table 14.6-6: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Plant Harvesting (Food and Medicinal Purposes)

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures.
Magnitude	Level I	Project-related changes may increase the effort necessary but will not reduce the ability of Indigenous Peoples to practice traditional plant harvesting activities related to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. Access and availability of plant gathering sites in the PA is anticipated to change. However, Indigenous Peoples access to other plant harvesting areas in LSA and RSA will remain unchanged. In the LSA, quality of experience (e.g., sensory and viewscape disturbances) during plant harvesting may increase the effort necessary but not reduce the ability of Indigenous Peoples to practice these traditional activities.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly.
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.6.6.1.3 Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Habitation, Cultural, and Spiritual Sites and Areas

For Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls area, access and availability of sites will not be directly affected, as they are outside of the PA. Available campsites, cultural and spiritual sites and areas and other habitation sites currently used will remain accessible in the LSA and RSA. However, these traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas in the LSA may still be indirectly affected by changes in the quality of experience. This is due to changes in flows and levels of groundwater reducing groundwater contributions to waterways and waterbodies adjacent to the PA, and sensory disturbances (dust, sound, light, vibration) around habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas in the LSA.

Table 14.6-7 characterizes the residual effect attributes relating to traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas.

Table 14.6-7: Characterization of Negative Residual Effects on Change in Availability, Access to, and Quality of Experience Related to Traditional Habitation, Cultural, and Spiritual Sites and Areas

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures:
Magnitude	Level I	Project-related changes may increase the effort necessary but will not reduce the ability of Indigenous Peoples to practice cultural activities while visiting and using traditional habitation, cultural, and spiritual sites and areas related to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly.
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur over a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.6.7 Significance of Residual Effects

The magnitude of the effect on CULRTP as a result of Project-related activities is low (Level I) and restricted to the LSA (Level I). The effect will occur intermittently (Level II), will occur over the medium term of more than three years but less than 32 years (Level II), and will be fully reversible at closure (Level I).

The importance of conducting traditional practices is very high for Indigenous Peoples, however the small, localized effect can be accommodated in terms of social context (Level I). The residual effect is therefore not significant.

14.6.8 Confidence

The prediction confidence assignment reflects the information available through Project-specific TKLUS reports, publicly available data (statistical websites, government pages, previously completed EA/IS reports), understanding of the effectiveness of applicable mitigation measures, and outcomes of other pVCs and fVCs. The assessment is informed by substantial primary and secondary information and robust analysis however, as noted in the assessment, there are some instances where the information collected had data gaps or lacked detail.

The overall confidence in residual environmental effect and significance predictions for CULRTP is moderate. As additional information continues to be shared through Great Bear Resources' ongoing consultation with local Indigenous communities over Project life, relevant information will be incorporated into Project planning as practical.

14.7 Indigenous Physical, Cultural Heritage, Structures, Sites or Things of Significance

Indigenous physical and cultural heritage was selected as a criteria to evaluate how the Project may interact with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance (including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites), as well as associated ceremonial, spiritual and cultural values. Indigenous physical and cultural heritage differs from the pVCs of archaeology and cultural heritage in that it is an fVC; also, it encompasses both tangible heritage, such as physical places of heritage value, and intangible heritage, such as customs, practices and teachings that convey cultural knowledge of heritage value. Potential effects are assessed to evaluate potential changes to these sites, areas as a whole. As outlined in Section 14.3, the assessment of Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls physical and cultural heritage considers the following criteria:

- Alteration or destruction of sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites
- Change in access to or quality of experience with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites
- Change in sacred, ceremonial, spiritual, and cultural values (including language, stories, and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites.

Publicly available summaries of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage for Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls are limited; however, LSFN, WFN, and NWOMC have provided input through ongoing engagement, site visits, and confidential TKLUS reports. This assessment incorporates that information while respecting confidentiality.

Sites and areas discussed in relation to the archaeology and cultural heritage pVCs include physical heritage sites and areas, as defined under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA); they are considered OHA-defined physical heritage, which is also commonly regarded as having heritage importance to Indigenous communities.

The current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes Criteria was also considered to reflect forms of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage that are not defined or protected under the OHA but are commonly valued by Indigenous communities, including ANA, LSFN, NWOMC, and WFN, as well as Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. This is reflected in the identification and inclusion of heritage-related considerations in their confidential traditional knowledge reports.

14.7.1 Spatial Boundaries

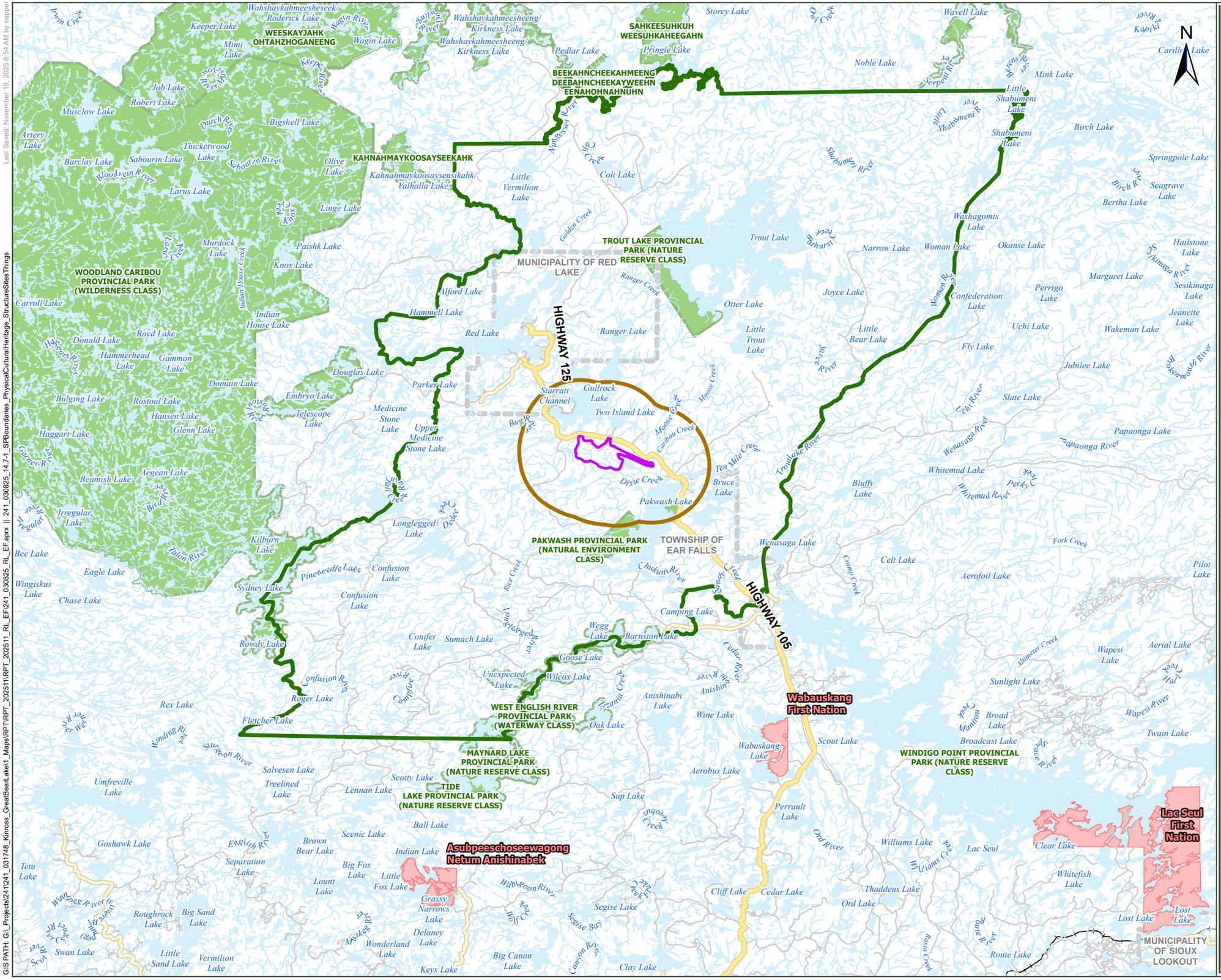
There are three study areas within the spatial boundaries. They are the Project Area (PA), the Local Study Area (LSA), and the Regional Study Area (RSA), which includes both the PA and the LSA. The spatial boundaries used for the assessment of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage are shown in Figure 14,7-1 and are defined:

- The PA is defined as the footprint of the Project, including all temporary and permanent areas associated with the mine site, as well as a buffer to allow flexibility for design optimizations prior to construction and over the mine life (Section 6.4). The PA is approximately 3,349 hectares (ha) in size.
- The LSA is the area within which Project-related effects may reasonably be expected to occur and can be predicted or measured with reasonable accuracy and confidence. For Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, this is based on the relationship of the criteria with current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. These Criteria share an LSA, which is defined based on the Moose and Other Wildlife pVCs (see Section 14.4.1 for further rationale). The LSA integrates a range of resources and places that support traditional use, which in turn supports cultural practices integral to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, along with associated intergenerational knowledge transfer. This LSA also encompasses the LSAs for the pVCs of archaeology and cultural heritage which are more narrowly defined by a buffer of 1 km around the PA for both; the selection of these areas as the LSAs for these pVCs is guided by the potential for direct physical effects to the integrity of archaeological and cultural heritage resources which are more narrowly defined by a buffer of 1 km around the PA for both. The selection of these areas as the LSAs for these pVCs is guided by the potential for direct physical effects to the integrity of archaeological and cultural heritage resources.
- The RSA encompasses the LSA and is used to provide regional context for the significance of residual effects; it is also the area within which potential for cumulative effects of the Project in combination with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects or activities are considered. For Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, the RSA is again defined based on the RSAs for the moose and other wildlife pVCs for the same reasons as identified for the LSA. The RSAs for the related pVCs of archaeology and cultural heritage again are the same as the LSAS, again reflecting these pVCs' primary concern with physical effects to archaeological and cultural heritage resources.

These boundaries are consistent with those used for Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes (CULRTP).

Last Saved: November 19, 2025 8:54 AM by eappel

GIS PATH: G:_Projects\241\241_031748_Kinross_GreatBearLake\1_Maps\RPT\RPT_202511\RPT_202511_RL_EF\241_030825_RL_EF.aprx || 241_030825_14.7-1_SPBoundaries_PhysicalCulturalHeritage_StructureSitesThings



LEGEND:

- PROJECT AREA
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA
- HIGHWAY
- MAJOR ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD
- RAILWAY
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
- PROVINCIAL PARK
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY (LOWER TIER)

NOTES:
NOTE1: BASE DATA ACQUIRED FROM LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO.

0 5 10 20 30 km

SCALE 1:650,000
PAGE SIZE 11 x 17
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N

THIS MAP IS FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

GREAT BEAR GOLD PROJECT

SPATIAL BOUNDARIES FOR INDIGENOUS PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND STRUCTURES, SITES, OR THINGS

SLR

FIGURE NO:
14.7-1

DATE: November 19, 2025 PROJECT NO: 241.030825

14.7.2 Existing Conditions

A summary of existing conditions for Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, along with the methods used to characterize baseline conditions is informed by Project-specific TKLUS reports provided by participating Indigenous Nations (e.g., LSFN, NWOMC, WFN) that outlines traditional use of the PA, LSA, and RSA for harvesting and other cultural activities with links to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage. The discussion also draws on publicly available sources, including academic literature, government reports, and information available on participating Indigenous Nation websites (e.g., ANA, LSFN, MNO, NWOMC, WFN websites). For this assessment, it is assumed that any traditional use locations, whether current or historical, may hold heritage meaning and value to any Indigenous Peoples that use the area, which may include Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.7.2.1 Methods

The assessment includes consideration of the archaeology and cultural heritage pVCs, along with the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes Criteria, and Project-specific TKLUS reports, since these collectively describe places and practices of possible heritage interest to the potentially affected Indigenous communities. Specifically, the archaeology and cultural heritage pVCs provide information on the physical heritage places that are protected under the OHA and hold potential importance to Indigenous communities. The current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes criteria captures ongoing traditional activities that both extend from and pass forward from these Indigenous communities' physical and cultural heritage places, values, and teachings.

The archaeology studies (Appendix Q-1) and cultural heritage studies (Appendix P-1) undertaken in support of this Impact Statement were consulted for information on the identification of physical heritage as required under the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) and Ontario Regulations (O. Reg.) 9/06 and 10/06. The terrestrial archaeology assessment report is in Appendix Q-1, and the marine archaeological assessment report is Appendix Q-2. Project-specific traditional use studies provided by potentially affected Indigenous communities were used to further inform on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. These confidential sources are not appended to the IS.

This assessment also used available public sources and engagement records. However, defining Indigenous physical and cultural heritage in relation to the Project remains somewhat interpretive, as its holistic continuity with traditional land- and water-based cultural places and activities, including the transfer of intergenerational knowledge, makes it challenging to consider in isolation. For this reason, a conservative approach to the identification of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage was used. An inclusive approach was also applied specifically to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes: all places and practices considered in relation to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes were regarded as having possible heritage value.

Publicly available sources used in the assessment of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage include:

- Publicly available WFN legal correspondence regarding industrial development and its management in their traditional territory
- Publicly available ANA submissions to IAAC regarding the Project and its assessment

- Publicly available NWOMC submissions to IAAC regarding the Project and its assessment
- Academic literature, including published books and articles and unpublished theses and dissertations.
- Sources available through community websites for ANA, LSFN, NWOMC, WFN including background on the communities and their histories.
- Sources available through the Free Grassy Narrows website, including the 2018 ANA declaration of an Indigenous Sovereignty and Protected, as well as summaries and archives of articles and studies on ANA's recent history, and correspondence regarding development activities by ANA community members.
- Traditional use studies shared publicly in relation to proposed development projects
- Government documents and reports on the Treaty #3 area and its Anishinaabe signatories, and on the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods historic Métis Community
- Reports prepared for Grand Council Treaty #3, which represents Treaty #3 signatory communities
- Recent news or information articles and websites
- Sources and summaries available from online resources

In addition to the publicly available sources of information listed, the description of existing conditions was informed by confidential reports prepared by or for participating Indigenous Nations (e.g., LSFN, NWOMC, ANA). The information in these reports is considered proprietary to the respective Indigenous communities. Therefore, they are generally identified as confidential reports in this assessment.

While this includes known heritage and use as identified by LSFN, NWOMC, WFN at the time of writing this Impact Statement, the results of ANA's Land Use and Occupancy Study are not yet available. However, the Great Bear Resources is aware that the Project is located in the ANA Interim Core Area of Interest for Mining and their proposed Indigenous Protected Conservation Area for moose.

14.7.2.2 Description

The description of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area includes a description of the historic, and where applicable current land use and governance of these sites, areas, or things of significance.

14.7.2.3 Past and Current Traditional Use of Heritage Places and Practices

The heritage elements of traditional places and practices for Indigenous Peoples are rooted in past use, which often continues to maintain its heritage importance to the present day because of ongoing use of lands and waters. Heritage value also develops and evolves over time.

14.7.2.3.1 Historical Context of Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls Area

Physical and cultural heritage in the area is informed by historic use of the land for industrial and commercial purposes. This includes the regional increase in forestry and tourism that created additional commercial and wage economic roles for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. However, LSFN, WFN, and ANA have identified that these activities put increased pressure on lands and resources that it required, shifting subsistence activities for Indigenous Peoples.

Historic use of the Treaty 3 territory by Anishinaabeg and by the historic Métis community (defined based on the group of Métis families identified in the Métis adhesion in 1875, see Section 14.6 for further detail) navigated a large system of terrestrial and water-based trails and travelways. For both Anishinaabeg and the historic Métis community, portages were important travel links across terrestrial landscapes, waterways, and waterbodies (Taylor-Hollings 2017). Seasonal rounds of harvesting were integrated into cultural, social, and spiritual practices that were shared on the land and water intergenerationally.

Exchanges between Europeans and Anishinaabeg in the region moved goods across Treaty 3 territories through trading posts that ran between Hudson's Bay and Lake Winnipeg. These trading posts and sites maintain cultural heritage value for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, as they mark cultural, social, and political histories on the landscape.

The historic Métis community in the region became crucial to the success of fur trading activities, due to their geography and linguistic knowledges, and ability to facilitate between Indigenous and non-Indigenous fur traders. Métis worked as interpreters, provisioners, guides, and staff from the 18th century onward (The Métis Nation of Ontario 2024).

Direct trade with the Hudson's Bay Company was established in the 1700s, with more substantial records of trading posts established at locations in the region by 1821. These include at Rainy Lake, Rainy River, and Lake of the Woods (The Métis Nation of Ontario 2024). While limited information is available for the area of Kenora and Dryden, trading posts have been identified in the RSA at Red Lake, Lac Seul, and the confluence of the Chukuni and English rivers (Appendix Q-1; Taylor-Hollings 2017). The Anishinaabeg of the Grassy Narrows reserve continued a land- and water-oriented lifeway that included trapping in winter and spring, and trading at HBC posts at Oak Lake, Wilcox Lake and Ball Lake, until, in 1911, the HBC established a post at Grassy Narrows (Shkilnyk 1985; Vecsey 1987).

The construction of a hydro-electric dam in 1929 at Ear Falls changed the water levels of Lac Seul as well as other waterbodies in the region, flooding reserve lands and altering Anishinaabe settlements, activities, and livelihoods. LSFN identified that places of cultural heritage importance, such as burials, were submerged with these floods, or eroded as shorelines changed. In the early 1960s, the federal government relocated the people on the Grassy Narrows reserve to a site with road access that would facilitate the delivery of health, education and other services (Free Grasst Narrows, n.d.-a)(Shkilnyk, 1985; Vecsey, 1987).

However, this move placed families further from their traditionally used trapline areas, as well as valued wild rice lakes, established garden plots, and commercial fishing locations (Free Grassy Narrows n.d.-a; Vecsey 1987). These continue to have seasonal implications for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area on their traditional use sites (see Section 14.6).

Commercial interest in traditional harvesting practices, including trapping and wild ricing, shifted the harvesting areas available for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. LSFN has identified that the introduction of the trapline registry in the 1930s and 1940s assigned traplines based on Anishinaabe traditional use areas, though these were not always assigned in ways that reflected historic use of traplines. LSFN has identified that while they traditionally had a seasonal approach to land use and harvesting, the trapline regulations restricted this while providing non-Indigenous trappers some of the traditional Indigenous traplines in the region.

Similarly, LSFN and WFN noted that licensing of wild rice (manoomin) harvesting in the 1970s onward meant that non-Indigenous individuals from outside the RSA and region controlled the wild rice waterbodies and waterways that had been previously harvested by Indigenous Peoples. With these commercial and industrial changes, traditional use sites shifted in their availability and use, while separating Indigenous families from important food and income sources.

Issues relating to traditional economy and foodways were compounded for ANA and WFN during the 1970s upon learning that untreated mercury from the Dryden Chemicals Ltd. Plant had been dumped into the English-Wabigoon River System, upstream from the historic Grassy Narrows reserve (Free Grassy Narrows n.d.-a; Shkilnyk 1985; Vecsey 1987). Commercial fishing in the system was immediately banned, and recreational fishing at fishing lodges was also impacted, though, due to the importance of fish in Anishinaabe diet, some individuals continued to harvest and eat fish from contaminated waters (Shkilnyk 1985; Vecsey 1987).

The effects to commercial and recreational fishing changed a largely employed community to a largely unemployed one, and 90% of Grassy Narrow residents have since been found to suffer from ongoing mercury poisoning (Brophy 2005; CBC News 2021; Free Grassy Narrows n.d.-a; Shkilnyk 1985; Vecsey 1987).

The historic use of these sites, areas, and landscapes creates the physical and cultural heritage places and practices of importance to Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. This includes the formation of archaeological sites, continuation of traditional harvesting practices, or living memory of important hunting, trapping, gathering, fishing, or other resource harvesting areas as places of cultural teaching. At the same time, these industrial and commercial changes to the land have eroded elements of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage in the region, such as the disruption of Indigenous intergenerational knowledge transfer through the *Indian Act,* residential schools, and industrial development on traditional lands and waters in Treaty 3 territory.

14.7.2.3.2 Current Heritage Perspectives of Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls

Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area continue to actively harvest throughout their traditional territories (for a full outline of current use, see Section 14.6, as well as concerns identified in Section 14.4). These practices remain an extension of cultural heritage and values, situating language, beliefs, and knowledge in the land.

Current use of these lands and resources is described further in Section 14.6. Information provided highlights the heritage components of past and current use of lands and resources.

LSFN have identified that their members harvest edible mushrooms within the PA, though heritage elements of these places or activities are not emphasized.

However, plant gathering sites may provide context for intergenerational knowledge transfer (inclusive of cultural heritage transfer). LSFN and WFN have identified several historic harvesting, trapping, fishing, and plant gathering sites in the LSA, including at the mouth of the Chukuni River, around Pakwash Lake, and between Ear Falls and Pakwash Lake. Several unspecified areas in the LSA have also been identified as past village sites and traditional travel routes. These include many of the same areas where LSFN and WFN currently trap, including Trout Lake, around Lac Seul, as well as additional historically used areas in the RSA north of Red Lake.

LSFN and WFN have identified that their community members continue to navigate waterways and waterbodies in the LSA that have Anishinaabe language descriptions denoting places, features, and connections with their communities. These historical uses and traditional water-based travel routes indicate continued use of lands and waters that contain physical and cultural heritage value through their continued use as place and source of knowledge transfer.

ANA has indicated that their members hunt in the area south of Red Lake due to declines in moose populations closer to their reserve location. Fishing and aquatic harvesting in the LSA has been identified by ANA along the Chukuni River, noting that the health of the English River downstream of the Chukuni has been a concern as well (Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek 2024) Additionally, ANA has a trapline in the RSA, RL061.

As noted in Section 14.6, cultural heritage landscapes used by the historic Métis community continue to be important for maintaining cultural heritage for NWOMC, knowledge translation, ceremony, and supplementing income. Important areas of physical and cultural heritage identified by NWOMC in the LSA incudes: the Chukuni River, Pakwash Lake, and Ear Falls. These are identified as areas of historic use and occupation.

Additional high-use areas of cultural and physical heritage value for Métis citizens in the LSA include unspecified locations of historical trading or Hudson's Bay Company posts, camps and cabins, or other undisclosed cultural and historic sites.

These identified sites and areas may not be identifiable under the regulatory requirements for cultural heritage sites. However, they reflect the continued cultural importance of these harvesting, habitation, and historic areas as places of tangible and intangible cultural and physical heritage for Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.7.2.4 Archaeological Sites

Archaeological science relies on physical evidence and material remains to understand past ways of life. Because physical evidence is used to define archaeological sites, these may not always capture intangible forms of cultural heritage, although these are discussed in the context of cultural heritage and Indigenous Knowledge studies (see Section 7.14 and Section 7.15).

Participating Indigenous Nations have provided feedback on Project-specific archaeological studies, site visits, and related discussions that complement the archaeological perspectives on Anishinaabeg and Métis views on the importance of archaeological findings. Per Ontario's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* archaeological site significance has been discussed and will be decided with Indigenous communities, and those decisions will be documented (Ministry of Tourism and Culture 2011).

Under OHA requirements, archaeological studies supporting the Project to date have included Stage 1,2, and 3 desktop and field studies for terrestrial areas (Appendix Q-1). A marine archaeological study (inclusive of desktop and fieldwork) focused on waterbodies was also carried out, inclusive of fieldwork and desktop research
(Appendix Q-2) All archaeological work to date falls within the LSA of the Indigenous physical and cultural heritage criteria (see Section 7.15).

Areas identified as having archaeological potential in the PA include: Unnamed Waterbody 1, and Unnamed Waterbody 2 (Appendix Q-2). Areas identified as having archaeological potential in the LSA include: Unnamed Waterbody 6, Pakwash Lake, Dixie Lake, Dixie Creek, and the Chukuni River (Appendix Q-2). No archaeological materials were identified in either Unnamed Waterbody 1 or the Chukuni River during the 2024 and 2025 fieldwork supporting the marine archaeological study (Appendix Q-2).

The 2024 and 2025 fieldwork supporting the marine archaeological study involved visual inspections of Unnamed Waterbody 1, as well as the Chukuni River, where an effluent discharge pipe is planned; no archaeological materials were identified (Stephenson 2025; Marquis 2025).

Stage 2 terrestrial archaeological survey work resulted in the identification of five previously undocumented Pre-Contact archaeological studies within the PA and LSA (Appendix Q-1). These sites include:

- EfKj-1: late Woodland period site on Unnamed Waterbody 1
- EfKj-2: Pre-contact period site on Dixie Creek
- EfKj-3: Late Paleo period site on Unnamed Waterbody 6
- EfKj-4: Lake Paleo period site on Unnamed Waterbody 6
- EeKi-4: Middle and Late Woodland period site on Pakwash Lake.

LSFN and WFN identified EeKi-4 as a sacred site during engagement at the July 31, 2024, Environmental Management Committee meeting for the Project. As such, archaeological studies for EeKi-4 have not proceeded to Stage 3.

Stage 3 work has been undertaken at EfKj-1, EfKj-2, EfKj-3, and EfKj-4. No further work was pursued at EeKi-4 due to its distance from the PA. As outlined in Ontario's *Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists* (MTCG 2011), affected Indigenous communities must be engaged during Stage 3 when assessing the cultural heritage value or interest of sites which are (a) the subject of Indigenous oral history, (b) have known or potential sacred or spiritual importance, or (c) show an association with traditional land use or geographic features of cultural heritage interest. These communities must also be engaged when formulating the Stage 4 mitigation strategy for Indigenous sites characterized as rare, sacred, or of Woodland age.

These requirements are applicable to EfKj-1, EfKj-2, EfKj-3, and EfKj-4, and based on these sites' Pre-Contact cultural materials and affiliations, LSFN and WFN have shared Anishinaabe perspectives on them during site visits during the Stage 3 work in 2024 and 2025 (Appendix Q-1), indicating, in the course of their Stage 3 site visits, that they regard EfKj-1, EfKj-2, EfKj-3 and EfKj-4 as holding clear cultural interest and community value. On this basis, avoidance has been selected as the means to mitigate potential effects on these sites.

For the archaeological sites identified in or near the PA, archaeological reports have been shared with Indigenous communities. Based on input from LSFN and WFN, avoidance of all potentially affected archaeological sites has been selected as the mitigation.

14.7.2.5 Cultural Heritage Landscapes and Built Heritage Resources

Cultural landscapes are an importance consideration for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, as they create a network of interrelated places and practices that link cultural and subsistence activities across traditional use areas. They are commonly comprised of multiple locations of heritage importance.

Per Ontario regulatory requirements, cultural heritage landscapes are defined as:

> *…a defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association. (Ontario 2024: 41)*

Built heritage resources may be included within cultural heritage landscapes or occur separately. Ontario regulatory requirements define built heritage resources as:

> *a building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured or constructed part or remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including an Indigenous community. (Ontario 2024: 40)*

For the purposes of cultural heritage studies in Ontario, including the one undertaken for this Project, cultural heritage landscape features may be individually identified and described as "cultural heritage resources" (CHR) to simplify and facilitate discussion of elements indicative of cultural heritage landscapes (see Section 14.7). OHA uses a 40-year moving window as a threshold for identifying when a building or a landscape has cultural heritage value or interest, as discussed under the OHA and used in these definitions. However, the ongoing use of Indigenous heritage places or resources may not fit with this approach, and Indigenous heritage may include elements that are not captured by federal or provincial regulatory frameworks.

In the RSA, waterbodies once used for wild rice harvesting may no longer support wild rice stands due to changes in water levels caused by hydroelectric damming in the English-Wabigoon River system. However, these areas, as well as waterbodies used for fishing and travel, may still form parts of cultural heritage landscapes because of their known historical use. Wild rice lakes also hold potential for future Indigenous use through the restoration of suitable conditions or access.

Five sites holding Indigenous physical or cultural heritage value were identified in the Project's Cultural Heritage Report (Appendix P-1). Of these, one was identified in the PA (CHR 3, a wild rice site), and four were identified in the LSA: CHR 1, CHR 2, CHR 4, and CHR 5. CHR 5 in the LSA was also associated with wild rice fields. The remaining sites were associated with hunting, fishing, and water travel routes. No changes to CHRs 2, 4 and 5 are anticipated, as they are located outside the PA.

CHR 1, designated Chukuni River, is located within the PA and adjacent parts of the LSA. It was identified because:

> *"The river may have cultural heritage significance for local Indigenous Nations as it supports customary practices such as harvesting, hunting and was historically used as a canoe transportation route. This watercourse may have heritage significance for historical / associative and contextual reasons."* (Appendix P-1, p. 22)

The Cultural Heritage Report (Appendix P-1) indicates that, while the segment of the Chukuni River that comprises CHR 1 falls partly within the PA, it will not be subject to direct or indirect effects from the Project. Specifically, the report anticipates that the planned effluent pipe to be installed in this location will not hinder river use for travel, and discharge from the pipe will avoid changing water and fish by adhering to regulatory requirements for water quality and quantity (Appendix P-1, p. 27).

The Project cannot avoid CHR 3, which includes the wild rice fields between Unnamed Waterbody 1 and 2. A Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) for CHR 3 was undertaken to determine if it has cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) as defined by Ontario Regulation (O. Reg 9/06) in the OHA.

The CHER determined that CHR 3 meets multiple criteria for CHVI based on its historical, associative, and contextual value (Appendix P-2). A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) prepared in consultation with Indigenous communities is required to identify appropriate conservation strategies and / or mitigation measures (Appendix P-3). Consistent with the findings of the CHIA, Great Bear Resources' engagement with LSFN and WFN regarding Unnamed Waterbody 1's wild rice stands has resulted in the collaborative development of the Wild Rice Enhancement Project (see Section 7.14).

No historic Métis community cultural heritage sites were recorded within the PA, though several historic Métis community sites were identified in the LSA and the RSA. In the LSA, historic occupations were identified (including overnight camps and cabins), as well as sites that hold cultural heritage, sacred, or spiritual values, as well as contemporary gathering sites.

Waterbodies used historically for wild rice harvesting have also been identified in the RSA, though they no longer support wild rice habitats. Historical trapping areas have been identified by LSFN and WFN in the LSA that were used by their ancestors. These include many of the same areas where LSFN and WFN currently trap, including Trout Lake, around Lac Seul, as well as additional historically used areas in the RSA north of Red Lake (see Section 14.6.2.2.5). These areas, along with waterbodies used for fishing and travel in the LSA and RSA may still form part of the cultural heritage landscapes for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.7.3 Potential Effects

The potential interactions between the proposed Project activities and Indigenous physical and cultural heritage for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area identifies the possible effects resulting from these interactions, including both positive and negative effects, as well as whether they are direct or indirect. It examines the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes criteria and the pVCs of archaeology and cultural heritage (Sections 14.6 and 14.7), along with Project-specific studies conducted to support their assessment; for the two pVCs, the focus is on Indigenous input as required under the OHA.

The results of engagement and consultation beyond archaeological and cultural heritage studies are also considered in relation to the potential Project effects on aspects of current land and resource use with heritage significance.

A detailed overview of the Project's potential interactions with community services and infrastructure for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area is presented in Table 14.7-1. Project interactions are characterized as either having no interaction (-) or a potential interaction (✓). Project activities that result in no interaction were not considered further in the assessment. Project interactions that were identified as a potential interaction are carried forward to the potential effects assessment to determine the positive (desirable and beneficial) and negative (undesirable or adverse) potential effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage.

Table 14.7-1: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage and Structures, Sites or Things of Significance

Project Component / Activity	Alteration or destruction of sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	Change in access to or quality of experience with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	Change in sacred, ceremonial, spiritual and cultural values (including language, stories and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites
Construction Phase			
Site preparation activities	✓	✓	✓
Establishment and operation of water management and treatment facilities	✓	✓	✓
Open pit mining	✓	✓	✓
Underground mining	-	-	-
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	✓	✓	✓
Establishment of onsite fish habitat and compensation measures	✓	✓	✓
Establishment of onsite aggregate operations	✓	✓	✓
Construction of the starter embankments for the tailings management facility	✓	✓	✓

Project Component / Activity	Alteration or destruction of sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	Change in access to or quality of experience with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	Change in sacred, ceremonial, spiritual and cultural values (including language, stories and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites
Construction and operation of buildings and infrastructure	✓	✓	✓
Waste management	-	-	-
Commissioning of the process plant	✓	✓	✓
Power supply	✓	✓	✓
Employment and expenditures	-	-	-
Operations Phase			
Underground mining	-	-	-
Mining of the LP Central pit	✓	✓	✓
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	✓	✓	✓
Process plant operation	✓	✓	✓
Management of desulphurized tailings in the tailings management facility	✓	✓	✓
Management of concentrate tailings and contact water in the Viggo management facility	✓	✓	✓
Operation of water management and treatment facilities	✓	✓	✓
Construction of a mine water pond	✓	✓	✓
Operation and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure	✓	✓	✓
Waste management	-	-	-

Project Component / Activity	Alteration or destruction of sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	Change in access to or quality of experience with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites	Change in sacred, ceremonial, spiritual and cultural values (including language, stories and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites
Power supply	-	-	-
Progressive reclamation activities	-	-	-
Employment and expenditures	-	-	-
Closure Phase			
Active closure	✓	✓	✓
Passive closure	-	-	-
Final reclamation	✓	✓	✓
Employment and expenditures	-	-	-

Legend: ✓ = Interaction exists
- = No interaction exists

The interactions identified in Table 14.7-1 are used in Sections 14.6.3.1 to 14.6.3.3 to identify the potential effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage prior to the application of mitigation measures. These potential effects may be direct or indirect negative effects, where applicable.

14.7.3.1 Construction Phase

The construction phase of the Project is expected to occur over a three-year period and will include the preparation of the site and the construction of Project infrastructure.

The construction phase activities identified in Table 14.7-1 were specifically identified and included for consideration due to their potential physical, sensory and experiential effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage places and practices. These activities may result in pathways to potential direct and indirect effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage as follows:

- A loss or alteration of vegetation, which may affect:
  - Plant habitat, current plant harvesting places and opportunities, and related embedded cultural activities supporting intergenerational knowledge transfer
  - Wildlife habitat and current hunting places and opportunities, and related embedded cultural activities supporting intergenerational knowledge transfer
  - Fishing habitat, and current fishing places and opportunities, and related embedded cultural activities supporting intergenerational knowledge transfer

    - Current camping and habitation places and opportunities, and related embedded cultural activities supporting intergenerational knowledge transfer
    - Current trails and travel ways, and related embedded cultural activities supporting intergenerational knowledge transfer
    - Condition of archaeological sites, historical sites, cultural heritage landscapes, and other places with Indigenous heritage values (e.g., historic harvesting areas, historic trail use, landmarks used in navigation or discussed in oral traditions)
- Vegetation and ground disturbance, which may lead to erosion, sedimentation, or other alteration of surface water quality and quantity. This may affect:
    - Fish, wildlife, and plant habitat and current harvesting places and opportunities, and embedded cultural activities supporting intergenerational knowledge transfer
    - the condition of archaeological sites, historical sites, cultural heritage landscapes, and other places with Indigenous heritage value
- Use of vehicles and equipment, blasting and human activity, which may lead to altered wildlife or fish behaviour or increased wildlife or fish mortality, thereby affecting:
    - wildlife and fish habitat, and current hunting and fishing places and opportunities, as well as embedded cultural activities and intergenerational knowledge transfer;
    - the quality of experience and condition of archaeological sites, historical sites, cultural heritage landscapes and other places with Indigenous heritage value;
- Use of vehicles and equipment, blasting, and human activity which may lead to changes in sensory disturbances (e.g., sounds and vibrations, viewsheds, or dust deposition), which may affect:
    - Quality of experience of places and practices currently used for traditional harvesting and cultural activities, including sacred, spiritual, and ceremonial activities, and associated intergenerational knowledge transfer
    - Quality of experience at and condition of archaeological sites, historical sites, cultural heritage landscapes, and other places holding Indigenous heritage value
- Changes in access to:
    - Places currently used in past or present traditional use activities, inclusive of harvesting, camping, travelling, and for sacred, spiritual and ceremonial practices, and any associated intergenerational knowledge transfer
    - Places integrating archaeological sites, historical sites, cultural heritage landscapes, and other places with Indigenous heritage value.

These interactions are similar to those involving the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes criteria because locations still subject to Indigenous use may have Indigenous heritage significance. This is based on their role in ongoing cultural practices established at that place in the past, as well as their importance in passing those practices between generations. These interactions also resemble those in archaeology and cultural heritage (Section 14.6 and Section 14.7), as Indigenous physical and cultural heritage value can be tied to cultural heritage landscape or archaeological sites.

Potential effects may affect Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area if they use this area for their land- and water-based activities, as well as teachers and learners involved in passing on cultural knowledge across generations (e.g., Elders and youth).

These effects will include loss of access to the PA, although access to the LSA will remain. Direct effects are not predicted for the LSA, but some indirect effects, such as sensory disturbances, may occur in parts of the LSA that are proximal to the PA.

14.7.3.2 Operations Phase

The operations phase is anticipated to extend over a 26-year period. The operations phase activities identified in Table 14.7-1 may result in the same pathways to potential physical, sensory, and experiential effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage as the construction phase activities.

While ground disturbance activities and vegetation removal are planned to occur during the construction phase, it is possible that additional ground disturbance or vegetation removal may occur during closure. Specifically, any further vegetation removal, ground disturbance and construction activity linked to expansion or progressive remediation of mining features and facilities may alter vegetation, wildlife and fish, as well as their habitats, and associated harvesting opportunities, thereby disrupting cultural activities linked to Indigenous heritage, including knowledge transmission. Such changes may also affect places and things that derive Indigenous heritage importance from sacred, spiritual, ceremonial, or other cultural practices not directly linked to or embedded in harvesting, as well as archaeological and historic sites, cultural heritage landscapes and other places with Indigenous heritage value. Interactions with operational activities may also alter or hinder access to and use of heritage places and things. Indigenous physical and cultural heritage may experience further potential effects parallel to those of the archaeology and cultural heritage pVCs (Sections 7.14 and 7.15).

Potential effects during the operations phase may affect individual Indigenous Peoples if they use this area for their land- and water-based activities, as well as teachers and learners involved in intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge (e.g., Elders, youth).

These effects will include loss of access to the PA, although access to the LSA will remain. Direct effects are not predicted for the LSA, but some indirect effects, such as sensory disturbances, may occur in parts of the LSA that are proximal to the PA.

14.7.3.3 Closure Phase

The closure phase will be initiated with a three-year active closure period immediately after operations cease, followed by a one-year passive closure period and then a final close-out period anticipated to extend for one year. While ground disturbance activities and vegetation removal are planned to occur during the construction phase, it is possible that additional ground disturbance or vegetation removal may occur during closure.

Closure phase activities may physically disturb plant, wildlife and fish habitats, as well as cultural activities associated with their harvesting, including intergenerational knowledge transfer. They may also alter the physical and sensory character of heritage places and things, thereby affecting the conditions preferred or required to maintain their heritage value, as well as cultural activities that rely on these places and things, including knowledge sharing. Access may also be altered or obstructed.

The closure phase will involve filling mine pits with water and removing infrastructure. Physical activities associated with infrastructure removal and associated remediation have the potential to affect Indigenous physical and cultural heritage through physical, sensory, and experiential disturbances, and obstruction or alteration of access. Culturally valued places, as well as access to these places, may also be affected by physical alterations resulting from erosion or the redirection of surface water.

Potential effects during the closure phase may affect individual Indigenous Peoples if they use the area for their land- and water-based activities, as well as teachers and learners who are actively involved in intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge (e.g., Elders and youth).

These effects will include loss of access to the PA, although access to the LSA will remain. Direct effects are not predicted for the LSA, but some indirect effects, such as sensory disturbances, may occur in parts of the LSA that are proximal to the PA.

14.7.4 Mitigation and Enhancement

Mitigation of potential effects to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage is connected to both the archaeology and cultural heritage pVCs. This is due to the heritage importance recognition by archaeological and cultural heritage practitioners when it aligns with Indigenous communities' values. This occurs when Indigenous communities agree that an archaeological site or cultural heritage landscape feature identified under the OHA is also considered important from their perspective.

For the archaeological sites identified in or near the PA, archaeological reports have been shared with Indigenous communities. Based on input from LSFN and WFN, avoidance of all potentially affected archaeological sites has been selected as the mitigation. Potential effects on the locations identified by the cultural heritage studies within the PA will be mitigated by Project design features at CHR 1 (Chukuni River) and by wild rice research and offsetting for CHR 3 (wild rice stands on Unnamed Waterbody 1).

Great Bear Resources has funded a study by Northern Bioscience and Harris Ecological Consulting to explore and address the loss of historic wild rice production on Wabauskang Lake through wild rice enhancement. In addition to habitat restoration, the Project will incorporate education and knowledge sharing on sustainable harvesting practices, supporting long-term stewardship efforts. Results of this collaborative initiative have potential to inform Indigenous and other wild rice revitalization projects in the future and to support the ongoing presence and success of the species across the region.

The mitigation and enhancement measures for multiple linked biophysical fVCs and (Section 7.0), in combination with the mitigation measures for current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (Section 14.6), further contribute to the mitigation of potential effects to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage. This extends to sites and areas associated with current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. Protection of Indigenous access to and quality of experience of places and resources that are traditionally valued and used for cultural heritage reasons will be mitigated through design and management measures aimed at limiting the physical and temporal extent of sensory effects outside the PA, as well as the need for land users to adjust patterns of movement in the LSA around the lack of access to the PA. Additional mitigations include vibration control and reducing visual disturbance through design, such as the height and placement of mine structures and stockpiles.

The mitigation measures are specific to the potential effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage include:

- **Chance Find Procedure (CFP):** An Archaeological Resources Protection Procedure (Chance Find Procedure) has been established for the Project.
- **Cultural Heritage Protection Plan (CHPP)**: The CHPP will be developed with participating Indigenous Nations to support consistent protection of Indigenous heritage (including intangible values), archaeological and cultural heritage sites. The CHPP will be a version controlled living document, updated through the Change Find Procedure, with decisions documented jointly.

  For the archaeological sites identified in or near the PA, archaeological reports have been shared with Indigenous communities, and, based on input from LSFN and WFN, avoidance of all potentially affected archaeological sites has been selected as the mitigation.
- **Environmental Management Committee**: Great Bear Resources will work with the environmental management committee(s) and interested Indigenous members throughout the duration of the Project (all phases), to facilitate ongoing communications, sharing and integration of Indigenous Knowledge and environmental information, and share and evaluate Project approvals, adaptive management and monitoring plans, and address emerging issues and interests identified by Indigenous Nations.
- **Environmental monitors:** Great Bear Resources will continue to work with the Environmental Management Committee and engage Indigenous environmental monitors from local communities in the implementation of mitigation and monitoring.
- **Indigenous-led ceremonies:** Great Bear Resources is committed to incorporate appropriate ceremonial practices into the Project. Ceremonies will be held under the direction of local Indigenous Nations.

Attached Table 14.1-1 includes mitigation measures applicable to the management of effects on pVCs and fVCs that are linked to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage by Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. It includes relevant plans, policies, and measures from predictive reporting on linked pVCs and fVCs.

14.7.5 GBA Plus Considerations

During the life of the Project, the PA will be inaccessible. This is expected to last for approximately 30 years once construction commences. Sites of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage importance in the PA include a waterbody with a wild rice stand.

As presented in Appendix X, the GBA Plus subgroups that could experience negative effects as a result of restricted access include:

- Indigenous Peoples. This includes men+, women+, Elders and youth. The inability to access sites of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage importance may result in the loss of knowledge transmission across multiple generations for that location.

14.7.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation

After the implementation of mitigation measures assessment and characterization of potential residual effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage structures, sites, or things of significance is completed using the methodology outlined in Section 6. Further details on residual effect criteria ratings that are specific to physical and cultural heritage sites or things are defined in Section 6 and in Section 14.3.2.

The attached Table 14.1-1 summarizes the results of the assessment for the linked pVC and fVC components. Detailed description on the methods, existing conditions, mitigation measures, and residual effects can be found in their respective sections.

Based on the assessment of linked pVCs and fVCs, residual changes after mitigation considered as part of the assessment of residual effects on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage structures, sites, or things of significance include:

- Cultural Heritage (pVC)

There are other linked pVCs and fVCs listed in Table 14.1-1 and section 14.1 that do not have residual changes after mitigation measures have been applied. This includes the linked fVC Fish and Fish Habitat, and linked pVCs of Wild Rice (Manoomin), Land and Resource Use and Archaeology. This means that Project activities will not change their existing conditions over the Project life cycle. Therefore, those linked fVC and pVCs are not carried forward into the residual effects assessment for Indigenous Peoples living the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.7.6.1 Residual Effects to Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage after Mitigation

Sections 14.7.6.2.1, 14.7.6.2.2, and 14.7.6.2.3 summarize the results of the residual effects assessment for the three potential effects to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage. These sections draw from the two linked pVCs of archaeology and cultural heritage, and the criteria of current use of land and resources for traditional purposes.

These are the three sources of information that encompass both tangible and intangible places and things relevant to the assessment of Indigenous physical and cultural heritage. Table 14.7.2 summarizes the potential effects that remain after mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented.

Table 14.7-2: Residual Effects Remaining after Mitigation Measures for Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage – Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area

Potential Effect	Potential Residual Effect Remaining
Alteration or destruction of sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites.	Y
Change in access to or quality of experience with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites.	Y
Change in sacred, ceremonial, spiritual and cultural values (including language, stories and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance, including archaeological, historical, or architectural sites.	Y

14.7.6.1.1 Residual Effects on Alteration or Destruction of Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance

Sites and areas of Indigenous heritage important considers archaeological, cultural heritage sites, and traditional use sites that have either historical use identified or heritage value as sites where Indigenous Knowledge can be shared intergenerationally. As outlined in Section 14.7.2.3 and Section 14.7.2.4, it is anticipated that the alteration or destruction of cultural heritage sites or areas will occur primarily during the construction phase.

It is anticipated that alteration or destruction of traditional use sites and areas will have direct effects in the PA (relating to trapline RL059 and mushroom gathering) and indirect effects in the LSA (relating to traditional gathering and harvesting areas).

There will be no access to the active mine site across Project phases due to safety. The Project overlaps with trapline RL059, which was previously owned by WFN members in the mid-20th century and currently registered to an LSFN member. Although the trapline may have held historical importance, the WFN Project-specific Indigenous Knowledge does not indicate current use of the area or a relationship with the region covered by the trapline. The PA also holds areas of cultural heritage importance for LSFN members that use the area for gathering edible mushrooms and overlaps with a waterbody that is associated with a wild rice stand. While there are no identified current uses or records of use of this wild rice site by ANA, LSFN, NWOMC, or WFN wild rice is of general cultural importance for Anishinaabeg and Metis Peoples in the Treaty 3 territory.

Project activities through construction to closure may result in a localized change in environmental conditions within the PA, which could directly affect access to harvesting sites of heritage value for Indigenous Peoples in the PA, and indirectly affect harvesting practices of cultural heritage value within the LSA.

Archaeological work to date has confirmed that the Project will not impact archaeological site EeKi-4, as it is located beyond the archaeology pVC LSA and RSA (Appendix Q-1). Although EfKj-2, EfKj-3 and EfKj-4 are located closer to the PA, they are also beyond the archaeology LSA and RSA (Appendix Q-1). As there are no residual changes to archaeological sites after mitigations (including the Chance Find Procedure), no residual effect to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage associated with archaeological sites is anticipated for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

As the cultural heritage report indicated that CHR 3, located in Unnamed Waterbody 3 within the PA, cannot be avoided due to its imprint, a subsequent CHER determined that CHR 3 meets multiple criteria for a CHVI. This is based on its historical / associative and contextual value (Appendix P-2). A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (Appendix P-3) has been prepared in consultation with Indigenous communities.

Consistent with the CHIA, wild rice research and offsetting have been selected as appropriate mitigations, based on input from LSFN and WFN. Specifically, Great Bear Resources has funded a study by Northern Bioscience and Harris Ecological Consulting to explore and address the loss of historic wild rice production on Wabauskang Lake through wild rice enhancement. This collaborative initiative has the potential to inform subsequent wild rice revitalization projects for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

This also has the potential to align with concerns by LSFN, NWOMC and WFN relating to the well-being of these valued historical and cultural resources across the region.

Based on the loss of the wild rice stand at Unnamed Waterbody 1 and of access to the trapline and plant gathering areas in the PA during Project construction and operations, a residual effect to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage associated with traditional use places and activities is anticipated. No residual effects to Indigenous physical and cultural heritage associated with archaeological sites is anticipated.

The residual effects characterization is summarized in Table 14.7-3.

Table 14.7-3: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Alteration or Destruction of Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures.
Magnitude	Level I	Project-related change that is insufficient to alter how Indigenous heritage structures, sites or things, are used, accessed or experienced. Anticipated changes are low in magnitude due to Project's limited physical footprint relative to the broader land base, and the documentation and development of management and mitigation measures outlined in Section 14.7.4, as well as ongoing consultation with local Indigenous Nations to support and maintain Indigenous heritage in the PA and LSA
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly.
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated:

14.7.6.1.2 Residual Effects on Access to or Quality of experience with Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance

As outlined in Section 14.7.2.3 and Section 14.7.2.4, it is anticipated that sensory disturbances (dust, sound, vibrations) will be ongoing across all Project phases. Indigenous community members who access the LSA for harvesting at heritage sites, or access other cultural and physical heritage sites and areas are anticipated to have changes to their experience due to these Project-related sensory disturbances and changes to the visual landscape.
These changes will remain in place through construction to closure, which could directly affect access and quality of experience relating to intergenerational knowledge sharing and cultural continuation in areas of the LSA where Project components are visible.

For Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, the PA overlaps with terrestrial locations and resources that have historical and cultural importance. Loss of access to these areas due to the Project will affect these activities. No residual effects involving changes in access to or quality of experience with archaeological sites or cultural heritage landscapes of Indigenous heritage importance are anticipated for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

The associated characterizations are based on the following assumptions regarding the effectiveness of relevant mitigations: It is assumed that application of mitigations for Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, as well as linked pVCs, protect Indigenous access to and quality of experience of heritage sites, areas and things. It is assumed that mitigation measures which restore access and quality of experience at closure, e.g., reclamation, are sufficiently advanced that conditions after 32 years are consistent with those needed for heritage practices and quality of experience. It is also assumed that mitigation measures for sensory effects restrict residual changes to that PA such that their frequency in areas accessible to Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area during the Project is infrequent, and their timing does not affect sensitive seasonal periods (e.g., fall harvest of wildlife and plants in the LSA).

The residual effect characterization is summarized in Table 14.7-4.

Table 14.7-4: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Change in Access to or Quality of experience with Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures:
Magnitude	Level I	Project-related change that is insufficient to alter how Indigenous heritage structures, sites or things, are used, accessed or experienced. Anticipated changes are low in magnitude due to the Project's limited physical footprint (PA) relative to the broader land base, and indirect effects on accessing sites of physical and cultural heritage value in the LSA.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly.
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.7.6.1.3 Residual Effect on Sacred, Ceremonial, Spiritual, and Cultural Values Associated with Sites or Areas of Indigenous Heritage Importance

As outlined in Section 14.7.2.3 and Section 14.7.2.4,it is anticipated that loss of access to a cultural heritage site in the PA (relating to gathering edible mushrooms and historic trapline area) and sensory changes (change to visual landscape) to other cultural and physical heritage sites and areas in the LSA are anticipated to affect the ability to share knowledge relating to ceremony, spiritual and sacred beliefs, and cultural values for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

These changes will remain in place through construction to closure, which could directly affect access and quality of experience relating to intergenerational knowledge sharing and cultural continuation in areas of the LSA where Project components are visible.

No residual effects involving changes in access to or quality of experience with archaeological sites or cultural heritage landscapes of Indigenous heritage importance are anticipated for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

The associated characterizations are based on the following assumptions regarding the effectiveness of relevant mitigations: It is assumed that application of mitigations for Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, as well as linked pVCs, protects heritage sites, areas and things that support cultural values and knowledge, as well as intergenerational knowledge transfer. It is assumed that mitigation measures which restore access and quality of experience at closure (e.g., reclamation) are sufficiently advanced that conditions after 32 years are consistent with those needed for practicing, teaching and learning activities that support Indigenous cultural heritage. It is also assumed that mitigation measures for sensory effects restrict residual changes to the PA such that their frequency in areas accessible Indigenous Peoples during the Project is infrequent, and their timing does not affect sensitive seasonal periods key to practicing and sharing cultural activities (e.g., fall harvest of wildlife and plants in the LSA).

The residual effects characterization is summarized in Table 14.7-5.

Table 14.7-5: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect on Sacred, Ceremonial, Spiritual, and Cultural Values (including language, stories, and traditions) associated with sites or areas of Indigenous heritage importance

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures:
Magnitude	Level I	Project-related change that is insufficient to alter how Indigenous heritage structures, sites or things, are used, accessed or experienced. Anticipated changes are low in magnitude due to the Project's limited physical footprint relative to the broader land base, and indirect effects on accessing sites of physical and cultural heritage value for intergenerational knowledge sharing in the PA and LSA.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly.
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.7.7 Significance of Residual Effects

The magnitude of the effect on Indigenous physical and cultural heritage due to Project-related activities is low (Level I) and restricted to the PA and LSA (Level I). The effect will occur intermittently (Level II), and it will occur through construction, operations and closure (Level II). It will be partially reversible at closure (Level II). The limited spatial extent of the Project, along with design and mitigation measures, including provision for ceremonies in the PA as appropriate, reduce any Project contribution (Level I). The residual effect is therefore not significant.

14.7.8 Confidence

The prediction confidence assignment reflects the information available through Project-specific TKLUS reports, publicly available data (statistical websites, government pages, previously completed EA/IS reports), understanding of the effectiveness of applicable mitigation measures, and outcomes of other pVCs and fVCs. The assessment is informed by substantial primary and secondary information and robust analysis however, as noted in the assessment, there are some instances where the information collected had data gaps or lacked detail.

The overall confidence in residual environmental effect and significance predictions for Indigenous physical and cultural heritage and structures, sites or things of significance is moderate. As additional information continues to be shared through Great Bear Resources' ongoing consultation with local Indigenous communities over Project life, relevant information will be incorporated into Project planning as practical.

14.8 Community Well-being

Community well-being was identified as a criteria as it reflects the broader social and economic conditions that influence quality of life. These conditions may be directly or indirectly affected by Project-related changes to social determinants of health including, income, employment, housing affordability, food security, access to services, community cohesion, and access to land and resources. community cohesion. These factors are considered individually and collectively to assess the broader social and economic conditions that contribute to health, stability, resilience and quality of life of Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area across the LSA and RSA.

The community well-being assessment incorporates the following key themes, reflected in the structure of the existing conditions and effects assessment:

- Social determinants of health (e.g. income, employment, housing, cost of living, traditional economy and education level, access to health and social services)
- Community cohesion (e.g. household dynamics, gender-based and caregiver vulnerabilities, family stability, and community inclusion)
- Public Safety (e.g. crime and gender-based violence, safety risks for women+, girls+, and 2SLGBTQIA plus people, where "women+" and "girls+" refer to women, girls, and some non-binary individuals as defined by Statistics Canada)
- Access to land and resources (e.g. harvesting, cultural practices, and land stewardship).
- Population dynamics (e.g. regional population growth, mobility, and demographics)

- Economic opportunity and inequality (e.g. access to employment and training, and barriers for Indigenous and vulnerable groups)

A GBA Plus lens was applied to consider the experiences of diverse groups (e.g., Elders, youth, 2SLGBTQL plus, and women+). The assessment integrates desktop research and qualitative data from interviews with key service providers to develop a comprehensive understanding of existing conditions and potential effects on community well-being.

Information sources include a desktop baseline socio-economic report (Appendix O-1), publicly available statistics, academic literature, media reports, and non-confidential Indigenous Knowledge and land use information, where available.

As outlined in the Section 14.3.2, Effects Assessment Criteria and summarized in Table 14.3, the assessment draws on a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators covering housing and cost of living, income inequality, service capacity, safety, employment participation, household pressures, community cohesion, and access to traditional resources. These indicators align directly with the themes and form the basis for evaluating changes in community well-being.

14.8.1 Spatial Boundaries

There are three study areas within the spatial boundaries. They are the Project Area (PA), the Local Study Area (LSA), and the Regional Study Area (RSA), which includes both the PA and the LSA. The spatial boundaries used for the assessment of community well-being are shown in Figure 14.8-1 and are defined:

- The PA is defined as the footprint of the Project including all temporary and permanent areas associated with the mine site, as well as a buffer to allow flexibility for design optimizations prior to construction and over the mine life (Section 6.4). The PA is approximately 3,349 hectares (ha) in size.
- The LSA is the area within which Project-related effects may reasonably be expected to occur and can be predicted or measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy and confidence. The regions that the Project's socio-economic demands are expected to influence, possibly causing direct, indirect and / or induced effects on community well-being include the Indigenous communities of ANA, LSFN, NWOMC (the community of Métis citizens in the region), WFN and the Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area
- The RSA encompasses the LSA and is used to provide regional context for the significance of residual effects and is also the area within which potential for cumulative effects of the Project in combination with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects or activities are considered. The region surrounding the LSA and the PA may also experience direct, indirect, and / or induced effects on community well-being due to the socio-economic demands of the Project. This could include transportation corridors, and / or services which operate throughout the region. The RSA for community well-being is the District of Kenora. The RSA is the region which cumulative effects are likely to occur.

These boundaries are consistent with those used for community services and infrastructure (Section 14.5).

Last Saved: November 19, 2025 8:54 AM by eappel

GIS PATH: G:_Projects\241\241_031748_Kinross_GreatBearLake\1_Maps\RPT\RPT_202511\RPT_202511_RL_EF\241_030825_RL_EF.aprx || 241_030825_14.8-1_SpBoundaries_CommunityWellbeing

KAHNAHMAYKOOSAYSEEKAHK
WOODLAND CARIBOU PROVINCIAL PARK (WILDERNESS CLASS)
TROUT LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
MUNICIPALITY OF RED LAKE
HIGHWAY 125
PAKWASH PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CLASS)
TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS
HIGHWAY 105
WEST ENGLISH RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK (WATERWAY CLASS)
MAYNARD LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
TIDE LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek
Wabauskang First Nation
WINDIGO POINT PROVINCIAL PARK (NATURE RESERVE CLASS)
Lac Seul First Nation
MUNICIPALITY OF SIOUX LOOKOUT

Olive Lake
Kahnahmaykoosaysensikahk/ Valhalla Lake
Little Vermilion Lake
Coli Lake
Linge Lake
Golden Creek
Bloodvein River
Paishk Lake
Knox Lake
Alford Lake
Ranger Creek
Red Lake
Hammell Lake
Indian House Lake
Ranger Lake
Otter Lake
Trout Lake
Bathurst Creek
Narrow Lake
Woman Lake
Confederation Lake
Joyce Lake
Woman River
Okanse Lake
Perrigo Lake
Margaret Lake
Sesikinaga River
Hailstone Lake
Tarpley Lake
Sesikinaga Lake
Jeanette Lake
Wakeman Lake
Uchi Lake
Fly Lake
Little Bear Lake
Little Trout Lake
Joyce River
Douglas Lake
Parker Lake
Keg Lake
Starrau Channel
Embryo Lake
Telescope Lake
Medicine Stone Lake
Upper Medicine Stone Lake
Two Island Lake
Moose Creek
Ten Mile Creek
Caribou Creek
Gullrock Lake
Bug River
Trout Lake River
Jubilee Lake
Brokenmouth River
Uchi River
Slate Lake
Roadhouse River
Papaonga Lake
Papaonga River
Wenasaga River
Wesley River
Whitemud Lake
Whitemud River
Pinky Creek
Bluffy Lake
Dixie Creek
Pakwash Lake
Bruce Lake
Longlegged Lake
Deadee Creek
Kilburn Lake
Confusion Lake
Pineneedle Lake
Sydney Lake
Rice Creek
Chukuni River
Wenasaga Lake
Celt Lake
Fork Creek
Aerofoil Lake
Pilot Lake
Camping Lake
Sandy Creek
Cedar River
Longlegged River
Sumach Lake
Conifer Lake
Wegg Lake
Barnston Lake
Goose Lake
Rowdy Lake
Surgeon River
Confusion River
Canyon River
Roger Lake
Unexpected Lake
Wilcox Lake
Lizamia Creek
Oak Lake
Anishinabi River
Anishinabi Lake
Wine Lake
Fletcher Lake
Scout Lake
Wabaskang Lake
Broad Lake
Broadcast Lake
Spruce River
Twain Lake
Wapesi Lake
Aerial Lake
Wapesi River
Hall Creek
Sunlight Lake
Altimeter Creek
Salvesen Lake
Treelined Lake
Scotty Lake
Maynard Lake
Lennan Lake
Ball Lake
Bornite Lake
Aerobus Lake
Sup Lake
Perrault Lake
Lac Seul
Separation Lake
Brown Bear Lake
Scenic Lake
Indian Lake
Wabigoon River
Big Fox Lake
Lount Lake
Little Fox Lake
Grassy Narrows Lake
Segise Bay
Segise Lake
Delaney Lake
Wonderland Lake
Big Canon Lake
Clay Lake
Cliff Lake
Cedar Lake
Ord Lake
Thaddeus Lake
Ord River
Williams Lake
Williams Creek
Clear Lake
Whitefish Lake
Lost Lake
Pelican Lake
Pelican Creek
Route Lake
Big Vermilion Lake

N

LEGEND:

- PROJECT AREA
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- REGIONAL STUDY
- HIGHWAY
- MAJOR ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD
- RAILWAY
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
- PROVINCIAL PARK
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY (LOWER TIER)

NOTES:
NOTE1: BASE DATA ACQUIRED FROM LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO.

