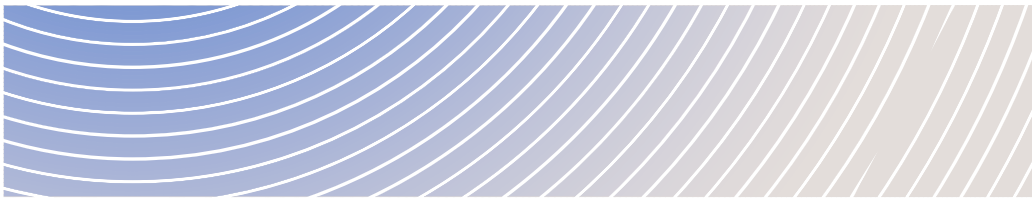




Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

# Public Participation Plan



NOVADOR GOLD MINE PROJECT

Draft version

June 4, 2024

Canada



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## 1. Introduction

On 6 May 2024, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) issued an opinion that an impact assessment is warranted for the Novador Gold Mine Project (the Project), in alignment with the Government of Canada's Statement on the Interim Administration of the *Impact Assessment Act* Pending Legislative Amendments.

The draft Public Participation Plan was developed by the Agency to set out opportunities for participation during the impact assessment process (the process), following Probe Gold Inc's decision to continue to advance the process and proceed with the Planning phase for the Project. This plan is also designed to be flexible so that the Agency can modify the approaches described in the plan in order to take account of the progress of the assessment.

For additional information on meaningful public participation, please refer to the [Framework: Public Participation Under the \*Impact Assessment Act\*](#) and the [Guidance: Public Participation under the \*Impact Assessment Act\*](#). A separate [Overview: Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) is also available. It describes opportunities for Indigenous peoples engagement and proposed consultation approaches.

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## 2. Project description

Probe Gold Inc. is proposing the construction and operation of a new open-pit and underground gold mine, located about 25 kilometres east of Val-d'Or, in Quebec. As proposed, the Novador Gold Mine Project would have a maximum ore production capacity of 24,000 tonnes per day with an estimated lifespan of 12.5 years. The project would include an ore processing plant, access roads, waste rock and overburden piles, a tailings storage facility and an electrical distribution substation.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Project or to view the information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website (the Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/86020?culture=en-CA>

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## 3. Objectives of public participation

The Public Participation Plan was developed through consultations during the Planning phase and outlines the various ways a participant may provide input and engage in the process, including for those most likely affected by the Project. The following objectives for public participation reflect the views heard during the Planning phase:

- Members of the public who wish to participate in the impact assessment have the opportunity to do so in an informed manner, with the necessary information;
- The Agency put in place conditions conducive to the participation of a range of people, including youth, women, seniors and groups with diverse identity profiles;

- The public participates from the outset. Its participation continues on a regular and frequent basis, at each key stage of the process;
- The public participates in the development or revision of key documents, including the Plan, the [Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#) (Tailored Guidelines), the proponent's Summary of the Impact Statement, the Impact Assessment Report and Potential Conditions;
- The Agency informs the proponent of concerns raised by interested parties; and
- Public views heard throughout the process are documented and inform decision-making.

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## 4. Identification of participants

The appended list includes communities, organizations and other stakeholders identified by the Agency as potentially interested in the project, or who have expressed an interest in participating in the project's impact assessment.

More specifically, the Agency has drawn up this list taking into account communities, organizations and other stakeholders:

- who submitted comments during the first comment period;
- who have expressed an interest in the assessment of the Novador Gold Mine Project, in Val-d'Or and Senneterre;
- active in the project area (Vallée-de-l'Or RCM, Abitibi-Témiscamingue) who may have an interest in the process and the project.

Participants on the distribution list will receive updates and notices about the Project's impact assessment as the process unfolds. If you or your organization would like to be added to this list, please contact us directly at the project email address to [Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca). Individual names will not be published.

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## 5. Public participation tools

The Agency has identified a series of potential tools to ensure meaningful public participation in the process, including:

- Project-specific email address to contact the Agency: [Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca);
- Direct telephone line to contact the Agency to facilitate access to information and receipt of public comments: 418-649-6444;
- Public consultation periods, including information sessions, at key stages of the process;
- Opportunities to apply for funding under the Participant Funding Program to support the public in participating in the impact assessment process: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/funding-programs/participant-funding-program.html>;



- Postcards to promote the Registry and the project;
- [Virtual training on the impact assessment process](#) and how to participate effectively during the process;
- Targeted meetings, in person or virtual, with environmental and community organizations and groups (Gender-based Analysis Plus);
- Public notices and notices on the Registry;
- Social media updates (e.g., the Agency's Twitter feed: @IAAC\_AEIC #Novador) that provide information and updates on the impact assessment process, announce public participation opportunities, and funding opportunities;
- Informative e-mails sent to those on the distribution list created for the project;
- Community radio announcements; and
- Publication in local newspapers.

**The Agency would like to know your opinion:**

- We would like to hear what you think about the communication tools listed above. Do you have any preferences or suggestions for new tools to facilitate your participation? Write to us at : [Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca);
- Tell us about any economic, technical, linguistic or other obstacles that may restrict or prevent you, your community or your organization from participating in the assessment process for this project.

