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## 6.20 Local and Regional Infrastructure and Services

Local and regional infrastructure and services were selected as a VC because of their importance to the communities in the region. The Project has the potential to increase demand for local and regional infrastructure and services if there is a Project-related increase in-migration to the local municipalities and Indigenous communities. An increase in in-migration could potentially increase the demands for educational services, housing, health and emergency services, municipal and community services, and infrastructure (including utilities) and the increased use of roads and airports.

In the absence of mitigation, the potential changes in the local and regional infrastructure and services are directly linked to another VC, and is informed by the following section:

- Local and Regional Economy (Section 6.19):** the assessment of potential effects on local and regional infrastructure and services includes changes in the capacity of educational facilities, housing, emergency services, municipal services, community resources and the transportation network due to the potential in-migration to the local municipalities during the construction, operation and closure of the Project, which may be affected by changes in the local and regional economy.



The assessment of the potential changes in the local and regional infrastructure and services from the Project are compared to relevant provincial and federal criteria (Section 6.20.1.4) and existing conditions (Section 6.20.2). The socio-economic technical support documentation is included in Appendix Q, which includes the Baseline Socio-economic Report (Appendix Q-1) and by the socio-economic baseline reports provided for the Project by CLFN, LSFN, and SFN.

### 6.20.1 Assessment Approach

The approach to the assessment of potential changes to the local and regional infrastructure and services includes a description of the relevant regulatory and policy setting, a description of the input obtained through consultation specific to this VC, the identification of criteria and indicators along with the associated rationale, a description of the spatial and temporal boundaries used for this VC along with a description of the attributes used to determine the significance of any residual adverse effects. The assessment of potential effects is supported by a description of the existing conditions for the VC (Section 6.20.2), the identification and description of applicable pathways of potential effects on the VC (Section 6.20.3) and a description of applicable mitigation measures for the VC (Section 6.20.4). An outline of the analytical methodology conducted for the assessment and the key assumptions and/or conservative approach is found in Section 6.20.5. With the application of mitigation measures to the potential effects on the VC, the residual effects are then characterized in Section 6.20.6 and the significance of the residual effects is determined in Section 6.20.7.

#### 6.20.1.1 Regulatory and Policy Setting

The effects assessment for local and regional infrastructure and services has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines (Appendix B-1 and the provincial approved Amended Terms of Reference (ToR; Appendix B-3). Concordance tables, indicating where EIS Guidelines and ToR requirements have been addressed, are provided in Appendix B-2 and B-5, respectively. Government policies, objectives, standards or guidelines most relevant to the VC are summarized below.

### **Growth Plan for Northern Ontario**

The *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario* (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2023) was originally released in 2011 and updated in 2023. It includes plans for economic development, infrastructure development, the labour market, and land use. The Plan states that its policies are intended to support growth and diversity in the region's traditional resource-based industries while encouraging new and emerging economic sectors that have the greatest potential to stimulate new jobs and opportunities and to optimize competitive advantages.

The minerals sector and mining supply and services is a specific focus of the Plan. Elements to enhance the sector and businesses include creating opportunities through research, development, and application of advanced processing and manufacturing technologies; expanding the mining supply and services industry; investing in research and innovation to improve mining industry efficiency; enabling new mining opportunities; facilitating partnerships among communities and industry to optimize community employment and benefits; and facilitating new businesses, including Indigenous businesses. The Plan also prioritizes:

- integrated industry labour market planning to increase the labour market and its skills with targeted measures for the North's Francophone and Indigenous workforce;
- supporting educational attainment, increase access to education and training, a skilled and innovative population, and a healthy population;
- supporting long-range community planning, identifying and supporting economic and service hubs, supporting regional economic planning;
- promoting strategic infrastructure investments, emphasizing a multi-modal transportation system, investing in information and communication technology, and maintaining and growing energy transmission systems; and
- supporting economic development in Indigenous communities, enhancing health status and educational attainment for Indigenous people, and collaborating with Indigenous communities in land use planning.

### **Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation**

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation is an agency of the Ontario government and supports Ontario's Growth Plan for Northern Ontario focussing on growing existing or emerging sectors, including minerals and mining supply and services. The Corporation's Community Enhancement Program is designed to contribute to building strong and resilient communities through infrastructure investments, to upgrade / repair existing assets to improve community quality of life, economic development infrastructure and strategic economic development initiatives. Its INVEST North Program is designed to increase economic growth by encouraging businesses to invest in business development opportunities. The Corporation also has programs supporting Northern Ontario culture and developing Northern Ontario's workforce. Applications for funding must be approved by the Corporation and funding is awarded as a conditional contribution to the total cost of a project up to specified percentages or dollar amounts (NOHFC 2024)

### **Time to Grow: A Regional Economic Plan for Northwestern Ontario 2025-2035 (NOMA 2024)**

As outlined in their 2024-2035 Strategy, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and its partners are focusing their efforts to grow the size and number of commercial enterprises operating in Northwestern Ontario over the next decade, in order to maintain and/or build vibrant sustainable municipalities. This is because over the last decade the number of businesses in Northwestern Ontario (excluding single person firms) has been flat. Recognizing this lack of growth as a fundamental problem, NOMA has focused their plan on actions that will make Northwestern Ontario more attractive to private sector investment. The objective is to create an environment where municipalities, businesses, employees and residents are flourishing.

#### **6.20.1.2 Influence of Consultation with Indigenous communities, Government and the Public**

Consultation has been ongoing for several years prior to and throughout the environmental assessment process, and will continue with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and the public through the life of the Project. Section 2 provides more detail on the consultation process. The Record of Consultation (Appendix D) includes detailed comments received, and responses provided, during the development of the final EIS/EA.

Feedback received through consultation has been addressed through direct responses (in writing and follow up meetings) and incorporated into the final EIS/EA, as appropriate. The key comments that influenced the assessment for the local and regional infrastructure and services VC between the draft and final EIS/EA is provided below.

#### **Mental Health and Well-being**

During engagement with Indigenous communities, the concerns about existing conditions of mental health and well-being in the communities was frequently raised. The concerns are documented, for example, in the community socio-economic reports prepared for the Project by Cat Lake First Nation (CLFN 2024) and Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN 2024). In those reports, the communities described challenging conditions attributable a range of reasons including declining traditional land use and Indigenous language knowledge, inadequate housing, food security issues, addictions, particularly to opioids, and for Cat Lake, the loss of its nursing station to fire in 2024. Slate Falls Nation (SFN) also described issues of diabetes and hypertension and increasing use of opioid drugs in the community (SFN 2024). In response to this feedback, FMG has developed a draft Health and Wellness Strategy (Appendix Q-3), elements of which are included in mitigation measures for potential social and economic effects including Section 6.20.4. The Strategy responds to what FMG has heard, including that northern-focused health & wellness support is crucial to improving employment participation, creating a mental health-conscious workplace; and enabling the Project, local people, and communities to thrive. The approach necessitates more than standard corporate occupational health and wellness policies and programs. It requires tailored health and wellness approaches, services and programs, in coordination with health service providers, that address the holistic needs of northern people and communities participating in the mining industry.

#### **Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Land Use and Socio-economic Information**

CLFN and LSFN prepared Traditional Knowledge and Land Use reports and Socio-economic Baseline reports specific to their own communities for the Project and inquired how the information would be integrated into the EIS/EA. Those reports have been reviewed, and Traditional Knowledge information has been integrated into the assessment of biophysical VCs and used to complete the assessment of effects on traditional land and resource use in Section 6.21. The information from the socio-economic baselines was also integrated into Section 6.21 as well as in the assessments of socio-economic VCs (Sections 6.17, 6.18,

6.19, and 6.20). Similarly, SFN provided a Health, Socio-economic, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Baseline Study, MON provided a Traditional Land Use and Occupancy and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Study, and NWOMC provided a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use report regarding the Project. Information from those reports was also integrated into the assessments biophysical VCs, the assessment of effects on traditional land and resource use, and the assessment of socio-economic VCs.

### **Public Engagement**

MECP requested clarification on how FMG engaged with interested persons and the public. FMG has provided information and engaged with the public and resource users within the regional study area (for commercial land and resource use, and outdoor recreation VCs) through a variety of means including open houses that were advertised in the Sioux Lookout Bulletin, on local radio stations and through Facebook, displays at career fairs and community and industry events, sending Project bulletins, newsletters, and links to the Project website to the Project public contact list, and through emails and meetings with individuals and resource users. The details of the public engagement are presented in Section 2.7.4.

### **Updated Socio-economic Information**

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) commented that the most recent available data should be used in the preparation of the EIS/EA. Updated information from the 2021 Census data has been appended to the baseline socio-economic report (Appendix Q of the EIS/EA) and included in Section 6.20.2, although this has not changed the conclusions related to the local and regional infrastructure and services from the draft EIS/EA.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) requested further information on the socio-economic conditions for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to support the assessment of changes in the socio-economic environment that will be carried forward into the assessment of effects on Indigenous people and the assessment of changes to the environment that are directly linked or necessarily incidental to a federal authority's exercise of a power, duty or function. The updated 2021 Census data has been considered in the assessment of effects on socio-economic VCs (Section 6.17, Section 6.18, Section 6.19 and Section 6.20), and is carried forward into the assessment of effects that are linked or incidental to a federal authority's exercise of power or performance of a duty or function that would permit carrying out the Project in Section 6.25. Additional traditional knowledge / traditional land use and socio-economic information has been shared with FMG and non-confidential socio-economic information has been included in the assessment of effects on socio-economic VCs and the assessment of effects on Indigenous peoples in Section 6.26.

IAAC requested further information to describe the potential effects on the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous people, including the effects on commercial activities such as fishing, trapping, hunting, forestry, and outfitting. FMG has received input from Indigenous communities through ongoing engagement activities and socio-economic baseline reports from Cat Lake First Nation (CLFN 2024), Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN 2024) and Slate Falls Nation (SFN 2024). Updated socio-economic information, including information provided by Indigenous communities has been incorporated into Section 6.19.2 which provides information regarding the existing economic conditions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and Section 6.20.2 which includes a summary of the existing social conditions for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Section 6.19.6 and Section 6.20.6 provides a description of the potential effects of the Project on the economic and social environment, respectively. The analysis in these sections has been carried forward in the assessment of effects on Indigenous people in Section 6.26, which includes information on the commercial activities carried out by Indigenous communities such as fishing, trapping and hunting.

MECP requested information on how consultation with Indigenous communities informed the descriptions of existing socio-economic conditions and the potential impacts to Indigenous communities. Information received from Indigenous communities through traditional knowledge / traditional land use (TK/TLU) studies and other engagement activities during the environmental assessment process, including research activities conducted to prepare the baseline socio-economic report (Appendix S) to support the preparation of the draft EIS/EA, engagement opportunities such as in-person community meetings, the provision of TK/TLU studies, and additional feedback received from Indigenous communities through the review of the draft EIS/EA. The information has been incorporated into the final EIS/EA. Section 6.26 includes information regarding the socio-economic conditions for Indigenous communities and includes feedback received from each Indigenous community that was incorporated in the assessment of effects on Indigenous people. Section 2 provides information about the consultation activities that occurred to obtain this information.

### **Domestic Waste Management**

MECP requested information on the quantities of domestic waste anticipated to be generated by the Project, the frequency of transporting nonhazardous waste and whether interim onsite storage was considered for the Project. Further, information was requested on the ability of local municipal landfills to accept Project waste. The following information has been incorporated into the Project description section (Section 5.0) of the final EIS/EA: A waste storage facility will be located onsite to allow for the nonhazardous waste materials to be collected and sorted appropriately as well as the storage of the hazardous waste materials. Hazardous waste materials will be appropriately handled, stored and segregated within this facility. It is expected that the Project will produce approximately 45,000 to 65,000 m<sup>3</sup> total through construction to closure. Demolition waste generated during the closure phase will be transported off-site to an approved landfill. Waste will be transported on a regular schedule, expected to be once or twice weekly during operations. In addition, the Municipality of Ear Falls has confirmed capacity and approval to accept non-hazardous wastes from the Project (Appendix D).

### **Local Municipalities**

MECP requested additional information to support the assessment of effects from the Project on local and regional infrastructure, including a description of how municipalities were consulted, what feedback was provided and how comments were considered in the assessment of effects on local and regional infrastructure.