0 5 10 20 30 km

SCALE 1:550,000
PAGE SIZE 11 x 17
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N
THIS MAP IS FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

GREAT BEAR GOLD PROJECT

SPATIAL BOUNDARIES FOR COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

SLR

FIGURE NO:
14.8-1

DATE: November 19, 2025
PROJECT NO: 241.030825

14.8.2 Existing Conditions

Community well-being reflects the social, economic, cultural, and service conditions that influence overall quality of life for residents, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

To align with the assessment indicators used in the effects analysis, information is organized by: social determinants of health (income, housing, cost of living, employment, education); access to services (health, childcare, social, education); and household dynamics (including gender-based and caregiver vulnerabilities); public safety (including gender-based violence); economic opportunity and inequality; community cohesion; access to traditional land and resources; and population dynamics.

The baseline characterization draws on desktop research and interviews with local service providers. Additional details are provided in the Socio-Economic Baseline Study (Appendix O-1).

Red Lake serves as the primary service hub within the LSA, with residents from Ear Falls, nearby Indigenous communities, and other parts of the RSA regularly accessing services in Red Lake. Existing challenges related to staffing, service capacity, housing, and access to culturally appropriate support contribute to varying degrees of strain across social services, health care, education, and community programs. These conditions provide the baseline context for assessment of potential Project-related effects on community well-being.

14.8.2.1 Methods

The information presented was collected via desktop research utilizing publicly available data sources such as Statistics Canada other public websites (e.g., municipal, Indigenous communities) as well as qualitative information gathered through interviews with key service providers and community organizations. Where available, statistical data from the 2021 Census and other public sources are used to provide a quantitative baseline. However, statistical information specific to Indigenous populations in Red Lake and Ear Falls is limited. Based on 2021 Census data, self-identified Indigenous Peoples represent approximately 24% of the population in Red Lake and 19% in Ear Falls.

As a result, generalized regional data is supplemented with qualitative information gathered through interviews with key service providers and community organizations. These insights help to contextualize community-specific challenges and strengths that may not be reflected in available statistical sources. This reflects the integration of both traditional and community-based knowledge sources to inform a comprehensive and balanced understanding of well-being in the LSA and RSA.

The analysis is guided by the TISG for the Project, which requires consideration of health, social, and economic conditions, with specific attention to the well-being of Indigenous Peoples. It is important to note that the reference year for income data is 2020, during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. This period was marked by considerable disruptions to employment, earnings, and government transfers, which may have had both short- and medium-term effects on reported income levels across Canada, particularly in small or remote communities.

The TISG also states that the description of baseline economic conditions must include “any relevant treaty provisions pertaining to economic development for Indigenous Peoples”. Great Bear Resources is not aware of any treaty provisions pertaining to economic development for Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

14.8.2.2 Description

Community well-being reflects the overall social and economic conditions that support the health, stability, and resilience of individuals, families, and communities. It is closely connected to other pVCs and fVCs, including:

- Local and Regional Economy (Section 7.16)
- Community Services and Infrastructure (Section 14.5)
- Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes (Section 14.6)
- Health (Section 14.9).

Statistical information (e.g., income, employment, housing) and qualitative insights from community-based organizations provide a full understanding of community conditions. Together, these sources offer a foundation for evaluating how existing pressures and potential future changes may affect overall well-being in LSA and RSA.

14.8.2.2.1 Community Well-being Index

The Community Well-Being (CWB) Index is a composite measure developed by Indigenous Services Canada that provides a high-level snapshot of socio-economic conditions across Canadian communities. The index incorporates four indicators: income, education, housing, and labour force activity. These are scored on a scale from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating higher levels of community well-being. The CWB Index is intended to support broad, cross-community assessments; however, its coverage varies based on community size and data availability, and not all communities are assigned CWB scores.

In the Kenora district, the CWB scores vary, reflecting differences in socio-economic conditions. These scores serve as a foundation for the analysis and are further explored in each respective indicator section. Notably, Red Lake ranks highest overall, with a particularly strong performance in income and labour force activity. These scores are presented in Table 14.8-1.

These scores provide an integrated baseline for assessing community well-being and are supplemented throughout this section by additional Census data and qualitative findings from interviews with key service providers.

Table 14.8-1: Community Well-Being Index Scores for Selected Municipal Communities - Kenora District, 2025

Municipality	Overall CWB Score	Income	Education	Housing	Labour Force Activity
Kenora	82	83	64	94	86
Red Lake	83	88	63	94	87
Ear Falls	79	84	53	97	84

Source: (Indigenous Services Canada 2021)

Note: The CWB Index scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating higher levels of community well-being. Each component (Income, Education, Housing, Labour Force Activity) contributes to the overall CWB score.

CWB Index scores are reported only for communities included in Indigenous Services Canada's CWB dataset. The municipal communities presented, function as regional population and service centres and are shown to provide contextual information on socio-economic conditions within the Kenora District. These scores are not intended to represent direct comparators for First Nation communities, where differences in population size, governance, and service delivery frameworks influence CWB outcomes.

14.8.2.2.2 Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health, including income, employment, housing, cost of living, education, public safety, population dynamics, community cohesion, and access to services are evaluated to understand baseline conditions across the LSA and RSA.

Where specific local data for Red Lake, Ear Falls, or Indigenous communities are not available, broader Kenora District data is used to illustrate regional trends and context. This approach is important because the Kenora District reflects many of the systemic challenges and opportunities affecting small, remote, and Indigenous communities across northwestern Ontario. It is also important to note that residents of the LSA frequently access specialized services, such as healthcare, emergency shelters, and social supports, located in the City of Kenora and surrounding areas, reinforcing the connection between regional trends and local well-being.

While the RSA trends are presented to explain findings within a broader socio-economic environment, Project-related effects are expected to be most directly experienced within the LSA.

Both quantitative data (such as Statistics Canada information) and qualitative insights (collected through service provider interviews) are integrated throughout the section to provide a comprehensive understanding of current conditions and community well-being.

14.8.2.2.2.1 Income and Employment

Income is a determinant of individual and household well-being, and determines access to housing, education, health care, and other basic needs. It informs financial security, quality of life, and the overall social and economic resilience of communities. Regional data on income levels, income inequality, income distribution and sources of income are included. Together, these indicators provide insight into financial stability, affordability pressures, and broader socio-economic conditions across the study area.

Kenora District

Kenora District is the most extensive administrative district in Ontario, with a total population of 65,533 (Statistics Canada 2022a). In 2021, 49.8 % of the Kenora District population identified as Indigenous in 2021 (all Indigenous identities combined). The City of Kenora, located in the south of the district, accounts for about 23% of the district's population and functions as the primary regional administrative and service centre. In 2021, 24.6 % of the City Kenora's population identified as Indigenous. Among those who identified as Indigenous, 50.8 % reported a First Nations identity.

Income and Income status

In 2020, the median after-tax income of households in Kenora District's population was $76,000, a change of 2.6% from $73,500 in 2015 (Statistics Canada 2023c). Among individuals, the median after-tax income was $38,000 and the average was $42,720, which are slightly below the provincial averages of $39,200 and $42,000, respectively.

The Low-Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT), which identifies individuals earning less than 50% of the median adjusted household income, places 20% of Kenora District residents below this threshold, twice the provincial average of 10% as seen in Table 14.8-2 (Statistics Canada 2023c). Rates are higher across all age groups, including children, working-age adults, and seniors, indicating broader economic vulnerability in the region.

Among women+ and men+, approximately 20% were living in low income. For seniors aged 65 and older, 16% of women+ were low income, compared to 12% of senior men+. Among children aged 0 to 17 years, 29% of girls+ and boys+ were low income.

The 2021 Community Well-Being (CWB) Index supports these findings. Kenora District received a CWB income score of 67, which, while close to the national average, reflects ongoing challenges with low-income prevalence and income distribution compared to other communities. Specifically:

- Score of 67: Considered a moderate level of well-being, generally indicating that basic needs are being met.
- Persistent challenges: Higher rates of low-income prevalence and income inequality compared to the provincial average.
- Vulnerability: Income-related barriers continue to affect segments of the population, particularly low-income households, children, and seniors.

This suggests that although many residents have their basic needs met, economic insecurity remains a risk factor for overall community well-being (Indigenous Services Canada 2021).

Table 14.8-2: Prevalence of Low Income - Kenora District 2025

Age Group	Total (%)	Men+	Women+
All Ages	19.7	19.6	19.8
0–17 years	28.8	28.6	29
18–64 years	17.4	17.7	17
65+ years	13.7	11.6	15.9

Source: (Statistics Canada 2023c)

Note: reference year is 2020Note: The category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons; while the category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

Income Inequality

The Gini Index is a commonly used measure of income inequality. It ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 represents perfect income equality (everyone has the same income), and 1 represents maximum inequality (one person has all the income, and everyone else has none). A higher Gini value indicates greater income inequality within a population. The Kenora District demonstrates higher levels of income inequality compared to the provincial average of 0.308. In 2020, the Gini Index for adjusted after-tax household income in Kenora was 0.327. This index, where 0 indicates perfect equality and 1 indicates maximum inequality, reflects a moderate degree of income inequality in the district (Statistics Canada 2023c).

Income Distribution

Income distribution data for Kenora District, as shown in Table 14.8-3 indicates that approximately 56% of individuals are within the bottom half of the income distribution (deciles 1 through 5), while 44% are within the top half (deciles 6 through 10). The lowest decile accounts for 18% of individuals, while the highest decile accounts for 8%. This pattern suggests a less pronounced concentration in upper-income brackets and reflects more economic variation across the population (Statistics Canada 2023c).

Table 14.8-3: Income Distribution - Kenora District 2025

Decile Group	Total (%)	Men+ (%)	Women+ (%)
In bottom half	56	55.7	56.3
1st decile (lowest)	17.7	17.8	17.6
2nd decile	11.3	11	11.6
3rd decile	9.4	9.3	9.5
4th decile	9.2	9.1	9.3
5th decile	8.4	8.5	8.4
In top half	44	44.3	43.7
6th decile	8.5	8.5	8.5
7th decile	8.9	8.8	9
8th decile	9.1	9.1	9.1
9th decile	9.6	9.4	9.8
10th decile (highest)	7.8	8	7.6
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023c) Note: reference year is 2020			

Employment and Economic Participation

Labour force indicators from the 2021 Census show that Kenora District has lower levels of economic participation compared to the provincial average. The participation rate was 57.3% and the employment rate was 52.4%, both reflecting a continued decline from previous years:

- 2016: Participation rate 60.7%, employment rate 53.6%.
- 2011: Participation rate 63.7%, employment rate 57.2%.

While Ontario reported a higher participation rate (62.8%) and employment rate (55.1%), its unemployment rate was notably higher (12.2%) than Kenora District's (8.7%). This suggests that although a greater proportion of Ontarians are active in the labour force, a larger share remain unemployed.

Table 14.8-4 demonstrates that in Kenora District, gender differences in labour force activity were also evident:

- Participation: 59.7% for men+ versus. 55.0% for women+
- Employment: 54.0% for men+ versus 50.7% for women+
- Unemployment: 9.5% for men+ versus 7.7% for women+

At the provincial level, women+ experienced a higher unemployment rate (13.4%) than men+ (11.2%), highlighting persistent gendered disparities in labour market access.

These trends are particularly relevant in the Kenora District, where rural and remote conditions may intensify barriers to employment for women+ and gender-diverse individuals, especially in the absence of reliable childcare, elder care, or transportation (Statistics Canada 2023c; Statistics Canada 2023e).

Table 14.8-4: Labour Force Indicators - Kenora District and Ontario, 2025

	Kenora District			Ontario		
Labour Force Indicator	**Total**	**Men+**	**Women+**	**Total**	**Men+**	**Women+**
Participation rate (%)	57.3	59.7	55	62.8	67.1	58.7
Employment rate (%)	52.4	54	50.7	55.1	59.6	50.8
Unemployment rate (%)	8.7	9.5	7.87	12.2	11.2	13.4
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023c; Statistics Canada 2023e). Note: reference year is 2020						

Sources of Income

The income composition for the Kenora District and Ontario is presented in Table 14.8-5. Men+ made up a higher percentage than women+ for both market and employment income. As such, the rates of government transfers, defined as payments received from federal, provincial, or municipal programs such as pensions, social assistance, or employment insurance, are almost double the percentage points for women+ compared to men+ in both Kenora District and Ontario. Kenora District has a lower percentage of total market income (80%) and employment income (65.2%) compared to Ontario averages (Statistics Canada 2023c; Statistics Canada 2023e).

Recent trends also illustrate the importance of government transfers for specific groups. In 2024, women+ aged 55–64 represented the largest increase in Employment Insurance recipients across the Kenora District (Northwest Training and Adjustment Board n.d.). This highlights the compounded effects of gender, age, and labour force exclusion, and reinforces the role of transfer programs in sustaining income for women+ who may face intersecting barriers to stable employment.

Table 14.8-5: Income Composition Statistics - Kenora District and Ontario, 2025

Income Composition	Total	Men+	Women+
Kenora District			
Market Income (%)	80.0	84.6	74.2
Employment Income (%)	65.2	68.0	61.8
Government Transfers (%)	20.0	15.4	25.8
Ontario			
Market Income (%)	82.8	87.0	77.8
Employment Income (%)	67.4	71.4	62.3
Government Transfers (%)	17.1	13.0	22.3

Definitions:

- Market income includes earnings from employment, self-employment, investments, private pensions, and other market sources.
- Employment income refers specifically to wages, salaries, and net income from self-employment.
- Government transfers include benefits such as the Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security, Employment Insurance, and social assistance.

Note: The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

Source: (Statistics Canada 2023e; Statistics Canada 2023d)

Note: reference year is 2020

Economic Opportunity and Inequality

Overall, the income and labour force indicators presented above suggest that economic conditions across the Kenora District and the municipalities of Red Lake and Ear Falls (presented below) are not experienced uniformly. While communities such as Red Lake demonstrate stronger income levels in comparison to other areas, high labour force participation, and low rates of low-income prevalence, district-wide data indicate higher levels of economic vulnerability and moderate income inequality compared to provincial averages. Local employment conditions and access to stable work also vary across the region, and gender-based differences in employment opportunities, participation and income composition remain evident. These patterns suggest that although many residents benefit from strong employment opportunities in sectors such as mining, public services, and retail, access to stable income and economic opportunities may differ across genders, households, communities, and population groups.

Education Level

Educational attainment is a factor influencing individual and community well-being, particularly for employment opportunities, income security, and health outcomes. Table 14.8-6 compares educational attainment levels in Kenora District from the 2016 and 2021 Census, with a breakdown by gender (women+ and men+) to highlight trends over time and differences in access to education.

Between 2016 and 2021, educational attainment in Kenora District showed gradual improvement. However, regional and gender-based disparities remain when compared to provincial trends. Findings include:

No certificate, diploma, or degree:

- Declined from 35.2% in 2016 to 30.9% in 2021, but still nearly double the provincial average of 15.3%.

Postsecondary attainment:

- Reached 42.3% for women+ and 37.9% for men+ in Kenora District (2021).
- Both remain below provincial levels (58.8% for women+, 56.2% for men+).

Gender differences:

- Men+ are more likely to hold apprenticeship or trades certificates.
- Women+ are more likely to have college and university credentials.

For a detailed overview of educational institutions and infrastructure in the region, refer to Section 14.5.2.

It is important to recognize that publicly available statistics may not fully capture local realities or the role of community-based learning and Indigenous Knowledge systems. As such, these figures should be interpreted as a broad indication of formal attainment patterns rather than a complete picture of educational experience within the community.

Table 14.8-6: Educational Attainment -Kenora District and Ontario, 2025

Characteristic	Kenora, District			Ontario		
	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+
No certificate, diploma or degree	30.9	32.5	29.3	15.3	15.8	14.8
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	29	29.6	28.4	27.2	28	26.4
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	40.1	37.9	42.3	57.5	56.2	58.8
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	7.5	11.7	3.3	5	7.4	2.7
College, Collège D'enseignement Général et Professionnel or other non-university certificate or diploma	18.6	15.3	21.9	20.3	18.3	22.2
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	1.6	1.2	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.5
Bachelor's degree	9.3	6.8	11.8	19.6	18	21.1
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	1	0.7	1.3	1.9	1.7	2.1
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.8

Characteristic	Kenora, District			Ontario		
	Total	Men+	Women+	Total	Men+	Women+
Master's degree	1.7	1.6	1.9	6.7	6.6	6.8
Earned doctorate	0.1	0.1	0.1	1	1.2	0.8
Source: (Statistics Canada, 2023c; Statistics Canada, 2023d) Note: reference year is 2020						

Workforce by Industry

The composition of the workforce by industry provides important context for understanding income patterns, job security, and access to benefits, each a determinant of individual and community well-being. Dominant industries in a region shape employment quality, earning potential, and economic resilience. Table 14.8-7 summarizes the Kenora District top industries by proportion of the employed population, based on 2021 Census data.

Major employers in the Kenora District include:

- Lake of the Woods District Hospital
- Keewatin Patricia District School Board
- District of Kenora Home for the Aged
- Trus Joist Weyerhaeuser
- Canadian Pacific Railway
- Firefly, City of Kenora
- Kenora Catholic School Board
- Canada Safeway Inc. (Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants 2024).
- Dryden Mill
- Dryden Regional Health Centre
- Ministry of Natural Resources Offices

Kenora District residents most commonly held positions in sales and service (23%), trade, transport and equipment operations (21%), education, law and social, community and government services (20%), business, finance and administration (13%), and health (8%).

Less common occupational categories, including natural resources and agriculture, manufacturing and utilities, and arts, culture, recreation and sport, represented less than 4% of the workforce (Statistics Canada, 2023c). For additional detail on employment trends, economic diversification, and sector-specific developments, see Section 7.16, Local and Regional Economy.

Between 2022 and 2024, Kenora District experienced a 5.2% increase in business activity, with especially strong growth in Administrative Support and Professional Services.

While modest, this growth suggests emerging opportunities for economic diversification, which may enhance income stability in the long-term.

By 2029, professions such as social and community service workers, elementary school and kindergarten teachers, and registered nurses are expected to experience declines in labour supply due to elevated retirements. Conversely, roles like retail salespersons, visual merchandisers, software engineers, and software developers are projected to grow, partly driven by their popularity among new immigrants (Northwest Training and Adjustment Board n.d.).

Table 14.8-7: Top Industries by Proportion of the Employed Population – Kenora District 2025

Industry	Percentage of Workforce (%)
Health care and social assistance	20.9
Public administration	10.9
Retail trade	9.8
Educational services	10.4
Construction	8.0
Accommodation and food services	5.1
Transportation and warehousing	5.1
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023c) Note: reference year is 2020Note: Industries with less than 4% representation, such as agriculture, mining, utilities, manufacturing, finance and insurance, professional, scientific, and technical services, administrative support, and wholesale trade, were not included.	

Municipality of Red Lake

In 2021 Red Lake's population makes up approximately 6.2% of the total population of Kenora District and 23.6 % of the population of Red Lake identified as Indigenous (Statistics Canada 2022a). The municipality functions as a local service and employment centre for nearby communities within the northern portion of the Kenora District.

Income and Income Status

As reported by the 2021 Census, the median after-tax income of households in Red Lake's population was $93,000, a change of -3.1% from $96,000 in 2015 (Statistics Canada 2022a). Among individuals, the median after-tax income was $42,800 and the average was $48,300, both of which are above the provincial averages of $39,200 and $42,000 respectively (Statistics Canada 2021).

Red Lake's low-income rate, as defined by the LIM-AT, was 6.5%, below the provincial average of 10% (Statistics Canada 2023a)As shown in Table 14.8-8, rates remained under 10% across all age groups, reflecting relatively strong income security in the community.

However, women+ were slightly more affected than men+ (6.7% versus 6.3%), and disparities were more pronounced among seniors (10.0% of women+ versus 8.0% of men+) and young children (10.0% of girls+ versus 6.0% of boys+), suggesting some groups face heightened economic vulnerability as demonstrated in Table 14.8-8.

Red Lake's score of 88 in the income category of the CWB Index supports these findings. This high score reflects strong income security and equitable distribution compared to other municipalities in Northwestern Ontario.

A score above 67 on the CWB Index typically indicates that most basic needs are being met, reinforcing Red Lake's relatively low poverty rates and high median income levels (Indigenous Services Canada 2021).

Table 14.8-8: Prevalence of Low Income by Age Group – Red Lake, 2025

Age Group	Total (%)	Men+	Women+
All Ages	6.5	6.3	6.7
0–17 years	7	7.2	6.4
18–64 years	5.7	5.4	6
65+ years	9.2	8	10
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023e) Note: reference year is 2020			

Income Inequality

In addition, Red Lake demonstrates lower levels of income inequality compared to other rural or northern municipalities in Ontario. In 2020, the Gini Index for adjusted after-tax household income in Red Lake was 0.289. This measure, where 0 represents perfect equality and 1 represents complete inequality, suggests an equitable income distribution when compared to the provincial average. Combined with the low prevalence of low-income households and high median incomes, the data indicates that income is more evenly distributed across the population in Red Lake (Statistics Canada 2023e).

Income Distribution

Income distribution data for Red Lake, as shown in Table 14.8-9, indicates an even spread across decile groups, with a slight concentration in the higher income brackets. Approximately 32% of individuals fall within the bottom half of the income distribution (deciles 1 through 5), while 64.5% fall within the top half (deciles 6 through 10). The lowest decile accounts for 6% of individuals, while the highest decile accounts for 17%. This distribution reflects greater representation in upper-income brackets when compared to more economically vulnerable communities (Statistics Canada 2023e).

Table 14.8-9 Income Distribution (%) - Red Lake, 2025

Decile Group	Total (%)	Men+ (%)	Women+ (%)
In bottom half	31.9	30.3	33.6
1st decile (lowest)	6.2	6.1	6.1
2nd decile	4.7	4.4	5.1
3rd decile	6.7	5.9	7.6
4th decile	6.3	5.9	6.6
5th decile	7.8	7.6	8.1

Decile Group	Total (%)	Men+ (%)	Women+ (%)
In top half	68.1	69.9	66.2
6th decile	9.4	9.8	9.3
7th decile	10.9	10.8	10.9
8th decile	13.9	14.4	13.4
9th decile	17.0	17.4	16.7
10th decile (highest)	16.8	17.6	16.2
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023e) Note: reference year is 2020			

Employment and Economic Participation

Labour market engagement is a core component of community well-being, contributing to income security and access to services. As of 2021, Red Lake reported a participation rate of 67% and an employment rate of 63%, slightly above the Ontario averages of 63% and 55%, respectively (Table 14.8-10). The unemployment rate in Red Lake was 5%, well below the provincial average of 12% (Statistics Canada 2023e):

- Women+ in Red Lake had a participation rate of 63% and an employment rate of 59%.
- Men+ had a participation rate of 71% and an employment rate of 67%.
- Unemployment rates were 5.5% for women+ and 4.7% for men+.

These figures indicate strong labour market participation overall. However, the lower participation rate among women+ may reflect broader trends related to caregiving responsibilities, access to childcare, and availability of flexible or part-time employment options.

Table 14.8-10: Labour Force Indicators – Red Lake,2025

Indicator	Total (%)	Men+	Women+
Participation Rate	66.6	70.7	62.6
Employment Rate	63.2	67.1	59.1
Unemployment Rate	5.1	4.7	5.5
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023e) Note: reference year is 2020			

Sources of Income

The income composition for Red Lake and Ontario is presented in Table 14.8-11. The total population of Red Lake had a higher percentage of market income (88.6%) and employment income (75.2%) compared to Ontario. Men+ made up a higher proportion of the market income and employment income compared to women+ in both Red Lake and Ontario. Similarly, women+ made up a higher percentage of the population that received government transfers in both Red Lake and Ontario (Statistics Canada 2023d; Statistics Canada 2023e).

Table 14.8-11: Income Composition -Red Lake and Ontario, 2025

Income Composition	Total	Men+	Women+
Red Lake			
Market Income (%)	88.6	92.0	83.0
Employment Income (%)	75.2	78.8	69.2
Government Transfers (%)	11.4	8.1	17.0
Ontario			
Market Income (%)	82.8	87.0	77.8
Employment Income (%)	67.4	71.4	62.3
Government Transfers (%)	17.1	13.0	22.3

Definitions:

- Market income includes earnings from employment, self-employment, investments, private pensions, and other market sources.
- Employment income refers specifically to wages, salaries, and net income from self-employment.
- Government transfers include benefits such as the Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security, Employment Insurance, and social assistance.

Source: (Statistics Canada 2023d; Statistics Canada 2023e).

Note: reference year is 2020

Note: The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

Workforce by Industry

According to 2021 Census data, Red Lake's workforce is concentrated in several sectors. The highest proportion of workers were employed in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector (27.9%), followed by health care and social assistance (15.4%), retail trade (12%), educational services (8.5%), and public administration (6.9%). These sectors reflect the local economy's reliance on resource extraction and essential services as shown in Table 14.8-12.

Women+ in Red Lake were more likely to be employed in health care and social assistance, educational services, and retail trade. In contrast, men+ were more heavily represented in mining and construction. This sectoral distribution may influence differences in income stability, benefits, and exposure to cyclical labour market changes.

Occupational classifications further highlight the division of labour by gender. For example, women+ were overrepresented in business, finance, and administrative roles as well as sales and service occupations, whereas men+ were more likely to be employed in trades, transport and equipment operators, and natural resources-related occupations. These patterns have implications for earnings, job security, and access to benefits across the labour force.

Table 14.8-12: Top Industries by Proportion of the Employed Population - Red Lake, 2025

Industry	Percentage of Workforce (%)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	27.9
Health care and social assistance	15.4
Retail Trade	12
Educational services	8.5
Public Administration	7
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023b) Sectors with limited representation (below 4%) include construction, accommodation and food services, manufacturing, and professional services.	

Goods and Services Profile

Several businesses, providing a variety of goods and services, operate in Red Lake. The number of businesses by category or service type that are relevant to the Project are presented in Table 14.8-13.

Table 14.8-13: Businesses and Service Providers - Red Lake 2025

Category	Number of Businesses
Tourist Camps and Outposts	39
Retail Stores	34
Contractors	28
Health Services	23
Mining	22
Recreation and Leisure	21
Red Lake Services: Municipal Government, Regional Organizations	20
Education / Employment	20
Real Estate - Building Rentals	17
Food and Beverage	13
Accommodations	12
Church, Funeral, Cemeteries	12
Restaurants	11
Automotive Sales and Services	11
Airlines and Services	10
Ontario Government Services	9
Laundry / Cleaning	8
Hair Salons and Esthetics	8

Category	Number of Businesses
Communications / Repairs	7
Facility Rentals	7
Machinery / Equipment	7
Fuel	7
Emergency Services	6
Contractor Accommodations	5
Accounting Services	5
Transportation and Taxi	5
Couriers and Shipping	5
Pet Care / Supplies	5
Photography and Art	5
Wholesale	4
Canoe Outfitters and Guides	4
Home Based Business	4
Legal Services	4
Child Care	3
Logging and Forestry	3
Insurance / Financial	3
Publish, Advertise, and Graphics	3
Banks	2
Source: (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation n.d.-a)	

Township of Ear Falls

Ear Falls' population makes up approximately 1.5% of the total population of Kenora District, and 18.6 % of the population of Ear Falls identified as Indigenous, and approximately 10 % reported a First Nations identity (Statistics Canada 2022a). The township functions as a small local service centre along the southern Highway 105 corridor, providing limited commercial, social, and municipal services for nearby rural areas.

Income and Income status

In 2020, the median after-tax income of households in Ear Falls' population was $79,000, a change of 2.6% from $77,000 in 2015 (Statistics Canada 2020).

The prevalence of low income, based on the Low-Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT), was 9% in Ear Falls, below the provincial average of 10% (Statistics Canada 2023a). This rate is relatively low and suggests a moderate level of income security overall.

A breakdown of low-income prevalence by age and gender is shown in Table 14.8-14. While gender differences in low-income rates were not substantial, the data indicates that 8% of women+ were living in low income, compared to 10% of men+. Among seniors, 10% of women+ aged 65 and older were living in low income, compared to 8% of men+.

The CWB Index assigned Ear Falls an income score of 88, suggesting a strong income security when compared to other communities in the region. The index score reinforces Ear Falls' low prevalence of low income and moderate-income distribution. This high score aligns with the area's balanced income decile profile and low Gini Index (Indigenous Services Canada 2021).

Table 14.8-14: Prevalence of Low Income by Age Group – Ear Falls 2025

Prevalence of Low Income in Ear Falls by Age Group, 2021			
Age Group	**Total (%)**	**Men+ (%)**	**Women+ (%)**
All Ages	9	10	8
0–17 years	11	12	10
18–64 years	8.4	10	7
65+ years	9	8	10
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023b) Reference year for income data is 2020			

Income Inequality

The Gini Index for adjusted after-tax household income in Ear Falls was 0.257 in 2020. This index, where 0 represents perfect income equality and 1 represents total inequality, suggests a low level of income inequality, and lower than the Ontario average (approximately 0.33). This level of inequality is common in smaller municipalities with a dominant industry where a portion of the population receives high wages (e.g., in mining).

Income Distribution

Income distribution data for Ear Falls, as shown in Table 14.8-15, shows that 41% of the population is within the bottom half of the after-tax income distribution, while 58.9% is within the top half. This includes 7.8% in the bottom decile, and 10.6% in the top decile.

The distribution across deciles is balanced, with concentration toward the middle-to-upper income ranges. This suggests that while some income inequality exists, the population is more evenly spread across the income spectrum compared to communities where low-income deciles dominate.

Table 14.8-15: Income Distribution - Ear Falls, 2025

Decile Group	Total (%)	Men+ (%)	Women+ (%)
In bottom half	41.1	39.4	43.0
1st decile (lowest)	7.8	7.4	7.0
2nd decile	7.2	5.3	8.1
3rd decile	7.8	8.5	7.0

Decile Group	Total (%)	Men+ (%)	Women+ (%)
4th decile	11.1	10.6	11.6
5th decile	7.8	7.4	7.0
In top half	58.9	60.6	57.0
6th decile	9.4	8.5	10.5
7th decile	10.6	11.7	9.3
8th decile	12.8	11.7	12.8
9th decile	15.6	16.0	15.1
10th decile (highest)	10.6	11.7	9.3
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023b) Note: reference year is 2020			

Employment and Economic Participation

According to the 2021 Census, Ear Falls reported a participation rate of 61.5% and an employment rate of 54.2%, both of which are below the provincial averages of 62.8% and 55.1%, respectively (Table 14.8-16). The unemployment rate in Ear Falls was 11.8%, which is below the provincial average of 12%.

- Women+ in Ear Falls had a participation rate of 59% and an employment rate of 51%.

Men+ had a participation rate of 63% and an employment rate of 57%. Unemployment rates were 11% for both women+ and for men+. These figures in Table 14.8-16 suggest balanced participation across genders, but an elevated unemployment rate overall, which may reflect limited local job opportunities or sector-specific employment fluctuations.

Table 14.8-16: Labour Force Indicators - Ear Falls, 2025

Indicator	Total (%)	Men+	Women+
Participation Rate	61.5	63.4	59.0
Employment Rate	54.2	57.4	51.3
Unemployment Rate	11.8	10.9	10.9
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023b) Note: reference year is 2020			

Sources of Income

The income composition for Ear Falls and Ontario for 2021 is presented in Table 14.8-17. Men+ made up a higher proportion of the market income (84%) compared to women+ (73.5%) in Ear Falls, as well as in employment income (73% to 58%, q). While the market income of the total population of Ear Falls is 2.4% lower than Ontario, Ear Falls has a higher employment income to Ontario by 0.6%. Women+ made up a higher proportion of the population that received government transfers in both Ear Falls and Ontario (Statistics Canada 2023d; Statistics Canada 2023b).

Table 14.8-17: Income Composition - Ear Falls and Ontario, 2025

Income Composition	Total	Men+	Women+
Ear Falls			
Market Income (%)	80.4	84.0	73.5
Employment Income (%)	68.0	73.0	58.0
Government Transfers (%)	19.5	15.9	26.8
Ontario			
Market Income (%)	82.8	87.0	77.8
Employment Income (%)	67.4	71.4	62.3
Government Transfers (%)	17.1	13.0	22.3

Definitions:

- Market income includes earnings from employment, self-employment, investments, private pensions, and other market sources.
- Employment income refers specifically to wages, salaries, and net income from self-employment.
- Government transfers include benefits such as the Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security, Employment Insurance, and social assistance.

Note: The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

Source: (Statistics Canada 2023d; Statistics Canada 2023e).

Note: reference year is 2020

Workforce by Industry

According to the 2021 Census, the workforce in the Township of Ear Falls is concentrated in a small number of sectors, with a reliance on resource-based and service-oriented industries. The top industries by share of the employed population are presented in Table 14.8-18.

The Ear Falls labour force is primarily concentrated in manufacturing (19.1%) and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (14.5%). Retail trade (12.7%) and accommodation and food services (10.9%) also represent considerable portions of employment. Other notable sectors include health care and social assistance (7.3%), construction (6.4%), and educational services (4.5%). Industries such as transportation, public administration, and professional services had lower representation, each accounting for less than 4% of the workforce.

Men+ and Women+ worked in traditional roles, typically associated with gender; more men+ worked in manufacturing (22%) compared to their women+ (13%) cohorts. This is similar for mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (20% to 4%, respectively). Only men+ worked in construction, while only women+ worked in arts, entertainment and recreation, and educational services. Women+ also made up a higher proportion of the population working in retail trade (22%) compared to men+ (5%) (Statistics Canada 2023a; Statistics Canada 2023e).

In October 2025, Interfor announced the shutdown of the Ear Falls sawmill, the community's largest employer and primary economic driver. Local leadership reported that approximately 150 unionized workers were affected by the closure, representing a substantial share of the local labour force.

The shutdown was widely characterized as a community-level crisis due to the community's reliance on resource-sector employment and the anticipated effects on household income stability, local spending, housing demand, and broader community well-being.

Regional stakeholders noted that the implications extend beyond immediate job losses, contributing to heightened economic uncertainty for residents (Sahota 2025).

Table 14.8-18: Top Industries by Proportion of the Employed Population – Ear Falls2025

Industry	Percentage of Workforce (%)
Manufacturing	19.1
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	14.5
Retail trade	12.7
Accommodation and food services	10.9
Construction	6.4
Health care and social assistance	7.3
Educational services	4.5
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023b) Sectors with limited representation (below 4%) include public administration, agriculture, transportation, finance and insurance, and professional services.	

Goods and Services Profile

There is a variety of goods and services available in Ear Falls. Table 14.8-19 presents the number of businesses by category or service type that are relevant to the Project.

Table 14.8-19: Businesses by Category or Service Type Relevant to the Project – Ear Falls, 2025

Category	Number of Businesses
Construction / Contracting	8
Restaurants and Accommodations	8
Airlines and Service	3
Education / Employment	2
Fuel	2
Logging and Forestry	1
Mining Consultants	2
Real Estate Operators	2
Automotive Sales and Services	1
Source: (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation 2022b).	

Barriers to Employment and Economic Participation in the Kenora District

Economic participation is a determinant of community well-being, influencing access to stable income, housing, education, and health services. In the City of Kenora, Red Lake, and Ear Falls several factors are likely to affect labour force engagement and income stability.

For employment income and participation barriers for the Indigenous communities, please refer to Section 10.0 (LSFN); Section 11.0 (WFN); Section 12.0 (ANA); and Section 13.0 (NWOMC).

Childcare Access as a Barrier to Employment

Interviews with service providers in the region have consistently identified limited access to licensed childcare as a considerable constraint on employment, particularly for women+, lone parents, and low-income households (Hall & Lamme 2025; Stevenson & Lansdell-Roll 2025; Wesley 2025; Ramasaywak 2025; Parrish 2025). Existing childcare programs in the area are characterized by long wait lists, limited capacity, and insufficient hours to accommodate full-time employment.

As of 2025, the average cost of childcare in Ontario has been reduced to approximately $22 per day, or $6,600 annually, under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement (Ontario Newsroom 2024). This represents a considerable reduction from previous averages of $7,557 in 2023 and $11,500 in 2018. However, cost reductions alone do not address structural gaps in service availability, particularly in rural and Indigenous Nations communities.

Additional Employment Constraints

Other systemic barriers identified through interviews and regional data include:

- Limited transportation options, which restrict access to jobs located outside the community;
- Lack of nearby job training or certification programs, limiting skill development;
- A shortage of local employment opportunities that align with the skills, interests, and schedules of community members; and
- Seasonal and Project-based employment, particularly in sectors such as mining, construction, and forestry, may lead to workforce shortages in other sectors, as available labour is drawn toward higher-paying jobs.

Major Regional Projects

Several large-scale projects across the region may influence community well-being through their effect on employment, infrastructure, and local services. These projects have the potential to:

- Create short- and long-term employment opportunities for local residents, affecting household income levels;
- Attract temporary workforces who spend money in local businesses, indirectly supporting the regional economy;
- Stimulate investment in infrastructure and housing, which may improve service access and affordability; and
- Lead to population growth or workforce shifts, with implications for income distribution and social equity.

While some jobs may be temporary, even short-term increases in earnings may alleviate economic strain and improve financial resilience in nearby communities like Red Lake, Ear Falls, and surrounding areas.

Mining

The area is a hub for ongoing and proposed mining activity, which forms an important part of the local economy, as shown in Table 14.8-20.

Table 14.8-20: Mineral and Mining Exploration Projects - Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025

Project	Proponent	Commodity	Location	Description
Madsen Project	West Red Lake Gold	Gold	Red Lake, Ontario	West Red Lake Gold's Madsen Project containing three past producing mines, including: the Gold Shore, Buffalo and Hasaga Mines.
Springpole Project	First Mining Gold	Gold and Silver	Approximately 110 km from Red Lake, Ontario	Open pit gold and silver mine and ore processing facilities with approximately 12-year production life.
Evolution Mine	Evolution Mining	Gold	Red Lake, Ontario	Underground gold mine on the traditional lands of the Wabauskang First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation. Acquired in April 2020, with a 15+ year mine life targeting 200,000 ounces per annum.
Source: (West Red Lake Gold Mines n.d.; Evolution Mining 2024; First Mining Gold 2025) For a comprehensive list of Projects in the region, please refer to Appendix O-1 Socio-economic study				

Infrastructure

A major regional infrastructure initiative is planned for the area north of Red Lake. The proposed Berens River Bridge and all-season road project aims to connect several remote Indigenous communities, such as Pikangikum, Poplar Hill, Deer Lake, and North Spirit Lake, to the provincial highway network.

These communities are currently accessible primarily by air or seasonal winter roads. The project, announced in 2024, involves a total investment of approximately $76.4 million, with funding contributions from both federal and provincial governments. The project is intended to improve regional transportation reliability, enhance access to goods and services, and support long-term economic development opportunities in Northwestern Ontario (Stimpson, 2024; Ross, 2024).

Tourism

The area has an established eco-tourism sector, with many lakes, beaches, parks, cross-country skiing, offroad travel (e.g., snowmobile, ATV), ice fishing, annual festivals, and an 18-hole golf course. Visitors travel to the area for hunting and fishing (Municipality of Red Lake 2014a)

Tourism development has become a strategic priority across the Kenora District, with municipalities like Red Lake and Ear Falls implementing targeted initiatives to diversify their economies.

Red Lake's 2024–2027 Strategic Plan emphasizes revitalizing tourism infrastructure and enhancing visitor experiences through trail development, event expansion, and digital promotion (Municipality of Red Lake 2024). The Community Improvement Plan offers financial incentives for projects that support tourism, including commercial façade improvements and heritage restoration (Stantec 2017).

In Ear Falls, the township collaborates with the Chukuni Communities Development Corporation to strengthen the local economy by assisting entrepreneurs in developing or expanding small businesses and promoting tourism (Quesnel-Loessl 2023). Regionally, the Highway 105 Tourism Sector and Marketing Strategic Plan (2021) focused on diversifying tourism offerings, enhancing visitor experiences, and increasing market-ready experiences to attract a broader demographic. These concerted efforts aimed to bolster tourism as a sustainable economic driver in the region (Forrest & Gutsche 2021).

14.8.2.2.2.2 Housing

Housing is a determinant of community well-being, shaping residents' health, safety, and overall quality of life. Access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing supports social stability and enables participation in education, employment, and community life.

Kenora District

As of 2021, the Kenora District reported a total of 32,914 private dwellings, of which 24,818 were occupied by permanent residents. A large proportion of homes in the region are single-detached houses (81%), reflecting the district's low-density settlement pattern. While most dwellings require only regular maintenance or minor repairs (83%), approximately 17% were in need of major repairs, a rate notably higher than the Ontario average of 5.7%. Housing tenure in the District demonstrates a high level of homeownership, with 60% of households owning their home and 20% identified as renters (Statistics Canada 2023b).

Housing Affordability and Access

Interviews with service providers highlighted the growing demand for rental housing, affordable homeownership programs, and increased shelter capacity to serve vulnerable populations across the district. Housing concerns included the limited availability of supportive housing, rising maintenance costs, and limited access to transitional and emergency shelter services outside of major centres such as the City of Kenora, with few facilities available in smaller municipalities such as Red Lake. Seniors, women+ experiencing domestic violence, and individuals with disabilities were identified as being particularly at risk of housing insecurity (Wesley 2025).

It was reported that high housing costs in Kenora District have deterred qualified early childhood educators from relocating, contributing to staffing instability in child and family services. A nearby 20-unit supportive housing complex was also described as outdated and in need of upgrades, reflecting infrastructure pressures across the District (Tougas 2025).

Additional interviews with service providers such as the Kenora Sexual Assault Centre, Northwest EMS, and the Ontario Provincial Police reinforced that housing scarcity extends beyond vulnerable individuals to affect critical service delivery.

These organizations cited challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified staff due to high housing costs and limited availability.

It was reported that organizations had lost educator hires due to unaffordable or inaccessible housing, while the OPP noted that transient populations and housing insecurity are increasingly tied to mental health and safety concerns (Hamilton 2025; Hall & Lamme 2025; Wesley 2025). Findings from the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted by the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) highlighted the increasing housing pressures in the region.

As of October 2024, 500 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in the Kenora District, including 325 in the City of Kenora alone. This reflects a 168% increase in homelessness in Kenora since the 2021 PIT count (Kenora District Services Board 2025). The data further show that 76 individuals were residing in encampments and that 164 respondents had slept in jail, prison, or a remand centre the night before the count.

The PIT count also found that:

- 81 respondents cited low income as the main barrier to securing housing;
- 89% of respondents expressed a desire to be housed;
- 144 of 344 respondents identified as First Nations or Métis (42%), with the actual proportion potentially higher due to non-responses; and
- 109 respondents had completed only some high school; with non-responses, the percentage could reach 67%.

The KDSB reported that the waitlist for housing in the Kenora District increased by 354% since 2011, highlighting the scale of the housing crisis (Kenora District Services Board 2025).

Homelessness studies may not capture everyone experiencing housing insecurity. People who are couch-surfing, living in overcrowded homes, staying temporarily with friends or family, or in unsafe housing situations are often missed in traditional counts.

Municipality of Red Lake

As outlined in Section 15.5.1.3.1, Accommodation and Lodging, the 2021 Census, Red Lake and Ear Falls had a total of 1,705 occupied private dwellings, and 420 tenant households. Of the occupied private dwellings in Red Lake, 1,560 were in need of regular maintenance or minor repairs, and 150 need major repairs (Statistics Canada 2023e)

Housing Affordability

In Red Lake, the average home price as of early 2025 was $273,500, below Ontario's average of $834,123 (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation 2021) but still challenging for lower-income households. Community planning documents for Red Lake note that many households, especially seniors and low-income renters, are spending over 30% of their income on shelter, a common threshold for housing affordability(MNP LLP 2020b). These pressures are compounded by the limited availability of childcare services in the region, which may further constrain household finances and labour force participation (Statistics Canada 2018; Ramasaywak 2025; Parrish 2025).

Community feedback gathered through interviews also emphasized the need for additional housing options for seniors and entry-level homebuyers, as well as expanded rental inventory to meet the needs of temporary or transitional workers.

Interview data from 2025 suggests that one-bedroom rentals in Red Lake may now cost approximately $1,500 per month, a notable increase from the 2021 Census average of $984 (Statistics Canada 2021; Stirling-Kattler 2025).

It was also noted that the completion of the all-season bridge to Pikangikum may further increase regional housing demand and contribute to future affordability pressures (Stirling-Kattler 2025).

Much of Red Lake's land base (606 km^2) remains undeveloped, but only 2% is municipally owned. In many cases, serviceable land is difficult to access or would require costly development interventions, including rock blasting and infrastructure upgrades.

The municipality is currently seeking to acquire 160 acres of Crown land to support mixed-use development, but cost estimates suggest that even basic lot servicing could exceed $250,000 per parcel (Stirling-Kattler 2023).

Worker accommodations provided by mining companies have also affected the rental market. According to municipal staff, mining companies often lease local rental units directly, reducing housing availability for other community members and driving up demand and cost. The municipality has expressed concern that these dynamics may displace local residents or prevent new hires from securing accommodation (Stirling-Kattler 2023).

Housing Insecurity and Changes in Service

Housing insecurity has implications for community well-being in Red Lake and surrounding areas. Local service providers emphasized its effects on physical and mental health, safety, and social stability, particularly for seniors and low-income households.

The absence of affordable, appropriate housing options undermines quality of life, increasing stress and limiting access to support networks and care services. While housing infrastructure limitations are a factor, the broader issue lies in how this insecurity shapes daily life and access to essential supports, especially for those paying a larger share of income on shelter. Ongoing service gaps, such as the lack of independent or assisted living options and long-term care availability, contribute to vulnerability among seniors, as reflected in reported waitlist and projected increases in demand for senior housing. The long-term care facility in Red Lake was reported as having a waitlist as of the 2020 survey (MNP LLP 2020b).

The 2016 Census shows that the demand for senior housing is projected to grow by 57% between 2016 and 2025 (Statistics Canada 2017b).

The Red Lake Family Health Team and Golden Learning Centre both reported that staff recruitment is constrained by a lack of rental housing and relocation support. Transition workers and short-term professionals, including healthcare and education personnel, are increasingly occupying available rental stock, limiting options for new families or vulnerable individuals. This dynamic has also contributed to service continuity challenges in sectors such as education, youth support, and health care (Parrish 2025; Shuurman, 2025).

Additional service providers such as Firefly, Harmony Centre, and the Red Lake Fire Department noted similar constraints. Firefly reported that staff must travel in from the City of Kenora to fill service gaps due to housing shortages (Ingebrigston 2025)The Harmony Centre, which supports 50 individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, has developed some housing infrastructure but is currently at full capacity and struggling to expand due to staffing and cost barriers.

Their staff also noted that many seniors receive housing support allowances that are below current market rates, intensifying affordability challenges for fixed-income residents (Parsons 2025).

Supportive and Emergency Housing

Access to supportive and emergency housing plays a critical role in community well-being by helping individuals maintain safety, dignity, and social stability during periods of acute housing insecurity. These services are especially vital for women+, Indigenous residents, and individuals with complex needs who may lack other forms of support.

Local shelters and housing programs offer short-term accommodations, meals, and holistic supports that contribute to mental health, reduce the risk of chronic homelessness, and foster inclusion. For example, organizations such as New Starts for Women and the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre delivers culturally appropriate outreach and housing support.

These programs serve as pillars of social support in a context of high housing need and affordability challenges.

For detailed descriptions of shelter infrastructure, bed capacity, and service utilization rates, refer to Section 14.5.2.2.1 Accommodation and Lodging in Community Services and Infrastructure (Tougas 2025).

Barriers to Housing Access for Vulnerable Groups

Service providers emphasized the need for housing tailored to seniors, individuals with disabilities, and culturally diverse families, including newcomers and Indigenous Peoples.

The OPP and shelter staff both reported that mental health and substance use are drivers of homelessness and emergency housing use. Culturally relevant and trauma-informed programming, such as recovery circles and Indigenous-led support, have been effective at improving access to these services, but long-term housing options remain limited.

While the 2021 KDSB Homeless Enumeration Report indicated that 64.7% of respondents cited mental health and 76.5% cited substance use as contributing factors to their housing loss, the 2024 enumeration does not include equivalent quantitative breakdowns of these drivers. However, based on 2024 survey response data, 43.4% of respondents reported experiencing mental health challenges and 57.0% reported substance use issues.

Although these percentages appear lower than the 2021 figures, they should not be interpreted as a reduction in underlying issues. The 2024 survey saw a high rate of non-responses to sensitive questions related to health and substance use, which likely contributed to underreporting. Furthermore, differences in how questions were asked and how responses were categorized limit direct comparison between years.

Similarly, while the 2024 report does not specify the proportion of respondents who identified as Indigenous, the 2021 enumeration found that 88.14% of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Red Lake and Kenora District were Indigenous, highlighting the ongoing and disproportionate effect of homelessness on Indigenous communities in the region.

These self-reported findings are nonetheless consistent with the broader narrative presented in the 2024 report, which identifies trauma, addictions, mental health challenges, and the lack of affordable housing as intersecting structural drivers of homelessness in the Kenora District.

As stated in the report's conclusion, "it has also been unequivocally demonstrated that the lack of safe, adequate, and affordable housing in the Kenora District's municipalities produces devastating results regarding poverty and homelessness" (Kenora District Services Board 2025)

Research indicates that domestic violence is a leading cause of housing instability for women+ and children in Canadian municipalities (Fustic, Guay, Khalid, & Hossain 2019). Given that there is only one shelter in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area that focuses on women+ experiencing domestic violence, there is a lack of support for women+ in need of alternative housing (Chukuni Communities Development Corporation 2021).

By addressing gaps in affordable housing in Red Lake, the Community Safety and Well-being Plan aims to look into the Sioux Lookout homelessness initiative for supportive housing options, as well as the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services in order to decrease the number of Indigenous People experiencing homelessness in Red Lake and the broader Kenora region (Muncipality of Red Lake 2020).

Township of Ear Falls

As outlined in Section 14.5.2.2.1, Accommodation and Lodging in Community Services and Infrastructure, Ear Falls had a total of 470 occupied private dwellings, and 110 tenant households. Of the occupied private dwellings in Ear Falls, 435 were in need of regular maintenance or minor repairs, and 5 of these dwellings were in need of major repairs (Statistics Canada 2023e).

Housing Affordability and Workforce Effects

Housing affordability and availability continue to affect quality of life and service access in Ear Falls (Larson 2025). While full details on housing conditions and affordability are provided in Section 14.5.2.2.1, Accommodation and Lodging, service providers consistently emphasized the social effects of these housing pressures. For example, representatives from the Golden Learning Centre and the Kenora District Services Board, reported that ongoing housing and transportation challenges have made it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain staff, particularly in more remote catchment areas.

These barriers have contributed to high turnover and placed strain on remaining personnel, ultimately affecting educational program continuity and student support (Parrish 2025; Stevenson & Lansdell-Roll 2025).

Workforce housing constraints are similarly affecting emergency and essential services. Northwest EMS noted that staff accommodations are necessary to support 24/7 operations in the area, but additional units are needed to recruit and retain qualified paramedics

In support of these concerns, job posting data from 2024 show that Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses were the most in-demand occupation in the Kenora District, with 354 job postings that year alone (Northwest Training & Adjustment Board 2025). This aligns with reported staffing shortages across healthcare and social service sectors.

Housing Accessibility and Social Isolation

There are no known long-term care or assisted living facilities currently operating in Ear Falls. As a result, older adults who require higher levels of care may need to relocate to nearby communities such as Red Lake or Kenora District, which may create social and logistical challenges for aging residents (Muncipality of Red Lake 2020; Township of Ear Falls 2020).

Service providers noted that many families do not own private vehicles and that no public transportation and limited taxi services exist in, and between Red Lake and Ear Falls. During winter, extreme cold and long travel distances often result in missed daycare days and is a barrier to accessing services.

These mobility limitations heighten the risk of social isolation, particularly for seniors, single-parent households, and low-income renters (Hamilton 2025; Hall & Lamme 2025; Ramasaywak 2025).

Community Well-being Housing Scores

The 2021 CWB Index reports high housing scores for Kenora District (94), Red Lake (94), and Ear Falls (97), indicate that most dwellings are not overcrowded and are in adequate physical condition, however, these scores do not fully reflect the housing challenges currently facing the region. The CWB housing metric is based on Census indicators related to structural condition and crowding, and does not consider factors such as affordability, availability, or housing options.

Findings from the 2024 PIT Count and key services provider interviews consistently raise housing challenges in the region.

Rising rates of homelessness, extensive wait lists for affordable and supportive units, and limited shelter capacity, particularly for Indigenous individuals, women+, and seniors, highlight that housing insecurity remains a barrier to well-being in the Kenora District.

Cost of Living and Traditional Economy

While there is no community-specific cost of living index available for the Kenora District, regional data for Northwestern Ontario suggests that the cost of goods, utilities, and services is elevated compared to other parts of the province. This is due to geographic remoteness, transportation limitations, and seasonal supply constraints. The Ontario Ministry of Health acknowledges these pressures through programs such as the Northern Health Travel Grant, which offsets travel costs for medical appointments in distant communities (Ontario Ministry of Health 2024).

Many Indigenous communities, particularly those who are remote, and/or in an area with limited employment and income opportunities will participate in traditional economy activities. The Indigenous traditional economy is a land-based, community-centered economic system built on:

- Subsistence Activities – hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering plants (e.g. medicinal, firewood, cooking) may replace and / or augment food sources and / or supplement household income
- Reciprocity and Sharing - this economy emphasizes sharing resources with family, Elders, and community members where giving creates social bonds, supporting collective well-being.
- Stewardship of the Land – maintaining balance so species and ecosystems regenerate (‘taking only what you need”) and viewing land and resources as a living relative, not a commodity (Seven Grandfather Teachings)
- Governance and Cultural Values – informed by Elders' knowledge, Band Councils, and cultural protocols.

Measuring Indigenous traditional economy is complex because it does not fit neatly into Western economic metrics like Community Wellness Index, Gross Domestic Product or income. Instead, it is described using qualitative and holistic information that reflect cultural, ecological, and social values.

14.8.2.2.3 Community Cohesion

Community cohesion refers to the strength of relationships, sense of belonging, mutual trust, and shared values that connect individuals within a community. It is a key dimension of community well-being, particularly in smaller and rural Indigenous communities, where close interpersonal ties, formal and informal support networks, and cultural continuity play a central role in resilience and day-to-day quality of life. Community cohesion can support resiliency against economic and health-related stressors by fostering collective care, intergenerational support, and a sense of safety and inclusion.

14.8.2.2.3.1 Kenora District

Kenora demonstrates a high degree of community cohesion through long-standing interagency collaboration, Indigenous partnerships, and trauma-informed service delivery. Community organizations like FIREFLY and the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) play central roles in fostering inclusivity and well-being, especially for families, Indigenous residents, and those navigating housing and mental health challenges.

FIREFLY staff report that 50% of their clients identify as Indigenous and that cultural safety training is mandatory across the organization (Curtis 2025). They collaborate regularly with Indigenous organizations such as the Kenora Chiefs Advisory and the Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority, ensuring that programs remain responsive to community needs. Despite persistent service demand and wait lists, particularly for speech therapy and developmental services, FIREFLY noted a stable staffing environment and active efforts to maintain flexible and inclusive programming (Curtis 2025).

The Kenora District Services Board has expanded emergency and supportive housing infrastructure across the region, including services tailored to men+, women+, families, and seniors. They have also adjusted childcare hours in response to the growing workforce tied to the mining sector, reflecting responsiveness to evolving community needs (Stevenson & Lansdell-Roll 2025). However, transportation remains a persistent barrier for both staff and service users in the dispersed communities around Kenora, Red Lake, and Ear Falls.

The Kenora Sexual Assault Centre (KSAC) is regarded as a central support hub in the region, especially for 2SLGBTQIA plus clients and Indigenous women. KSAC provides culturally rooted programs, Elder-led ceremonies, and land-based healing practices, with 95% of clients identifying as Indigenous (Wesley 2025; Kenora Sexual Assault Centre, n.d.). Although based in City of Kenora, KSAC's 24/7 crisis line receives calls from across the province, and many clients travel from Red Lake and other communities for support.

Transportation and housing instability were identified as substantial barriers, particularly for trans women, immigrant newcomers, and youth transitioning from care. Despite this, KSAC staff noted that Kenora's 2SLGBTQIA plus community is generally well integrated, and efforts such as the city's multicultural inclusion plan and Kenora Pride have helped foster safer and more inclusive public spaces s (Wesley 2025).

In addition to formal service agencies, a range of volunteer and civic organizations, such as local multicultural associations, Rotary and Legion chapters, and community programs like Meals on Wheels, contribute to community cohesion and community support across the district.

14.8.2.2.3.2 Municipality of Red Lake

Red Lake is a highly engaged community with a strong culture of volunteerism and local support. Despite ongoing challenges related to housing, racism and service gaps, several service providers have noted improvements in community cohesion in recent years (Tennant 2025).

Many organizations rely on consistent support from residents, both through donations and volunteer hours. For example, the New Starts for Women Shelter receives daily community donations and operates a food share program that provides groceries and housewares on a no-questions-asked basis. Last year, the food share program saw 1300 visits, highlighting the essential role in supporting the community (Chamberlin 2025). Great Bear Resources has also supported the shelter through the Garage Program, funding a part-time position for two years to assist with sorting and distributing donations. However, staffing shortages limit the frequency of grocery store pickups, affecting the program's capacity to meet demand (Chamberlin 2025). While stigma surrounding food insecurity and homelessness remains a concern in many communities, service providers in Red Lake observed that local residents tend to be supportive of those seeking assistance. Similarly, the Moozoons Childcare Centre rely heavily on community volunteers to operate both in Red Lake and in the satellite location in Ear Falls (Tougas 2025).

Schools play an important role in fostering cohesion through community-led arts, athletics, and educational supports. At Golden Learning Centre, a full music and drama program is sustained by thousands of volunteer hours contributed by community members and former students. (Parrish 2025). Red Lake District High School also noted extensive community support for student athletics, with mining companies like Evolution and Great Bear Resources donating thousands annually to support sports programming (Vachon 2025).

While Red Lake demonstrates strong community engagement, some residents continue to experience barriers related to inclusion and belonging. Service providers have noted that isolated incidents and social divisions occasionally emerge, particularly affecting Indigenous residents and newcomers (Ramasaywak 2025). Though efforts to address these issues are ongoing, particularly in schools and childcare settings, there is a noted hesitancy in the broader community to engage in direct conversations about racism (Tougas 2025).

In recent years, Red Lake has seen an increase in immigration, particularly from countries such as the Philippines, Zimbabwe, and other regions in Africa, Asia, and South America (Ramasaywak 2025; Riddell 2025). However, without formal immigration services or community integration programs in place, newcomers often face challenges in connecting with the community.

Some service providers noted that the town's highly transient workforce and the close-knit nature of long-standing residents, may lead to a passive or hesitant response towards new community members, contributing to a sense of exclusion (Parrish 2025; Ramasaywak 2025).

Emergency and transitional services have highlighted the role of the community in addressing homelessness and providing return-home support. The Red Lake Emergency Shelter has not reached capacity in the past two years, attributed to the community's ongoing willingness to help individuals feel supported during challenging times (Mantle 2025).

Community well-being is also closely tied to the health of the local economy, particularly the mining sector. Organizations like FIREFLY have noted that demand for emotional and financial support services increases during times of economic downturn.

However, even during more stable periods, ongoing service demand requires continued investment and adaptability (Ingebrigston 2025).

Overall, Red Lake demonstrates a strong foundation of grassroots cohesion and community engagement. However, this cohesion is tested by issues such as systemic racism, limited services to newcomers, and persistent housing and transportation challenges. Continued investment in culturally inclusive and community-driven programming will be essential to maintaining and strengthening social well-being in the context of new mining development.

14.8.2.2.3.3 Township of Ear Falls

Ear Falls demonstrates strong community cohesion, with residents and organizations collaborating in various ways to support and sustain one another. For example, municipal staff often go above and beyond their official roles to guarantee community needs are met. The municipality is involved in activities like snow plowing, renting healthcare facilities at discounted rates to attract professionals, and owning dental equipment to make services more accessible (Ballance 2025).

The Community Garden in Ear Falls is another example of residents working together. Many community members, especially those with limited access to food, rely on the garden to grow their own produce, fostering self-sufficiency and strengthening local ties.

The garden is important in Ear Falls as residents often turn to practices like canning and baking bread to meet their needs, due to the remoteness of the community (Ballance 2025).

