



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region
600-55 York Street
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario
600-55 rue York
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

October 19, 2020

Sent by email

Chief Abraham Hunter
Weenusk First Nation
34 Main Street
Peawanuck, ON P0L 2H0
abrahamhunter@msn.com

Dear Chief Abraham Hunter:

Subject: Invitation to Apply for Participant Funding and Information on Next Steps in the Impact Assessment Process

On September 16, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) provided advance notice of an upcoming opportunity to apply for participant funding to support your community's participation in the federal impact assessment of the Webequie Supply Road Project.

The objective of this letter is to:

- invite your community to apply for participant funding through the Agency's Participant Funding Program during the current application period starting on October 19, 2020 and ending on **November 30, 2020** (Enclosure 1); and
- share a guide titled "How to Participate During the Federal Impact Assessment", which provides information on how your community could participate in the project assessment (Enclosure 2);

Participant Funding

The Agency's Participant Funding Program provides limited funding to assist Indigenous groups to prepare for and participate in Agency-led Indigenous consultation activities and Agency-led participation opportunities. Information about the Participant Funding Program and National Program Guidelines, including eligible expenses and activities, can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>

If Weenusk First Nation is interested in applying for this funding opportunity, please complete the attached Participant Funding Program Application Form (Enclosure 1) and submit it to Nathalie Boivin, Senior Funding Officer, by **Monday November 30, 2020**, via email at IAAC.FP-PAF.AEIC@canada.ca. If you have any questions regarding the application form, please feel free to contact Nathalie by phone at 613-864-2902.

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COVID-19 Constraints to Participation

The Agency acknowledges that current circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic may affect your community's ability to apply to the participant-funding program by the November 30, 2020 deadline. The Agency remains flexible and able to adapt our conduct as necessary to prioritize the health and safety of your community. Please let the Agency know if you will be unable to submit your application by the deadline so the Agency can work with your community to identify an alternative submission date.

Information on Future Participation Opportunities

To assist your community's development of an application to the Participant Funding Program, the Agency has provided a guide titled "How to Participate During the Federal Impact Assessment" (Enclosure 2). This guide provides an overview of the types of participation opportunities related to activities identified in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and the information that the Agency would be seeking from your community during the impact assessment. To support your meaningful participation in the assessment process, feel free to use this guide to inform the details of your community's application form and budget.

Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire Area

If you have an interest in the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area, please note that a separate opportunity to apply for funding will be announced at a later date. You may direct questions to the Regional Assessment team at IAAC.RegionalROF-CDFRegionale.AEIC@canada.ca.

Status of the Impact Assessment Process and Time Limit Management

According to the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), the proponent, Webequie First Nation, has three years from the date of the Notice of Commencement (February 24, 2020) to provide the Agency with the information or studies that are set out in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The three-year time limit ends on February 24, 2023.

Prior to the end of the three-year time limit, IAA has provisions that allow a proponent to request an extension of the time limit to provide the Agency with the information or studies needed to conduct the impact assessment. If there were to be an extension of the time limit for the Webequie Supply Road Project, the Agency would notify all Indigenous groups listed in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.

Invitation to Participate in a Teleconference with the Agency

In the coming days, your community may receive concurrent emails or letters pertaining to the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area. The Agency would be pleased to arrange a follow-up teleconference or virtual meeting (the Agency currently uses MS Teams or WebEx) to discuss any of these correspondence. If you receive multiple pieces of correspondence, please feel free to reply once and indicate the topics or correspondence you wish to focus the discussion. The Agency will work internally to ensure your requests are supported.

The Agency team working on the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire area and the Agency team working on the impact assessment for the Webequie Supply Road Project continue to work together and share the input we receive from participating Indigenous groups.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me at 647-391-8426 or
iaac.webequie.aeic@canada.ca, if you would like to participate in a follow-up discussion.
The Agency looks forward to a continued, positive working relationship with your
community.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Laura DeCoste
Crown Consultation Coordinator, Ontario Region

Enclosures:

1. Participant Funding Program Application Form;
2. Guide: How to Participate During the Federal Impact Assessment

c.c.: Loreen Hunter-Koostachin, Weenusk First Nation
Jeff Hunter, Weenusk First Nation