The local municipalities expressed many common interests that could be influenced by the Project. This included increasing the available electrical supply, access routes to the mine site, transportation logistics, and housing shortages. Sioux Lookout supports building an all-season road from Sioux Lookout to Cat Lake First Nation, encouraged the Project to use its municipal services and highlighted the recent expansion of its airport. Dryden described plans to expand its airport as well.

Letters of support for the Springpole Project were sent to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks by the Township of Ear Falls (March 15, 2023), Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (May 1, 2023), the Municipality of Sioux Lookout (June 7, 2023) and the Municipality of Red Lake (January 30, 2024). Each letter of support stated the Springpole Project would bring welcomed significant economic benefits including employment, business opportunities, and increased government revenue.

Additional information about engagement with local municipalities is included in Section 2 Consultation and Engagement.

### **Educational, Social and Health Services**

The Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC) noted that they have educational services that could contribute to the regional infrastructure and services including K-12 education support, post-secondary education, early learning and child care, Métis employment programs, Métis training programs, and education and cultural camps. Further, NWOMC noted they also have social and health services, including healing and wellness supports such as mental health and addictions services, gaming and gambling awareness programs, victim services, justice programs, community wellness worker program, community support services program, Métis family wellbeing program, Métis healthy babies healthy children program, Canada pre-natal nutrition program, community action program for children, aging at home program, anti-human trafficking program, diabetes awareness strategy, cancer care, and health research initiatives & projects. This information has been incorporated into Section 6.20.2 which includes information about educational supports and health services including those with Indigenous communities.

#### **6.20.1.3 Spatial and Temporal Boundaries**

The Project Development Area (PDA) is defined as the footprint of the Project including the mine site area, mine site access road and the transmission line corridor, as well as a buffer in order to allow for flexibility for design optimizations during Project permitting. The buffer includes approximately 250 m around the mine site area. The buffer is included within the 40 m wide corridor for the transmission line and within the 30 m wide corridor for the mine access road. Where the mine access road and transmission line are aligned together, the buffer is included within a 60 m wide corridor.

The spatial boundaries used for the assessment of the local and regional infrastructure and services are shown in Figure 6.20-1 and defined as follows:

- **Local Study Area (LSA):** the LSA for the local and regional infrastructure and services effects assessment is defined as the area that could be influenced by the Project, and includes Indigenous communities as identified by the federal and provincial government for the Project, and non-Indigenous communities within a reasonable distance to the Project (approximately 100 to 150 km), with a focus on Sioux Lookout, Ear Falls and Red Lake who have expressed an interest in the Project. These communities are likely to provide key services and/or benefit from business opportunities resulting from the Project, are located along major travel and service corridors and are part of Statistics Canada reporting units.
- **Regional Study Area (RSA):** the RSA was defined as is the District of Kenora, in which the Project and the identified Indigenous communities and municipalities fall.

The temporal boundaries for the assessment of local and regional infrastructure and services is defined as:

- **Construction Phase:** Years -3 to -1, representing the construction period for the Project.
- **Operation Phase:** Years 1 to 10, with the first year potentially representing a partial year as the Project transitions from construction into operation. Mining of the ore from the open pit will end in Year 10, at which time the pit will begin refilling with water; and
- **Decommissioning and Closure Phase:**
  - Active Closure: Years 11 to 15, when final decommissioning and the majority of active reclamation activities are carried out; and
  - Post-Closure: Years 16+, corresponding to the post-closure monitoring period and when the filled open pit basin will be reconnected to Springpole Lake.

Effects on local and regional infrastructure and services VC are assessed for each Project phase (i.e., construction, operation and closure).

#### **6.20.1.4 Criteria and Indicators**

Local and regional infrastructure and services have the potential to be impacted by the Project both directly (i.e., changes in demands for education) and indirectly (i.e., changes income leading to changes in rates of crime). In undertaking the assessment of local and regional infrastructure and services effects, the following criteria were used:

- Change in the Demand on Educational Services;
- Change in the Demand for Housing;
- Change in the Demand for Emergency Services, Municipal Services and Infrastructure;
- Change in the Demand for Municipal and Provincial Community Resources; and,
- Change in the Demand on Transportation Networks.

The specific criteria, measurable indicators and the rationale for the selection of criteria are described in Table 6.20-1. To support the effects assessment, indicators are assessed qualitatively using professional judgement and experience.

#### **6.20.1.5 Description of Residual Effect Attributes**

The residual effects for local and regional infrastructure and services are characterized in terms of the following:

- Magnitude;
- Geographic Extent;
- Duration;
- Frequency; and
- Reversibility.

These attributes along with the rankings are further described in Table 6.20-2.

In addition, the residual effects for local and regional infrastructure and services are characterized according to the socio-economic context within which the VC is found. This is a qualitative measure of the sensitivity and/or resilience of the VC is to potential change. The following ranking is applicable:

- **Level I:** The VC may or may not be sensitive but is capable of supporting the predicted change with typical mitigation measures.
- **Level II:** The VC is sensitive and requires special measures to support the predicted change.
- **Level III:** The VC is sensitive and unable to support the predicted change even with special measures.

As noted in Section 6.1, a residual effect is defined as significant if both of the following criteria are satisfied:

- A Level II or III rating is attained for all of the attributes involving magnitude, extent, duration and reversibility; and,
- A Level II or III rating is attained for socio-economic context.

Conversely, if a Level I rating is achieved for any of the attributes involving magnitude, extent, duration, frequency or reversibility or, if a Level I rating is achieved for socio-economic context (where applicable), then the effect is considered to be not significant.

In the event there is a significant adverse effect, the likelihood of occurrence is further described.

## **6.20.2 Existing Conditions**

A description of the baseline conditions is presented below to characterize the existing conditions for local and regional infrastructure and services, first for the study area municipalities and then for the Indigenous communities. The information is based on several years of study that has resulted in a comprehensive dataset for this stage of project planning. The existing conditions are used to support the assessment of potential effects from the Project on local and regional infrastructure and services. Further baseline information on local and regional infrastructure and services can be found in the technical support documentation (Appendix Q-1) includes baseline information on local and regional infrastructure and services.

### **6.20.2.1 Municipalities**

#### **Population**

In 2021, the population of Ear Falls was 924 (7.1% decline from 2016), the Red Lake population was 4,094 (0.3% decline from 2016), and the Sioux Lookout population was 5,839 (10.8% increase from 2016; Statistics Canada 2023b). Those populations are forecast to increase from approximately 7 to 12% between 2019 and 2031. The average age of the population in these municipalities ranges from 39 to 42 while the Ontario average age of 41.8. The proportion of immigrant populations in the communities range from 3.3 to 6.3% which is below the Ontario proportion of 30.0%. The populations of the communities are composed of mainly non-movers with 88.1 to 88.7% of the populations not moving in the previous year which is similar to Ontario where 88.4% of the population are non-movers (Statistics Canada 2023b). Overall, these populations are relatively young and stable with modest forecast growth.

#### **Education Services**

##### **Ear Falls**

Ear Falls Public School is the only elementary school (Kindergarten to Grade 8) in the Township of Ear Falls and serves the communities of Ear Falls and Wabauskang First Nation. Secondary school students attend high school in Red Lake as Ear Falls does not have any post-secondary education institutions.

##### **Red Lake**

There are four elementary schools in Red Lake serving students from junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 including two public schools, one Catholic school and one French Catholic school.

In June 2011, Confederation College opened the Red Lake Campus. The local campus offers programs in several areas of interest including aviation, business, community services, engineering technology, health, hospitality and tourism, Indigenous programs, media arts, natural resources, preparatory studies, protective services and skilled trades (Confederation College 2021a).

The Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre is a non-profit organization overseen by the Red Lake Adult Literacy Board. The Learning Centre offers courses in Literacy and Basic Skills as well as secondary school credit courses. The Centre also offers computer courses, professional development courses and special interest classes (Red Lake District Adult Learning Centre 2021). The Centre is affiliated with the Keewatin

Patricia District School Board and Seven Generations Education Institute partnership, which delivers adult education throughout northwestern Ontario (KPDSB 2021b).

### **Sioux Lookout**

Elementary and secondary schools in Sioux Lookout are operated by two school boards, the Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) and the Northwest Catholic District School Board (KPDSB 2014a; Northwest Catholic District School Board 2021b). In addition, the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council controls and operates the Pelican Falls First Nations High School (Northern Nishnawbe Education Council 2014a). Approximately 68% of all high school students in Sioux Lookout are First Nations students who have moved from their home communities to attend school in the municipality (Municipality of Sioux Lookout, personal communication, May 19, 2021).

Two elementary schools in Sioux Lookout serve students from junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 including one public school, Sioux Mountain Public School and one Catholic school, Sacred Heart School (KPDSB 2014b; Northwest Catholic District School Board 2021a).

Two secondary schools serve high school students in Sioux Lookout, Sioux North High School (KPDSB 2021a) and Pelican Falls First Nations High School (Northern Nishnawbe Education Council 2014a).

Students from the Sioux Lookout Area Indigenous communities can also access services provided by the Wahsa Distance Education Centre, an Indigenous high school program dedicated to providing quality secondary education services to remote Ojibway, Cree and Oji-Cree communities across northwestern Ontario (Northern Nishnawbe Education Council 2014b).

The Confederation College Sioux Lookout Campus offers full-time postsecondary diploma programs and full-time and part-time certificate programs, continuing education courses, general interest courses and other education training opportunities. Programs are offered in aviation, business, community services, engineering technology, health, hospitality and tourism, Indigenous programs, media arts, natural resources preparatory studies, protective services and skilled trades (Golden West Broadcasting 2021).

The Sioux Lookout Adult Education Centre is operated by the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board and Seven Generations Education Institute. The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board and Seven Generations Education Institute operate Adult Education Sites throughout northwestern Ontario with programs and courses to help students to complete high school diplomas, prepare for college, university and the workplace (KPDSB 2021b).

The Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre works with Indigenous communities in the Sioux Lookout area to help Indigenous students achieve academic success. The Centre provides resources and materials to support schools and educators in areas such as literacy, numeracy, data collection, technology and governance. Anishinine / Anishinaabe language and culture are a central focus of the Centre's work (Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre 2020).

The Sioux Lookout Learning Centre offers the Literacy and Basic Skills program to individuals in the Sioux Lookout / Hudson area (Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council 2021). The Learning Centre and the Good Learning Anywhere eChannel distance delivery program are operated by the Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council, a non-profit literacy and basic skills organization funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council 2021).

In May of 2021, the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord announced they had secured partnerships to establish the Sioux Lookout Mining Centre of Excellence. These partnerships include nine regional mining companies who have agreed to support the Centre of Excellence through financial support, training and job opportunities. The Sioux Lookout Mining Centre of Excellence will operate in partnership with the Northern College Haileybury School of Mines (Sioux Lookout Mining Centre of Excellence 2022).

## **Municipal Services and Recreation**

### **Ear Falls**

The Township of Ear Falls operates a recreation centre, which includes the KinFit Gym, an arena for ice sports and court space for badminton, floor hockey, shuffleboard and basketball. Ear Falls also has a nine-hole golf course with a clubhouse, power cart and club rentals. The town has a public boat launch a waterfront park and two other parks with playground equipment (Township of Ear Falls 2020 2021e). Additional information describing recreation assets can be found in the Appendix Q-1 (Table 3-17).

### **Red Lake**

The Red Lake Community Centre has several recreation activities and programs geared toward physical fitness. A roof covered pavilion is available for other activities. In the winter months, the recreation centre offers ski rentals, with groomed trails around the centre. In addition, the recreation centre has a weight training facility, a cardio training facility and squash courts available for use. Red Lake has several skating rinks and arenas which are home to recreational hockey programs for men, women and children. Summer recreation activities include baseball, soccer, skate park tennis court and a splash pad. There is also a multi-purpose indoor facility with a commercial grade kitchen (Municipality of Red Lake 2010, 2014f; Municipality of Red Lake, pers. comm. May 26, 2021).