The Ear Falls Fire Department operates as a volunteer-based service, currently staffed by 18 trained volunteers. The department receives support from municipal council and local industry stakeholders. Recruitment is conducted primarily through informal mechanisms, including community networks, word of mouth, and social media outreach. As of 2024, the department includes female and Indigenous representation among its members. No systemic or structural barriers to participation have been identified (Desjardins 2025).

Ear Falls Emergency Medical Services staff also emphasized the strength of local collaboration. The team partners with agencies like The Ministry of Natural Resources to navigate remote areas using boats, helicopters, and snowmobiles. Staff are supported with social housing through the Kenora District Services Board, which also provides housing assistance to community members in need. This connection between emergency services and broader social support highlights a collaborative approach to community well-being (Hamilton 2025).

This level of cohesion allows The Township of Ear Falls to maintain a high level of service despite challenges with staffing and resource pressures. From emergency response to food security, community cohesion plays a central role in how residents care for one another and sustain daily life.

14.8.2.2.4 Public Safety

Indigenous People in Canada experience higher rates of victimization due to the enduring effects of systemic racism, colonialism, and past and present government policies. A 2022 report from the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics outlines factors contributing to this reality. Some of the issues identified in the report include, but not limited to (Perreault 2022).

- 4 in 10 Indigenous People experienced sexual or physical violence by an adult before the age of 15, according to self-reported data;
- 26% of Indigenous women+ experienced sexual violence by an adult during their childhood (9.2% for non-Indigenous women+, 5.8% for Indigenous men and 2.8% for non-Indigenous men);
- The homicide rate involving Indigenous victims is six times higher than non-Indigenous victims;
- 8.4% of Indigenous People were victims of sexual assault, robbery or physical assault in 2019, about twice the proportion of non-Indigenous people (4.2%); and
- Indigenous People were about twice more likely than non-Indigenous people to have little or no confidence in their local police service.

Additionally, research indicates that one in three Canadian women+ will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, with Indigenous women+ experiencing a higher rate of sexual assault compared to non-Indigenous women+ (Sexual Assault Support Centre n.d.). While sexual assault data for Red Lake and Ear Falls is not available, sexual assault statistics for the broader area include:

- Sexual assaults (430) reported in Northwestern Ontario in 2021, represented an increase of 31% from 2020(Levesque 2022).
- In Kenora District, there were 211.5 reported sexual assaults per 100,000 of the population in 2020 (Canada Crime Index 2021).

In Canada, there is a relationship between industrial camp populations and a rise in crime, sexual violence, and the trafficking of Indigenous women+ (Keith MacMaster 2020). The remote locations of projects and Indigenous communities result in low reporting rates.

In addition, local community health centres lack the resources to address incidents of sexual assault (Prospectors and Developers Association 2019). However, this is not specific to Indigenous women+ on reserves, but rural and urban Indigenous women+ that live near resource-intensive areas. Given the presence of mining projects in the area, Indigenous women+ are at a higher risk of violence.

Crime statistics are reported by Statistics Canada using the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. The survey measures the incidence of crime in Canada. The data reflects crimes reported to police and so it does not capture a count of all crimes as some go undetected or unreported to police (Statistics Canada 2024c). Crime statistics for Canada and Ontario are shown in Table 14.8-21.

Table 14.8-21: Crime Statistics for the years 2019 and 2023 - Canada and Ontario, 2025

	Canada (total, all violations)		Ontario (total, all violations)	
	2019	2023	2019	2023
Actual Incidents	2,440,496	2,526,877	660,927	737,246
Rate per 100,000 population	6,487.49	6,301.79	4,535.11	4,723.40
Total, persons charged (adult & youth)	645,614	591,770	205,148	198,291
Source: (Statistics Canada 2024a)				

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a measure that analyses severity and number of crimes and is intended to complement other crime statistics such as crime rate and self-reported victimization data. The CSI has a base index value of 100 for 2006. In 2023, the CSI for Canada was 80.5, an increase of 2%, but still lower than in 2006. In Ontario, the CSI in 2023 was 60.9, an increase of 4%, again still much lower than in 2006 (Statistics Canada 2024b).

Statistics Canada only reports CSI for metropolitan areas with populations greater than 100,000, therefore, a CSI for Red Lake, Ear Falls or Kenora District is not available. However, the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (Nishnawbe Aski Police Service n.d). provides policing to Indigenous Nations communities throughout much of Northern Ontario and in 2023, they reported a CSI of 302.3 for their service area, 241.4 higher than the provincial number (Nishnawbe Aski Police 2024). The Nishnawbe Aski Police Service police the Indigenous communities northwestern Ontario (Kenora District north of Red Lake), and this statistic shows the general trend of crime in remote communities.

A study conducted by the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society found that women's jobs within the extractive industry jeopardizes their safety. This included exposure to harassment, discrimination and assault in the workplace and within mining camps.

It also found that Indigenous and racialized women+ felt that they could not report incidents and felt that authorities (i.e., police, agencies, employers) failed to address violence in the industry.

To address these issues, the report recommends that regulatory agencies and the criminal justice system focus on addressing systemic gaps to strengthen protections for workers' safety and human rights (CCSG Associates 2021).

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls sought to understand the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women+, girls and 2SLGBTQIA plus people.

The National Inquiry found that extraction projects lead to increased violence against Indigenous women+ at the hands of non-Indigenous men and increased violence within Indigenous communities. This was associated with the nature of the industry including, transient workers and rotational shift work, as well as harassment and assault in the workplace, substance abuse and addictions, and economic insecurity (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

The National Inquiry determined that no one knows exactly how many Indigenous women+, girls and 2SLGBTQIA plus people have gone missing or been murdered, though it is estimated to be in the thousands (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).

The National Inquiry made 231 Calls for Justice that cover a range of actions to address violence and crimes against Indigenous women+, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, including (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019):

- Governance and Accountability
  - Calls for governments and institutions to take accountability and to create a national action plan that emphasises accountability and measurable outcomes.
- Public Safety and Justice
  - Calls for reform of policing and the criminal justice system to address biases, racism and lack of responsiveness to Indigenous Peoples.
- Cultural and Social Reconciliation
  - Calls for restoring cultures, languages and practices as well as inclusion of Indigenous history, cultures and rights in the Canadian educational system.
- Healing and Wellness
  - Calls for Indigenous-led healing programs and safe spaces for the well-being of Indigenous women+, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- Action on Poverty and Marginalization
  - Calls for economic, education and social policies that address poverty and marginalization and for increased access to economic opportunities, housing and healthcare.
- Support for Families and Survivors
  - Calls for support systems for the families and survivors of the missing and murdered.

The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Red Lake identifies gaps in emotional and sexual violence support in which there is one shelter that focuses on women+ experiencing domestic and sexual violence in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area.

The Plan's survey indicates that the services available are limited in providing the necessary support for women+, and specifically Indigenous women+, that may be coping with sexual and domestic violence (Muncipality of Red Lake 2020).

14.8.2.2.5 Access to Land and Resources

Access to community and natural resources, including land, water, food systems, and social infrastructure, are central to community well-being and self-determination for Indigenous populations across the Kenora District. Indigenous communities both on- and off-reserve, access to shared and exclusive resources and cultural landscapes is essential to their identity; a major determinant of physical, mental and spiritual health, and community cohesion (Public Health Agency of Canada 2018).

Historical and contemporary policy decisions, from colonial land appropriation to the legacy of residential schools and settlement expansion, have disrupted Indigenous Peoples' ability to access and steward the lands and resources they have long relied on. These legacies continue to shape governance and economic frameworks today, at the risk of the health of local populations (Boska, Joober, & Kirmayer 2015).

14.8.2.2.5.1 Land Tenure and Mineral Resources

Ontario's natural resource and extraction economy present both an opportunity and risk to Indigenous communities, adding pressure to an already historically affected landscape to practice traditional systems. Approximately 87% of Ontario's landmass is Crown land, the vast majority of which is managed by Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Government of Ontario 2015). Crown land is made up of numerous tenures, including but not limited to mining and mineral claims, forestry tenures, and managed parks and conservation areas. Due to a surge in claims in the Ring of Fire area, mining claims in northern Ontario have grown 30% in the past year (Law 2023).

Indigenous Peoples often find themselves in the difficult position of seeking participation and inclusion in a rapidly growing resource economy, and seeking protections to their lands, resources, and livelihoods tied to the natural environment. (Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada 2017).

While Treaty 3 affirms Indigenous rights to traditional land use (such as hunting, fishing, gathering), it provides limited protection against industrial development. Notably, mineral rights were excluded from the treaty text, limiting community participation and benefit-sharing from resource extraction activities. Historical records indicate that while Indigenous signatories were promised protections within reserve lands, these rights were not extended beyond reserve boundaries and were omitted from the final treaty (Daugherty 1986).

Under Ontario law, mining claims can be registered without prior consultation with Indigenous Nations. While exploration permits cannot proceed without consultation, the initial staking and registration of mineral claims may still be perceived as occupation without consent, particularly in regions with limited consultation capacity or where historical mineral patents remain in force. From an Indigenous perspective, this contributes to ongoing legal inequity, as it enables incursions on traditional territories that may disrupt constitutionally protected land use and traditional food systems (Carver 2023).

Additional barriers to economic participation that Ontario Indigenous Nations face include:

- Limited technical capacity to participate, review and respond to the high number of staked claims, including complex permitting and regulatory processes,
- Limited access to capital and resources,
- Competing social priorities, including protection and stewardship of the land, and social challenges including mental health and addictions, housing crises, access to clean water and food sources (Law 2023).

14.8.2.2.5.2 Food and Water Access

Treaty 3 (Figure 14.1.-1) protects, preserves and enhances Treaty and Aboriginal rights. It offers protection to traditional activity, lands and resources, and trapping (The Government of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 2025b)The region surrounding the Project has an expansive waterbody system that the traditional and cultural activity is inextricably linked to.

The Anishinaabeg connection with water is expressed and explained in the Nibi Declaration produced by the Grand Council Treaty #3.

It speaks to the sacred relationship and responsibilities that the Anishinaabeg have with water, water beings, and the waterways and waterbodies

(Grand Council Treaty #3 Women's Council 2019b). Water access and water quality are notable issues for Indigenous communities in the region.

Industrial development including mining, forestry, and power generation disrupts the relationship and access to water resources for Indigenous communities in the Treaty 3 (Simpson, DaSilva, Riffel, & Sellers 2009). Traditional practices and cultural gathering spaces are generally tied to waterbodies where harvesting, trapping, fishing, and hunting opportunities tend to occur.

Beyond cultural significance, water systems are tied to economic and food systems in the region. Waterways and waterbodies were a source for drinking water, fishing, and commercial revenue in the region. Commercial fishing was banned in the English-Wabigoon River system in 1970 when mercury contamination from the Reed Paper mill was discovered and acknowledged, damaging the economy in the region. The employment rate in ANA communities fell to 10%, and traditional, staple food systems were disrupted (Brophy 2005).

Many ANA community members travel to waterways and waterbodies outside of the English-Wabigoon system to safely fish, harvest aquatic resources and participate in traditional activities linked to waterbodies.

However, many continue to fish closer to their residence / community because they do not own vehicles or boats or will not change their way of life (Thompson 2018).

LSFN community members noted changes to how they access harvesting areas and spoke about how some areas are not accessible at all. Flooding for dams from the 1920s, in the region has affected travel by boat, with hidden logs and stumps in the water caused by flooding and high-water events. Historical shoreline camping areas used by families for generations were washed away by these high waters. Changes to water flow tied to climate change and industry (i.e., forestry) have affected creeks causing low flow conditions and altering or eliminating access to wild rice harvesting areas.

The disruption of traditional food sources (e.g., fish and wild rice) across the region has forced dietary changes, contributing to health issues, shifting cultural practices, and contributed to food insecurity.

Food insecurity remains a public health concern in northwestern Ontario. According to the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU), approximately 21% of households in the Kenora–Rainy River Districts face food insecurity, which is higher than the provincial average of 19% and the regional average of 19% (Northwestern Health Unit 2024).

While community food programs such as hampers, school nutrition programs, and food banks provide necessary short-term relief, the NWHU emphasizes that these are not long-term solutions and that income-based policy responses are needed to address the root causes of food insecurity. Additional regional challenges include:

- high transportation costs
- limited grocery competition
- increased risk of food spoilage due to long-distance shipping, especially in remote areas.

The Nutritious Food Basket tool used to monitor affordability may also underestimate the true cost of food, as it does not reflect cultural preferences, processed or specialty diets, or real-world conditions such as limited time or access to quality stores (Northwestern Health Unit 2024).

Additional insights from Ear Falls officials highlight the role of self-reliance in mitigating food access barriers.

Community gardening and home food production are common in Ear Falls, where residents frequently engage in canning, growing vegetables, and breadmaking to address limited grocery availability and high prices. The municipal community garden has been expanded in response to demand, and local service providers noted the “home-steady” culture as an important source of informal food security (Ballance 2025).

The monthly cost to feed a family of four in the region reached $1,537.84 in 2024, representing a 9% increase from 2023. For those living on minimum wage or social assistance, food costs may consume 50% or more of monthly income, leaving minimal funds for housing, transportation, or other basic needs. A summary of regional food insecurity indicators for the year 2024 is provided in Table 14.8-22:

Table 14.8-22: Food Insecurity and Cost Indicators - Kenora-Rainy River Region, 2025

Indicator	Value
% of households facing food insecurity	21.3%
Provincial average	18.7%
Regional average (Northwestern Ontario)	19.2%
Monthly cost to feed a family of four in 2024	$1,537.84
Year-to-year cost increase (2023 – 2024)	9%
Estimated monthly deficit for Ontario Works / Ontario Disability Support Program households	$700
Remaining income for minimum wage families after food + housing	~$599
Source:(Northwestern Health Unit 2024).	

14.8.2.2.5.3 Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems

Access to clean, safe drinking water is essential to public health and community well-being in both urban and rural areas.

In the City of Kenora, access to clean drinking water is supported by a municipally operated system that sources from Lake of the Woods and treats up to 25 million litres per day.

In 2024, water quality met provincial standards with no adverse findings, and over $1 million was invested in infrastructure upgrades. While the system allows for safe and reliable access for most residents, one low chlorine incident and aging infrastructure highlight the need for continued reinvestment to protect public health and long-term community well-being (Mundy 2025).

In the Municipality of Red Lake, drinking water is supplied through a municipally operated system managed by Northern Waterworks Inc. The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Report confirmed full compliance with Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. While the system provides reliable access to safe drinking water for residents, continued investment in maintenance and system renewal remains important to support long-term service quality and resilience(Northern Waterworks Inc. 2023).

In Ear Falls, residents benefit from high-capacity municipal systems for drinking water and wastewater treatment.

Although the systems are oversized for the current population, residents face challenges related to aging infrastructure, reliance on a flat-rate billing model, and frequent power outages that may affect service continuity. Interviewees noted that while day-to-day needs are generally met, system resilience and staffing remain concerns, especially given the risk of skilled operators being recruited to mining jobs (Ballance 2025).

14.8.2.2.5.4 Social Infrastructure and Community Spaces

Access to gathering spaces such as community centres, culturally significant gathering spaces, recreation facilities, and libraries varies across the three municipalities. Common themes emerged during the assessment, including uneven access to shared facilities, and gaps in infrastructure (Parrish 2025). Gathering places and cultural spaces for regional Indigenous communities are also typically outdoor environments where cultural and spiritual activities take place.

Social infrastructure for Indigenous communities also includes trapper cabins, traplines, and wild rice areas near waterbodies where hunting and harvesting occurs. For more information on current use and existing cultural spaces see sections 14.6 (Current Use) and 14.7 (Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage). These culturally significant spaces have the potential to be affected by Project development, changes in traffic, and general population increases in the region. To address potential effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects are also discussed in Sections 14.6 and 14.7.

Table 14.8-23 summarizes features and challenges related to social infrastructure and community spaces in each municipality. It highlights the types of facilities available, usage patterns, and community-identified gaps, as well as shared priorities across all three communities.

Table 14.8-23: Summary of Community Spaces and Infrastructure – City of Kenora, Red Lake and Ear Falls, 2025

Municipality	Key Facilities & Programs	Challenges
Kenora	Variety of community facilities concentrated in urban core	Uneven access in outlying areas
Red Lake	Evolution Recreation Centre: pool, gym, curling rink, bowling alley, day camps. Popular among newcomers, immigrants, and seniors	Limited accessibility (i.e., dismantled pool lifts, washroom design); part-time staffing; long wait lists for camps and swim programs
Ear Falls	KinFit Gym, arena, golf course, splash pad, parks, community garden; supported by tax revenue, user fees, and provincial allocations	Limited programming due to small population base

In Red Lake, the Evolution Recreation Centre plays a central role in promoting health, inclusion, and connection. Interviewees described it as essential to newcomer integration and youth engagement. However, concerns were raised about its accessibility infrastructure and staffing

levels, with long wait lists for swimming lessons and day camps. Programs like Kids Are Recreationally Equal (KARE) help address cost-related barriers (StJean 2025).

In Ear Falls, residents value the availability of local amenities despite limited programming. Facilities like the KinFit Gym, arena, and community garden are well-utilized and supported through a blend of municipal and provincial funding sources (Ballance 2025).

Shared Priorities Across Municipalities:

- Expanded youth programs and childcare options
- Culturally safe and inclusive gathering spaces
- Improved accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities
- Transportation supports for children and youth
- Greater funding and staffing capacity to meet demand
  (StJean 2025; Ramasaywak 2025)

14.8.2.2.6 Population Dynamics

Population size and stability are important in understanding how communities experience economic change, service pressures, and development effects. In smaller communities, even modest demographic shifts may affect housing, infrastructure needs, and cultural continuity.

14.8.2.2.6.1 Kenora District

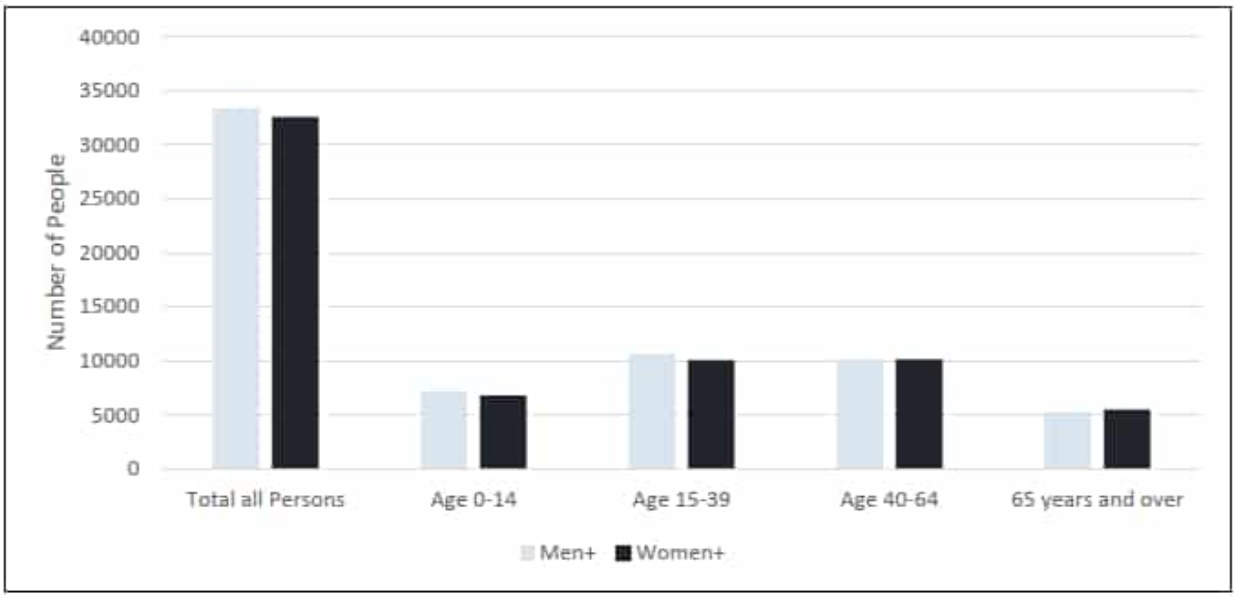
Age and Gender

The most recent breakdown of the total population by gender (2021) shows there were 33,400 individuals who identified as men+ and 32,600 who identified as women+. According to the 2021 Census, the median age in the Kenora District was 37.6. This is slightly higher than the 2016 median (36.5), but lower than in 2011 (38.6).

- The largest age group for both men+ and women+ was 15 to 39 years, followed closely by those aged 40 to 64.
- Within the 15 to 39 age group, 51.5% were men+ and 49% were women+
- For those aged 0 to 14, men+ made up 51.4% of the population, while women+ accounted for 48.6%. Among those 65 years and older, women+ represented the majority at 51%, compared to 49% men+.

Figure 14.8-2 presents the full age distribution for the Kenora District.

Figure 14.8-2: Age and Gender Characteristics – Kenora District 2025



Source: (Statistics Canada 2023c).

Note: The category men+ includes those that identify as men. The women+ category includes those that identify women. Non-binary persons may be captured in either category.

Migration and Mobility

The mobility characteristics in Kenora District are presented in Table 14.8-24. Statistics Canada's data demonstrates that Kenora District is comprised predominantly of non-movers, with 90.5% reporting not moving from Kenora District. This is slightly higher than the non-moving rates in 2016 (90.0%) and 2011 (89.3%).

Women+ made up a higher proportion of the population that moved in the past year (9.7%) compared to men+ (9.1%). Additionally, women+ made up a higher proportion of the population that moved within Ontario (2.3%) compared to men+ (1.9%) (Statistics Canada 2023c).

This type of stability may support community cohesion, continuity in service delivery, and strong local identity, all of which are important components of community well-being.

Compared to more urbanized or economically transient areas, mobility in Kenora District remains relatively low and interprovincial in nature. The proportion of residents who did not move has increased slowly over the past decade, from 89.3% in 2011 to 90.0% in 2016, and 90.5% in 2021, suggesting a gradual trend toward increased residential stability in the region.

Among those who moved in the past year, women+ accounted for a higher proportion than men+ (9.7% versus 9.1%) and were also more likely to move within Ontario. This may reflect gendered-related factors such as caregiving responsibilities, education or employment transitions, or housing-related decisions.

It is important to note that the 2021 one-year mobility data corresponds to the COVID-19 pandemic period, during which national mobility levels were atypically low due to travel restrictions, public health directives, and broader economic uncertainty. As a result, the already low mobility in Kenora District may have been further suppressed during this period.

Table 14.8-24: Mobility Characteristics - Kenora District 2025

Mobility Characteristics	Total	Men+	Women+
Total responses	64,180	32,385	31,795
Did not move in the past year (%)	90.5	90.9	90.3
Moved in the past year (%)	9.4	9.1	9.7
Moved within Ontario (%)	2.1	1.9	2.3
Moved into Ontario from a different province (%)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023c). Note: The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.			

14.8.2.2.6.2 Municipality of Red Lake

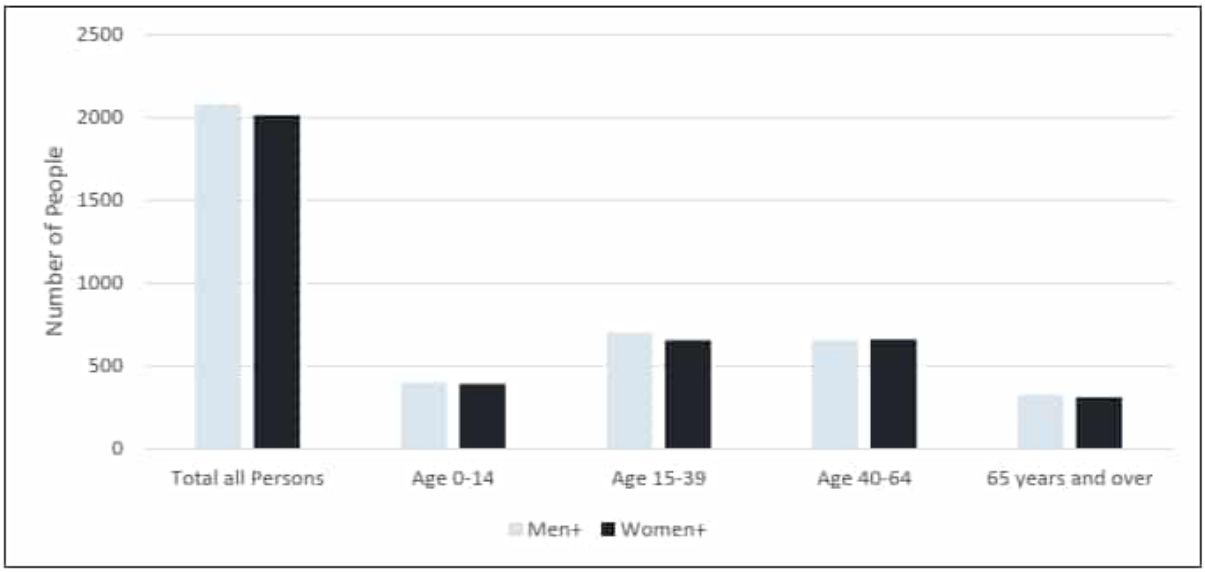
Age and Gender

According to the 2021 Census, the population of Red Lake was 4,094, a decrease of 0.3% since 2016. Red Lake's population makes up 6.2% of the total population of Kenora District (Statistics Canada 2022a). The most recent breakdown of the total population by gender for Red Lake shows there were 2,080 men+ and 2,015 women+ in 2021. The median age of the population was 38.4. The largest age group for both men+ and women+ was 15 to 39 years, followed closely by individuals aged 40 to 64.

- Among those aged 15 to 39, 51.7% were men+ and 48.3% were women+.
- In the 0 to 14 age group, men+ and women+ made up relatively equal proportions.
- For individuals 65 years and older, men+ made up a larger share of the population at 51.2%.

Figure 14.8-3 presents the detailed age characteristics for Red Lake based on the 2021 Census, including a comparison of age groups by gender.

Figure 14.8-3: Age and Gender Characteristics – Red Lake 2025



Source: (Statistics Canada 2022a).

Note: The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

Migration and Mobility

The mobility characteristics in Red Lake are presented in Table 14.8-25. Statistics Canada's data demonstrates that most residents did not move in the past year (88.7%). For those that did move, women+ (1.8%) moved within the province more than men+ (1.4%). However, more men+ moved into Ontario from a different province than women+ (Statistics Canada 2023e).

Compared to larger urban centres, mobility in Red Lake remains relatively low and predominantly within Ontario. A longer-term comparison highlights that short-term residential stability in Red Lake has remained relatively unchanged over the past decade. The proportion of non-movers over a one-year period was:

- 88.4% in 2016
- 88.7% in 2021.

This suggests that Red Lake's population has remained consistently stable over time, with little fluctuation in short-term mobility patterns. Five-year mobility data from 2021 offers further insight. Only 62.5% of residents had not changed their residence over the past five years, indicating more substantial long-term movement. Among the remaining 37.5% who did move:

- 16.4% were internal migrants (within Canada)
- 11.7% moved within Ontario
- 4.7% moved between provinces
- 2.0% were international migrants.

The data indicates that while Red Lake is relatively stable year-to-year, it experiences moderate turnover in longer time frames, which may reflect its status as a resource-based municipality where economic cycles influence movement.

Table 14.8-25: Mobility Characteristics – Red Lake,2025

Mobility Characteristics	Total	Men+	Women+
Total responses	3,990	2,065	1,930
Did not move in the past year (%)	88.7	89.3	87.6
Moved within Ontario (%)	1.5	1.4	1.8
Moved into Ontario from a different province (%)	1.2	1.4	1.3
Source: (Statistics Canada 2023e). Note - The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.			

14.8.2.2.6.3 Township of Ear Falls

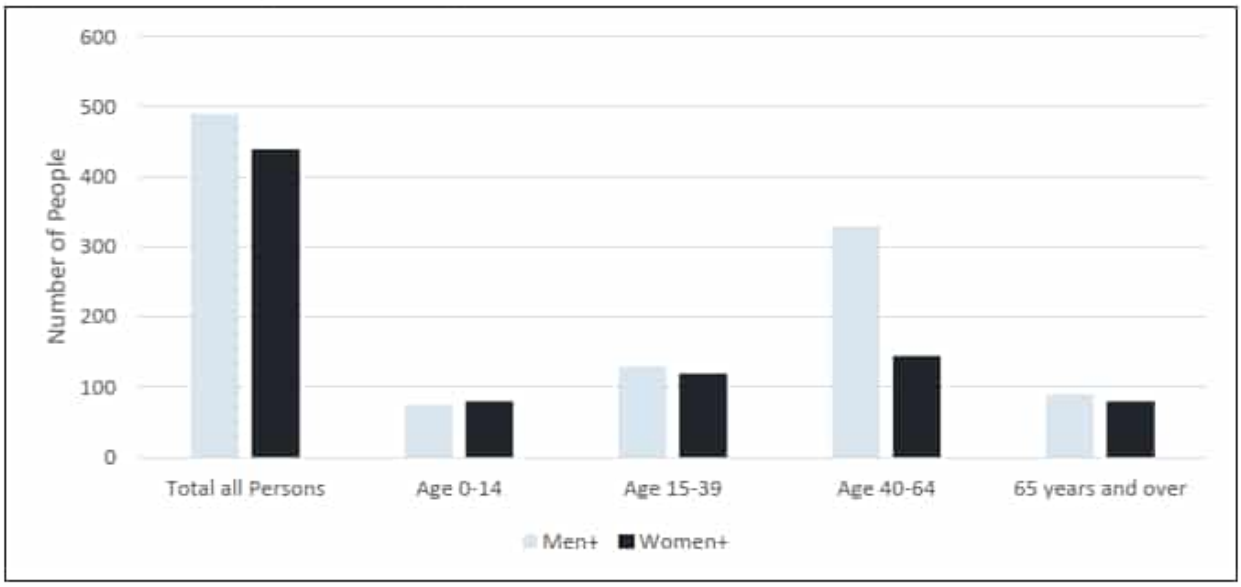
Age and Gender

According to the 2021 Census, the total population of Ear Falls was 924, with a decrease of 7.1% from 2016. Ear Falls population makes up 1.5% of the total population of Kenora District (Statistics Canada 2023a). The median age of the population was 43.6 years, with the largest age group for both men+ and women+ falling within the 39 to 64 year range. The 15 to 39 age group declined from 285 people in 2016 to 250 in 2021, while the 65 and older population increased from 15.1% in 2016 to 18.4% in 2021, indicating a shift towards an aging population.

- Men+ made up 52.3% of the total population, compared to 47.8% women+.
- Among those aged 15 to 39, 52% were men+ and 48% were women+.
- In the 0 to 14 age group, men+ and women+ were evenly represented at 50% each.
- For individuals aged 65 and over, 53% were men+ and 47% were women+.

These figures reflect both an older population and slight gender disparities in older age groups (Statistics Canada 2017a; Statistics Canada 2023b). Figure 14.8-4 presents age characteristics for Ear Falls in 2021, comparing the proportions of age by gender.

Figure 14.8-4: Age Characteristics – Ear Falls, 2025



Source: (Statistics Canada 2023b).

Note: reference year is 2020

Note: The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

Migration and Mobility

The mobility characteristics in Ear Falls are presented in Table 14.8-26. Statistics Canada's data demonstrates that Ear Falls is predominantly comprised of non-movers (88.5%). Women+ made up the entire population that moved from 2020-2021, specifically moving into Ontario (2%) (Statistics Canada 2023b).

The 2021 data show a high degree of short-term residential stability in Ear Falls, close to 90% of residents reporting no change in residence over the previous year. This stability is consistent with patterns observed in other small municipalities in the region, including Red Lake and Kenora. Among those who moved, all were women+ who relocated to Ontario from another province. No interprovincial movement was recorded, and no men+ reported moving during this period. (Statistics Canada 2023b).

When compared to previous Census years, the stability observed in 2021 represents an increase. In 2016, 85.1% of Ear Falls residents had not moved in the past year, about 3% lower than in 2021. This may reflect a slight shift toward increased short-term residential stability, though it remains within the general trend observed across census years. Over a five-year period, 67.2% of residents in 2016 had not moved, indicating more substantial long-term movement that is not always visible in one-year statistics (Statistics Canada 2017a).

Table 14.8-26: Mobility Characteristics – Ear Falls, 2025

Mobility Characteristics	Total	Men+	Women+
Total responses	1,045	550	490
Did not move in the past year (%)	88.5	90.0	88.8
Moved within Ontario (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Moved into Ontario from a different province (%)	1.4	0.0	2.0

Source: (Statistics Canada 2023b).

Note: reference year is 2020

Note - The category men+ includes men, as well as some non-binary persons. The category women+ includes women, as well as some non-binary persons.

14.8.2.2.6.4 Regional Mobility and Immigration Trends

Mobility data from the 2021 Census presents a snapshot of stable populations across Red Lake, Kenora, and Ear Falls, with non-mover rates ranging from 88.5% to 90.5%. In all three municipalities, the majority of residents reported no change in residence in the year preceding the Census, and five-year data from 2016 similarly reflected high levels of long-term residential stability.

These findings should be interpreted cautiously, as the 2021 Census captured a period shaped by COVID-19. Travel restrictions, public health measures, and economic uncertainty likely suppressed mobility nationwide, contributing to the stability observed in the data.

While Census data portrays a picture of low mobility and limited population turnover, local interviews conducted as part of this assessment indicated a perceived increase in immigration since the pandemic, particularly in Red Lake and Kenora. Key service providers in the region noted a growing presence of newcomers (Ramasaywak 2025; Parrish 2025). This trend aligns with regional initiatives such as the federal Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP), which has supported immigration and workforce attraction across northwestern Ontario communities. Although the federal RNIP operates in several northwestern Ontario centres such as Thunder Bay, Kenora District has experienced related in-migration trends outside the formal program area (Government of Canada 2025). Recent arrivals may not be captured in the 2021 Census, which may underrepresent post-pandemic population dynamics and changes in community composition.

According to the 2021 Census data for the Kenora District, the region had a:

- A total population of 63,300, with 2,470 individuals (approximately 3.9%) identified as immigrants.
- Between 2016 and 2021, 285 new immigrants settled in the Kenora District, representing about 11.5% of the total immigrant population in the area.

The majority of recent immigrants to the Kenora District between 2016 and 2021 originated from the Philippines (110 individuals), followed by the United States (55), India (50), the United Kingdom (10), and China (10) (Statistics Canada 2022c).

While Filipino residents remain a visible part of the region's immigrant population, several service providers noted a recent shift in immigration trends that may not be reflected in Census data.

Staff at Golden Learning Centre in Red Lake observed an increase in newcomers from African countries, alongside ongoing immigration from Asian countries, including those working in the restaurant sector.

These families often face barriers related to childcare access, transportation, and community integration. Although at least one newcomer-focused organization is known to exist in the area, interviewees were not able to speak to its current activities, and there remains limited publicly available information on formal identity-based or cultural supports for immigrant families in the region (Parrish 2025).

In addition to pandemic-related effects, interviewees also highlighted persistent structural barriers to mobility, including:

- Limited availability of housing for renters or new arrivals
- High cost of transportation and geographic isolation
- Financial insecurity or lack of support networks

These constraints may make it difficult for both residents and prospective newcomers to relocate, even when employment opportunities or services may be available elsewhere. For those who do relocate to the District, the lack of formal settlement support in smaller municipalities may further complicate integration.

14.8.3 Potential Effects

For the Community Well-Being criteria, a single potential effect is assessed: change in community well-being. This assessment considers how Project-related activities may influence Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area for employment, education, healthcare, cultural, or social reasons.

In contrast to the Community Infrastructure and Services criteria, which focuses on physical assets and service capacity, this assessment addresses social and human outcomes, which are considered alongside cultural information shared through reported land use activities (see Section 14.6) including population change, housing availability and affordability, cost of living, access to services, safety, economic opportunity, community cohesion, and cultural continuity, with particular attention to groups that may experience disproportionate effects, including Indigenous women+, girls, and 2SLGBTQI plus people.

Table 14.8-27 summarizes potential interactions between Project activities and community well-being for Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area (✓ = potential interaction; – = no interaction). Only potential interactions are carried forward to the phase-based assessment.

Given the communities' proximity to the Project and their close economic and social linkages, both direct and indirect effects may occur, including effects related to population change, housing availability and affordability, demand for services, cost of living, and community cohesion. These pathways collectively inform the evaluation of how Project activities could influence overall community well-being over time.

Potential interactions include:

- Social Determinants:
  - Housing availability and affordability
  - Cost of living and Traditional Economy
  - Access to services (health and social services),
- Public Safety
  - Public safety and gender-based violence
- Economic Opportunity and Inequality
- Community cohesion
  - Household dynamics
- Access to lands and resources

Table 14.8-27: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Community Well-being

Project Component / Activity	Change in Community Well-being
Construction Phase	
Site preparation activities	✓
Establishment and operation of water management and treatment facilities	✓
Open pit mining	✓
Underground mining	✓
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	✓
Establishment of onsite fish habitat and compensation measures	✓
Establishment of onsite aggregate operations	✓
Construction of the starter embankments for the tailings management facility	✓
Construction and operation of buildings and infrastructure	✓
Waste management	✓
Commissioning of the process plant	✓
Power supply	-
Employment and expenditures	✓
Operations Phase	
Underground mining	✓
Mining of the LP Central pit	✓
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	✓
Process plant operation	✓
Management of desulphurized tailings in the tailings management facility	-

Project Component / Activity	Change in Community Well-being
Management of concentrate tailings and contact water in the Viggo management facility	-
Operation of water management and treatment facilities	✓
Construction of a mine water pond	✓
Operation and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure	-
Waste management	✓
Power supply	-
Progressive reclamation activities	✓
Employment and expenditures	✓
Closure Phase	
Active closure	✓
Passive closure	✓
Final reclamation	✓
Employment and expenditures	✓

Legend: ✓ = Interaction exists
- = No interaction exists

14.8.3.1 Construction Phase

The construction phase of the Project is expected to occur over a three-year period and will include site preparation and the development of Project infrastructure. These activities are anticipated to result in a temporary population increase, with both direct and indirect implications for community well-being in Red Lake, Ear Falls, and surrounding areas.

During the construction phase, a temporary influx of workers is expected, potentially increasing short-term population pressures. During construction, most workers will be housed in a temporary on-site camp designed for approximately 1,000 people while on shift. Because the camp is not intended for off-shift or family residence, a small portion of workers may seek off-site accommodation, potentially leading to short-term population pressures.

14.8.3.1.1 Housing, and Affordability

The Project could contribute to short-term affordability pressures, particularly for renters, low- to moderate-income households, and individuals already experiencing housing precarity, thereby contributing to broader stress on community well-being by exacerbating housing precarity and deepening socio-economic divides. These issues are not new, communities in the region have long faced barriers to housing availability and affordability due to infrastructure limitations and slow-paced development. While affordability pressures are an ongoing issue in the region, the Project may intensify these pressures for certain populations, potentially increasing existing barriers to secure and affordable housing.

14.8.3.1.2 Cost of Living and Traditional Economy

Red Lake and Ear Falls already face elevated costs for food, fuel, and housing due to limited supply chains and regional market conditions. Project-related activity may temporarily change demand for certain goods and services during construction and operations, contributing to localized affordability pressures for residents, particularly those on fixed or lower incomes.

These changes, along with reduced confidence or access to traditional harvesting areas, could increase household reliance on market goods, reduce participation in traditional economy harvesting activities, and influence participation in land-based livelihoods that support food security and cultural well-being.

14.8.3.1.3 Access to Services (Health and Social

The Project workforce and any relocated families are expected to rely on community-based health and social, services for non-emergency and specialized care. These systems already face staff shortages and capacity constraints (recruiting efforts are often thwarted by the housing issues in the region) , which may be compounded by population changes during construction and operations.

Added demand for childcare, and mental health support could contribute to longer wait times and reduced access, particularly for Indigenous residents who may already face barriers to culturally appropriate or geographically accessible care.

If the Project contributes to population changes, or changes in demand for regional services within the RSA, area residents who travel to access care may face longer wait times or delayed access, especially for services that are already stretched. This could be particularly impactful (for Elders and caregivers who face transportation, mobility, or financial barriers). While these effects would be indirect, they may still influence individual and collective well-being by limiting access to time-sensitive or culturally appropriate care. Community services and infrastructure are described in detail in Section 14.5.

At the same time, employment opportunities with the Project (employees will have access to additional resources through the EAP, including telehealth) could lessen reliance on local health and social programs among participating members by improving household income stability and access to workplace supports

14.8.3.1.4 Public Safety and Gender-Based Violence

An influx of transient workers may heighten both actual and perceived safety risks (including those risks linked to increased drug and alcohol use), particularly for Indigenous women+, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA plus people. Service providers have identified ongoing concerns related to harassment, exploitation, and human trafficking, consistent with patterns documented in the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)*. Even in the absence of incidents, increased fear or unease can affect mental well-being, trust in institutions, and community cohesion.

14.8.3.1.5 Economic Opportunity and Inequality

Project construction is expected to generate employment and training opportunities, improving income stability for some residents. Recent economic changes in the region have increased the importance of stable employment, particularly in Ear Falls, where the indefinite shutdown of the Interfor sawmill in October 2025 resulted in the loss of approximately 150 unionized jobs.

As the community's largest employer and primary economic driver, the closure contributed to heightened economic uncertainty and reduced availability of local employment opportunities.

Within this context, Project-related construction jobs may offer short-term income stability for workers who have recently experienced job displacement.

However, unequal access to jobs due to barriers such as childcare, transportation, or qualifications may reinforce existing inequities. Wage differences between Project workers and other residents could also contribute to uneven distribution of benefits and localized economic polarization.

14.8.3.1.6 Community Cohesion

The arrival of new workers and investment during construction may introduce new energy and resources into the community, supporting growth and shared activities when managed thoughtfully. There is an opportunity to strengthen cultural exchange, local pride, and regional collaboration through inclusive planning and events. However, without proactive integration efforts, communities may experience cultural disconnect, intensified social divisions, exclusion from benefits, or perceived marginalization, particularly among Indigenous residents and long-term locals.

Increased incomes and new economic opportunities may also shift patterns of resource use and cultural practice. For some families, higher wages may reduce reliance on land-based harvesting or traditional subsistence activities, potentially affecting intergenerational knowledge transfer, cultural identity, and connection to traditional lands. Over time, reduced participation in cultural and land-based practices may influence community cohesion and the continuity of shared cultural values.

14.8.3.1.7 Household dynamics

Higher household incomes during construction may support family stability and provide resources to meet basic needs, reduce debt, and improve quality of life. For some families, increased earnings may create new opportunities for savings, education, or mobility. However, the demands of rotational work schedules, limited childcare, and extended periods of separation, which may place strain on caregivers and reduce time for family connection. Rotational work schedules, long shifts and physical demands of construction may contribute to pressures on household and family dynamics. When childcare is limited or unavailable, caregivers, often women+, may experience additional strain, which may reduce workforce participation and increase emotional stress.

For some households, differences in income or employment opportunities between family members may introduce financial stress or power imbalances, which can contribute to tension or conflict within the home. In some cases, these dynamics may elevate risks of family or intimate partner violence, particularly when combined with substance use during off-periods, social isolation, or emotional strain among transient workers. These factors may also affect broader community cohesion and community well-being.

14.8.3.1.8 Access to Land and Resources

The ability to access, steward, and harvest (for consumables) from traditional lands and waters remains an important determinant of community well-being for Indigenous (and non-Indigenous residents) in the region. While Section 14.6, Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes, provides a detailed assessment of these interactions, this section acknowledges the

interconnection between land-based resource access and mental, physical, social, cultural, and economic well-being.

Project-related infrastructure, population growth, or perceived changes in safety and privacy during the construction phase may discourage land users from accessing culturally significant spaces for activities such as hunting, fishing, wild rice harvesting, and plant gathering. Changes in access may be particularly concerning in areas near traditional harvesting or ceremonial sites. Additionally, changes to use of land and waterways for recreation or tourism may alter land-user dynamics, strain sensitive ecosystems, and contribute to perceived or real displacement from important areas.

Social infrastructure and community well-being is also shaped by the availability of traditional food systems. Changes to access to land-based food and medicines may deepen existing food insecurity, limit cultural continuity, and contribute to negative health outcomes, particularly where store-bought food is expensive or nutritionally inadequate. These effects are expected to vary by user group and geography but are broadly understood to influence community cohesion, identity, and individual wellness.

14.8.3.2 Operations Phase

The operations phase is anticipated to last approximately 26 years. As the workforce stabilizes, most potential interactions identified during construction are expected to persist or evolve over time. These relate primarily to housing availability, cost of living, access to health and social services, and community identity.

Sustained operations may reinforce community concerns about affordability, service capacity, and long-term population change, particularly where limited housing and infrastructure constrain growth. At the same time, steady employment and contracting opportunities could support income stability, local business activity, and workforce skill development, though participation barriers may continue to limit equitable access for some residents.

Family routines and caregiving roles may gradually adapt to rotational work schedules, yet these patterns can influence household cohesion and community participation over time. In the broader region, community cohesion may also shift as new workers and families settle in, altering local demographics and social networks.

Long-term operations may reinforce community concerns about environmental change and cultural continuity, including the collection and consumption of resources, particularly where access to areas of cultural importance is perceived as reduced.

Safety concerns are expected to remain moderate but ongoing, especially for Indigenous women+, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, consistent with patterns noted in the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)*. Overall, community well-being during operations will be shaped less by short-term disruption and more by long-term adjustments in economic, social, and demographic conditions across Red Lake, Ear Falls, and surrounding areas.

14.8.3.3 Closure Phase

The closure phase, expected to last about three years, involves site rehabilitation and a substantial reduction in the Project workforce. Activities resemble those of the construction phase but at a smaller scale, and the withdrawal of an employer introduces a short period of

social and economic adjustment. As employment opportunities decrease, some workers are expected to leave the region, reducing pressure on the housing market. This can temporarily destabilize rental demand, but it also eases affordability constraints that have affected residents during peak construction and operations.

Lower population and business activity may reduce demand for goods and services, which can challenge small or Indigenous-owned businesses that expanded during operations. Adjacent sectors such as retail, hospitality, and construction may also experience contraction as the region adapts. Households that relied on Project-related income may face financial stress during this transition, and limited alternative employment or training options may widen existing inequalities. These pressures can influence family dynamics and contribute to emotional strain, particularly for those with high care responsibilities or limited financial resiliency.

At the community level, closure may affect cohesion if residents perceive reduced communication or uncertainty regarding long-term commitments and legacy initiatives. Adjustments in expectations around partnerships, training, or regional investment can influence trust and the sense of shared direction. As activity decreases, however, access to lands and resource areas generally improves. Changes to industrial disturbance, fewer safety restrictions, and quieter conditions increase the ability of land users to engage in hunting, harvesting, and other cultural practices, which can support aspects of cultural well-being.

The conclusion of operations may reduce workforce-related safety concerns (e.g., harassment of women+, girls, and/or members of the 2SLGBTQIA plus community, substance use, trafficking, and/or increased Project-related crime) and allow for gradual improvement in social stability.

Although the closure period presents short-term challenges, it also leads to reduced pressure on housing, community infrastructure, and local services. Improved access to lands and a gradual return to quieter regional conditions can support community stability and cultural practices as the region transitions toward post-Project conditions.

14.8.4 Mitigation and Enhancement

Mitigation measures for community well-being consider both direct and indirect effects, and includes Project design measures, workforce policies, community partnerships, Indigenous engagement, and regionally targeted supports.

The goal of these measures is to reduce the magnitude, duration, and likelihood of adverse residual effects on social determinants of health, household dynamics, public safety, and overall well-being for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

For community well-being, mitigation approaches reflect a combination of:

- Physical design measures (e.g., construction of worker accommodations, on-site medical and recreation facilities, separation of workforce from community to reduce direct interaction);
- Programmatic measures (e.g., workforce training, cultural awareness programming, gender-based violence protocols, community engagement and advisory groups); and
- Service supports (e.g., partnerships with Indigenous service providers, coordination with local agencies, funding to expand community services where needed).

Table 14.8-29 outlines mitigations thematically, aligning with Project interactions.
These mitigations are anticipated to apply across all Project phases unless otherwise specified.

Attached Table 14.1-1 include mitigation measures applicable to the management of effects on linked pVCs and fVCs that are linked to community well-being of LSFN. It includes relevant plans, policies, and measures from predictive reporting on linked pVCs and fVCs. These will be applied for effects management.

Following the identification of potential effects, each interaction between Project activities and community well-being indicators was evaluated to determine whether the proposed mitigation measures would fully address the effect. Where mitigation measures were determined to effectively avoid or minimize the interaction, no residual effect was carried forward. Where the mitigation measures reduced, but did not fully eliminate, the potential for an effect, the interaction was carried forward for residual characterization.

This process made sure that only unmitigated or partially mitigated effects were included in the residual effects assessment.

Table 14.8-28: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for Community Well-being - Indigenous Peoples Living in Red Lake and Ear Falls

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
Change to Community Well-being	Camp Operations and Services A camp complex will be established on the Property. The camp will accommodate 1,000 people during construction and then scaled down to approximately 300 people during operations. A portion of the workforce will come from outside the local community and work on a rotational basis. Great Bear Resources will also continue discussions with local municipalities to discuss potential housing and / or infrastructure initiatives in the region. The camp complex will include recreation, and a non-denominational spiritual space.
	Camp Operations and Services ("dry" camp) Maintain a “dry” camp, managed through Human Resources (HR) policy and specific Health and Safety measures.
	Camp Operations and Services (health care) Provide emergency response and basic health services on site to reduce workforce-related pressures on local social and healthcare services. On-site medical facilities and staff will be in place to address health services for emergencies, injuries, and other routine needs. Medical personnel will be trained on supports that are available through Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Telus telehealth (or similar service/provider), and local/regional providers to foster connected health care on and off-site. Information about these services and supports (available to employees and their immediate families), will be posted in a visible location at the medical facilities and accommodations. Create access to Telus telehealth or similar provider for employees (and immediate family members) helping to alleviate pressures on local services. Project HR and medical staff will be specifically trained to recognize, prevent, and appropriately respond to incidents of violence, harassment, or trauma, in alignment with established protocols.
	Camp Operations and Services (PPE provision) Provision of required PPE including but not limited to boots, reflective clothing, gloves, and hard hats.
	Camp Operations and Services (site security)

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Controlled site access, perimeter security, and monitoring technology to deter and detect potential issues. Site security will be maintained and consistent with other Ontario mining operations. Access will be limited to Great Bear Resources' workers and contractors, and approved visitors. Security guardhouses will be positioned where appropriate Cameras, routine patrols and other methods will be utilized to monitor and ensure site security. Workers will be housed in separate accommodations by gender with locked access (e.g., keys) for each room and a separate mining dry / change rooms. Ongoing monitoring will occur throughout the mine life and policies will be updated as required.
	Community Financial Support Sponsor cultural awareness initiatives and social integration programming. Address barriers to training or employment through transport assistance, and inclusive program design. Support regional communities to expand social services and health care services in the region, including mental health and addiction services, and implement an adaptive management approach (as part of the Social Performance Plan) to address additional pressures resulting from the influx of workers and their families. Great Bear Resources will work collaboratively to fund programming through the Friendship Centre and community partners, including programing and supports to promote physical and mental health outcomes for Indigenous adults and youth Establish and maintain Community Liaison Committee to monitor changes and service capacities and / or the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Continue to partner with community organizations and educational institutions to support youth programming through summer camps and in-school programming, provide workshops, tours and presentations to youth that promote careers and opportunities in Mining and STEM fields . Partner with local Indigenous communities to evaluate community health and well-being to prevent negative pathways associated with the Project from developing.
	Community Partnerships Collaborate with Friendship Centre, Kenora Sexual Assault Centre, and other safety advocates to support community-based safety networks. Partner with the Friendship Centre, the Evolution Centre, and other community organizations to co-develop inclusive events that reflect local traditions and cultural practices.
	Education and training (Project) Provide voluntary health and wellness seminars, nutrition and substance use seminars for interested employees through the EAP. Provide opportunities for youth with vocational skills, including those that prepare them for local job markets and mining-related knowledge. Provide budgeting and financial literacy tools available to all employees through the EAP, including a combination of organized workshops during working hours and optional individual supports that employees and their families can access on their own time.

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	Deliver mandatory Cultural Awareness training for employees and contractors (including supervisors and managers) on safety, harassment awareness and prevention, and MMIWG2S+ and human trafficking awareness training.
	<u>Education and Training (Region)</u> Provide bursaries and targeted mentorship. Mentorship programs may include new hire initiatives which pair up new employees with a senior staff member who will provide guidance and support during the onboarding process, internships and summer programming for youth. Deliver training locally using mobile facilities and simulators. Implement job-matching, retraining programs, and economic diversification supports in anticipation of closure. Great Bear Resources has committed to the establishment of the Industrial Research Chair (IRC) in Mineral Exploration with Lakehead University. Great Bear Resources recognizes the importance of this research and its potential to drive advancements in mineral exploration, which directly supports our business and the broader mining sector in northwestern Ontario and the community in which we operate. In addition, Great Bear Resources has, and will continue to support STEM and educational based programming with youth consistent with Company standards. Great Bear Resources is also progressing a STEM-based and training strategy to focus on a range of opportunities including apprenticeship opportunities, on-the-job training, work readiness, and scholarships and bursaries. Great Bear Resources will offer training to local Indigenous job seekers and contractors. Great Bear Resources are committed to working with local suppliers, including Indigenous owned businesses, to develop their capacity to effectively compete and win business while meeting the Company's standards for ethical conduct, due diligence, quality of goods and services, health and environmental safety. Identify critical roles and recruitment barriers; provide job-readiness scholarships / bursaries. Develop equity-based hiring protocols, Indigenous procurement policies, and job coaching programs.
	<u>Inclusive and Local Hiring Strategy (Project policies)</u> Reduce employment barriers by offering on-the-job training for "almost qualified" candidates and providing entry-level skills development.
	<u>Inclusive and Local Hiring Strategy:</u> Provide timely workforce projections to communities and vendors to support planning. Collaborate with regional providers to support recruitment and job-sharing. Increase local household income by prioritizing regional employment, ensuring that wages remain within the community and support local businesses. This helps enhance quality of life for residents while reinforcing economic resilience. Identify critical roles and recruitment barriers; provide job-readiness scholarships/bursaries. Develop equity-based hiring protocols, Indigenous procurement policies, and job coaching programs. Partner with Indigenous training and employment organizations to support employment of Indigenous workers, provide training, priority hiring and work

Potential Effects	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	towards continuous improvement including training and employment opportunities for Indigenous women+.
	Procurement and Business Opportunities: Provide timely workforce projections to communities and vendors to support planning. Coordinate with regional and Indigenous suppliers to reduce supply strain and inflationary effects. Great Bear Resources is committed to working with local suppliers, including Indigenous owned businesses, to develop their capacity to effectively compete and win business while meeting the Company's standards for ethical conduct, due diligence, quality of goods and services, health and environmental safety. Great Bear Resources will offer training to local Indigenous job seekers.
	Social Closure Plan: Support consistent communication and planning throughout closure with emphasis on legacy, continuity, and shared decision-making. Develop a community transition plan in consultation with local Indigenous communities and groups so that decisions are made with integrity, based on cultural, spiritual and Indigenous well-being in mind. The plan will include collaborative planning, implement job-matching, retraining programs, financial literacy workshops, and economic diversification supports in anticipation of closure.
	Transportation Management Buses may be offered if there is sufficient interest (e.g., from the Red Lake Municipal Airport and from Ear Falls and Red Lake as well as local Indigenous communities) to limit personal vehicle traffic on the road and reduce the risk of driver fatigue and travel during poor weather conditions. Car-pooling will also be encouraged, as appropriate. Busing may also be utilized to gather contractors and employees from larger hubs (i.e., Thunder Bay and Winnipeg) during the construction phase to consolidate transportation to and from the Project. Provision of buses reduces commuting burdens for employees and contractors and has the potential to support other community services

14.8.5 GBA Plus Considerations

The Project will focus on hiring working aged adults from within the LSA. While there is considerable benefit to "hiring local" and limiting the social issues associated with outside workers (e.g., increased crime, no community social responsibility, shadow populations placing demands on services which are not funded by their tax dollars), there is the potential to shorthand household and community caregivers, meaning there are few able-bodies adults to help with chores, and / or family and community duties.

As presented in Appendix X, the GBA Plus subgroups who could be negatively affected by rotational schedule include:

- Indigenous women+ in caregiving roles (caring for Elders, children) will have less support in the home if their partners, or other family members, are away from home for weeks at a time.

- Less inter-community support available if working adults are out of the community for extended periods of time (e.g. less help driving Elders or Youth to appointments, taking Elders or Youth onto the land)

Great Bear Resources will make efforts to support time off requests if and where possible, and support important cultural events, however, the day-to-day absence of key community members can have a profound effect on close-knit communities.

Additionally, Indigenous communities value their rights and ability to access traditional lands to participate in cultural practices, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, and collecting medicine. These practices are essential to their individual and community well-being. Often these practices are also vehicles for transmission of knowledge, wherein the next generation is taught ways of living and knowing, and for the community to come together.

When community members work in the resource sector, they are required to work long hours, and often, work away from home. This results in a reduced ability to participate in, and support land-based activities. As presented in Appendix X, the GBA Plus subgroups who could be negatively affected by work schedules include:

Indigenous People. The inability to participate in land-based activities not only affects those who are away working, and their overall well-being, but it can affect those who are dependent on them to access traditional lands and can degrade community cohesion. This includes Indigenous men+, women+, Elders and youth.

Great Bear Resources will make efforts, where feasible to support cultural activities and time off requests, however, the operation of the facility may supersede requests, and limit their Indigenous employee's ability to leave.

14.8.5.1 Indigenous Women, Indigenous Youth

While large projects like mines bring economic opportunities to rural/remote areas, the work is dominated by men+ with trades training, who regularly work 12+ hour days, or stay in camp on for a two-on-one-off rotation. The rates of women+ who work in these sectors is low. Woman have reported not feelings safe, and harassed when working in primary resource sectors, and / or are unable to pursue these opportunities due to caregiving duties and little to no support resources.

As presented in Appendix X, the GBA Plus subgroups who could be negatively affected by employment alienation include:

- Indigenous women+ with concerns over their safety and well-being, and / or with limited household support resources. The inability to access good paying jobs can result in economic dependency. Economic dependency can lead to household tensions, and result in partners, typically women, staying in abusive relationships as they do not have the resources to leave.
- Indigenous youth who are intimidated by the work environment, and / or due to location, have not trained in a trade and are unable to access the jobs associated with primary resource.

Additionally, the higher wages associated with industry can lead to economic disparity, which can lead to tension across close-knit communities.

Great Bear Resources will provide polices and protocols which promote workplace inclusivity and safety; however, Great Bear Resources will be wholly unable to address or facilitate the aforementioned household and community issues.

14.8.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation

After the implementation of mitigation measures, assessment and characterization of potential residual effects on community well-being are assessed using the methodology outlined in Section 6. Further details on residual effect criteria ratings that are specific to CWB are defined in Section 6 and in Section 14.3.2.

The attached Table 14.1-1 summarizes the results of the assessment for the linked pVC and fVC components. Detailed description on the methods, existing conditions, mitigation measures, and residual effects can be found in their respective sections.

Based on the assessment of linked pVCs and fVCs, residual changes after mitigation considered as part of the assessment of residual effects on community well-being include:

- Local and Regional Economy (pVC)

There are no other pVCs and fVCs listed in Table 14.1-1 linked to community well-being.

14.8.6.1 Characterization of Residual Effects After Mitigation – Indigenous Peoples living in Red Lake and Ear Falls

Although Indigenous Peoples represent a portion of the total population in Red Lake and Ear Falls, Indigenous-specific considerations have been fully integrated into the effects assessment and residual effect characterization.

Table 14.8-29 summarizes the indicators used to assess residual change in the region's community well-being following the implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures.

Table 14.8-29: Potential Residual Effects for Community Well-being – Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area

Potential Effect: Change in Community Well-Being	Potential Residual Effect Remaining (Y/N)
Indicators	
Housing Availability and Affordability	N
Cost of Living and Traditional Economy	Y
Access to Services (Health, Social)	Y
Community Cohesion	N
Household dynamics	N
Public Safety and Gender-Based Violence	N
Access to land and resources	Y
Economic Opportunity and Inequality	Y

14.8.6.1.1 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Cost of Living and Traditional Economy

Following implementation of Project design features and mitigation measures, residual effects may occur due to changes to the traditional economy. Restrictions to land access or perceived environmental risks may lead to decreased participation in traditional harvesting activities.

This could change household expenditure on store-bought food or change supplemental income from activities such as fur trading or craft production.

Based on the attributes outlined in Section 14.3.3, the residual effect is not considered significant. Most attributes are rated as Level I, except duration and frequency which are rated as Level II (see Table 14.8-30).

This outcome reflects that, while the Project may contribute to perceived or indirect effects on traditional harvesting and household costs, these are expected to be limited in scale and reversible. Planned mitigation and monitoring measures are expected to effectively reduce risks to cost of living and traditional economic stability.

