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1. Introduction

On February 6th, 2025, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Cree Nation Government (CNG) signed an agreement¹ to ensure Cree involvement in the federal impact assessment process for the Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project (the Project). This agreement delegates all aspects of the impact assessment to a Joint Assessment Committee (the Committee), composed of members of IAAC and CNG. Final decision making, however, remains the responsibility of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

On May 28, 2025, IAAC, in collaboration with CNG, determined that an impact assessment is required for the Project, pursuant to Subsection 16(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

The Project is also subject to a provincial environmental impact assessment and review process in Quebec under the *Environment Quality Act* (EQA). Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), enshrined in the EQA, establishes, among other things, an environmental and social protection regime that provides for an environmental and social impact assessment and review process. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Committee (COMEV) is an advisory body, composed of members appointed by the governments of Quebec, Canada and the Cree Nation. The objective is to review preliminary information provided by a proponent whose project is located in the territory governed by the JBNQA. To this effect, the Provincial Administrator, as recommended by the COMEV, sent the proponent (Patriot Battery Metals) of the Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project, in February 2024, a directive that specifies the nature, scope and extent of the environmental impact study that the proponent must prepare for the provincial procedure. The Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee (COMEX), a joint committee composed of representatives appointed by the CNG and the Government of Quebec, will then have the mandate to review the environmental assessment of the Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project. COMEX will recommend or not to the Quebec's Deputy Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change Wildlife and Parks whether the Project should go ahead and, if so, under what conditions.

For any project subject to a federal impact assessment, the IAA requires IAAC to develop a cooperation plan for the impact assessment that outlines how IAAC will work with other jurisdictions. This Cooperation Plan outlines the Committee's approach to working with the Province and the COMEX in relation to the Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project.

This plan has been developed by the Committee to inform the public of the actions it intends to take to inform a cooperative assessment process for the Project. The Cooperation Plan is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Committee from making changes to the approach outlined in this plan to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment process.

¹ [Agreement concerning the Shaakichiuwaanaan External Federal Assessment Process Under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the *Impact Assessment Act*](#)



2. Project Description

Patriot Battery Metals is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and closure of a new hybrid open-pit and underground lithium mine located about 250 kilometers east of Radisson, Quebec. As proposed, the Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project would include an ore processing plant, a water treatment plant, a workers' camp, and storage areas for waste rock, tailings and ore. The mine would produce 49,500 tonnes of ore per day over a mine-life of about 24 years.

3. Approach to Cooperation

The federal impact assessment process and the provincial environmental impact assessment and review procedure under the JBNQA will be applied to meet federal and provincial requirements, respectively. However, in keeping with the federal government's objective of "one project, one assessment", IAAC has taken a different approach to the development of the tailored impact statement guidelines. Wherever possible, the guidelines issued by IAAC refer to the provincial directive issued by the Provincial Administrator, as recommended by COMEV, where federal requirements overlap with those of COMEV. This will allow the proponent to provide the same information to both levels of government, thus reducing duplication.

Moreover, the Committee will focus on the information required under the federal process when analyzing the information submitted by the proponent to both levels of government. The Committee will work with the Province and the COMEX to share information, wherever possible. Information will be shared to optimize exchanges with the proponent and to promote participation of Indigenous Peoples and the public in the assessment processes.

4. Information Sharing

In order to increase the efficiency of information gathering from the proponent and other stakeholders, while taking advantage of the best available scientific expertise, the Committee will work with the Province and the COMEX to ensure smooth and timely information sharing.

The Committee will respect requirements related to confidentiality and privacy, including the protection of Indigenous knowledge, when sharing or publicly posting information.

The Committee will inform the Province and the COMEX of its meetings with the proponent and share information where possible.



5. Public Participation and Participant Funding

To the extent possible, the Committee will attempt to harmonize its public participation activities with those of the COMEX.

Funding to support public participation is available. For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding please see the National Program Guidelines and application on the following page: [Funding programs - Canada.ca](https://www2012.international.gc.ca/funding-programs-fondations-2012.aspx)

For further information on public participation and engagement activities, please see the Project's Public Participation Plan on the [Registry](#).

6. Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

Crown consultation will be conducted by the Committee. This consultation is separate from the one carried out by the COMEX.

For further information on the consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities, please see the Project's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan published on the [Registry](#).

7. Decision Statement

At the conclusion of the environmental assessment and impact assessment procedures, the decisions made by the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec will be separate. The Committee will keep the Province and the COMEX informed of the timing of the decision. Where appropriate, the Committee will share information with the Province and the COMEX regarding potential conditions that may be imposed on the Proponent in relation to the Project to promote consistency and efficiency in the implementation of regulatory obligations.

8. Interpretation

The Cooperation Plan is not a legal document and does not change any existing federal, provincial, or Indigenous legislative or regulatory jurisdiction, right, power, privilege, prerogative or immunity by virtue, nor does it create any new legal powers, duties or legally binding obligations.



9. Contact Information

The IAAC office designated for administering the impact assessment of the Project is:

Quebec Regional Office
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
901-1550, avenue d'Estimauville
Québec, QC G1J 0C1
Telephone: 418-649-6444
Email: Shaakichiuwaanaan@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

If you wish to contact the CNG regarding the impact assessment of the Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project, please contact:

Eva-Maria Hanchar, Environmental analyst
Cree Nation Government
270 rue Prince
Montréal, QC H3C 2N3
Email: eva-maria.hanchar@cngov.ca
Web page: www.cngov.ca

The contact information for the COMEX, responsible for administering the environmental and social impact assessment and review process, is:

COMEX Secretariat
Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary
Marie-Guyart Building
675, boulevard René-Lévesque E, 6th Floor, Box 83
Québec, QC G1R 5V7
Telephone: 418-521-3933
E-mail: sophie.cooper@environnement.gouv.qc.ca

The contact information for the Quebec government office in charge of evaluating the Project is:

Quebec's Ministry of Environment and the Fight against Climate Change Wildlife and Parks
Marie-Guyart Building
675, Boulevard René-Lévesque E, 29th Floor
Québec, QC G1R 5V7
Telephone: 418-521-3830
Email: dges-info@environnement.gouv.qc.ca
Website: <https://www.ree.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/index.asp>