Red Lake has two libraries: The Margaret McDougall Memorial Library in Red Lake and the Balmertown Library (Municipality of Red Lake 2014b). Red Lake is home to the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre which houses historical documents and provide educational tours and programs. The Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre has facilities available for rent including a board room, the main exhibit gallery and lobby (Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre 2021).

### **Sioux Lookout**

Sioux Lookout has a sports complex with two baseball diamonds, an outdoor ice rink, two bocce fields, two tennis courts, a skate park, concessions and trail access. There is a recreation centre in Sioux Lookout with an ice arena, a fitness centre, two squash courts, a gymnasium and an indoor walking / running track. Cedar Bay Recreation Complex is an equestrian facility with cabins, a chalet and a special events lodge. The Cedar Bay & Golf Course has 23 kilometres (km) of Nordic ski trails and 8 km of fat bike trails.

The Sioux Lookout Centennial Centre is a multi-purpose hub for community arts and culture and youth, and includes space available for rent. Hudson Community Hall is available for rental and outdoor recreation activities. WINKS Centre in Sioux Lookout supports Indigenous youth from First Nations in the area and provides a computer lab, art studio, entertainment room, fitness centre, musical equipment and other recreational activities. Lost Lake Drop-in Centre is a seniors drop-in centre in the community.

In addition to the facilities described above, Sioux Lookout has several beaches, basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds and outdoor ice rinks that operate on school grounds. There are also 150 km of Snowmobile Trails in the Sioux Lookout area (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021c; Hoshizaki Development 2019).

Sioux Lookout has a community museum and library, the Sioux Lookout Museum, located at the Sioux Lookout Heritage Railway Station (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021a). Sioux Lookout Public Library offers library services and programming in the community (Sioux Lookout Public Library 2021).

### **Health Services**

The Northwestern Health Unit operates offices in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout (Northwestern Health Unit 2021). A variety of health and wellness clinics and classes are provided in each municipality including baby wellness clinics, dental screening and prevention, mobile dental clinics, immunization clinics, sexual health clinics, speech and language clinics, nutrition and healthy living classes, prenatal and parenting classes (Northwestern Health Unit 2021). In addition to the services and clinics provided by the Unit, all three municipalities have their own health services as described below.

#### **Ear Falls**

Ear Falls has a Community Health Centre with a full-time doctor and two nurses on staff and offers scheduled appointments as well as a walk-in clinic. Other services include blood and lab services, Ministry of Transportation medical reviews and Northern Ontario Travel Grant Applications for medical related travel to Dryden, Kenora, Thunder Bay and Winnipeg (Township of Ear Falls 2021b). Ear Falls also has a privately run dental office, which provides a wide range of oral health and cosmetic dental treatments (Ear Falls Dental Office 2021).

The closest hospital to Ear Falls is the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital, located 70 km to the north, on Highway 105 in Red Lake. Community Counselling and Addiction Services are provided by FIREFLY, an organization that aims to improve the development and health of children, youth and families. It serves Ear Falls residents out of their offices in Red Lake (see Red Lake section below for further information; Township of Ear Falls 2021b).

#### **Red Lake**

The Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital is an 18-bed hospital serving residents of Red Lake, Ear Falls and Wabauskang First Nation. The hospital has 95 full-time, part-time and casual employees with seven physicians. Services provided by the hospital include 24-hour emergency care, inpatient acute and chronic care, low-risk obstetrics and mental health and addictions counselling services (off site). The hospital has a telemedicine program and provides chemotherapy and endoscopy service in collaboration with a visiting specialist (Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital 2018).

The Municipality of Red Lake offers primary health care services to residents. In addition to the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital, medical facilities in the area include: Goldcorp Red Lake Regional Medical Centre; Red Lake Dental Clinic; Northwood Lodge, which provides nursing and physician care for the elderly; and Community Counselling and Addiction Services (Municipality of Red Lake 2014a).

Secondary health care services are also available including, the Harmony Centre (employment and life skills training for adults with disabilities), the Kenora-Rainy River Districts Child & Family Services, FIREFLY (child development and mental health) and Integrated Services for Northern Children (speech and language services, occupational therapy and psychological and psychiatric assessments) (Municipality of Red Lake 2014a).



### **Sioux Lookout**

The Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre (SLMHC) is a fully accredited 60-bed hospital with a 20-bed extended care facility. It opened in 2010 and serves a population of approximately 30,000 people. Patients at SLMHC have the option of integrating traditional and modern medicines and practices. A broad range of services are provided including diabetes care, stroke prevention, mental health counselling, addiction services and acute outpatient programs (SLMHC 2021).

The Sioux Lookout Healthy Community Task Force (HCTF) was created in 2011 through a collaboration between the Northwestern Health Unit and Kenora-Rainy River Child and Family Services (Sioux Lookout branch). The goal of the HCTF is to reduce the incidences and impacts of substance abuse in Sioux Lookout to create a healthier community (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021g).

In January of 2021, the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord provided a presentation to the Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority regarding the Sioux Lookout Detox and Treatment Centre. The presentation noted that to address the growing need for addictions treatment in Sioux Lookout, 200 Withdrawal Management and Treatment Centre beds will be required by 2035. The presentation outlined the proposal for the treatment centre and withdrawal management plan and provided a work plan and timeline with construction beginning in March 2023 (Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord 2021).

### **Childcare Services**

#### **Ear Falls**

Day care services in Ear Falls are available at the Municipal Office and include EarlyON Child and Family Services and programs (Township of Ear Falls 2021d).

#### **Red Lake**

As of January 1, 2021, childcare programming in Red Lake was transferred to the Kenora District Services Board (Municipality of Red Lake 2014c) which notes there are three children's programs in Red Lake: the Red Lake Early Learning Center (toddlers, preschool, kindergarten, school age children), Balmertown Early Learning Center (toddlers, preschool, kindergarten, school age) and St. John's Early Learning Center (Kenora District Services Board 2021a).

#### **Sioux Lookout**

Sioux Lookout has three licensed day care centres. The Biidaaban Children's Centre is attached to the Sacred Heart School and offers full day care for toddlers and pre-schoolers as well as before and after-school care for children attending school during the day. The Biidaaban Children's Centre can accommodate 71 children (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021b).

The Sioux Mountain Children's Centre, in the Sioux Mountain Public school, offers full day care for toddlers and pre-schoolers as well as before and after-school care for kindergarten and school aged children. The Sioux Mountain Children's Centre can accommodate 80 children (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021i).

Waninawakang Aboriginal Head Start is an early childhood development program that also offers full-day preschool care for Indigenous children and their families (Waninawakang Aboriginal Head Start 2012).

## **Municipal Services**

### **Ear Falls**

Ear Falls has a municipal sewage treatment and water treatment facility that can service up to 5,000 people. Sewage and water treatment services are contracted to the Ontario Clean Water Agency and the water supply is from the English River. The Town also has a water tower with a useable volume of 1,890,000 litres (Chukuni 2021c).

The Municipal Office is also responsible for waste disposal and garbage collection (Township of Ear Falls 2021d). The Ear Falls landfill is located approximately 5 km north of the townsite. The landfill services the Township of Ear Falls, the Municipality of Red Lake, and rural areas between and in the vicinity of the two. The permitted active landfill area is 6.5 hectares (ha) and the facility accepts domestic, commercial and 5% of other wastes (limited to construction, debris, brush and scrap metal). As of November 2019, capacity remaining was 520,247 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) or an estimated 92 years but will be updated in 2022/2023. Thus, there are no current plans for expansion (Township of Ear Falls, personal communication, March 15, 2022).

Power for Ear Falls is provided through Ontario Power Generation through the Ear Falls Generating Station (Ontario Power Generation Inc. 2021). Natural Gas is supplied through Union Gas (Chukuni 2021c).

Telephone service is available in Ear Falls through Bell Canada and cellular service is available through Tbaytel. Internet service providers include Bell Canada, Shaw Cable and Tbaytel. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) broadcasts on AM 690, CBOI (the Ear Falls station) broadcasts on the CBC channel and the regional radio station, CKDR, broadcasts on FM 97.5. Newspapers in circulation include the Dryden Observer, Kenora Enterprise, Thunder Bay Times-News, Winnipeg Free Press and Toronto Globe and Mail (Chukuni 2021b).

### **Red Lake**

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 2021c).

The Red Lake landfill is located between Balmertown and Red Lake on Hwy 125 (Chukuni 2021c). The landfill services the Red Lake area only and accepts low leachate materials (construction material). The low leachate cell has a total capacity of 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> and an estimated 15 years of remaining capacity. Expansion at the current site is not in the plans given its location near a waterbody. Red Lake is looking into potential partnerships with First Nations to build a new landfill site. Recyclable materials and steel are sent to Winnipeg, while all other waste is sent to Ear Falls (Township of Ear Falls, personal communication, March 15, 2022).

There is a six megawatt distribution station at a voltage of 12.4 / 7.2 kV. Secondary voltages are 120 / 240 volt single phase and 120 / 208 and 34 7/ 600 volt three phase and residents of Red Lake are supplied at a 1R1 rate, high density rate. Natural Gas for Red Lake is provided through Union Gas (Chukuni 2021c).

Telephone service is available in Red Lake through Bell Canada and cellular service is available through Tbaytel. Internet service providers include Bell Canada, Shaw Cable and Tbaytel. CBC broadcasts on AM 690, CBOI (Ear Falls station) broadcasts on the CBC channel and the regional radio station, CKDR, broadcasts on FM 97.5. Newspapers in circulation include the Dryden Observer, Kenora Enterprise, Thunder Bay Times-News, Winnipeg Free Press and Toronto Globe and Mail (Chukuni 2021c).

### **Sioux Lookout**

Water and wastewater services in Sioux Lookout are contracted to Northern Waterworks Inc. The urban water system is a large municipal residential system and provides potable water to the community and Hudson is served by the Hudson Water Treatment Plant. The Sioux Lookout Sewage Treatment Plant has a daily capacity of 1,890,000 litres of raw sewage. Sewage is mostly disposed of in privately held disposal systems although the Municipality of Sioux Lookout does own and operate a communal septic field that serves six residences (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021k). The Municipal Waste Management Division of Sioux Lookout is responsible for residential garbage / recycling collection and garbage disposal at the Hidden Lake Landfill (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021j). The landfill has a capacity of 402,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Based on the average fill rate from 2003 to 2018 and accounting for 2% per year population growth and construction waste, the landfill will reach its full capacity in 2052 (Keewatin-Aski Ltd. Engineering and Architecture 2020).

Sioux Lookout Hydro provides power to the Municipality (Sioux Lookout Hydro 2018).

Internet service providers in Sioux Lookout include TekSavvy, K-Net (for businesses), Bell and Shaw (Municipality of Sioux Lookout, personal communication, May 19, 2021). Q104 is the local radio station broadcasting across the Kenora district including Sioux Lookout and the Sioux Lookout Bulletin is the local newspaper in circulation (Golden West Broadcasting 2021; The Sioux Lookout Bulletin 2014).

### **Infrastructure, including Transmission Lines, Roads, Air and Rail Access**

#### **Transmission Lines**

The Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line is a project to connect 17 Northwestern Ontario First Nation communities to the electrical grid through 230 kV transmission lines. Construction and energization of the line was completed in 2024. The connected communities are northeast of the Project with new transmission lines originating at Pickle Lake and with new transmission lines originating near Pikangikum First Nation. While none of the First Nations included in this EIS have direct connections to the Wataynikaneyap transmission line, the following are part of a group of 24 First Nations that have an ownership position in the project: Cat Lake First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation; Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Pikangikum First Nation (PFN, and Slate Falls Nation (Watay 2024).

#### **Roads**

The Wenasaga Forestry Road is a public road that provides access from near Ear Falls to the Trout Lake Forest Management Area and currently ends approximately 17 km from the mine site portion of the PDA. The Wenasaga Road will provide access to the PDA and the Project will build a mine access road from the terminus of the Wenasaga Road to the mine site. FMG has been in discussion with Dryden Fibre, the holder of the Sustainable Forest Licence for the Trout Lake Forest Management Area to share information regarding the use of Wenasaga Road.

#### **Ear Falls**

Ear Falls is accessible by road, via Highway 105 and is located between Vermillion Bay (101 km south) and Red Lake (69 km northwest) (Township of Ear Falls 2021c). Highway 657 runs northeast from Ear Falls, approximately 78 km before joining the Wenasaga Forestry Road.