Table 14.8-30: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect for Cost of Living and Traditional Economy

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures. Potential reduction of land-based practices relating to traditional economy due to reduced access and availability of culturally important harvested species (wildlife and plants). These changes to harvesting opportunities may have economic effects for those who rely on traditional economy for subsistence and livelihood.
Magnitude	Level I	Measurable Project-related change that is insufficient to alter the social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous People. Expected to be low, with limited measurable effect on overall household income.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases. Effects are considered reversible with restored access and confidence in resource quality.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated. Most likely during active Project phases, particularly construction and operations.

14.8.6.1.2 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Access to Services (Health, Social, and Education Services)

Population growth linked to Project development may worsen existing barriers to accessing health, social, and education services. These challenges include longer wait times, inconsistent

availability, staffing shortages, transportation barriers, and limited culturally appropriate care, which can negatively affect community well-being. While planned supports and mitigation measures are expected to improve service capacity and coordination, pre-existing systemic limitations may persist, particularly for Indigenous residents and vulnerable groups.
As such, a Level I residual effect remains following mitigation, summarized in Table 14.8-31.

Table 14.8-31: Characterization for Negative Residual Effects on Access to Services

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures.
Magnitude	Level I	Measurable Project-related change that is insufficient to alter the social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous People. Expected strain on social and health services resulting from the Project's incoming workforce could be moderate; however, initiatives including collaboration, on-site provisions and resources could negate demand.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.8.6.1.3 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Access to Land and Resources

As described in Section 14.6.2, some Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area who access the LSA for harvesting, including for plant species such as manoomin (wild rice) or berries, may experience changes in the quality of harvesting activities due to sensory disturbances (sound, vibration, dust, light visual) across all Project phases.
While mitigations focus on culturally appropriate reclamation, engagement, and monitoring, temporary or longer-term avoidance of certain areas may occur, particularly where harvesting quality or cultural experience is diminished.

These changes may contribute to reduced opportunities for intergenerational knowledge transfer, cultural continuity, and land-based wellness practices that are important to community well-being. However, effects are expected to diminish over time following Project closure, with opportunities for recovery of access and experience quality through effective reclamation and ongoing collaboration with local Indigenous Peoples. The residual effect characterization is summarized in Table 14.8-32.

Table 14.8-32: Characterization for Negative Residual Effects on Access to Traditional Land and Natural Resources

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures.
Magnitude	Level I	Measurable Project-related change that is insufficient to alter the social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous People.
Geographic Extent	Level I	Effect is restricted to the LSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.
Frequency	Level I	Effect occurs once, infrequently.
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

14.8.6.1.4 Change in Region's Community Well-being - Economic Opportunity and Inequality

The Project is expected to generate new economic opportunities through job creation and increased regional spending, particularly during the construction and operations phases. These outcomes are consistent with the residual positive effects identified for the Local and Regional Economy pVC (Section 7.16), which indicate broad regional benefits through employment and labour income.

However, at Project closure, the loss of direct and indirect employment opportunities could result in income instability and reduced community-level spending, particularly if transitions are not supported through advance planning or workforce development.

Nevertheless, the residual effect is not considered significant, as the magnitude is expected to be low, and the potential for benefit-sharing, training programs, and collaborative employment planning can mitigate long-term economic disruption. Most attributes are rated Level I (Table 14.8-33), and the outcome is considered reversible with appropriate engagement and supports.

Table 14.8-33: Characterization for Negative Residual Effect for Economic Opportunity and Inequality

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures. Existing conditions of economic opportunity and inequality are expected to remain largely unchanged, with typical mitigation measures sufficient to address the predicted effects.
Magnitude	Level I	Measurable Project-related change that is insufficient to alter the social and / or economic conditions of local Indigenous People. The residual effect on community-wide economic inequality is expected to be low in magnitude due to voluntary participation and mitigation options.

Attribute	Category	Rationale
Geographic Extent	Level II	Effect extends beyond the LSA but within the RSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years. Effects may persist beyond the construction and operations phases, particularly where income gains or losses shape longer-term household conditions.
Frequency	Level I	Effect occurs once, infrequently
Reversibility	Level I	Effect is fully reversible during the Project phases. Residual effects are considered reversible through training, inclusive hiring, and long-term workforce planning, particularly if implemented in advance of closure.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated. Effects are foreseeable and can be planned for through collaborative employment strategies and early engagement.

14.8.7 Significance of Residual Effects

For all key themes, the ecological or social context and magnitude of the effects due to Project-related activities to Region's Community Well-being are low (Level I) and either restricted to the LSA (Level I) or extends beyond the LSA but within the RSA (Level II). The effect will occur once (Level I) and will occur over the medium term of more than three years but less than 32 years (Level II) and fully reversible at closure (Level I). The residual effect is therefore not significant.

14.8.8 Confidence

The prediction confidence assignment reflects the information available through Project-specific TKLUS reports, publicly available data (statistical websites, government pages, previously completed EA/IS reports), understanding of the effectiveness of applicable mitigation measures, and outcomes of other pVCs and fVCs. The assessment is informed by substantial primary and secondary information and robust analysis however, as noted in the assessment, there are some instances where the information collected had data gaps or lacked detail.

The overall confidence in residual environmental effect and significance predictions for community well-being is moderate. As additional information continues to be shared through Great Bear Resources' ongoing consultation with local Indigenous communities over Project life, relevant information will be incorporated into Project planning as practical.

14.9 Health

The fVC Indigenous Peoples is inclusive of health consistent with the TISG (Section 6.3). Project-related changes to upstream of environmental, social, economic and cultural conditions may interact with Indigenous health. The assessment of Indigenous health expands upon pVCs and fVCs assessments provided in other Impact Statement sections to evaluate and interpret how the findings of these assessments may influence the biophysical and social determinants of health.

The objective of the health assessment summarized in this section is to assess potential Project-related changes to health of Indigenous communities identified as participants in the Impact Statement (LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and Indigenous people living in Red Lake and Ear Falls [RLEF]). To achieve this objective, detailed studies were completed to inform a holistic assessment of potential beneficial and adverse effects, that are appended to the Impact Statement:

- Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA; Appendix N-1)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA; Appendix N-2).

The HHERA evaluated potential Project-related health effects on human and ecological receptors due to Project-related changes to air and multi-media (i.e., soil, water and traditional foods) quality. The HIA evaluated a wide range of biophysical and social determinants of health. The HIA drew on the findings from other assessments to understand the changes to upstream environmental, social, economic and cultural conditions that have the potential to influence Indigenous health, including the results of:

- HHERA for the assessment of biophysical determinants of health
- Assessment of changes to pVCs and fVCs with pathways to health
- Assessments of Community Services and Infrastructure (CSIN), CULRTP and CWB, associated with the fVC Indigenous Peoples.

Health is a complex and multi-faceted concept. *"[The World Health Organization's] WHO's definition of health is the most commonly used and cited definition in the field of HIA. This definition asserts that health is 'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellness and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.' In 1986, the WHO further clarified that health is 'a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. Health is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities.' Expanding its understanding of health, the WHO has defined mental health as 'a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community"* (Health Canada 2024a).

According to the WHO, *"many factors combine together to affect the health of individuals and communities. Whether people are healthy or not, is determined by their circumstances, environment and personal behaviours. To a large extent, factors such as where we live, the state of our environment, genetics, our income and education level, and our relationships with friends and family all has considerable impacts on health"* (WHO 2017). Stemming from a large body of literature, the social determinants of health help explain why health inequities exist, and how non-medical factors help to determine health outcomes for both the individual and population groups (Marmot 2005; PHAC 2011; Mancini and Sala 2018).

It is understood that health is viewed holistically by Indigenous communities, which is based on the interconnected nature of physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health and wellness (Lewis et al. 2021). It is also recognized that cultural diversity exists across First Nations and Métis peoples, and that many Indigenous perspectives on health and wellness are unique and distinct. Therefore, how different communities define health, and what factors determine positive health outcomes, may vary.

The Indigenous health assessment evaluates the following determinants of health, reflected in the structure of the existing conditions and effects assessment detailed in Appendix N-2:

- Biophysical determinants of health, including:
  - Air Quality
  - Multi-media Environmental Quality
  - Access and Availability of Water
  - Access and Availability of Traditional Foods
  - Sensory Disturbances: Sound, Vibration and Light
- Social determinants of health, including:
  - Economics (Employment, Income and Education)
  - Housing
  - Access to Health and Social Services
  - Food Security
  - Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours
  - Actual and Perceived Public Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions)
  - Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls

The assessment of Indigenous health draws on a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators (Table 14.3-1) to form the basis for evaluating changes in Indigenous health. The HIA (Appendix N-2) which is relied upon for the assessment of Indigenous health, drew on a variety of sources (qualitative and quantitative) to assess potential beneficial and adverse effects to health while incorporating existing conditions data, peer-reviewed scientific literature, publicly available data, community-specific information, and Indigenous knowledge where available and pertinent. A GBA Plus lens was applied through the entirety of the assessment to consider the unique experiences of diverse population subgroups (e.g., Elders, youth, women+).

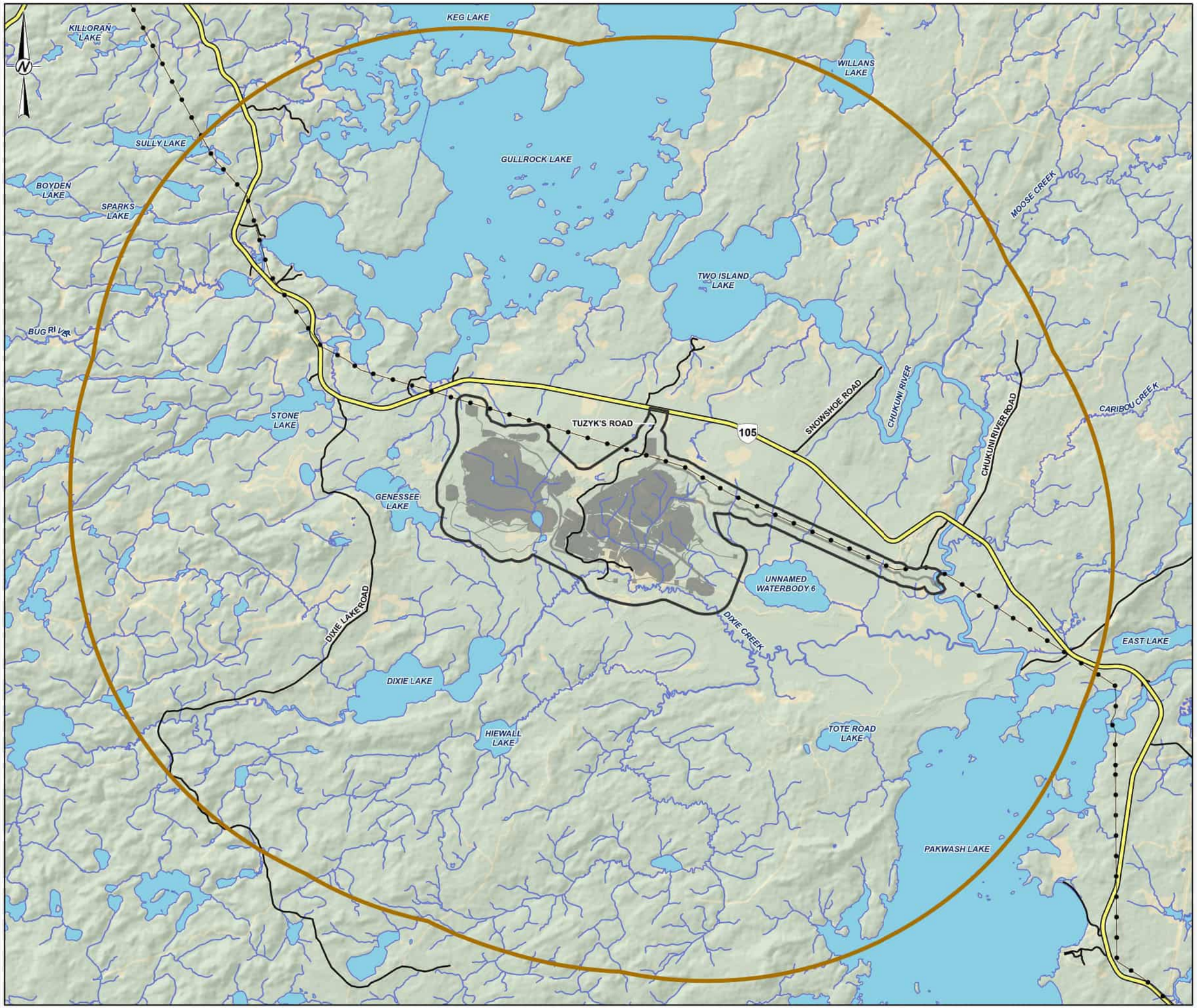
For Indigenous health, a single comprehensive assessment was completed that relies on the combined findings of the HHERA (Appendix N-1) and HIA (Appendix N-2) for all participating Indigenous communities (i.e., LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF). This subsection includes the assessment and discussion of Indigenous health overall, presenting findings for all five Indigenous communities.

14.9.1 Spatial Boundaries

There are three study areas used as spatial boundaries for the Impact Statement (Section 6.4). They are the PA, the LSA and the RSA. The spatial boundaries used for the assessment of health are shown in Figure 14.9-1 and Figure 14.9-2 for biophysical determinants of health, and in Figure 14.9-3 for social determinants of health.

For biophysical determinants of health, the spatial boundaries are defined as:

- **PA:** the Project footprint including all temporary and permanent areas associated with the mine site development, as well as an outside buffer to allow flexibility for design optimizations prior to construction and over the mine life. The PA is approximately 3,349 hectares (ha) in size.
- **LSA:** is the area within which Project-related effects may reasonably be expected to occur and can be predicted or measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy and confidence. The LSA extends beyond the PA and is intended to capture potential direct effects from the Project (such as emissions, discharges and habitat loss) and indirect effects resulting from the Project.
    - The LSA for biophysical determinants of health is adopted from the HHERA LSA, and represents a combination of both the air quality and surface water system LSAs. The LSA encompasses the area adjacent to the PA to capture the maximum predicted ground-level concentrations due to the Project and where air quality can be predicted or measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy. This zone includes the leased claims boundary and extends approximately 10 km from the main area of the PA (excluding a buffer for the Chukuni River pipelines or pump house). For surface water, the LSA includes sub-watersheds of Dixie Creek that intersect with the PA, as well as the Chukuni River (the receiving environment). It also includes the Chukuni River upstream to the Snowshoe Rapids Dam, and downstream to the outlet of Pakwash Lake.
- **RSA:** encompasses the LSA and is used to provide regional context. The RSA extends beyond the PA and encompasses the LSA and, where appropriate, extends further to support a regional context in the assessment of potential Project effects. It is the maximum geographical extent or zone of influence in which potential effects from the Project are assessed.
    - The RSA for biophysical determinants of health is adopted from the HHERA RSA, which represents a combination of both the air quality RSA which is 10 km further than the LSA, and surface water system RSA which encompasses the LSA and extends into the Dixie Creek watershed, encompassing Dixie Lake and Hiewall Lake. Upstream, it follows the Chukuni River to include Two-Island Lake, Gullrock Lake, Keg Lake and Red Lake. Downstream, the RSA continues through Pakwash Lake and along the Chukuni River to its confluence with the English River.



LEGEND

- GREAT BEAR PROJECT FOOTPRINT
- PROJECT AREA
- LOCAL STUDY AREA FOR BIOPHYSICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- HIGHWAY
- LOCAL ROAD
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY

0 1 2 4

1:105,000 KILOMETRES

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. ROADS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, AUGUST 2022.
3. SITE PLAN BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, DECEMBER 2024 / JUNE 2025.
4. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

CLIENT
GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

PROJECT
GREAT BEAR PROJECT

TITLE
LOCAL STUDY AREA FOR BIOPHYSICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CONSULTANT

wsp

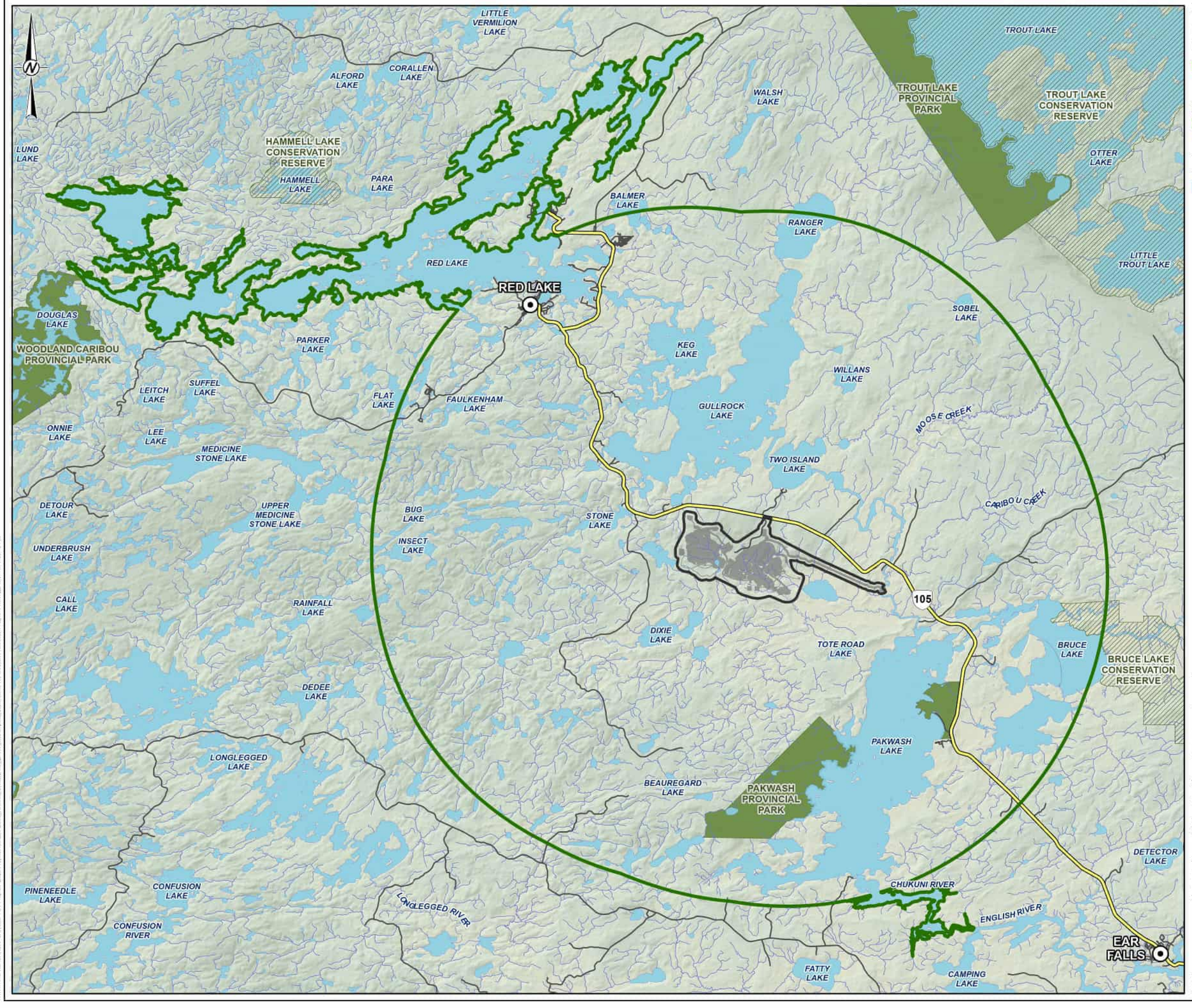
YYYY-MM-DD	2026-03-31
DESIGNED	----
PREPARED	MD
REVIEWED	----
APPROVED	----

PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
CA0031271	0001	A	14.9-1

IF THIS MEASUREMENT DOES NOT MATCH WHAT IS SHOWN, THE SHEET SIZE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM ANSI B

0 25mm

PATH: X:\CA\1\AOMC\00-UAM\MS-FS1-Project\2-2023 Projects\OMEMA7-703_Kinross_Great_Bear_Env\7_GIS\Impact_Statement\PRO\Section14\Section14.aprx PRINTED ON: AT 7:19:01 PM



LEGEND

- GREAT BEAR PROJECT FOOTPRINT
- PROJECT AREA
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA FOR BIOPHYSICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- TOWN
- CONSERVATION RESERVE
- PROVINCIAL PARK
- HIGHWAY
- LOCAL ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY

0 2.5 5 10

1:250,000 KILOMETRES

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. ROADS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, AUGUST 2022.
3. SITE PLAN BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, DECEMBER 2024 / JUNE 2025.
4. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

CLIENT
GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

PROJECT
GREAT BEAR PROJECT

TITLE
REGIONAL STUDY AREA FOR BIOPHYSICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CONSULTANT

YYYY-MM-DD	2026-03-31
DESIGNED	---
PREPARED	MD
REVIEWED	---
APPROVED	---

PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
CA0031271	0001	A	14.9-2

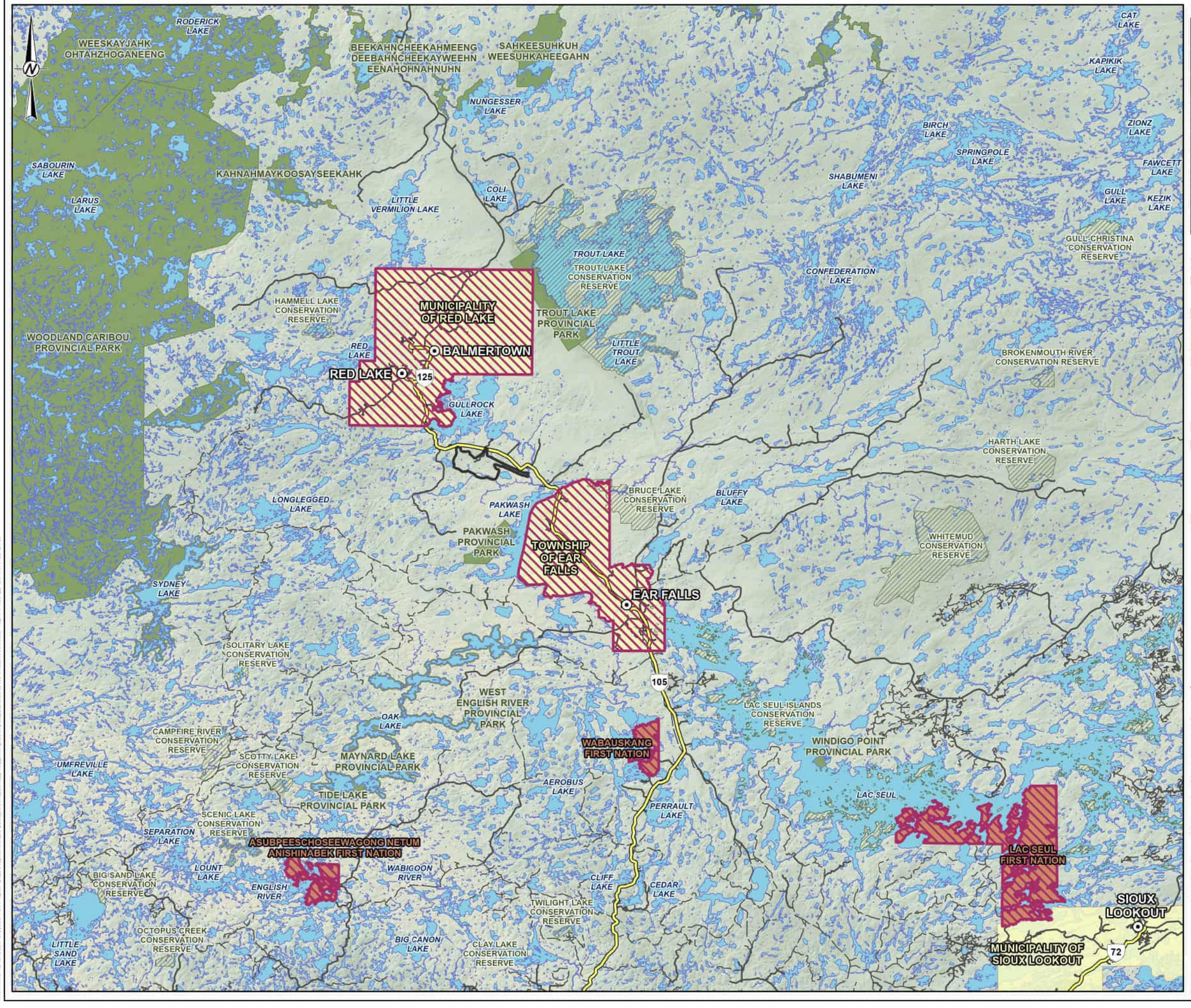
IF THIS MEASUREMENT DOES NOT MATCH WHAT IS SHOWN, THE SHEET SIZE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM ANSI B

PATH: X:\CA\CA0OAK300\AMK\MIS-FS1-Project\P2023\Projects\OMEMA\303_Kinross_Great_Bear_Env\7_GIS\Impact_Statement\HRO\Section14\Section14 aerx PRINTED ON: AT 7:09:44 PM

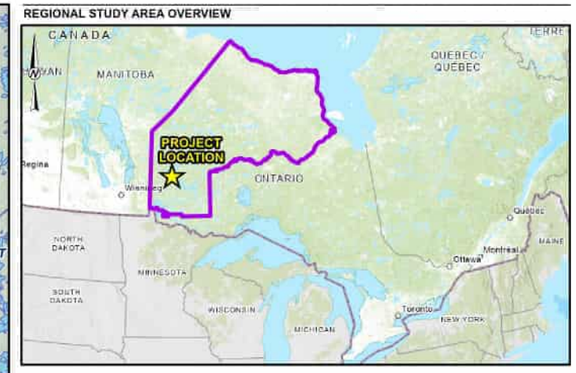
For social determinants of health, the spatial boundaries are defined as:

- **PA** (the same as for biophysical determinants of health): the footprint of the Project including all temporary and permanent areas associated with the mine site, as well as a buffer to allow flexibility for design optimizations prior to construction and over the mine life.
- **LSA:** is the area within which Project-related effects may reasonably be expected to occur and can be predicted or measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy and confidence. The regions that the Project's socio-economic demands are expected to influence, possibly causing direct, indirect and / or induced effects on Indigenous health, include the Indigenous communities of LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC, and RLEF.
    - The LSA boundary is same as applied for community well-being (Section 14.8)
- **RSA:** encompasses the LSA and is used to provide regional context. The region surrounding the LSA and the PA may also experience direct, indirect, and / or induced effects on Indigenous health due to the socio-economic demands of the Project. The RSA for Indigenous health, specifically the social determinants, is the District of Kenora.
    - The RSA boundary is same as applied for community well-being (Section 14.8).

The boundaries used for assessment of biophysical and social determinants of health are the same as utilized in the HIA (Appendix N-2).



REGIONAL STUDY AREA OVERVIEW



SCALE: 1:30,000,000

LEGEND

- PROJECT AREA
- TOWN
- FIRST NATION RESERVE
- LOWER TIER MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- CONSERVATION RESERVE
- PROVINCIAL PARK
- HIGHWAY
- LOCAL ROAD
- RESOURCE / RECREATION ROAD
- WATERBODY
- LOCAL STUDY AREA FOR SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT
  - LAC SEUL FIRST NATION
  - WABAUSKANG FIRST NATION
  - ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG NETUM ANISHINABEK FIRST NATION
  - TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS
  - MUNICIPALITY OF RED LAKE
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA FOR SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SHOWN IN OVERVIEW MAP)
  - DISTRICT OF KENORA

0 7.5 15 30

1:700,000 KILOMETRES

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. WATERCOURSES AND WATERBODY ACQUIRED FROM LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO (MNRF) AND MODIFIED TO MATCH AERIAL IMAGERY AND LIDAR.
3. ROADS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, AUGUST 2022.
4. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

CLIENT
GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

PROJECT
GREAT BEAR PROJECT

TITLE
SPATIAL BOUNDARIES FOR SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

CONSULTANT

YYYY-MM-DD	2026-03-31
DESIGNED	----
PREPARED	MD
REVIEWED	----
APPROVED	----

PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
CA0031271	0001	A	14.9-3

IF THIS MEASUREMENT DOES NOT MATCH WHAT IS SHOWN, THE SHEET SIZE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM: ANSI B

PATH: K:\CA\CA0OAK00\LAM\MXD-FS1\Projects\P-2023\Projects\MEMA-2\03 Kenora_Great_Bear_Env\7. GIS\Final\2_Statement\PRO\Section14\Section14.aprx PRINTED ON: AT 7:06:43 PM

14.9.2 Existing Conditions

Health is assessed through consideration of upstream conditions and changes to biophysical and social determinants of health; therefore, the indicators identified in Table 14.3-1, including existing conditions for these indicators, are collectively considered in the assessment of the determinants of health, in accordance with HIA guidelines (Health Canada, 2024a). The existing conditions for these determinants are described in detail in the relevant Impact Statement sections and appendices, the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (Appendix N-1), and in the Health Impact Assessment (Appendix N-2).

A summary of existing conditions for Indigenous health, including physical health (e.g., chronic conditions, communicable diseases and demographics), health-related behaviours (e.g., food consumption, physical activity and substance use) and mental wellness (e.g., depression, stress / anxiety and perception of risk) are summarized below, along with the methods used to characterize baseline conditions. Further details, including community-specific profiles, are provided in the Baseline Health Profile included as Attachment A of Appendix N-2. Socio-economic conditions and community resources are reported in the Socio-economic Baseline Study (Appendix O-1).

It is important to note that the data presented are primarily from publicly available sources, with some local data from a community survey. Limited data on Indigenous health at the community-level were available to Great Bear Resources; therefore, the data presented may not necessarily be representative of the individual Indigenous communities being assessed (i.e., LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF). The information provided in this section is intended to reflect Indigenous health overall in the region and is assumed to be generally applicable to the local identified communities. Where possible, Indigenous-specific data were used; however, in the absence of these data, general population data were also included.

14.9.2.1 Methods

Baseline health-related information was identified from both publicly available sources, and confidential reports prepared by Indigenous communities in the region provided to Great Bear Resources. In addition to population health indicators (e.g., burden of disease, birth rates, injuries, and mental health rates and status), Indigenous-specific indicators such as land-based health, cultural continuity, community relationships, language and knowledge preservation, and spiritual wellness were also described. The existing (baseline health) conditions characterization was informed by primary (data collection) and secondary (desktop) research using a broad range of information sources, including:

- Data collected from local community members, including Indigenous members, via a Great Bear Project Community Health Survey administered in 2024 (details provided in Attachment A of Appendix N-2)
- Interviews with organizations within some of the local communities to investigate the tangible and intangible impacts that may occur during the development phases of the Project (records of contact from community engagement interviews completed for the Socio-economic Baseline Study; Appendix O-1)
- Municipal, provincial and federal government publications (e.g. policy and planning materials, government reports, municipal websites and plans)
- Statistical publications (e.g., Statistics Canada Community Profiles from both 2016 and any available 2021 data, and the results of the National Household Survey)

- Relevant publicly available information (e.g., community organization websites, business websites, primary and grey literature, and letters from Indigenous communities to government agencies)
- Media articles, including websites.

The baseline characterization also draws on information from the Socio-economic Baseline Study (Appendix O-1).

Baseline conditions were characterized using a tiered hierarchy of information sources. Indigenous knowledge studies, community-provided information, and consultation inputs were prioritized where available. Second, local First Nations specific health data were used, primarily sourced from publications by the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA). Third, to supplement these sources, regional health data from Public Health Ontario's NWHU were also considered, recognizing that these data are not specific to Indigenous health but to the general population in the area.

The smallest geographical scale for which health data are available through Public Health Ontario are public health units. The LSA and RSA communities fall within the NWHU. The boundaries of the NWHU encompasses several communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC, the Municipality of Red Lake, the Township of Ear Falls, and the District of Kenora. Accordingly, unless otherwise stated, the health statistics presented throughout this section are drawn from the RSA's corresponding public health unit - NWHU.

Public health data for the NWHU are largely drawn from the database of statistics available through Statistics Canada and Public Health Ontario, which in turn have been sourced from the following: National Ambulatory Care Reporting System; the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; IntelliHealth, Discharge Abstract Database; Vital Statistics Mortality; Healthy Babies Healthy Children Integrated Services for Children Information System; Reporting Sub-System; the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services; Statistics Canada; and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). Age-standardized rates have been adjusted by Public Health Ontario to the 2011 Canadian population.

It is recognized that public health datasets often do not fully capture people living on First Nations reserves or in small, remote communities, and are constrained by sampling limitations. As a result, some indicators presented in this section may underrepresent true health conditions within the local Indigenous communities and should be interpreted with this limitation in mind. The use of regional health data was not intended to replace or supersede Indigenous knowledge, community-led research, or community-specific health information. Rather, it complements those sources by providing additional context and addressing data limitations where they may exist. The limitations associated with applying regional datasets to community-level health characterization are further discussed in Appendix N-2.

In addition to compiling information from publicly available resources and databases, a Great Bear Project Community Health Survey was administered to collect primary data in order to better understand specific aspects of community health and wellness, including: community demographics; priority issues of importance; perceptions of health and wellbeing status; and to gather some information related to ways the land is used in the areas surrounding the Project. This survey was administered online and designed to collect information from local residents, including residents who identify as Indigenous. The findings provide only a snapshot of information provided by some Indigenous participants and may not be representative of the interests, opinions, and values of the local Indigenous communities as a whole, or the interests, opinions, and values of individuals within those communities.

As applicable, health status information is sufficiently disaggregated and analyzed to support the analysis of potential effects to underrepresented groups and support GBA Plus. In addition, a summary of historical and current conditions related to Indigenous health is provided.

Unless explicitly stated, references to results being higher or lower throughout this section indicate comparative differences only and should not be interpreted otherwise.

14.9.2.2 Description

The description of existing conditions for health also requires consideration of the upstream environmental, social, cultural, and economic conditions that influence health and wellness. Therefore, health is connected (directly and / or indirectly) to other pVCs and fVCs and technical appendices, including:

- Air Quality (Section 7.2)
- Sound (Section 7.3)
- Vibration (Section 7.4)
- Groundwater Quantity (Section 7.5)
- Surface Water Flows and Levels (Section 7.6)
- Water Quality (Section 7.7)
- Vegetation Communities (Section 7.8)
- Wild Rice (Section 7.9)
- Moose (Section 7.10)
- Other Wildlife (Section 7.11)
- Species at Risk (Section 7.12)
- Local and Regional Economy (Section 7.16)
- Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 8)
- Migratory Birds (Section 9)
- Community Services and Infrastructure (Sections 10.5, 11.5, 12.5, 13.5 and 14.5)
- Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes (Sections 10.6, 11.6, 12.6, 13.6 and 14.6)
- Community Well-Being (Sections 10.8, 11.8, 12.8, 13.8 and 14.8)
- Night-Time Light Levels Baseline and Predictive Assessment (Appendix G)
- Socio-economic Baseline Study (Appendix O-1)
- HHERA (Appendix N-1).

A description of existing conditions of the linked pVCs, fVCs, and technical appendices listed above, as they relate to the biophysical and social determinants of health, is presented in Section 6 of the HIA (Appendix N-2). Collectively, the information from the upstream pVCs, fVCs, and technical appendices informed the existing conditions of the biophysical and social determinants of health.

In addition, the description of existing conditions for Indigenous health includes data and information on current health status and conditions within the LSA and RSA, as shaped by interrelated environmental, cultural, mental health, and socio-economic factors, with land-based practices, family and relationships, and cultural continuity identified as important indicators of health and wellness. This information is summarized below and detailed in Attachment A of Appendix N-2.

14.9.2.2.1 Historical Health Context

This section provides a summary of information for each of the local Indigenous communities that is relevant to health, including historical information. Further detail is provided in Attachment A of Appendix N-2.

Colonialism in Canada has operated as an interconnected system of laws, institutions, and policies, including the residential school system, that displaced First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples from their lands, suppressed their cultures and governance systems, and undermined self determination (PHAC 2024). Many current health disparities observed in Indigenous populations are attributed to colonialism in Canada (PHAC 2024; SLFNHA 2024a). While there are common themes, such as land dispossession, forced assimilation and intergenerational trauma, there are also distinct forms for Indigenous groups, such as treaties and the *Indian Act* for First Nations, forced relocations and epidemics for Inuit, and land scrip and exclusion from treaties for Métis (PHAC 2024).

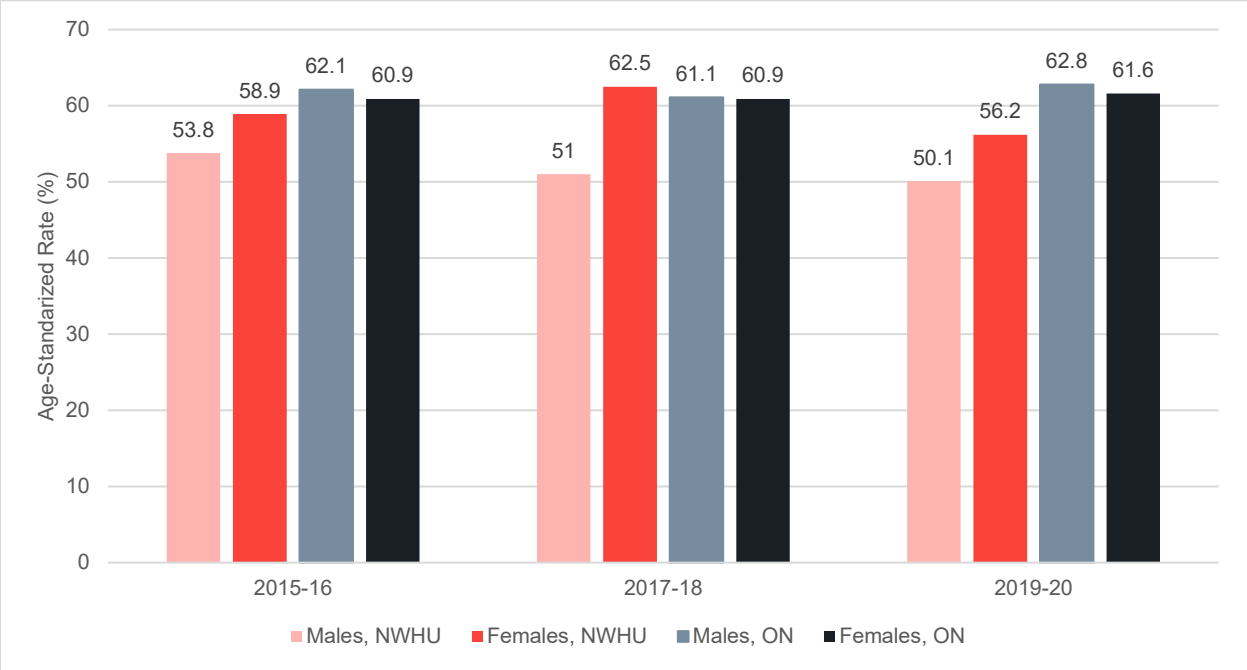
In a confidential report prepared for LSFN, some members described the effects of colonialism on their community. For example, community members shared how even the creation of the reserve boundaries had an impact, as the creation of these boundaries restricted their way of life and their culture to exist within artificial or colonial lines. They discuss how these impacts and the impacts of language loss and the residential school system are felt through generations. For ANA, colonial policies have *"led to intergenerational trauma and the loss of language, cultural teachings, and self-sufficiency"* (GNFN ANA 2025). For Métis populations in Canada, *"the root cause of poorer health outcomes suffered by the Métis lies in inter-generational family and individual experiences of trauma caused by colonial policies and adversity in their childhood"* (Métis National Council 2025). Perspectives on colonization from confidential reports prepared for WFN or community websites were not available. These examples are not intended to fully capture the complex history of colonial impacts on Indigenous people, but instead to highlight some of the distinct ways colonialism has shaped and continues to shape their experiences.

14.9.2.2.2 Perceptions of Health and Wellness

This section provides an overview of perceptions of health in the NWHU, in comparison to provincial averages. Figure 14.9-4 presents the age-standardized rates of respondents to the CCHS, from the NWHU and the province of Ontario, who reported a good or excellent perception of their overall health. The rates of males in the NWHU who reported a good or excellent perception of their overall health slightly declined from 2015-2016 to 2019 - 2020, and were lower than the rates for females in the NWHU (not statistically validated). In addition, the rates for males in the NWHU were also lower than rates for males in the province (only significantly lower for the 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 period; no significant difference in the 2015-2016 period) (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023a). The rates of females in the NWHU who reported a good or excellent perception of their overall health was relatively steady throughout the years.

The rates for females in the NWHU were lower than the rates for females in the province in 2015-2016 and 2019-2020, however rates for females were not significantly lower than provincial rates.

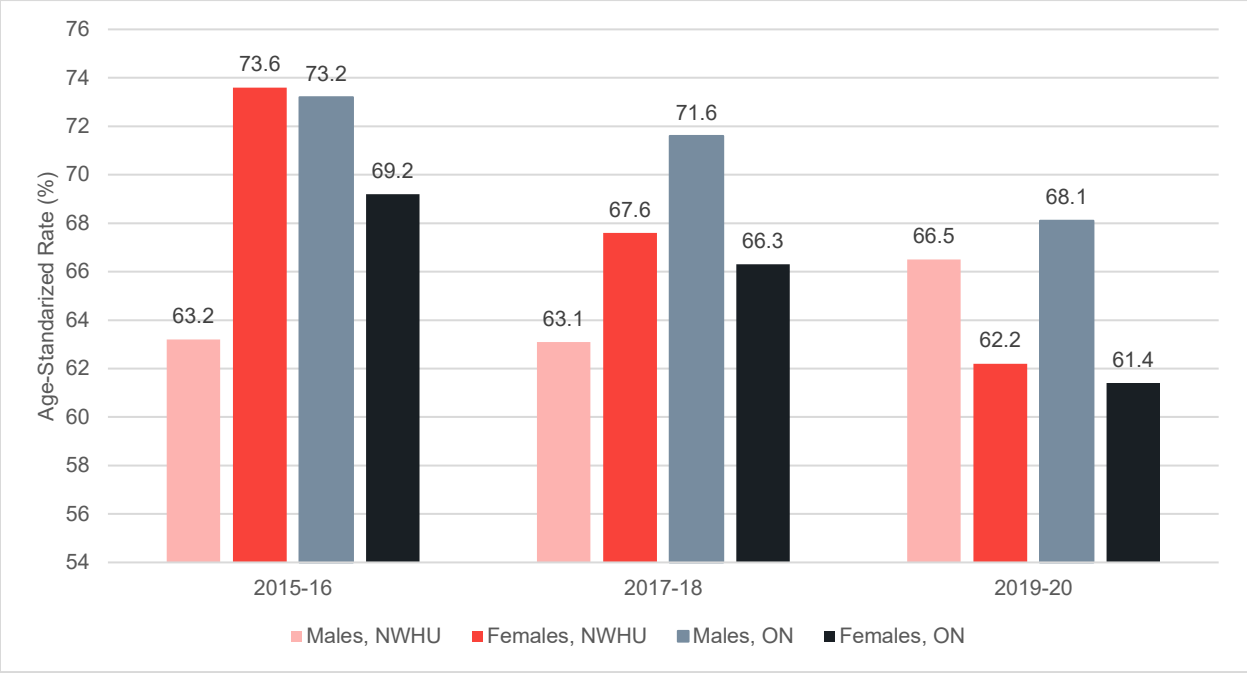
Figure 14.9-4: Perceived Health is Good or Excellent, Northwestern Health Unit and the Province of Ontario, 2015-2020



Source: (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023a)

Figure 14.9-5 presents the age-standardized rates of respondents to the CCHS from the NWHU and the province who reported a good or excellent perception of their mental health. The rates of females in the NWHU who reported a good or excellent perception of their mental health were higher than the provincial average, while the rates for males were lower than the provincial average between 2015-2016 to 2019-2020 (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023a). The rates of females in the NWHU who reported a good or excellent perception of their mental health were higher than the rates for males in NWHU in 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 and were lower than the rates for males in the NWHU in 2019-2020.

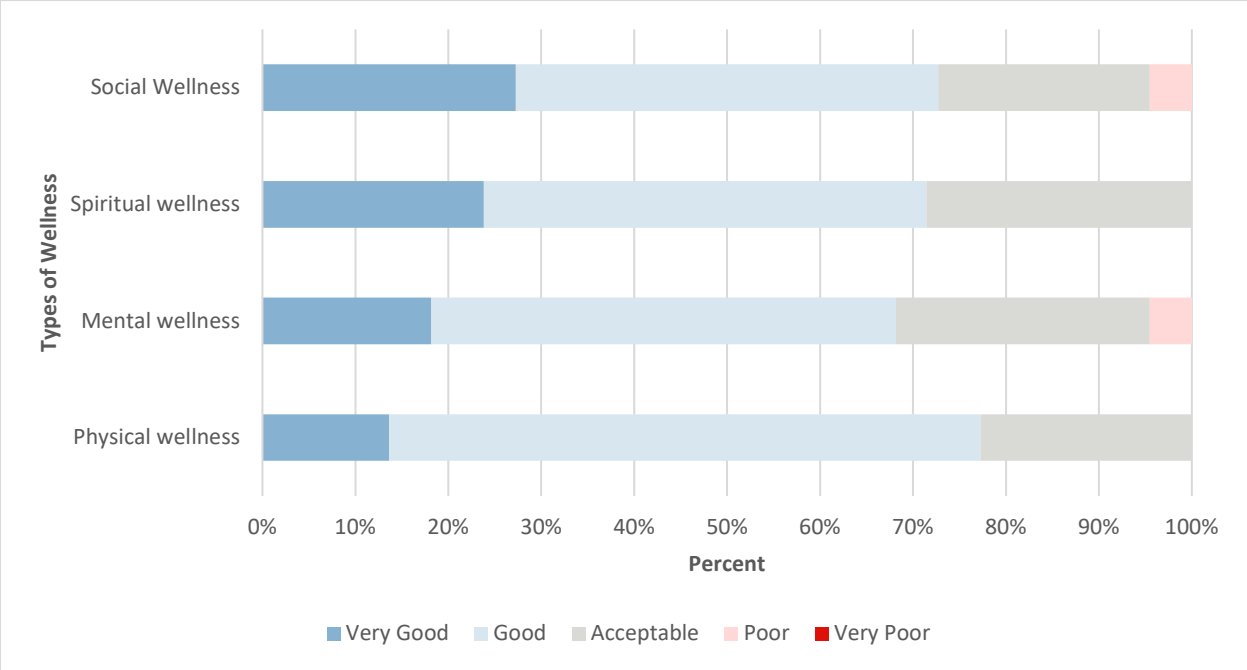
Figure 14.9-5: Perceived Mental Health is Good or Excellent, Northwestern Health Unit and the Province of Ontario, 2015-2020



Source: (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023a)

The Great Bear Project Community Health Survey asked survey respondents to rate their current feelings of health and well-being for the following categories: physical, mental, spiritual, and social wellness on a scale from very good to very poor. Most self-identified Indigenous respondents selected positive answers (i.e., very good or good) across all categories, followed by neutral (i.e., acceptable), and negative (poor), as presented in Figure 14.9-6. No respondents selected very poor in any of the four categories queried.

Figure 14.9-6: Current State of Health and Well-Being, Self-Identified Indigenous Respondents (n=22)



Source: Great Bear Project Community Health Survey (Attachment A of Appendix N-2)

14.9.2.2.3 Lifestyle and Behaviours

Detailed information regarding lifestyle and behaviour is presented in Attachment A of the HIA (Appendix N-2) including referencing to source information. Data on lifestyles and behaviours were available for Métis people in Canada, and for the general public in the RSA health units' catchment areas (i.e., NWHU), in comparison to provincial averages.

Smoking rates among Métis adults in Ontario declined between 2007 and 2014, whereas the smoking rate among non-Indigenous adults remained relatively constant (Métis National Council 2022). In 2015-2016 and 2017-2018, males and females in the NWHU had higher rates of current daily smoking than the provincial averages, with higher rates of smoking among males for both NWHU and Ontario (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023b).

NWHU had higher rates of self-reported age-standardized rates of heavy drinking than the province in 2015-2016 and 2017-2018, with rates among males being higher than rates among females in both the NWHU and the province (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023c).

Despite similar levels of physical activity across all age groups and genders when compared with Ontario, NWHU reports self-reported obesity rates that are approximately twice the provincial average among individuals aged 45 and older in 2021, primarily among males. When disaggregated by age, those in age groups 45 to 64 and 65+ in the NWHU were significantly higher than their Ontario counterparts, whereas those aged 18 to 44 in the NWHU were similar to their Ontario counterparts (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023d).

14.9.2.2.4 Hospitalizations and Safety

Hospitalizations and safety statistics provide an overview of injury and illness trends in the region.

The leading causes of hospital admissions for adults 20 years of age and older, among Sioux Lookout area First Nations were injuries (15% of hospital admissions) followed by digestive system issues (14%) (SLFNHA 2019a).

With respect to the causes of intentional injuries resulting in Sioux Lookout area First Nations hospital admissions for adults aged 20 years and older between 2012-2016, assault accounted for 49% of intentional injuries, followed by self-poisoning (40%) (SLFNHA 2019a).

The leading reasons for emergency department visits for adults 20 years of age and older, among Sioux Lookout area First Nations between 2012-2016 were: signs, symptoms and abnormal lab findings (21%); injuries (15%); and mental health, musculoskeletal system, and respiratory system (9% each) (SLFNHA 2019a).

Attachment A of Appendix N-2 provides additional information regarding hospitalization and safety in Sioux Lookout area First Nations and in the NWHU.

14.9.2.2.5 Chronic and Communicable Diseases

Chronic health conditions represent an existing and ongoing concern within Indigenous communities in northern Ontario.

Rates of diabetes-related hospital visits and diabetes-related deaths among Indigenous populations are approximately four times higher than the Ontario average. First Nations individuals age 20 and above from Sioux Lookout area were seen in the emergency department for diabetes at a rate three times the Ontario average (SLFNHA 2019a). In addition, First Nations from Sioux Lookout area individuals age 20 and above were admitted to hospital for diabetes at a rate four times the Ontario average (SLFNHA 2019a).

In contrast, regional public health data from the NWHU indicate lower reported prevalence rates of asthma and hypertension compared to provincial rates in 2020 (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023e). The rates of hospitalization for asthma for males in NWHU between 2012 and 2019 were lower than the rates for women in NWHU, and for males in Ontario (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023f). The rates of hospitalization for asthma for females in NWHU increased sharply in 2014, 2016 and 2019 as compared to the previous year.

The rates of hospitalization for cardiovascular disease in NWHU and the province were compared between 2012 and 2021. The rates for males in the NWHU showed a slight decreasing trend during this period and were higher than the rates for females in NWHU and males in the province (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023f).

The rate of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) for both males and females in Ontario from 2013 to 2022 is generally stable, with males having higher rates than females over these years. In contrast, the rates for males and females in the NWHU display more noticeable fluctuations, with some periods of increase and decrease. Overall, males had higher rates than females in most years, although the NWHU rates appear more variable compared to Ontario (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023g).

Attachment A of Appendix N-2 provides additional information regarding chronic and communicable disease trends in Sioux Lookout area First Nations and in the NWHU.

14.9.2.2.6 Mental Health and Substance Use

Mental health and substance-related disorders are consistently identified in local health reports as a priority area of concern and a large contributor to health service utilization in the region (SLFNHA 2024b; NWHU and Yusuf 2023; MNP LLP 2020). Slightly over one third of diagnoses for Sioux Lookout area First Nations nursing station visits related to mental health and substance use were substance-related or for addictive disorders (33.5%) (SLFNHA 2024b).

As stated in SLFNHA (2024b): *"Between 2015 to 2020 across the community nursing stations, more women than men visited nursing stations to seek help for substance use / addictive disorders (55.3 females vs. 44.7 males per 1000 visits) and self-harm / suicidal attempts (71.9 females vs. 28.1 males per 1000 visits). However, both men and women had similar numbers of visits for anxiety disorders."*

When examining emergency department visit rates for intentional self-injury for Sioux Lookout area First Nations and regional health units between 2011-2021, rates for Band members both on- and off-Reserve were generally higher than the provincial average and rates for the NWHU (SLFNHA 2024b).

Emergency department visit rates per 1,000 population for mental health and substance use for Sioux Lookout Band Members on- and off-reserve rates were generally higher than the provincial average and rates for the NWHU between 2011-2021 (SLFNHA 2024b).

The Red Lake and Ear Falls 2020 Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan further identifies substance use and mental health as top community priorities, noting that hospitalizations due to mental health conditions are higher in Red Lake and Ear Falls than provincial levels (MNP LLP 2020). In particular, youth and young adults in the region are experiencing higher rates of mental health issues (e.g., hospitalizations and emergency departments related to self-injury and / or substance use) than their Ontario counterparts (Mergler et al. 2023; MNP LLP 2020; NWHU and Yusuf 2023; SLFNHA 2018, 2024b).

With respect to self-reported prevalence of anxiety disorders in the NWHU in comparison to the province of Ontario, females were more likely than males to report anxiety in both the NWHU and the province (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023h).

A report published by the Northern Policy Institute and authored by Parsons (2022) examined the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in northern Ontario. The report uses data from district social services administration boards (DDSABs) in northern Ontario communities and regions. DDSABs are required to conduct detailed enumerations of their homeless populations every two years, in accordance with a new requirement that began in 2018 under the Housing Services Act (Parsons 2022). The report highlights how the rising rates of homelessness and substance use in northern Ontario suggest a growing trend of mental health crises among vulnerable populations (Parsons 2022). In 2021, the District of Kenora region reportedly had 3.1 homeless individuals per 1,000 persons, which was the third highest of the regions included in the study and represent larger homeless populations than some of the most populus cities in Ontario (Parsons 2022). In the District of Kenora, 65% and 75% of homeless individuals in 2021 reported they struggled with mental health and addiction, respectively (Parsons 2022).

Given the high percentage of homeless individuals reporting to be struggling with addiction, it is noteworthy that opioid-related emergency department visits and deaths between 2017 and 2021 more than doubled in in the NWHU (Parsons 2022).

Attachment A of Appendix N-2 provides additional information regarding mental health and substance use trends for Indigenous communities in the region and the NWHU.

14.9.2.2.7 Cancer and Mortality

A report titled Kayamowemakak Ahkosiwin Tipacimowin Cancer in Sioux Lookout area First Nations 2006-2022 (SLFNHA 2025), examined cancer trends in Sioux Lookout area First Nations. During most single years between 2006 and 2020, using age-standardized rate measures, the overall cancer incidence (new cases) rates among Sioux Lookout area First Nations, which includes LSFN and WFN, were lower than the rates seen in other public health units (Thunder Bay District Health Unit and NWHU), and Ontario (SLFNHA 2025).

Métis National Council (2022) summarizes current trends in cancer and tobacco-related risk factors for Métis populations in Canada. Research suggests that cancer rates among Métis populations are comparable to, or higher than, those observed among non-Indigenous populations. Mazereeuw et al. (2018) as cited in (Métis National Council 2022), examined cancer incidence and mortality using data from the Canadian Census Health and Environment Cohort (1992–2009). Their analysis found that, when all cancer types and both sexes were considered together, overall cancer incidence among Métis adults was similar to that of non-Indigenous adults. However, statistically significant higher relative risks of cancer were identified for Métis adults for breast, lung, liver, laryngeal, gallbladder, and cervical cancers. In contrast, lower relative risks were observed among Métis people for colorectal cancer among women, as well as for melanoma and leukemia when men and women were considered together. Differences in incidence for other cancer types were not statistically significant (Métis National Council 2022).

A report published by the SLFNHA (Mamow Ahyamowen 2020) examined mortality and chronic health conditions among members of 59 First Nations communities in Northern Ontario. It compared mortality trends to the Ontario population overall and highlights key health challenges and inequities faced by First Nations communities. Although SLFNHA serves 33 First Nation communities in the Sioux Lookout region in Ontario, Canada, including LSFN and WFN, this report was published by the Mamow Ahyamowen (everyone's voices) Partnership, which is an epidemiology partnership of 11 First Nations organizations collectively serving 78 communities across northern Ontario. 59 communities participated in this analysis including ANA and LSFN (Mamow Ahyamowen 2020). It is noted that WFN and NWOMC were not participants in this analysis and as such, the data may not be representative of these communities. Members of Mamow Ahyamowen communities are more likely to die before retirement age (65 years old) than the overall Ontario population, with the average age at death among Mamow Ahyamowen communities being 54 years old compared to 74 years old for Ontario. The most common causes of death among Mamow Ahyamowen community members between 1992 and 2014 included injuries, circulatory, cancer, and diabetes related deaths. Mamow Ahyamowen communities have more deaths due to injuries and diabetes than Ontario overall, whereas circulatory and cancer deaths showed similar rates to Ontario overall. More people in Mamow Ahyamowen communities tend to have diabetes when they die compared to Ontario overall, and women were more likely to have a history of diabetes when they die compared to men (Mamow Ahyamowen 2020).

Cancer incidence rates (all types) show a general downward trend for both males and females in the NWHU between the years of 2010-2014, though there are some year-to-year fluctuations. In comparison, the rates in Ontario for both genders remain relatively steady, with only a slight decline over time.

Overall, cancer incidence rates for both males and females were relatively higher than rates in the NWHU for both males and females between 2010-2014
(Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023i).

Attachment A of Appendix N-2 provides additional information regarding cancer and mortality characteristics in the region.

14.9.2.2.8 Food Security

Food security remains a key determinant of health for Indigenous communities in northern Ontario, and food insecurity represents a public health concern in northwestern Ontario. For many First Nations communities, colonization and the imposition of colonial policies have disrupted traditional food knowledge and practices. These interventions have resulted in a shift away from longstanding Indigenous food systems toward reliance on market foods, which are commercially produced, store-bought items that are imported into communities from retailers (SLFNHA 2024a).

The average monthly cost of food in Sioux Lookout area First Nations estimated to be between 37% and 69% higher than the average monthly cost for other municipalities elsewhere in northern Ontario (SLFNHA 2024a). In addition, the NWHU reported food insecurity rates in the Kenora-Rainy River Districts (21%) as being slightly higher than provincial and regional averages (19%) (NWHU 2024).

In 2011, the First Nations Food Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES) assessed food security in First Nations communities using the Household Food Security Survey Module and results are summarized in a report titled FNFNES Ontario Regional Report (2011–2012) (Chan et al. 2014). It is noted that LSFN, WFN, NWOMC, and RLEF were not participants in this study; however, ANA participants were included. The highest household food insecurity rate (52%; 34% moderately and 18% severely) was reported among First Nations households located in the Boreal Shield / Subarctic Ecozone 1 (which encompasses northern First Nations including ANA) compared to other Ontario ecozones in the study (Chan et al. 2014). In Ontario (all ecozones), when asked if their household would like to have more traditional food, most adults (73%) said that they would (Chan et al. 2014).

Rates of food insecurity in the NWHU (2018-2020) were higher than provincial averages, with 79.9% of households in the NWHU being food secure compared to 83.3% of households in the province (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion 2023j).

Attachment A of Appendix N-2 provides additional information regarding food security trends in the region.

14.9.3 Potential Effects

The potential interactions between proposed Project-related activities and Indigenous health are used to identify potential effects (positive and negative), and whether these effects are direct or indirect.

For each Project phase, a detailed overview of the Project's potential interactions (direct and indirect) with Indigenous health is presented in Table 14.9-1. All Project activities were identified as having a potential interaction with Indigenous health.

The potential interactions are considered to be applicable to each of the Indigenous communities being assessed (LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF).

Table 14.9-1: Potential Interactions Between Project Activities and Indigenous Health

Project Component / Activity	Change in Health (Indigenous Peoples)
Construction Phase	
Site preparation activities	Yes
Establishment and operation of water management and treatment facilities	Yes
Open pit mining	Yes
Underground mining	Yes
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	Yes
Establishment of onsite fish habitat and compensation measures	Yes
Establishment of onsite aggregate operations	Yes
Construction of the starter embankments for the TMF	Yes
Construction and operation of buildings and infrastructure	Yes
Waste management	Yes
Commissioning of the process plant	Yes
Power supply	Yes
Employment and expenditures	Yes
Operations Phase	
Underground mining	Yes
Mining of the LP Central pit	Yes
Management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles	Yes
Process plant operation	Yes
Management of desulphurized tailings in the TMF	Yes
Management of concentrate tailings and contact water in the VMF	Yes
Operation of water management and treatment facilities	Yes
Construction of a mine water pond	Yes
Operation and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure	Yes
Waste management	Yes
Power supply	Yes
Progressive reclamation activities	Yes
Employment and expenditures	Yes
Closure Phase	
Active closure	Yes
Passive closure	Yes
Final reclamation	Yes
Employment and expenditures	Yes

Notes:
Yes = Interaction exists
No = No interaction exists
TMF = Tailings Management Facility; VMF = Viggo Management Facility

The assessment of potential effects on Indigenous health relied on two main approaches, HHERA (Appendix N-1) and HIA (Appendix N-2). In order to understand and interpret the potential effects sections below, a brief description of these two methodologies is required. Additional details can be found in the technical appendices (Appendix N-1 and N-2).

For Indigenous health, a single comprehensive assessment was completed that relies on the combined findings of the HHERA (Appendix N-1) and HIA (Appendix N-2) for all participating Indigenous communities (i.e., LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF). This subsection includes the assessment and discussion of Indigenous health overall, presenting findings for all five Indigenous communities.