## 6. Public participation activities and approach

The following table shows, for each of the upcoming phases in the process, the engagement activities led by the Agency and those planned by the proponent (where possible). The table describes the objectives of each phase and the activities that would be used.

**Table 6.1 – Table of Public Participation Approaches and Activities**

Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
Phase 1: Planning			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support understanding of the Project and increase public awareness of the impact assessment process and meaningful participation.</b></li> <li>• <b>Provide an opportunity for the public to apply for funding to support participation during the Planning Phase.</b></li> <li>• <b>Obtain comments and feedback on documents related to the Planning Phase such as the Summary of the Initial Project Description and the draft versions of the</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency invited the public and Indigenous peoples to a first public comment period to review the summary of the Initial Project Description and to provide comments on the Project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 27 to December 17, 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices on the Registry</li> <li>• Online consultation period</li> <li>• Virtual information sessions</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency provided financial assistance in the form of a grant during the first comment period of the Planning phase to support participation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 30 to December 20, 2023</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency held virtual information sessions in both official languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 5 and 6, 2023</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments received during the consultation periods on the Summary of the Initial Project Description assisted the Agency in preparing a Summary of Issues, supporting the opinion regarding the need for an impact assessment and drafting the Plan and Tailored Guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing, until the Summary of Issues was sent to the proponent on January 4, 2024.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will invite the public and Indigenous peoples to a second comment period to review the draft Plan and Tailored Guidelines and to provide comments on these documents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 4 to July 4, 2024</li> </ul>	

Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
<p><b>Plan and the Tailored Guidelines.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Notify public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the Summary of the Initial Project Description and the draft version of the Plan and Tailored Guidelines.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will hold virtual information sessions in both official languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 18 (French and English) and June 19 (French) 2024</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments received during the second comment period on the draft version of the Plan and Tailored Guidelines will enable the Agency to finalize them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing, until the end of the Planning Phase</li> </ul>	
Phase 2: Impact Statement			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Raise awareness among the public about the impact assessment process and how to participate in a meaningful way.</b></li> <li>• <b>Engage the public by giving them the opportunity to participate and comment on the Summary of the impact statement of the proponent.</b></li> <li>• <b>Encourage the public to share information with the proponent to inform the development of the proponent’s Impact Statement.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will post the Impact Statement Summary on the Registry. The Agency will seek public comment on this document.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultation, which will last approximately 30 days, will begin following the posting of the Impact Statement summary on the Registry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online consultation period.</li> <li>• Notices in the Registry, social media, newspapers and on the radio.</li> <li>• In-person and/or virtual community meetings, with the possible participation of the proponent.</li> <li>• Email and telephone.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will ask the proponent to present the impact assessment to stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the 30-day consultation period on the Impact Statement summary.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will inform the public of the availability of funding to support public participation in the Impact Statement phase. The public is encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Programs office for information (See Section 7 for contact information).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement of funding availability to be determined.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing, as required.</li> </ul>	

Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the proponent's Summary of the Impact Statement information and address any outstanding issues or deficiencies raised by the public.</li> <li>Notify the public of key steps in the process such as receipt of the Impact Statement and the comment period on the Summary of the Impact Statement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates on the project impact assessment process will be provided by email to stakeholders on the distribution list.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing, as required.</li> </ul>	
Phase 3: Impact Assessment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness among the public about the impact assessment process and how to participate in a meaningful way.</li> <li>Validate information on the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and any associated Potential Conditions, address outstanding issues or deficiencies raised by the public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Agency will post the draft Impact Assessment Report and any associated Potential Conditions on the Registry. The Agency will seek public comments on these documents.</li> <li>The Agency will hold community meetings for the public on the draft Impact Assessment Report and any associated Potential Conditions. The meetings will include question and answer sessions. The Agency will also be able to conduct information sessions to target groups as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultation, which will last approximately 30 days, will begin following the posting of the Impact Assessment Report and Potential Conditions on the Registry.</li> <li>Following the posting of the draft Impact Assessment Report and Potential Conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online consultation period.</li> <li>Notices in the Registry, social media, newspapers and on the radio.</li> <li>In-person and virtual presentations.</li> <li>Email and telephone.</li> </ul>



Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Notify public of key steps in the process such as the comment period on the draft Impact Assessment Report and draft potential conditions.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will inform the public of the availability of funding to support public participation in the Impact Assessment phase. The public is encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Programs office for information (See Section 7 for contact information).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement of funding availability to be determined.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing, as required.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on the project impact assessment process will be provided by email to stakeholders on the distribution list.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing, as required.</li> </ul>	
Phase 4: Decision-making			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inform the proponent and the public of the decision of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will post the following on the Registry:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ the final Impact Assessment Report;</li> <li>◦ the Minister's Decision Statement, including any conditions associated with the project and the rationale for the decision.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the Minister's Decision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices in the Registry, social media, newspapers and on the radio.</li> <li>• Emails and telephone.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing, as required.</li> </ul>	
Phase 5: Post-decision (if the project is approved)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inform the public about follow-up and monitoring activities and</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency will conduct compliance and enforcement activities consistent with the <a href="#">Compliance Promotion and Enforcement Policy</a> and will post the results of follow-up and monitoring activities on the Registry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the timeline set out in the Decision Statement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up results posted on the Registry.</li> </ul>



Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
<p><b>the results of the follow-up program activities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Inform participants of possible changes to the Decision Statement and request comments on the proposed changes.</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If the proponent submits a change to the Project and the Agency determines that it would alter the Decision Statement, the Agency will post a notice inviting the public to comment on the proposed change analysis report and on potential changes to the Decision Statement.</li><li>Where appropriate, the Agency will then post a Notice of decision amending the Decision Statement, along with reasons for the changes.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If applicable, the consultation would be for 30 days following posting on the Registry.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Online consultation period, if applicable.</li><li>Notices on the Registry, if applicable.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ongoing, as required.</li></ul>	



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## 7. Participant Funding

Funding is available to support public participation in the process. For information on activities eligible for funding, or to apply for funding, please consult the Agency Funding Programs information at <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>.

To contact the Financial Aid Programs Office:

Telephone: 1-866-582-1884

Email: [fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

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## 8. How to submit comments

You can submit comments at any time during the impact assessment process by using the “Submit a Comment” function on the Registry website’s Project page (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/86020/participation>). Attachments can also be uploaded using this function.

If you have any difficulties with the submission process, please contact the Agency, using the contact information below. Comments may also be submitted by email to [Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

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

If you have questions or need information, please contact:

### **Novador Gold Mine Project**

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Quebec Regional Office

901-1550, avenue d’Estimauville

Québec (Québec) G1J 0C1

Téléphone : 418-649-6444

Email : [Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Novador@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

# Appendix

## Public Participation Distribution List

### Government entities

- Direction de santé publique, CISSS de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

### Municipalities

- Conseil municipal - Val-d'Or
- Conseil municipal- Senneterre
- Municipalité de la Paroisse de Senneterre
- MRC : La Vallée-de-l'Or
- Ville de Senneterre
- Ville de Val-d'Or

### Mining industry

- Association de l'exploration minière du Québec

### Environment

- Action Boréal
- Association québécoise des médecins pour l'environnement (AQME)
- Coalition Pour que le Québec ait Meilleure MINE
- Conseil régional en environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CREAT)
- Eau secours
- Équiterre
- GÉCO - Groupe-ÉCOcitoyen
- MiningWatch Canada
- Nature Québec
- Organisme de bassin versant de l'Abitibi-Jamésie (OBVAJ)
- Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue (OBVT)
- Société pour vaincre la pollution
- Société de l'eau souterraine de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (SESAT)
- Regroupement Vigilance Mines de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (REVIMAT)

### **Socio-economic development**

- Association des femmes d’Affaires de la Vallée-de-l’Or (FAVO)
- Carrefour jeunesse-emploi d’Abitibi-Est
- Chambre de commerce de Val-D’Or
- Coopérative de développement régional - Lanaudière et Abitibi-Témiscamingue / Nord-du-Québec
- Corporation Rues principales
- Corporation de développement communautaire Universeau
- Corporation de développement économique de Senneterre
- Femmessor, bureau de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue

### **Research and education**

- Centre de formation professionnelle Val-d'Or
- Commission de développement des ressources humaines des Premières Nations du Québec
- École d’études autochtones (UQAT)
- Institut de recherche en mines et en environnement UQAT
- Institut de recherche sur les forêts UQAT
- Regroupement d’éducation populaire de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue (RÉPAT)

### **Social organizations**

- Association chasse et pêche de Val-d’Or (ACPVD)
- Association des locataires de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue (ALOCAT)
- Association Québécoise de défense des droits des Personnes Retraitées et préretraitées, AQDR section Val-d’Or
- CALACS l’étoile du nord
- Centre de Bénévolat de la Vallée-de-l’Or
- Centre de prévention du suicide de Senneterre
- Centre d’amitié autochtone de Senneterre
- Centre d’amitié autochtone de Val-d’Or Centre la Mésange
- Centre la Mésange
- Club Chasse et pêche de Senneterre
- Club de Motoneige Lions de Senneterre
- Club Motoneige Val-d’Or inc.
- Club de ski de fond Senneterre inc.
- Coalition d'aide à la diversité sexuelle de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue



- Conseil québécois LGBT (CQ-LGBT)
- Fédération 19 – Cercle de fermières (Les) Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Femmes Autochtones du Québec
- Fierté Val-d'Or
- La Mosaïque interculturelle
- La Piaule de Val-d'Or
- Maison de la Famille de Val-d'Or
- Maison de la Famille de Senneterre
- Maison des jeunes – L'Énergiteck
- Mères au front – Val-d'Or
- Ressource pour personnes handicapées Abitibi-T./Nord-du-Québec
- Regroupement de femmes de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Regroupement des organismes communautaires (ROC) de la Vallée-de-l'Or
- Société du loisir ornithologique de l'Abitibi et du Témiscamingue (SLOAT)
- Senneterre à pied
- Vision-Travail Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Point de service de Val-d'Or)