The Township of Ear Falls is not accessible by rail. There is no active airport at Ear Falls, however, the Ear Falls Waterdrome is located 5.6 km southeast of Ear Falls (Airports-Worldwide.com 2022).

### **Red Lake**

Red Lake is accessible by road and located at the end of Highway 105 (Ontario's Sunset Country Travel Association 2021). The municipality is also accessible by air and serviced by the Red Lake Municipal Airport (CYRL).

### **Sioux Lookout**

Sioux Lookout is accessible by road via Highways 72, 516 and 642 (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021d). Sioux Lookout is accessible by air through the Sioux Lookout Municipal Airport, a licensed public aerodrome (Sioux Lookout Airport 2011). The Sioux Lookout Municipal Airport offers flights to and from over 40 destinations in Canada and the United States. Commercial passenger flights, freight services and emergency flight services (police and air ambulances) are available. VIA rail passenger service is available to Sioux Lookout, stopping in Sioux Lookout six days a week (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021f). The Canadian National Railway Company mainline connects Sioux Lookout to Winnipeg and Toronto and is used to move freight (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021d).

### **Emergency Services**

#### **Policing Services**

The local municipalities are served by the Ontario Provincial Police. The Ontario Provincial Police Northwest Region has detachments in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout (NWHL 2021).

#### **Fire Services**

In Ear Falls, fire services are provided by the Ear Falls Fire Department and include the following:

- Prevention (public education);
- Suppression;
- Rescue;
- Fire Code Enforcement;
- Auto Extraction;
- Wildfire Suppression;
- Mutual Aid; and
- Recruitment-Application Process.

The Ear Falls Fire Department also has a Volunteer Firefighter Program (Township of Ear Falls 2021a).

Red Lake operates a volunteer Fire Department with a full-time Fire Chief, 65 firefighters and five stations: Balmertown Station, Cochenour Station, McKenzie Island Station, Red Lake Station and Madsen Station (Municipality of Red Lake 2014e).

Sioux Lookout operates two fire stations, the Sioux Lookout Fire Station and the Hudson Fire Station and is responsible for an area of 536 km<sup>2</sup> (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021e).

### **Emergency Medical Services**

Ambulance services in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are provided through the Kenora District Services Board and by Northwest Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The Northwest EMS has nine stations in total in the region including one station in each of Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout and serves a population of 65,500 and a geographic area that covers 110,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The Northwest EMS fleet consists of 24 vehicles including 21 ambulances, one multi-casualty support vehicle and two administrative vehicles (Kenora District Services Board 2021b).

### **Housing Occupancy Rates**

The 2021 Census data shows that a high percentage of dwellings are occupied by usual residents in all the municipalities in the LSA and in Ontario. Occupancy rates are 79.5%, 89.7%, 88.4%, and 92.6% in Ear Falls, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Ontario respectively (Statistics Canada 2023b).

### **Housing Rental Cost**

The 2021 Census data indicate, Ear Falls, Red Lake, and Sioux Lookout have a lower median rental cost compared to Ontario. The median monthly rental rates are \$1,100, \$970, \$1,120, and \$1300 in Ear Falls, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Ontario respectively (Statistics Canada 2023b).

At the time of publication of this report, further information was not available regarding permanent housing in Ear Falls and Red Lake, however, a lack of available housing was continually cited as a concern by those interviewed in primary research for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. It was noted that it is challenging to find capital investors and developers to support housing development in Sioux Lookout and that the capacity of local builders for housing projects is limited (Municipality of Sioux Lookout, personal communication, May 19, 2021).

### **Temporary Accommodations**

#### **Ear Falls**

Temporary accommodations in Ear Falls are limited. Ear Falls has one bed and breakfast and one motel. The English River Inn (bed and breakfast) sleeps six (Visit Sunset Country 2021). Trillium Motel has 37 rooms and is located along Highway 105 (Trillium Motel 2021).

#### **Red Lake**

Red Lake has at least 75 rooms available on a short-term basis (Chukuni 2021a).

#### **Sioux Lookout**

Approximately 130 rooms are available for temporary accommodations in Sioux Lookout.

### **6.20.2.2 Indigenous Communities**

#### **Education Services and Infrastructure**

##### **Cat Lake First Nation**

Cat Lake First Nation has two schools. The Lawrence Wesley Education Centre opened in 2015 and offers kindergarten to grade 8. It has 91 to 100 students. The Cat Lake Christian School offers grades 1 to 8 to approximately 50 to 60 students. It also offers a place where high school students can complete distance education and avoid traveling to another community for high school. Ojibway language courses and cultural programming are offered by the schools (CLFN 2024). For students to attend high school in-person, they must travel to Pelican Falls First Nations High School or other Sioux Lookout high schools. Students board

in those communities in student houses, with up to 12 other youth in the same household. These schools have counselling services for students (CLFN 2024). High school education can be accessed through two distance learning options. Keewatinook Internet High School (KIHS) offers high school courses via the internet and the Wahsa Distance Education offers classroom instruction from Sioux Lookout via Wawatay Radio for students grade 9 to 12 (CLFN 2024).

### **Slate Falls Nation**

There are 80 children and youth in Slate Falls Nation community, 52 are elementary school age, 20 are high school age, and eight are pre-school age. Students attend the Bimaychikamah elementary school and a virtual high school in our community. Students also attend schools in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay (SFN 2024).

Slate Falls Nation operates the Bimaychikamah School, which provides education for junior kindergarten to Grade 8 with educators employed directly by Slate Falls Nation. The school has four classrooms – one for kindergarten, one for grades 1 to 3, one for grades 4 to 8, and a special education class. Ojibway is integrated into the curriculum, assemblies, and day-to-day activities at the Bimaychikamah School to support additional cultural engagement (SFN 2024). The 20 high school students have several options for completing their secondary education, including the Keewatinook Internet High School (KIHS) virtual school in Slate Falls Nation, and First Nations-operated and public schools in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. KIHS allows students to continue access a high school education online while living in the community. In 2023, 11 high school age students attended KIHS to complete high school credits and 26 adults attended KIHS to complete grade 11 and 12 credits. Students graduating from KIHS must complete an additional year to meet Ontario high school equivalency requirements (SFN 2024). Pelican Falls First Nation High School located in Sioux Lookout is First Nations-controlled school offering unique and culturally relevant education to students (SFN 2024). The Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay was established by Elders and parents. The school supports Indigenous language, culture, and traditions. Courses are approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education and credits are transferable.

### **Lac Seul First Nation**

Lac Seul First Nation Department of Education oversees the education and educational needs of Lac Seul First Nation members. The department has 72 full-time employees and two part-time employees. It administers three kindergarten to grade eight schools in the Lac Seul First Nation communities which are (LSFN 2024):

- Obishikokaang Elementary School in Frenchman's Head, junior kindergarten to Grade 8 (Lac Seul First Nation n.d.);
- Waninitawingaang Memorial School in Kejick Bay, junior kindergarten to Grade 8 (Lac Seul First Nation n.d.); and
- Morris Thomas Memorial Christian School in Whitefish Bay, junior kindergarten to Grade 10 (Lac Seul First Nation n.d.).

High school students commute to Sioux Lookout via an all-season road to attend classes. This allows students to live at home instead of moving to Sioux Lookout for school (LSFN 2024).

A high school support program exists to assist Lac Seul First Nation students in an effort to improve attendance and completion, The program tracks attendance and marks for students, locates community hour opportunities, acts as a liaison between parents and teachers, helps students access mental health

services, and plans monthly activities for students. Transportation is arranged to and from school, including to the high school in Sioux Lookout (LSFN 2024).

### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation has two schools. The Missabay Community School provides education for junior kindergarten to Grade 8 and the Charlie Neekan Memorial School (commonly known as the Mile 50 School) is a branch of the Missabay Community School that serves students in the vicinity of Mile 50 (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

Secondary students can attend school through education and funding services provided by the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC), as distance education through Wahsa Distance Education Centre or by attending area high schools such as Pelican Fall First Nations High School in Sioux Lookout or Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School located in Thunder Bay. Students attending these high schools board with families in the communities of the high school they attend. Distance education is available for secondary students who choose to stay in the community (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

Post-secondary students have access to NNEC's Post-Secondary Program. Students leave the community for post-secondary schools / institutions of their choice (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

Ojibway Nation of Saugeen School, located on reserve, provides education for junior kindergarten to Grade 8.

### **Pikangikum First Nation**

Eenchokay Birchstick School in Pikangikum First Nation provides education for students in kindergarten to Grade 12 (Teach for Canada 2019a).

### **Wabauskang First Nation**

There are no schools within Wabauskang First Nation. Elementary students attend Ear Falls Public school and secondary students attend school in either Sioux Lookout or Kenora (211 Northern Region - Lakehead Social Planning Council 2020b).

### **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**

Educational services and facilities available to Métis people in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are covered in the municipal sections above.

In addition, the Métis Nation of Ontario provides provincial, regional and local education and training, including Métis residents of Ear Falls, Red Lake, and Sioux Lookout including:

- K-12 Education initiatives;
- Post-secondary education;
- Early learning and childcare;
- Métis employment programs;
- Métis training programs;
- Education and cultural camps; and,
- Métis language initiatives (MNO 2023a).

## **Recreation**

### **Cat Lake First Nation**

Recreation and fitness are important aspects of physical health for Cat Lake First Nation. Basketball, broomball, baseball, and volleyball are popular sports in the community (CLFN 2024). Cat Lake First Nation has two outdoor hockey arenas, a community centre, a fitness centre, and the Lawrence Wesley Education Centre that has a large gymnasium. There are regular bingo games through the community radio station. The Cat Lake community moose hunt takes place annually each September and is well attended each year. In addition, the community holds a Traditional Week and, in some years, celebrations for Treaty Days (Teach for Canada 2021). The recreation facilities are considered adequate for the youth who can use the facilities freely (CLFN 2024).

### **Slate Falls Nation**

Recreation is considered an important part of Slate Falls Nation lifestyle and contributes to community health and well-being.

An indoor arena was built in 2015 but burned down in June 2023. In addition to hockey and ice skating, the arena hosted a fully equipped gym, a room for other activities and events. There are plans to rebuild the arena beginning as soon as 2024. Hockey, an important part of the community for many years, and ice skating are available at an outdoor rink. Other activities have been moved to the church basement.

Ice fishing derbies are hosted in the winter for the community and the public. Swimming, boating and fishing are available on Bamaji Lake during the summer. Slate Falls Nation celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day, Treaty Day, Canada Day and other events with community barbeques. There are baseball fields and children's playgrounds in the community. Semi-regular bingo games are broadcast over the community radio station (SFN 2024).

### **Lac Seul First Nation**

Lac Seul First Nation has an Event Centre Complex in Frenchman's Head that offers members a variety of sports programs including a minor hockey program, mixed broomball and public skating. The Sioux Lookout Figure Skating Club also uses the event centre. The Community regularly hosts hockey and broomball tournaments. The centre also hosts other events such as concerts and social gatherings for the community. The Dora Thomas Memorial Complex in Whitefish Bay and the Brian Brisket Memorial Complex in Kejick Bay regularly host community events as well (Lac Seul First Nation 2019). The Lac Seul First Nation Department of Public Works is supports community recreational activities including the construction of a new baseball field (LSFN 2024).

The community hosts an annual United Ice Fishing Derby in Whitefish Bay that is well attended by people from across the region. It also supports frequent community events and gatherings including Treaty Days events, pow wows, craft nights, bingos and sporting events (LSFN 2024).

### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation provides traditional retreats (healing through traditional practices) in year-round at their facility located at Pashkakogan Lake. The community Choose Life program drives many of the recreational programs in the community and is continually active with its activities.

Community members also take part in recreational sports and activities including soccer, broom ball, hockey and lacrosse that occur at the Community Complex (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

Due to its proximity to Pickle Lake and number of band members living in the community, many residents take part in recreational activities in Pickle Lake.

### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

Ojibway Nation of Saugeen is constructing a multiplex that will be used for cultural events, as a training space and for essential services and economic development (Northern Ontario Business 2020). Many recreational opportunities for youth are centred around the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen School which hosts many afterhours programs for children. The community hosts an annual summer fish derby on Kashawagama Lake. Due to its proximity to Savant Lake and number of band members living in the community, many residents also take part in recreational activities in Savant Lake such as the annual ice fishing derby and poker events.