In order to interpret the potential effects sections below, a brief summary of relevant HHERA and HIA methodologies have been provided:

14.9.3.1 HHERA Methodology

For changes to air, multi-media environmental quality and access and availability of traditional foods, the potential effects assessment relies on findings from the HHERA. A brief summary of HHERA inputs, assumptions, methodology and results are provided herein. See Appendix N-1 for additional details. In addition, a Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies is included as Appendix T, some data from which was incorporated in the HHERA, as detailed in Appendix N-1.

Project activities may emit chemical parameters into air (through fugitive dust, vehicle exhaust and direct facility emissions) and water (through permitted emissions and runoff). Consequently, human and / or ecological receptors around the Project may be exposed to parameters of potential concern (POPCs) originating from the Project present in environmental media through inhalation, ingestion, incidental ingestion, dermal contact, and ingestion of food items.
The HHERA, which consists of a human health risk assessment (HHRA) and an ecological risk assessment (ERA), evaluates cumulative exposure via relevant pathways to determine potential health risks from the Project. The HHERA evaluates exposures and associated risks for baseline (i.e., existing conditions) and for each Project phase (i.e., construction, operations and closure).

The HHERA process involves four fundamental steps, problem formulation, exposure assessment, toxicity assessment, and risk characterization. The results of the HHERA are determined as part of the risk characterization step. This involves qualitatively and / or quantitatively evaluating the potential risks by comparing the results of the exposure assessment with the findings of the toxicity assessment to determine whether there is potential for POPCs to pose adverse human or ecological health effects.

- For human health, risk estimates for non-carcinogenic (i.e., threshold) POPCs are expressed as a hazard quotient (HQ). When considering multiple exposure pathways through cumulative exposure including background exposures, an HQ of less than 1.0 indicates that exposures would not be expected to result in adverse human health effects (Health Canada 2024b).
- For carcinogenic (i.e., non-threshold) POPCs, risk estimates are expressed as incremental lifetime cancer risk (ILCR), and were compared to a target risk value of 1-in-100,000 (i.e., 1.0E-05) (Health Canada 2024b).

- For diesel particulate matter (DPM), in addition to calculating ILCRs, Health Canada (2016) recommends an approach to provide an estimate of additional lung cancer mortality (ALCM) associated with additional DPM emissions related to the Project for chronic exposure. The ALCM values are compared against a benchmark value of 1, representing an incremental cancer risk of 1-in-100,000.
- For ecological health, risk estimates were expressed as HQs and compared to a target risk value of 1.0 because baseline or background exposures were included in the ERA.

The HHERA included both an inhalation and multi-media assessment to evaluate the potential effects to Indigenous health associated with changes to air quality and multi-media environmental quality (i.e., exposure to air, groundwater, surface water, and through the consumption of traditional foods) from Project activities.

The inhalation assessment considered exposure from Project-related air emissions that could occur at the maximum point of impingement (MPOI: a non-static location which represents the highest predicted ground level air concentrations anticipated along the Leased Claims Boundary of the PA) and at PORs within the LSA and RSA through the inhalation of outdoor air. It was conservatively assumed that the Indigenous Resident was present 100% of their time at each long-term (chronic) POR and up to 24 hours of their time at each short-term (acute) POR, which included locations identified as part of Indigenous knowledge. The locations selected to represent potential exposure from Project-related air emissions are detailed in the HHERA inhalation assessment (Appendix N-1). included:

Initial Air Quality PORs: PORs 1-29 were (selected by the air quality discipline; as reported in Appendix D-2), and consist of primarily long-term stay locations (e.g., cottage, cabin, lodge, camp), with the exception of POR1, which is a short-term stay storage area.

Additional PORs: PORs 30-41 were selected in the HHERA to represent additional areas that were either identified in available confidential TKLUS reports or were identified to account for the potential for exposure on water bodies not otherwise identified in TKLUS reports. PORs 30-38 and 40 consist of primarily short-term stay TKLUS locations (e.g., fishing area, gathering area and cultural area) identified through TKLUS reports or chosen to represent exposure on water bodies. POR 39 is an overnight stay location. For completeness and to represent a worse-case area near Red Lake, POR41 was added near Red Lake as a long term stay location within the RSA.

MPOI: a non-static location which represents the highest predicted ground level air concentrations anticipated along the Leased Claims Boundary of the PA. It is noted that human receptors (e.g., Indigenous Resident) in the LSA are not expected to spend an appreciable amount of time at the MPOI and, therefore, the short-term and long-term stay and TLKUS locations represented by PORs more accurately represent potential exposure.

For both assessments, the Indigenous Resident (receptor) was considered representative of Indigenous individuals who are assumed to reside in and / or harvest traditional foods in the LSA or RSA year-round for their entire lifetime; however, the HHERA focused on exposures and risks in the LSA. The multi-media assessment considered two types of Indigenous Residents to capture exposures from varying levels of traditional foods consumption:

- **Indigenous Resident (Heavy Consumer):** The heavy consumer Indigenous resident was based on a receptor that consumes high amounts of traditional foods (i.e., 95th percentile consumption rates).

- **Indigenous Resident (Average Consumer):** The average consumer Indigenous resident was based on a receptor that consumes average amounts of traditional foods (i.e., mean consumption rates) and was considered to represent the general Indigenous population.

For the assessment of non-carcinogens (i.e., threshold) POPCs, the toddler lifestage (the most sensitive life stage due to their exposure rates relative to body weight) and adult lifestage were evaluated; and a woman of childbearing age was also evaluated given the potential presence of developmental toxicants (i.e., mercury). For the assessment of carcinogens (i.e., non-threshold) POPCs, a composite receptor was evaluated which incorporates exposure through all lifestages: infant, toddler, child, teen, and adult (or Elder).

Additional details on the HHERA methodology, including inputs, assumptions and modelling approach are provided in Appendix N-1.

14.9.3.2 HIA Methodology

The assessment of effects (beneficial and adverse) on Indigenous health was also informed by an HIA (Appendix N-2) following established best-practices in the field, including Health Canada's Interim HIA guidance for designated projects (Health Canada 2024a). The HIA (Appendix N-2) included an assessment of potential effects using available evidence (primary and secondary), established indicators, and a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches, to identify Project effects on Indigenous health. This approach aims to weave together Indigenous knowledge, and other information that has been obtained through engagement with the local Indigenous communities, with publicly available data, information and established impact assessment methods. The HIA relies on a large number of inputs to support the assessment of Project-related effects on Indigenous health. Full details on the methodology of the HIA are provided in Appendix N-2 and are briefly summarized below.

The HIA process follows a prescriptive set of steps that are intended to provide a framework for the assessment of potential beneficial and adverse effects on human health and wellness. These steps include: screening, scoping, assessment (and a baseline health profile), mitigations and enhancements, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. These steps are described in detail in Appendix N-2.

The assessment step involves systematically determining the potential health effects (both beneficial and adverse) from Project activities, including understanding the distribution of those effects across communities and subgroups, and an indication of required mitigation and / or enhancement measures needed based on assessment findings. A combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment methods are used to identify, characterize and assess potential effects both at the individual determinant level and to support an overall assessment for health. Key components of the assessment step, as outlined in the interim HIA guidance (Health Canada 2024a) are:

- Development of a Baseline Health Profile to gain an understanding of existing health conditions and population health status (Attachment A of Appendix N-2).
- Identification of potential effects to predict whether health effects (direct or indirect) may occur as a result of the Project, as well as the extent of these effects. In doing so, it is important to consider which groups are likely to benefit, which groups may be adversely affected, and which groups may be unaffected by the Project (includes GBA Plus).

- Apply an assessment framework to assess Project-related effects. An assessment framework provides a consistent and transparent approach for assessing Project-related effects. Assessment criteria are selected based on the jurisdiction (i.e., Health Canada 2024a), project context and site information, scientific evidence and community feedback.

As a result of the assessment step, the HIA identifies specific mitigation and enhancement measures based on assessment of individual determinants of health but also based on the holistic evaluation of overall health and wellness. Mitigation measures are features of a project intended to eliminate, reduce, control or offset the adverse effects of a project.

The following sections present the results of the assessment of Indigenous health including the HHERA (Appendix N-1) and HIA (Appendix N-2).

14.9.3.3 Construction Phase

The construction phase is expected to occur over a three-year period and will include site preparation, infrastructure development, and mobilization of the construction workforce. Activities during construction include, but are not limited to, open pit and underground mining, management of rock and unconsolidated materials in stockpiles, and construction of buildings and infrastructure. Site preparation activities for the mine site area include clearing, grubbing, bulk earthworks and the establishment of onsite road infrastructure. The potential interactions during construction are explored as contributions to the potential effect of an overall change in Indigenous health.

14.9.3.3.1 Air Quality

As stated in Section 7.2 (Air Quality), air quality during construction may be influenced by changes in particulate, silica, metals, nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulphur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), DPM, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and other air parameters due to emissions from the operation of equipment (e.g., generators), material handling, and the use of unpaved surfaces associated with site preparation activities, construction and development of mine infrastructure (including blasting) and operation of the construction camp. Additionally, emissions from the operation of a concrete batch plant, cemented rockfill plant, and paste plant may interact with air quality.

Project interactions with air could result in elevated concentrations of POPCs in outdoor air, which could subsequently be inhaled by Indigenous people. The HHERA evaluated potential human health risks from POPCs from the inhalation of outdoor air as part of the HHERA inhalation assessment. The results of the HHERA inhalation assessment are presented below in Table 14.9-2 and Table 14.9-3, with full details provided in the HHERA (Appendix N-1).

Table 14.9-2: Acute Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for Indigenous Receptor

POPC	Exposure Period	Receptor Group	Baseline	Project-Alone [2]		Project + Baseline [2]		POR with Max HQ
				Construction / Active Closure [1]	Operations	Construction / Active Closure [1]	Operations	
NO_2 [3]	1-Hour	MPOI [4]	0.06	0.64	0.87	0.70	0.93	N/A
NO_2 [3]	1-Hour	Initial Air Quality POR [5]	0.06	0.56	0.57	0.62	0.63	POR1
NO_2 [3]	1-Hour	Additional POR [6]	0.06	0.63	0.64	0.70	0.70	POR33 - Construction / Active Closure POR39 - Operations
DPM	1-Hour	MPOI [4]	0.046	**2.8**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.9**	N/A
DPM	1-Hour	Initial Air Quality POR [5]	0.046	0.46	0.42	0.51	0.47	POR21
DPM	1-Hour	Additional POR [6]	0.046	0.23	0.22	0.28	0.27	POR39

Notes:

1 Air emissions associated with the Project during active closure are assumed to be the same as during construction.

2 Air emissions associated with the Project are assumed to be 0 during post-closure (following Project decommissioning)

3 The CCME CAAQS for NO_2 is based on the maximum average of predicted 98th percentile results from three consecutive years (CCME 2025). The matching statistic was selected as the EPC for NO_2 for the MPOI and each POR for each Project phase. This is consistent with the approach applied by the Air Quality assessment (Appendix D-2).

4 MPOI: a non-static location which represents the highest predicted ground level air concentrations anticipated along the Leased Claims Boundary of the PA. It is noted that human receptors (e.g., Indigenous Resident) in the LSA are not expected to spend an appreciable amount of time at the MPOI and, therefore, the short-term and long-term stay and TLKUS locations represented by PORs more accurately represent potential exposure.

5 Initial Air Quality POR: PORs 1-29 were (selected by the air quality discipline; as reported in Appendix D-2), and consist of primarily long-term stay locations (e.g., cottage, cabin, lodge, camp), with the exception of POR1, which is a short-term stay storage area.

6 Additional POR: PORs 30-41 were selected in the HHERA to represent additional areas that were either identified in available confidential TKLUS reports or were identified to account for the potential for exposure on water bodies not otherwise identified in TKLUS reports. PORs 30-38 and 40 consist of primarily short-term stay TKLUS locations (e.g., fishing area, gathering area and cultural area) identified through TKLUS reports or chosen to represent exposure on water bodies. POR 39 is an overnight stay location. For completeness and to represent a worse-case area near Red Lake, POR41 was added near Red Lake as a long term stay location within the RSA.

CAAQS = Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards; CCME = Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment; DPM= diesel particulate matter; MPOI= maximum point of impingement; N/A = not applicable; NO_2= nitrogen dioxide; POPC= parameter of potential concern; POR= point of reception.

Gray shade and bold = HQ is above risk target of 1.

Table 14.9-3: Chronic Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risks and ALCM) for Indigenous Receptor

POPC	Exposure Period	Receptor Group	Construction / Active Closure[2]	Operations	Total ILCR[1,3]	POR with Maximum ILCR	Total ALCM[4]
DPM	Annual	Initial Air Quality POR [5]	1.2E-06	4.3E-06	5.5E-06	POR4	0.08 to 0.80
DPM	Annual	Additional POR [6]	1.7E-06	4.9E-06	6.6E-06	POR39	0.09 to 0.95
Acceptable ILCR or ALCM			<1.0E-05			N/A	1

Notes:

1 Incremental lifetime cancer risk is based on a lifespan of 80 years.

2 Air emissions associated with the Project during active closure are assumed to be the same as during construction.

3 Air emissions associated with the Project are assumed to be 0 during post-closure (following Project decommissioning).

4 Total ALCM is the sum of the ALCM for the construction, operations and closure phases that were assumed to emit DPM.

5 Initial Air Quality POR: PORs 1-29 were (selected by the air quality discipline; as reported in Appendix D-2), and consist of primarily long-term stay locations (e.g., cottage, cabin, lodge, camp), with the exception of POR1, which is a short-term stay storage area.

6 Additional POR: PORs 30-41 were selected in the HHERA to represent additional areas that were either identified in available confidential TKLUS reports or were identified to account for the potential for exposure on water bodies not otherwise identified in TKLUS reports. PORs 30-38 and 40 consist of primarily short-term stay TKLUS locations (e.g., fishing area, gathering area and cultural area) identified through TKLUS reports or chosen to represent exposure on water bodies. POR 39 is an overnight stay location. For completeness and to represent a worse-case area near Red Lake, POR41 was added near Red Lake as a long term stay location within the RSA.

ALCM = additional lung cancer mortality; DPM = diesel particulate matter; ILCR= incremental lifetime cancer risk; N/A = Not applicable; POPC = parameter of potential concern; POR= point of reception

Gray shade and bold = ILCR is above risk threshold of 1 in 100,000 (1.0E-05) or ALCM is above the target risk threshold of 1 in 100,000 (i.e., 1).

As shown in Table 14.9-2 above, the HHERA inhalation assessment reported HQs above the target HQ of 1 for DPM only at the MPOI during the construction phase for Project Alone and Project+Baseline. As shown in Table 14.9-2 and Table 14.9-3 above, HQs for short-term NO_2 exposure were below the target HQ of 1 and estimated ILCRs and ALCMs for chronic DPM exposure were below the target ILCR of 1.0E-05 (i.e., 1 in 100,000) and target ALCM of 1. As such, potential risks associated with short-term NO_2 and chronic DPM exposure in air were negligible.

The MPOI is a theoretical point that is a non-static location, where maximum air concentrations are predicted outside of the Project property boundaries, in close proximity to the PA. As the MPOI is a conservative assumption that varies and is typically used for the human health worst-case scenario, individuals are not likely to be exposed to concentrations that relate to exposures above the risk target (i.e., HQ above 1). The HHERA inhalation assessment reported that although HQs above the target HQ of 1 were identified at the MPOI, the frequency of these instances was low during construction / active closure (i.e., 0.13% at the MPOI), which equates to less than 24 hours (i.e., 1 day) of HQs above the target in a year.

With respect to DPM, the majority of the toxicological evidence is related to respiratory and cardiovascular health effects. Health Canada (2016) has reviewed results from controlled human exposure studies to establish the critical effect point of departure (POD) for short-term exposures to DPM and observed increases in airway resistance in mildly asthmatic individuals and respiratory inflammation in healthy individuals exposed to 100 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu g/m^3$) DPM based on short-term exposure (Mudway et al. 2004; Behndig et al. 2006, 2011; Riedl et al. 2012; Stenfors et al. 2004; as cited in Health Canada 2016). This concentration was selected as the critical effect and POD. The maximum predicted 1-hour concentration of DPM for Project+Baseline (i.e., construction / active closure) was 28.3 $\mu g/m^3$, which was below the POD of 100 $\mu g/m^3$. Therefore, potential risks to the Indigenous Resident from Project-related DPM exposure during construction were considered to be low, given that the predicted concentrations were below the POD of 100 $\mu g/m^3$, the predicted frequency of DPM concentrations above targets was low (less than 1 day / year), conservative assumptions were used in the air quality assessment, the assumption that all particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$) vehicle combustion was related to DPM is conservative, and people are not expected to be at the MPOI for extended periods that would constitute risk.

Overall, Project activities are not anticipated to pose risks to the Indigenous Resident from exposure to POPCs in air during construction. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. Given the HHERA process considers conservative assumptions related to the amount of time people are assumed to be present outdoors (i.e., 100% of their time), adverse health effects to Indigenous people are not expected from acute or chronic exposure to Project-related changes in air quality (i.e., NO_2 and DPM levels) during construction.

While Indigenous health is not expected to be directly affected by Project interactions with air quality during construction, it is important to acknowledge that Indigenous views on wellness are holistic and include complex connections to the environment and all living things. It is possible that perception issues related to air quality may indirectly change or limit the amount of time spent outdoors by Indigenous communities, including for traditional land practices. The effect of changes in traditional land use on Indigenous health is assessed via multi-media environmental quality and access and availability of traditional foods.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during construction. For example, as discussed in Section 7.2 (Air Quality), Great Bear Resources plans to actively manage emissions from the Project. While the HHERA did not identify adverse effects to Indigenous people's health from Project activities via the inhalation of outdoor air, these measures are expected to continue mitigating potential effects from exposure during construction. Given the HHERA is based on predicted data, additional measures were proposed to monitor air quality parameters in order to validate assumptions, if needed. Data sharing agreements with local Indigenous communities, and support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs were also identified. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for air quality are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, direct effects on Indigenous health from changes to air quality as a result of Project activities during construction are not anticipated; however, mitigation and enhancement measures presented in Section 14.9.4 are required to validate assumptions and promote Indigenous participation in environmental monitoring and data sovereignty.

14.9.3.3.2 Multi-media Environmental Quality

As stated in Section 7.2 (Air Quality), Project interactions which could potentially effect soil, surface water and traditional foods as a result of deposition from airborne emissions include emissions from the operation of equipment, material handling, and the use of unpaved surfaces, construction and development of mine infrastructure and operation of the construction camp. Additionally, operation of a concrete batch plant, cemented rockfill plant, and paste plant are anticipated to interact with soil, surface water and traditional foods as a result of deposition from airborne emissions during construction.

As stated in Section 7.7 (Water Quality), Project interactions which could potentially effect surface water and traditional foods quality during construction include erosion and sedimentation effects to local water features, fugitive dust emissions and subsequent deposition on surface water features, changes to existing catchment areas and associated catchment loading to surface water features, and blasting residue impacting runoff and dewatering water quality.

Project interactions with soil and / or surface water could result in elevated concentrations of POPCs in these media which can result in direct contact by Indigenous people (e.g., incidental ingestion, ingestion, dermal contact and / or inhalation of soil particulates), and / or can be taken up by plants and animals, and subsequently ingested by Indigenous people. The HHERA (Appendix N-1) evaluated potential human health risks from direct contact with soil (incidental ingestion, dermal contact, inhalation of soil particulates), surface water (ingestion of drinking water, incidental ingestion, dermal contact), and ingestion of traditional foods which were assumed to have taken up POPCs from soil and / or surface water as part of the multi-media assessment. The results of the human health multi-media assessment are presented in Table 14.9-4, Table 14.9-5, Table 14.9-6 and Table 14.9-7 below, with full details provided in the HHERA (Appendix N-1).

Table 14.9-4: Maximum Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for Indigenous Receptor (Average Consumer, Toddler)

POPC	Baseline	Project + Baseline				Project Alone			
		Construction	Operations	Closure	Post Closure	Construction	Operations	Closure	Post Closure
Inorganic Arsenic	**3.4**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**3.3**	**3.3**	0.0084	0.012	0.013	0.0083
Inorganic Mercury (1)	0.30	0.30	0.32	0.32	0.30	0.0012	0.020	0.020	0.0022
Methylmercury (1)	**1.9**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**1.9**	0.0063	0.049	0.052	0.013
Selenium	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.0037	0.0058	0.0088	0.024

Notes:

1 Inorganic mercury and methylmercury risk estimates were calculated as the sum of HQs for fish and surface water pathways (estimated from the Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies report [Appendix T]) and HQs for other assessed exposure pathways (estimated from the HHERA multi-media assessment [Appendix N-1]).

For Baseline and Project + Baseline, HQ values > 1.0 are shaded and **bolded**.

For Project Alone, HQ values > 0.2 are shaded and **bolded**.

HHERA = Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment; HQ = hazard quotient; POPC = parameter of potential concern.

Table 14.9-5: Maximum Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for Indigenous Receptor (Heavy Consumer, Toddler)

POPC	Baseline	Project + Baseline				Project Alone			
		Construction	Operations	Closure	Post Closure	Construction	Operations	Closure	Post Closure
Inorganic Arsenic	**4.6**	**4.6**	**4.5**	**4.4**	**4.3**	0.018	0.020	0.020	0.010
Inorganic Mercury (1)	1.0	1.0	**1.1**	**1.1**	1.0	0.0032	0.073	0.074	0.0062
Methylmercury (1)	**6.8**	**6.8**	**6.9**	**6.9**	**6.8**	0.019	0.18	0.18	0.041
Selenium	0.44	0.45	0.45	0.47	0.47	0.014	0.021	0.035	0.085

Notes:

1 Inorganic mercury and methylmercury risk estimates were calculated as the sum of HQs for fish and surface water pathways (estimated from the Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies report [Appendix T) and HQs for other assessed exposure pathways (estimated from the HHERA multi-media assessment [Appendix N-1]).

For Baseline and Project + Baseline, HQ values > 1.0 are shaded and **bolded**.

For Project Alone, HQ values > 0.2 are shaded and **bolded**.

HHERA = Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment; HQ = hazard quotient; POPC = parameter of potential concern.

Table 14.9-6: Non-Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Hazard Quotients) for the Adult Female Indigenous Receptor (Average and Heavy Consumer)

Receptor	POPC	Baseline	Project + Baseline				Project Alone			
			Construction	Operations	Closure	Post Closure	Construction	Operations	Closure	Post Closure
Indigenous Resident (Average Consumer)	Inorganic Mercury (1)	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.00088	0.016	0.016	0.0015
	Methylmercury (1)	0.97	0.97	1.0	1.0	0.97	0.0047	0.027	0.028	0.0091
Indigenous Resident (Heavy Consumer)	Inorganic Mercury (1)	0.56	0.57	0.60	0.60	0.56	0.0020	0.040	0.040	0.0041
	Methylmercury (1)	**3.5**	**3.6**	**3.7**	**3.6**	**3.5**	0.013	0.10	0.10	0.032

Notes:

1 Inorganic mercury and methylmercury risk estimates were calculated as the sum of HQs for fish and surface water pathways (estimated from the Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies report [Appendix T) and HQs for other assessed exposure pathways (estimated from the HHERA multi-media assessment [Appendix N-1]).

For Baseline and Project + Baseline, HQ values > 1.0 are shaded and **bolded**.

For Project Alone, HQ values > 0.2 are shaded and **bolded**.

HHERA = Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment; HQ = hazard quotient; POPC = parameter of potential concern.

Table 14.9-7: Carcinogenic Risk Estimates (Incremental Lifetime Cancer Risks) for Indigenous Receptor (Average Consumer and Heavy Consumer, Lifetime Composite)

Receptor	POPC	Construction	Operations	Closure	Post Closure	Total ILCR
Indigenous Resident (Average Consumer)	Inorganic Arsenic	1.8E-08	1.5E-07	1.8E-08	1.2E-07	3.1E-07
Indigenous Resident (Heavy Consumer)		4.2E-08	3.3E-07	3.5E-08	2.1E-07	6.8E-07

Notes:

ILCR values > 10E-05 are shaded and **bolded**.

ILCR = incremental lifetime cancer risks; POPC = parameter of potential concern.

As presented in Table 14.9-4 and Table 14.9-5, the human health multi-media assessment identified non-carcinogenic risks (i.e., HQs above the target HQ of 1.0) from exposure to inorganic arsenic for both the average and heavy consumer Indigenous resident (toddler) for baseline and when accounting for Project+Baseline for the construction phase. When accounting for Project-Alone contributions, HQs were below the target HQ of 0.2 for construction and are considered negligible. This indicated that Project+Baseline HQs above the target HQ of 1 are associated with the background conditions (i.e., baseline) rather than the Project, and the Project is not expected to increase arsenic-related human health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction. For the Indigenous resident, the maximum HQs were observed for the toddler life stage (most sensitive life stage for non-carcinogenic exposure to arsenic) and surface water exposure (i.e., ingestion as drinking water, incidental ingestion, dermal contact) was the primary exposure pathway. Surface water exposure accounted for approximately 83% of the arsenic HQs for the average consumer toddler Indigenous resident, and approximately 62% of the arsenic HQs for the heavy consumer toddler Indigenous resident. Surface water exposure represents a conservative assumption in the HHERA as surface water in the RSA and LSA was assumed to be the only source of drinking water for Indigenous resident receptors.

Arsenic was additionally assessed as a carcinogen as presented in Table 14.9-7. The calculated ILCR values for the lifetime composite Indigenous resident receptor were below the target ILCR of 1.0E-05 (i.e., 1-in-100,000) for both the average and heavy consumer Indigenous resident for the construction phase, and for the total ILCR for an 80-year lifetime. As such, unacceptable carcinogenic risks are not expected from the Project.

For the assessment of mercury, a Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies (Appendix T) was conducted to evaluate potential risks to human health associated with fish and surface water consumption, based on predicted changes in fish tissue mercury and methylmercury concentrations resulting from treated effluent discharge from the Project. For both Indigenous resident receptors (average and heavy consumer), baseline HQ values for inorganic mercury and / or methylmercury often were greater than the target HQ of 1, indicating potential health risks under existing conditions, which is reflected in the existing local fish consumption advisories from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. However, Project-related contributions were calculated to be negligible, with Project-related HQ values below the target HQ of 0.2. It should be noted that the Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies report (Appendix T) focused only on exposure pathways of ingestion of fish and surface water. Therefore, the HHERA multi-media assessment of mercury focused on exposures from other media, and the HHERA multi-media HQs were combined with the HQs calculated in the Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies to estimate total mercury related HQs from the sources of exposure related to the Project site.

For inorganic mercury, as presented in Table 14.9-4, for the average consumer Indigenous resident (toddler), baseline and Project+Baseline HQs were below the applicable target HQ of 1 for these assessment cases, and Project-Alone HQs were below the applicable target HQ of 0.2. Therefore, Project-related risks are considered to be negligible for the average consumer from exposure to inorganic mercury. For the heavy consumer (toddler), as presented in Table 14.9-5, predicted maximum HQs were equal to the target HQ of 1 for baseline and Project+Baseline and below the target HQ of 0.2 when accounting for Project-Alone contributions and considered negligible for construction.

The maximum HQs were observed for the toddler lifestage (most sensitive lifestage for non-carcinogenic exposure to inorganic mercury) and the primary exposure pathway contributing to the HQs was ingestion of fish, accounting for approximately 96% of HQs for the heavy consumer toddler Indigenous resident. For inorganic mercury, a female adult (of child-bearing age) was also evaluated to represent sensitive populations for exposure to developmental toxicants. As presented in Table 14.9-6, for the adult female baseline and Project+Baseline HQs were below the target HQ of 1, and Project-Alone HQ values were below the target HQ of 0.2. As such, the Project is not expected to increase inorganic mercury-related health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous Resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction.

As presented in Table 14.9-4 and Table 14.9-5, the human health multi-media assessment identified non-carcinogenic risks (i.e., HQs above the target HQ of 1.0) from exposure to methylmercury for both the average and heavy consumer Indigenous resident (toddler) for baseline and when accounting for Project+Baseline for the construction phase. When accounting for Project-Alone contributions, HQs were below the target HQ of 0.2 for construction and are considered negligible. This indicated that Project+Baseline HQs above the target HQ of 1 are associated with the background conditions (i.e., baseline) rather than the Project. For methylmercury, a female adult (of child-bearing age) was also evaluated to represent sensitive populations for exposure to developmental toxicants. As presented in Table 14.9-6, the baseline and Project+Baseline HQ for the adult female life stage was above the target HQ of 1 for the heavy consumer but lower than for the toddler heavy consumer (Table 14.9-4, Table 14.9-5). The baseline and Project+Baseline HQs for the average consumer were below 1.0. When accounting for Project-Alone contributions, maximum methylmercury HQ values for the adult female were below the target HQ of 0.2 for both heavy and average consumers. Therefore, Project-Alone HQs are considered negligible. Exposure to methylmercury via dietary consumption pathways, specifically fish ingestion, was the primary (i.e., greater than 95%) exposure pathway contributing to HQs. The Project is not expected to increase methylmercury-related human health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous Resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction.

No risks were identified for selenium for the average or heavy consumer Indigenous resident based on HQs for baseline and Project+Baseline which were below the target HQ of 1.0 or Project-Alone, which were below the target HQ of 0.2. Therefore, the Project is not expected to increase selenium-related human health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous Resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction.

Overall, multi-media environmental quality is influenced by a number of interrelated factors that both directly and indirectly affect downstream environmental conditions. The available evidence from upstream pVCs and HHERA results indicated that for the multi-media POPCs, health risks from Project activities are not anticipated during construction. While baseline (i.e., existing conditions) risks were identified for some POPCs, incremental risks from Project activities are negligible. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

While physical health is not expected to be directly affected by Project interactions with multi-media environmental quality during construction, it is important to acknowledge that Indigenous people in the region view health as a holistic balance including complex and connections to the environment and all living things. Potential effects to health associated with multi-media environmental quality should be interpreted in the context of the interconnectedness of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

It is possible that perception issues related to environmental quality may change or limit the consumption of traditional foods by local Indigenous communities during construction. Traditional food diets contain high levels of essential nutrients (Batal et al. 2021b; McCartan et al. 2020). Evidence suggests that traditional food diets promote greater cardiovascular health, have protective action against some cancers, autoimmune and thyroid diseases, support maintenance of bone and immune health and can decrease incidence of diabetes, obesity and other diet-related diseases (Batal et al 2021a; FNHA n.d.; Kuhnlein et al., 2001; Marushka et al. 2021). Traditional food practices are also beneficial to health via opportunities for physical activity (Samson and Pretty 2006). Additionally, traditional food systems contribute to the cultural identity, social cohesion, and nutritional wellness of Indigenous communities, all of which are intricately tied to each other and to their overall Indigenous health and community wellness (Earle 2011a). While not quantifiable in the same manner as food quality and nutrition, traditional food collection and consumption also plays an important role in spiritual and cultural wellness (Batal et al. 2021a; Samson and Pretty 2006).

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during construction. For example, as discussed in the CULRTP assessments (Sections 10 to 14), Great Bear Resources supports Indigenous-led monitoring and is currently funding a community-based Chukuni Watershed Aquatic Monitoring Program. Another program that will be provided to employees and their families is the Annual Fitness and Mental Health Benefit fund ($500 per annum) which will provide funding that can be used for purchasing equipment needed for harvesting (hunting, fishing, foraging) traditional foods. In addition, given the HHERA is based on predicted data, environmental quality (air, water, fish) monitoring programs are proposed in order to validate assumptions. Data sharing agreements with local Indigenous communities, and support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs were also identified. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for multi-media environmental quality are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, direct effects on Indigenous health from changes to multi-media environmental quality as a result of Project activities during construction are not anticipated; however, mitigations and enhancements presented in Section 14.9.4 are required to minimize potential indirect effects related to perception of environmental quality to avoid disruption to traditional food practices.

14.9.3.3.3 Access and Availability of Water

Changes to access and availability of water as a result of Project activities is impacted by both groundwater and surface water quantity. It is noted that water quality was also considered in the HIA, through the assessment of changes to multi-media environmental quality.

As discussed in Section 7.5 (Groundwater), Project interactions which could potentially effect groundwater quantity (i.e., flows and levels) during construction include dewatering activities associated with excavations, mine development and construction of water management facilities. Excavations below the groundwater table will result in the underground facilities acting as local sinks for groundwater. Further, management of contact water will result in changes in surface water catchment areas, and the development of facilities and stockpiling activities will have an effect on infiltration rates to groundwater. These activities are expected to result in a reduction in groundwater quantity and groundwater contributions to some surface watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA during construction.

As discussed in Section 7.6 (Surface Water Flows and Levels), in addition to a reduction in groundwater contributions to surface water as described above, Project interactions which could potentially affect surface water flows and levels during construction include collection and treatment of Project contact water resulting in changes to surface water runoff quantities and patterns materially contributing to local water features within the LSA, primarily on and near the PA. Additionally, diversion of non-contact water for the establishment of fish habitat compensation measures and starter embankments for the TMF will interact with the watershed areas contributing flows to surface waterbodies and watercourses within the LSA. Reductions in flow are expected in waterbodies throughout the LSA and RSA during construction; however, these reductions are not expected to be observable. As discussed in Section 7.6 (Surface Water Flows and Levels), during construction, there will be permanent alteration to a number of very small unnamed waterbodies and watercourses within the PA. The effects to fish and fish habitat resulting from these permanent changes are proposed to be mitigated (Section 8 [Fish and Fish Habitat] and Appendix L-2).

Access and availability of water is influenced by a number of interrelated factors that both directly and indirectly affect upstream environmental and cultural conditions. Access and availability of water is inextricably linked to Indigenous traditions, culture and identify (McGregor 2008; Martinez-Cruz 2024). Changes to access and availability of water allows for cultural continuation and supports a sense of cultural identity, which can fortify community cohesion and improve individual mental health and wellbeing (NCCIH 2016). Perceived reduction or change in experience to access of water can result in avoidance of the use of waters. This may influence Indigenous health and wellness through changes to cultural ceremonies, traditions and identity linked to water. The link between access and availability of water, mental health, and community cohesion is further discussed through the assessment of mental wellness and personal behaviours.

The Project will result in changes to access and availability of water within the PA, LSA and RSA. There is no confirmed use of water within the PA by the local Indigenous communities, and changes to access and availability of water in the RSA and LSA are either not observable, or are being mitigated. However, the connection that Indigenous people have with water may result in indirect effects on Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals; no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. Mitigations, as described in Section 7.5 and Section 7.6 (Groundwater and Surface Water Flows and Levels), are proposed, and will minimize changes to access and availability of water. Data sharing agreements with local Indigenous communities, and support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs were identified as mitigation measures required to minimize perception issues surrounding Indigenous use of lands and waters. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for access and availability of water are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

It is noted that changes to groundwater and surface water quantity (i.e., flows and levels) can result in changes to aquatic habitats, which can impact both aquatic life species themselves and humans who rely on these species as traditional foods. These topics are assessed through access and availability of traditional foods and food security.

14.9.3.3.4 Access and Availability of Traditional Foods

Dust and vibration related to Project construction have the potential to affect wildlife, fish, and vegetation, and subsequently, the availability of traditional foods, affecting Indigenous people's health and wellness.

In terms of traditional foods availability, potential effects and interactions during construction identified within the linked biophysical pVCs and fVCs (Air Quality, Sound, Vibration, Water Quality, Vegetation Communities, Wild Rice, Moose, Other Wildlife, SAR, Fish and Fish Habitat and Migratory Birds) may influence a change in availability of traditional foods by altering ecosystems that support traditional harvesting activities. Specifically, water levels and flows within waterbodies in the PA may be altered by mine activities or related infrastructure and nearby waterbodies and waterways will receive treated effluent discharged from the Project. For wildlife, modeling indicates only marginal disturbance and habitat loss within the PA, with no expected population-level effects on any species, including moose and boreal caribou. For migratory birds, vegetation removal and ground-disturbing site preparation activities may alter habitat abundance, connectivity, and quality, while noise, dust, and water drawdown may further affect birds within the PA and immediately surrounding areas. For vegetation, site preparation and associated changes in groundwater conditions will lead to localized direct and indirect impacts on vegetation communities, which may also influence Indigenous availability of traditional food resources. For fish, site preparation will directly affect fish habitat and fish communities. Changes to upstream ecological conditions in the PA, and immediately surrounding areas, may lead to changes in availability of traditional foods which in turn, may affect Indigenous health (Earle 2011a). It has been well-established that traditional food systems, land-based practices, and community cohesion have the potential to influence Indigenous health and wellness.

Fish, wildlife, and plants species utilized for traditional food consumption by Indigenous communities in the region were identified through both confidential reports and publicly available resources (Chan et al. 2014; ANA 2024). According to these sources, commonly reported foods for traditional food consumption in the region include but are not limited to moose, birds including waterfowl (goose, ducks), fish (walleye, lake whitefish, northern pike), berries, and traditional plants. A more fulsome list of traditional food species commonly consumed by each Indigenous community is detailed in the HIA (Section 4.4 of Appendix N-2).

Many Indigenous communities understand that fish, wildlife, plants, and water are interconnected and interdependent, such that changes to one component of the environment may affect the health, availability, and use of traditional foods as part of a broader, living system. Therefore, changes in air and water quality could have the potential to indirectly affect Indigenous health via changes in availability of traditional foods. The HHERA (Appendix N-1) considered this potential effect through the evaluation of potential health risks to fish, wildlife, and plants due to POPC emissions associated with Project activities. The results of the HHERA ecological multi-media assessment demonstrated that air and / or water quality changes associated with Project activities were not expected to result in unacceptable risks to plants, mammals and birds, or aquatic communities, suggesting that the availability of traditional foods is not expected to be impacted.

In terms of traditional foods access, for some communities, traplines and harvesting may occur within the PA (for LSFN and RLEF) and LSA; therefore, construction-related disturbance could reduce access to traditional foods for those Indigenous communities who harvest within the PA (LSFN and RLEF). Access to harvesting areas is maintained within the LSA.

These changes to access may affect Indigenous health (Earle 2011a), which is inherently linked to traditional food systems, land-based practices, and community cohesion.

Perceptions of contamination, whether from the Project or historical developments, can lead to avoidance of traditional land use practices, further disrupting access of traditional foods, even without any identified health risk from the Project (Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig 2020). For example, in the Great Bear Project Community Health Survey, a few self-identified Indigenous respondents from Red Lake or Ear Falls indicated that they believe the Project may affect their fishing and foraging activities in areas near the Project (Attachment A of Appendix N-2). It is noted however, that according to the FNFNES, time constraints, absence of a hunter in the household, and lack of equipment and / or transportation were the top reported barriers to accessing traditional foods among First Nations households in Ontario (Chan et al. 2014). Overall, changes in access to traditional foods may influence health through disruptions in diet, cultural practices, community cohesion, and overall wellness during the construction phase (Batal et al. 2021b; Earle 2011a, 2011b; Salerno et al. 2021; Simpson et al. 2009). Perception of contamination, and participation in land-based practices as it relates to cultural continuity is further discussed in the assessment of mental wellness and personal behaviours.

Access and availability of traditional foods is influenced by a multitude of interrelated factors that both directly and indirectly affect upstream environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions. For Indigenous communities, Project related construction activities that lead to wildlife habitat alteration, vegetation removal, and sensory disturbance may limit access for Indigenous community members who previously harvested within the PA (LSFN and RLEF). Pre-existing sociocultural barriers to access of traditional foods, such as on-going effects of colonization, cost, time constraints, lack of traditional knowledge and skills (Chan et al. 2014), and perception of contamination (Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig 2020) may be further influenced by Project development. Changes to wildlife distribution, plant harvesting areas and migratory bird habitat, and potential indirect changes to fish and aquatic systems may disrupt availability of traditional foods. These disruptions to availability of traditional foods may have implications for nutrition (Batal et al. 2021a, 2021b; Earle 2011a), physical activity (Earle 2011a), cultural continuity, and mental health (Batal et al. 2021a; Earle 2011a, 2011b; Salerno et al. 2021; Simpson et al. 2009). For example, studies have noted that disruptions to accessing the land and cultural practices can lead to mental stress for community members and reduced dietary and physical activity benefits (Salerno et al. 2021; Shandro et al. 2017).

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during construction (e.g., the Wild Rice Enhancement Project; the conducting of moose surveys; and the Fish Habitat Offset and Compensation Plan). While upstream pVCs and fVCs did not identify adverse effects to Indigenous people's health from Project activities per se, the measures proposed for upstream pVCs and fVCs are expected to continue mitigating potential effects from disruptions to access and availability of traditional foods during construction. In addition, data sharing agreements with local Indigenous communities, support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs, and support for Indigenous-led education and training for land-based activities were also identified. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for access and availability of traditional foods are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

As described above, access to harvesting areas is maintained within the LSA, but temporary disturbances during construction could change the availability of resources. Therefore, as described in the CULRTP assessments (Sections 10 to 14), the Project is expected to temporarily disrupt access (LSFN and RLEF only), availability, and / or experience for at least one type of land-based practice (hunting and trapping or plant gathering) for each Indigenous community after the application of mitigation measures. As such, available information indicates that changes in access and availability of traditional foods (e.g., changes in harvesting patterns due to land disturbance and perception issues and ecosystem alteration) will likely occur as a result of Project activities during construction, and that this change may affect Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals (Earle 2011a, 2011b; Simpson et al. 2009; Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig 2020); however, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

Changes in access and availability of traditional foods are also linked to social determinants of health such as economics (employment, income and education), food security, and mental wellness and personal behaviours.

14.9.3.3.5 Sensory Disturbances: Sound, Vibration and Light

The primary noise emissions from the Project are expected to originate from equipment and infrastructure such as stationary equipment and mobile equipment fleet operating at different areas of the mine, and ventilation systems. During the construction phase noise will be primarily sourced from the power generator, haulage routes with high truck traffic and primary drills. Vibration will be generated related to blasting activities.

Potential effects and interactions during construction identified within upstream Section 7.3 (Sound), Section 7.4 (Vibration) and Appendix G (Light) may influence a change in sensory disturbance, that lead to annoyance (Health Canada 2024c) or disrupt sense of place (Salerno et al. 2021). Noise modelling was carried out to predict the potential changes to baseline sound levels at 29 selected sound PORs, as outlined in the Section 7.3 (Sound). Predicted sound levels were compared to provincial and federal guidelines. In addition, the Project-related change in the sound environment and the related increase in the percentage of percent highly annoyed (%HA) were evaluated. Predicted sound levels at all of the identified PORs were predicted to be below the federal and provincial criteria after the application of mitigation measures as described in Section 7.3 (Sound). In addition, the change in %HA meets Health Canada limit of 6.5% (Health Canada 2023e) which means that changes to sound levels are not expected to trigger noise complaints from PORs, and effects associated with a higher %HA (i.e., annoyance) are not expected.

A mechanism will be established for the Project for receiving and responding to noise complaints in a timely manner during construction, operations and closure phases. A framework for a follow-up noise monitoring program for the Project is provided in Section 20 (Environmental Management and Follow-Up Program). Monitoring will be required as a condition of provincial approval(s).

Similarly, vibration from blasting was predicted to remain within Health Canada's air overpressure guidelines at all 29 PORs, after implementation of mitigations e.g., blast management plan) described in Appendix E-3 and in the Section 7.4 (Vibration).

Although potential changes for underwater ground vibration and water overpressure were identified, changes to upstream conditions (i.e., fish and fish habitat) will be managed such that no residual effects to fish and fish habitat were identified.

Project-related artificial lighting during construction is required for safety and effective working. Light trespass was not predicted to be above the recommended thresholds (i.e., Commission Internationale d'Éclairage Lighting Zones) at any assessed PORs (Appendix G). Generally, the difference between existing and predicted skyglow was comparable to the seasonal variability seen between baseline measurement. The predictive light assessment (Appendix G) indicated that nuisance effects are not expected and should be manageable through use of responsible outdoor lighting practices.

Overall, with Project design and the application of mitigation measures identified in the Impact Statement, potential effects to Indigenous health and wellness from changes in sound, vibration, and light such as annoyance (Health Canada 2024c), disruptions to sense of place (Salerno et al. 2021), or sleep disturbance (WHO 2009; Candolin 2024; Cao et al. 2023; Chepesiuk 2009), are not anticipated. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

It is noted however, that mining activities may result in sensory disturbance (noise, visual and dust) which could impact sense of place and quality of experience during harvesting activities in the LSA, and immediately adjacent to the PA.

14.9.3.3.6 Economics (Employment, Income and Education)

Project activities during construction are anticipated to result in a temporary population increase of 1,000 workers during construction and 1,300 during peak construction. The Project will create temporary employment and contracting opportunities, providing increases in labour income and valuable work experience for members participating in the workforce. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), these opportunities may enhance individual and household financial stability and contribute to the local and regional economy through increased consumer spending. Economic modelling for the Project, as described in Section 18 (Summary of Benefits), has estimated that annual direct, indirect and induced effects generated during the assessment period include on average $570 million per year, 3,430 persons employed in an average year, labour compensation averaging $280 million per year, and $190 million per year in government revenues on average.

During construction, economics can be influenced by factors such as cost of living and traditional economy. As stated in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), Indigenous people in the region already face elevated costs for food, fuel, and housing due to limited supply chains and regional market conditions. The Project is expected to impact the cost of living in the area, including in Red Lake and Ear Falls, contributing to existing pressures during peak construction or hiring periods. Project-related activity may temporarily increase demand for certain goods and services during construction in these communities, which is expected to result in localized affordability pressures for residents, particularly those on fixed or lower incomes. For LSFN, WFN and ANA, as reported in the CWB assessments, no measurable change in the cost of goods and services is anticipated on-reserve. However, construction activities, may also raise concerns about environmental disturbance near traditional harvesting areas, which could affect confidence in local traditional food and medicine sources. This may in turn change community reliance on market-based goods and services over time and affect household expenditures and perceived cost of living.

For local Indigenous communities, reduced confidence or access to traditional harvesting areas could also influence their participation in land-based livelihoods, affecting their participation in traditional economy. Due to the complexities associated with Indigenous people's health and changes to the environment and landscapes, potential effects associated with cost of living and / or traditional economy are also discussed in relation to access and availability of traditional foods and food security.

The demand for labour is expected to create more job opportunities, which can also influence access to health and social services in the region during construction. As presented in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), Project workforce accommodations are expected to be off-reserve, therefore, Project workers and relocated families in Red Lake and Ear Falls are anticipated to increase the demand for childcare, mental health support and education, which already face staff shortages and capacity constraints. Services may not be able to fully absorb the additional demand associated with population growth or increased service needs during construction; this is further discussed as part of access to health and social services. Education services may also be affected by the arrival of new families, as the Red Lake and Ear Falls school systems already face challenges with recruiting and retaining teachers due to limited housing and service infrastructure. Further, transportation barriers remain a challenge for Indigenous students traveling from more remote locations. For ANA, WFN and LSFN, no direct effects to service systems on-reserve are expected, but there is a potential for indirect strain on regional service systems, particularly for members who travel to other regional centres for services. Members who access these services may face longer wait times, reduced availability and delayed access due to the increased demand of regional services. This is a particular concern for elders and caregivers who face transportation, mobility, or financial barriers. This could result in deepened inequities in access and availability for populations already experiencing systemic barriers. Increased earnings during construction may also improve household stability and financial security for some families (and lessen strain on local services within the communities), but rotational work schedules and long periods of separation can strain relationships and caregiving capacity. Uneven income distribution and limited childcare options may also deepen existing stressors, heighten household / emotional stress and increase responsibilities for caregivers. Differences in income within households can create added strains and imbalances, affecting family dynamics.

As reported in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), Project construction is also expected to generate employment and training opportunities, improving income stability for some residents and their families. Broad regional benefits through employment and labour income are expected during construction. However, unequal access to jobs due to barriers such as childcare, transportation, or qualifications may reinforce existing inequities. Wage inequality between project workers and other residents could also contribute to uneven distribution of benefits and localized economic polarization. In general, the demand for labour is expected to increase local and regional employment levels and labour income, and the demand for goods and services are expected to create opportunities for local and regional businesses to participate through procurement and contracting, further generating employment opportunities.

Employment and income play a large role in shaping health outcomes, as financial stability determines an individual's ability to access the resources necessary for maintaining a healthy lifestyle (Darin-Mattson et al. 2017). Income is one of the most significant determinants of overall health and wellness, and financial insecurity contributes to increased rates of chronic disease, mental illness, and overall poorer health outcomes (CPHA n.d.).

Research further indicates that higher income levels and greater educational attainment are strongly associated with better health outcomes, highlighting the importance of supporting education initiatives with resource development (PHAC 2018). This is especially significant because conditions such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, and obesity occur at higher rates among First Nations and Métis adults compared to non-Indigenous adults (PHAC 2018). Employment also plays an important role in supporting self-esteem and self-worth, which can in turn enhance mental health and reduce the prevalence of addictions (NCCIH 2020).

Low self-rated mental health is more frequently reported among individuals with lower incomes, lower education attainment, and those working in unskilled occupations (PHAC 2018). Income and employment also are also linked to access to health care, but especially social services. Many social assistance programs, including mental health supports, are outside of or only partially covered by Canadian universal health care. Affordability can be one of the most significant barriers for accessing adequate mental health services, as not being able to afford to pay was one of the most frequently reported reasons for having unmet or partially met mental health needs (Statistics Canada 2019). It is also noted that while higher income can influence individual personal behaviours such as substance use or increased domestic violence (Ruddell and Ray 2018), education such as financial literacy can help support better health outcomes.

Overall, the economic opportunities (including employment, income and education) resulting from Project activities have the potential to support a range of health benefits through increased income to support individuals and their families, improvements in mental health through stable employment and wages, and disposable income that can be used for cultural practices and recreation and leisure. Regionally, the economic influx will help support local and regional businesses, and provides education, training and mentorship opportunities for Indigenous youth and adults. While the findings above are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF, it is noted that at the time of producing this report, ANA had not responded to requests for interviews; it is unknown if their community members will be seeking economic opportunities with the Project. Therefore, it is unknown if their community members will benefit from the Project even though they may be affected by certain economic indicators such as cost of living, traditional economy or access to regional health and social services. While increased income is one of the top determinants of health, it can also influence personal behaviours such as substance use, gambling and domestic violence. Existing economic conditions vary among the communities which can further influence existing barriers and vulnerabilities associated with employment, income and education. For individuals not employed in mining or a comparable high-paying industry, the higher cost of living can pose a considerable challenge.

While economic changes due to the Project is expected to result in a net positive benefit to Indigenous health overall, the implementation of carefully designed mitigations are key to mitigating harmful effects and enhancing the economic benefits of the Project. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for economics are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2. Great Bear Resources has indicated that commercial project agreements are in progress with LSFN, WFN and NWOMC to minimize adverse social impacts and maximize economic opportunities for Indigenous communities. While the specifics of these agreements are confidential, the agreements are assumed to provide economic benefit to on-reserve communities and off reserve band members. To support economic development, Great Bear Resources plans to support community-driven economic development by partnering with local and Indigenous communities and prioritizing local hiring and procurement, as described in Section 18 (Summary of Benefits).

Great Bear Resources has also committed to inclusive and culturally appropriate employment practices (e.g., equity-based hiring, Indigenous procurement policies, partnerships with Indigenous organizations, financial literacy support, etc.).

Overall, available information indicates that changes in economics will likely occur as a result of Project activities during construction. While a net positive effect is expected as a result of economic changes (e.g., economic opportunities and income stability), some adverse effects (e.g., cost of living, boom-bust cycle, uneven income distribution, personal behaviours) may affect Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals.

However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. While these findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, individual community benefits will depend on several factors including their ability and willingness to participate in economic opportunities (e.g., employment, Project agreements, local businesses) noting the pre-existing barriers that may impede participation in employment and other opportunities. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4.

14.9.3.3.7 Housing

The construction phase of the Project is anticipated to result in a temporary population increase of 1,000 workers during construction and 1,300 during peak construction. As stated in the CSIN and CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), the influx of non-local workforce associated with the Project during construction is expected to result in short-term population growth which may impact demand for housing and temporary accommodations. The Project on-site camp is designed to accommodate approximately 1,000 people on a temporary basis during construction. If on-site accommodations are not available at the time when workers are needed, particularly during early construction activities, or if non-local workers relocate with their families who will not be accommodated on-site, there may be short-term demand for off-site housing or other temporary accommodations (i.e., hotels, motels, lodges). The Project will aim to source workers locally where possible and minimize the need for off-site accommodations through the on-site work camp.

The CSIN and CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14) concluded that no changes to housing during construction are anticipated on-reserve for LSFN, WFN and ANA due to distance from the Project, and because on-reserve housing is reserved for members of the Indigenous communities only. Population changes and housing pressures are anticipated to be limited to regional hubs in Kenora District including Red Lake and Ear Falls. During construction, the increased Project-related workforce may intensify existing regional housing availability and affordability pressures, and may increase demand for certain goods and services contributing to localized affordability pressures, particularly for renters, low- to moderate-income households, and individuals already experiencing housing precarity. This may exacerbate socio-economic divides by reinforcing existing barriers to secure and affordable housing for certain groups, including Indigenous people, women and youth. Contrarily, for those individuals employed by the Project, and their families, improved income stability is expected which may improve housing opportunities. However, unequal access to jobs due to barriers such as childcare, transportation, or qualifications may reinforce existing inequities.

Housing is influenced by a number of interrelated factors that both directly and indirectly affect upstream social and economic conditions. Access to housing of adequate condition is linked to better mental health outcomes, as it supports decreased stress, better sleep and nutrition and improved personal safety (CMHA 2014).

The available evidence from upstream pVCs
(Local and Regional Economy) and fVCs (Indigenous Peoples – CSIN and CWB assessments) indicated that no Project effects to population growth, housing availability and affordability, or cost of living are anticipated for LSFN, WFN or ANA communities on-reserve. The Project is anticipated to result in population growth in the region associated with the Project workforce which could intensify existing housing concerns for RLEF and the NWOMC. As such, mitigation measures were identified as part of the CSIN and CWB assessments (Section 10 to 14) to minimize potential increased need for housing.

These mitigations, including the on-site camp accommodations, community financial support for housing, local hiring objectives, and education and training to support local hiring, are expected to help limit the extent of Project-related housing challenges. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for housing are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, no changes to housing are expected on-reserve, and given this upstream finding, a change in Indigenous health and wellness for LSFN, WFN and ANA is also not expected. While mitigation measures are expected to limit the extent of Project-related housing pressures in Kenora District including Red Lake and Ear Falls, given the existing precarity of the housing scenario, changes to housing may result from the Project with potential adverse effects to Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals; no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. These findings are applicable to NWOMC members living in Red Lake and Ear Falls and RLEF.

14.9.3.3.8 Access of Health and Social Services

Construction activities are anticipated to result in a temporary population influx of 1,000 workers to the region. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), during construction, the Project workforce and any relocated families are expected to rely on community-based health, social and education services for non-emergency and specialized care. These systems already face staff shortages and capacity constraints, which may be compounded by population changes during construction. Local service providers have indicated that certain health and social programs such as elder care, home support, and community transportation, are already operating near or at capacity, particularly for vulnerable or aging members. Added demand for childcare, mental health support, and education could contribute to longer wait times and reduced access, particularly for Indigenous residents who may already face barriers to culturally appropriate or geographically accessible care. This includes Elders and caregivers who may face transportation, mobility, or financial barriers.

The Project is not expected to directly interact with service delivery systems on-reserve for LSFN, WFN and ANA due to the distance between the communities and the planned off-reserve Project workforce accommodations; however, regional service access may be affected, particularly for Indigenous individuals and families who travel off-reserve to access these services. As reported in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), while a variety of social services operate within LSFN, certain services are often still lacking in-community, such as emergency women's shelters, or maternity and birthing services. For WFN, hospital services are not located within the community, and the closest major hospital (Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital) is located approximately 108 km away. Similarly, the closest centre offering specialized health, mental health, and social services for ANA is in the City of Kenora, although it is noted that the Mercury Care Home and Wellness Centre is currently being developed for ANA members.

There are services dedicated to Métis that provide culturally specific mental health services and are tailored to Métis citizens, but access to these regional services within the RSA remains limited and may not be able to fully absorb additional demand associated with population growth needs during construction. In addition, education services may also be affected by the arrival of new families as increased enrollment may outpace available classroom space, staff capacity, or specialized programming, including supports for students with special needs or culturally relevant curriculum. Overall, the change in temporary or permanent population from the Project in the region during the construction phase, may contribute to a higher demand for these already limited health and social services.

Access to good quality health care allows individuals to prevent and treat disease and preserve or improve their health (Gulliford et al. 2002; WHO 2024). For people with chronic conditions, including mental health challenges, long waits for medical care can lower quality of life, delay effective treatment, and in some cases increase mortality risks (Ali et al. 2025). As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), while the change in access to health and social services may not affect on-reserve service delivery systems in LSFN, WFN and ANA, members of these communities currently access specialized care in the region. In addition, geographic remoteness of reserves is a major challenge for accessing adequate health and social care services (PDAC 2022) and creates a barrier for timely treatment. While equipped with some services, Red Lake and Ear Falls do not have the same level of service provision as larger population centres. For instance, in Red Lake there are currently no withdrawal management, residential addictions treatment facilities, or mental health centres providing psychiatric or psychological services, requiring members to travel to Kenora or Thunder Bay for these services (MNP LLP 2020). Also, while Red Lake has two shelters, only one is specifically for women experiencing domestic and sexual violence. Conditions are more challenging in Ear Falls, where residents must travel to Red Lake to access most social services. These challenges would affect RLEF and NWOMC members living in Red Lake and Ear Falls who rely on these services.

Geographic isolation combined with limited healthcare infrastructure can worsen existing health issues (Manifold 2024), particularly given that Indigenous populations in northern Ontario experience higher rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease (Manifold 2024). This reiterates the need for adequate and appropriate health and social services, and the importance of access to these services. This is also reflected in the Great Bear Community Health Survey results for the Project (Attachment A of Appendix N-2), where about 83% of people in Red Lake and Ear Falls and nearby areas said that access to services is very important to their community.

Appropriate services and programs are particularly important for Indigenous women and girls during industrial development as there have been well documented evidence of negative outcomes, such as domestic violence, for this population. Health care-related services often fail to provide the support needed for victims of physical and sexual abuse or violence (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). Project interactions and their resulting potential health effects for Indigenous women and girls are further discussed in the assessment of safety of Indigenous women and girls.

Further, access to health care is not equally or universally available to Indigenous people across Canada (NCCIH 2019). While Project activities during construction can improve household financial security that can be put towards transportation to access specialized care, better insurance coverage for health and social supports, or access to childcare options, equitable health care for Indigenous people remains an issue nationally.

Differences in funding, racism or discrimination when accessing care, and culturally unsafe care are challenges Indigenous people continue to face. Further, mental health disparities for Indigenous people are rooted in historical factors such as colonialism and adverse intergenerational impacts (Statistics Canada 2024a). As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), the added demand for health and social services during construction may deepen inequities in access and availability for populations already experiencing systemic barriers. With respect to the influx of workers into the area during construction, the potential for this population increase to put additional pressure on regional services depends in part on Project design and camp accommodations. Health service leaders have reported that worker accommodation arrangements can directly affect local health services (Oke and Wilson 2024).

Oke and Wilson (2024) found that projects with well-managed work camps, access to high-quality on-site medical clinics, or a workforce drawn from the local population or that is permanently settled in the community, were generally much less disruptive to regional health services. Without well-managed camps, their research identified that extractive industry projects can result in increased demand on emergency departments, primary care services, and healthcare staffing as the main sources of pressure on local health systems. These findings highlight the importance of effective camp management and the provision of on-site health services to reduce potential impacts on regional healthcare capacity.

During construction, regional changes to access to health and social services due to Project activities may result in adverse effects to Indigenous health for some individuals; however, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including regional effects for LSFN, WFN, ANA, and local effects to NWOMC and RLEF. Proactive planning and mitigation measures can help workers obtain appropriate levels of care in-camp to avoid straining regional systems and provide Indigenous community members the appropriate financial supports to access additional health and social services they may need. Mitigation measures and monitoring plans related to access to health and social services are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during construction.
As discussed in Section 18 (Summary of Benefits), Great Bear Resources plans to develop local partnerships aligned with community-identified priorities to provide benefits to communities from the Project. Recent support from Great Bear Resources included funding for health care equipment, facility upgrades, recruitment efforts, and social service initiatives, including a $200,000 contribution to local health care. To further support Indigenous health and wellness, Great Bear Resources has committed to implementing other measures such as Telus telehealth or similar services for employees and immediate family members, medical management and response to track on-site medical responses and referrals for off-site health services, and develop an employee benefits program that includes medical, mental and dental services for employees and their families. This is in addition to an established Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that will be available to employees and their families to alleviate pressures on local health-supportive services (e.g., mental health, addiction counselling and prescriptions). This is expected to improve timely access to care and help minimize pressure on regional health and social services resulting from Project activities during construction.

Overall, available information indicates that changes in access to health and social services will likely occur as a result of Project activities during construction. Potential adverse effects for some individuals (e.g., strain on service delivery and inequitable care) may affect Indigenous health and wellness. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for access to health and social services are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

14.9.3.3.9 Food Security

Food security during the construction phase could be indirectly influenced by changes in multi-media environmental quality, access and availability of traditional foods, and economics.