### **Pikangikum First Nation**

Pikangikum First Nation has one arena available between November and April. Since 2011, Pikangikum First Nation hosts a hockey tournament. Participating communities include: Poplar Hill, Sandy Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Eagle Lake, Whitefish Bay, Sandy Bay (Manitoba) and Norway House (Manitoba) (Teach for Canada 2019a).

### **Wabauskang First Nation**

Wabauskang First Nation has a Community Hall that hosts local events and community feasts. The First Nation also has a public library that facilitates several activities in the community such as book clubs and community clean ups.

Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Recreation and leisure facilities or programs for the Métis population are covered in the municipal section.

### **Health Services**

The Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority provides advocacy, research, services and programs to 31 First Nations in northwestern Ontario including the First Nations located in the LSA. The Health Authority was established in March 1990 and its main office is located in Sioux Lookout.

### **Cat Lake First Nation**

Several health and well-being services are provided directly in Cat Lake First Nation or accessible to the community from regional services. The Cat Lake Health Authority also oversees programs in the community to assist with health, family well-being and addictions.

Cat Lake First Nation also has a Wellness Centre that offers residents a variety of services such as: counselling and educational program on mental wellness, emergency victim service referrals, referrals to other out of community services for legal, clinics and treatment programs. The Wellness Centre also organizes community events and education / awareness campaigns related to health.

Cat Lake First Nation had a nursing station which burned down in March 2024. The station had hospital beds, dental facilities, minor operating equipment, and x-ray capability. The loss also included medical records and supplies, apartments for three full-time nurses and a local health representative and space for visiting doctors and dentists. A temporary health clinic has been established at the healing centre where basic services are available and where temporary accommodations for nursing and medical staff are available. Medical flights to Sioux Lookout are available when emergency or more specialized care is needed (CLFN 2024).

The Medical Transportation Program offers support for individuals to either access medical travel funds to plan for, or to be reimbursed, for medical trips they make from the community for medical appointments. The program also helps individuals to make travel and accommodation arrangements to attend medical appointments at the SLMHC.

Cat Lake First Nation operates the Oshkee Meekena Residential Treatment Centre, which is an 8-bed facility that serves as a treatment centre for youth with addictions who are either a member of Cat Lake First Nation or other Nishnawbe-Aski Nation communities. The Centre offers an up to 3-month residence treatment program for youth with substance dependency (alcoholism, drug abuse, solvents / gas / inhalants) or behavioural problems. The Centre also supports the families of the youth during intake and aftercare (NWHL 2022).

Hospital services are provided in Sioux Lookout at the Meno Ya Win Health Centre (211 Northern Region - Lakehead Social Planning Council 2020a).

### **Slate Falls Nation**

Slate Falls Nation has a health clinic attached to the band office. It operates from 9 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday. After-hours emergency care is available and, for emergencies that cannot be treated at the health clinic, patients are driven to the nearest hospital or flown out on medevac flights. There are two to three nurses in the community at any given time, working on a four-week rotation. Slate Falls Nation owns an ambulance and a medical van that are used to transport patients to the community clinic, to the airport, or to Sioux Lookout.

Health care professionals visit the community including doctors (up to five days per month), dental care professionals (dental hygienists visit for a two-week period), primary care teams (one day per month), and optometrists but due to space constraints it is difficult to accommodate more than one service provider in the community at a time.

Births occur at the hospital in Sioux Lookout except in rare cases.

Suboxone is available at the health clinic for treatment of opioid addictions (SFN 2024).

### **Lac Seul First Nation**

Lac Seul First Nation has a Health Department that administers the community health services and facilities. A health clinic is located in Kejick Bay and serves all three communities with services provided by visiting physicians. There are two community nurses who provide emergency treatment, initial assessments, and public health education. Lac Seul First Nation also employs two community doctors. The Health Department provides transportation for medical services, maintains three vehicles, and employs four drivers and a shift coordinator.

The Health Department also offers two telehealth stations in Kejick Bay, in-community dental visits every third month, annual optometrist appointments, and oversees the Suboxone Treatment Program. Aboriginal Headstart programs are available in Frenchman's Head and Kejick Bay. A community care program provides daily visits with elders to assist them with medical and personal needs (LSFN 2024).

Lac Seul First Nation's Health Department works with the Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority which works with 33 Northwestern Ontario communities to strengthen First Nations health and to improve the health system for the Anishinaabe (LSFN 2024).

### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation has a Health Centre on the main reserve with a clinic that is staffed by a doctor once every five weeks, as well as nurses throughout the year. Routine health care (i.e., immunizations and dispensing of medication) is provided at the Health Centre. For health care beyond this, community members travel to Winnipeg, Manitoba or Thunder Bay, Ontario (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation is also serviced by medical vans with local drivers to take community members to appointments or to the hospital. In addition, Pickle Lake ambulance services the community. However, for severe illnesses, patients are flown out of Pickle Lake by air ambulance (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation has a Home and Community Program that provides home health care services to the elderly and physically challenged. The Home Care program has also introduced 'Elders Tele-Health Visit' via video conference to provide elders with care (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

The Pashkokogan Healing Lodge is located on Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation territory on Lake Pashkokogan. The Healing Lodge provides a 14-day family treatment program aimed to support families overcoming addictions and trauma while regaining a spiritual connection to the land (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010).

### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

Ojibway Nation of Saugeen offers services through the Saugeen Health Centre located on reserve. The Health Centre provides the Nation with services that promote physical and mental health including and helps coordinating health care needs with the SLMHC.

### **Pikangikum First Nation**

The Pikangikum Health Authority is responsible for providing health and well-being programs and services to Pikangikum First Nation. The Pikangikum Health Authority works in collaboration with the Nursing Station, First Nation and Inuit Health Branch and Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority. Several health and wellness programs are offered through the Pikangikum Health Authority including programs and services to assist with maternal health, family development, crisis intervention, mental health and addictions.

Pikangikum First Nation also has a nursing station located on reserve that provides home and community care services for patients who are ill, injured or elderly (NWHL 2020).

### **Wabauskang First Nation**

Wabauskang First Nation members have access to health services and programs that promote physical and mental health for community members. Access to health care needs such as intake services, referrals coordination of travel for health, one-on-one pre-natal care and home visits for the elderly, sick and new mothers are also available (North West LHIN 2020).

### **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**

Health services and other programs available to Métis people in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are covered in the municipal section.

The Métis Nation of Ontario provides provincial, regional and local health and wellness support including to the Métis residents of Ear Falls, Red Lake, and Sioux Falls including:

- Mental health and addiction services;

- Gaming and gambling awareness program;
- Victim services;
- Advocacy programs;
- Community worker program;
- Community support services program;
- Métis family wellbeing program;
- Métis healthy babies healthy children program;
- Canada pre-natal nutrition program;
- Aging at home program;
- Anti-human trafficking program;
- Diabetes awareness strategy;
- Cancer care; and,
- Health research initiatives and projects (MNO 2023b).

### **Indigenous Community Services**

#### **Cat Lake First Nation**

Cat Lake First Nation residents have access to various services. Child and family services are provided by Tikinagan Child and Family Services (CFS) in Sioux Lookout. The Tikinagan CFS also funds a social worker in the community to provide support to families (211 Northern Region - Lakehead Social Planning Council 2020a). Cat Lake First Nation has a maternal child health program, National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, a wellness program and a youth healing centre. The Windigo First Nations Council offers counselling services at the Sioux Lookout and Pelican Falls First Nations high schools and mental health counsellors or psychologists travel to the community monthly (CLFN 2024).

The Chose Life program is active in Cat Lake First Nation. It is a mental health service focused on youth in the Nishnawbe Aske Nation. In Cat Lake, it has served 260 youth. It employs one Life counsellor and focuses on land-based activities and organized sports (CLFN 2024).

#### **Slate Falls Nation**

Slate Falls Nation has access to a variety of services to assist families and those seeking to advance education and employment. The Nation receives services through Tikinagan Child & Family Services in Sioux Lookout, which provides the community with staff to provide support to families (North West LHIN 2020).

Jordan's Principle is a federally managed program to coordinate services and provide funding for children. In Slate Falls Nation, Jordan's Principle outreach workers host activities for children and youth that promote healthy living, lifestyle, and education. Jordan's Principle works closely with Chose Life and the virtual high school coordinator and extends their work to youth in Sioux Lookout. Chose Life offers on-the-land programming including teaching snaring, fish net setting, hide tanning and other skills. Chose Life has boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs to support their activities (SFN 2024).

The community employs five to six mental health counsellors who rotate into the community, two at a time on a two-to-three-week basis. The counsellors provide support to elders and teach life skills to children and

youth. The counsellors also host Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Their accommodations include a storeroom from which groceries are provided to members occasionally on an emergency basis. There is a National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse counsellor in the community (SFN 2024).

Band Representative Services are being developed to replace Tikinagan Child & Family Services. It will work to find temporary placement for children in safe homes within the community. It also works with low-income and single-parent families to support healthy relationships and community well-being. Band Representative Services works with Jordan's Principle and Chose life in offering on-the-land programming and skill development (SFN 2024)

#### **Lac Seul First Nation**

Lac Seul First Nation has access to family services and other supports. The Nation receives child and family services through Tikinagan CFS. Even though Lac Seul First Nation is within the jurisdiction of Kenora-Rainy River Districts CFS, Tikinagan provides child protection services under an agreement with Lac Seul and Kenora-Rainy River CFS (Tikinagan Child and Family Services n.d.).

The Chose Life program is active in Lac Seul First Nation. It runs traditional and cultural activities, including beading, sewing, blueberry picking, drumming and singing, and fishing. It also pairs youth with elders for language sessions (LSFN 2024).

#### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation has access to family and social services and other supports through Ontario Works.

#### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

Ojibway Nation of Saugeen residents have access to various services. Child and family services are provided by Tikinagan Child and Family Services in Sioux Lookout which provides the community with staff to provide support to families (Tikinagan Child and Family Services n.d.).

#### **Pikangikum First Nation**

Pikangikum First Nation receives services from Tikinagan Child and Family Services, based out of Sioux Lookout, to provide the Nation with family support, child protection and emergency services. These programs are staffed with six full-time and nine part-time community-based workers operating out of the Pikangikum Community Centre (Pikangikum First Nation and Beringia Community Planning Inc. 2015).

#### **Wabauskang First Nation**

Wabauskang First Nation has access to family services and other supports. Wabauskang First Nation delivers child and family services to its community members through a transfer agreement with the Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services, an agency that supports 14 First Nations in the northern region of Treaty 3 (Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services 2021).

#### **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**

Social services and other supports available to Métis people in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are covered in the municipal section. Additionally, the Métis Nation of Ontario provides support programs as listed under Health services.

In addition, the Indigenous communities in the RSA provide social assistance to those in need through Ontario Works. The program is coordinated through band offices and offers the following services:

- Short-term financial assistance to individuals and families in need;
- Extended Health Benefits to qualifying individuals; and
- Information to recipients about participation requirements including seeking employment, basic education, volunteer work or self-employment (North West LHIN 2020).

Community members also can access a variety of other programs and support services through Ontario Works including:

- Child care;
- Clothing needs;
- Community Placement Program;
- Discretionary benefits;
- Drug benefits;
- Employment resource centre;
- Employment start-up costs;
- Enhanced Employment Placement Program;
- Funeral and burial expenses;
- Learning, earning and parenting;
- Pay-Direct to landlord;
- Special diets allowance; and
- Transportation (North West LHIN 2020).

### **Road, Air and Rail Access**

#### **Cat Lake First Nation**

There is a winter road (typically operated between January and March) that runs north from Pickle Lake, 115 km to the Cat Lake First Nation and which takes about four to five hours to drive (Teach for Canada 2021). The winter road is open for two to ten weeks per year for light traffic and one to three weeks for heavy loads. The winter road is critical infrastructure that is at risk due to climate change; a short winter road season would increase costs in the community and cause potential logistical delays in the delivery of materials (CLFN 2024). Cat Lake First Nation has identified an all-weather access route that would eventually provide year-round road access to the community, the Project, and Sioux Lookout where it receives health and social services.

Cat Lake First Nation is accessible by air year-round and is served by up to six airlines for charter and scheduled flights (CLFN 2024). Two scheduled services are provided: Slate Falls Airways, which has daily service (approximately 45 minutes to an hour, one way) and North Star, which flies from Thunder Bay for the same flight time one-way. Cat Lake First Nation has a 1,208 m gravel runway (Airports-Worldwide.com 2022).

### **Slate Falls Nation**

All-season access is available by the Vermillion River Road which is used primarily for industrial services. The Vermillion River Road is in need of repairs and maintenance. Plans are in place through the forestry road network to connect the Vermillion River Road across to the Wenasaga Road which would also provide Slate Falls Nation with access to the Project. Slate Falls Nation is accessible by air through Bamaji Lake Airlines (Teach for Canada 2020b). Slate Falls Nation has a gravel runway that is 1,069 m in length (Airports-Worldwide.com 2022).

### **Lac Seul First Nation**

Lac Seul First Nation, and its communities, is accessible via an all-season road that was constructed in 2008 (Teach for Canada 2020a). The road networks connecting the communities are reportedly in poor condition (LSFN 2024).

### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

Mishkeegogamang First Nation is accessible by road from Highway 599, year-round and is accessible by air from Pickle Lake (Government of Ontario 2020).

### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

Ojibway Nation of Saugeen is accessible by road year-round (Ojibway Nation of Saugeen 2019).

### **Pikangikum First Nation**

Pikangikum First Nation is accessible by a winter road from Red Lake from January to March (Teach for Canada 2019b).

The community is accessible by air from Red Lake and Sioux Lookout (Whitefeather Forest Initiative 2008). Air services are provided by Wasaya Airways and Perimeter Air with scheduled service to the First Nation seven days a week from Thunder Bay, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout. Smaller airlines such as Northstar and Superior also provide service (Teach for Canada 2019a). Pikangikum First Nation has a 1,069 m gravel runway (Airports-Worldwide.com 2022).

### **Wabauskang First Nation**

Wabauskang First Nation is accessible by road from Highway 105.

### **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**

Infrastructure, transportation and services available to Métis people in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are covered in the municipal sections above.

### **Emergency Services**

#### **Cat Lake First Nation**

Police services for Cat Lake First Nation are provided by the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service Cat Lake Detachment (NAPS; Nishnawbe Aski Police Service n.d.).

Cat Lake First Nation has a volunteer fire department and a fire hall shared with other services. A new fire hall is required, and funding is in place for an additional fire truck. The community performs search and rescue and has 15 members trained in forest fire fighting. The community lacks an ambulance and trained paramedics. Overall, emergency services are at capacity and need equipment or facility upgrades (CLFN 2024).

### **Slate Falls Nation**

Police services for Slate Falls Nation are provided by Nishnawbe Aski Police Service. There is a small police station in the community with officer accommodations. One to two officers are in the community during each rotation who are supported by an off-site sergeant and by the Sioux Lookout-based Crimes Unit. Regional offices in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay provide additional services. The police officers engage with the community through daily patrols, visits at the band office and make weekly visits to the school (SFN 2024).

Slate Fall Nation has a volunteer fire department with a fire hall and a fire truck. Fire fighting water is available in the community from fire hydrants. The Windigo First Nation Council Fire Marshall provides training and support to the fire department (SFN 2024).

### **Lac Seul First Nation**

Lac Seul Police Services, an independent 'stand-alone' police service, was established in 1995 to serve the three settlements within Lac Seul First Nation (Lac Seul First Nation 2019). In December 2023, Lac Seul Police Services had 17 members with an additional four planned for 2024. The Lac Seul Police Services work with Nishnawbe Aski Police Service which is based in Sioux Lookout and who can provide support if needed.

Lac Seul First Nation emergency services provide fire prevention and safety, animal control, emergency planning and preparedness, and emergency first response. Each of the three communities have a fire station, a fire truck and fire hydrants. There are 17 volunteer fire fighters.

### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service has a Mishkeegogamang detachment with an office and four officers. The detachment refers cases to the Pickle Lake detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (Mishkeegogamang First Nation 2010). Fire and Emergency Medical services access information was not available.

### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

The Ojibway Nation of Saugeen has a police service (NWHL 2022). The detachment is located on Highway 599 at the entrance to the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen. Fire and Emergency Medical services access information was not available.

### **Pikangikum First Nation**

The Ontario Provincial Police provide Pikangikum First Nation with eight full-time police officers, two of whom are community members and the remainder rotate from the Red Lake Detachment (Pikangikum First Nation and Beringia Community Planning Inc. 2015). Fire and Emergency Medical services access information was not available.

### **Wabauskang First Nation**

Wabauskang First Nation is serviced by Treaty No. 3 Police (Treaty Three Police n.d.). The community has a volunteer fire department and a health office which provides mental health services to community members (211 Northern Region - Lakehead Social Planning Council 2020b).

### **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**

Emergency services available to Métis people in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are covered in the municipal section.

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding housing occupancy rates in the Indigenous communities.

### **Housing Availability and Occupancy Rates**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding housing occupancy rates in the Indigenous communities.

### **Cat Lake First Nation**

Cat Lake First Nation experiences overcrowded housing, inadequate maintenance capacity and a lack of accommodations for non-members and visitors to the community. In 2019, Cat Lake First Nation declared a state of emergency regarding housing. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of private households increased from 135 to 145 while at the same time, the number of households with more than one person per room increased from 25 to 35. Factors affecting housing suitability and overcrowding include the high cost of building new dwellings, inadequate funding, the logistics of delivering supplies to the community, internal capacity and governance. All of the housing is owned by Cat Lake First Nation and the Nation has two maintenance employees responsible for all repairs and upkeep. As of 2021, 38% of the dwellings were considered unsuitable, a decline from 2016, and 52% require only regular repair and maintenance.

The lack of housing has created barriers to Cat Lake First Nation members returning to the community and in attracting teachers, workers, staff, contractors, and trainers. The growing population of Cat Lake First Nation will require additional housing (CLFN 2024).

### **Slate Falls Nation**

There are 65 homes in the Slate Falls Nation community. In February 2024, 10 additional homes were under construction and an additional 10 home are planned over the next year. Homes are generally single-family homes. Community members are hired for construction of the homes with skilled tradespeople from outside the community employed to complete electrical, plumbing and HVAC installations.

All homes are owned by Slate Falls Nation. Of the 65 homes, 50 require only minor repairs and regular maintenance; 15 require major repairs. Residents do not pay rent for 56 of the existing homes and rent is paid for the other nine. The homes under construction and planned for construction will be rentals. Slate Falls Nation also has furnished houses for nurses and teachers (SFN 2024).

### **Lac Seul First Nation**

The supply of housing in Lac Seul First Nation has improved in recent years with more houses being renovated and maintained. Overall, there is still a housing shortage which affects health and community well-being and limits the ability to attract members to move back to the Nation and to attract teachers, health workers, construction workers, and trainers (LSFN 2024).

Lac Seul First Nation established the Ke-nawind Housing Development Authority (KHDA) in 2002, which is governed by three board members, each representing one of the Lac Seul First Nation settlements. The KHDA currently oversees 120 rental units in accordance with Section 95 of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In addition to the rental units for residents, the KHDA also has a home ownership program that is available for eligible members (Lac Seul First Nation 2019).

### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding housing in Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation.

### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding housing in the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen.

### **Pikangikum First Nation**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding housing in Pikangikum First Nation.

### **Wabauskang First Nation**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding housing in Wabauskang First Nation.

### **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**

There are 65 homes in the Slate Falls Nation community. In February 2024, 10 additional homes were under construction and an additional 10 home are planned over the next year. Homes are generally single-family homes. Community members are hired for construction of the homes with skilled tradespeople from outside the community employed to complete electrical, plumbing and HVAC installations.

All homes are owned by Slate Falls Nation. Of the 65 homes, 50 require only minor repairs and regular maintenance; 15 require major repairs. Residents do not pay rent for 56 of the existing homes and rent is paid for the other nine. The homes under construction and planned for construction will be rentals. Slate Falls Nation also has furnished houses for nurses and teachers (SFN 2024).

Rental housing available to Métis people in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are covered in the municipal section.

### **Temporary Accommodations**

#### **Cat Lake First Nation**

Cat Lake First Nation has two temporary accommodations, the Cat Lake Lodge and Gray's Motel (Teach for Canada 2021).

#### **Slate Falls Nation**

In the 1970s, fishing lodges and a camp were established on a lake at Slate Falls Nation by a local non-Indigenous businessperson. An agreement was established between the First Nation and the businessperson to operate the lodges and camp. In 2000, Slate Falls Nation obtained full ownership of the lodges (Teach for Canada 2020b).

#### **Lac Seul First Nation**

The supply of housing in Lac Seul First Nation has improved in recent years with more houses being renovated and maintained. Overall, there is still a housing shortage which affects health and community well-being and limits the ability to attract members to move back to the Nation and to attract teachers, health workers, construction workers, and trainers (LSFN 2024).

Lac Seul First Nation established the Ke-nawind Housing Development Authority (KHDA) in 2002, which is governed by three board members, each representing one of the Lac Seul First Nation settlements. The KHDA currently oversees 120 rental units in accordance with Section 95 of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In addition to the rental units for residents, the KHDA also has a home ownership program that is available for eligible members (Lac Seul First Nation 2019).

#### **Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding temporary accommodations in Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation.

#### **Ojibway Nation of Saugeen**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding temporary accommodations in the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen.

#### **Pikangikum First Nation**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding temporary accommodations in Pikangikum First Nation.

#### **Wabauskang First Nation**

At the time of publishing this report, information was not available regarding temporary accommodations in Wabauskang First Nation.

#### **Northwestern Ontario Métis Community**

Temporary accommodations available to Métis people in Ear Falls, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout are covered in the municipal section. Additionally, the Métis Nation of Ontario provides housing support through the following programs:

- Métis housing stabilization program;
- Emergency repair program;
- Financial literacy program; and,
- Home buyers contribution program (MNO 2023c).

#### **6.20.2.3 Identification of Pathways to Potential Effects**

The initial step in the assessment process is to identify interactions between the Project and local and regional infrastructure and services that can result in pathways to potential effects. These potential effects may be direct, indirect and/or positive effects, where applicable. Table 6.20-3 includes the potential interactions of the Project with local and regional infrastructure and services, prior to the application of the mitigation measures. The professional judgement of technical experts experienced with mining projects in Ontario and Canada as well as input from Indigenous communities, government agencies and the public informed the identification of those interactions that are likely to result in a pathway to a potential effect due to a measurable change on local and regional infrastructure and services. These pathways to potential effects are further described below for each phase of the Project, along with the rationale for those interactions excluded from further assessment. Section 6.20.4 and Table 6.20-4 provide a description of the mitigation measures applied to during all phases of the Project. The residual effects, after the application of the mitigation measures, are then described and further evaluated in Section 6.20.6, using the criteria and indicators identified in Section 6.20.1.4.



It should be noted that there is a direct linkage to the local and regional infrastructure and services as a result of increases in community population due to the in-migration of individuals and families to gain Project-related employment. As noted in Section 6.19, the economic model for the Project predicted 70 to 90% of individuals that will obtain Project-related employment will be from the three local municipalities and Indigenous communities in the LSA, as well as Kenora, Dryden and Thunder Bay.

The 2021 mobility statistics show that 88.1 to 88.7% of the populations of the three municipalities had not moved in the previous year compared to the Ontario rate of 88.4%. The proportion of the Indigenous communities that had not moved ranged between 85.3 to 95.5%. In comparison to 2016, two Indigenous communities showed lower levels of mobility whereas the other four showed increased levels of mobility. While the mobility rates vary among the communities, they show generally low levels of mobility.

The high proportion of Project-related employment that is predicted to be taken by local residents and the low mobility characteristics of the communities suggest there will be limited in-migration to the local municipalities.