As discussed in the assessment of multi-media environmental quality, the available evidence from upstream pVCs (Air Quality, Water Quality) and the HHERA (Appendix N-1) results indicated that health risks from Project activities are not anticipated during construction since incremental risks from Project were below the target HQ of 0.2 for all Project phases and considered negligible in comparison to baseline risks.

While physical health is not expected to be directly affected by Project interactions with multi-media environmental quality during construction, it is important to acknowledge that Indigenous people in the region view health as a holistic balance including complex connections to the environment and all living things. Potential effects to health associated with multi-media environmental quality (as an input to food security) should be interpreted in the context of the interconnectedness of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Despite the HHERA findings predicting negligible risks from Project activities, perception issues related to environmental quality may indirectly change or limit the consumption of traditional foods by local Indigenous communities during construction. Self-imposed limitations on traditional food consumption may impact food security associated with both a decreased diet supplementation with traditional foods and costs associated with increased reliance on market foods.

As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14) and discussed in the assessment of access and availability of traditional foods, Indigenous people who previously accessed the PA and who access the LSA immediately adjacent to the PA for harvesting may experience changes in access and availability of hunted and trapped species, and impacts to quality of experience due to sensory disturbance during construction. Changes to access to land-based food and medicines, including reduced participation in traditional economy, may deepen existing food insecurity, limit cultural continuity, and contribute to adverse health outcomes, particularly where store-bought food is expensive or nutritionally inadequate.

As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), the increased workforce-related population may increase demand for certain goods and services during construction, contributing to localized affordability pressures for residents, particularly those on fixed or lower incomes. These affordability and income changes can reduce economic resources and contribute to sustained or worsening food security. However, for those individuals employed by the Project, and their families, improved income stability is expected which may improve food security. Unequal access to jobs, however, due to barriers such as childcare, transportation, or qualifications, may reinforce existing inequities.

Collectively, food security is influenced by a multitude of interrelated factors that both directly and indirectly affect upstream environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions. Food security, which is often closely tied to an individual's socio-economic status, plays a crucial role in health because when people have sufficient financial resources, they can access a diverse range of nutritious foods, which can support better diet quality and reduce chronic disease risk (Ziso et al. 2022). Indigenous communities across Canada currently experience higher than average levels of food insecurity than the non-Indigenous population (Batal et al. 2021b; Tarasuk et al. 2019). Food security represents a public health concern in northwestern Ontario, with food insecurity in the Kenora-Rainy River Districts reported to be higher than provincial and regional averages (NWHU 2024). Given that the most prominent cause of food insecurity is poverty, the importance of distribution of additional economic supports in alleviating this disparity is critical.

The available evidence from pVCs and fVCs suggests that food security could be positively affected by the Project via economic supports (income, employment, benefit agreements) that allow Indigenous families to have access to healthier and more diverse foods. However, food security may also be adversely impacted through perception issues and / or changes in access and availability (i.e., alterations to ecosystems, sensory disturbances in gathering/hunting areas) of some wildlife, fish and / or plants that may change or limit the consumption of traditional foods by local Indigenous communities and potentially exacerbate existing food insecurity concerns in the region.

Simultaneously, increased population during construction which may impact affordability due to increased demand for certain goods and services may add further stress for food insecure individuals. Access to traditional foods is an important strategy for addressing food security (Skinner et al. 2013; Banerji et al. 2023; SLFNHA 2019b), as traditional foods can be an affordable and high nutritional value source of food, alternative to high cost, low nutritional value market foods. Reduced use of traditional foods can increase reliance on market foods which can impact food security based on affordability and quality of the market foods attainable to an individual or household. Market foods in Northern Ontario are higher in cost than those in the rest of Ontario, and significantly more so in remote regions of northern Ontario in comparison to urban centres (SLFNHA 2024a; NWHU 2024). These high costs can result in reduced access to market foods in general, and / or reduced access to high nutritional value market foods (i.e., fresh produce) which are often more costly than foods with poorer nutritional value (i.e., processed foods).

Overall, for those Indigenous people employed by the Project and their families, Project activities are anticipated to improve food security through increased income allowing for access to adequate amounts of, and higher nutritional quality, foods. For Indigenous households not employed by the Project, Project activities that interact with cost of living may add additional strain to food security for some individuals; however, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. Mitigations will be required to minimize potentially adverse effects related to perception to avoid disruption to traditional food practices and traditional economy (e.g., funding for Indigenous-led education and training for land-based activities), minimize effects to cost of living and maximum economic benefits (e.g., local hiring policies). While economic changes due to the Project may result in an overall benefit to Indigenous health, the implementation of carefully designed mitigations are key to mitigating adverse effects and enhancing the benefits of the Project. Great Bear Resources has indicated that commercial project agreements are in progress with LSFN, WFN and NWOMC to minimize adverse social effects and maximize economic opportunities for Indigenous communities. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for food security are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

14.9.3.3.10 Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours

Mental wellness and personal behaviours during the construction phase is influenced by a multitude of interrelated factors that both directly and indirectly affect upstream environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions. Collectively, these conditions have the potential to affect Indigenous health at the individual and community level.

The available evidence suggests that Project activities may have a beneficial effect of mental wellness via economic support (e.g., income, employment and agreements) during construction.

As discussed previously, economic opportunities can improve food security (Myrette and Riva 2021), and in some cases, reduce barriers (via economic benefit) to participation in traditional harvesting practices, by providing means of purchasing hunting, fishing and harvesting equipment (Chan et al. 2014). Economic development, coupled with environmental stewardship and self-determination, is a key determinant of Indigenous health (Loppie and Wein 2022). Therefore, providing opportunities for training, education, and employment for local Indigenous communities is an important way to enhance and support Indigenous health via mental wellness and personal behaviours.

Indigenous health via changes in mental wellness and personal behaviours, may also be indirectly influenced by Project activities during construction through potential changes to traditional food systems (Batal et al. 2021b), environmental dispossession and solastalgia (e.g., the feeling of loss and grief tied to sense of place.) (Ninomiya et al. 2023; Salerno et al. 2021; Tobias and Richmond 2014), family dynamics and relationships (Parker et al. 2018; Myrette and Riva 2021) and potential changes to access to health and social services (Parker et al. 2018; Wheatley 2024).

Some communities in the region (i.e., in the Sioux Lookout area) are experiencing pre-existing mental health and substance use challenges, with higher hospitalization rates for mental health and substance use compared to other local communities in northern Ontario (NWHU and Yusuf 2023; SLFNHA 2024b). In a confidential report prepared for NWOMC, while community members expressed that the Project may bring positive economic benefits (which can lead to beneficial influences on mental health outcomes), there was concern about an influx of workers and issues related to drugs and alcohol. While these issues are complex and may be attributed to a myriad of personal and social factors, research has shown that without effective mitigation strategies in place, resource development more broadly can affect mental wellness and personal behaviours through various pathways of effect, including those related to family dynamics (Parker et al. 2018) and substance use challenges (Aalhus et al. 2018; Gibson et al. 2017).

Notably, research has shown that positive mental health outcomes are strongly linked to active community participation and effective collaboration throughout project development and implementation (Salerno et al. 2021). Positive mental health outcomes can result from the creation of jobs themselves or secondary economic effects when there is investment into local community development, education and training, as well as culturally appropriate and community-specific mitigation measures (Salerno et al. 2021). In confidential reports, LSFN, WFN, and NWOMC expressed the desire for local hiring initiatives. Additionally, WFN and LSFN community members suggested that a method of building trust was to support economic prosperity outside of the mine.

A common theme that has emerged within publicly available reports, confidential reports, and various community engagement activities was the desire for investment in education and training for youth and children. Existing mental health outcomes across Indigenous communities within the LSA are disproportionately affecting youth and young adults, including in the NWHU as a whole in Sioux Lookout area First Nations, which includes LSFN and WFN, in ANA, and in RLEF (NWHU and Yusuf 2023; SLFNHA 2024b; SLFNHA 2018; MNP LLP 2020; Mergler et al. 2019, 2023). Preserving culture through various mediums (e.g., language and knowledge transmission; supporting participation in land-based activities and learning) has been shown to have protective effects on mental health (Carrier et al. 2022; Lines et al. 2019; NCCIH 2016; Task Group on Mental Wellness 2021). Therefore, mitigation and enhancement measures that include mental health protective factors such as education and training initiatives that involve targeting youth, are important considerations for the Project.

As indicated in the sections above, Project activities during construction have the potential to cause changes to mental wellness and personal behaviours (via changes in employment and economics, family wellness, land-based practices, intergenerational trauma, substance use); although, these effects are highly subject to individual variability. As family, community, and relationships with each other are foundational to Indigenous health (Métis National Council 2025; SLFNHA 2016), Project-related changes to mental wellness and personal behaviours during construction may therefore result in a mix of both beneficial and adverse effects to Indigenous health.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during construction. The implementation of carefully designed mitigation and enhancement measures are key to mitigating potential adverse effects and maximizing the benefits of the Project, such as an inclusive and local hiring strategy, prioritizing Indigenous hiring, education and training, employee benefits programs, supporting Indigenous procurement and business opportunities, and operation of a dry camp.

The likelihood of beneficial effects on mental wellness and personal behaviours outcomes is largely based on the planning, design and implementation of mitigation measures that improve the upstream conditions (environmental, social, economic, cultural) that influence Indigenous health and wellness. In general, beneficial mental health effects from major projects are associated with meaningful engagement and effective partnerships (Salerno et al. 2021). Given Indigenous communities generally within the RSA (e.g., Sioux Lookout area First Nations) may be currently experiencing higher rates of mental health challenges and substance use challenges than their Ontario counterparts, supporting initiatives that aim to mitigate potential Project effects and support mental health resiliency and healing outside of the mine, should be considered to support alleviating this disparity. Therefore, funding for Indigenous-led education and training for land-based activities and support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs were also identified. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 10.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for mental wellness and personal behaviours are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, both beneficial (e.g., via economic development and increased material resources due to employment) and adverse (e.g., via environmental dispossession, negative health behaviours) changes to mental wellness and personal behaviours may affect Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals during construction, with potential effects being highly subject to individual variability. However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. Mitigations and enhancements presented in Section 14.9.4 are required to minimize adverse effects.

14.9.3.3.11 Actual and Perceived Public Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions)

The risk for accidents and malfunctions to occur is introduced due to the development of the Project; however, the nature of events that may occur will differ between construction and operations, being lower during construction.

The potential types of accidents and malfunctions that are most applicable to human health are those that would result in a spill, such as those related to dam, ditch, or pipeline failure. The residual risk rankings for the potential accident types that were assessed in Section 16 (Effects of Potential Malfunctions and Accidents), including those related to a spill, ranged from very low to low.

Given that the likelihood of the scenarios had a rare (1/1,000 to 1/10,000 events per year) or unlikely (1/100 to 1/1,000 events per year) likelihood of occurrence, interactions between the Project and Indigenous health via changes to actual public safety are not anticipated at this time. This is assuming that the development and effective implementation of contingency planning and mitigation measures listed in Section 16 (Effects of Potential Malfunctions and Accidents) are carried out.

In terms of perception, perceived public safety due to accidents and malfunctions, including emotional and social stress, is influenced by a multitude of interrelated factors. The available evidence, including community feedback and primary and grey literature sources (Ninomiya et al. 2023; Salerno et al. 2021; Shandro et al. 2017), suggests that perceived changes in safety, even in the absence of direct incidents, may affect community health and wellness.

This is largely due to the introduction of a potential risk of spill-related accidents or malfunctions as a result of Project development, even if the actual risk of such events is negligible.

Should an accident or malfunction occur, Indigenous health and wellness could be impacted both directly and indirectly at varying magnitudes for varying durations, depending on the nature of the event. Indirect interactions with Indigenous health and wellness may occur because the development and construction of the Project introduces the possibility (via new infrastructure) of anthropogenic accidents and malfunctions occurring in the vicinity of the Project relative to existing conditions. As such, indirect or perceived changes to public safety due to accidents and malfunctions could occur and may influence community health and wellness. These indirect or perceived influences relate primarily to concerns over environmental contamination and potential perceived disruptions in traditional land and resource use, which may in turn influence Indigenous health via changes in actual and perceived safety (accidents and malfunctions) including emotional and social stress factors.

It is acknowledged that there is inherent uncertainty associated with the potential effects of accident and malfunctions scenarios, making it difficult to fully characterize the potential health effects associated with the Project. Broader social and cultural factors, such as historical mistrust and pre-existing emotional and social stress factors associated with industrial development, may continue to influence and in some cases exacerbate, overall health effects for Indigenous communities.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during construction. As discussed in Section 16 (Effects of Potential Malfunctions and Accidents), an emergency response plan for the Project will be implemented and will include the communication of plans as may be required for each type of accident and malfunction. Great Bear Resources has also developed a Community Grievance Procedure specific to the Great Bear Gold Project site. With the design and application of contingency planning and mitigation measures, the resulting effects on Indigenous health via changes in actual and perceived safety, including emotional and social stress factors, are expected to be negligible for LSFN, WFN, NWOMC, and RLEF. Potential effects on Indigenous health (i.e., emotional and social stress) due to changes in the perception of safety during construction may occur for some individuals within the ANA community; largely due to historical mistrust and pre-existing emotional and social stress associated with industrial development. However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. While upstream technical inputs did not identify adverse effects to Indigenous people's health from Project activities per se, the measures proposed for upstream technical disciplines are expected to continue mitigating potential effects from changes to actual and perceived public safety during construction.

In addition, environmental data sharing agreements with local Indigenous communities, support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs, and public safety communications were also identified as health measures to minimize adverse effects due to changes in perceived safety. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 10.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for perceived safety due to accidents and malfunctions are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, the potential for effects on Indigenous health during construction due to changes in actual and perceived public safety, including emotional and social stress, is largely dependent on Great Bear Resources' continued engagement and transparency with the local Indigenous communities and the efficacy of Project design, mitigation measures and emergency response planning.

14.9.3.3.12 Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls

Construction phase activities are anticipated to result in a temporary population increase of 1,000 workers during construction and 1,300 during peak construction. As stated in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), no direct interactions with public safety or gender-based violence are anticipated on-reserve for LSFN, WFN, ANA during construction. However, the Project will bring a temporary influx of non-local workers into the region, including in Red Lake and Ear Falls, which may elevate broader safety concerns, particularly among Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. These concerns reflect ongoing systemic safety risks and the national crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The influx of new and transient workers may affect safety and the perception of safety, particularly for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals.

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation risks were raised by local service providers, consistent with regional trends documented in the Final Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). These concerns may not always be captured through quantitative data but are central to the lived experience and perceived safety in the community. The NCCIH (2020) reports that impacts such as domestic violence and sexual abuse *"differentially affect the health of Indigenous girls and women, a population already experiencing high rates of domestic abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancies."* For individuals and groups who already experience disproportionate vulnerability to gender-based violence, increased presence of non-local and transient workers may contribute to heightened fear or unease within the community. This may also intersect with broader historical and systemic factors that contribute to lower levels of trust in public safety systems among some Indigenous and vulnerable populations. Even in the absence of actual incidents, perceived increases in risk can have adverse effects on mental wellness, personal security, and overall community cohesion.

For Indigenous health, there can be both direct and indirect effects on health and wellness in instances where the safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals is compromised, whether in the community or in the workplace. There are direct impacts including the possibility of injury (through sexual assault and violence), death and / or mental health effects (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). In addition, *"the systems and institutions that Indigenous people reach out to for health care-related support often fail to provide the support needed and, in doing so, often deepen these health concerns"* (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019). These incidents do not only affect the individual, but also their families and broader communities.

A study of Indigenous women employed in natural resource industries in Canada found that *"sexual harassment and misconduct is common in field operations"* and that *"there was a huge difference between what would be tolerated by management in corporate offices and on mine sites"*, specifically referring to incidents of both physical and verbal sexual harassment (Baruah and Biskupski-Mujanovic 2023). Study respondents suggested that development and enforcement of strict sexual harassment policies at mine camps and pre-arrival training for employees about what constitutes harassment and abuse is important (Baruah and Biskupski-Mujanovic 2023). Mitigating such incidents from occurring is the foundation of the calls to action that are listed in the Final Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Five calls to action were specifically directed at extractive and development industries.

In addition, IAAC commissioned a study in response to the National Inquiry (i.e., MMIWG) and provided further recommendations to mitigate adverse effects to Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals (IAAC and Narratives Inc. n.d.). Collectively, these sources have informed the mitigations listed below in Section 14.9.4.

Overall, safety of Indigenous women and girls is influenced by a number of interrelated factors that both directly and indirectly affect upstream social and cultural conditions. Safety of Indigenous women and girls is directly linked to health as both violations of physical safety (e.g., through violence, harassment) and perceptions of safety can influence both physical and mental health and wellness. The available evidence from upstream social conditions (i.e., public safety and gender-based violence) and primary and grey literature, including the National Inquiry into MMIWG, indicated that health effects from Project activities (namely the influx of workers) are possible during construction, especially if incidents occur at camp and / or in community that compromise the safety of Indigenous women and girls. While baseline information highlighted that the issues surrounding the national crisis of MMIWG are not specific to a single region or project, they have the potential to be exacerbated with development in remote northern areas.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to minimize risks to the safety of Indigenous women and girls during construction; however, they cannot completely eliminate the possibility of incidents occurring. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigation for safety of Indigenous women and girls are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2. Mitigations include site security (e.g., separate and locked accommodations for women at camp), mandatory cultural awareness training for employees, tracking incidents in the workplace and protective grievance processes for workers, among others. It is noted that Kinross' Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (Kinross 2025) states that harassment will not be tolerated and Kinross will take disciplinary action against anyone found to be in violation. In community, mitigations include in collaboration with Indigenous communities and local law enforcement to discuss safety considerations regarding the influx of additional workforce into the area. Collectively, these mitigations are expected to help minimize the likelihood of incidents occurring at camp and in community. It is acknowledged that should incidents occur, the physical and mental health consequences for the affected individual(s), and their families, is substantial.

Overall, effects on Indigenous health from changes to safety of Indigenous women and girls as a result of Project activities during construction are possible if incidents were to occur. However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

Mitigations and enhancements presented in Section 14.9.4 are required to address potential effects by minimizing risks to safety of Indigenous women and girls both at camp and in community.

14.9.3.4 Operations Phase

The operations phase is anticipated to occur over a 26-year period. Several direct, indirect or perceived interactions may continue to influence Indigenous health identified during construction are expected to continue during operations. These relate primarily to confidence in land and resource use, access to traditional territories, Project workforce and ongoing reliance on regional services.

The source of the Project interactions during operations are associated with the operation of the mine and related infrastructure (e.g., generators), processing of ore and management of rock and tailings, and operation of a concrete batch plant, cemented rockfill plant, and paste plant. The potential interactions during operations are explored as contributions to the potential effect of an overall change in Indigenous health.

14.9.3.4.1 Air Quality

Potential changes to air quality are expected to continue during operations. NO_2 and DPM were also identified as POPCs during the operations phase and carried forward into the HHERA inhalation assessment (Appendix N-1). The results of the HHERA inhalation assessment for the operations phase are presented below, with full details in the HHERA (Appendix N-1). The results of the HHERA inhalation assessment are presented in Table 14.9-2 and Table 14.9-3 in the discussion of construction in Section 14.9.3.1 above, with full details provided in the HHERA (Appendix N-1).

As shown in Table 14.9-3, the HHERA inhalation assessment reported HQs above the target HQ of 1 for DPM only at the MPOI during the operations phase for Project Alone and Project+Baseline. Potential risks associated with short-term NO_2 exposure or chronic DPM exposure in air were negligible.

The MPOI represents a worst-case scenario; therefore, individuals are not likely to be exposed to concentrations that would result in HQs above the target HQ of 1 and result in potential risks to human health. The HHERA inhalation assessment reported that although HQs above the target HQ of 1 were identified at the MPOI, the frequency of these instances was low during operations (i.e., 0.15% at the MPOI), which equates to less than 24 hours (1 day) of HQs above the target in a year.

The findings for DPM during operations are similar to construction. Adverse risks to health for the Indigenous Resident based on short-term exposure are not expected as the maximum predicted 1-hour concentration of DPM for Project+Baseline (i.e., during operations) was 28.6 µg/m^3, which was below the critical effect and POD of 100 µg/m^3 for which the majority of DPM toxicological studies have observed increases in airway resistance (Mudway et al. 2004; Behndig et al. 2006, 2011; Riedl et al. 2012; Stenfors et al. 2004; as cited in Health Canada 2016). Potential risks to the Indigenous Resident from Project-related DPM exposure during operations were considered to be low given the predicted concentrations are below the POD of 100 µg/m^3, the predicted frequency of DPM concentrations above targets are low (less than 1 day / year), conservative assumptions were used in the air quality assessment, the assumption that all $PM_{2.5}$ vehicle combustion was related to DPM is conservative, and people are not expected to be at the MPOI for extended periods that would constitute risk.

As such, Project activities are not anticipated to pose risks to the Indigenous Resident from exposure to POPCs in air during operations. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. While physical health is not expected to be directly affected by Project interaction with air quality during operations, perception issues related to air quality may affect the amount of time spent outdoors by Indigenous communities during the 26-period of operations, including traditional land use practices. Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during operations. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for air quality are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, direct effects on Indigenous health from changes to air quality as a result of Project activities during operations are not anticipated; however, mitigations and enhancements presented in Section 14.9.4 are required to validate assumptions and promote Indigenous participation in environmental monitoring and data sovereignty.

14.9.3.4.2 Multi-media Environmental Quality

As stated in Section 7.2 (Air Quality), Project interactions which could potentially effect soil, surface water and traditional foods as a result of deposition from airborne emissions are the same as those expected for construction. As stated in Section 7.7 (Water Quality), Project interactions which could potentially affect surface water quality during operations include discharge of treated Project contact water, fugitive groundwater seepage, treatment and discharge of domestic sewage, and fugitive dust emissions and subsequent deposition on surface water features.

The results of the HHERA multi-media assessment for the operations phase are presented in Table 14.9-4, Table 14.9-5, Table 14.9-6 and Table 14.9-7 in Section 14.9.3.1 above, with full results provided in the HHERA (Appendix N-1). The results of the human health multi-media assessment for the operations phase resulted in the same conclusions described for construction, with HQs for operations calculated as essentially equal to or below HQs calculated for construction.

As presented in Table 14.9-4 and Table 14.9-5, non-carcinogenic risks (i.e., HQs above target HQ 1.0) were identified from exposure to inorganic arsenic for both the average and heavy consumer Indigenous resident (toddler) for baseline and Project+Baseline for operations, with surface water exposure as the primary contributing pathway (approximately 83% of the HQs for average consumer toddler Indigenous resident; approximately 62% of the HQs for heavy consumer toddler Indigenous resident [same as construction]). However, when accounting for Project-Alone contributions, HQs were below the target HQ of 0.2 for operations and considered negligible. This indicated that Project+Baseline HQs above the target HQ of 1 are associated with the background conditions (i.e., baseline) rather than the Project, and the Project is not expected to increase arsenic-related human health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction. Carcinogenic effects from inorganic arsenic, as presented in Table 14.9-7, are the same as described for the construction phase wherein the calculated ILCR values for the composite receptor was below the target ILCR of 1.0E-05 (i.e., 1-in-100,000) for both the average and heavy consumer Indigenous resident for the operations phase and for the total 80-year lifetime composite. As such, unacceptable carcinogenic risks are not expected from the Project.

In the HHERA, multi-media assessment HQs for mercury (inorganic and methylmercury) were combined with the HQs calculated in the Mercury Bioaccumulation Study for Downstream English River to Wabigoon System Waterbodies (Appendix T) to estimate total mercury related HQs from the sources of exposure related to the Project site. These total HQs are presented in Table 14.9-4, Table 14.9-5 and Table 14.9-6. For inorganic mercury, as presented in Table 14.9-4, for the average consumer Indigenous resident (toddler) baseline and Project+Baseline HQs were below the applicable target HQ of 1 for these assessment cases, and Project-Alone HQs were below the applicable target HQ of 0.2. As such, risks for the average consumer were considered to be negligible during operations. For the heavy consumer Indigenous resident (toddler), as presented in Table 14.9-5, the HQ was above the target HQ of 1 for Project+Baseline for operations, driven by the ingestion of fish exposure pathway (accounting for approximately 96% of HQs; same as construction).

However, when accounting for Project-Alone contributions, the HQ was below the target HQ of 0.2 for the heavy consumer for operations and considered negligible. As presented in Table 14.9-6, for the average and heavy consumer adult female baseline and Project+Baseline HQs were below or equal to the target HQ of 1, and Project-Alone HQ values were below the target HQs of 0.2 and considered negligible. The female adult was evaluated to represent sensitive populations for exposure to developmental toxicants. As such, the Project is not expected to increase inorganic mercury-related health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous Resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction.

As presented in Table 14.9-4 and Table 14.9-5, non-carcinogenic risks (i.e., HQs above target HQ of 1.0) were identified from exposure to methylmercury for the average and heavy consumer Indigenous resident (toddler) for baseline and Project+Baseline for operations, with dietary consumption pathways, specifically fish ingestion as the primary exposure pathway contributing to HQs (i.e., >95%; same as construction). However, when accounting for Project-Alone contributions, HQs were below the target HQ of 0.2 for operations and considered negligible. As presented in Table 14.9-6, baseline and Project+Baseline HQs for the adult female life stage were below or equal to the target HQ of 1 for the average consumer and above the target HQ of 1 for the heavy consumer, but lower than HQs for the toddler (Table 14.9-4,Table 14.9-5). When accounting for Project-Alone contributions, methylmercury HQ values for the adult female were below the target HQ of 0.2. This indicated that Project+Baseline HQs above the target HQ of 1 are associated with the background conditions (i.e., baseline) rather than the Project, and the Project is not expected to increase methylmercury-related human health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction.

No risks were identified for selenium for the average or heavy consumer Indigenous resident based on HQs for baseline, Project+Baseline or Project-Alone for operations. Therefore, the Project is not expected to increase selenium-related human health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous Resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction.

Consistent with the construction phase, for the multi-media POPCs, baseline (i.e., existing) conditions are driving risk for human health. The incremental Project risks for each phase are below the target HQ of 0.2 applicable for Project-Alone contributions, representing a negligible change from baseline risks. For carcinogenic effects of inorganic arsenic, ILCR values are below the target threshold of 1.0E-05 (i.e., 1-in-100,000).

As such, Project activities are not anticipated to pose risks to the Indigenous Resident during operations. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

While physical health is not expected to be directly affected by Project interactions with multi-media environmental quality during operations, it is important to acknowledge that Indigenous people in the region view health as a holistic balance. It is possible that perception issues related to environmental quality may change or limit the consumption of traditional foods by local Indigenous communities during operations. Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during operations. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for multi-media environmental quality are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

As such, direct effects on Indigenous health from changes to multi-media environmental quality as a result of Project activities during operations are not anticipated; however, mitigations and enhancements presented in Section 14.9.4 are required to minimize potential indirect effects related to perception of environmental quality to avoid disruption to traditional food practices.

14.9.3.4.3 Access and Availability of Water

As stated in Section 7.5 (Groundwater), Project interactions which could potentially effect groundwater quantity are the same as those expected for construction. A reduction in groundwater levels from mine dewatering will reduce groundwater contributions to surface water, which will be reflected in some surface watercourses and waterbodies within or adjacent to the PA during operations.

As stated in Section 7.6 (Surface Water Flows and Levels), Project interactions which could potentially effect surface water flows and levels are the same as those expected for construction, with the additional activity water takings from the Chukuni River during operations. Reductions in flow in watercourses will continue and increase during the operations phase but will continue to not be observable. The temporary reduction in flow is expected to cause a small change in water level in a portion of Dixie Creek; however, the reduction in average annual water level may by less than 5 centimetres [cm]) which is unlikely to be identifiable from natural variation. Changes are considered temporary and reversible as flows and water levels are restored after closure. Observable changes in surface water levels are not expected for other waterbodies or watercourses with the exception of the unnamed waterbodies and watercourses within the PA which will be permanently altered during construction.

On-going changes to access and availability of water during long-term operations may continue to reinforce community concerns regarding perceived environmental change. This can result in avoidance of the use of local waters potentially leading to indirect effects on Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals through interruption of cultural ceremonies, traditions and identity linked to water. Potential adverse effects related to community cohesion, cultural continuity, mental health, intergenerational knowledge transfer, land-based healing, and ceremonial activities noted in construction are expected to continue in operations, particularly where the landscape remains altered or access to waters are perceived as reduced. However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. The complex interaction between environmental quality, perception and possible avoidance is further discussed in relation to multi-media environmental quality and food security.

Mitigations and enhancements presented in Section 7.5 and Section 7.6 (Groundwater and Surface Water Flows and Levels, respectively) are proposed and will minimize changes to access and availability of water. Data sharing agreements with local Indigenous communities, and support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs were identified as mitigation measures required to minimize perception issues surrounding Indigenous use of lands and waters. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for access and availability of water are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

14.9.3.4.4 Access and Availability of Traditional Foods

During operations, similar interactions as the construction phase will continue, and potential effects to health via changes to access and availability of traditional foods for Indigenous people may occur. Project-related activities during operations may continue to disrupt access and / or availability of traditional foods, including changes in harvesting patterns due to land disturbance, perception issues and other barriers, as well as ecosystem alteration.

During the operations phase, access to areas within the PA will be restricted for safety and security reasons, however, access to land and resource areas within the LSA will remain unrestricted during Project operations. Therefore, changes to access of traditional foods for those Indigenous communities who harvest within the PA (LSFN and RLEF) may occur. Anticipated potential effects from Project activities also include direct and indirect changes to availability of plants and wildlife, respectively, as well as diminished quality of experience due to sensory disturbance in the LSA, immediately adjacent to the PA. Therefore, effects to Indigenous health identified for the construction phase due to changes to access and / or availability of traditional foods, may continue throughout the mine life.

In addition, operational activities could affect fish, wildlife, and plants due to potential changes in air and water quality and in turn, indirectly affect Indigenous health. The HHERA considered this potential effect pathway to assess potential effects on fish, wildlife, and plants due to POPC emissions associated with Project activities (Appendix N-1). The results of the HHERA (Appendix N-1) demonstrated that air and / or water quality changes associated with Project activities are not expected to result in unacceptable risks to plants, mammals and birds, or aquatic communities, suggesting that the availability of traditional foods is not expected to be impacted.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans for the operations phase are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during operations. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for access and availability of traditional foods are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

As described in the CULRTP assessments (Sections 10 to 14), long-term operational activity may reinforce community concerns regarding environmental change and cultural continuity, particularly where the landscape remains altered or access to important cultural areas is perceived as reduced and may continue to influence overall health for Indigenous people.

Overall, available information indicates that changes in access and availability of traditional foods (e.g., changes in harvesting patterns and ecosystem alteration) will likely occur as a result of Project activities during operations, and this change may affect Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals (Earle 2011a, 2011b; Simpson et al. 2009; Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig 2020);

however, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

Changes in access and availability of traditional foods are also linked to other health indicators including economics (employment, income and education), food security, and mental wellness and personal behaviours.

14.9.3.4.5 Sensory Disturbances: Sound, Vibration and Light

During the peak production and underground production operations modelling periods, sound levels predicted under the worst-case hour scenario (LAeq-1hr [A-weighted equivalent sound level], dBA) meet the provincial and federal guidelines at all PORs in the LSA and RSA, during daytime and evening / nighttime periods. In addition, the change in %HA is predicted to meet the Health Canada guideline (2023e) of 6.5% for the operations phase, which means that changes to sound levels are not expected to trigger noise complaints from PORs. Blasting operations are within applicable guidelines and there is no change to vibration at the PORs. Therefore, effects to Indigenous health during the operations phase due to due to sound (e.g., annoyance) and vibration are not anticipated. For light, the difference between existing and predicted skyglow during operations was comparable to the seasonal variability seen between baseline measurement.

Therefore, potential effects to Indigenous health due to light (e.g., sleep disturbance) are not anticipated. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

Mining-related activities may result in sensory disturbance during the operations phase (noise, visual and dust) which could impact sense of place and quality of experience during harvesting activities in the LSA, and immediately adjacent to the PA.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during operations, such as noise control measures, the blast management plan, and light control measures and best practices. In addition, a mechanism will be established for receiving and responding to noise complaints in a timely manner during all Project phases.

14.9.3.4.6 Economics (Employment, Income and Education)

During operations, Project-related employment and contracting opportunities will continue to provide increased income to individuals working for the Project and their families. Peak employment is anticipated to reach approximately 1,100 workers during operations when both the open pit and underground mines are active; however, the workforce is expected to decrease to approximately 700 workers during the underground mining-only operations (after approximately year 9).

Although no population growth or direct workforce is anticipated on-reserve for LSFN, WFN and ANA, Project operations are expected to affect the local and regional economy (including RLEF and NWOMC) through temporary job creation and increased regional spending during operations. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), this is also anticipated to increase labour income, provide valuable work experience for Indigenous members participating in the workforce, and strengthen income stability. The workforce is expected to stabilize during operations; thus, most potential interactions identified during construction are likely to persist or evolve over time.

Income is a key determinant of health, and higher earnings during operations can reduce financial stress, enhance self-esteem, and support improved mental health, including a reduced prevalence of addictions (NCCIH 2020). Increased income may also alleviate community-level poverty and enable participation in cultural and traditional practices, which promote healthier lifestyles and reduce the risk of obesity-related conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease (NCCIH 2020). However, income is not the sole economic influence on health. Income, education, and occupational skill levels are closely linked, and individuals with lower socio-economic status consistently experience higher rates of chronic conditions, including arthritis, asthma, diabetes, and obesity (PHAC 2018). Therefore, initiatives that support education and skills development during operations is key to increased employment opportunities, higher income over the long-term and better health. Increased consumer spending during operations can raise demand for goods and services, supporting improved health and social services and in turn, better health outcomes (NCCIH 2020). However, for some individuals, higher incomes may exacerbate substance use issues, potentially increasing risks of domestic violence, family disruption, and safety concerns for Indigenous women and girls (NCCIH 2020). Further, due to the expected demand for certain goods and services during operations, a temporary increase in the cost of living for communities that already face elevated costs for food, fuel and housing can contribute to localized affordability pressures.

During operations, potential effects to Indigenous health due to changes in economics (employment, income, education) from the Project are expected to be positive overall as steady employment and contracting opportunities could support income stability, local business activity and workforce skill development. However, higher income could also lead to negative health behaviours (e.g., substance use) for some individuals, and sustained operations may reinforce community concerns about affordability, service capacity, and long-term population change, as described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14). Further, for individuals not employed in mining or a comparable high-paying industry, the higher cost of living can pose a considerable challenge. While the findings above are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF, it is noted that at the time of producing this report, it is unknown if ANA members will be seeking economic opportunities with the Project.

The implementation of carefully designed mitigations and enhancements are key to mitigating adverse effects and enhancing the economic benefits of the Project. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for economics are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2. Great Bear Resources has indicated that commercial Project agreements are in progress with LSFN, WFN and NWOMC, which will continue to provide economic benefits to communities throughout operations. Great Bear Resources has also committed to support economic development and the ability for Indigenous people to gain economic benefit from the Project. One key commitment that will influence the operations phase is the effort to increase the labour force and business capacity by supporting training and hiring of Indigenous people, particularly in the operations phase (Section 18). This and other commitments, including supporting equitable benefits (employment, training, income equality) for Indigenous women, retirement planning and support, an employee benefits program, and Indigenous-led education and training for land-based practices, have the potential to improve conditions related to Indigenous health.

Overall, available information indicates that changes in economics will likely occur as a result of Project activities during operations. While a net positive effect is expected as a result of economic changes (e.g., economic opportunities and income stability), some adverse effects (e.g., cost of living, boom-bust cycle, uneven income distribution, personal behaviours) may continue to affect Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals.

However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigations and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4.

14.9.3.4.7 Housing

The Project is expected to result in sustained population growth in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area due to a long-term workforce presence during operations. Peak employment is anticipated during operations (when LP Central pit and underground mines are active simultaneously) is 1,100 workers, which is less than peak construction employment. When only underground mining is underway, the workforce is expected to decrease to approximately 700 workers.

During operations, the on-site camp reduces to a capacity of 300 intended to house a portion of the workforce on a rotational basis. Operational staff are expected to be accommodated while on-shift. As the on-camp site is not intended to house workers while off rotation, some workers may acquire permanent off-site residences to use while off rotation. Some mine personnel will have fixed hours weekly rather than rotational shift work and will not be accommodated by the on-site camp, therefore these personnel will reside off-site permanently. Accommodations for occasional short-term contractors are expected to be met by the on-site camp.

Non-local workforce related housing pressures expected during construction will continue in operations, with the demand for permanent housing being dependent on the proportion of the operations workforce that is sourced from the local population compared to non-local hires. No change to on-reserve housing for LSFN, WFN or ANA is anticipated during operations. The influx of workforce related population in Kenora, including Red Lake and Ear Falls, may result in increased demand for permanent housing and rental accommodations which can add additional strain to existing housing availability and affordability concerns. Given the existing limitations, even modest additional demand for housing and accommodations could intensify existing challenges.

As stated in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), affordability concerns related to increase demand for goods and services resultant from Project-related population growth noted in construction are anticipated to continue through operations. These affordability changes can reduce economic resources available for securing suitable housing. However, employment and income stability throughout operations may improve housing opportunities for individuals employed by the Project, and their families.

Mitigation measures were identified as part of the CSIN and CWB assessments (Section 10 to 14) to minimize potential increased need for housing during operations, as well as to minimize disruption to cost of living. These mitigations are expected to limit the extent of housing and cost of living challenges. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for housing are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, during operations no changes to housing are expected on-reserve, and given this upstream finding, a change in Indigenous health and wellness for LSFN, WFN and ANA is also not expected. Given the existing precarity of the housing scenario in Kenora district including Red Lake and Ear Falls, while mitigation measures are expected to minimize effects, changes to housing may result from the Project with potential adverse effects to Indigenous health for some individuals; no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. These findings are applicable to NWOMC members living in Red Lake and Ear Falls and RLEF.

14.9.3.4.8 Access to Health and Social Services

The operations phase will result in sustained workforce presence in the region, potentially contributing to ongoing regional service demands. Peak employment is anticipated to reach approximately 1,100 workers during operations when both the open pit and underground mines are active; however, the workforce is expected to decrease to approximately 700 workers during underground mining operations.

While no population growth or direct workforce is expected on-reserve for LSFN, WFN and ANA, potential effects to regional health and social services are anticipated. The extended duration of activities during operations means that potential effects related to access to services identified during construction may persist or evolve over time during operations. As such, there may be both direct and indirect effects to Indigenous people's health for individuals that rely on regional health and social services, due to ongoing Project activity in the region. Existing barriers associated with timely access to health and social services within the region due to geographic location, capacity and staff constraints, and lack of childcare options to attend medical appointments, are expected to continue with the additional workforce during operations. These challenges can directly influence Indigenous people's health outcomes particularly in emergency medical or crisis (mental health) situations.

For Indigenous people living off-reserve in Red Lake and Ear Falls, or for Métis living within these communities, potential effects to Indigenous health related to access to services during operations is expected to continue even as the Project workforce stabilizes. While a portion of the workforce will reside in on-site accommodations, other workers and their families may relocate to nearby communities, placing ongoing pressure on existing service systems. Community members living on-reserve who travel to Red Lake and Ear Falls to access municipal, provincial, and non-profit health, social and emergency services may continue to be exposed to the potential regional service pressures. With respect to on-site camp accommodations, strong management strategies and the adequate provision of on-site medical services is critical to reduce the impact on regional healthcare services (Oke and Wilson 2024).

Both the CWB and CSIN assessments (Sections 10 to 14) acknowledge that steady employment and contracting opportunities during operations could support income stability and local business activity (including health and social services), community stability, encourage workforce retention and support incremental improvements in municipal revenues and location service delivery capacity over time. It is noted however, that despite some improvements, participation barriers may continue to limit equitable access for some residents.

During operations, potential effects to Indigenous health due to changes in access to health and social services is expected to be similar to construction and experienced primarily through access to regional services rather than direct changes within on-reserve communities. While there may be limited beneficial effects from Project-related changes that can improve service delivery over time (e.g., employment and employee benefits), adverse effects associated with regional constraints on the service delivery system or reinforcing systemic barriers related to access to services are expected due to added demand on services from the Project workforce. Therefore, community health will be shaped more by long-term adjustments in economic, social, and demographic conditions across Red Lake and Ear Falls and surrounding areas. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. Great Bear Resources has committed to establish several initiatives that are expected to have several key social benefits, including supporting local initiatives that can contribute to better health outcomes for Indigenous people. Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during operations.

These include medical management and response to track on-site medical responses and referrals for off-site health services, and an employee benefits program that includes coverage for health care including medical, mental and dental services for employees and their families. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for access to health and social services are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, available information indicates that changes in access to health and social services will likely occur as a result of Project activities during operations. While beneficial effects (e.g., employment and employee benefits) may occur for some individuals, potential adverse effects on the regional service system due to Project activities (e.g., further strain on capacity / service delivery and inequitable care) may affect Indigenous health and wellness; however, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigations and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4.

14.9.3.4.9 Food Security

Given that Indigenous people in the region view health as a holistic balance including complex and connections to the environment and all living things, potential effects to health associated with multi-media environmental quality and access and availability of traditional foods (as an input to food security) should be interpreted in the context of the interconnectedness of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. While HHERA (Appendix N-1) results indicate that incremental risks from Project were below the target HQ of 0.2 for all Project phases and considered negligible in comparison to baseline risks and physical health is not expected to be directly affected by Project interactions during operations, perception issues related to environmental quality may indirectly change or limit the consumption of traditional foods by local Indigenous communities during operations. Further, Indigenous people who previously accessed the PA and access the LSA immediately adjacent to the PA for traditional harvesting practices may experience changes in access and availability of hunting and trapped species and effects to quality of experience due to ongoing sensory disturbances related to Project activities; therefore, temporary or longer-term avoidance of certain areas may occur. Self-imposed limitations on traditional food consumption based on perception may impact food security associated with both a decreased diet supplementation with traditional foods and costs associated with increased reliance on market foods.

As stated in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), affordability concerns related to increase demand for goods and services resultant from Project-related population growth noted in construction are anticipated to continue through operations. Changes to traditional economy (i.e., reduced income from traditional economy and increased reliance on higher cost market goods) related to perceived changes to the environment are also expected to continue through operations. These affordability changes can reduce economic resources and strain food security particularly those on fixed or lower incomes. However, Project-related income and economic opportunities for Indigenous individuals and their families may improve food security. Unequal access to jobs, however, due to barriers such as childcare, transportation, or qualifications, may reinforce existing inequities during operations, continued from construction.

Overall, during operations it is expected that for those Indigenous people employed by the Project, Project activities are anticipated to improve food security through increased income allowing for access to adequate amounts of, and higher nutritional quality, foods.

For Indigenous households not employed by the Project, Project activities may add additional strain to food security based on potential reduced participation in traditional food practices and traditional economy, and increased affordability pressure from rising costs of goods and services; however, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. Mitigations will be required to minimize potentially adverse effects related to perception to avoid disruption to traditional food practices and traditional economy, minimize effects to cost of living and maximum economic benefits. Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for food security are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

14.9.3.4.10 Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours

During operations, similar interactions as the construction phase are expected, and potential effects to Indigenous health via changes to mental wellness and personal behaviours may continue. Although no population growth or direct workforce is anticipated on-reserve for LSFN, WFN, and ANA, Project operations and the continuation of Project activities means that several pathways (both beneficial and adverse) identified during construction may persist or evolve over time, as the workforce is expected to stabilize during operations. It is expected that the mine workers will be working seven working days of 12-hour shifts, followed by seven days off, with a goal that the majority of workers will be from local communities. As a result, potential beneficial effects to mental wellness associated with economic benefit from the Project may continue for some individuals. These relate primarily to economic opportunities such as increased income, education, training and skills, which can improve food security (Myrette and Riva 2021), access to services (e.g., via employment and employee benefits for those employed by the Project), and in some cases, potentially reduce barriers to participation in traditional harvesting practices (e.g., via increased material resources) (Chan et al. 2014). Income is a key determinant of mental health (PHAC 2018; CAMH n.d.; PHAC 2024), and higher earnings during operations can reduce financial stress, enhance self-esteem, and support improved mental health, including a reduced prevalence of addictions (NCCIH 2020).

As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), stable employment and contracting opportunities could support income security and skill development for Indigenous people, assuming local hiring remains prominent and Indigenous people are employed throughout operations; though barriers to participation may continue to limit equitable access. Great Bear Resources has indicated that commercial project agreements are in progress with LSFN, WFN and NWOMC to minimize adverse social impacts and maximize economic opportunities for Indigenous communities. While the specifics of these agreements are confidential, the agreements are assumed to provide economic benefit to on-reserve communities and off-reserve band members. Similar to construction, beneficial pathways of effect to health that relate primarily to economic development, temporary job creation and increased spending within the region, which may in turn, have secondary economic effects for the local communities, may continue during operations (Salerno et al. 2021).

Simultaneously, as described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), long-term operations may reinforce community concerns about environmental change and cultural continuity, particularly where access to traditional or ceremonial areas is perceived as reduced. As a result, adverse effects due to changes in mental wellness and personal behaviours may also continue.

These relate primarily to participation in traditional activities (including disruption of traditional food systems) environmental dispossession (Ninomiya et al. 2023) and solastalgia (i.e., the feeling of loss and grief tied to sense of place) (Salerno et al. 2021), confidence in land and resource use, housing availability, cost of living, and access to health and social services (for those not employed by the Project) (Myette and Riva 2021). In addition, higher income associated with steady employment during operations may deepen the current mental health and substance use issues within the community (SLFNHA 2024b), as problematic substance use can be related to resource development, through increased stress, access to disposable income, time away from traditional, community, and social practices (Aalhus et al. 2018; Myette and Riva 2021).

As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), family routines and caregiving roles may gradually adapt to rotational work patterns, but these adjustments could influence social cohesion, as daily habits, time on the land, and participation in community activities evolve.

In the broader region, social cohesion may also shift as new families and workers relocate to nearby communities, potentially altering local demographics and social networks that Indigenous communities interact with.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during operations. The implementation of carefully designed mitigations and enhancements, such as education and training, prioritizing Indigenous hiring, community partnerships, and operation of a dry camp, are key to mitigating potentially adverse effects and maximizing the benefits of the Project. In addition, funding for Indigenous-led education and training for land-based activities and support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs will support mental health resiliency through land-based learning (Carrier et al. 2022; Lines et al. 2019; NCCIH 2016; Task Group on Mental Wellness 2021). A list of mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for mental wellness and personal behaviours are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

Overall, both potential beneficial changes (e.g., via economic development and increased material resources due to steady employment) and adverse changes (e.g., via environmental dispossession, negative health behaviours) to mental wellness and personal behaviours continue to affect Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals during operations, with potential effects being highly subject to individual variability. However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. Mitigations and enhancements presented in Section 14.9.4 are required to minimize adverse effects.

14.9.3.4.11 Actual and Perceived Public Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions)

While the risk of accidents and malfunctions during the operations phase is limited and was assessed as very low to low (see Section 16), several indirect or perceived influences on public safety, including emotional and social stress, that were identified during construction may continue to affect health and wellness for some individuals within Indigenous communities during operations. Long-term operational activity occurring without accidents and malfunctions may alleviate some perception issues over time.

The risk of certain accident types will be introduced as mining and operational activities commence, such as the risk of TMF slope failure and pipeline failure.

Project design and performance monitoring are key to safeguarding the Project against the risk of an accident or malfunction. The potential for credible accidents and malfunctions, their potential consequences, and detailed descriptions of contingency planning and mitigation strategies applicable are described in Section 16 (Effects of Potential Accidents and Malfunctions) and are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during operations.

Overall, with the design and operational safeguards, and with the application of contingency planning and mitigation measures, resulting effects on Indigenous health via changes in actual and perceived safety due to accidents and malfunctions are expected to be negligible for LSFN, WFN, NWOMC, and RLEF. Potential effects on Indigenous health, namely emotional and social stress, due to changes in the perception of safety during operations may occur for some individuals within the ANA community; largely due to historical mistrust and pre-existing emotional and social stress associated with industrial development.

However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. . Environmental data sharing agreements with local Indigenous communities, support of Indigenous environmental monitoring programs, and public safety communications were also identified as measures to minimize adverse effects due to changes in perceived safety. A list of mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for perceived safety due to accidents and malfunctions are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2.

14.9.3.4.12 Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls

The operations phase will result in sustained workforce presence in the region. Peak employment is anticipated to reach approximately 1,100 workers during operations when both the open pit and underground mines are active; however, the workforce is expected to decrease to approximately 700 workers during underground mining operations (approximately after year 9).

As stated in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), no direct interactions with public safety or gender-based violence are anticipated on-reserve in LSFN, WFN, and ANA during operations. However, the Project will sustain a temporary influx of non-local workers into the region, including in Red Lake and Ear Falls, which may continue to elevate broader safety concerns among Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Even in the absence of actual incidents during operations, perceived increases in risk can continue to have adverse effects on mental wellness, personal security, and overall community cohesion.

During operations, there can be direct and indirect effects on health in instances where the safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals is compromised, whether in the community or in the workplace. Should incidents occur, they do not only affect the individual, but also their families and broader communities. The available evidence shows that health effects from Project activities (continued presence of workforce) are possible during operations, especially if incidents (e.g., violence, sexual harassment) occur at camp and / or in community that compromise the safety of Indigenous women and girls.

Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to continue to minimize risks to the safety of Indigenous women and girls during operations; however, they cannot completely eliminate the possibility of incidents occurring. The mitigations identified for construction, are expected to be continued throughout the operational life of the mine, including measures to protect Indigenous women at camp and Indigenous woman and girls in community. However, it continues to be acknowledged that should incidents occur, the physical and mental health consequences for the affected individual(s), and their families, is substantial.

Overall, effects on Indigenous health from changes to safety of Indigenous women and girls as a result of Project activities during operations are possible if incidents were to occur. However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities (i.e., LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF). Mitigation and enhancement measures for health are presented in Section 14.9.4. Additional details, including specific mitigations for the safety of Indigenous women and girls are presented in Section 7 of Appendix N-2. These mitigations are required to address potential effects by minimizing risks to the safety of Indigenous women and girls both at camp and in community.

14.9.3.5 Closure Phase

The active closure phase is expected to occur over approximately three years following the end of operations. Similar mining and construction equipment are utilized during this period, but on a much smaller scale. Following the active closure period, there will be a passive closure period which includes occasional maintenance, limited use of mining and construction equipment, and a short final close-out and reclamation period where water treatment infrastructure will be removed. The potential interactions during closure are explored as contributions to the potential effect of an overall change in Indigenous health.

14.9.3.5.1 Air Quality

As discussed in Section 7.2 (Air Quality), air quality during closure may be influenced by emissions from the operation of equipment, material handling, and the use of unpaved surfaces associated with demolition and removal activities. The passive and final closure periods during the closure phase consist predominantly of monitoring activities, with occasional maintenance and limited equipment use, and accordingly, was not specifically assessed for effects to air quality.

As active closure uses similar mining and construction equipment but on a much smaller scale, the potential for air quality effects is adequately captured by the construction and operations phase assessments, and therefore was not quantitatively assessed, as detailed in Section 7.2 (Air Quality). Similarly, the HHERA inhalation assessment (Appendix N-1) evaluated the active closure phase as part of the assessment of construction effects; therefore, risk results (i.e., HQs, ILCRs and ALCMs) for the active closure phase were considered the same as the construction phase. Notable sources of air parameter emissions were not expected after active closure. Given that potential adverse effects on Indigenous health were not expected during construction and operations, changes to air quality during active closure, passive closure, close-out, or post-closure, are also not expected. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF. It is also noted that when Project activities have ceased, perception issues related to air quality will diminish.

14.9.3.5.2 Multi-media Environmental Quality

As stated in Section 7.2 (Air Quality), Project interactions which could potentially effect soil, surface water and traditional foods as a result of deposition from airborne emissions are the same as those expected for construction, with interactions during closure associated with demolition and removal activities. As stated in Section 7.7 (Water Quality), Project interactions which could potentially effect surface water and subsequently traditional food quality during closure include discharges from contact water, fugitive groundwater seepage to surface water features, erosion and sedimentation from reclamation activities, and dust deposition on local water features.

The results of the HHERA multi-media assessment for the operations phase are presented in Table 14.9-4, Table 14.9-5, Table 14.9-6 and Table 14.9-7 in Section 14.9.3.1, with full results provided in the HHERA (Appendix N-1). The results of the human health multi-media assessment for closure and post-closure resulted in the same conclusions described previously for construction and operations. For the POPCs (inorganic arsenic, inorganic mercury, methylmercury, inorganic selenium), baseline (i.e., existing conditions) drive risk for human health. The incremental Project risks for each phase are below the target HQ of 0.2 applicable for Project-Alone contributions, representing a negligible change from baseline HQs. The ILCRs values are below the target ILCR of 1E-05 (i.e., 1-in-100,000) for carcinogenic effects of inorganic arsenic.

This indicated that Project+Baseline HQs above the target HQ of 1 are associated with the background conditions (i.e., baseline) rather than the Project, and the Project is not expected to increase human health risks for the average consumer or heavy consumer Indigenous resident living, working, and recreating in the LSA and RSA during construction from exposure to inorganic arsenic, inorganic mercury, methylmercury, inorganic selenium during closure or post closure. Collectively, these HHERA findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

The *Mining Act* requires that a Closure Plan be certified to the Mine Rehabilitation Code, prior to disturbance associated with the mining project. The overall intent of the Closure Plan is to restore the Project to a naturalized condition. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), confidence in land and water quality will remain a key determinant of recovery, influencing whether members resume harvesting and other traditional practices in reclaimed areas. Over the long term, reclamation and revegetation activities may gradually restore access to traditional lands and support cultural revitalization if trust in environmental outcomes is rebuilt. In this manner, concerns related to perception of environmental quality may diminish overtime.

14.9.3.5.3 Access and Availability of Water

As stated in Section 7.5 (Groundwater), groundwater levels will recover during the closure phase through passive and active filling of mine workings. After closure, groundwater will stabilize to levels similar to baseline.

As stated in Section 7.6 (Surface Water Levels and Flows), after closure the pre-development watershed areas will generally be restored although the changes to local topography will result in some localized reductions and increases. These changes will not be discernible from natural, seasonal water level fluctuations.

Interactions with the health of Indigenous people during closure are similar to those identified during construction and operations. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), confidence in land and water quality will remain a key determinant of recovery, influencing whether members resume harvesting and other traditional practices in reclaimed areas. Under post-closure conditions, groundwater levels will be restored to levels similar to baseline and the pre-development watershed areas will generally be restored, with the exception of the permanent alterations to some waterbodies and watercourses within the PA. Over the long term, reclamation activities may gradually restore access to traditional lands and support cultural revitalization if trust in environmental outcomes is rebuilt. Mitigations and enhancements during the closure phase will minimize changes to access and availability of water and perception issues surrounding Indigenous use of lands and waters. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

14.9.3.5.4 Access and Availability of Traditional Foods

Interactions similar to those identified during the construction and operation phases will continue during closure activities for the Project community members in the PA, LSA, and RSA. Potential interactions with the Project that result in pathways to potential effects on access and availability of traditional foods will continue to have the potential to affect Indigenous health for some individuals.

The *Mining Act* requires that a Closure Plan be certified to the Mine Rehabilitation Code, prior to disturbance associated with the mining project. The overall intent of the Closure Plan is to restore the Project to a naturalized condition. In such a condition, the Project footprint would eventually provide wildlife habitat, and the potential for typical open space pursuits.

The re-establishment of vegetation communities during closure would allow wildlife to return to the PA and surrounding area. With the closure of the PA and subsequent site rehabilitation supporting the return of wildlife, there is the potential for the PA to be used again for harvesting for food and medicinal purposes. Restoration of harvesting opportunities also contributes to cultural continuity and land-based practices that underpin mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness for Indigenous communities.

As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), confidence in land and water quality will remain a key determinant of recovery, influencing whether members resume harvesting and other traditional practices in reclaimed areas. Over the long term, reclamation and revegetation activities may gradually restore access to traditional lands and support cultural revitalization if trust in environmental outcomes is rebuilt. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

14.9.3.5.5 Sensory Disturbances: Sound, Vibration and Light

Noise emissions are considerably less during the closure phase. After the active closure period, there will be limited equipment or materials movement, and sound, vibration and light levels are expected to revert to the near baseline conditions.

During the closure phase (active closure period), sound levels predicted under the worst-case hour scenario (LAeq-1hr, dBA) meet the provincial and federal guidelines at all modeled PORs, during daytime and evening / nighttime periods. The change in %HA is predicted to meet the Health Canada guideline of 6.5% for the closure phase, which means that changes to sound levels are not expected to trigger noise complaints from PORs. Therefore, effects to Indigenous health due to sound (e.g., annoyance) and vibration are not anticipated. Light emissions during the closure phase are anticipated to vary according to construction equipment requirements and are expected to be lower than those during the operations phase. Therefore, potential effects to Indigenous health due to light (e.g., sleep disturbance) are also not anticipated. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

14.9.3.5.6 Economics (Employment, Income and Education)

The closure phase will continue employment and contracting but at a substantial reduction from the operations phase. Project activities during the closure phase are expected to result in temporary and short-term population changes. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), employment levels and labour income will decrease to pre-Project levels during the closure phase, after the active closure period.

While the Project workforce is not expected to reside on-reserve, local effects may be observed for members employed by the Project. Direct Project influence within Red Lake and Ear Falls that were expected during construction and operations, are anticipated to lessen as the workforce in this area declines during closure. As discussed in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), as employment opportunities decrease, some workers are expected to leave the region, reducing pressure on housing and easing affordability constraints within larger communities such as Red Lake and Ear Falls. Lower population and business activity may also reduce demand for goods and services in Red Lake and Ear Falls. While this may modestly ease cost-of-living pressures, it may also affect small or Indigenous-owned businesses that expanded during operations, contributing to localized economic decline or volatility. Direct interactions with closure activities are expected to be limited for LSFN, WFN and ANA, and no change in cost of goods and services is expected on-reserve for these communities.

With the expected changes in the local and regional economies during closure, potential benefits that were observed from having higher incomes and employment opportunities during construction and operations may return to baseline during the closure phase. Further, households that relied on Project-related income may also face financial stress and income instability during this transition, and limited alternative employment or training options may widen existing inequalities. As noted in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), these pressures can influence family dynamics and contribute to emotional strain, particularly for those with high care responsibilities or limited financial buffers. This may result in an eventual return to baseline conditions for Indigenous health, unless alternate employment is found or financial literacy training and support has enabled a more secure financial future.

Overall, effects to Indigenous health from changes in economics (employment, income and education) during closure will be largely dependent on the pre-closure transition planning (e.g., re-skilling, and financial literacy and planning) that occurred throughout operations. The loss of a large regional employer is known to have complex societal effects, typically attributed to boom-bust cycles of resource development. However, as effects to health are shaped more by long-term changes in the economic and social conditions within the region, mitigations can reduce barriers to new opportunities after the Project ends. Mitigation and enhancement measures associated with the closure phase are designed to ease the transition to other employment opportunities in advance of mine closure.

Great Bear Resources proposes to address local priorities so that communities can benefit from the Project, including after the mine closes. With respect to economics, Great Bear Resources plans to support local initiatives that includes working with local suppliers to develop capacity and provide training opportunities, which may extend the benefits of the Project beyond the life of the mine. These initiatives are expected to have ongoing positive effects on the health of Indigenous people during and after closure.

14.9.3.5.7 Housing

As discussed in the CSIN and CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), closure activities will include the removal of the on-site work camp. As such, short-term contractors may rely on the limited hotel and motel capacity in the region during closure, adding pressure to existing availability concerns. For the portions of the closure workforce with long-term assignments, housing pressures expected during construction and operations will continue. As the workforce declines through the closure phase, the reduced population will lighten the pressure for housing and rental demand; however, this could result in adverse effects to vacancy rates, and property values. No changes to on-reserve housing for LSFN, WFN or ANA is anticipated during any Project phase.

As stated in the CSIN an CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), population reduction as the workforce leaves the region can improve affordability of goods and services but can result in negative effects to small or Indigenous-owned businesses that expanded during operations. Households that relied on Project-related income may face financial stress during this transition, and limited alternative employment or training options may widen existing inequalities, particularly for those with high care responsibilities or limited financial resiliency. Mitigations related to community financial support and social plans for closure will be required to minimize changes to housing resultant from income instability at Project closure.

Overall, no changes to housing are expected on-reserve, and given this upstream finding, a change in Indigenous health and wellness for LSFN, WFN and ANA is also not expected. During closure, regional social and economic conditions will undergo a period of transition.

While mitigation plans for closure will limit the extent of changes to housing, given the existing precarity of the housing scenario in Kenora district including Red Lake and Ear Falls, continued changes to housing during closure may result from the Project with potential adverse effects to Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals. However, no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities is anticipated. These findings are applicable to NWOMC members living in Red Lake and Ear Falls and RLEF.