### **Construction and Operations 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 mine infrastructure. The operations phase is anticipated to occur over a 10-year period. The following interactions with the Project result in pathways to potential effects on local and regional infrastructure and services as described below. After mitigation is applied to each pathway, as described in Table 6.20-4, the residual effects are assessed using the criteria identified for each pathway:

- The construction and operation of the mine facilities including the operation of water treatment and waste management facilities, the mine access road, and the transmission line interacts with the local and regional infrastructure and services. These activities result in pathways to potential effects due to changes in education and training requirements, the need for transportation to the mine site and the need for electrical, water, waste and wastewater services. The assessment of potential effects includes changes in the demands on education, changes in the demand on the transportation network and changes in emergency services and community resources from these pathways.
- The employment and expenditures of the Project interacts with the local and regional infrastructure and services.
  - This activity results in pathways to potential effects on the local and regional infrastructure and services due to:
    - an increase in population within the municipalities that may change the demand for educational, health care, recreational, social, municipal and emergency services;
    - an increase in population within the municipalities may change the demand for housing;
    - an increase in the utilization of the road network due to Project activities and population increase, that could change traffic volumes in the LSA; and,
    - the travel of workers and the movement of Project cargo by air could change the level of traffic at the airports in the LSA.

All other interactions during construction between the Project, and the local and regional infrastructure and services VC are represented in the above pathways and unlikely to have potential for effects.

### **Decommissioning and Closure Phase**

Activities occurring during these active closure phase, which is expected to occur over a five-year period, are similar to those that occur during the construction phase. The following interactions with the Project result in pathways to potential effects on bats as described below. After mitigation is applied to each pathway, as described in Table 6.20-4, the residual effects are assessed using the criteria identified for each pathway:

- The removal of assets that can be salvaged, demolition and recycling and/or disposal of the remaining materials, and the removal and disposal of demolition-related wastes in approved facilities interacts with the local and regional infrastructure and services. These activities result in pathway to potential effects on the local and regional infrastructure and services due to the potential requirement for community resources such as landfills. The assessment of potential effects on the local and regional infrastructure and services includes changes in community resources from this pathway.
- The employment and expenditures of the Project interacts with the local and regional infrastructure and services.
  - This activity results in pathways to potential effects due to:
    - a decrease in the population within the local municipalities that may lead to a change in the demand for and changes in access to educational, health care, recreational, social and emergency services;
    - an increase in the demand for post-secondary school training to transition to other employment; and,
    - a reduction in the utilization of the road network and airports with reduced Project activities and a potential population decrease that could result in a change in traffic volume.
  - The assessment of potential effects on local and regional infrastructure and services includes changes in the demand on education, changes in emergency services and community resources, and changes in the demand on the transportation network from these pathways.

All other interactions during construction between the Project, and the local and regional infrastructure and services VC are represented in the above pathways and unlikely to have potential for effects.

#### **6.20.3 Mitigation Measures**

Measures to be implemented to avoid or minimize the effects of the Project on local and regional infrastructure and services include:

- Provide onsite accommodations for the Project workforce during construction and operations phases to minimize daily commuting from local communities;
- Construct and operate the Project with a rotational workforce which reduces the need for Project workers to move to the local communities for employment as well as potential impacts on roads from daily commuting;
- Provide bus transportation to the worksite for the employees from a centralized location(s) to reduce traffic and minimize daily commuting;
- Construct a helipad on site to support emergency transportation of personnel and to support field investigations. A small airstrip will be constructed to transport personnel on an infrequent basis. These would reduce road traffic to the PDA;



- Implement preferential hiring of employees from the local municipalities during all phases to provide local employment and labour income and to reduce potential in-migration and potential additional demands on infrastructure and services;
- Communicate employment skill requirements to local education / training providers during construction and operations to facilitate planning for appropriate Project-related training;
- Maintain communications with relevant agencies and organizations during construction and operations to facilitate management of Project-related implications for services and infrastructure;
- Implement a Health and Wellness Strategy for Project employees which will, in part, contribute to management of demands on infrastructure and services in the municipalities and Indigenous communities. The Health and Wellness Strategy priorities are to:
  - Establish and promote a workplace culture of positive employee health and well-being.
  - Invest in meaningful and proactive employee health and wellness initiatives.
  - Participate with health service providers towards addressing the major health & wellness challenges facing northern and Indigenous peoples.
  - Encourage and support employees to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles and habits, including related to mental health and wellbeing.
- Have Project-rescue vehicles and trained First Responders on site during all phases to reduce potential demands on emergency services;
- Control access to the mine site and employ onsite security staff during all Project phases to reduce potential demands on emergency services;
- Communicate Project schedule, labour demand and potential sources with local municipalities during construction and operations phases for housing planning purposes;
- Provide power for the Project operations through a connection to the Wataynikaneyap 230 kV line to reduce demand on local municipal utilities;
- Construct a water treatment and sewage treatment system at the Project site to minimize demands on municipal services;
- Develop cooperative protocols with responsible parties to provide temporary construction and closure phase workers access to emergency and medical services;
- Communicate schedule for major equipment delivery and removal with relevant local communities to manage impacts on municipal traffic;
- Support education and training programs for workers; and
- Support re-training of employees to establish transferable skills, in the latter portion of the operations phase to reduce adverse impacts on employment levels at closure.

In addition to the mitigation measures to reduce potential effects, FMG is continuing to work with Dryden Fibre to share information about the use of the Wenasaga Road.

The application of mitigation measures to specific pathways and phases is illustrated in Table 6.20.4. Mitigation measures described in this section are expected to be effective for their intended purposes, given their effective implementation at similar projects.

#### **6.20.4 Analytical Methodology**

The assessment of Project effects on local and regional infrastructure and services considered the potential increase in demand by the Project or by individuals moving to the local municipalities for employment compared to the existing capacity and utilization of infrastructure and services. The assessment was qualitative and considered community information obtained from primary and secondary sources, an understanding of Project activities and plans, and professional judgement.

The assessment of effects on infrastructure and services used the analysis of potential population changes in Section 6.20.2.1.

##### **6.20.4.1 Assumptions and the Use of the Conservative Approach**

The Project will increase employment opportunities and it was conservatively assumed that there would be movement of individuals and families to the local municipalities for employment although specific forecasts of population changes is not possible. Any changes in population were assumed to change demands on local and regional infrastructure and services.

#### **6.20.5 Characterization of Potential Residual Effects**

##### **6.20.5.1 Change in Demands on Education**

The impact on primary and secondary school enrollment will be minimal, due to the expectation that 70% of the construction labour force and 90% of the operations labour force will be from the local municipalities and Indigenous communities resulting in low in-migration. An increase in demand for post-secondary school training is expected to occur due to individuals pursuing training to gain the skills required to obtain employment on the Project. The Confederation College campuses in Red Lake and Sioux Lookout and adult learning centres in Red Lake and Sioux Lookout have the capacity to meet an increase in demand. FMG will communicate employment skill requirements to local training providers to facilitate planning of appropriate training. Employment assistance programs (i.e., Ontario Works) and counsellors, available in the regional and local study areas to assist with training opportunities and preparing for employment, are likely to experience increased demands in preparation for employment during construction. FMG will work with proximate communities to secure funding for skills development and training programs and provide training and employment incentives targeting women and youth. It is expected that government programs will be established to support Project-specific training, however, there will be a residual effect on demand for education due to individuals pursuing training to gain the skills required to obtain employment on the Project.

##### **6.20.5.2 Change in Demand for Housing**

The expected low levels of in-migration to the municipalities and Indigenous communities due to Project employment and the accommodation of the rotational Project workforce onsite at the accommodations complex will result in a low demand for additional housing. A reported lack of housing in Sioux Lookout and in the Indigenous communities may further discourage in-migration and Project-related demands for housing. Income earned by Project workers and Project-related economic activity may stimulate upgrades to current housing or contribute to demands for new housing which could increase housing supply and, therefore, no residual effect on housing is expected.

### **6.20.5.3 Change in Demands on Emergency Services, Municipal Services and Infrastructure**

The Project will potentially increase demand on emergency services during construction and operations activities and due to travel to and from the PDA. The level of potential demand will be reduced through Project health and safety processes, onsite emergency response and security personnel. Traffic incidents will be reduced through speed restrictions for travel within the PDA, having a rotational workforce in onsite accommodations that eliminates daily commuting traffic, and providing bus transportation which will reduce traffic volumes and improve safety. Demands on emergency services and traffic level will be reduced during closure with a reduction in the Project workforce. As a result, there will be a residual effect on the demand for emergency services.

In-migration to the local municipalities and Indigenous communities is expected to be low resulting in little additional demand for municipal services due to Project employment. Health services require expansion in the municipalities; the Indigenous communities have very limited health services and infrastructure, particularly Cat Lake First Nation whose nursing station was destroyed by fire in 2024. The Project will implement a Health and Wellness Strategy which includes promoting health and well-being which could reduce demands on community health infrastructure and services and will participate with health service providers in addressing the health and wellness challenges facing northern and Indigenous peoples. The Project will establish onsite water and wastewater services and will not require use of those municipal services. FMG will maintain communications with relevant agencies and organizations during construction and operations to manage Project-related implications for municipal services. However, there will be a low level of in-migration to the municipalities that will create a low level of additional demand on municipal services that is within current or planned capacities. There will be no predicted increased demand on services in Indigenous communities due to the Project.

The Project will connect to the Wataynikaneyap 230 kV transmission line that is currently under construction. The Project will not place a demand on municipal or Indigenous community power supplies.

During construction and operation, non-recyclable and non-hazardous waste material will be transported to an approved waste management facility located off site, thereby increasing the demand on that service; however, landfills in the local municipalities have the capacity to accommodate the Project-related waste. There will be a residual effect on municipal services due to the increased demand on municipal landfills.

### **6.20.5.4 Change in Demand on Community Resources**

In-migration to the local municipalities and Indigenous communities is expected to be low resulting in little additional demand for community resources due to Project employment. The forecasted low in-migration rate is reinforced by the use of an onsite accommodations complex and a rotational workforce which eliminates the need for daily commuting from the local communities and reduces the need for Project workers to move to the local communities for employment. Recreational facilities will be provided on site which reduces the demand on municipal recreation services by Project workers. The municipalities have forecasted growth in their populations and are responsible for providing services to meet future demands. FMG will maintain communications with the municipalities, relevant agencies and organizations to manage Project implications for community resources. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, there will be no residual effect on community resources.

### **6.20.5.5 Change in Demand on Transportation**

The anticipated low in-migration rates to the communities means there will be limited additional demand on transportation infrastructure by residents. There will be additional traffic on regional highways and the Wenasaga Forestry Road by vehicles transporting workers, equipment and goods to the PDA during construction and to the mine site during operations and closure. The level of additional traffic will be reduced by having a rotational workforce in on-site accommodations which eliminates daily commuting traffic and by providing bus transportation for workers which will reduce traffic volumes. A schedule of major equipment delivery and removal will be communicated to local communities to reduce the impacts on local traffic. Oversized loads will be transported in parts and load restrictions will be enforced to reduce impacts on road infrastructure, where feasible. At closure, traffic volumes are predicted to decline.

A small airstrip to accommodate a Dash-8 or similar aircraft will be constructed within the PDA to move personnel on an infrequent basis to the site which would reduce traffic volumes on roads to the mine site area of the PDA.

Additional passenger and cargo air traffic is anticipated at airports within the LSA during construction and operations phases of the Project to bring Project workers and equipment into the region and to transport them to site if an onsite airstrip is constructed. The Project will communicate Project plans with appropriate authorities to facilitate planning for increases in airport utilization. Project-related use of the airport will decline during closure.

The mine access road will create all-weather access to the mine site from the current terminus of the Wenasaga Road, however, public access will be restricted. The upgrades to the Wenasaga Road being discussed with the forestry company will provide a beneficial effect by supporting safer access to that portion of the Trout Lake Forest Management Area and the potential development of a regional road network for Indigenous communities.

There will be a residual effect on transportation due to increased road traffic as a result of Project activities.

### **6.20.6 Significance of Residual Effects**

The residual effects on the local and regional infrastructure and services will be the increased demand on educational services, the increased demand on municipal and emergency services and the increased demand on transportation.