14.9.3.5.8 Access of Health and Social Services

The closure phase will result in a substantial reduction in the Project workforce. The withdrawal of a major employer in the region will introduce a period of social and economic adjustment. As employment opportunities decrease, some workers are expected to leave the region, reducing pressure on the health and social services. Less pressure on services can lead to lower wait times, increased capacity, additional assets available for mobile crisis response, and additional childcare options to attend treatment or counselling. This can lead to improved health outcomes for Indigenous people in the region; however, with the loss of economic opportunity from the Project, realized benefits may also diminish ultimately leading to a return to baseline conditions for access to health and social services.

The removal of steady employment and income for some Indigenous people and their families can result in added challenges during closure. In some cases, mine closure has been shown to coincide with higher reporting of stress, anxiety, depression and alcoholism (Shandro et al. 2011). Households that relied on Project-related income may face financial stress during the closure transition. Therefore, some individuals may seek health and social support services during this transition time, but likely to a lesser extent than the pressures of construction and operations workforces.

Overall, closure-phase Project interactions with Indigenous health related to access to health and social services are expected to be limited and generally improve capacity pressures relative to earlier phases. Since Indigenous health is a complex issue shaped more by long-term changes in the economic and social conditions in the region, and historical injustices associated with colonialism, pre-existing barriers to accessing quality, timely, and culturally appropriate care is expected to remain. Effects to Indigenous health from changes to access to health and social services will depend largely on the pre-closure transition planning (e.g., re-skilling, economic diversification supports, and similar). Mitigation measures and monitoring plans are expected to be protective of Indigenous health during closure.

Great Bear Resources proposes to address local priorities so that communities can benefit from the Project, including after the mine closes.

With respect to health and social services, Great Bear Resources plans to support local initiatives that includes funding local and regional health and social services. These initiatives are expected to have ongoing beneficial effects on the health of Indigenous people during and after closure.

14.9.3.5.9 Food Security

The HHERA results indicate that health risks from Project activities are not anticipated during any Project phase given that incremental risks from Project were considered negligible in comparison to baseline risks, and physical health is not expected to be directly affected by Project interactions during closure. Perception issues expected during construction and operations related to environmental quality may continue during closure, but would be expected to diminish over time. Interactions similar to those identified during the construction and operation phases will continue in closure relation to access and availability of traditional foods.

Changes to or avoidance of traditional food consumption based on perception during the closure phase may impact food security associated with both a decreased diet supplementation with traditional foods, and costs associated with increased reliance on market foods. With the re-establishment of vegetation communities during closure, wildlife are expected return to the PA and surrounding area. This leads to the possibility of a return of use of the PA for harvesting for food and medicinal purposes. As the availability and reliability of traditional food resources may improve, food security may improve for some individuals. Restoration of harvesting opportunities also contributes to cultural continuity and land-based practices that support mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness for Indigenous communities.

As stated in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), population reduction as the Project workforce leaves the region can improve affordability of goods and services potentially improving food security for some individuals. However, households that relied on Project-related income may face financial stress during this transition, and limited alternative employment or training options may widen existing inequalities, particularly for those with high care responsibilities or limited financial resiliency. This income instability can result in decreased food security. Through closure activities there is expected improved access to lands and resource areas which can support traditional food consumption, with opportunities for increased income supplementation through traditional economy, thus improving food security. These findings are applicable to the local Indigenous communities, including LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF.

The *Mining Act* requires that a Closure Plan be certified to the Mine Rehabilitation Code, prior to disturbance associated with the mining project. The overall intent of the Closure Plan is to restore the Project to a naturalized condition. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), confidence in land and water quality will remain a key determinant of recovery, influencing whether members resume harvesting and other traditional practices in reclaimed areas. Over the long term, reclamation and revegetation activities may support restoration of traditional practices if trust in environmental outcomes is rebuilt. Mitigations related to restoration of the Project to a naturalized condition, building and maintaining trust in environmental outcomes via Indigenous environmental monitoring, will maximize the potential for food security improvements associated with traditional food consumption. Mitigations such as a social plan for mine closure will act to minimize adverse effects from income instability at Project closure, and project agreements to maximize economic opportunities for Indigenous communities beyond the life of the Project will ease the transition through and beyond post-closure.

14.9.3.5.10 Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours

As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), the demobilization of the workforce and the end of Project-related employment could lead to temporary financial stress and loss of income stability for households during closure. This may contribute to emotional stress, particularly for caregivers or single-parent households, and could increase short-term inequalities within the community, and potentially worsen mental health outcomes. However, with transferrable skills development, and adequate education and training, including on financial literacy, income from Project-related economic benefits may continue to be realized during and after closure.

The CWB assessments (Section 10 to 14) reported that, at the same time, the conclusion of operations may reduce workforce-related safety concerns (e.g., harassment, substance use, or trafficking) and allow for gradual improvement in social stability and community cohesion. Confidence in land and water quality will remain a key determinant of recovery, influencing whether members resume harvesting and other traditional practices in reclaimed areas.

Over the long term, reclamation and revegetation activities may gradually restore access to lands and support cultural revitalization if trust in environmental outcomes is rebuilt. This restoration and possible of improvement of access and availability of traditional lands and resources can lead to improvements to community cohesion and mental health for Indigenous people particularly given their connection to the environment, and the importance of traditional practices. In addition, the closure phase may alleviate any emotional or social stress factor that arose as a result of the construction and operation of the Project.

The CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14) also stated that changes to community cohesion during closure will depend on the continuity of engagement and transparency from Great Bear Resources. Reduced communication or lack of clarity around long-term commitments could erode trust and reinforce perceptions of external dependency. Conversely, visible follow-through on training, diversification, legacy infrastructure programs, and continued community involvement, could strengthen relationships and enhance confidence in post-project transition.

Overall, both potential beneficial (e.g., via economic development and increased material resources due to steady employment) and adverse (e.g., via environmental dispossession, negative health behaviours) changes to mental wellness and personal behaviours may continue to affect Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals during closure. However, mental wellness and personal behaviours effects are highly subject to individual variability. Mitigation and enhancement measures associated with the closure phase are designed to ease the transition to other employment opportunities in advance of mine closure.

Great Bear Resources proposes to address local priorities so that communities can benefit from the Project, including after the mine closes. With respect to economics, Great Bear Resources plans to support local initiatives that includes working with local suppliers to develop capacity and provide training opportunities, which may extend the benefits of the Project beyond the life of the mine. These initiatives are expected to have ongoing beneficial effects on the health and mental wellness of Indigenous people during and after closure.

14.9.3.5.11 Actual and Perceived Public Safety (Accidents and Malfunctions)

The risks of certain credible scenarios identified for the construction and operations phases will continue into the closure phase, such as the risk of TMF slope failure and ditch failure.

While the risk of certain accident types will be unique to the closure phase, such as the potential for pit lake overtopping, the risk of the assessed potential credible scenarios is expected to remain limited (very low or low).

The conclusion of operations may reduce safety concerns related to accidents and malfunctions, allow for gradual improvement in social stability, and as a result may improve safety perceptions and alleviate emotional and social stress; thereby diminishing potential effects on Indigenous health. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), confidence in land and water quality will remain a key determinant of recovery, influencing whether Indigenous community members continue or reduce experiences of emotional or social stress. Mitigations such as environmental data sharing agreements and public safety communications will also act to minimize potential adverse effects from changes in perceptions of safety by supporting consistent communication and planning throughout closure.

14.9.3.5.12 Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls

The closure phase will result in a substantial reduction in the Project workforce. As described in the CWB assessments (Sections 10 to 14), employment levels will decrease to pre-Project levels during the closure phase, after the active closure period.

The conclusion of operations may reduce workforce-related safety concerns (e.g., violence, harassment, trafficking), particularly for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, and allow for gradual improvement in social stability and community health and safety.
The improvement in both safety and perception of safety could improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous women and girls in the region. However, it is important to note that the issues surrounding MMIWG are national in scale, existed before the Project, and will likely continue after the project. It is expected that mitigation measures are continued throughout active closure to continue to minimize risks to the safety of Indigenous women and girls.

14.9.4 Mitigation and Enhancement

Mitigation measures for Indigenous health consider both direct and indirect effects, and includes Project design measures, workforce policies, community partnerships, Indigenous engagement, regionally targeted supports as well as monitoring and adaptive management plans. The goal of these measures is to reduce the scale / severity, duration, and likelihood of adverse residual effects on Indigenous health, including changes to the biophysical and social determinants of health for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

For Indigenous health, mitigation approaches reflect a combination of:

- Physical design measures (e.g., worker accommodations, site security and on-site medical facilities)
- Program and policy measures (e.g., hiring policies, workforce training, cultural awareness programming, employee supports and benefits, incident tracking and grievance reporting)
- Monitoring and adaptive management plans (including but not limited to, environmental quality monitoring inclusive of health parameters, and on-site medical and off-site referral monitoring)
- Community and service supports (e.g., partnerships with Indigenous service providers, coordination with local agencies, funding to expand health-focused community services and programs).

Table 14.9-8 outlines mitigation measures thematically, aligning with Project interactions and the biophysical and social determinants of health. These mitigation measures are anticipated to apply across all Project phases unless otherwise specified. Mitigation measures presented in Table 14.9-8 are not presented in any particular order (e.g., priority), rather they are listed alphabetically. For a description of which mitigations were relevant to each determinant of health, and a rationale for its inclusion and impact on the assessment, please see the HIA (Appendix N-12).

While the measures identified below are the key ones identified and developed for Indigenous health, many other measures identified in the CSIN, CULRTP and CWB assessments, as well as measures identified throughout the Impact Statement in the upstream pVC and fVC sections, are directly or indirectly relevant to Indigenous health, and the upstream conditions that influence health. Appended Table 14.1-1 includes mitigation measures applicable to the management of effects on pVCs and fVCs that are linked to Indigenous health. It includes relevant plans, policies, and measures from predictive reporting on linked pVCs and fVCs. These will be applied for effects management.

Table 14.9-8: Project Design, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures for Indigenous Health

Potential Effect	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
Change in Health	Air Quality Monitoring**:** Air quality monitoring for the Project will include constituents and related health-based benchmarks (e.g., NO_2 and DPM [as PM2.5]) until assumptions are validated, to trigger action, if needed.
	Camp Operations and Services (health care): Provide emergency response and basic health services to the on-site workforce. On-site medical facilities and staff will be in place to address health services for emergencies, injuries, and other routine needs. Medical personnel will be trained on supports that are available through Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Telus telehealth (or similar service / provider), and local / regional providers to foster connected health care on and off-site. Information about these services and supports (available to employees and their immediate families), will be posted in a visible location at the medical facilities and accommodations. (1)
	Camp Operations and Services (site security): Site security will be maintained and consistent with other Ontario mining operations. Access will be limited to Great Bear Resources' workers and contractors, and approved visitors. Security guardhouses will be positioned where appropriate Cameras, routine patrols and other methods will be utilized to monitor and ensure site security. Workers will be housed in separate accommodations by gender with locked access (e.g., keys) for each room and a separate mining dry / change rooms. Ongoing monitoring will occur throughout the mine life and policies will be updated as required. (1)
	Camp Operations and Services (telehealth): Create access to Telus telehealth or similar provider for employees (and immediate family members) throughout the life of the Project, helping to alleviate pressures on local services. (1)
	Community Financial Support (Access to Services): Great Bear Resources will work collaboratively to fund programming through the Friendship Centre and community partners, including programming and supports to promote physical and mental health outcomes for Indigenous adults and youth. (1)
	Community Financial Support (Access to Services): Support local communities regarding access to social services and health care services in the region, including

Potential Effect	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	mental health and addiction services, and implement an adaptive management approach (as part of the Social Performance Plan) to address additional pressures resulting from the influx of workers and their families. (1)
	Community Financial Support (Change in Housing and Accommodations): Great Bear Resources will work collaboratively to support culturally appropriate housing initiatives led by Indigenous and municipal partners. This will include development of a housing strategy and plans for ongoing monitoring of housing capacity issues, and an adaptive management approach (as part of the Social Performance Plan) to address additional pressures imposed from the influx of workers and their families. (1,2)
	Social Closure Plan: Support consistent communication and planning throughout closure with emphasis on legacy, continuity, and shared decision-making. Develop a community transition plan in consultation with local Indigenous communities and groups so that decisions are made with integrity, based on cultural, spiritual and Indigenous well-being in mind. The plan will include collaborative planning, implement job-matching, retraining programs, financial literacy workshops, and economic diversification supports in anticipation of closure. (1)
	Community Safety Enhancement: Work in collaboration with Indigenous communities and local law enforcement to discuss safety considerations regarding the influx of additional workforce into the area, including the possibility of increases in violent crime and / or sexual harassment in local communities.
	Education and Training (Project): Deliver mandatory Cultural Awareness training for employees and contractors (including supervisors and managers) on safety, harassment awareness and prevention, and MMIWG2S+ and human trafficking awareness training. (1)
	Education and Training (Project): Provide budgeting and financial literacy tools available to all employees through the EAP, including a combination of organized workshops during working hours and optional individual supports that employees and their families can access on their own time. (1)
	Education and Training (Region): Inclusive and Local Hiring Strategy (hiring policies): Partner with Indigenous training and employment organizations to support culturally appropriate recruitment and retention of Indigenous candidates, to support employment of Indigenous workers, provide training, priority hiring and work towards continuous improvement including training and employment opportunities for Indigenous women. (1)
	Employee Benefits Program: Benefits program will include coverage for health care, prescription drugs, dental and access to in-person and online mental health services for employees and their families.
	Environmental Data Sharing Agreements: GBR will share environmental monitoring data (air, water, fish) with Indigenous communities that request it on an annual basis and provide opportunities (including funds) to conduct their own reviews.
	Environmental Management Committee: Great Bear Resources will work with the environmental management committee(s) and interested Indigenous members throughout the duration of the Project (all phases), to facilitate ongoing communications, sharing and integration of Indigenous knowledge and

Potential Effect	Project Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures
	environmental information, and share and evaluate Project approvals, adaptive management and monitoring plans, and address emerging issues and interests identified by Indigenous Nations. (1)
	Environmental Monitoring: Environmental monitoring programs for surface water and aquatics will include constituents and related health-based benchmarks as considered in the health assessment (such as arsenic, mercury, methylmercury and selenium). Aquatics sampling programs will also include ongoing sampling and testing of fish quality in species identified for human consumption (i.e., walleye / pickerel, lake whitefish, northern pike, trout) as captured.
	Exploration of a Community Health and Well-being Survey: Consider options for Indigenous-led survey and data collection on project related metrics and health indicators, funded by GBR. This program could be further developed as part of the Social Performance Plan.
	Indigenous Environmental Monitoring Programs: GBR is committed to involving Indigenous communities in environmental monitoring activities throughout all phases of the Project, including opportunities for participation in the collection and sharing of environmental monitoring information and results.
	Indigenous Procurement (Local Procurement Policy): Help strengthen Indigenous participation in business opportunities by developing Project procurement policies that support Indigenous economic development and reconciliation.
	Medical Management and Response: Track on-site medical responses needed for employees (anonymously) and referrals for off-site health services. GBR will continue to work with local health care service providers if capacity issues should arise in relation to an influx of employee referrals.
	Project / Benefit Agreements: Economic benefits to Indigenous communities, based on collaborative engagement with local Indigenous communities.
	Public Safety Communications: Involve and consult with Indigenous communities in the development of communications approaches that will identify how important information will get disseminated, including as part of emergency response plans.
	Retirement Planning and Support: Offer a retirement pension plan, Registered Retirement Savings Plan matching or equivalent, to employees to help support longer term financial stability.
	Support for Indigenous-led Education and Training for Land-Based Activities: Support for Indigenous-led education and training for land-based activities (hunting, gathering, plant harvesting) in the region and promote skills and knowledge transmission among Indigenous communities, including Indigenous youth.
	Training and Tracking Incidents of Harassment and Violence in the Workplace: Provide mandatory training on the code of conduct and ethics, with a specific focus on unlawful discrimination, harassment, and workplace violence for all employees and contractors, including supervisors and managers. This training will include clear and specific examples of sexual and gender-based harassment and assault (verbal, physical) and outline steps for action if the perpetrator is a mine worker, supervisor or manager. These policies will also include incident tracking and review, a monitoring plan for policy effectiveness, and an adaptive management process.
	Workplace Incident Reporting (at Camp): Implement the Code of Conduct policy which provides clarity that employees reporting incidents will be protected against wrongful termination or other negative actions.

Notes:

1 Measure may also appear in CULRTP and CWB sub-sections within the Indigenous Peoples Sections 10 to 14.
2 The change in housing is expected to be regional and will not change on-reserve systems. Mitigation is relevant for off-reserve housing in the region, including Red Lake and Ear Falls.

DPM = diesel particulate matter; EAP = Employee Assistance Program; fVC = federal valued component; GBR = Great Bear Resources; HIA = Health Impact Assessment; MMIWG = Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; MMIWG2S+ = Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse+ peoples; NO_2 = nitrogen dioxide; $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres; pVC = pathway valued component.

The HIA assumes that all mitigations and follow-up programs from the identified linked pVCs and fVCs, including those throughout the Indigenous Peoples Sections, are in place as planned.

14.9.5 GBA Plus Considerations

In accordance with Health Canada (2024a) guidance, the health assessment takes an equity approach to assessing potential effects by examining the potential distribution of effects across different sub-populations within the Indigenous communities.

The methodology for the GBA Plus approach used in the HIA and the assessment of Indigenous health is outlined in Section 2.4.3.3 of the HIA (Appendix N-2) and is summarized below.

Established best practices in HIA inherently includes consideration of ways that effects from projects, policies, or programmes may be experienced differently among diverse subgroups of the population. The assessment applied a GBA Plus approach by purposefully evaluating how potential health and wellness effects may be influenced by different identity factors and how these factors intersect with local context and lived experience. Where sufficient data were available to do so, the assessment quantitatively evaluated effects to unique subgroups (e.g., consideration of women and children in quantitative risk estimates). Where data were unavailable or insufficient for disaggregation, the HIA qualitatively discussed the potential for effects to be influenced by different identity factors such as gender, age and Indigenous identity.

Therefore, GBA Plus is embedded throughout the HIA (Appendix N-2) since evaluation of the distribution of effects across a community is standard HIA practice. In addition, GBA Plus considerations have been provided in the: discussions related to approach and methodology, baseline health profile, assessment of determinants of health, mitigation and enhancement measures, and the limitations and uncertainty.

The HIA applied a GBA Plus lens that treats Indigenous identity as a central identity factor, and the other factors described herein are discussed within this context. It is recognized that Indigenous identity intersects with the other GBA Plus subgroups that are discussed herein, and this concept is considered throughout the HIA (Appendix N-2). While Indigenous identity is considered broadly for the purposes of the GBA Plus analysis, it is recognized that Indigenous people are not a homogenous group and that First Nations and Métis communities have diverse identities, needs, and lived experiences, which are discussed throughout the HIA as appropriate (Appendix N-2).

Several GBA Plus identity factors were selected based on established best practices, a review of consultation and engagement records, public health data presented in the Baseline Health Profile (Attachment A of Appendix N-2), as well as the demographic and socio-economic information documented in the Socio-Economic Baseline Study (Appendix O-1). It is acknowledged that several additional identity factors, such as religion, ethnicity, geography, race, sexual orientation, and others, are also relevant within a GBA Plus framework. However, within the context of this Project and for the purposes of this assessment, Table 14.9-9 represent the primary subpopulations of analytical focus for the assessment of Indigenous health.

Table 14.9-9: Key GBA Plus Identity Factors Selected for the Assessment of Health

Identity Factor	Description and Subgroups
Gender [(1)]	**Description:** *"Gender refers to an individual's personal and social identity as a man, woman or non-binary person (a person who is not exclusively a man or a woman). Gender includes the following concepts: (i) gender identity, which refers to the gender that a person feels internally and individually; and (ii) gender expression, which refers to the way a person presents their gender, regardless of their gender identity, through body language, aesthetic choices or accessories (e.g., clothes, hairstyle and makeup), which may have traditionally been associated with a specific gender. A person's gender may differ from their sex at birth […]. A person's gender may change over time. Some people may not identify with a specific gender,"* (Statistics Canada 2022). • **Men+:** Individuals whose gender identity aligns with or is associated with masculine roles and social positioning, including cisgender, transgender, and gender-diverse people. • Women+: Individuals whose gender identity aligns with or is associated with feminine roles and social positioning, including cisgender, transgender, and gender-diverse people.
Age	**Description:** Age is a key demographic variable used to identify population groups (e.g., children, working-age adults, older adults / Elders) and is derived using the person's date of birth and the reference date (Statistics Canada 2022). • **Youth (children and infants):** Individuals in early developmental stages (individuals under 18 years of age) • Young adults: Individuals in transitional life stages typically associated with workforce entry, increased mobility, and evolving socio-economic determinants (individuals 15-29 years of age). • Older adults and Elders: Older adults and community-recognized Elders with increased susceptibility to health effects due to age-related physiological changes and cumulative lifetime exposures (individuals 65+ years of age).
Physical Ability	**Description:** The *Accessible Canada Act* defines disability as *"any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society"* (Department of Justice 2022). This identity factor focuses on physical abilities such as those that influence strength, endurance, flexibility, balance, and coordination. • **Individuals with disabilities:** Persons with pre-existing mobility, sensory, cognitive, or functional limitations. • Individuals with chronic health conditions: Persons with pre-existing health conditions (e.g., cardiovascular, metabolic, or respiratory diseases).

Identity Factor	Description and Subgroups
Socio-economic Status	**Description:** Socio-economic status refers to an individual's level of income, wealth, education, and social standing, and is commonly used to describe a person's or group's economic and social position within society (PHAC 2018). • **Low-income individuals and households:** Populations with constrained material and financial resources where food security and housing needs may be difficult to meet. • Individuals with low educational attainment or limited labour-market participation: Populations with lower levels of education (e.g., without a high school diploma) and / or insufficient skill development.
Mental Ability	**Description:** The Accessible Canada Act defines disability as *"any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society"* (Department of Justice 2022). This identity factor focuses on physical, cognitive, psychomotor, and sensory abilities. • **Individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions:** Persons with diagnosed or self-reported mental health challenges (e.g., anxiety, depression) • Individuals with concurrent substance use (e.g., alcohol, drugs) and me**ntal health challenges:** Populations experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

Notes:

GBA Plus = Gender-based Analysis Plus (sometimes referred to as GBA+)

1 The categories of men+ and women+ were used for analytical simplicity and were adopted from categories used in the census by Statistics Canada (2022a). These categories include cisgender and transgender persons, and non-binary persons are denoted by the + symbol.

A GBA Plus analysis was completed for each determinant of health in the HIA (Appendix N-2). Each identity factor was reviewed to determine whether potential effects, should they occur, were expected to be even or disproportionate to assess how Project-related changes to determinants of health may affect different population subgroups. This assessment drew on available demographic data, baseline health indicators, and evidence from primary and grey literature.

It is important to note that while this section identifies subgroups that have the potential to experience effects uniquely from changes to biophysical and social determinants of health, the analysis should be considered in the context of the potential effects assessment findings. For example, while the GBA Plus analysis for air quality identifies that individuals with pre-existing lung or heart conditions (such as asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) are at the highest risk of potential effects related to poor air quality, the results from the HHERA indicate that Project activities are not anticipated to pose risks to the Indigenous communities from exposure to POPCs in air. The analysis below identifies populations that could be disproportionately affected and also discusses the potential health effects, or lack thereof, as identified in the assessment.

14.9.5.1 Gender (Indigenous Women+)

Several of the biophysical and social determinants of health identified gender (Women+) as an important equity consideration in the HIA, and a key identity factor as part of the GBA Plus analysis. For example:

- In Indigenous culture, women are often considered to have a unique relationship to water and additional responsibilities for the care of water (McGregor 2008; Awume et al. 2020; Assembly of First Nations 2023). Given that permanent changes to some waterbodies will occur, the connection that Indigenous people, and specifically Indigenous women, have with water may result in indirect effects on Indigenous health and wellness for some individuals.
- Gender-specific differences in economics are expected to disproportionately affect Indigenous women and girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals due to limited job or education / training opportunities, inadequate childcare options to pursue employment, or already face mental health challenges to pursue higher education or employment.
- With respect to housing as a determinant of health, research indicates that domestic violence is a leading cause of housing instability for women and children in Canadian municipalities (Fustic et al. 2019). Existing housing concerns in the region included the limited availability and limited access to transitional and emergency shelter services outside of major centres such as the City of Kenora, with few facilities available in smaller municipalities such as Red Lake. In an interview with the Executive Director of the Kenora Sexual Assault Centre, women experiencing domestic violence were identified as being particularly at risk of housing insecurity (Wesley 2025).
- Gender-specific differences in access to health and social services are expected to disproportionately affect Indigenous women as there are existing gaps in certain women-specific services including women's shelters or birthing centres. In addition, women often play caregiving roles and cannot always obtain childcare in order to attend appointments. Further, evidence indicates that health-care services often fail to provide the support needed for Indigenous women and girls who are victims of physical and sexual abuse or violence (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019).
- NWHU data indicates that women (particularly youth and young adults) either match or outnumber male rates across mental illness and substance-related indicators (NWHU and Yusuf 2023). Research also typically shows higher rates of mood and anxiety disorders in women (CAMH n.d.).

14.9.5.2 Age (Indigenous youth, older adults and Elders)

Several of the biophysical and social determinants of health identified age (youth, older adults, Elders) as an important equity consideration in the HIA, and a key identity factor as part of the GBA Plus analysis. For example:

- For multi-media environmental quality, exposure or sensitivity to parameters in the environment may vary by life stage based on the parameter. For methylmercury and selenium, Health Canada recommends TRVs based on age (Health Canada 2025). Appropriate, age-specific TRVs were applied in the HHERA multi-media assessment.

- Youth (children and infants) and the elderly are more vulnerable to potential effects due to noise (e.g., sleep disturbance and speech comprehension) (WHO 2009). However, Health Canada (2023) guidelines for sound and vibration applicable to the Project are protective of vulnerable groups including children to account for such sensitivities.
- As income is an important determinant of health, non-working age individuals (youth, Elders) are less likely to experience financial opportunities via employment, business, or training / education opportunities. Older adults and Elders may also be disproportionately impacted through changes in cost of living and access to health services. Similarly for housing, there is a lack of independent or assisted living options and long-term care availability in the region which contributes to vulnerability among seniors. The 2016 Census for Red Lake shows that the demand for senior housing is projected to grow by 57% between 2016 and 2025 (Statistics Canada 2017).

  Seniors (i.e., older adults) were identified as being particularly at risk of housing insecurity in Kenora district (Wesley 2025), which would include anyone seeking seniors services in regional hubs.
- Age is also a consideration when it comes to accessing services, where youth and young adults specifically can struggle with mental health and need health and social service supports, particularly within the NWHU, as shown by notably higher rates of mental health challenges for individuals aged 10 to 24 from 2012 to 2021 compared to Ontario (NWHU and Yusuf 2023).

14.9.5.3 Physical Ability (Indigenous individuals with disabilities or chronic conditions)

Several of the biophysical and social determinants of health identified physical ability (individuals with disabilities and/or chronic health conditions) as an important equity consideration in the HIA, and a key identify factor part of the GBA Plus analysis. For example:

- Evidence suggests that individuals with physical health conditions (e.g., disabilities) may have unique challenges accessing employment, income and education given their health may prevent or limit the ability to pursue work or education / training (Employment and Social Development Canada 2022).
- For housing, individuals with disabilities were identified as being particularly at risk of housing insecurity in Kenora district (Wesley 2025).
- Evidence suggests that individuals with pre-existing health conditions requiring ongoing care may have unique challenges accessing health and social services given their health may prevent or limit the ability to make or attend appointments, or travel to get care. The additional demand from Project-related population growth in the region may contribute to longer wait times and reduced access to health services. A lack of access to healthcare for Indigenous populations has shown to lead to poor health outcomes, including lower life expectancies, higher rates of chronic diseases, later- stage diagnoses, increased mental health challenges, higher infant mortality, and greater risks from preventable conditions like obesity (PHAC 2018; CMA 2026).
- In relation to food security, based on the findings of the 2021 Canadian Income Survey, individuals with disabilities were found to be more likely to be food insecure than those individuals without disabilities (Statistics Canada 2024b).

- Individuals with physical disabilities may face barriers to accessing traditional foods. Finally, people with chronic physical health conditions (e.g., chronic pain) are much more likely to also experience mood disorders; although this relationship is bidirectional (i.e., people with a mood disorder are often at higher risk of developing a long-term medical condition) (CAMH n.d.).

14.9.5.4 Socio-economic status (low-income Indigenous individuals and households)

Several of the biophysical and social determinants of health identified socio-economic status (low-income individuals and households) as an important equity consideration in the HIA, and a key identity factor as part of the GBA Plus analysis. For example:

- Low-income individuals and households may be experiencing pre-existing barriers to access of traditional foods due to financial constraints, reduced harvesting capacity, limited access to equipment and transportation, and / or greater reliance on market-based foods (Shafiee et al. 2022; Chan et al. 2014).
- Low or fixed-income individuals and households (e.g., single parents) may also be more affected by Project-related increases in cost of living which can create local affordability pressures for housing or goods and services. Shift work employees who cannot access part-time opportunities for higher education may be limited to pursuing better employment opportunities. The Canadian Public Health Association reports that financial insecurity contributes to increased rates of chronic disease, mental illness, and overall poorer health outcomes (CPHA n.d).
- House insecurity particularly affects low-income households and seniors who pay 30% or more of their income in accommodations (MNP LLP 2020). As of 2023, the average Red Lake resident is spending 53% of their yearly income on housing (Statistics Canada 2023). Red Lake residents also have a higher portion of households in subsidized housing, 20.2% versus 11.7% nationally (Statistics Canada 2023).
- Poverty has been identified in literature as the driving factor for food insecurity (Banerji et al. 2023). Households received social assistance and households below the poverty line are more likely to be food insecure (Banerji et al. 2023, Domingo et al. 2020).
- Canadians in the lowest income group are more likely than those in the highest income group to report poor to fair mental health (CAMH n.d.; PHAC 2018). Similarly, unemployment is associated with higher risk of mental health challenges; although, this relationship is bidirectional (i.e., mental health can also reduce a person's ability to maintain a job) (PHAC 2024).
- Finally, low-income individuals and households may be at higher risk of experiencing safety issues such as domestic violence, and lower-income individuals may be less willing to report issues in the workplace.

14.9.5.5 Mental Ability (Indigenous individuals with mental health conditions)

Several of the social determinants of health identified mental ability (Individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions and / or Individuals with concurrent substance use and mental health challenges) as an important equity consideration in the HIA, and a key identity factor as part of the GBA Plus analysis. For example:

- Research shows that financial security is impacted by risk factors such as mental health (MNP LLP 2020).

Underlying issues such as mental health status is expected to have an impact on economics, as mental health conditions may prevent individuals from finding or keeping employment or pursuing higher education, which can reduce financial stresses, enhance self-esteem, or promote healthier lifestyles (NCCIH 2020).

- Mental health status may result in disproportionate barriers to housing. The OPP and shelter staff both reported that mental health and substance use are drivers of homelessness and emergency housing use. The 2021 KDSB Homeless Enumeration Report indicated that 64.7% of respondents cited mental health, and 76.5% cited substance use, as contributing factors to their housing loss (Kenora District Services Board 2021).
- With respect to accessing services, Project-related population growth in the region may create a strain on regional services that are already at or near capacity. Added demand may contribute to longer wait times and reduced access, particularly for individuals who have pre-existing mental health conditions and require ongoing and regular mental health support. These challenges can directly influence Indigenous people's health outcomes particularly in emergency medical or crisis (mental health) situations.
- Intergenerational trauma has been reported in literature to contribute to food insecurity (Banerji et al. 2023). The National First Nations Regional Health Survey, reported that adults who attended or those with a parent or a grandparent who attended a residential school had a higher proportions of severe food insecurity than those who did not (16.4%, 16.2% respectively verses 6.9%) (Banerji et al. 2023).
- Individuals living with a mental illness are about twice as likely to also struggle with a substance use disorder compared with the broader population. In the same way, people with substance use disorders are up to three times more likely to have a mental illness. More than 15% of individuals with a substance use disorder also have a co-occurring mental health condition (CAMH n.d.).
- Finally, individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions may already be experiencing elevated baseline levels of stress and as such, may be more sensitive to changes (e.g., emotional and social stress) from changes to actual and perceived public safety due to accidents and malfunctions (Wong et al. 2024).

Also important to GBA Plus is the concept of intersectionality. Intersectionality is widely recognized as an analytical approach that describes how *"groups of people are not homogeneous, as they have multiple, and diverse intersecting factors that impact how they understand, […] shape their perspectives, ideologies, and experiences,"* (Women and Gender Equality Canada 2022). Intersectionality is key to GBA Plus as it recognizes that there are multiple factors that could influence how an individual or community could experience an effect, which individually may not put them at a disadvantage but combined can lead to higher vulnerability.

In addition to analysis of individual identity factors for each determinant of health, analysis of intersectionality was completed, as detailed in the HIA (Appendix N-2):

- Intersectional effects may occur for individuals who identify with, or are experiencing, a combination of any (or all) of the identified subgroups (i.e., gender, age, physical ability, socio-economic status, mental ability). It is also acknowledged that Indigenous identity intersects with all of the other GBA Plus identity factors discussed.

For example, in terms of access to health and social services, a low-income woman with pre-existing health conditions may experience more barriers (e.g., lack of childcare or money for transportation to attend medical appointments that have increasingly higher wait times) compared to either of those groups individually. Indigenous people also continue to face culturally unsafe care, or racism and discrimination when accessing care, which are rooted in historical factors such as colonialism (Statistics Canada 2024a).

- In addition, intersectional effects were also considered across the health determinants. For example, individuals who identify as women+, are within the youth or older adults age group, and are living in low-income households may experience overlapping effects related to housing, food security, access to health and social services, and economic conditions, where barriers or constraints in one determinant can interact with challenges in another. Similarly, youth with pre-existing chronic health conditions, disabilities, and / or mental health conditions may experience intersecting effects related to housing, food security, access to health and social services, and mental wellness and personal behaviours. These interactions highlight how combinations of gender, age, socio-economic status, physical ability, and mental ability can influence how individuals experience the determinants of health differently.

Additional details on intersectionality considerations for each health determinant are provided in the HIA (Appendix N-2). The results of the GBA Plus analysis were considered in the development of mitigation and enhancement measures for health, as detailed in the HIA (Appendix N-2).

14.9.6 Residual Effects after Mitigation

After implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures, assessment and characterization of potential residual effects on Indigenous health are assessed using the methodology outlined in Section 6. Further details on residual effect criteria ratings that are specific to Indigenous health are defined in Section 6 and in Section 14.3.3.

The appended Table 14.1-1 summarizes the results of the assessment for the linked pVC and fVC components. Detailed description on the methods, existing conditions, mitigation measures, and residual effects can be found in their respective sections.

Based on the assessment of these linked pVCs and fVCs, the effects to be considered as part of the assessment of residual effects on Indigenous health include:

- Air Quality
- Sound
- Vibration
- Groundwater
- Surface Water Flows and Levels
- Water Quality
- Vegetation Communities
- Moose
- Other Wildlife
- Species at Risk

- Migratory Birds
- Local and Regional Economy

There are other linked pVCs and fVCs, listed in Table 14.1-1 and Section 14.1, where no change is expected after mitigation measures have been applied. This includes Fish and Fish Habitat and Wild Rice. This means that predicted changes to their existing conditions due to Project activities will be fully mitigated or offset over the Project life cycle. Therefore, those linked effects are not considered in the residual effects assessment for Indigenous health.

14.9.6.1 Characterization of Residual Effects After Mitigation

The changes after mitigation and residual effects for linked pVCs and fVCs, and for the other assessments for the Indigenous Peoples fVC (e.g., CSIN, CULRTP and CWB) are discussed here based on their relevance to and influence on potential residual effects for Indigenous health. The findings from these assessments provided a foundation for identifying whether the change in upstream environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions was sufficient to influence downstream effects on Indigenous health.

Overall, based on the findings of the linked pVCs and fVCs, residual effects were identified for CULRTP and CWB for the local Indigenous communities (LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF), and residual effects were identified for CSIN for NWOMC and RLEF. Building on this, the HIA assessed potential changes in biophysical and social determinants of health from Project activities to come to an overall understanding of the Project's effect on Indigenous health.

The potential effects assessment for health was conducted using Project information, technical modelling results, existing conditions data, primary and grey literature, government and agency resources, Indigenous knowledge and community-specific information. The key results regarding whether a specific determinant of health contributed to an overall change in Indigenous health, based on the potential effects assessment, are summarized in Table 14.9-10. Whether a determinant had the potential to contribute to a change in health, was based on the scale of effect (details provided in the HIA; Appendix N-2). The rating for scale of effect included four categories:

- **Negligible:** there is limited to no effect on Indigenous health expected as a result of Project activities for this determinant following implementation of mitigation measures.
- **Minor:** the effect on Indigenous health is expected to be minor; with no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities for this determinant following implementation of mitigation measures.
- **Moderate:** the effect on Indigenous health is expected to be moderate following implementation of mitigation measures; measurable deviation from baseline population-level health is possible due to Project activities for this determinant. If the effect is adverse, some support may be required to maintain baseline (current conditions).
- **Major:** the effect on Indigenous health is expected to be major following implementation of mitigation measures; measurable deviation from baseline population-level health is probable due to Project activities for this determinant, with a high degree of support required to mitigate adverse effects in order to maintain baseline levels and / or baseline levels are no longer attainable.

In Table 14.9-10, where a rating of negligible was identified for a determinant, that determinant was not expected to contribute to an overall change in health.

Where a rating of minor was identified for a determinant, that determinant was expected to contribute to an overall change in health. Taking a conservative approach, where a rating of minor (i.e., a yes in the table below) was identified for any of the determinants of health, an assumption of potential residual effects for health overall was identified for that community. None of the determinants were characterized as moderate or major based on the findings of the HIA; for additional detail on residual effects approach in the HIA see Section 8.2 of Appendix N-2.

A summary of which determinants of health were predicted to contribute to an overall change in health, thereby indicating potential residual effects, is provided in Table 14.9-10. While the table below presents a high-level summary, the determination of whether residual effects exist or not for each Indigenous community was based on the collective evidence presented and the assessment completed in the HHERA (Appendix N-1) and HIA (Appendix N-2).

Based on the assessment findings, residual effects are identified for each Indigenous community based on an overall change in health (fVC Indigenous Peoples). An assessment of the significance of residual effects (change in health) for each Indigenous community is presented in Section 14.9.7.

Table 14.9-10: Identification of Residual Effects for Health (Indigenous Peoples)

Determinant of Health	Potential Effect Contributing to a Change in Health (after mitigation)? Yes / No (1,2)
	RLEF
Air Quality	No
Multi-media Environmental Quality	No
Access and Availability of Water(7)	Yes
Access and Availability of Traditional Foods(7)	Yes
Sensory Disturbances (Sound, Vibration and Light)	No
Economics (Employment, Income and Education) (3)	Yes
Housing	Yes (4)
Access to Health and Social Services	Yes (5)
Food Security	Yes
Mental Wellness and Personal Behaviours	Yes
Actual and Perceived Public Safety	No
Safety of Indigenous Women and Girls	Yes
Residual Effect (Change in Health) Remaining after Mitigation? (6)	**Yes**

Notes:

1 Yes = the determinant contributes to an overall change in health for Indigenous Peoples (including perception issues and individual behaviours), with a rating of Minor: the effect on Indigenous health is expected to be minor; with no measurable deviation from baseline population-level health resulting from Project activities for this determinant following implementation of mitigation measures.

2 No = the determinant does not contribute to an overall change in health for Indigenous Peoples, with a rating of Negligible: there is limited to no effect on Indigenous health expected as a result of Project activities for this determinant following implementation of mitigation measures.

3 An overall net positive effect associated with economic changes is expected; however, cost of living (regional) and personal behaviour choices from higher incomes (for some individuals) are reflected here to maintain conservatism.
4 The change in housing is expected to be regional and will not change on-reserve systems; however, direct effects related to changes to housing is expected for Red Lake and Ear Falls (including NWOMC population living in these communities).
5 The change in access to health and social services is expected to be regional and will not change on-reserve systems; however, direct effects related to changes to access to services is expected for Red Lake and Ear Falls (including NWOMC population living in these communities), which will influence LSFN, WFN and ANA members who access services in Red Lake and Ear Falls. This finding aligns with the assessment of Community Well-Being.
6 Residual effects are assessed for adverse effects only and take into account implementation of the upstream pVC and fVC mitigations as well as health mitigations identified in Section 7.
7 The assessment of health does not only consider access to lands and resources, it focuses on a perceptions and personal behaviours indirectly influencing health.

RLEF = Indigenous people living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area

14.9.7 Significance of Residual Effects

After implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures, an assessment and characterization of potential residual effects on Indigenous health is completed (Table 14.9-11) using the methodology outlined in Section 6 and detailed in Section 2.4.3 of Appendix N-2).

Changes to Indigenous health are directly and indirectly linked to Project activities, through a complex series of changes to upstream environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions, and through behavioural changes related to perceived risks and effects. While Project-related effects on Indigenous health at the population-level were not identified, effects on health and wellness for some individuals was identified via actual and perceived changes to access and availability of water and traditional foods, cost of living, housing, access to health and social services, food security, mental wellness and safety. Pre-existing systemic limitations may persist, particularly for Indigenous residents and vulnerable groups. However, a change to population-level health, resulting in measurable deviation from baseline, is not anticipated. Given the current barriers being experienced by Indigenous communities in the region, monitoring of population health and wellness over time in the context of Project activities, will support ongoing collaborative efforts between Great Bear Resources, and local and regional partners and help inform adaptive management measures, where applicable.

Table 14.9-11: Characterization of Adverse Residual Effects for Indigenous Health

Attribute	Category (1)	Rationale
	RLEF	
Ecological or Social Context	Level I	Criteria may or may not be sensitive, and can support the predicted change with typical mitigation measures
Magnitude (Health)	Level I	Measurable Project-related changes in environmental exposures and / or social determinants of health are unlikely to result in a material adverse change in population-level health status of local Indigenous people.
Geographic Extent	Level II	Effect extends beyond the LSA but within the RSA.
Duration	Level II	Effect occurs over the medium term: more than three years but less than 32 years.

Attribute	Category [1]	Rationale
	RLEF	
Frequency	Level II	Effect occurs intermittently or regularly.
Reversibility	Level II	Effect is partially reversible during the Project phases.
Timing	Level I	Effects do not occur during a sensitive period, or related effects are fully mitigated.

Notes:

1 Residual effects are identified for each community based on an overall change in health (fVC Indigenous Peoples).

fVC = federal valued component; LSA = Local Study Area; pVC = pathway valued component; RSA = Regional Study Area; RLEF = Indigenous people living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area

As shown in the table above, there is one or more attributes at Level I, and therefore the residual effect to health is not significant for RLEF.

14.9.8 Confidence

The prediction confidence assignment reflects the information available through Project-specific TKLUS reports, publicly available data, understanding of the effectiveness of applicable mitigation measures, and outcomes of other pVCs and fVCs. Reliance on well-established methodologies, conservative modelling assumptions, calculated health risks, published peer-reviewed information, and community-specific data and Indigenous knowledge, all contributed to a higher level of confidence in the overall assessment of health. Conversely, limitations in the Indigenous knowledge (not provided by all communities) and baseline data for Indigenous health, limitations on the applicability of published information, and inherent limitations associated with predictive modelling contributed to a moderate level of confidence in the overall assessment of health.

The assessment is supported by both the findings of the HHERA and the HIA, which were informed by substantial primary and secondary information and robust analysis. However, as noted above, there are some instances where the information collected had limitations or lacked detail. Therefore, the overall confidence in residual effect and significance predictions for a change in health (fVC Indigenous Peoples) for LSFN, WFN, ANA, NWOMC and RLEF is considered to be moderate.

These limitations and uncertainties associated with the assessment of health overall, including those associated with the upstream inputs (pVCs and fVCs), collectively informed the confidence rating. The confidence rating also informed the development of mitigation and enhancement measures (Section 14.9.4), including monitoring for validation of assessment assumptions and other adaptive management frameworks, where applicable.

As additional information continues to be shared through Great Bear Resources' ongoing consultation with local Indigenous communities over the Project life, relevant information will be incorporated into Project planning as practical.

14.10 Impact on the Exercise or Practice of Rights

Indigenous Peoples in Canada hold two constitutionally protected rights:

- Aboriginal Rights: Rooted in pre-contact customs and traditions, including land use, hunting, fishing, trapping, and harvesting.

- Treaty Rights: Established through agreements with the Crown, affirming rights to self-government, land access, and traditional practices. Treaty 3, which spans the RSA, protects these rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

For Indigenous Peoples in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area, these include inherent rights guaranteed under Treaty 3, signed on October 3, 1873 at the Northwest Angle. Treaty 3 guarantees the continued right of Anishinaabeg to fish, hunt, trap, and gather throughout the Treaty territory, except on lands “required or taken up for settlement, mining, lumbering, or other purposes” by the Government of the Dominion of Canada (CanLii, 2014).

The proposed Project is located within an area of longstanding Anishinaabe land use. Therefore, it has the potential to affect Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area’s exercise or practice of Treaty and Aboriginal Rights.

The TISG states the Impact Statement must:

- identify and describe the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Indigenous Peoples potentially affected by the Project, including historic, regional, and community context, the geographic extent of traditional territory, the purpose and importance of the rights to the rights-bearing communities (e.g., the practices, customs, beliefs, worldviews, and livelihoods), and information on how rights have already been affected;
- document the Project’s potential impacts on the exercise or practice of the rights of Indigenous Peoples or the rights arising from treaties overlapping the PA, as expressed by potentially impacted Indigenous Peoples;
- consider the severity of the impacts on the exercise of rights; and
- document the views of the potentially affected Indigenous Peoples and collaboratively find mutually agreeable solutions for concerns raised about impacts on the exercise of their rights.

Indigenous Peoples living in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area are:

- Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (ANA; Section 12);
- Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN; Section 10);
- Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC; Section 13); and
- Wabauskang First Nation (WFN; Section 11);

The potential impact to the exercise or practice of rights for the Indigenous Peoples of LSFN, WFN, ANA and NWOMC is presented in sections 10.10, 11.10, 12.10, and 13.10, respectively.

Attached Table 14.1-1: Summary of Linked pVC and fVC Key Mitigation and Changes After Mitigation

Table 14.1-1: Summary of Linked pVC and fVC Key Mitigation and Changes after Mitigation

Federal Valued Components (fVCs)		
Key Mitigation measures	**Adverse Residual Effects Predicted after Mitigation**	**Change considered for Indigenous Peoples**
Fish and Fish Habitat (Section 8.0)		
In collaboration with Indigenous communities, development and implement of Fish Habitat Offset and Compensation plan, including habitat diversion plans, and fish relocation from affected watercourses.	With the implementation of proposed mitigation and measures in the Fish Habitat Offset and Compensation Plan (FHOCP): • There are no residual effects on fish habitat predicted • Adverse residual effects to fish communities, including those of Indigenous community concern, are not predicted • There are no predicted residual effects to fish health as the changes to water quality will be effectively mitigated by the implementation of the integrated water management and treatment system as contact water released to the environment will meet the WQG PAL.	Change after mitigation linked to: • none
Migratory Birds (Section 9.0)		
Great Bear Resources will implement progressive rehabilitation during operations and closure to replace (where feasible) lost migratory bird habitat Buffers will also be implemented around sensitive habitats. The upland areas around wetlands (e.g., Unnamed Waterbody 6) should be protected for 120 m from the wetland. The 120 m buffer is season-dependent and should be greater than 250 m during the nesting season (April to July for waterbirds	With the implementation of mitigation measures and expected offset via restoration during closure, the residual effect on migratory birds from changes related to the Project are primarily be constrained to the PA but could extend into the LSA: • Change in the abundance of habitat is not significant • Change to connectivity and quality of habitat is not significant • Change to migratory birds density and population is not significant • Change in the risk of mortality for migratory birds is not significant • Change to the abundance of habitat of migratory bird SAR is not significant.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health

Attached Table 14.1-1: Summary of Linked pVC and fVC Key Mitigation and Changes After Mitigation (continued)

Pathway Valued Components (pVCs)		
Key Mitigation measures	**Changes after Mitigation Predicted**	**Adverse Change after Mitigation with Pathways to Indigenous Peoples**
Air Quality (Section 7.2)		
Mitigation measures include the implementation of a dust management plan, a blasting plan to control emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, an ambient air quality monitoring plan, and limiting vehicle speeds on-site will provide for active management of emissions from the Project.	The modelled cumulative concentrations for all criteria for all averaging periods are below the respective Ambient Air Quality Criteria during the construction phase, operations phase and closure phase at the extent of the leased claims boundary and at all points of reception in the LSA.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Sound (Section 7.3)		
Mitigation measures include various design features aimed at reducing sound levels, use of enclosures and exhausts for diesel and natural gas generators, use of suitable mufflers on all motorized equipment, regular maintenance of equipment, and the development of a noise management plan.	Sound levels at all of the identified PORs are predicted to be below the federal and provincial criteria after application of mitigation measures. The change in percent highly annoyed meets the Health Canada limit of 6.5%, which means that changes to sound levels are not expected to trigger noise complaints from PORs.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Vibration (Section 7.4)		
Mitigation will include the development and implementation of a blast management plan to guide blasting activities while minimizing vibration levels.	The predicted change to air overpressure and peak particle vibration are well below the provincial limits for all PORs and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) requirements related to vibration for protection of fish will be met.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Visual Environment (Appendix O-3)		
None required with planned design and operations measures	A viewshed analysis (Appendix O-3) was conducted to determine the most pronounced visual aesthetics impact on the surrounding area. This assessment included the proposed stockpiles (mine rock stockpile, low grade ore and overburden stockpiles), tailings management facility dams and headframe designs, all based on anticipated maximum heights and extents to maintain a conservative approach. The analysis concluded that visibility of Project facilities will be very restricted, even at their largest scale, typically limited to distant views during later operational stages.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health

Pathway Valued Components (pVCs)		
Key Mitigation measures	**Changes after Mitigation Predicted**	**Adverse Change after Mitigation with Pathways to Indigenous Peoples**
Groundwater (Section 7.5)		
Mitigation measures include limiting the area of disturbance and operating an integrated water management system during construction, operation, and active closure to collect and control contact water, which will be reused in processing to reduce freshwater demand. Water treatment ponds will be lined or placed where seepage can be contained, and grouting will seal exploration drillholes and major fractures to limit underground inflows. A sheetpile or grout wall will also be installed to maintain open pit stability and reduce dewatering effects on Dixie Creek. During closure, the LP Central pit, VMF, and underground workings will be actively filled with redirected site runoff and water from the Chukuni River to accelerate groundwater recovery to baseline conditions.	After implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, there is a reduction of groundwater flows and levels during the construction and operations phases that is mitigated during closure. After the filling of the underground, LP Central pit and Viggo management facility (VMF) with water, groundwater flows and levels will recover to near baseline conditions.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Surface Water Flows and Levels (Section 7.6)		
Mitigation measures will include collecting contact water across the Project, treatment of contact water and effluent prior to release, the development and implementation of a dust management plan to minimize dust emissions	There is a reduction of surface water flows and levels within the PA and parts of the LSA after implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, during the construction and operations and closure phases that is partially mitigated by closure-related activities. Some local hydrology changes are permanent, resulting from landscape changes from development. Estimated changes to flow and water level in the Chukuni River and further downstream are not observable during any Project phase.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health

Pathway Valued Components (pVCs)		
Key Mitigation measures	**Changes after Mitigation Predicted**	**Adverse Change after Mitigation with Pathways to Indigenous Peoples**
Water Quality (Section 7.7)		
None required with planned design and operation measures	Observable changes in water quality from baseline conditions are constrained to the LSA during all Project phases. In the operations phase, predicted concentrations for all modelled parameters are well below the identified water quality guidelines for protection of aquatic life (WQG PAL), or equivalent to baseline conditions where baseline concentrations are greater than these guidelines (arsenic and phosphorus), with the exception for cobalt concentrations at a node in Unnamed Watercourse 1. During the closure phase (and post-closure), all modelled parameters are predicted to be less than WQG PAL, or equivalent to baseline conditions where baseline concentrations are greater than WQG PAL (arsenic and phosphorus).	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Vegetation Communities (Section 7.8)		
Proposed design and mitigation measures, include minimizing the Project footprint, targeted management of invasive species and restoration and revegetation where feasible during operations and closure	With the implementation of the proposed design and mitigation measures, direct changes to vegetation communities after mitigation are expected to be localized to the PA. Indirect effects are expected to be confined to the PA and its immediate surroundings. Restoration and revegetation efforts during closure are anticipated to support the recovery of vegetation communities, with long-term positive outcomes for ecosystem function and diversity, although re-establishment is a long-term process.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Wild Rice (Manoomin) (Section 7.9)		
Great Bear Resources Project has funded a study by Northern Bioscience and Harris Ecological Consulting, upon the request of LSFN and WFN. The purpose of this study is to help address the loss of historic wild rice (Manoomin) production on Wabauskang Lake. Potential effects on wild rice are anticipated because of an overprint at Unnamed Waterbody 1 by Project infrastructure. The enhancement study is anticipated to offset potential effects on wild rice as a result of the Project. The wild rice enhancement location, on WFN reserve, has been recommended by the WFN and supported by LSFN.	The zone of changes to Wild Rice is predicted to be within Unnamed Waterbody 1, with mitigation proposed through an offset as part of the Wild Enhancement Project at the WFN reserve.	Change after mitigation linked to: • none

Pathway Valued Components (pVCs)		
Key Mitigation measures	**Changes after Mitigation Predicted**	**Adverse Change after Mitigation with Pathways to Indigenous Peoples**
The study will develop potential enhancement options for implementation in 2026. In addition to habitat restoration, the project will incorporate education and knowledge-sharing on sustainable harvesting practices, supporting long-term stewardship by community members. This collaborative initiative could support broader wild rice revitalization projects in the future and could be shared with other Indigenous communities in the local area if there is interest, advancing the understanding, and recovery of this culturally and ecologically important plant. Together, these efforts will support a more holistic understanding of Wild Rice habitats, cultural values, and their continued importance to the region.		
Moose (Section 7.10)		
None required with planned Project design and operations.	The removal of the PA results in a fractional change to habitat abundance and connectivity. No critical habitat types are eliminated at the regional scale, and overall habitat diversity and connectivity are maintained within the RSA. With the implementation of the proposed design and mitigation measures, changes to the abundance of Moose habitat are not expected after closure. There will be a change in the risk of mortality as wildlife - vehicle collisions are possible when roads and vehicular traffic are present. This will be limited after the active closure period and removed post-closure. Indirect effects to Moose during the construction, operations and closure phases, may extend into the LSA but cease after closure activities end.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health

Pathway Valued Components (pVCs)		
Key Mitigation measures	**Changes after Mitigation Predicted**	**Adverse Change after Mitigation with Pathways to Indigenous Peoples**
Other Wildlife (Section 7.11)		
None required with planned Project design and operations.	Habitat for other wildlife will be reduced within the PA from vegetation removal required for Project development, but habitat losses are low at a regional scale. The closure phase will directly increase functional other wildlife habitat which will continue to increase post-closure. There will be a change in the risk of mortality due to wildlife - vehicle collisions, which are possible when roads and vehicular traffic are present. This will be limited after the active closure period and removed post-closure. Indirect effects to other wildlife during the construction, operations and closure phases, may extend into the LSA but cease after closure activities end.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Species at Risk (SAR) (Section 7.12)		
None required with planned Project design and operations.	Direct habitat losses will occur within the PA during construction, but no critical SAR habitats will be eliminated, and overall habitat diversity will be maintained within the RSA. Therefore, there are no effects on the relative abundance of habitat after mitigation. There will be a change in the risk of mortality due to wildlife - vehicle collisions, which are possible when roads and vehicular traffic are present. This will be limited after the active closure period and removed post-closure. Indirect effects to SAR during the construction, operations and closure phases, may extend into the LSA but cease after closure activities end.	Change after mitigation linked to: • current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes • health
Land and Resource Use (Section 7.13)		
None required with planned Project design and operations.	Public access to the PA will be prohibited from the onset of the construction phase until following active closure so that construction, operations and closure activities can be carried out safely. In addition, sensory disturbance may potentially cause wildlife and recreational users to avoid the immediate area.	Change after mitigation linked to: • none

Pathway Valued Components (pVCs)		
Key Mitigation measures	**Changes after Mitigation Predicted**	**Adverse Change after Mitigation with Pathways to Indigenous Peoples**
Cultural Heritage (Section 7.14)		
A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) will be prepared for identified CHVI locations (e.g., CHR3) prior to construction. The conservation guidance from CHIA mitigates potential effects to be implemented early in the Project construction	The zone of changes to Wild Rice is predicted to be within Unnamed Waterbody 1, with mitigation proposed through and offset as part of the Wild Enhancement Project at the at the WFN reserve. Note: Indigenous physical and cultural heritage differs from the pVCs of archaeology and cultural heritage as it encompasses both tangible heritage, such as physical places of heritage value, and intangible heritage, such as the customs, practices and teachings that convey cultural knowledge of heritage value.	Change after mitigation linked to: • none For Indigenous interests change after mitigation linked to: • current use of land and resources for traditional purposes • physical and cultural heritage sites, structures or things
Archaeology (Section 7.15)		
Completion of archaeological assessments in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act and MCM standards and guidelines by licensed archaeologist with Indigenous participation. Identified resources with Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI) will have mitigation measures developed and implemented (avoidance, protection in place, or excavation / documentation). A Chance Find Procedure in place for unanticipated discoveries during construction, ensuring immediate work stoppage, notification of authorities and Indigenous communities, and appropriate mitigation as required.	With the proposed design and mitigation measures, no changes to the terrestrial archaeological sites or areas of marine archaeological potential are expected.	Change after mitigation linked to: • none
Local and Regional Economy (Section 7.16)		
None required with planned Project design and operations	The Project will have a net positive effect on the local and regional economy through employment and labour income, opportunities and income for local and regional businesses, and increased revenues to local and regional municipalities. The zone of changes is dominantly within the RSA. The remainder of the potential direct, indirect and induced economic effects are expected to occur in the rest of Ontario and Canada.	Change after mitigation linked to: • none

14.11 References

Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek. (2024). *The Great Bear Gold Mine Project.* Grassy Narrows: Grassy Narrows First Nation. Retrieved from https://registrydocumentsprd.blob.core.windows.net/commentsblob/project-85832/comment-61892/2024%20CBC, Oct 2025 ‘A community crisis:’ Ear Falls reeling after sawmill shutdown puts 150 jobs on the line | CBC News

211 Ontario North – Lakehead Social Planning Council. (2021a). *Client Services Program*. Retrieved from NorthWest Healthline: https://www.northwesthealthline.ca/displayservice.aspx?id=142104

211 Ontario North – Lakehead Social Planning Council. (2021b). *Red Lake Dental Clinic.* NorthWest Healthline. Retrieved April 2022, 2022, from https://www.northwesthealthline.ca/displayservice.aspx?id=140719

211 Ontario North - Lakehead Social Planning Council. (2021c). *Kenora District Homes - Red Lake - Northwood Lodge - Long Term Care.* NorthWest Healthline:. Retrieved April 16, 2022, from https://www.northwesthealthline.ca/displayservice.aspx?id=141226

211 Ontario North – Lakehead Social Planning Council. (2022). *Whispering Pines Senior Activity Center - Ear Falls Plaza .* NorthWest Healthline. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.northwesthealthline.ca/displayservice.aspx?id=140644

211 Ontario North – Lakehead Social Planning Council. (2023). *Ear Falls Dental Clinic - Ear Falls Community Health Centre*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from NorthWest Healthline: https://www.northwesthealthline.ca/displayservice.aspx?id=140660

3 Points In Space Media. (2025). *3 Points in Space Media Ltd. Leases the Township of Ear Falls’ Old Airport Site at 100 Airport Road*. Retrieved from 3 Points: https://3points.ca/3-points-in-space-media-ltd-leases-the-township-of-ear-falls-old-airport-site-at-100-airport-road

Airports-Worldwide.com. (2022). *Ear Falls Water Aerodrome*. Retrieved 06 01, 2022, from https://www.airports-worldwide.com/canada/ontario/ear_falls_water_ontario.php

Aspen Place Apartments. (2011). *Aspen Place Apartments*. Retrieved 05 06, 2022, from http://aspenplaceapartments.blogspot.com/

Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek. (2024). *The Great Bear Gold Mine Project. Grassy Narrows: Grassy Narrows First Nation. .* Retrieved from https://registrydocumentsprd.blob.core.windows.net/commentsblob/project-85832/comment-61892/2024%20…

Ballance, K. (2025, March 21). Clerk Treasurer Administrator - Township of Ear Falls. (A. Envik, Interviewer)

Bates, D. M. (2012, October 1). *American Association for the Advancement of Science*. Retrieved June 24, 2025, from Noise Pollution Also Threatens Fish: https://www.aaas.org/taxonomy/term/9/noise-pollution-also-threatens-fish#:~:text=There%20is%20some%20evidence%20that,and%20change%20their%20migration%20routes.