The availability of infrastructure and services in the small municipalities and Indigenous communities is a common social value in the region. Utilization of the existing infrastructure and services will be increased by the Project in the LSA; however, the additional utilization will be within existing capacities and their use will be planned by the Project in conjunction with the appropriate authorities so that additional demands can be accommodated. As a result, the Local and Regional Infrastructure and Services VC is capable of supporting the predicted residual effects with typical measures, and therefore the ecological and social context is considered low (Level I).

#### **6.20.6.1 Change in Education**

The residual effect on education is limited to the demand for employment-related training and will be within existing capacity of education providers and, therefore, will have a low magnitude (Level I). The residual effect will occur once (Level I) with a duration through the construction and operations phases (Level II). The residual effect will be restricted to the LSA (Level I) and fully reversible (Level I) at closure. However, the likelihood of the residual effect is low (Level I), given the capacity of the education service providers. As a

result, the adverse residual effect on the local and regional infrastructure and services due to a change in education is predicted to be not significant.

#### **6.20.6.2 Change in Municipal Services**

The residual effect on the municipal services resulting from the disposal of Project non-recyclable waste material and demand for emergency services, will be within available facility capacities, and therefore the magnitude is considered to be low (Level I). The residual effect will have a continuous frequency (Level III) with a duration that occurs throughout the construction, operation, and closure phases (Level II). However, the residual effect will be restricted to the LSA (Level I) and fully reversible (Level I) at closure. The likelihood of the residual effect is high (Level III), given the need for disposal of non-recyclable waste material during operation and closure phases. As a result, the adverse residual effect on the local and regional infrastructure and services due to a change in municipal services is predicted to be not significant.

#### **6.20.6.3 Change in Transportation**

The residual effect on the demand on transportation due to increased road traffic will be within available capacities and therefore considered to have a low magnitude (Level I). The residual effect will have a continuous frequency (Level III) with a duration that occurs throughout the construction and operation phases (Level II). However, the residual effect will be restricted to the LSA (Level I) and fully reversible (Level I) at closure. Further, the construction of the mine access road will provide a beneficial effect by supporting access to that portion of the Trout Lake Forest Management Area and the potential development of a regional road network to Indigenous communities further north. As a result, the adverse residual effect on the local and regional infrastructure and services due to a change in transportation is predicted to be not significant.

#### **6.20.7 Confidence Prediction**

The prediction confidence is high due to the understanding of Project requirements and the capacity of existing infrastructure and services.

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**Table 6.20-1: Local and Regional Infrastructure and Services Criteria, Indicators and Rationale**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Change in the demand for educational services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrollment in local elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools/training institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education is socially important and changes in demand could affect existing access to educational services for local populations.</li> </ul>
Change in the demand for housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing inventory and availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing is a critical component to community wellbeing; changes in demand could affect access to housing or increase the cost of housing.</li> </ul>
Change in demand for emergency services, municipal services and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community population levels</li> <li>• Utilization of emergency response and health facilities and services</li> <li>• Utilization rate of municipal services and infrastructure (electricity, water, wastewater and solid waste systems)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliable access to emergency and municipal services is critical as changes in demand due the Project could affect access to those services to local populations.</li> </ul>
Change in demand for municipal and provincial community resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilization rates on community resources (recreation services, health services, childcare services)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliable access to community resources is critical to community wellbeing and changes in demand could affect access to those resources to local populations.</li> </ul>
Change in the demands on transportation networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road traffic volumes</li> <li>• Passenger / cargo volumes for air flights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased road traffic could affect road safety for regular users of the road network.</li> <li>• Changes in passenger or cargo loads on air flights could affect access or increase costs for local populations.</li> </ul>



**Table 6.20-2: Significance Determination Attributes and Rankings for Local and Regional Infrastructure and Services**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Category</b>
Magnitude	A qualitative or quantitative measure to describe the size or degree of the residual effects relative to baseline conditions	<p><b>Level I:</b> Residual effects may be noticeable and/or measurable but are manageable within the capacity available.</p> <p><b>Level II:</b> Residual effects are noticeable and/or measurable and represent a moderate change relative to capacity available.</p> <p><b>Level III:</b> Residual effects are noticeable and/or measurable and represent a major change relative to capacity available.</p>
Geographic Extent	The spatial extent over which the residual effect will take place	<p><b>Level I:</b> Effect is restricted to the LSA.</p> <p><b>Level II:</b> Effect extends beyond the LSA.</p> <p><b>Level III:</b> Effect extends beyond the RSA.</p>
Duration	The time period over which the residual effect will or is expected to occur	<p><b>Level I:</b> Effect occurs over the short term: less than or equal to 3 years.</p> <p><b>Level II:</b> Effect occurs over the medium term: more than 3 years but less than 20 years.</p> <p><b>Level III:</b> Effect occurs over the long term: greater than 20 years.</p>
Frequency	The rate of occurrence of the residual effect	<p><b>Level I:</b> Effect occurs once, infrequently or not at all.</p> <p><b>Level II:</b> Effect occurs intermittently or with a certain degree of regularity.</p> <p><b>Level III:</b> Effect occurs frequently or continuously.</p>
Reversibility	The extent to which the residual effect can be reversed	<p><b>Level I:</b> Effect is fully reversible.</p> <p><b>Level II:</b> Effect is partially reversible or potentially reversible with difficulty.</p> <p><b>Level III:</b> Effect is not reversible.</p>



**Table 6.20-3: Potential Interactions of the Project on Local and Regional Infrastructure and Services**

<b>Project Component / Activity</b>	<b>Local and Regional Infrastructure and Services</b>
<b>Construction Phase</b>	
Site preparation activities including clearing, grubbing and bulk earthworks	-
Construction of the mine site access road and airstrip, including the development and operation of aggregate resource areas	Yes
Development of temporary construction camp and staging areas	Yes
Construction of the fish habitat development area	-
Construction of the transmission line to the Project site	Yes
Construction of the onsite haul and access roads	-
Construction of the dewatering dikes in the north basin of Springpole Lake	-
Construction of buildings and onsite infrastructure	-
Construction of the central water storage pond	-
Dewatering of open pit basin	-
Construction of the starter embankments for the CDF	-
Stripping of lake bed sediment and overburden at the open pit	-
Development of the surficial soil stockpile	-
Initiation of pit development in rock	-
Initiation of stockpiling of ore	-
Commissioning of the process plant	-
Establishment and operation of water and waste, management and treatment facilities	Yes
Employment and expenditure	Yes
<b>Operations Phase</b>	
Operation of the process plant	-
Operation of open pit mine	-
Management of overburden, mine rock, tailings and ore in designated facilities	-
Operation of water and waste, management and treatment facilities	Yes
Accommodations complex operations	Yes
Operation and maintenance of mine site infrastructure, including fuel farm	-
Progressive reclamation activities	-
Employment and expenditure	Yes
<b>Decommissioning and Closure Phase</b>	
Removal of assets that can be salvaged	-
Demolition and recycling and/or disposal of remaining materials	-
Removal and disposal of demolition-related wastes in approved facilities	Yes
Reclamation of impacted areas, such as by re-grading, placement of cover, and revegetation	-
Filling of the open pit with water	-
Monitoring and maintenance	-
Employment and expenditure	Yes

**Note:**

(-) The interaction is not expected, and no further assessment is warranted.



**Table 6.20-4: Proposed Mitigation Measures for Potential Local and Regional and Infrastructure and Service Effects**

Pathways to Potential Effects / Criteria	Phase			Proposed Mitigation Measure
	Con.	Op.	Cl.	
Change in the demand for educational services	•	•	–	Communicate employment skill requirements to local education / training providers during construction and operations to facilitate planning for appropriate Project-related training.
	•	•	•	Support education and training programs for workers.
	–	•	•	Support re-training of employees to establish transferable skills, in the latter portion of the operations phase to reduce adverse impacts on employment levels at closure.
Change in the demand for housing	•	•	–	Provide onsite accommodations for the Project workforce during construction and operations phases to minimize daily commuting from local communities.
	•	•	–	Construct and operate the Project with a rotational workforce which reduces the need for Project workers to move to the local communities for employment as well as potential impacts on roads from daily commuting.
	•	•	•	Implement preferential hiring of employees from the local municipalities during all phases to provide local employment and labour income and to reduce potential in-migration and potential additional demands on infrastructure and services.
	•	•	–	Communicate Project schedule, labour demand and potential sources with local municipalities during construction and operations phases for housing planning purposes.
	•	•	•	Support education and training programs for workers.
	–	•	•	Support re-training of employees to establish transferable skills, in the latter portion of the operations phase to reduce adverse impacts on employment levels at closure.
Change in of the demand for emergency services, municipal services and infrastructure	•	•	•	Construct a helipad on site to support emergency transportation of personnel and to support field investigations. A small airstrip will be constructed to transport personnel on an infrequent basis. These would reduce road traffic to the PDA.
	•	•	•	Implement preferential hiring of employees from the local municipalities during all phases to provide local employment and labour income and to reduce potential in-migration and potential additional demands on infrastructure and services.
	•	•	–	Maintain communications with relevant agencies and organizations during construction and operations to facilitate management of Project-related implications for services and infrastructure.
	•	•	•	Implement a Health and Wellness Strategy for Project employees which will, in part, contribute to management of demands on infrastructure and services in the municipalities and Indigenous communities. The Health and Wellness Strategy priorities are to:



Pathways to Potential Effects / Criteria	Phase			Proposed Mitigation Measure
	Con.	Op.	Cl.	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish and promote a workplace culture of positive employee health and well-being.</li> <li>○ Invest in meaningful and proactive employee health and wellness initiatives.</li> <li>○ Participate with health service providers towards addressing the major health &amp; wellness challenges facing northern and Indigenous peoples.</li> <li>○ Encourage and support employees to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles and habits, including related to mental health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>
	•	•	•	Have Project-rescue vehicles and trained First Responders on site during all phases to reduce potential demands for emergency services.
	•	•	•	Control access to the mine site and employ onsite security staff during all Project phases to reduce potential demands on emergency services.
	•	•	–	Provide power for the Project operations through a connection to the Wataynikaneyap 230 kV line to reduce demand on local municipal utilities.
	•	•	•	Construct a water treatment and sewage treatment system at the Project site to minimize demands on municipal services.
Change in of the demand for municipal and provincial community resources	•	–	•	Develop cooperative protocols with responsible parties to provide temporary construction and closure phase workers access to emergency and medical services.
	•	•	•	Implement preferential hiring of employees from the local municipalities during all phases to provide local employment and labour income and to reduce potential in-migration and potential additional demands on infrastructure and services.
	•	•	–	Maintain communications with relevant agencies and organizations during construction and operations to facilitate management of Project-related implications for services and infrastructure.
	•	–	•	Develop cooperative protocols with responsible parties to provide temporary construction and closure phase workers access to emergency and medical services.
	•	•	•	Implement a Health and Wellness Strategy for Project employees which will, in part, contribute to management of demands on infrastructure and services in the municipalities and Indigenous communities. The Health and Wellness Strategy priorities are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish and promote a workplace culture of positive employee health and well-being.</li> <li>○ Invest in meaningful and proactive employee health and wellness initiatives.</li> </ul>



Pathways to Potential Effects / Criteria	Phase			Proposed Mitigation Measure
	Con.	Op.	Cl.	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participate with health service providers towards addressing the major health &amp; wellness challenges facing northern and Indigenous peoples.</li> <li>○ Encourage and support employees to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles and habits, including related to mental health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>
Change in the demand on transportation networks	•	•	–	Provide onsite accommodations for the Project workforce during construction and operations phases to minimize daily commuting from local communities.
	•	•	–	Construct and operate the Project with a rotational workforce which reduces the need for Project workers to move to the local communities for employment as well as potential impacts on roads from daily commuting.
	•	•	•	Provide bus transportation to the worksite for the employees from a centralized location(s) to reduce traffic and minimize daily commuting.
	•	•	•	Construct a helipad on site to support emergency transportation of personnel and to support field investigations. A small airstrip will be constructed to transport personnel on an infrequent basis. These would reduce road traffic to the PDA.
	•	•	–	Communicate schedule for major equipment delivery and removal with relevant local communities to manage impacts on municipal traffic.

**Notes:**

Con: Construction

Op: Operation

Cl: Closure

• Mitigation is applicable

– Mitigation is not applicable