Berry, A. (2025, April 10). Director of Health - Northwestern Health Unit. (L. McDonald, Interviewer)

Bishop, A. (2025, March 11). Interim CEO - Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital . (H. Punt-Cernele, Interviewer)

Bishop, C. A. (2008). *Ojibwe*. Retrieved from Canadian Encyclopedia: https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ojibwa#PostContactLife

Boska, P., Joober, R., & Kirmayer, L. J. (2015). Mental wellness in Canada's Aboriginal communities: striving toward reconciliation. *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, 363-365. Retrieved from https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4622632/

Breton-Plouffe, A. (2025, March 26). Program Coordinator - Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre. (R. L. Centre, Interviewer)

Brophy, D. (2005). *Grassy Narrows: The 1872 Treaty - A history of state treachery.* Kenora: New Socialist.

Butterfield, D. (2025, March 17). Red Lake Fire Chief. (A. Envik, Interviewer)

Canada Crime Index. (2021). *Crime Severity Index in Canada by City* . Retrieved from https://canadacrimeindex.com/

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2021). *Housing Market Information Portal*. Retrieved March 18, 2025, from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#TableMapChart/1/1/Canada

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2025, March). *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation*. Retrieved from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmip-pimh/en#TableMapChart/1/1/Canada

CanLii. (2014). *Grassy Narrows First Nation v. Ontario (Natural Resources)*. Retrieved September 10, 2025, from CanLii: https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/scc/doc/2014/2014scc48/2014scc48.html

Carver, B. (2023, February 18). *Four First Nations form land defence alliance, seek to stop encroachment on their territory*. Retrieved from Miner & News: https://www.kenoraminerandnews.com/news/local-news/four-first-nations-form-land-defence-alliance-seek-to-stop-encroachment-on-their-territory

CBC News. (2022). *Our Fingers are Crossed': Red Lake Residents Hope for Quick Repairs to Washed-Out Highway.* Retrieved 05 16, 2022, from https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/northwestern-ontario-highway-washouts-1.6446818

CCSG Associates. (2021, August). *Never Until Now: Indigenous and Racialized Women's Experiences Working in Yukon and Northern*. Retrieved from https://emrlibrary.gov.yk.ca/ebooks/Never_until_now_indigenous_racialized_womens_experiences_working_in_yukon_northern_british_columbia_mine_camps_Aug2021.pdf

Chamberlin, J. (2025, March 24). Executive Director - New Starts for Women Shelter. (L. McDonald, Interviewer)

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (2021). *Housing and Rental Information*. Retrieved from My Red Lake: http://www.chukuni.com/article/housing-and-rental-information-678.asp

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (2022a). *Chukuni Communities Development Corporation - Special Events and Workshops, Red Lake*. Retrieved April 15, 2022, from http://www.chukuni.com/events

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (2022b). *Connect With Businesses In Ear Falls, Ontario.* Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from http://www.chukuni.com/earfallsdirectory

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (2022c). *Municipal Services*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from My Red Lake: http://www.chukuni.com/article/municipal-services-138.asp

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (n.d.-a). *Connect With Businesses In Red Lake, Ontario*. Retrieved from Chukuni Communities Development Corporation: http://www.chukuni.com/directory

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (n.d.-b). *Communications*. Retrieved from http://www.chukuni.com/article/communications-137.asp

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (n.d.-c). *Education.* Retrieved from http://www.chukuni.com/education

Chukuni Communities Development Corporation. (n.d.-d). *Red Lake Transportation and Taxi*. Retrieved from http://www.chukuni.com/article/red-lake-transportation-and-taxi-177.asp

Confederation College. (n.d.). *Red Lake Campus*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.confederationcollege.ca/red-lake?msclkid=5ea757c6c01911ec8f7c91eb8bbbd7c4

Con-Pro. (n.d.). *Norseman Inn Seniors Housing Project*. Retrieved from Con-Pro: https://conprocanada.ca/project/norseman-inn-seniors-adaptive-reuse/

Curtis, D. (2025, April 9). Director of Service Excellence & Partnerships - FIREFLY. (H. Punt-Cernele, Interviewer)

Daugherty, W. E. (1986). *Treaty Research Report - Treaty Three (1873)*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028671/1564413174418

Desjardins, D. (2025, March 11). Chief - Volunteer Firefighter Program Ear Falls . (L. Peterson, Interviewer)

Dillon Consulting, SOAR Professional Services, Sapo'nuk Sustainability, and professors from the University of Victoria. (2024). *What We Heard.* Dillon COnsulting.

Evolution Mining. (2024). *Red Lake – Improving operational performance*. Retrieved April 15, 2025, from Evolution Mining: https://evolutionmining.com.au/red-lake/

Evolution Recreation Centre. (n.d.). *Evolution Mining Red Lake Operation*. Retrieved from RECREATION CENTRE: https://www.evolutionrecreationcentre.com/

Fedyk, M. (2016, September 9). *Cultural landscapes, the Métis way of life and traditional knowledge*. Retrieved from Heritage Matters: https://www.heritage-matters.ca/articles/cultural-landscapes-the-m%C3%A9tis-way-of-life-and-traditional-knowledge

Filice, M. (2025, May 26). *Treaty 3*. Retrieved from The Canadian Encyclopedia: https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/treaty-3

FIREFLY. (n.d.). *Contact Us*. Retrieved from https://www.fireflynw.ca/contact

First Mining Gold. (2024). *Springpole Gold Project Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment - Section 6.* First Mining Gold Corp. Retrieved from https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80149/159732E.pdf

First Mining Gold. (2025). *Springpole Project*. Retrieved April 15, 2025, from First Mining Gold: https://firstmininggold.com/assets/springpole-project/springpole-project/

Forrest, P., & Gutsche, E. (2021). *The Township of Ear Falls, Perrault Falls & Red Lake - Tourism Sector and Marketing Strategic Plan Final Report.* The Township of Ear Falls, Perrault Falls & Red Lake: Forrest Consulting and STEM Consulting.

Fotenn Planning and Urban Design. (2015). *Ear Falls Official Plan.* Ear Falls: October.

Fraser, N. (2024). *"The Centre of the Universe": Stories of Obishikokaang Lac Seul First Nation Traditional Knowledge & Land Use Study.* Shared Value Solutions.

Free Grasst Narrows. (n.d.-a). *History of Grassy Narrows First Nation.* Retrieved from https://freegrassy.net/learn-more/grassy-narrows/history/

Frsyth, P. (2025, March 28). Social Worker - Other Ways Now . (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

Fustic, M., Guay, E., Khalid, A., & Hossain, S. (2019, June 17). *Housing Instability, Social Disadvantage and Domestic Violence: The Case of Parc-Extension*. Retrieved from Homeless Hub: https://homelesshub.ca/blog/2019/housing-instability-social-disadvantage-and-domestic-violence-case-parc-extension/

Golden Learning Centre. (n.d.). *Parent Information*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from http://glc.kpdsb.on.ca/pages/view/parent-information

Government of Canada. (2021, January 28). *INAN - Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 - Background*. Retrieved September 10, 2025, from Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/transparency/committees/inan-jan-28-2021/inan-section-35-consitution-act-1982-background-jan-28-2021.html

Government of Canada. (2025, March 19). *Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot: who can apply*. Retrieved October 21, 2025, from Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/rural-northern-immigration-pilot/pr-eligibility.html

Government of Ontario. (2015, August 27). *Crown Land*. Retrieved from Ontario.ca: https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land

Grand Council Treaty #3. (2025a). *Our Governance.* Retrieved from https://gct3.ca/our-nation/our-governance/

Grand Council Treaty #3. (2025b). *Our Nation.* Retrieved from https://gct3.ca/our-nation/

Grand Council Treaty #3 Women's Council. (2019a). *Nibi Declaration of Treaty #3.* Grand Council Treaty #3. Retrieved from https://watergovernance.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2020/04/Nibi-Declaration-Toolkit.pdf

Grand Council Treaty #3 Women's Council. (2019b). *NIBI Declaration of Treaty #3 Toolkit.* Grand Council Treaty #3. Retrieved from https://gct3.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Nibi-Declaration-Toolkit-updated-May-2020.pdf

Grant, S. (2023). Fire Chief, Red Lake Fire Department. (I. Laplante, Interviewer)

Guardian. (2022). *Ear Falls Pharmacy.* Retrieved 04 27, 2022, from Guardian: https://www.guardian-ida-remedysrx.ca/en/ontario/ear-falls/ear-falls-pharmacy-7001527?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=maps&utm_campaign=Local_Presence

Hall, K. D., & Lamme, D. (2025, March 19). Ontario Provincial Police. (L. McDonald, Interviewer)

Hamilton, D. (2025, March 19). Northwest EMS Ambulance Services . (H. Punt-Cernele, Interviewer)

Harty, J., & Tomashowski, R. (2025, April 7). Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts. (H. Punt-Cernele, Interviewer)

Health Canada. (2023a). *Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in impact assessment: Human health risk assessment2023a.* Government of Canada. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidance-evaluating-human-health-impacts-risk-assessment.html

Health Canada. (2023b). *Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in impact assessment: Air quality.* Government of Canada. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidance-evaluating-human-health-impacts-air-quality.html

Health Canada. (2023c). *Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in impact assessment: Country foods. Government of Canada.* Government of Canada. Retrieved from https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.930343/publication.html

Health Canada. (2023d). *Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in impact assessment: Drinking and recreational water quality.* Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidance-evaluating-human-health-impacts-water-quality.html

Health Canada. (2024a). *Interim guidance: Health impact assessment of designated projects under the Impact Assessment Act.* Government of Canada. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/interim-guidance-health-impact-assessment.html

Hinshilwood, A. 2. (2025a). *Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment, Site-Specific Assessment, EfKj-3, Rice Lake.* Northwest Archaeological Assessments Ltd. Great Bear Resources Gold Corporation Great Bear Project, Unorganized Territory, District of Kenora. Retrieved February 28, 2025

Hinshilwood, A. (2023a). *Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, Proposed Great Bear Resources Gold Corporation Great Bear Project,.* Northwest Archaeological Assessments Ltd. Unorganized Territory, District of Kenora.

Hinshilwood, A. (2023b). *Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Natural Gas Connection at Tuzycks Road and Highway 105, Unorganized Territory, District of Kenora. Prepared for Great Bear Resources.* Northwest Archaeological Assessments Ltd.

Hinshilwood, A. (2024a). *Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, Proposed Great Bear Resources Gold Corporation Great Bear Project.* Northwest Archaeological Assessments Ltd. Unorganized Territory, District of Kenora.

Hinshilwood, A. (2024b). *Stage 3 Archaeological Site-Specific Assessment, EfKj-1, Teardrop Lake, Great Bear Resources Gold Corporation Great Bear Project.* Northwest Archaeological Assessments Ltd. Unorganized Territory, District of Kenora.

Hinshilwood, A. (2025b). *Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment, Site-Specific Assessment, EfKj-4, Rice Lake .* Northwest Archaeological Assessments Ltd. Great Bear Resources Gold Corporation Great Bear Project, Unorganized Territory, District of Kenora.

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. (2020). *Analyzing health, social and economic effects under the Impact Assessment Act.* Government of Canada.

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. (2021, November 17). *Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/programs/aboriginal-consultation-federal-environmental-assessment/indigenous-knowledge-policy-framework-initiative/indigenous-knowledge-policy-framework.html

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. (2022). *Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions.* Government of Canada.

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. (2024a). *Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.* Government of Canada. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guidance-assessment-potential-impacts-rights-indigenous-peoples.html

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. (2024b, June 24). *Guidance: Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/indigenous-knowledge-under-the-impact-assessment-act.html

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. (2024c, June 24). *Guidance: Protecting Confidential Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/protecting-confidential-indigenous-knowledge-under-the-impact-assessment-act.html

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. (2024d). *Socio-economic baseline study. .* Government of Canada. Retrieved from https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80183/164842E.pdf

Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. (2017). *Part 3 - A Changing Relationship – From Allies to Wards*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1307460755710/1536862806124#chp3

Indigenous Services Canada. (2021). *Community Well-Being Index*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/56578f58-a775-44ea-9cc5-9bf7c78410e6

Indigenous Services Canada. (2021). *Community Well-Being Index*. Retrieved April 22, 2025, from Government of Canada: https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/56578f58-a775-44ea-9cc5-9bf7c78410e6/resource/5a2ef704-f245-49be-9634-d54b80020749

Ingebrigston, K. (2025, March 10). FIREFLY Physical Emotional Development Community Services. (A. Envik, Interviewer)

Jeffrey, K. (2023, August 21). *Northwestern Ontario MPP expresses highway safety concerns*. Retrieved October 20, 2025, from Northern Ontario Business: https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/northwestern-ontario-mpp-expresses-highway-safety-concerns-7433181#:~:text=THUNDER%20BAY%20%E2%80%94%20A%20Northwestern%20Ontario%20MPP%20is,months%20of%202023%2C%20including%20two%20mor

Katic, B. (2017). *Bring Back Manoomin (Wild Rice).* Ear Falls: Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement.

KayAir. (n.d.). *Experience the best in Fishing & Accommodations with KayAir Service & Outposts*. Retrieved April 16, 2025, from KayAir: https://www.kayair.com/

Keewatin Patricia District School Board. (2021). *Ear Falls Public School*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from http://earfalls.kpdsb.on.ca/

Keewatin Patricia District School Board and Seven Generations Education Institute. (n.d.). *What are your adult education goals?* Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.nwoadulted.com/adult-education-pathways/

Keewatin Patricia District School Board. (n.d.). *Schools*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from http://www.kpdsb.on.ca/pages/view/schools-1

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board. (2025). *Child Care*. Retrieved from Keewatin-Patricia District School Board: https://www.kpdsb.ca/what_we_provide/early_years/child_care

Keith MacMaster, S. L. (2020). Mining for Equality: Soft Targets and Hard Floors for Board of Directors? In O. Fitzgerald, *Corporate Citizen: New Perspectives on the Globalized Rule of Law .* CIGI Press .

Kenora Catholic District School Board. (n.d.). *St. John School*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://sjs.kcdsb.on.ca/home

Kenora District Services Board. (2021). *Homelessness Enumeration.* Retrieved from https://kdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/KDSB-2021-District-Level-Enumeration-Report.pdf

Kenora District Services Board. (2025). *2024 PiT Enumeration Report.* Dryden: Kenora District Services Board. Retrieved May 9, 2025, from https://kdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/KDSB-2024-PiT-Enumeration-Report.pdf

Kenora District Services Board. (n.d.). *Community Housing Services*. Retrieved 04 18, 2022, from Kenora District Services Board: https://kdsb.on.ca/our-services/community-housing-services/

Kenora District Services Board. (n.d. - b). *Welcome to NWEMS*. Retrieved from https://kdsb.on.ca/our-services/emergency-medical-services/

Kenora District Services Board. (n.d.-a). *Community Housing Services .* Retrieved April 18, 2022, from https://kdsb.on.ca/our-services/community-housing-services/

Kenora Sexual Assault Centre. (n.d.). *About.* Retrieved from https://www.kenorasexualassaultcentre.ca/

Labont, M. (2025, March 18). Director of Operations-Sewage and Waste Management . (A. Envik, Interviewer)

Larson, A. (2025, March 12). Supervisor - Ear Falls Early Learning Centre. (A. Envik, Interviewer)

Law, S. (2023, December 7). *Mining claims jump in northern Ontario's Ring of Fire as EV battery interest grows*. Retrieved from CBC News: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/ring-of-fire-mining-claims-rise-1.7051094

Levesque, O. (2022). *Northwestern Ontario Saw Record-High Reported Sexual Assaults in 2021, OPP Say*. Retrieved from CBC News: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/ontario-sexual-assaults-reported-increase-1.6412634

Mantle. (2025, March 19). Red Lake Emergency Shelter. L. McDonald, Interviewer. (L. McDonald, Interviewer)

Mantle, J. (2025, March 19th). Red Lake Emergency Shelter. (L. McDonald, Interviewer)

McCarthy, S. (2020). *Ear Falls Splash Park Officially Open*. Retrieved 04 28, 2022, from CKDR News: https://www.ckdr.net/2020/09/15/ear-falls-splash-pad-officially-open/

Métis Nation of Ontario. (2022, September 9). *Understanding the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3*. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from The Métis Nation of Ontario: https://www.metisnation.org/news/understanding-the-halfbreed-adhesion-to-treaty-3/

Ministry of Tourism and Culture. (2011). *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists.* Government of Ontario. Retrieved from https://files.ontario.ca/mhstci-standards-guidelines-consultant-archaeologists-en-2022-03-29.pdf

Ministry of Transportation. (2021). *Ontario Road Safety Annual Report.* The Government of Ontatio.

Ministry of Transportation. (2023). *Preliminary 2023 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report Selected Statistics.* Retrieved October 20, 2025, from https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-07/mto-orsar-preliminary2023-en.pdf?

MNP LLP. (2020, 11 30). *Community Safety and Well Being Plan.* Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/cswb/

MNP LLP. (2020b). *Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.* Municipality of Red Lake and Township of Ear Falls: MNP LLP. Retrieved from https://www.redlake.ca/pdf/stakeholderandpublicdetailed.pdf

Muncipality of Red Lake . (2020). *Red Lake-Ear Falls Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*. Retrieved from https://www.doc.redlake.ca/pdf/stakeholderandpublicsummary.pdf

Mundy, B. (2025). *The 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report - Kenora Water Treatment Plant.* March.

Municipality of Red Lake. (2010). *Recreation and Parks Master Plan.* Red Lake: PLANCorp.

Municipality of Red Lake. (2014). *Visitor Information*. Retrieved April 29, 2025, from Municipality of Red Lake: https://doc.redlake.ca/web/visit.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (2014a). *Recreation & Fitness Programs*. Retrieved April 15, 2022, from https://redlake.ca/web/recreation.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (2014a). *Visitor Information.* Retrieved April 15, 2022, from https://doc.redlake.ca/web/visit.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (2014b). *Education*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://redlake.ca/web/education.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (2014b). *Recreation & Fitness Programs.* Retrieved April 29, 2025, from https://redlake.ca/web/recreation.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (2015, October). Retrieved from Municipality of Red Lake - Official Plan: https://www.redlake.ca/business-and-development/planning-and-development/official-plan/

Municipality of Red Lake. (2015, October). *Official Plan*. Retrieved from https://www.redlake.ca/business-and-development/planning-and-development/official-plan/

Municipality of Red Lake. (2024). *Municipality of Red Lake - Strategic Plan.* Red Lake: Municipality of Red Lake.

Municipality of Red Lake. (n.d. - a). *Health and Emergency Services*. Retrieved from https://www.redlake.ca/web/hes.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (n.d. - b). *Ferry Info & Schedule*. Retrieved from https://www.redlake.ca/web/ferry.php?msclkid=2c675379c62b11eca01d72b9e716bebc

Municipality of Red Lake. (n.d. - d). *Recycling, Garbage & Transfer Station*. Retrieved from https://www.redlake.ca/web/garbage.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (n.d. - e). *Visitor Information*. Retrieved from https://www.redlake.ca/web/visit.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (n.d. - f). *Red Lake Airport - CYRL*. Retrieved from https://redlake.ca/web/airport.php

Municipality of Red Lake. (n.d.-c). *Town Council.* Retrieved from https://211ontario.ca/service/65299562/red-lake-municipality-of-town-council/#refresh

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). *Calls for Justice.* Ottawa: Government of Canada. Retrieved April 3, 2025, from https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mmiwg-ffada.ca%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2019%2F06%2FCalls-Web-Version-EN.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). *Executive Summary of the Final Report.* Ottawa: Government of Canada. Retrieved April 3, 2025, from https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive_Summary.pdf

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.* Ottawa: Government of Canada. Retrieved April 9, 2025, from https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a-1.pdf

Nishnawbe Aski Police. (2024). *Nishnawbe Aski Police Annual Report 2023 - 2024*. Retrieved from https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ad76b50aa49a1ab2b781ad8/t/6745f07cae9e047eab000209/1732636802211/NAPS+Annual+Report+2023+2024.pdf

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service . (n.d). Retrieved from https://www.naps.ca/services/detachments/

Northern Ontario Business. (2024, August 22). *Berens River bridge, road funding will be regional catalyst for northwest First Nations*. Retrieved from Northern Ontario Business: https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/berens-river-bridge-road-funding-will-be-regional-catalyst-for-northwest-first-nations-9386411

Northern Ontario Winter Roads Map. (n.d.). Retrieved from Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund: http://www.nadf.org/upload/documents/winter-roads-map.pdf

Northern Waterworks Inc. (2023). *Annual Report Red Lake Drinking Water System.* Municipality of Red Lake: Municipality of Red Lake. Retrieved October 21, 2025, from https://www.doc.redlake.ca/pdf/2023waterreport-redlake.pdf

NorthWest Healthline. (n.d.). *Home and Community Care Support Services - North West*. Retrieved from https://www.northwesthealthline.ca/listServices.aspx?id=10121

Northwest Training & Adjustment Board. (2025). *Northwest Training & Adjustment Board*. Retrieved May 1, 2025, from Northwest Training & Adjustment Board.

Northwest Training and Adjustment Board. (n.d.). *Northwest Training and Adjustment Board*. Retrieved May 1, 2025, from Northwest Training and Adjustment Board: https://www.ntab.on.ca/

Northwestern Health Unit. (2024). *The Real Cost of Eating Well in Northwestern Ontario.* Kenora-Rainy River District: Northwestern Health Unit.

Northwestern Health Unit. (n.d.). *Northwestern Health Unit*. Retrieved April 16, 2022, from https://www2.nwhu.on.ca/

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. (2022). *Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.oacas.org/

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants. (2024). Retrieved from https://settlement.org/findhelp/ontario/kenora/

Ontario Ministry of Education. (2020). *Secondary School Profile: Red Lake District High School (937789)*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/schoolProfileSec.asp?SCH_NUMBER=937789&x=18&y=15

Ontario Ministry of Education. (2021a). *Elementary School Profile: Golden Learning Centre (030759)*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/schoolProfile.asp?SCH_NUMBER=030759&x=18&y=10

Ontario Ministry of Education. (2021b). *Elementary School Profile: Red Lake-Madsen Public School (478997)*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/schoolProfile.asp?SCH_NUMBER=478997&x=10&y=13

Ontario Ministry of Education. (2021c). *Elementary School Profile: St. John School (805068)*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/schoolProfile.asp?SCH_NUMBER=805068&x=18&y=15#demo

Ontario Ministry of Education. (2022). *Supervised Alternative Learning: Policy and Implementation.* Retrieved 06 06, 2022, from https://www.ontario.ca/page/supervised-alternative-learning-policy-and-implementation

Ontario Ministry of Education. (n.d.). *Elementary School Profile: École catholique des Étoiles-du-Nord (805076)*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/schoolProfile.asp?SCH_NUMBER=805076&x=15&y=15

Ontario Ministry of Health. (2024). *Northern Health Travel Grant Program.* Retrieved April 15, 2025, from Ontario.ca: https://www.ontario.ca/page/northern-health-travel-grant-program

Ontario Newsroom. (2024, August 21). *Ontario, Pikangikum First Nation and Canada Partnering to Advance Construction of Berens River Bridge*. Retrieved from Ontario Newsroom: https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1004960/ontario-pikangikum-first-nation-and-canada-partnering-to-advance-construction-of-berens-river-bridge

Ontario Power Generation. (2022a). *Northwestern Ontario Communities*. Retrieved 05 06, 2022, from https://www.opg.com/building-strong-and-safe-communities/our-communities/northwestern-ontario/

Ontario Power Generation. (2022b). *OPG's Ear Falls GS Celebrates 90 Years of Clean Power*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from Our Stories: https://www.opg.com/stories/opgs-ear-falls-gs-celebrates-90-years-of-clean-power/

ORNGE. (n.d.). *Ornge Air Ambulance Services*. Retrieved June 16, 2025, from ORNGE: https://www.ornge.ca/about-us/our-fleet

Paridy, C. J. (2021). *Lerning from Manoomin.* Waterloo, Ontario: The University of Waterloo. Retrieved from https://oaa.on.ca/Assets/Common/Shared_Documents/Awards/Student%20Awards/Learning%20from%20Manoomin_Caitlin%20Jakusz%20Paridy_reduced.pdf

Parrish, M. (2025, March 14). Principal - Golden Learning Centre . (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

Parsons, J. (2025, March 21). Executive Director - Harmony Center. (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

Perreault, S. (2022, July 19). *Victimization of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada.* Retrieved April 10, 2025, from Statistics Canada: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00012-eng.htm#fn

Prospectors and Developers Association. (2019). *Gender Diversity and Inclusion: A Guide for Explorers.* Retrieved from https://cdn7.pdac.ca/web/files/pdac-report-gender-diversity-and-inclusion-2019-final_june-14-2019-for-web.pdf?_gl=1*1fc5daw*_gcl_au*ODc0N

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2018). *Aboriginal Children : the healing power of cultural identity.* Retrieved from Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/child-infant-health/supports-programs-pregnancy/aboriginal-head-start-urban-northern-communities-ahsunc/aboriginal-children-healing-power-cultural-identity.html

Quesnel-Loessl, C. (2023, August 31). *Consideration for Municipal Accommodation Tax Allocation.* Retrieved April 29, 2025, from Red Lake eScribe: https://pub-redlake.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=1707

Ramasaywak, J.-M. (2025, March 21). Principal - Red Lake Madsen Public School . (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

RE/MAX. (2022). *Ear Falls, Ontario Real Estate & Houses for Sale*. Retrieved 05 06, 2022, from https://www.remax.ca/on/ear-falls-real-estate?pageNumber=1

Red Lake Clinic. (2025, March 21). *Red Lake Family Health Team*. Retrieved from Red Lake Clinic: https://www.redlakeclinic.com/

Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre. (2025, March 31). *Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre*. Retrieved from Red Lake Adult Learning: https://www.redlakeadultlearning.org/

Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre. (n.d.). *Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre - Mission Statement*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://www.redlakeadultlearning.org/html/about_us.html

Red Lake Family Health Team. (n.d.). *Goldcorp Red Lake Regional Medical Centre*. Retrieved April 16, 2022, from https://www.redlakeclinic.com/

Red Lake Funeral Chapel Limited. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.rlfuneralchapel.com/?msclkid=c9992b11c62811ec9fed92a383663abc

Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre. (n.d.-a). *Alternative Secondary School*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from http://rlifc.ca/programs-services/alternative-secondary-school/

Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre. (n.d.-b). *Homelessness Outreach Program.* Retrieved from http://rlifc.ca/programs-services/homelessness-prevention/

Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre. (n.d.-c). *Moozoons Child Care Centre*. Retrieved from http://rlifc.ca/programs-services/moozoons/

Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre. (n.d.-d). *Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre - Programs and Services*. Retrieved April 16, 2022, from http://rlifc.ca/

Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital. (2018a). *Community Councelling and Addiction Services*. Retrieved from https://www.redlakehospital.ca/mentalhealth-addictionsservices?msclkid=dc8275f6c50111ecb708c561f4585052

Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital. (2018b). *Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital- Programs and Services*. Retrieved April 16, 2022, from https://www.redlakehospital.ca/services

Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital. (2021). *Fire Circle Gathering Area.* Retrieved from https://www.redlakehospital.ca/newsroom

Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre. (n.d.). *Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre*. Retrieved April 15, 2022, from https://www.redlakemuseum.com/

Red Lake-Madsen Public School. (n.d.). *About Red Lake-Madsen*. Retrieved April 12, 2022, from http://redlakemadsen.kpdsb.on.ca/pages/view/about-red-lake-madsen

Redfin. (2023). *Ear Falls Homes For Sale*. Retrieved from https://www.redfin.ca/on/ear-falls

Riddell, D. (2025, March 19). Hwy 105 Tourism and Marketing Board . (A. Envik, Interviewer)

Ross, I. (2024, August 22). *Berens River bridge, road funding will be regional catalyst for northwest First Nations*. Retrieved April 15, 2025, from Northern Ontario Business: https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/berens-river-bridge-road-funding-will-be-regional-catalyst-for-northwest-first-nations-9386411

Sahota, R. (2025, October 17). *'A community crisis:' Ear Falls reeling after sawmill shutdown puts 150 jobs on the line*. Retrieved from CBC News: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/ear-falls-sawmill-9.6942923

Seven Generations Education Institute. (2021, February 3). *Seven Grandfather Teachings*. Retrieved from https://www.7generations.org/seven-grandfather-teachings/

Sexual Assault Support Centre. (n.d.). *Statistics & Sexualized Violence*. Retrieved from https://www.amssasc.ca/education/learn-more-about-sexualized-violence/statistics-and-sexualized-violence/

Shkilnyk. (1985). *A poison stronger than love: The destruction of an Ojibwa community.* Yale University Press.

Shuurman, G. (2025, March 20). Goldcorp Red Lake Regional Medical Centre . (L. Peterson, Interviewer)

Simpson, L., DaSilva, J., Riffel, B., & Sellers, P. (2009). *The Responsibilities of Women: Confronting Environmental Contamination in the Traditional Territories of Asubpeechoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows) and Wabauskang First Nation.* Women's Earth Alliance and the Native Youth Sexual Health Network. Retrieved from https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/ijih/article/view/28968/23949

Stantec. (2017). *Red Lake - Community Improvement Plan.* The Municipality of Red Lake: Stantec. Retrieved April 29, 2025

Statistics Canada. (2017a). *2016 Census Profile: Ear Falls, Township [Census subdivision], Ontario and Canada [Country]*. Retrieved from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3560032&Geo2=PR&Code2=01&SearchText=&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=Mobility&TABID=1&type=1

Statistics Canada. (2017b). Red Lake, MU [Census subdivision], Ontario and Kenora, DIS [Census division], Ontario (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2018). *Investing in our future: National Progress Report on Early Learning and Child*. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/early-learning-child-care/reports/2019-national-progress.html

Statistics Canada. (2020). *Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population Ear Falls, Township*. Retrieved March 25, 2025, from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=5&lang=E&dguid=2021A00053560032

Statistics Canada. (2021). *Census of Population*. Retrieved March 17, 2025, from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&HEADERlist=0&DGUIDlist=2021A00053560042&SearchText=Red%20Lake

Statistics Canada. (2022a). *2021 Census Profile: Red Lake, Town [Census Subdivision], Ontario*. Retrieved from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/ipp-ppa/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&DGUID=2021A00053560042&HP=0&HH=0&GENDER=1&AGE=1&RESIDENCE=1&TABID=2

Statistics Canada. (2022b, December 16). *Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population Red Lake, Municipality*. Retrieved March 25, 2025, from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=5&lang=E&dguid=2021A00053560042

Statistics Canada. (2022c). *2021 Census Profile: Kenora, City [Census Subdivision], Ontario*. Retrieved from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&DGUIDlist=2021A00033560,2021A000235&HEADERlist=,28,24,22,27,23,29,25,26&SearchText=Ontario

Statistics Canada. (2023a, November 15). *Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Ontario*. Retrieved April 22, 2025, from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Ontario&DGUIDlist=2021A000235&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&HEADERlist=0

Statistics Canada. (2023b). Ear Falls, TP [Census subdivision] (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2023c). Kenora District, DIS [Census division] (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2023d). Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2023e). Red Lake, MU [Census subdivision] (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2023e). *Red Lake, MU [Census subdivision] (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001.* Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2023f). *2021 Census Profile: Ear Falls, Township [Census subdivision], Ontario - Total populaion by Indigenous Identity and Registered or Treaty Indian status*. Retrieved from Statistics Canada: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Dguid=2021A00053560032&topic=8

Statistics Canada. (2024a, July 25). *Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police*. Retrieved from Satistics Canada: https://doi.org/10.25318/3510017701-eng

Statistics Canada. (2024b). *Police-reported crime in Canada, 2023*. Retrieved from https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240725/dq240725b-eng.htm

Statistics Canada. (2024b). *Police-reported crime in Canada, 2023*. Retrieved from https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240725/dq240725b-eng.htm

Statistics Canada. (2024c). *Surveys and Statistical Programs - Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR)*. Retrieved from https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3302

Stephenson, J. (2025). *Great Bear Project Desktop Marine Archaeological Assessment and Visual Inspection.* WSP Canada Inc.

Stevenson, S., & Lansdell-Roll, S. (2025, March 28). The Kenora District Services Board . (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

Stimpson, M. (2024, August 22). *'Milestone' bridge announcement made in Pikangikum*. Retrieved April 15, 2025, from NWO News Watch: https://www.nwonewswatch.com/local-news/milestone-bridge-announcement-made-in-pikangikum-9387549

Stirling-Kattler, T. (2023). Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of Red Lake. (I. Laplante, Interviewer)

Stirling-Kattler, T. (2025, May 16). Municipality of Red Lake - Treasurer. (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

StJean, C. (2025, March 25). Supervisor - The Evolution Centre . (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

Tennant, K. (2023). Mental Health and Addictions Therapist, Community Counselling & Addiction Services. (I. Laplante, Interviewer)

Tennant, K. (2025, March 25). Acting Director - Community Counseling and Addiction Services (CCAS). (L. McDonald, Interviewer)

The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake. (2016). *Emergency Plan.* Retrieved from https://doc.redlake.ca/pdf/bylaw/94-2016.pdf

The Corporation of the Township of Ears Falls. (n.d.). CodeRED. Retrieved from https://ear-falls.com/visitors/history/

The Government of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3. (2025a). *Our Mandate*. Retrieved from Grand Council Treaty #3: https://gct3.ca/our-nation/our-mandate/

The Government of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3. (2025b). *Our Nation*. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from Grand Treaty Council #3: https://gct3.ca/our-nation/

The Government of the Anishinaabe Nation in treaty #3. (n.d.). *Manito Aki Inakonigaawin*. Retrieved June 18, 2025, from Grand Council Treaty #3: https://gct3.ca/environmental/manito-aki-inakonigaawin/

The Métis Nation of Ontario. (2024). *Written Submissions of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community to the Métis National Council Expert Panel.* The Métis Nation of Ontario. Retrieved July 17, 2025, from https://www.metisnation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Written-Submissions-of-the-Northwestern-Ontario-Metis-Community-to-the-Metis-National-Council-Expert-Panel.pdf

The Municipality of Red Lake. (2025, April 7). *Recreation, Parks and Culture*. Retrieved from The Municipality of Red Lake: https://www.redlake.ca/recreation-parks-and-culture/

The Municipality of Red Lake. (n.d.). *Red Lake Cemetery*. Retrieved June 16, 2025, from The Municipality of Red Lake: https://flynorth.ca/living-here/cemeteries/red-lake-cemetery/

The Township of Ear Falls. (2019). *Strategic Plan.* Ear Falls: The Township of Ear Falls. Retrieved from https://ear-falls.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/STRATEGIC-PLAN-2019-2022-v3-final-1.pdf

Thompson, J. (2018, December 17). *Why the people of Grassy Narrows are still eating the fish*. Retrieved from TVO Today: https://www.tvo.org/article/why-the-people-of-grassy-narrows-are-still-eating-the-fish

Tougas, M. (2025, March 18). Operations Manager and Acting Director - Moozoons Childcare Centre . (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

Township of Ear Falls . (2021a). *Ear Falls Broadband Study.* Township of Ear Falls. Retrieved April 25, 2022, from https://ear-falls.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Ear_Falls_Broadband_Study_Final-10MB-1.pdf

Township of Ear Falls. (2016b). *Location.* Retrieved from https://ear-falls.com/visitors/location/

Township of Ear Falls. (2020). *Parks and Playground Plan 2019 - 2022.* Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from https://ear-falls.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Parks-and-Playgrounds-Plan-Update-March-3-2020.pdf

Township of Ear Falls. (2021a). *Ear Falls Broadband Study.* Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Ear_Falls_Broadband_Study_Final-10MB-1.pdf

Township of Ear Falls. (2022a). *Accomodations and Restaurants*. Retrieved 04 27, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/resource-category/accommodations-and-restaurants/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022b). *Activities.* Retrieved 04 26, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/visitors/to-do-in-ear-falls/activities/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022d). *Cemetery*. Retrieved 04 12, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/cemetery/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022e). *Clubs*. Retrieved 04 12, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/clubs/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022f). *Community Garden*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/community-garden/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022g). *Education Services*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/education-services/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022h). *Emergency Services*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/emergency-services/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022i). *Firefly*. Retrieved 06 03, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/resources/firefly/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022j). *Health Services*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/health-services/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022k). *Municipal Office*. Retrieved 04 13, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/municipal-office/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022m). *Recreation Services*. Retrieved 04 25, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/recreation-services/

Township of Ear Falls. (2022n). *Waste Collection and Disposal Site Services*. Retrieved 04 13, 2022, from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/residents/community-services/waste-services/

Township of Ear Falls. (n.d. - a). *Business Directory*. Retrieved from The Township of Ear Falls: https://ear-falls.com/resource-category/business-directory/

Vachon, T. (2025, March 21). Principal - Red Lake District High School . (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

Vecsey. (1987). *Traditional Ojibwa religion and its historical changes.* American Philosophical Society.

Wesley, J. (2025, March 27). Kenora Sexual Assault Centre – Executive Director. (C. Gougain, Interviewer)

West Red Lake Gold. (2023). *Madsen Mine*. Retrieved from West Red Lake Gold Mines: https://westredlakegold.com/madsen-mine/

West Red Lake Gold Mines. (n.d.). *Fully Permitted Gold Mine in Canada's High Grade Gold District*. Retrieved April 15, 2025, from Madsen Mine: https://westredlakegold.com/madsen-mine/

Wigle, G. (2023). Manager of Public Service and Operations, Township of Ear Falls. (I. Laplante, Interviewer)

WSP Canada Inc. (2024). *Great Bear Project Information for Navigable Waters Assessment.* Great Bear resources.

Zappe, C., & Dowsley, M. (2025). *Response Memo to Impact Statement - Indigenous Knowledge - Typical Requirements from SLR.* Pathfinder Consultants.

Zolo. (2023). *Red Lake Real Estate*. Retrieved from https://www.zolo.ca/red-lake-real-estate#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20average%20home%20price%20in%20Red,Lake%2C%20ON%20has%20a%20listing%20price%20of%20%24272%2C000.

Health References

Aalhus, M., Fumerton, R., Oke, B. 2018. The social determinants of health impacts of resource extraction and development in rural and northern communities: A summary of impacts and promising practices for assessment and monitoring. Northern Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Ali, S., Stranges, S., Le, B. 2025. Social and health determinants of wait times for primary care in Canada. Canadian Family Physician Medecin De Famille Canadien. 71(10), 646–655. https://doi.org/10.46747/cfp.7110646

Assembly of First Nations. 2023. Special Chiefs Assembly - Water Stewardship. Accessed February 11, 2026 from: https://afn.ca/environment/water-stewardship/.

Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (ANA). 2024. The Great Bear Gold Mine Project. Grassy Narrows: Grassy Narrows First Nation. Accessed February 22 2026 from https://registrydocumentsprd.blob.core.windows.net/commentsblob/project-85832/comment-61892/2024%2003%2006%20ANA%20Letter%20to%20Kinross,%20MINES,%20IAAC%20Signed%204870-3547-9979__%204.pdf

Awume, O., Patrick, R., Baijius, W. 2020. Indigenous Perspectives on Water Security in Saskatchewan, Canada. Water. 12. https://doi.org/10.3390/w12030810

Banerji, A., Pelletier, V. A., Haring, R., Irvine, J., Bresnahan, A., Lavallee, B. 2023. Food insecurity and its consequences in indigenous children and youth in Canada. PLOS Global Public Health. 3, e0002406. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0002406

Baruah, B., Biskupski-Mujanovic, S. 2023. Indigenous women's employment in natural resource industries in Canada: Patterns, barriers and opportunities. Women's Studies International Forum. 99, 102784. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277539523001115?via%3Dihub

Batal, M., Chan, H. M., Fediuk, K., Ing, A., Berti, P., Sadik, T., Johnson-Down, L. 2021a. Importance of the traditional food systems for First Nations adults living on reserves in Canada. Canadian Journal of Public Health. 112, 20–28. https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-020-00353-y

Batal, M., Chan, H. M., Ing, A., Fediuk, K., Berti, P., Sadik, T., Johnson-Down, L. 2021b. Nutrient adequacy and nutrient sources of adults among ninety-two First Nations communities across Canada.

Behndig, A. F., Larsson, N., Brown, J. L., Stenfors, N., Helleday, R., Duggan, S. T., Dove, R. E., Wilson, S. J., Sandstrom, T., Kelly, F. J., Mudway, I. S., Blomberg, A. 2011. Proinflammatory doses of diesel exhaust in healthy subjects fail to elicit equivalent or augmented airway inflammation in subjects with asthma. Thorax. 66(1), 12–19. https://doi.org/10.1136/thx.2010.

Behndig, A. F., Mudway, I. S., Brown, J. L., Stenfors, N., Helleday, R., Duggan, S. T., Wilson, S. J., Boman, C., Cassee, F. R., Frew, A. J., Kelly, F. J., Sandström, T., Blomberg, A. 2006. Airway antioxidant and inflammatory responses to diesel exhaust exposure in healthy humans. The European Respiratory Journal. 27(2), 359–365. https://doi.org/10.1183/09031936.06.00136904

CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health). n.d. Mental Illness and Addiction: Facts and Statistics. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Accessed February 11, 2026 from: https://www.camh.ca/en/driving-change/the-crisis-is-real/mental-health-statistics.

Candolin, U. 2024. Coping with light pollution in urban environments: Patterns and challenges. iScience. 27. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2024.109244

Cao, M., Xu, T., Yin, D. 2023. Understanding light pollution: Recent advances on its health threats and regulations.

Carrier, L., Shin, H. D., Rothfus, M. A., Curran, J. A. 2022. Protective and resilience factors to promote mental health among Indigenous youth in Canada: a scoping review protocol. BMJ Open. 12, e049285. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2021-049285

CCME (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment). 2025. Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards Handbook. Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. ISBN 978-1-77202-092-2.

Chan, L., Receveur, O., Batal, M., David, W., Schwartz, H., Ing, A., Fediuk, K., Black, A., Tikhonov, C. 2014. First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES): Results from Ontario (2011/2012). Ottawa: University of Ottawa.

Chepesiuk, R. 2009. Missing the dark: health effects of light pollution. Environmental health perspectives.

CMA (Canadian Medical Association). 2026. Indigenous Health. Accessed December 20, 2025 from: https://www.cma.ca/our-focus/indigenous-health

CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association). 2021. Fast Facts about Mental Health and Mental Illness. Accessed February 25, 2026 from: https://cmha.ca/brochure/fast-facts-about-mental-illness/.

CPHA (Canadian Public Health Association). n.d. A Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) and Public Health in Canada. Canadian Public Health Association. Accessed December 30, 2025 from: https://www.cpha.ca/big.

Darin-Mattson, A., Fors, S., & Kåreholt, 2017. Different indicators of socioeconomic status and their relative importance as determinants of health in old age. International Journal Equity Health, 16(173). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-017-0670-3

Department of Justice. 2022. Policy on Gender-Based Analysis Plus. Government of Canada. Accessed January 23, 2026 from: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/abt-apd/pgbap-pacsp.html.

Domingo, A., Spiegel, J., Guhn, M., Wittman, H., Ing, A., Sadik, T., Fediuk, K., Tikhonov, C., Schwartz, H., Chan, H. M., Batal, M. 2021. Predictors of household food insecurity and relationship with obesity in First Nations communities in British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta and Ontario. Public Health Nutrition. 24, 1021–1033. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1368980019004889

Earle, L. 2011a. Traditional Aboriginal Diets and Health. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH).

Earle, L. 2011b. Understanding chronic disease and the role for traditional approaches in Aboriginal communities. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health.

Employment and Social Development Canada. 2022. Disability Inclusion and Accessibility infographic – 2021. Government of Canada. Accessed February 24, 2026 from: https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/esdc-transition-binders/inclusion-2021-infographic.html.

FNHA. n.d. First Nations Traditional Foods Fact Sheets.

Fustic, M., Guay, E., Khalid, A., & Hossain, S. 2019. Housing Instability, Social Disadvantage and Domestic Violence: The Case of Parc-Extension. June 17, 2019. Accessed from Homeless Hub: https://homelesshub.ca/blog/2019/housing-instability-social-disadvantage-and-domestic-violence-case-parc-extension/

Gibson, G., Yung, K., Chisholm, L., Quinn, H., Lake Babine Nation and Nak'azdi Whut'en. 2017. Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps: Promoting Healthy Communities in Settings of Industrial Change. Victoria, B.C.: The Firelight Group.

GNFN ANA (Grassy Narrows First Nation Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek). 2025. History - Grassy Narrows First Nation Community Website. Grassy Narrows First Nation Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (GNFN ANA). Accessed February 19, 2026 from: https://gnfn.ca/history/.

GNLPT (Grassy Narrows Land Protection Team). 2025. Preliminary comments on fish consumption and risk assessment. November 28, 2025.

Gulliford, M., Figueroa-Munoz, J., Morgan, M., Hughes, D., Gibson, B., Beech, R., & Hudson, M. 2002. What does “access to health care” mean? Journal of Health Services Research & Policy, 7(3), 186–188. https://doi.org/10.1258/135581902760082517

Health Canada. 2025. Federal Contaminated Site Risk Assessment in Canada: Toxicological Reference Values (TRVs), Version 4.0.

Health Canada. 2024a. Interim Guidance: Health Impact Assessment of Designated Projects under the Impact Assessment Act. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch.

Health Canada. 2024b. Federal Contaminated Sites Risk Assessment in Canada: Guidance on Human Health Preliminary Quantitative Risk Assessment (PQRA). Version 4.0. March 2024.

Health Canada. 2024c. Noise and sound: Effects on mental health and well-being. Government of Canada. Accessed October 6, 2025 from: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/noise-your-health/effects-mental-health-well-being.html.

Health Canada. 2023a. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Human Health Risk Assessment. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. H129-54-6-2023-eng.pdf

Health Canada. 2023b. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Air Quality. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. H129-54-1-2023-eng.pdf

Health Canada. 2023c. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Country Foods. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. H129-54-5-2023-eng.pdf

Health Canada. 2023d. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Drinking and Recreational Water Quality. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. H129-54-2-2023-eng.pdf

Health Canada. 2023e. Guidance for Evaluating Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Noise. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. December 2023. ISBN: 978-0-660-68828-2

Health Canada. 2016. Human Health Risk Assessment for Diesel Exhaust. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada. March 2016. ISBN: 978-0-660-04555-9

IAAC. 2020. Analyzing Health, Social and Economic Effects under the Impact Assessment Act. 27 November 2020. Government of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

IAAC and Narratives Inc. n.d. Impact Assessment & MMIWG Calls for Justice. Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC), Government of Canada.

Kenora District Services Board. 2021. Homelessness Enumeration. Accessed from https://kdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/KDSB-2021-District-Level-Enumeration-Report.pdf

Kinross. 2025. Kinross Gold Corporation. Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. February 12, 2025. https://s204.q4cdn.com/896213035/files/doc_downloads/2025/KGC-Code-of-Business-Conduct-and-Ethics-12-February-2025.pdf

Kuhnlein, H. V., Receveur, O., Chan, H. M. 2001. Traditional food systems research with Canadian Indigenous Peoples. International journal of circumpolar health, 60(2), 112-122. PMID: 11507960

Lewis, D., James, S., Thom, O., Doxtator, S., Nahmahbin-Hiltz, M., Beacock, E. 2021. Intangible Impacts More-than-mental health: Indigenous identity, culture, community and relationship with land are integral to Indigenous wellbeing | Training Manual. Western University. Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC).

Lines, L.-A., Yellowknives Dene First Nation Wellness Division, Jardine, C. G. 2019. Connection to the land as a youth-identified social determinant of Indigenous Peoples' health. BMC public health. 19, 176. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-6383-8

Loppie, C., Wein, F. 2022. Understanding Indigenous Health Inequities through a Social Determinants Model. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH).

Mamow Ahyamowen. 2020. Learning from Our Ancestors: Mortality Experience of First Nations in Northern Ontario March 2020. Mamow Ahyamowen | Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority.

Mancini, L., Sala, S. 2018. Social impact assessment in the mining sector: Review and comparison of indicators frameworks. Resources Policy. 57, 98–111. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2018.02.002

Manifold Data Mining (Manifold). 2024. Access To Emergency Healthcare: Communities With Limited Hospital Access | Manifold Data Mining. Manifold Data Mining. Accessed February 24, 2026 from: https://manifolddatamining.com/access-to-emergency-healthcare-communities-with-limited-hospital-access/.

Marmot, M. 2005. Social determinants of health inequalities. The Lancet. 365, 1099–1044.

Martinez-Cruz, T. E., Adelman, L., Castañeda-Quintana, L., Mejía-Montalvo, D. 2024. Water is more than a resource: Indigenous Peoples and the right to water. Social Sciences & Humanities Open. 10, 100978. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2024.100978

Marushka, L., Batal, M., Tikhonov, C., Sadik, T., Schwartz, H., Ing, A., Fediuk, K., Chan, H. M. 2021. Importance of fish for food and nutrition security among First Nations in Canada. Canadian Journal of Public Health, 112(1), 64–80.

Mazereeuw, M. V., Withrow, D. R., Nishri, E. D., Tjepkema, M., Vides, E., Marrett, L. D. 2018. Cancer incidence and survival among Métis adults in Canada: results from the Canadian census follow-up cohort (1992-2009). CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association journal = journal de l'Association medicale canadienne. 190, E320–E326. https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.170272

McCartan, J., van Burgel, E., McArthur, I., Testa, S., Thurn, E., Funston, S., Kho, A., McMahon, E., Brimblecombe, J. 2020. Traditional Food Energy Intake among Indigenous Populations in Select High-Income Settler-Colonized Countries: A Systematic Literature Review.

McGregor, D. 2008. Traditional Knowledge and Water Governance: The ethic of responsibility. Canadian Women Studies. 26.

Mergler, D., Philibert, A., Fillion, M., Da Silva, J. 2023. The Contribution across Three Generations of Mercury Exposure to Attempted Suicide among Children and Youth in

Grassy Narrows First Nation, Canada: An Intergenerational Analysis. Environmental Health Perspectives. 131, 77001.

Mergler, D., DaSilva, J., Fillion, M., and Philibert, A. 2019. The legacy of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows First Nation. First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Forum. Ottawa. November 5, 2019. https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Judy-DaSilva-and-Myriam-Fillion-Presentation-Compressed.pdf

Métis National Council. 2025. The Métis Vision of Health. Métis National Council.

Métis National Council. 2022. Cancer and Tobacco Risk Factors for Métis People in Canada. Métis National Council.

MNP LLP. 2020. Municipality of Red Lake and Township of Ear Falls 2020 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Summary of Key Statistics, Stakeholder and Public Feedback – Detailed. Municipality of Red Lake. Township of Ear Falls.

Mudway, I. S., Stenfors, N., Duggan, S. T., Roxborough, H., Zielinski, H., Marklund, S. L., Blomberg, A., Frew, A. J., Sandström, T., Kelly, F. J. 2004. An in vitro and in vivo investigation of the effects of diesel exhaust on human airway lining fluid antioxidants. Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics. 423(1), 200–212. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.abb.2003.12.018

Myette, E., Riva, M. 2021. Surveying the complex social-ecological pathways between resource extraction and Indigenous Peoples' health in Canada: A scoping review with a realist perspective. The Extractive Industries and Society. 8, 100901. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2021.100901

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. 2019. Reclaiming Power and Place. The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Volume 1a. National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

NCCIH (National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health). 2020. Economic development as a social determinant of First Nations, Inuit and Métis health. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. ISBN (Online): 978-1-988862-15-6.

NCCIH. 2019. Access to health services as a social determinant of First Nations, Inuit and Métis health. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. ISBN: 978-1-77368-212-9.

NCCIH. 2016. Culture and Language as a Social Determinants of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Health. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health.

Ninomiya, M. E. M., Burns, N., Pollock, N. J., Green, N. T. G., Martin, J., Linton, J., Rand, J. R., Brubacher, L. J., Keeling, A., Latta, A. 2023. Indigenous communities and the mental health impacts of land dispossession related to industrial resource development: a systematic review. The Lancet Planetary Health. 7, e501–e517. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(23)00079-7

NWHU. 2024. The Real Cost of Eating Well in Northwestern Ontario. Report Summary and Recommendations, 2022. Northwestern Health Unit. Accessed January 22, 2026 from: https://www.nwhu.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/The-Real-Cost-of-Eating-Well-in-Northwestern-Ontario.pdf

NWHU and Yusuf, A. 2023. Report on Child and Youth Mental Health Outcomes within the Northwestern Health Unit. NWHU.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023a. Overall Health Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Mortality-Overall-Health/Self-Reported-Overall-Health

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023b. Smoking Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Substance-Use/Smoking-Status

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023c. Alcohol Use Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Substance-Use/Alcohol-Use

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023d. Nutrition and Health Weights Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-Healthy-Weights

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023e. Chronic Disease Incidence and Prevalence Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Chronic-Disease/Chronic-Disease-Incidence-Prevalence

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023f. Chronic Disease Hospitalization Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Chronic-Disease/Chronic-Disease-Hospitalization

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023g. Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario: HIV. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Reportable-Disease-Trends-Annually#/28

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023h. Chronic Health Problems Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Chronic-Disease/Chronic-Health-Problems

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023i. Cancer Incidence Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Chronic-Disease/Cancer-Incidence

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2023j. Household Food Insecurity Snapshot. Retrieved September 2024, from Public Health Ontario: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Equity/Household-Food-Insecurity

Oke, B., Wilson, G. N. 2024. Health service impacts and extractive industries: Experiences from health service leaders operating in a resource-dependent region. The Extractive Industries and Society. 19, 101475. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2024.101475

Parker, S., Fruhen, C., Burton, S., McQuade, J., Loveny, M., Griffin, A., Page, T., Chikritzhs, S., Crock, K., Jorritsma, Esomnd, J. 2018. Impact of FIFO work arrangements on the mental health and wellbeing of FIFO workers. Centre for Transformative Work Design.

Parsons, H. 2022. More than Just a Number: Addressing the Homelessness, Addiction, and Mental Health Crisis in the North. Research. Report By: Holly Parsons. Northern Policy Institute.

PDAC (Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada). 2022. Social Impact Study: Exploring the Social Impact of Mineral Development. Prepared by SOOP Strategies, for Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada

PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada). 2024. Inequalities in mental health, well-being and wellness in Canada | Social determinants and changes over time. Public Health Agency of Canada.

PHAC. 2018. Key Health Inequalities in Canada: A National Portrait. Government of Canada. August 2018. ISBN: 978-0-660-27393-8. Pub.: 180210

PHAC. 2011. What determines health? Public Health Agency of Canada. Government of Canada. Ottawa, Ontario. Accessed April 25, 2025 from: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phsp/determinants/index-eng.php

Riedl MA, Diaz-Sanchez D, Linn WS, Gong H Jr, Clark KW, Effros RM, Miller JW, Cocker DR, Berhane KT. 2012. Allergic inflammation in the human lower respiratory tract affected by diesel exhaust.

Ruddell, R., and Ray, H.A. 2018. Profiling the life course of resource-based boomtowns: A key step in crime prevention. Journal of Community Safety & Well-Being. Vol 3, No.2, October 2018. Accessed December 2025: https://www.journalcswb.ca/index.php/cswb/article/download/78/154?inline=1

Salerno, T., Tam, J., Page, J., Gosling, S., Firelight Research Inc. 2021. Indigenous Mental Wellness and Major Project Development: Guidance for Impact Assessment Professionals and Indigenous Communities. Final Report. Firelight Research Inc.

Samson, C., Pretty, J. 2006. Environmental and health benefits of hunting lifestyles and diets for the Innu of Labrador. Food Policy, 31:528–53.

Shafiee, M., Keshavarz, P., Lane, G., Pahwa, P., Szafron, M., Jennings, D., Vatanparast, H. 2022. Food Security Status of Indigenous Peoples in Canada According to the 4 Pillars of Food Security: A Scoping Review. Advances in nutrition (Bethesda, Md.), 13(6), 2537–2558.

Shandro, J., Jokinen, L., Stockwell, A., Mazzei, F., Winkler, M. S. 2017. Risks and Impacts to First Nation Health and the Mount Polley Mine Tailings Dam Failure. International Journal of Indigenous Health. 12, 84–102. https://doi.org/10.18357/ijih122201717786

Shandro, J. A., Veiga, M. M., Shoveller, J., Scoble, M., Koehoorn, M. 2011. Perspectives on community health issues and the mining boom–bust cycle. Resources Policy. 36, 178–186. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2011.01.004

Simpson, L., DaSilva, J., Riffel, B., Sellers, P. 2009. The Responsibilities of Women: Confronting Environmental Contamination in the Traditional Territories of Asubpeechoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows) and Wabauskang First Nation. International Journal of Indigenous Health. 4, 6–13.

Skinner, K., Hanning, R. M., Desjardins, E., Tsuji, L. J. 2013. Giving voice to food insecurity in a remote indigenous community in subarctic Ontario, Canada: traditional ways, ways to cope, ways forward. BMC Public Health. 13, 427. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-13-427

SLFNHA (Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority). 2025. Kayamowemakak Ahkosiwin Tipacimowin Cancer in Sioux Lookout area First Nations | 2006-2022. Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority.

SLFNHA. 2024a. The Cost of Eating Well in Kiiwetinoong. Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority (SLFNHA).

SLFNHA. 2024b. Anishininiiwug Ajimoowin Animisewiinan Mental Health and Substance Use Report. Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority.

SLFNHA. 2019a. Health Outcomes for Our People. Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority (SLFNHA).

SLFNHA. 2019b. SLFNHA Food Security Environmental Scan. Prepared by: hme Enterprises. Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority.

SLFNHA. 2018. Our Children and Youth Health Report | Niiniicaniisiinanak Miina Ooskatiisak | Miinooayawiin Tiipaciimoowiin. Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority (SLFNHA).

SLFNHA. 2016. Community Engagement Summary Report for January 2015 - May 2016. Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA).

Statistics Canada. 2024a. The Daily — Health care access and experiences among Indigenous people, 2024. Government of Canada. Accessed January 12, 2026 from: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/241104/dq241104a-eng.htm.

Statistics Canada. 2024b. Health Reports: Household food insecurity among persons with disabilities in Canada: Findings from the 2021 Canadian Income Survey. By: Gupta, S., Fernandes, D., Aitken, N., Greenberg, L. Government of Canada. DOI: https://www.doi.org/10.25318/82-003-x202400800002-eng

Statistics Canada. 2023. Red Lake, MU [Census subdivision] (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa, ON, Canada. Accessed January 29, 2026 from: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E.

Statistics Canada. 2022. Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021. Government of Canada. Accessed January 2, 2026 from: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/98-500/014/98-500-x2021014-eng.cfm.

Statistics Canada. 2019. Mental health care needs, 2018. Government of Canada. Accessed February 26, 2026 from: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-625-x/2019001/article/00011-eng.htm.

Statistics Canada. 2017. Red Lake, MU [Census subdivision], Ontario and Kenora, DIS [Census division], Ontario (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Stenfors, N., Nordenhäll, C., Salvi, S. S., Mudway, I., Söderberg, M., Blomberg, A., Helleday, R., Levin, J. O., Holgate, S. T., Kelly, F. J., Frew, A. J., Sandström, T. 2004. Different airway inflammatory responses in asthmatic and healthy humans exposed to diesel. The

European Respiratory Journal. 23, 82–86. https://doi.org/10.1183/09031936.03.00004603

Tarasuk, V., Fafard St-Germain, A.-A., Mitchell, A. 2019. Geographic and socio-demographic predictors of household food insecurity in Canada, 2011–12. BMC Public Health. 19(1), 12. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-6344-2

Task Group on Mental Wellness. 2021. Substance Use Treatment and Land-Based Healing. National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) | Thunderbird Partnership Foundation.

Tobias, J. K., Richmond, C. A. M. 2014. “That land means everything to us as Anishinaabe….”: Environmental dispossession and resilience on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Health & Place. 29, 26–33. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2014.05.008

Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe’iyewigamig. 2020. Traditional Food Guide & Supporting Resources Mashkikiwan Miijim ~ Food Is Medicine. Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe’iyewigamig.

Wesley, J. 2025. Kenora Sexual Assault Centre – Executive Director. (C. Gougain, Interviewer). March 27, 2025.

Wheatley, M. C. 2024. Social Determinants of Mental Health: Challenges and Interventions. Premier Journal of Public Health.

WHO (World Health Organization). 2024. Determinants of Health. World Health Organization. Accessed February 22, 2026 from: https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/determinants-of-health

WHO. 2017. The social determinants of health. Accessed February 22, 2026 from: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

WHO. 2009. Night Noise Guidelines for Europe. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

Wong, C. S. M., Chan, W. C., Lo, K. W. Y., Chen, E. Y. H., Lam, L. C. W. 2024. Environmental stress and emotional reactivity: an exploratory experience sampling method study. Frontiers in Psychiatry. 15. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2024.1375735

Women and Gender Equality Canada. 2022. Introduction to GBA Plus. Women and Gender Equality Canada. Government of Canada. Accessed February 24, 2026 from: https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/gbaplus-course-cours-acsplus/eng/mod02/mod02_03_01a.html.

Ziso, D., Chun, O., Puglisi, M. 2022. Increasing Access to Healthy Foods through Improving Food Environment: A Review of Mixed Methods Intervention Studies with Residents of Low-Income Communities. Nutrients. 14(11), 2278. https://doi.org/10.3390/nu14112278